

Interactive Workshop
Juxtaposition Arts, Minneapolis, MN
November 26, 2014

WORKSHOP NOTES

EXERCISE 1: Build your favorite childhood memory (http://www.placeit.org/juxta_exercise1.html)

For this exercise students were asked to construct their favorite childhood memory out of everyday and found objects placed in the middle of a large work table. The following were the general elements and components of each student's model:

- Penguins, Happy Feet
- Water park, Atlanta, family, palm trees
- Stockton, CA, acorns, oak trees, playing underneath them
- Backyard, tire swing, fireflies, a snowball/puffball tree in the yard
- Theodore Wirth Park, brother, climbing on rocks in the creek
- Playground, ice rink
- First time going to the Metrodome
- Bedroom window, reading nook, *Little House on the Prairie*, Saturday mornings, would go to the library on Fridays
- Old swingset, swing and jump off of it, would dream of swinging and jumping off of the swings
- Disneyworld, on the way there went inside a building where everything was upside down, palm trees
- Beach in Florida
- Watched Cinderella 100 times
- Brooklyn Center, playground in the middle of housing complex, would play there every day; climbed a tree there, broke arm for first time (broke arm three times when a kid)

EXERCISE 2: Design your ideal Mississippi River (http://www.placeit.org/juxta_exercise2.html)

For this exercise students were asked to group up into teams of 3 or four to construct a model of their ideal Mississippi River. The following were the general components of each group's model.

GROUP 1 – Yellow Base

Park bridge, wildlife, fish, plants to clean the river, river clean enough to fish in

GROUP 2 – Pink Base

Bike paths, bridge for climbing on/under, fire pits, river clean enough to swim in

GROUP 3 – Blue Base 1

Park for kids, garden, fishing, bikeway, forested natural area, designed garden/wild garden, motorized transportation for the river

GROUP 4 – Blue Base 2

Watchtower as means of wayfinding/ information tower, lights on trees for nighttime activities, path for cars, skateboarding, swimming, bridges, fishing, ducks

THEMES (http://www.placeit.org/juxta_themes.html)

EXERCISE 1:

HOME, WATER, PARKS, WARM WEATHER, TREES, ESCAPE, TROPICAL PLACES, BACKYARD, PLAYGROUND, INSECTS, SIBLINGS, WILD PLACES, FAMILY TRIPS, SPORTS, READING, COZINESS, RITUAL, PLAY, FAIRY TALES, FAMILY

EXERCISE 2:

FISHING, SWIMMING, CLEAN WATER, WILDLIFE, PLAY, EXPLORATION, TRANSPORTATION, WATER TRANSPORT, GATHERING PLACES, BIOREMEDIATION, BRIDGES, BEAUTY, WAYFINDING, LIGHTING

NEXT STEPS (http://www.placeit.org/juxta_nextsteps.html)

1. FURTHER EXPLORE MOST COMMON THEMES

The most common themes of Exercise 2 were swimming, fishing, and having clean enough water to do both in. These ideas/objectives could be the subject of a next phase of the design process: How could swimming and fishing in the Mississippi be made possible? Are they possible? What would they look like? How would the students design and represent these ideas?

2. TAKE A LOOK AT PRECEDENTS

We have compiled links to several precedents having to do with making rivers swimmable and fishable again. Check them out at <http://www.placeit.org/juxta.nextsteps.html>

3. MEET WITH SOME EXPERTS

Bioremediation is tricky business but not an insurmountable task. Who is working in the realm of water quality/improvement who you could meet with for ideas, things to think about, logistical realities? Or, if, for example, the students were to pursue the idea of a floating swimming pool, are there shipping engineers out there they could meet with about the complexities of making such a thing float - literally and figuratively?

PLACE IT!
interactive planning
www.placeit.org
626.427.4446

4. INVITE US BACK

We would be happy to come back and conduct a further series of workshops that help the students take their models and ideas to the next level, so that they may become more fleshed-out plans and drawings the students could ultimately present to policymakers and civic leaders.

Thanks for having us. Contact us with any further questions you might have.

Best,
James Rojas and John Kamp

jamestrojas@gmail.com / 626.437.4446
kamp@prairieform.com / 310.498.4918