People and Design
Exercise: City Comforts

Each chapter within the book "City Comforts" contains a series of examples with accompanying photos. Most of the examples in the book are from the Northwest. Your assignment is to give local examples of 'city comforts'... not just any examples, but the best ones you can find!

Your discoveries can be anywhere in Philadelphia (or any other town or city). This is about what you experience firsthand, walking down city streets. So you should take all the photos yourself (specifically for this assignment), rather than pull them from the web.

Working individually, find 3 examples for each of the 11 chapters beginning with "Ch.2 - Bumping into People" and ending with "Ch.12 - Personalizing the City with Art." If you find an exceptional example that doesn't quite fit an existing category, feel free to create your own category…

You have two options for presenting this information, either poster or map:

Poster:
These 33 examples will be presented in a 36" x 42" poster. It can be printed out at the Vitale Digital Lab in Van Pelt Library. The software to create the poster can be either Photoshop or Powerpoint (using a single slide). If you need the software or advice in how to use it, the lab should be able to provide it. If you want to use other software to create it, just check with the lab first.

You'll need to pay with PennCash on your Penn Card. The cost should be roughly $15. If you get a receipt, you can bring it to the Urban Studies office to get reimbursed.

The poster should have basic info such as your name, the class, and the date on it. It should contain all the images you've gathered. You may present them all at the same scale, or may choose to enlarge a few of them, to focus attention on some key images. Beyond that, you should also include very concise text describing why you feel the design represents a successful example of a city comfort. Each image should list its location, as well.

The idea is that you should present the information in such a way that the poster speaks for itself. Imagine seeing a poster like this on a wall, and learning from it (without anybody explaining things to you). You do not need to submit a paper for this. However, a digital copy of the image you printed, should be burned onto a CD and handed in.

Be forewarned that the lab only prints 7 posters each day. And we're not the only people using it. So finishing several days in advance will be a smart decision, to have it completed by class time on April 8th.

Map:
These 33 examples will be presented on a Web Map. Using Google's MyMaps feature, each image will be properly located on the map with a virtual pushpin. When somebody clicks the pushpin, your image and brief text will appear.

This method will require a Gmail account. You can always create one for this class, if you don't have one already. The images will need to be uploaded elsewhere (Picasa, Flickr, etc.) and the web address then needs to be entered into MyMaps.

I have created a collaborative MyMap for this project. So everybody who chooses this option, will be working on the same shared map. To keep things straight though, you should pick your own unique pushpin for this. (Virtual pushpins come in different colors and different shapes…)

It's ok to choose specific city comforts that others have also chosen. Of course it would make a far more interesting map, if you find unique instances that others hadn't even realized were there in the city!

Each pushpin location should contain an image, along with very concise text describing why you feel the design represents a successful example of a city comfort. You won't need to write down the location, since the pushpin will already be accurately marking it on the map.

Though I haven't tried it, I've been told that iPhones and other smart phones with cameras, can automatically geotag the picture. So it's possible to easily upload them onto the map automatically.

This is the first time I've given this mapping option for an assignment. So it's a bit untested. I've uploaded a Google Maps Tutorial, for those who haven't used it before. If you find a hurdle along the way, just tell me and we'll work it out as we go…

For those choosing this map presentation, you'll need to tell me your gmail account. Then I'll add you to the list of collaborators. The map is located at **http://tinyurl.com/y8f9bmp.** I've added one blue pushpin on 18th + Rittenhouse, to get things going. Of course you'll need to focus your text more to the specific book categories…

Whichever method you use, remember that hunting down the best of these city comforts is the real goal… Good luck!   -RWB

Required Readings for this Assignment: City Comforts - David Sucher

Present and Hand-in Assignment: Thursday, April 8th