RICE UNIVERSITY

Building a new PLOT CARTOGRAPHY

by

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ABSTRACT

Building a new PLOT CARTOGRAPHY

By

Ricardo Supiciche

The plot is the basic delimitation where a diverse range of systems (natural or artificial) interact and begin to form the cartography of the land. "Building a new plot cartography" is a proposal to understand the interaction of a diverse range of systems (economic, ecological, and technology), and with this data start to create a new narrative of the land. "Building a new plot cartography" would be series of sustainable strategies, methods and tools, that allow us to form and understand new and old synergies between forces that shape the process of creating a new landscape which has its own contemporary, beauty, ecology and grammar.
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The objective of this Thesis is to reestablish the limits between Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Planning, creating a fusion, a new Plot Cartography. The tool used is the establishment of a new notion of beauty, replacing common planning systems by variations and fusions of such systems. The desired result is rather than a rigid and established master, a big carpet where these systems vanish and appear as a big pragmatic hybrid.

The land, with an area of 508 Acres, is located in North Houston, at the intersection of Beltway 8 and 45 Freeway. Its purpose is commercial and residential and is divided due to two easements that cross it, from North to South and from East to West.

The generator system is based on the interaction of the wind forces and a system of dendritic circulation. The wind works like a cooling system, and the dendritic system as a great net that crosses all the land, creating a diversity of variables. Water and green areas are inserted as binders for the project.
The jury claimed that, in large urban projects, it was necessary to analyze more relevant data (economic, social, ecological). Although not all aspects have been included in the final outcome, this project, rather than a guide to follow, attempts to be just a variant in the diversity of new urban grammar.
Building a new

PLOT CARTOGRAPHY

Longitude: -95.419783
Latitude:  29.39083
Houston TX
Juan Benet. "Region". Making of an imaginary territory, where his novels "Return to Region" and "Herrumbosas Lanzas" take place.

Plot: in fiction, the structure of interrelated actions, consciously selected and arranged by the author. Plot involves a considerably higher level of narrative organization than normally occurs in a story or fable. According to E.M. Forster in Aspects of the Novel (1927), a story is a "narrative of events arranged in their time-sequence," whereas a plot organizes the events according...
1. a. A small piece of ground, generally used for a specific purpose: a garden plot. b. A measured area of land; a lot.
2. A ground plan, as for a building; a diagram.
Cartography: art and science of representing a geographic area graphically, usually by means of a map or chart. Or mapmaking Political, cultural, or other nongeographic features may be superimposed.
Natural / Artificial

The construction of a new definition of land's beauty should be understood as the interaction between the Natural/Artificial elements, where the frontiers among these are vanished.
Building a new

PLOT CARTOGRAPHY
Longitude: -95.49783
Latitude: 29.3083
Houston TX

Site Analysis
1. Woodlands
2. Greenspoint Mall
3. Bush Intercontinental Airport
4. Brookhollow
5. Energy Corridor
6. Westchase
7. Sharsptown
8. Galleria
9. Greenway Plaza
10. Downtown
11. Texas Medical Center
12. Astrodome
13. Hobby Airport
14. Sugarland
15. Clearlake
Building a new

PLOT CARTOGRAPHY
Longitude: -95.419783
Latitude:  29.93083
Houston TX

Houston Downtown
Comparison
Building a new
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Latitude: 29.93083
Houston TX

Easements & Rights of Way
Watersheds
Building a new PLOT CARTOGRAPHY
Longitude: 95.419763
Latitude: 29.9083
Houston TX

Generating System
Building a new

PLOT CARTOGRAPHY

Longitude: -95.419783
Latitude: 29.93083
Houston TX

Dendritic Networks
Wind / Dendritic Grid

The interaction between the wind and a Dendritic Grid is the generating system of the Master Plan. A new Grammar of the land is created from these two systems.
Integrations

"We would like to show that integration and continuity within the city can be a question of sensations and not only infrastructures, volumes or speculation. We look for a city where people will feel the flow of a new sensibility linking the old and the new rather than being aware of a contextual urban planning."

Eduardo Arroyo

Robert Smithson, Forking Island,
Dendritic Grid
Winter Winds

Summer Winds

Wind
Old Topography
Grid System
Building a new

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Houston TX

Super Grid
Building a new

PLOT CARTOGRAPHY

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Housing Grid
Building a new

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Circulation System
Street System/
Pathways

Major Roads
Local Roads
Alleys
Pathways
Natural System
Tree System

Red Maple
White Ash
Drake Elm

Southern Magnolia
Loblolly Pine
Cedar Elm

White Oak
Laurel Oak
Bald Cypress

Red Maple
Laurel Oak
Black Gum

Building a new
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Longitude: -95.419783
Latitude: 29.93083
Houston TX
Building a new

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Latitude: 29.93083
Houston TX

Master Plan
Master Plan

Building a new

PLOT CARTOGRAPHY

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Latitude: 29.93083
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Building a new

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Houston TX

Microcity/Neighborhood
Design Development
Building a new
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Latitude: 29.93083
Houston TX

0 1000' N
Building a new

PLOT CARTOGRAPHY

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Latitude: 29.93083
Houston TX
New Topography
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