

Critical Urban Media Arts:

An Experimental Workshop in Urban Research, Mapping and Representation

Presented by The Spatial Information Design Lab
Columbia University School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

Instructors: Jesse Shapins and Brian House
TA: Matthew Pauly

Territory Page

The core of your final project is the creation of a rich Territory Page. The Territory Page is the page within *Periplurban* that displays your:

- Territory name
- Territory description
- Territory Map
- Google map of your territory and its definitions
- List of all words defined in your territory

An example of this is: <http://periplurban.org/territories/5>

In order to complete this page, you must:

1) Define 30 words

Define a minimum of 30 words through narrative, and/or photography and/or video in your territory using the methodologies introduced in Session A and any others of your choice. These include:

- Re-define 10 words in your territory
- Mini-Ethnography
- Performative Instructions

2) Map every definition

Choose a specific location for each of your word's. Use the Google Map interface within *Periplurban* to pinpoint an exact spot on the map.

3) Write a TXT for every definition

The "Add TXT" field for each definition is the link between the online dimension of *Periplurban* and the project's mobile phone interface. Via text messaging, users can receive the TXT definitions of your words on location in your territory.

For your final project, you must write individual messages for each of your words. The messages are limited to 160 characters, because that is the maximum length of an SMS.

Your messages should synthesize your research regarding that word in your territory. You should include the word defined in your actual message. Write for an audience receiving the message on location, not users reading the TXT online. Your messages should engage directly with the physical environment and all five senses. Draw people's attention to specific visual, aural, tactile and olfactory cues.

Each word must have at least one TXT, but you may write more for each definition if you choose.

4) Cross-reference every definition

The *Oxford English Dictionary* presents two related, but distinct definitions of the word “dictionary”:

1. a. A book dealing with the individual words of a language.
2. a. By extension: A book of information or reference on any subject or branch of knowledge, the items of which are arranged in alphabetical order; an alphabetical encyclopædia: as a Dictionary of Architecture, Biography, Geography, of the Bible, of Christian Antiquities, of Dates, etc.

With these two directions in mind, two critical questions arise: Which type of dictionary is *Periplurban*? Is it a project concerned with language or is it an “alphabetical encyclopedia”? Unlike an encyclopedia, *Periplurban* makes no proclamation of comprehensive and authoritative knowledge, but instead focuses attention upon subjective interpretation. By establishing a framework that does not ally itself with the dictionary tradition in-line with the encyclopedia, but instead being “a book dealing with the individual words of a language,” *Periplurban* provides an opening into the domain of subjectivity. The larger goal of our collective investigations has been to begin re-defining what is a city, and in this process, we have been creating a new urban language.

Words within a language never exist in isolation. To push the *Periplurban* dictionary beyond an “alphabetical encyclopedia” we have introduced a new feature that allows for words to be cross-referenced. Use this new feature to relate your words to other definitions in your territory, as well as the territories of other students.

Note: The cross-referencing feature will be introduced on Tuesday, August 5th.

5) Create a New Territory Map

Revisit your initial territory map after now spending weeks deeply engaging and analyzing the space. Re-create the diagram to reflect the new definitions you have created specific to your territory. The new map must include some of the dictionary words you have created in the Territory Index.

6) Write a Description of Your Territory

Write a brief description of your territory and add it to your territory page online. You can add this by clicking “Edit” on your territory page.

7) Name Your Territory

If you have not done so already, you must name your territory. This name should reflect your particular perspective on your territory and be different than an established name for your area.

Schedule

Wednesday, July 30th :: Final Project Introduction

All Session A students emailed Final Project Brief.

Wednesday, August 20th :: Final Project Due

All material for your final project must be completed by 9 am.