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Date Finished/Submitted: Thursday Feb 22nd, 2018 (2/22/2018)

P SC 4093-900: Political Science Capstone (Political Architecture): SP 18: M: 4:30-7:20

Dr. Gaddie

CRITIQUING GOOD CITY FORM:

Good City Form by Lynch takes the reader through over 100 photos of evidence in theoretical conceptual design. In addition Lynch breaks down the planning construction and simplifies them into theoretical constructs of Cosmic/Ceremonial Centers, Machine City and City Organism. Despite many different theories and repetitiveness throughout the book and at time lengthy hard to grasp concepts, there seems to be a patten of 7 that Lynch hints at for creating good city form. The appearance like pizza can be very different yet similar. As different sizes, crust, toppings (districts) and different types dipping sauces (weather patterns precipitation to the city) exist, the pattern of 7 is: 1: Construct Performance Chart. 2: Futuristic Vision. 3: Practical Obstacles to Dreams. 4: Power Grab. 5: Weedout Progress. 6: Times. 7: Coming of Age.

1st Step: Construct Performance Chart: (Page 234)

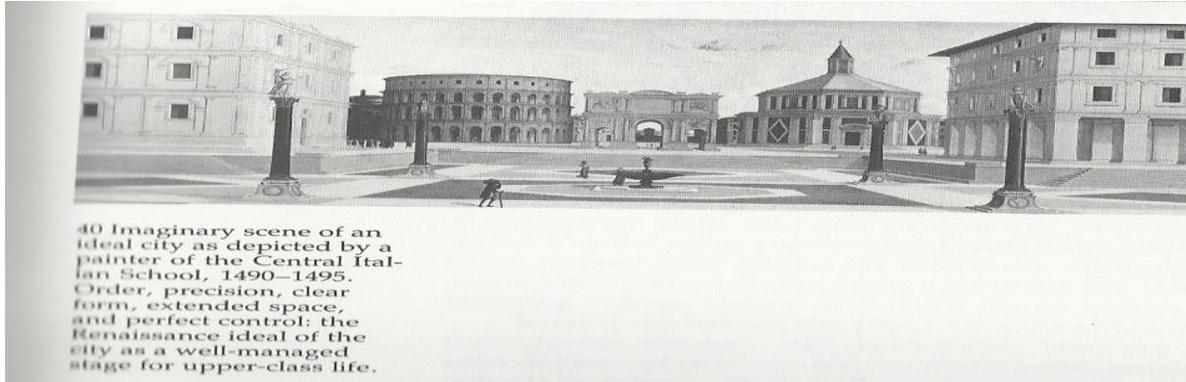
Society is:		Vitality	Sense	Fit	Access	Control
	rich	important for both, but	generally more highly valued	easier to achieve but more complex; future fit less critical	substitutes available; diversity is valued	important for both
	poor	more critical where margin is narrower	but symbolic meaning valued even when poor	simpler but more critical	crucial, especially to basic resources	
Society is:	homogeneous	important for both	easier to achieve	easier to achieve	less important?	less important?
	heterogeneous		more difficult, but richer	more complex	important, to avoid alienation	important
Society is:	stable	easier to accomplish	easier to achieve	easier to achieve	less important	less important
	unstable	more difficult to maintain	more difficult	present fit more difficult to maintain; future fit is crucial for survival	crucial for survival	crucial
Society is:	centralized	easier to attain via standard and technical knowledge	used to express and support dominance	less likely to be achieved; formal adaptability is valued	critical for control	local control suppressed
	decentralized	more difficult to achieve except via stable customs and widespread knowledge	expresses diversity	more likely to be achieved; manipulability is valued	less critical	local control favored

Some hypothetical variations in the achievement and valuation of the performance dimensions, in relation to variations in social situation

Before coming up with any changes or proposing a change to the current city, one first has to look at the current financial/leadership structure of the state/society to determine if the city

needs modernization to keep up with success or redesign for the future. The control structure will be critical in this step. This is like deciding which pizza restaurant to select upon learning of hunger with a craving for pizza, just like a person realizing their city is less than inspiring or fun.

Step 2: Futuristic Vision: Figure 40 (page 77)



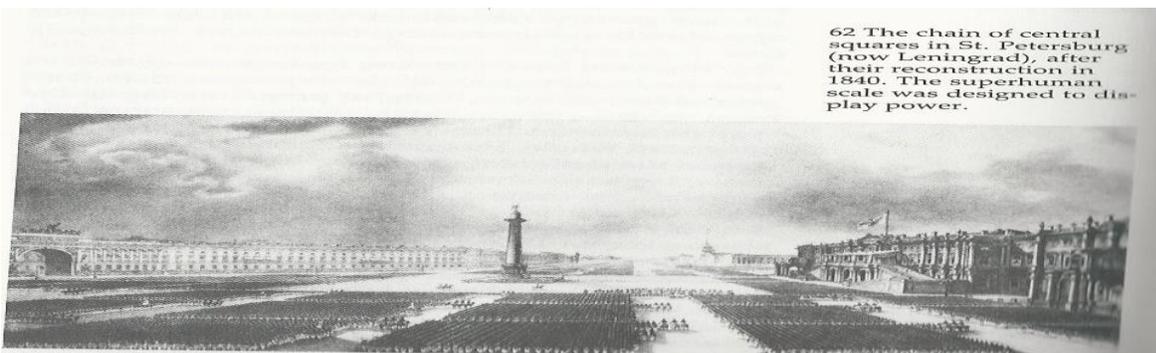
The futuristic vision should include values, ambitions, politics, functionality, geography, culture, climate, business and a way to transform a city such as the MAPS projects in OKC. In addition if it's a remote area near natural resources or tourism then a city might be designed for functionality. (October Sky & Chile: image 10: page 17 Lynch). As many order their usual pizza, many visionaries/architects strive for awe of past/present greatness instead of looking to make a city its own. Don't order the same pizza all the time. Try something new if one is to move forward and become its own/famous, otherwise it is just a chain in the crowd. Obviously one has to stick to what they know, but predicting future needs might be helpful to avoid the present day water crisis in Cape Town South Africa. (*Hayes Christal USA Today, Feb 3rd, 2018, What is Next if Cape Town becomes the First Major City to run out of Water?*)

Step 3: Practical Obstacles to Dreams: Figure 66 (Page 166).



When attempting Motopia, Jellicoe forgot to take into account things such as rain runoff, repair of the traffic circles, parking issues, where to put the gas stations and how to power the garden city. Times affect design and infrastructure. In addition what might be good in one time can prohibit growth in the future. Tiny alleyways from the past allowed horses and pedestrians to walk, but didn't take into account the future for cars to drive on. In order to keep the areas vibrant, homes/businesses either have to be destroyed or designated in zoning laws as a no driving area. A good design takes into account both current and upcoming future trends to sustain the city for long term growth instead of the failed Motopia.

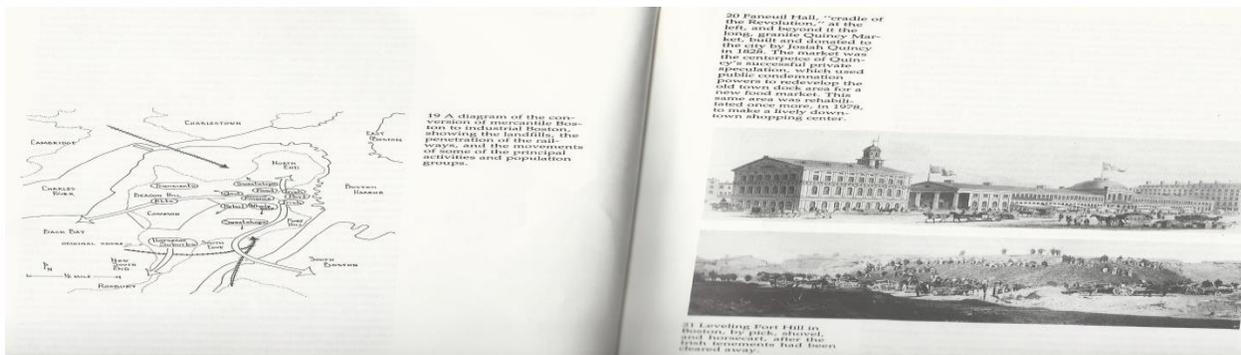
4: Power Grab: Figure 62 (Page 162):



Within the book, Lynch uses this as an example to describe designs that invoke a long feeling of power and glorify the state/builder. However when breaking down his long book into 7 take away steps and piggybacking off step 1 from the chart on page 234, this gets to the question

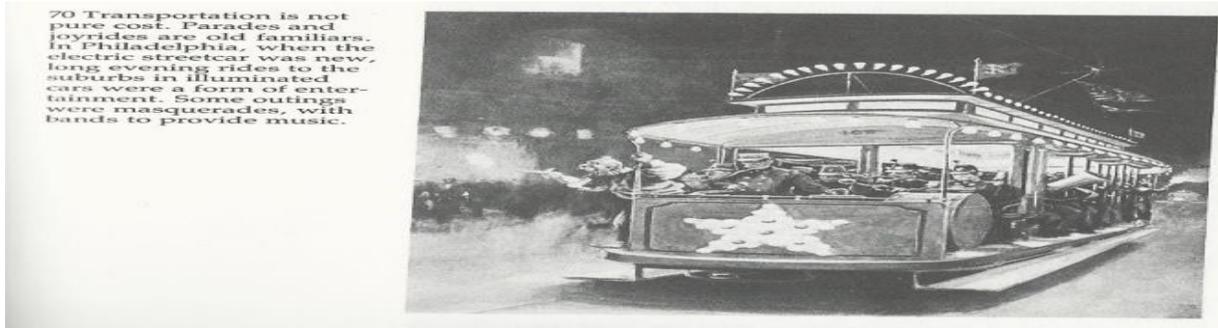
of city control. In order to build or redesign the city you have to have the power and resources necessary, otherwise the construction is undermined and the functional architecture potential is never reached. Sometimes to achieve this, it can be having access/good connections with people that approve the building permits. Other times it can be financing public works and sometimes by force. Just like the form varies, your power grab when ordering pizza can say classic, fancy or lose you all respect if your pizza combination is weird and out there.

Step 5: Weedout Progress: Figures 19-21 (Pages 30-31):



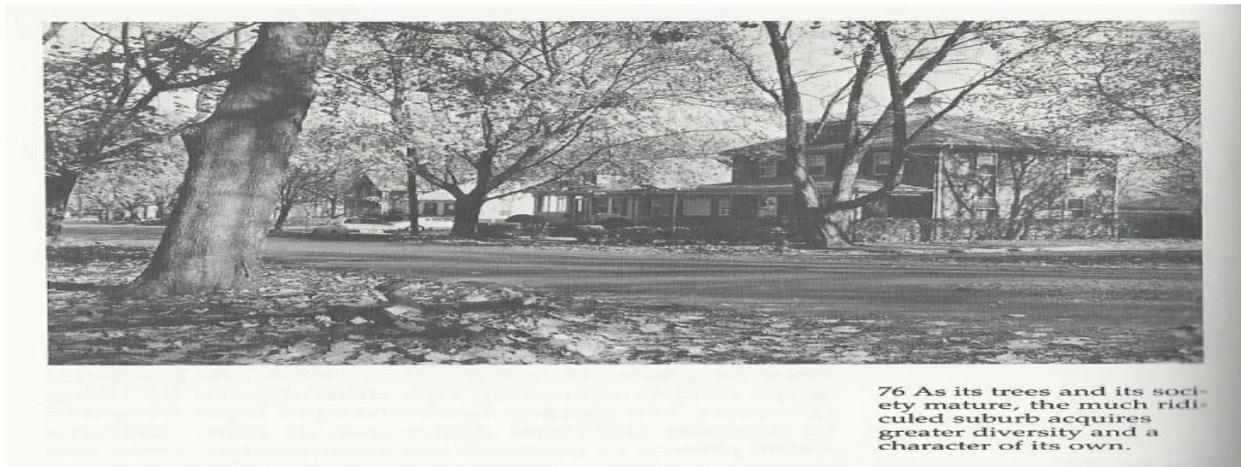
When Boston was rebuilding/modernizing they had to force the Irish out of Fort Hill. In order to complete the power grab for acceptance by the dominant force to allow the Irish to be driven out, the dream of the futuristic vision had to happen. When the obstacles are removed so a city can plan anew, it is finally possible for Faneuil Hall of Quincy to be finished and reached. For Brick Town in OKC to be revitalized, land had to be bought up and historic cotton mills had to be destroyed. (3: Lackmeyer Steve: October 17th, 2017 Destruction of Historic Bricktown Cotton Mill Signals New Beginning) In doing so, the old was weeded out and forced to flee. During progress one will make many enemies of the old elite and or established power circle, but in order to advance the futuristic vision it must be done. Otherwise at this point its like ordering and paying for your pizza to only never eat it.

Step 6: Times (Figure 70: Page 195):



The times will greatly effect and influence your city. Is the public transport separate from the rest of the city such as the subway in New York City? Is it terrible like Oklahoma City? Is it efficient like the L in Chicago? Do bikes have their own lane, share with pedestrian walkers or share the road with the vehicles? The times will dictate how something is laid out based off the needs of the people in that city.

Step 7: Coming of Age: (Figure 76: Page 346):



Like the scenic houses of the suburbs with character situated with the old trees to iconic recognizable landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower, Taj Mahal, Machu Picchu, Statue of Liberty, Hagia Sophia and the Sydney Opera House making a city its own happens by strategic

planning, not accident. People need to be unique and their own instead of a cooperate chain. Sure Papa Johns may be convenient, close and know what you're getting every time, but the memories are made when one finds these tiny hole in the wall places that are authentic locals. When cities try to copy others for efficient machine purpose of conformity, it no longer makes that city stand out. It's like trying to incorporate Paris café culture into Boston. When cities imitate each other, it destroys diversity. That would be like a history major trying to be a doctor, a Political Science major attempting to be an engineer and the engineer changing their major to acting. Like each individual should pursue their own career, each city should be its own to reach its maximum potential of design.

Relation to Architectural Political Democracy: Politics govern the way people live within the logistics set up by the architecture. In order for smoothness to persist, both have to go hand in hand. From page 302 of the book **“Functional integration is matched by a degree of social integration.”** Lynch did an incredible job of laying all the ground work and providing the sorted raw data to be considered/examined in one book of readable form. The 7 steps mentioned above summarize his work into an easy to understand theory. For the good of cities of past, present and future, let's paraphrase Rick Steves “Until next time, keep on Designing.”

WORKS CITED

1: Lynch Kevin, Good City Form.

2: *Hayes Christal* USA Today, Feb 3rd, 2018, What is Next if Cape Town becomes the First Major City to run out of Water? <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2018/02/03/cape-town-runs-out-water-day-zero-predicted-happen-april/303863002/> Accessed Feb 4th, 2018

3: Lackmeyer Steve: October 17th, 2017 Destruction of Historic Bricktown Cotton Mill Signals
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