Evolving the Hometown Map: Moving from Static to Dynamic
documenting and preserving student work from the University of Miami School of Architecture
digging for documents...
Hometown Map Project

University of Miami School of Architecture

FACULTY
LOCATION
STUDENT

Map
Grayscale

Terms of Use
School of Architecture Hometown Maps

The Hometown Map project is an undergraduate architecture studio assignment at the University of Miami School of Architecture that has been evolving since 1996. It was designed to enable each student to develop primary research skills on a familiar topic, the place they call home. Originally intended as an introductory assignment for creating maps of historic cities, it was restructured and renamed as the “hometown map” project in 1998 as a lesson in community and skill building. It continues to evolve as students are required to incorporate research that is based on environmental, geological, cultural, and socio-political facets.

Students are encouraged to utilize a broader range of primary and secondary library and Internet resources to develop an understanding of the origins of their hometown from various perspectives. The research process inevitably reveals new discoveries, which students subsequently translate into a visual narrative. Each student develops the theme most significant to their locale through the graphic design of the map. The techniques of the project’s expressions—a combination of hand and digital media—give each student room for self-expression as well.

As each project is presented to the class, the studio learns more about the larger issues of architecture and the environment, geography, and culture, as well as something new about the perspective on place from each member of the class. The project also serves as a model for the development of richer and more nuanced site...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>ESRI ArcGIS</th>
<th>Leaflet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pinch and zoom</td>
<td>functioned on Google Chrome</td>
<td>functioned on Mozilla Firefox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pop-up functionality</td>
<td>Functioned on Google Chrome</td>
<td>worked in Chrome, but did not function in Firefox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ease of implementation</td>
<td>built-in search &amp; filter functions</td>
<td>need to build search &amp; filter functions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dynamic design</td>
<td>built-in for entire interface</td>
<td>worked for the map, but the interface needs to be built</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sustainability</td>
<td>ESRI maintains its library updates</td>
<td>all updates need to be done in-house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lightbox in library</td>
<td>hard to implement</td>
<td>easy to implement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>implement dates</td>
<td>moderately difficult</td>
<td>easy to include, but interface needs to be built</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>design flexibility</td>
<td>very limited</td>
<td>very flexible</td>
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</table>
## Standardization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>File name (image and record)</th>
<th>ARC221_F08_hometownmap_jones_mary</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>JPG – compression quality = 12 (approximately 1 MB each image)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolution</td>
<td>Maximum dimensions set to 2400 pixels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color Mode</td>
<td>Grayscale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geo location by city name</td>
<td>GeoNames</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
DIGITAL INFORMATION FLOW & HOUSEKEEPING

- School of Architecture
- CONTENTdm
- Interactive Exhibit
- Standardizing image scans in Adobe Lightbox
- Cleaning & formatting image metadata
- Local Server
Where in the World Do Architects Come From?

“America is my country and Paris is my hometown”
Gertrude Stein
Where in the World Do Architects Come From?
http://scholar.library.miami.edu/hometownmaps/
When I walked down the streets, I asked myself, “Are these my people? Is this my hometown? Am I who I am?”

Azar Nafisi
Hometown Map
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