# Reflection of design project

Graduation Lab SADD MSC 3/4  AR3MA030 2012-2013

Yilin Wang/4189442

Tutors: Henri van Bennekom

Maarten Meijs

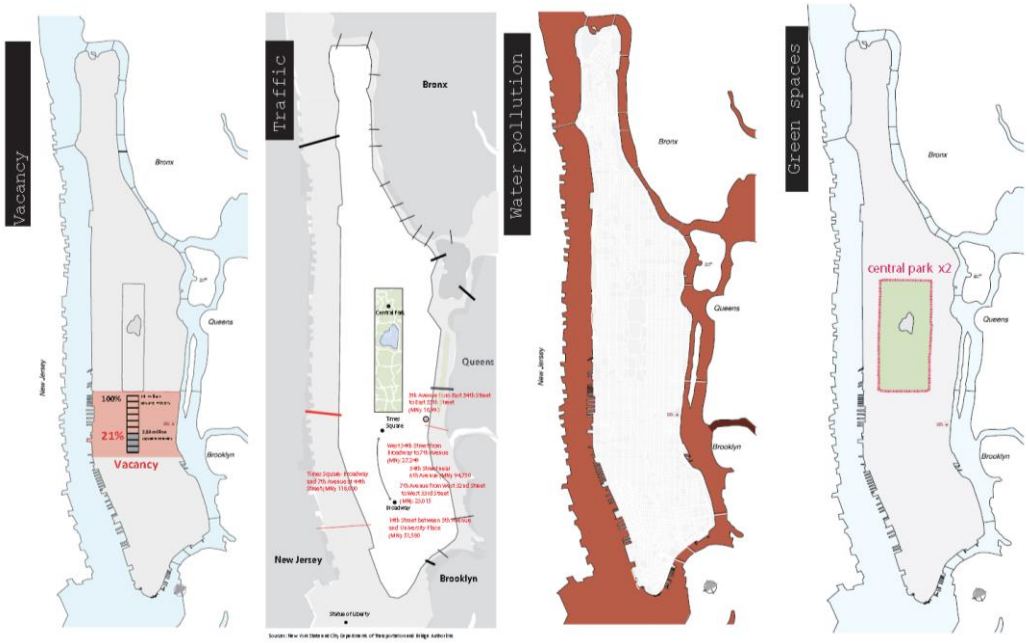
Theo van der Voordt (ext. exam.)

Subject: U.N. Headquarter for Sustainability

Location: U.N plot, East River Bank, Manhattan, New York

· **the relationship between research and design**

Like other megacities in the world, New York City also has the problem of food, energy, water and waste, but we think that these subjects are too broad to investigate, so we made a more classifications than that according to relevant aspects of the city in a way to understand how the city works within different systems. We chose important ones into 7 chapters, which are energy, traffic, public space, vacancy, urban heat island effect, water pollution and air pollution. By gathering massive information under each chapter, we get the idea of how people travel, work and live in the city of Manhattan, and we can also find pros and cons of New York City in terms of all aspects that we focus.




I think these facts that we already know from the research tells us one thing---- the determination of making more sustainable future should always be carried on.

Thus, having these conclusions from the research as the context of my individual design, I think I

definitely want to respond to that. So the question is how we are going to do that by making architecture. It has to say that if we all make sustainable buildings, this could be a big step in making the world more sustainable, but here, the design of a sustainable building actually can do very minimum to improve the environment, so once again, how we respond to the determination of making a more sustainable future?




As we all going to make sustainable buildings, and like I just said maybe the power of one sustainable building is far less enough compare with the common goal that we have, I find a more powerful way, and that is to let architecture make statement itself, let it talk, and let the world see our slogans!

- **the relationship between the theme of the studio and the subject**

In this way, I think Environment Council building should be more than a sustainable building, but a visual symbol of sustainability. So the subject I chose is architecture communication and symbolism, and actually making a symbol is one way of architecture communication with other people by graphic means.

Architecture communication is an abstract concept, and I want to achieve that using architectural languages. This is exactly the theme of Materialization SADD studio, which emphasizes the importance of the craft to develop ideas from paper to material reality.

- **the relationship between the methodical line of approach of the studio and the method chosen**

The approach of studio starts from developing the urban designs of Manhattan Midtown East, first we study the results from previous groups, and then we design an improved reaction on this, in our studio group. We not only continue the research by previous groups, but we also have new chapters as supplements to have a more critical research.

On the other hand the research also includes what is U.N., because we are going to make a new building next to it. We should be aware of the responsibility of The United Nations Headquarter, which is the center of a worldwide network of diplomatic activity, peacekeeping efforts, specialized agencies, and nongovernmental organizations representing a world public, and under such a great task, the new Environment Council Building focuses on help the world creating a more sustainable future. Understanding the context is essential for further design.
For my own research on architecture communication, it should be representative and expressive, so I first went through case studies of iconic buildings by making comparison by the building's formal language with its meaning, as well as the context to see how they are related.

- **the relationship between the project and the wider social context**

In the wider social context, the research of Manhattan can be seen as an example for us to investigate the world we are living in terms of water waste food and energy, and through the research, we understand the relationship between environment, people and city. Most importantly, the methods that we've been practice of urban analysis can always be adapted to other cases.

- **Conclusion**

As Design Development is about recognizing those possibilities and making the right choices, using the right tools and input, at the right moment, on a proper scale. In that sense, I think I've achieved translating a conceptual idea into reality. Through that process, I've learned the way of thinking on how to make choices among all kinds of possibilities, and after all, they come into being one architecture design.