

**Beijing Urban Design Workshop
Tsinghua University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

**Exercise #2 ~ June 22, 2006
"Strategic Directions"**

Our second task is to explore different approaches to the future of the Sun Palace neighborhood. In this exercise your team will solidify its attitude about what the area should become and prepare a program and design proposal which illustrates this direction. The proposal will be developed in two steps:

A. Design Concept

In the first part of this assignment, you should quickly discuss and debate different approaches to the future of the area and agree on a preferred direction for your team. You should consider the neighborhood (as outlined) and its surroundings: canal, new subway and roads, industrial sites, cleared sites, and the edges of nearby high rise developments as part of the project area.

In deciding on your direction, you may want to consider: What changes will the subway bring to land values, activities, and the physical form of this area of Beijing? What could be the future role of the Sun Palace neighborhood? Will it be an island amidst high rise buildings or part of a larger humanely scaled fabric? Who will live there? How can this modest neighborhood and the new subway coexist? Can they?

This part of the assignment is due on Monday, June 26 at 2:00. Each team will share a 10 minute overview of its conclusions, including:

- 1. A one page written summary of the principles you feel should guide development in this area. (no more than 5-7)*
- 2. A preliminary program of activities*
- 3. A diagram of your planning concept for the area showing: paths, land uses, and texture of buildings and spaces.*
- 4. Identify 1-2 key nodes or sections that are key to your approach for further development (one must relate to the subway).*

B. Illustrative Sketch Plan

In this part of the assignment you should develop your concept by illustrating design intentions for the entire area, placing greater emphasis on the 1-2 key areas defined above.

You should consider each of the concerns investigated in the first assignment: Circulation patterns; the transit station; housing and living areas; commercial, office and work locations; the public realm of facilities and places, the story of the site and its people. How does your scheme address the issues identified for each of these topics?

This part of the assignment is due on Friday, June 30 at 9:00 AM. Each team should present a concise 15 minute overview of their Illustrative Plan. You should prepare:

- 1. A one page written description of your approach. How does it illustrate your principles?**
- 2. An overall illustrative plan for the area, showing features of your proposal. (1:1000 scale)**
- 3. Program and sketch design for one key sub-area(s). Sections, models or axonometric to depict massing.**
- 4. Other drawings or analogous photos as needed to convey your ideas.**

As you decide upon a direction and prepare an Illustrative Plan for the area, there are several key issues that have emerged from our discussions to date that you may want to bear in mind:

- How can the Sun Palace neighborhood play an important role in the future life of the city?
- What is the best relationship between the Sun Palace neighborhood and the transit stop?
- What is the appropriate balance of local housing verses “regional” facilities and commerce in a transportation node of this kind?
- How can your proposal act as a model for design and development in the vicinity of transit stops?
- How can we create high quality public spaces and an identifiable place in the city?

End of assignment