Lecture 1: The Planner's Toolbox

I. Subject Pedagogy

A. Planning
   1. Requires an understanding of present conditions; it is context driven
   2. It is a systematic and creative way to influence the future of a place
   3. Planning activities focus on issues of equity, efficiency, and democratic involvement
B. Communication
   1. The expression of ideas takes many forms: written, oral, graphic, etc.
   2. Communication is persuasive, it is rarely value free
   3. It is linked to analysis and ranges from the formal/sophisticated to the informal/messy
C. Digital Media
   1. The planner's toolbox consists of instruments to analyze problems and promote ideas
   2. There are choices: Memos Vs. E-mail; Sketches Vs. Photographs/Video
   3. We will examine such tools as Dreamweaver, Photoshop, Excel, Access and ArcView
D. How can we examine these three concepts simultaneously?
   1. By exploring advanced and real-world applications and projects (lectures)
   2. By observing demonstrations of various planning-related software packages (recitations)
   3. Through a "hands-on" approach to working with digital methods of visualization, analysis, and communication (labs/projects)

II. Subject Logistics

A. The Team
B. Student Groups

III. Subject Content

A. Lecture Notes
B. Recitations
C. Lab Exercises and Projects
D. Syllabus
E. Calendar
F. Required Readings
G. Evaluation
   1. Your Grade
   2. Mid-semester Feedback Session
   3. Final Evaluations

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IV. What is a web-based portfolio?

A. A collection of work, derived from a tradition of showcasing accomplishments
B. A portable, durable container for your planning-related endeavors
C. A product for potential employers
D. Previous Student Work

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V. Important resources (if time allows)

A. Web Publishing at MIT
B. Computer Resource Network
C. Rotch Library’s GIS Laboratory
D. ESRI Virtual Campus
E. Element K (register here)
F. IAP 2005