

Team Name: Off Paper

Video Submission: <https://vimeo.com/55318673>

Selected Site: 6 1303 Montgomery Street

“Off Paper” will select site #6 under the primary premise that upon observation it requires the most amount of restorative labor. It also serves our mission very well in that there are several structures that have been condemned within close proximity to the site. The storm sewer inlet proposes a particular problem worth addressing in that it is uncapped and stands as a testimony to the uncapped nature of much of the “mine in our backyards.”

Overview:

The unique qualities distinct to St. Louis are still living in the building fabric of the materials left to ruin. This character can be amplified through a new look at the way construction occurs under new sustainable standards and proven techniques from the past.

“Off Paper” will construct a curatorial space committed to the core values and criteria of the Land Lab competition. This curatorial space will serve as a community venue for the Old North neighborhood as well as serve St. Louis with exhibitions conducive to an inclusive program of sustainable and renewable practices.

The material for the curatorial space will be reclaimed from a neighboring condemned structure. Using manual labor and obtaining materials near situ, the new paradigm of efficiency and sustainability based in people and the environment will be showcased. A vast reduction in carbon emissions is achieved by utilizing the “mine in our backyard.”

“Off Paper” seeks to pay our labor pool twice. By employing felons who are held captive by financial restitution our project seeks to create a labor force that is focused toward a spiritual reclamation of the community. Take home pay will be matched by private donations, solely secured to pay the courts.

Team Qualifications:

Philip Balsiger is a Master of Architecture candidate at Washington University in St. Louis. Balsiger is anticipating his graduation this winter 2012. Balsiger comes with four years of architectural industry experience. Balsiger’s experience includes community projects focused in sustainable practices, such as Architects Without Borders and pdXplore: Designing Portland – a collaboration of architects, landscape architects and designers, organized to define and address key areas of Portland Oregon which are currently being overlooked by the city planning commission. The work is done in an effort to generate discussion through provocative propositions and revelatory analysis.

Nathan Childs is a Master of Fine Arts candidate at Washington University in St. Louis. Childs is slated to graduate spring of 2014. Childs is a social practice artist and organizer. Childs began his practice in the late 90’s with community projects such as the Swift Skateboard park in Vancouver Washington, Burnside Skateboard park in Portland Oregon and other community based projects including curatorial spaces, public lecture series and youth oriented art projects. Childs has served on neighborhood associations, received non- paid commissions for community murals and continues his practice here in St. Louis while pursuing his graduate degree.

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