

Project assignment

Everyone has specified a research area that interests them in the context of the New Century Cities course. The range of interests covers the following domains:

- culture and identity in digitally mediated environments
- new types of public and private partnerships, BID districts and new technologies
- partnerships that reach across industries, specifically information technology and real estate development
- urban patterns generated by New Century Cities
- examples for layering technologies in specific urban contexts

As your product for this subject, we ask that you:

1. Research precedents for your topic that may be found either in the New Century Cities and projects we have discussed or other examples you may uncover.
2. Discuss the implications of these projects and trends for city making in the future.
3. Develop a proposal or describe a development scenario of a place that realizes the potential of your topic and ideas. Proposals should be made for a specific urban context or development site. For many of you, we have suggested the corridor that extends from Mass Ave (at Main St.) to Lobby 7 and then along the infinite corridor to Kendall Square as a good venue to test your ideas. You may utilize the whole corridor or one or more places along it. This will give us a sense of how the ideas could overlay and reinforce one another.

Each paper should be between 5-10 pages (not including additional pages for references, diagrams and images). The research papers will be included in a briefing report submitted to conference participants. We will give you a simple format for the final product.

Schedule

- Progress Report -- Please rewrite your proposal based on the feedback you received and write a one-page outline of your final paper.
- Feedback -- you should schedule a meeting with one of the faculty members at least once before our next meeting. Bring your revised proposal and outline to the meeting.
- Due Date – The papers are due on the last session of the class, when we will ask you to present your findings to the class. We may ask you to make some final revisions and edits before distributing the papers at the conference.