This assignment is to reinforce the importance of Architects and Engineers walking a site, preferably at many times throughout the stages of a project, so that they fully understand the “Context” of the environment that the building will be integrated into. Sometimes even top A&E firms de-emphasize this for several reasons, including:

1. The main A&E office is too far from the site. For example, Elizabethtown College’s top two A&E firms are headquartered in Pittsburgh (CANNON DESIGN) and Baltimore (MARSHAL CRAFT).

2. The hourly rate charged to clients for Principle Architects and Engineers can be $200 to $350 per hour, and Junior Architects and Engineers can be billed to the client at $50 to $200 per hour; so a long walk on a site, plus transportation time & costs to get to the site, for a design team of half a dozen people, can be cost prohibitive.

3. The Architect may view the site and its surrounding community and culture as something that can be easily summed up from afar.

4. The Client/Real-Estate-Developer may insist that they can relay all the needed information to the designers.

5. Even if the Urban-Planners/Landscape-Architect that created a Comprehensive Plan is nearby, they are often not included in individual building design activities, including site analysis and design. For example, for Elizabethtown College, DERCK & EDSON, the Urban-Planners/Landscape-Architects for the College’s comprehensive planning over the past 20 years, are in nearby Lititz, PA.

ASSIGNMENT:
As you walk your site, imagine how your building will interact with its environment, as defined on the following pages.

NOTE: Buildings shown in purple are 2011 projected projects by the College’s Urban-Planners/Landscape-Architects DERCK & EDSON, but the gym expansion, dating back to the 1999 Comprehensive Plan, was morphed into part of what is now being built as the new Sports, Fitness, and Wellness Center, and the cluster of red rectangular buildings is purely an initial concept for the Cedar Street Housing.
MEYER HALL CONFERENCE CENTER
Use remaining infrastructure in kitchen area from when building included Meyer dining hall; Also add a new Honor’s student center (with conference rooms and a design studio) on northwest corner of first floor. Add an art gallery and a stage for plays and live music. Include LEED criteria.

CEDAR STREET HOUSING
Four-person units including commons with laundry, kitchen, and gathering space. Include an SDLC (Student Directed Learning Center) for the Arts with a studio space. Include LEED criteria.

Imagine, as you walk around in the circle:
A. The change in pedestrian and vehicle traffic within this circle as Cherry Street replaces Cedar Street as a main entrance to the campus.
B. How Church activities (and parking) may interface with the Conference Center and Cedar street housing.
C. How the entire area between the Library and the Cedar Street housing can become a new focal-point/plaza for student activity, outdoor teaching, and special events; especially if Cedar street is closed to vehicle traffic there.
D. How your projects open up the southwest part of the campus for future expansion.

Consider taking pictures to include in your design work.

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GRADUATE STUDENT HOUSING
Across College Avenue from Masters Center.
(behind the small houses owned by the College);
Include a daycare center, and several SDLC’s
(Student Directed Learning Centers) for STEM,
the Arts, and Architecture, including a studio space.
Include LEED criteria.

Imagine, as you walk in the circled areas:
A. How the College presently interfaces with the surrounding community in these areas.
B. The quality of present housing and land in these areas.
C. The various uses of houses and land in these areas.
D. The views towards the campus from within these areas.
E. The views of the surrounding community from your building site.

Consider taking pictures to include in your design work.

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HOUSING & ARTS DEVELOPMENT at LEMON STREET
Apartments, an international students space, an international café/restaurant, an international food store, an art gallery, and a small theatre for movies, plays, and live music.
Include LEED criteria.

Imagine, as you walk in the circled areas:
A. The change in pedestrian and vehicle traffic as Cherry Street replaces Cedar Street as a main entrance to the campus.
B. How the College presently interfaces with the surrounding community in these areas.
C. The quality of present housing and land in these areas.
D. The various uses of houses and land in these areas.
E. The views towards the campus from within these areas.
F. The views of the surrounding community and campus from your building site.

Consider taking pictures to include in your design work.

NOTE: Buildings shown in purple are 2011 projected projects by the College’s Urban-Planners/Landscape-Architects DERCK & EDSON, but the gym expansion, dating back to the 1999 Comprehensive Plan, was morphed into part of what is now being built as the new Sports, Fitness, and Wellness Center, and the cluster of red rectangular buildings is purely an initial concept for the Cedar Street Housing.