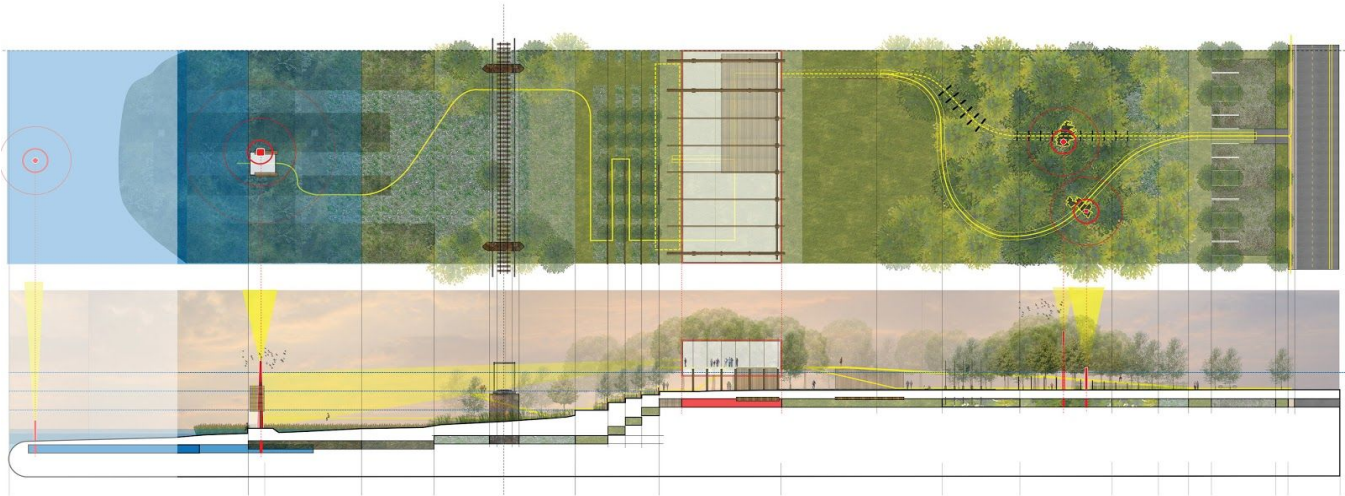


# Project C

## Approach and Sense



Section Hybrid - Richmond Community Center, 2016, Ken Filler

### Abstract:

**A site's "approachability" is integral to how a community engages that place.** If a developable lot fronts a street with foot traffic, its design should address a pedestrian scale and movement pattern. The same lot located on a steep incline and bus stop in front may warrant a completely different program. Approach by foot, car, mass transit or even by water/air should be considered when designing any site in Washington DC.

**The sensual quality of an area can drastically change a community's willingness to engage a site.** A greenfield with a direct breeze, abundant vegetation and tree canopy insulated from car noise creates a microclimate appropriate for a more intimate design. A brownfield with odors/sounds that result from neglect and isolation may need to be completely rejuvenated before any design can be considered. Even at a more nuanced level, simple changes in topography, trees, building height and use patterns on a street can make each street in a neighborhood radically different - and can even change *who* lives there.

### Primary Sources:

*Thermal Delight*  
Lisa Heschong  
Pages 18-24

*The Eyes of the Skin, Architecture of the Sense*, Juhani Pallasmaa  
Pages 42-49

*A Philosophy of Walking*  
Frederic Gros  
Chapters 4, 5 & 21

### ARCP 503-01 Course Syllabus

Instructor: Ken Filler, Adjunct Professor

Contact: [kenneth.filler@udc.edu](mailto:kenneth.filler@udc.edu)

## Deliverables:

### **Approach Synthesis Diagram (1) -**

*11x17, ¼-½ mile radius*

Diagram your site's approach from all major forms of transportation and from all directions. An easy place to start is the relationship to metro and bus lines. Imagine you were travelling across town to get there, how would you do it? What options do you have? Do people drive to this area, is there parking? If someone were to walk here, what is the most prominent path approaching the area? Are there bike lanes in the area? Is there local foot traffic? Who is approaching the site - commuters, students, seniors, families, tourists?

### **Senses Synthesis Diagram (1) -**

*11x17, ¼-½ mile radius*

As we discussed in class a few weeks ago - there are many other ways we can "see" a place without our eyes. Use your five senses to diagram your site: sight, sound, smell, taste and touch. Is your site loud or is it insulated from street traffic? Is there a specific textural quality or materiality in that area? Are there local foods, farmers markets or places of commerce that are integral to the community identity? Is there a prevailing breeze that influences the microclimate? Is there a body of water nearby? Think of urban situations that could arouse some use of these senses, and diagram them overlaid atop one another.

Due 11/10 - in class presentation. These two diagrams will be included in final presentation at end of semester.