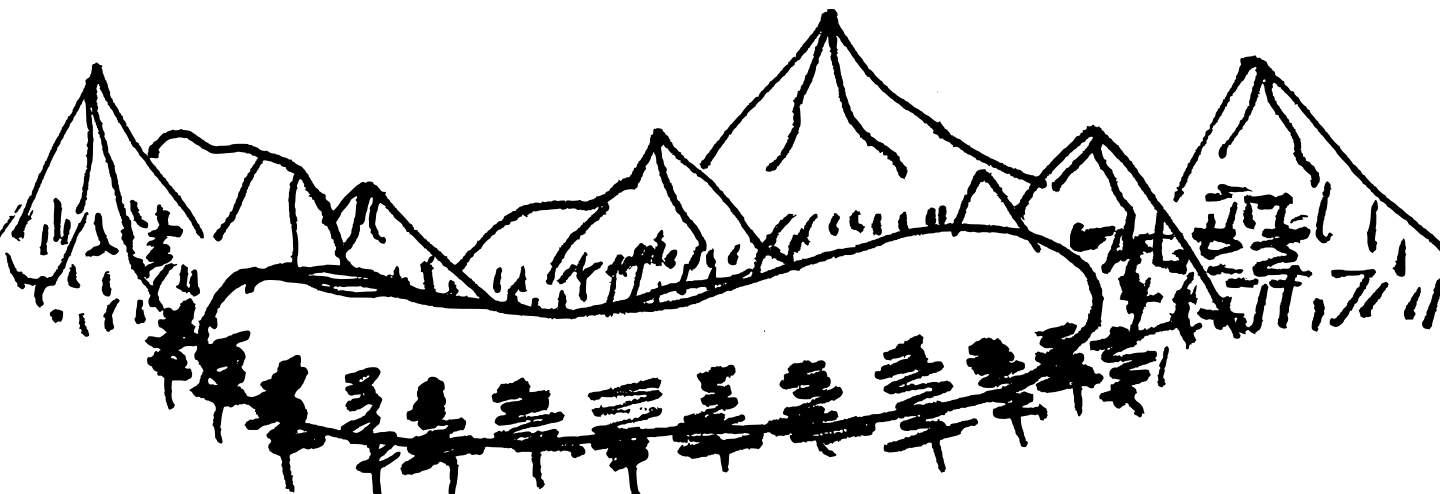


Architecture #3

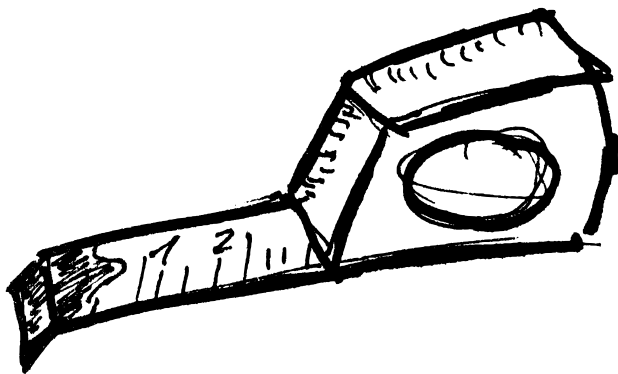
Site visit



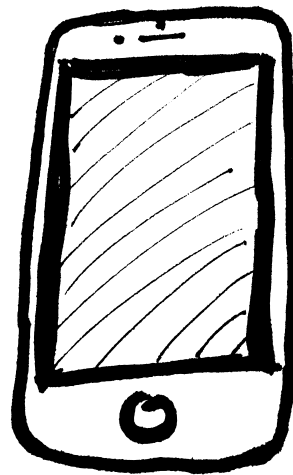
What to take?

You are about to go to visit the site of your project. What do you need? Well, you could take a drone if you have one. They started to gain a lot of popularity recently. But not everybody has one.

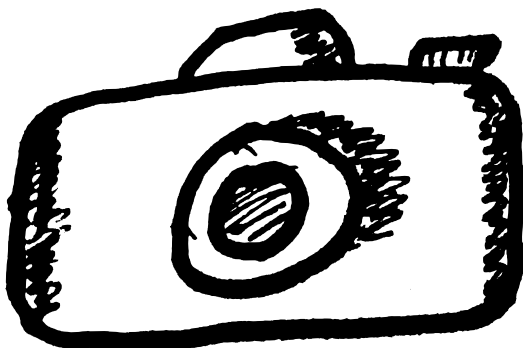
So here is the list of essentials. Tape measure to measure distances, get the rough approximation before you get precise topography data. There is a camera to take lots of photos. They are both to help you guide the design and set for CGI later in the project. Smartphone can have lots of useful apps. There is for example a compass, or you can do panoramic shots with it. And most important, the note book. All the information gathered should be written down so you do not forget.



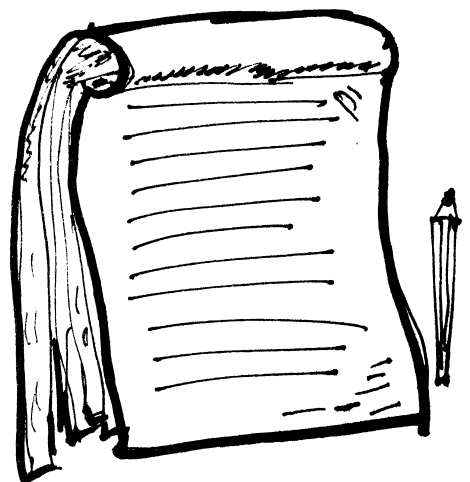
Tape measure



Smartphone



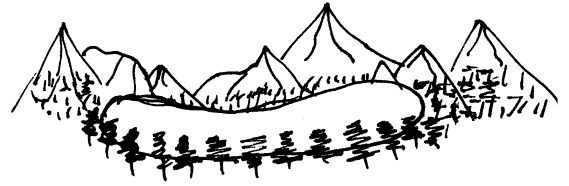
Camera



Notebook

What to look for?

Every architect must be a great observer. Pay attention how the site feels, what are its qualities and what constrains might appear.



View

Location

– Address, surrounding, buildings in vicinity, terrain

Context

– Buildings in vicinity, parking places, roads

Access

– Roads, parking, urban context

Vegetation

– Landscaping, trees and other greenery, open spaces

Views

– Nice view is a very expensive feature to pass

Materials

– Surfaces around the site, used on buildings in vicinity, material of the landscape

Topography

– Levels of the site, shape of the topography, soil quality

Weather

– Shaded or exposed, prevailing winds

Hazards

– Contamination, electricity or telephone lines, drainage, water



Roads



Vegetation



Address

What to analyse?

As soon as you get back to your office, there are other sources you can use to get additional information. Maps available online, cadastre, local municipality zoning plans. And you should also make a connection between all the information gathered. How is the site in general? How does all its qualities work together? Pay attention to these points and more.

Streets

- Size, direction, traffic pattern

Neighbourhood

- Relationship to it

Scale

- Proportions of existing buildings, size of the plot

Materials

- Use of local materials, context of buildings

History

- Use of the plot, history of neighbourhood

Climate

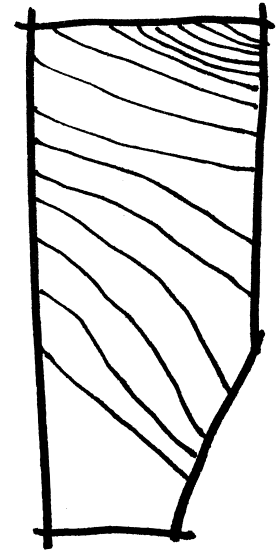
- Sun, angles of shadows and sun rays, the wind

Negative and positive space

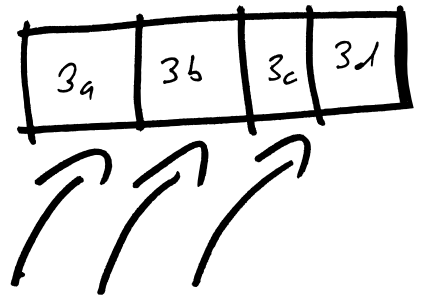
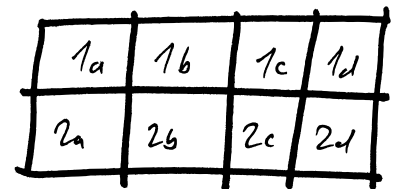
- Existing space patterns on site, dwelling vs. movement

Circulation

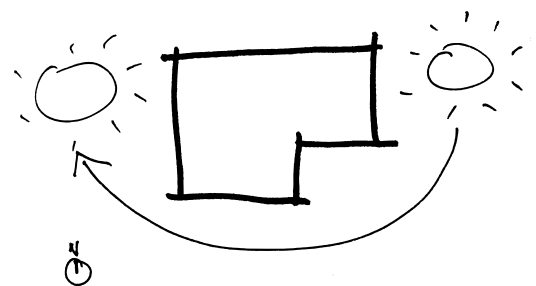
- Getting to the site, moving around



Topography



Wind direction



Sun path