

Spatial Modeling in the Design School Curriculum and Studio

a school infused with spatial intelligence

Exemplary Environment for Using Spatial Data

Each student at the Harvard Design School is under great pressure to represent places and spatial relationships. We have an excellent infrastructure of documented data, available to students 24 hours per day. Students with no formal training in GIS try all sorts of improbable applications, and very often succeed! We try to capture as much of this experimental knowledge as we can in our ever-growing collection of on-line documentation



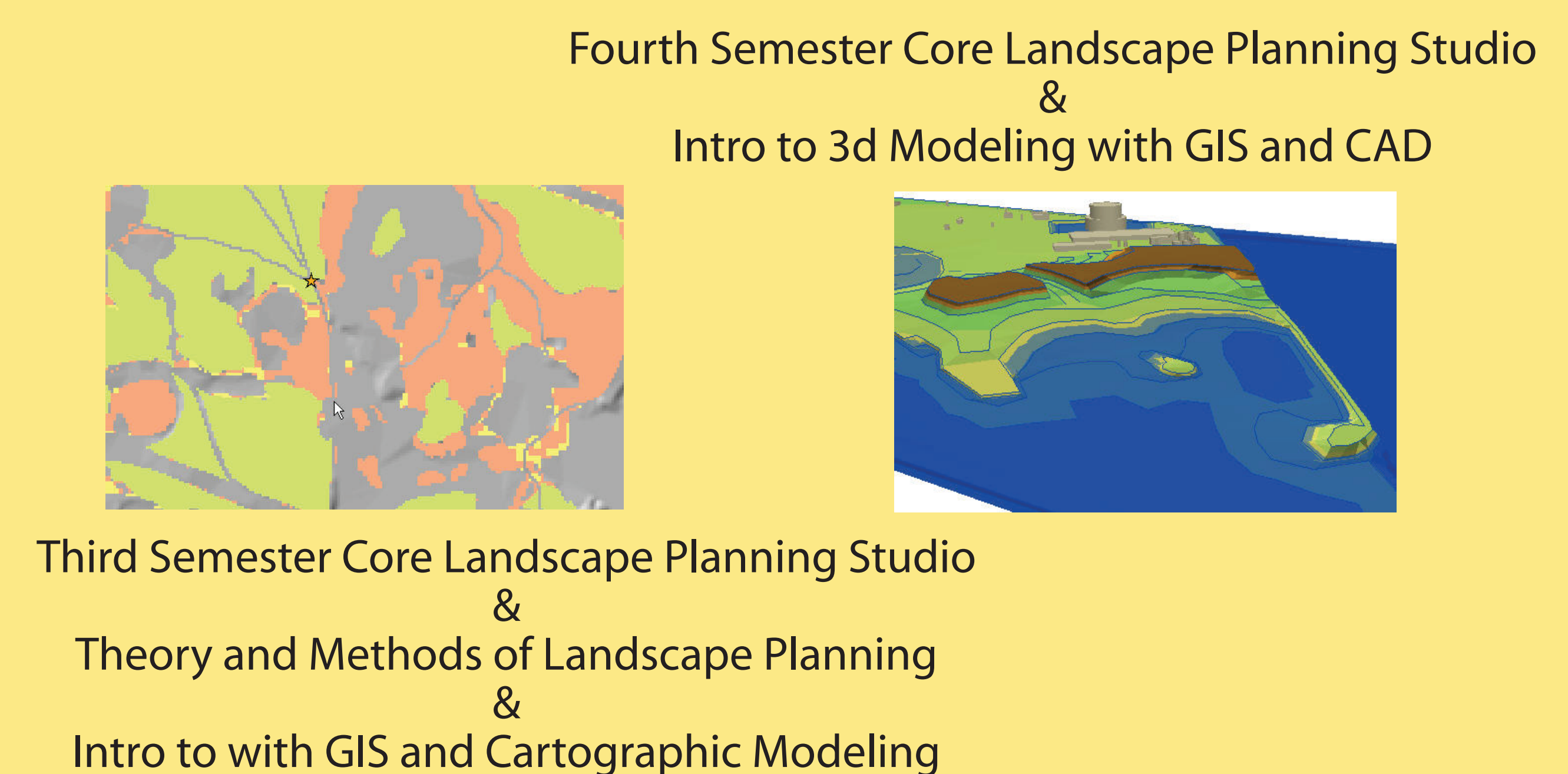
Data and Applications for Courses

Where course exercises once required maps and map reading skills, they now benefit from spatial data and some understanding of how it is used. Faculty with such needs can have special datasets and tutorials created for them (if enough advanced notice is given) Many students learn of the potential of well organized data to support better decisionmaking and collaboration through this level of exposure.



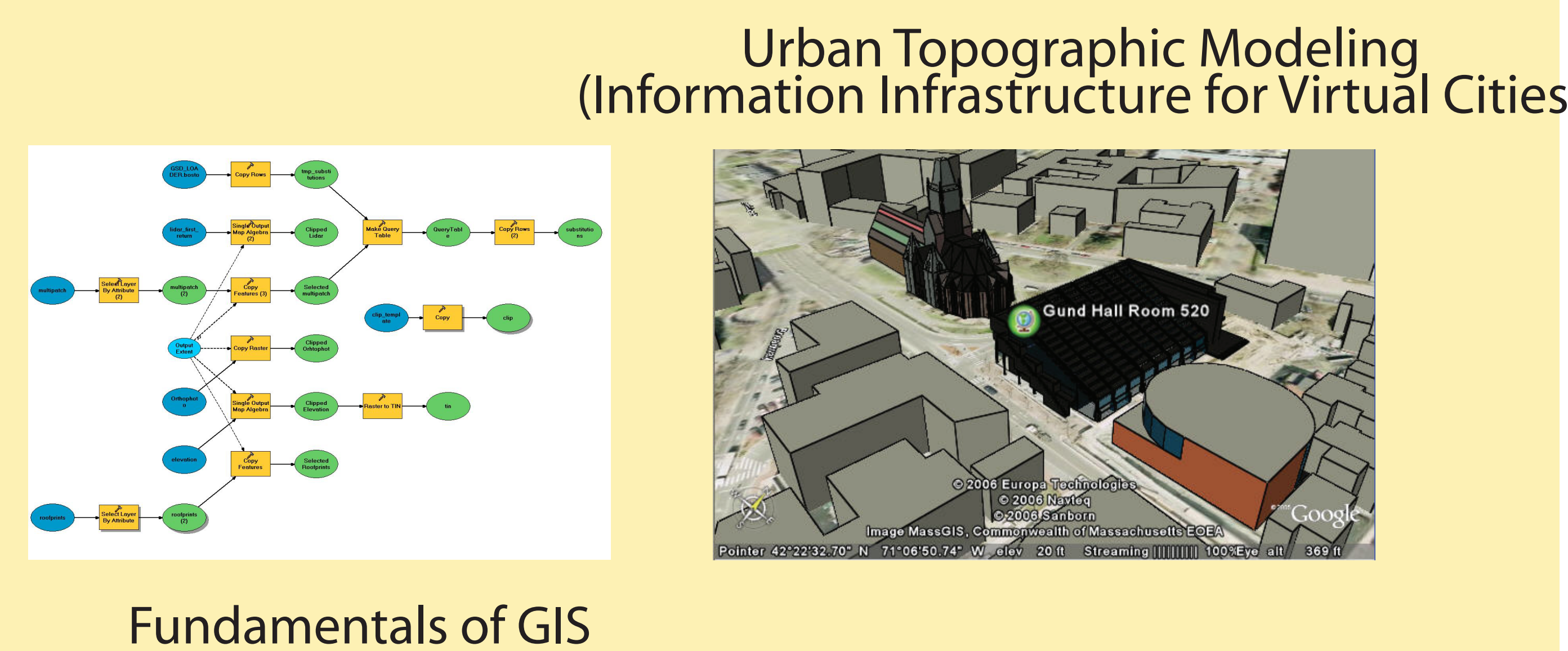
Integration of Modeling Curriculum with Studio

To assure that our Landscape Architecture graduates are qualified to handle and evaluate modern forms of information and analysis, it is necessary to have a structured curriculum of courses and exercises. By integrating structured courses in technique and theory with more traditional landscape studios, our students to apply specific exercises in modeling to their studio assignments. These half-semester courses provide Landscape students with a very good understanding of how a professionally prepared GIS site database can be used for collaboration and individual decision-making.



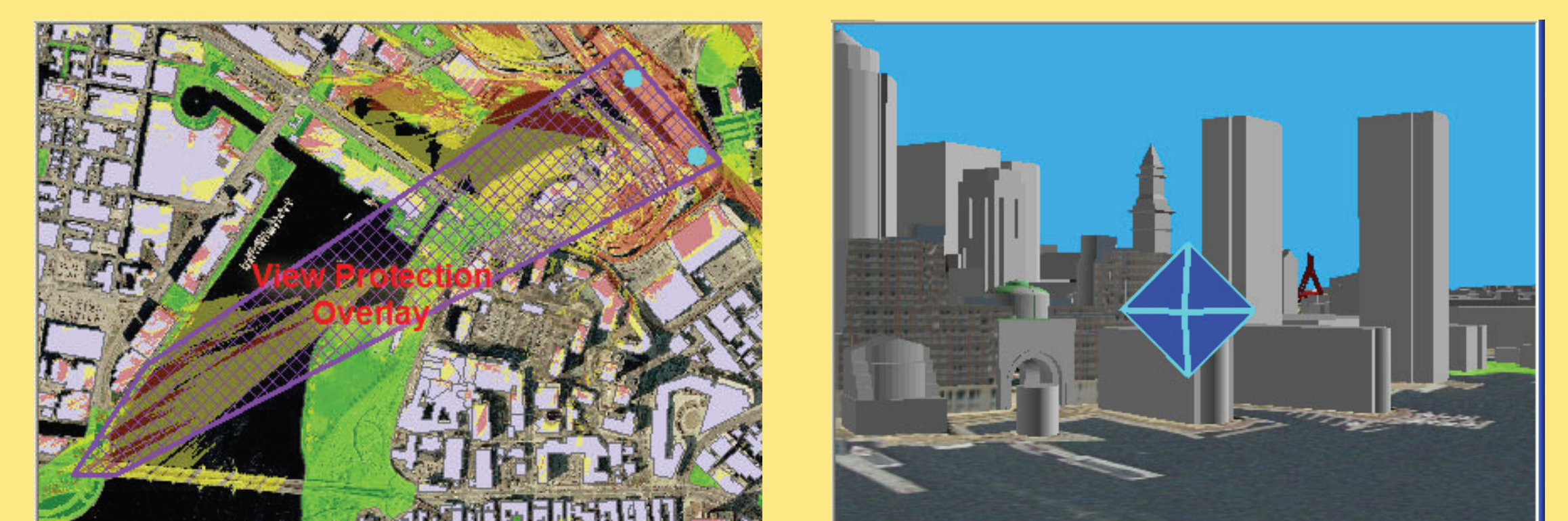
Courses Focused on Spatial Modeling

Leaders in design firms, public agencies or in academia should be well educated in the formal logic of information systems, compilation of spatial data and the management of information resources. We offer two courses targeted at this level of understanding. Fundamentals of GIS focuses on the scholarly compilation and documentation of GIS datasets and the formal logic of Vector-Relational, Raster and Image-based GIS models. Urban Topographic Modeling looks into institutional GIS infrastructure related to cooperatively maintained metropolitan-scale three-dimensional models.



New Ways to Understand Places and the City

The GSD is all about understanding places. We hope that our graduates who go forward to be active in envisioning the future of places as citizens, leaders in firms and government agencies or innovators in academia and industry will take at least one message away from their experience at the GSD: Its nice to have a well-thought out infrastructure for organizing information and knowledge.



Harvard Graduate School of Design

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