Landscapes of Power
Landscapes of Power

- Reading the connection of Power and Landscape
  - Power shapes landscape?
  - Landscape shapes power?
Power of Landscape

• In a military sense, some landscape confers power
  – High ground from which territory can be surveilled, controlled
  – Vital ports, air bases
• But power depends on military technology
What do we mean by power?

• Various kinds of Power:
  – Economic, political, social, gender, intellectual, cultural, military …

• Power is the ability
  – to assign meaning?
  – to include/exclude?
Michel Foucault

- French thinker who wondered about the nature of power
- Begins his exploration by asking about how power shapes a key place
  - The prison cell
  - A place defined by coercive power
Power and the prison cell

- Power enacts laws, defines offences
- Justice system defines the offenders
- Justice system designs the prison
- Meaning for wider culture?
Jeremy Bentham

- English enlightenment philosopher
  - Utilitarian
  - “the greatest good for the greatest number”
- Interested in solving social problems rationally
Bentham’s Panopticon

- A rational prison
- Prisoners are supervised, surveilled from a central point
  - don’t know when Big Brother is watching
Michel Foucault

- Interested in the panopticon
- Power and space intertwine
- Implications for other places, activities:
Panoptica

• C19th Colonialism generated various ways of surveilling and gaining intellectual control over the world
  – The census
  – The museum
  – Botanical and zoological gardens
  – Surveying, map making and academic geography
The Gaze

• A culturally-learned way of looking
  – Assigns meaning to the viewer [the Self] and to what is looked at [the Other]

• For Foucault, the gaze is about power and dominance
The Hysteria Hysteria

- C19th doctors diagnosed women with “hysteria”
- performed hysterectomies
The Gaze

• Male medical Gaze
  – Perplexed by the female Other
  – saw female insanity as a gynecological disorder
The Gaze

Culturally-shaped and socially-defined

• ways of looking, of representing, of thinking

• can be applied to place and landscape
The Tourist Gaze
Tourist Gaze

• Tourist as the western Self
• Gazes at the “exotic” Other
  – sight seeing
  – taking photos
  – buying postcards
Power and Place: Abbey Road

- Last Beatles’ album 1969
- Photo taken outside Abbey Rd EMI studios, London UK
Tourist Shrine
Musical Shrine
I am the Walrus!
You guys were the best
Dave, Adelaide, SA*
16/10/2006

NO LEX!

Stuff Heard

Dear the
Paul

Peter & Ruth
26-11-06

At your best
and in your world
PS I love you much
George
Emily Sunderland
16/10/06
25th Anniversary
Musical Homage
California Kids
New Orleans
Abbey Rd in Australia
Iowa State does Abbey Road
Moscow
Great Gift Ideas for a Musical New Year

Long & McQuade MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS Holiday Wish List

www.long-mcquade.com
Tokyo
Contested Meaning

• Abbey Road studios used by other bands
  – Pink Floyd fans try to claim the place
Abbey Road London NW8
Paul McCartney's 1993 album
• Importance of place in Beatles-related tourism and marketing
LET IT BE

x
The Gaze

• may shape experience of the Other
• may shape the way the Other is packaged
• Concerned with how place is represented and read
Said’s Orientalism

- Edward Said, literature prof
- Western literature and attitudes toward Middle East:
- Western Self gazes at an Oriental [middle-eastern] Other
The Oriental Gaze

The Gaze allows the Self to project negative aspects of the self onto the Other

West sees itself as:
• modern, progressive, rational, scientific, organized

West sees Orient as:
• traditional, regressive, irrational, superstitious, disorderly
The Orient: What the West sees

- a place of harems, hashish, strong coffee
Ingres, 1862
• Renoir 1872
Orientalism in the movies

- The Mummy
- Cecil B DeMille
- Charlton Heston
Said and Geopolitics

• Western Orientalism is a dominant Gaze
• Constructs the Middle-Eastern Other as
  – Exotic
  – Dangerous, backward, fanatic