

Vision 2030: Baltimore Regional Planning Initiative with ACP, Ltd.

Baltimore, Maryland



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Visualizations of different redevelopment scenarios helped citizens and public officials understand the relationships between density, land consumption, aesthetics, and “a sense of place.”



The Environmental Simulation Center (“ESC”), in collaboration with the ACP Planning and Visioning, assisted the Baltimore Metropolitan Council in looking beyond issues of mobility to identify a broad regional consensus on issues such as sustainable land use and development patterns, transportation alternatives, the environment, and economic development.

Client:

Baltimore Metropolitan Council

Project Co-Directors:

Michael Kwartler (ESC)
Gianni Longo (ACP)

Completed:

2001

The first phase of the project involved the ESC using extensive GIS analysis to identify and create maps of potential developable areas within the five counties and City of Baltimore region and to compare the available land area with the region’s projected growth needs. Planning workshops were conducted where stakeholders distributed projected development on these maps at various densities, enabling the participants to clearly see the relationships between development pressures and open space protection, density thresholds needed to support public transportation, and regional sustainability. This enabled citizens to make informed choices and was critical in reaching consensus on three distinct development strategies.

Prototypical examples of these strategies were then modeled in an accurate, interactive, real time 3D environment so that citizens and stakeholders would be able to understand the impacts of each strategy in aesthetic as well as analytical terms.

The simulations, visualizations, and analysis and data, were presented at 17 workshops throughout the region. Participants noted that the 3D modeling and analysis help create a common language to discuss and understand the impacts of regional growth and alternative ways the region could grow.

[“Planning and Designing with People” Complex Artificial Environments, Michael Kwartler FAIA. Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg, 2006](#)

[“Visualization in Support of Public Participation” Michael Kwartler, FAIA. New York, NY 2005](#)