



'Medusa' detail of Geddes lecture notes courtesy of University of Strathclyde, photo by Lorens Holm

A Septic Turn

Paul Guzzardo

A Septic Turn offers a contemporary update on Geddes' citizen survey and Civic Exhibition. The installation details an ongoing lawsuit between the plaintiff Paul Guzzardo and two defendants: Grand Center - a private corporation with statutory development powers in St. Louis, and Washington University - a bio-science research institution. Unlike Charles Dickens's *Bleak House* the transactional is secondary here. This is about the role of digital media in collective consciousness and how media shapes the relation of people to places. It's also about Marshall McLuhan's role in the intellectual formation of St. Louis, and how Geddes' synoptic vision got muscled out by a sycophantic one.

Project journals and looping multimedia tell the story. The journals contains press, legal pleadings and testimony. Guzzardo's documentaries and video depositions comprise the multimedia. The documentaries are *buildbetterbarrel*, *the cartographer's dilemma*, and *posses | protocol | perp walks*. The deposition witnesses are: Emily Pulitzer, collector and founder of the Pulitzer Foundation of the Arts; Heather Woofert, teacher and chair of graduate studies at the Washington University School of Architecture; and Paul Guzzardo, lawyer and media activist/artist.

Paul Guzzardo is a Fellow at the Geddes Institute for Urban Research. Further biography can be found in the project journals and multimedia.