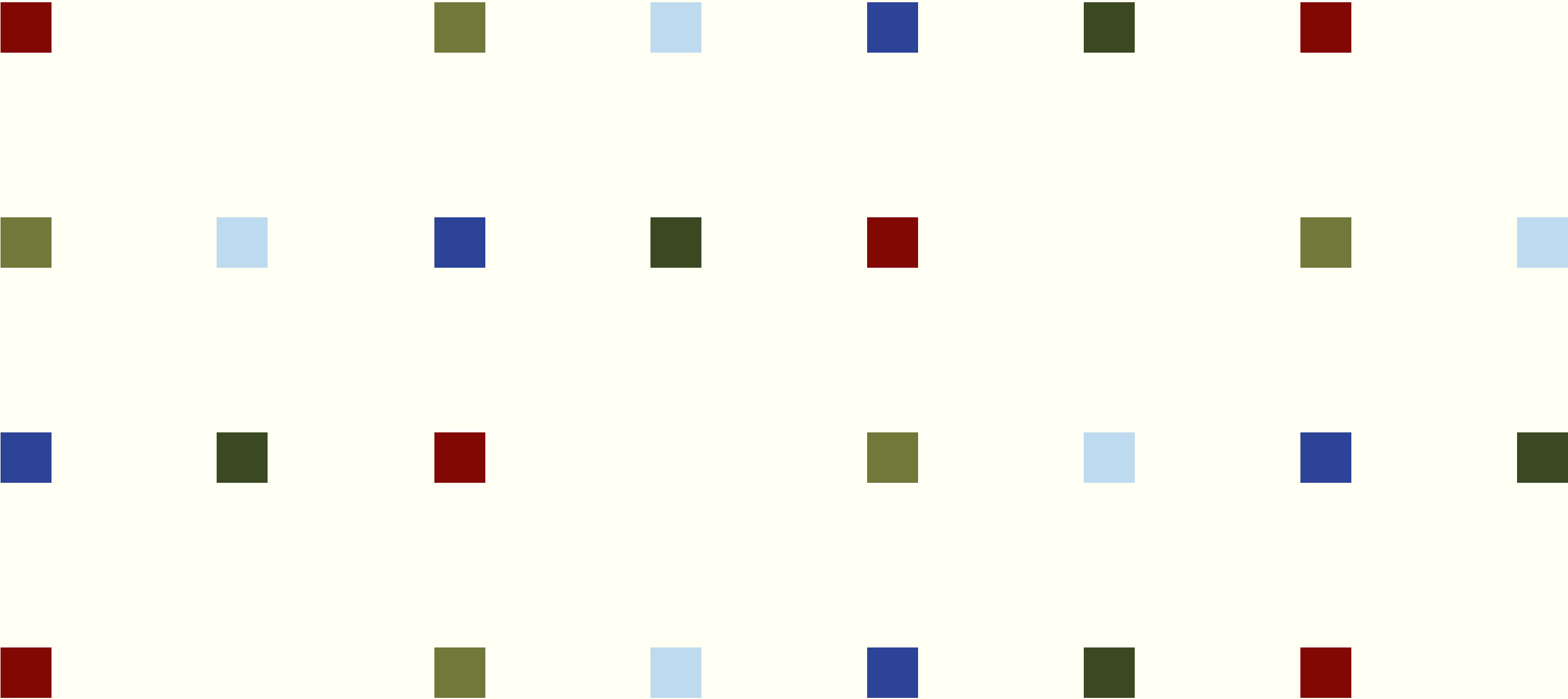


VISUAL STORYTELLING



CONTENTS

1. Lecture
2. Assignment
3. Tutorial

1.

TOILETS!

Public Restrooms in the U.S.

- 8 restrooms per 100,000
- Many public restrooms were closed due to concerns about crime, vandalism, and maintenance costs, particularly in the 1960s and 70s
- Culture in the U.S. is very individualistic: we don't like to take care of things that don't belong to us!
- Other countries often charge money for public restrooms, but they are clean and safe

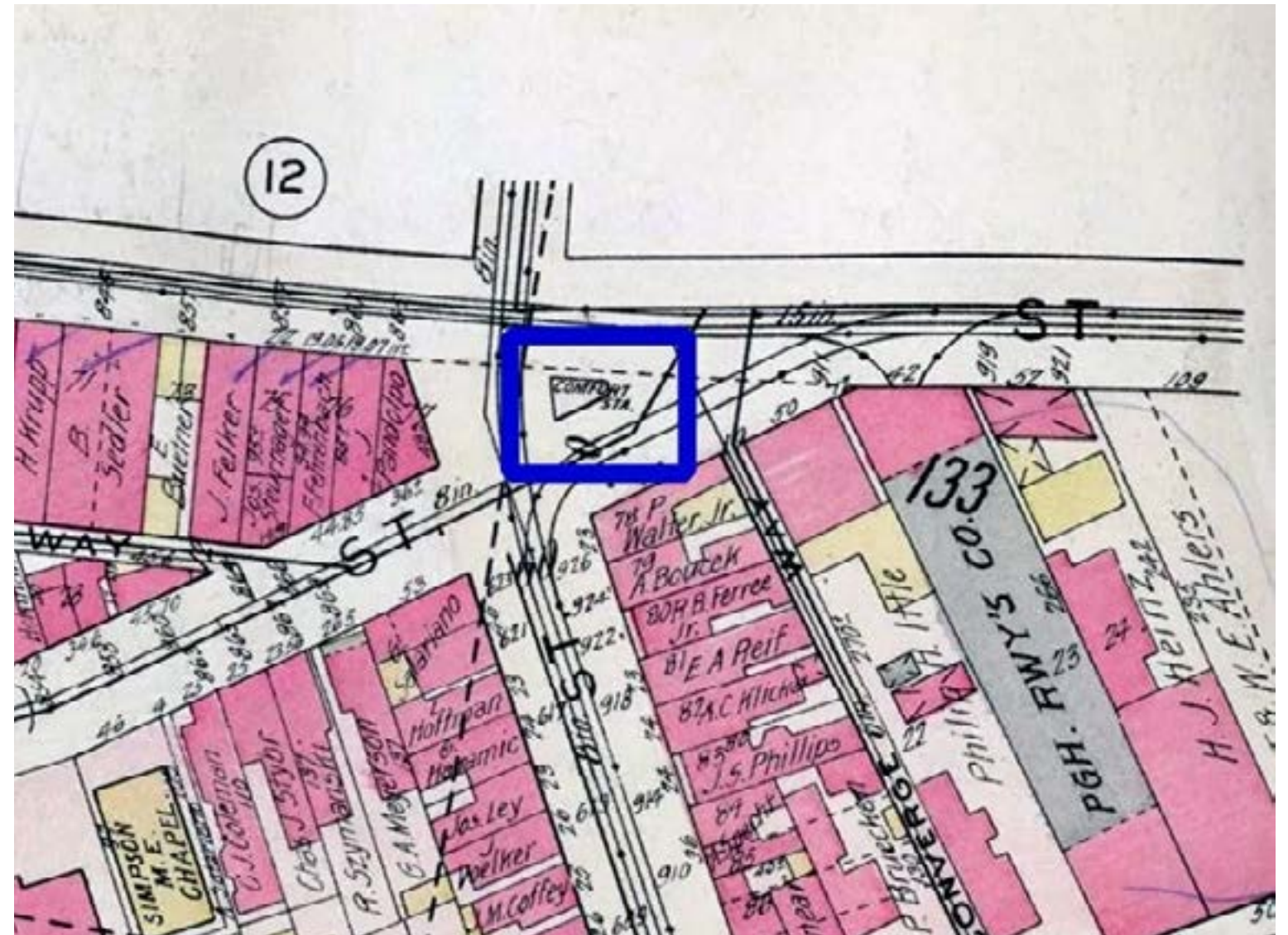
Why Does this Matter?

- You might be responsible for designing something similar in the next few years!
- Public restrooms were part of early urban patterns in the country; there is a possibility they could become more prevalent in the future

Historic Pittsburgh



- Called “comfort stations”
- Located in high density neighborhoods



Modern Pittsburgh



- Temporary solutions

2.

Assignment

Public Restrooms as Public Art

- Choose a downtown Pittsburgh site
- Start to design a single-stall accessible restroom
- Use your selected constructivist painting as a baseline to start your design
- Treat this as a public artwork. Think outside the box!
- Approximately 50 sq. ft.
- Choose a lense or approach
- Think of a possible narrative:

The Disappearance of Public Restrooms

Hygiene and the Urban Fabric

Restrooms as Public Art

The Closed Loop: Circular Water Systems

Restrooms and the Homeless

Restrooms as Third Spaces

The Gendered Restroom