

Sugar cane was the main crop produced on Saint Croix. The slaves on the island were responsible for using the sugar mills to harvest the crop. There are many Sugar mills all through out Saint Croix. However, near maroon ridge is where mostly only slaves ventured, because of the tough terrain.

Salt River Bay is the only known site where members of a Columbus expedition set foot on what is now United States territory. This is the site where Columbus and his men first encountered the Carib Indians and engaged in a battle at what is known as the Cape of Arrows.

The Estate of Judith's Fancy, the east side of Salt River Bay which was the center for one of the largest of the Carib Indian settlements.

Christiansted has preserved the 18th-century Danish-style buildings constructed by African slaves. Solid stone buildings in pastel colors with bright red tile roofs line the cobblestone sidewalks, adding a touch of European charm.

Indian canoe. (Orinda, 1547)

The FireBurn was a 1878 Labor Revolt that took place on St. Croix in the town of Frederiksted. Thirty years after slavery ended, slaves in Saint Croix were still forced to stay as labor for a small pittance. In short they were still slaves by not by name. Therefore by 1878 the laborers had enough. A riot broke out in the town of Frederiksted which resulted in a large portion of the island's plantations being burned - hence the name "Fireburn".

Cruzan Rum is a rum producer located in Saint Croix. Their distillery was founded in 1760 and claims the distinction of "the most honored rum distillery in the world." Weekday tours of the distillery in Frederiksted are given. For eight generations through various changes in corporate ownership the distillery has been managed by the Nelthropp family.

HOVENSA is among the top ten largest refineries in the world. The company became the owner and operator of the former Hess Oil Virgin Islands Corp. (HOVIC) refinery on October 30, 1998. HOVIC, a wholly owned Virgin Islands subsidiary of Hess Corporation, was established to construct and operate an oil refinery in coordination with the Virgin Islands. HOVENSA is the largest private employer in the Virgin Islands.

AMERICAN PARADISE
Great Britain
Netherlands
island
SANTA CRUZ
Knights of Malta
France
vacation
American
Spanish
HOLY CROSS
virgin islands
Denmark
AY-AY
home

THE MANY FACES OF SAINT CROIX

To bring together analysis and inventory I decided to explore the many layers of Saint Croix. What are the pieces that make up what Saint Croix is? The base of my map is a Google Earth generated aerial view of the island. This represents how the majority of the world typically sees the island, through and aerial view on the computer rather than visit the island. The second overlay is pictures of the island in modern day. How the landscape and people of the island look. However the placement of the pictures is influenced by the Danish slavery plantation grid, which demonstrates how the past still influences the present. A portion of the original plantation map is located within the photos. The next overlay is of the 7 flags that at one time had ownership of the island. Each flag had its own influence on the face of Saint Croix, especially the Danish who split up the land. For the final layer I highlighted certain places or times on the island that defines the identity of Saint Croix. In addition a list of names for Saint Croix was included. "Ay-Ay," "Santa Cruz," and "Saint Croix" are the various names given to the island over the years, which show its evolution. I believe this map best illustrates the complexity of the islands identity. The deep layers of history and people can blur sometimes to the point where one is not sure which face of Saint Croix is most important.

ECOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL LAYERS

Salt River Bay is made up of layers. Layers of history, layers of land, layers of vegetation, and layers of landscapes. The land on top of the ocean, every year of history on top of another and so on. I used my concept map to demonstrate this idea of layers. The base map is a Google earth aerial because that is how most people around the world will experience the island, though an image rather than actually visiting the island. The next layer is a grid of photos of the island now, influenced by the grid of the colonial plantations. This shows how the past still influences the present. Overlaid are the 7 flags that have owned Saint Croix. Therefore for my site design I decided to really focus on the layering effect to show how every aspect of the park is culturally, historically, and ecologically intertwined.

For the paths and circulation, tangent circles from the paths, allowing the visitor to walk along the contours on a very hilly site. The plant communities are created by a grid influenced by Danish plantation grids. The rectangles consist of tall vegetation, shrubs, or agriculture and tall grasses separate each rectangle. This creates a strong contrast between the vegetation. The grid when used in this way contrasts the colonial use because it heals the land rather than exploit it. This will give layers of height while walking through the plant communities. The paths cross in and out of the plant communities rather than around them, so that the visitor can notice the differences in vegetation more dramatically. Meaning if they are walking through the core of a plant community, they will notice when they exit that community more than if they were simply walking along the edge.

I felt the layers of topography were very important. It is what sets Saint Croix apart from most flat Caribbean islands. Therefore, I am highlighting the contours with coir walls. This is a vegetated wall that is made of coir rope made from coconut palms. This soft wall helps prevent erosion and run off. These will be placed on every 10 foot contour. Therefore, as the visitor travels throughout the park they will encounter these walls and be able to visualize how high up they are going.

This layering effect is also visible in my MREC building foot print. The buildings are located on the east side of the park above the 20 foot contour. The buildings surround a central gathering area and form a square. The museum and main building are 1 story tall, and the building rotates to boarder a courtyard the height of the building increases. The Lab Operations building overlaps the main building, which is then overlapped by the dorms. This gives the building full access to the roof for more gathering as well as opportunity for green roofs. In addition there is access to the Lab Operations Buildings roof from the ground, which shows that the building is both on top of the land but at time under the land as well. The building cluster creates an opening to allow the trade winds to cool off the central space. This opening also frames views to buck island and Christiansted.

Paths lead from the campus center to two main gathering spaces. A circular overlook to the west of the building that looks onto Christiansted; and the second viewing terrace slightly north on the high point on the west side. This overlooks the entire Salt River Bay. Each of these gathering areas is terraced to further promote the sense of topography and layers.

On the site, there are many opportunities for activities. Besides passive recreation in the gathering areas, there is kayaking and snorkeling on the east side, a glass bottom boat that takes visitors from one side of the site to the other, putting people in the bay rather than solely around it. Beaches are open for swimming on the east side as well as camping grounds. Visitor will also have access to the archeological site where they can participate and learn about their findings.







