

Composition [#1]

Thursday, April 12th, 2012

Andrea Di Giovanni

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Thursday, April 12th, 2012

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Lecture references

Aa.Vv. (2006), *Città. Architettura e società. Catalogo della X Mostra Internazionale di Architettura di Venezia*, Marsilio, Venezia.

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Gabellini P. (2001), *Tecniche urbanistiche*, Carocci, Roma.

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1. What does composition mean?

Composition

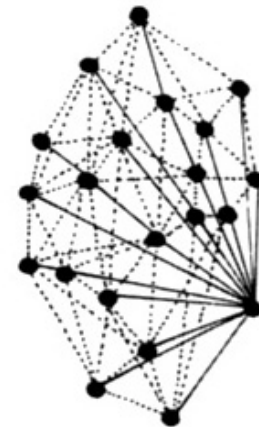
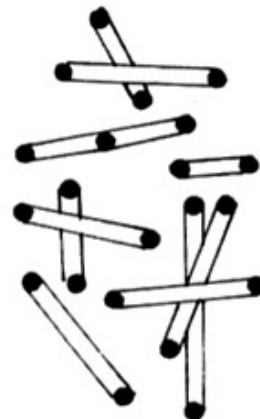
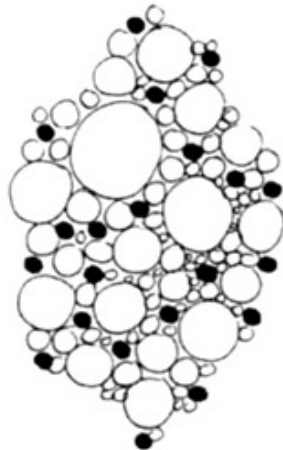
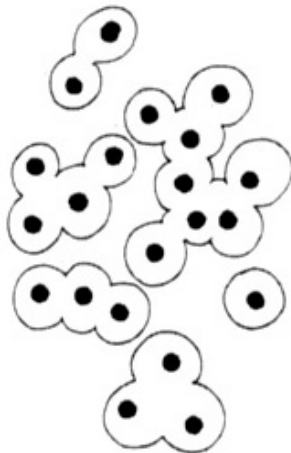
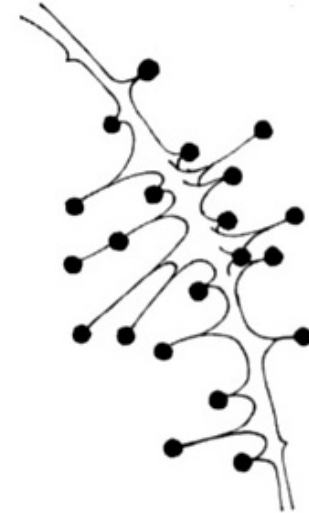
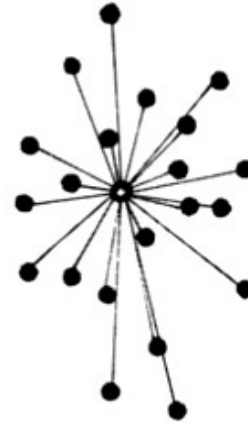
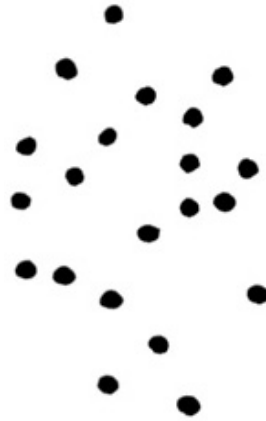
A definition from the Collins English Dictionary

1. the **act of putting together** or making up by combining parts or ingredients
2. something formed in this manner or **the resulting state** or quality (a mixture)
3. the **parts of which something is composed** or made up (constitution)
4. a **work** of music, art, or literature
5. the harmonious arrangement of the **parts** of a work of art **in relation to each other and to the whole**
6. *printing* the act or technique of **setting up** type
7. *linguistics* the **formation of compound** words
8. *chemistry* the **nature and proportions of the elements** comprising a chemical compound

In our perspective (the subject is the contemporary city) and according to our purposes (its development and the improvement of its liveability) to speak about “composition” means to consider **different approaches** (techniques and intervention modalities) **useful for the re-arrangement of the contemporary city** (the urban territory) and its parts.

To compose means basically to organize **relationships** among **urban elements** and/or among different **parts of the territory**.

Munari B., *Viaggio nella fantasia*,
Edizioni Corraini, Mantova, 1998
[2° edizione]



Two different and recurrent situation claim composition:

1- in the East, the building of **New Planned Towns**;

2- in the West, the **spontaneous formation of ongoing new towns within traditional cities** (like a consequence of two different - but complementary - processes: the *incremental growth* around traditional cities and the *transformation of several inner parts* of them).

In both cases **contextual condition** are fundamental according to site specific design need.

On the other hand it is useful to refer to and to re-interpret (according to present issues) some **general references** of the past.

These lectures on composition focus both this two different kind of processes (the building of new planned towns and the spontaneous formation of ongoing new towns within traditional cities) and try to outline adequate **compositional criteria** and **set of techniques** for both this two different situations.

2. City's changes

Aa.Vv. (2006)

Città. Architettura e società

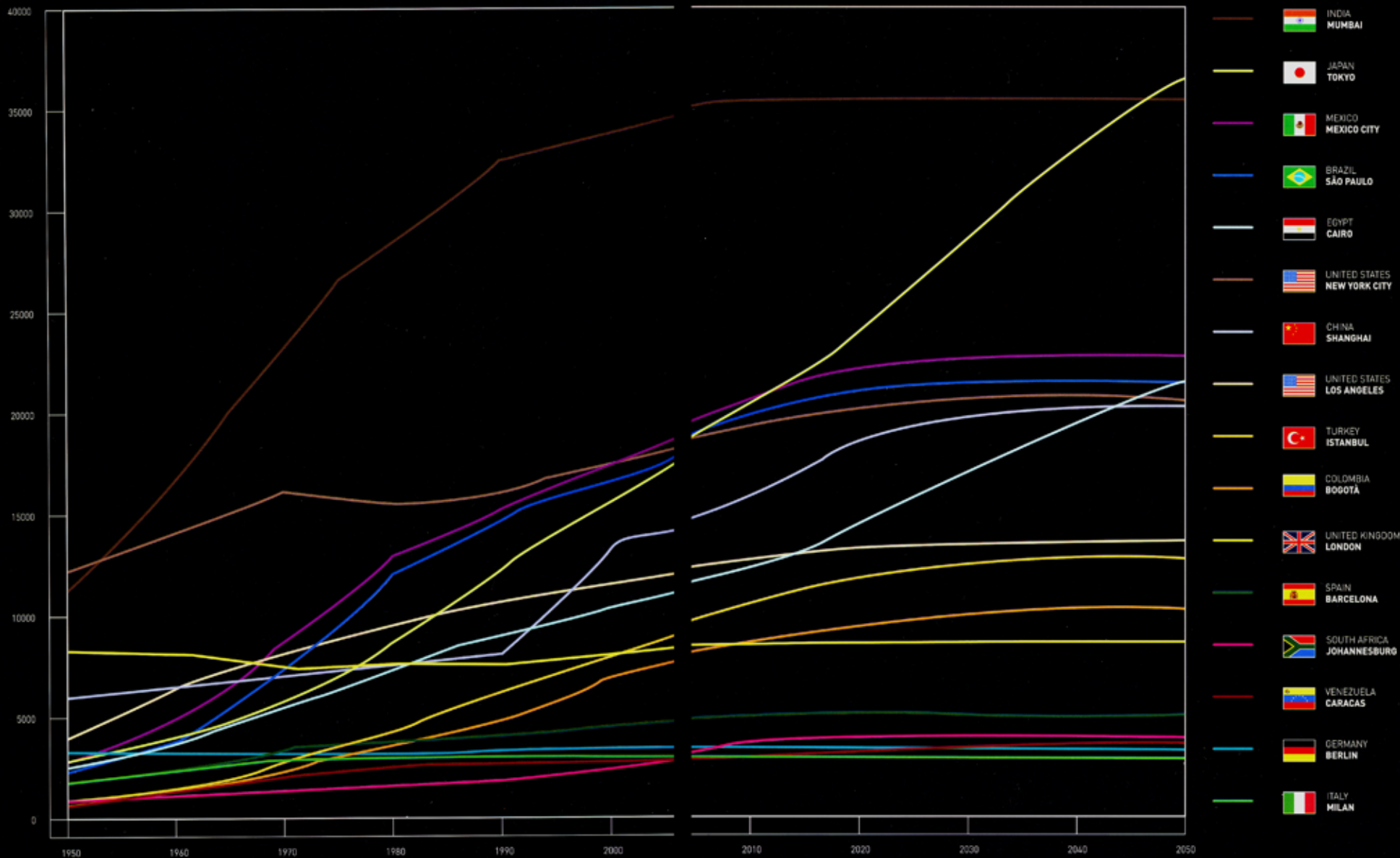
Catalogo della X Mostra Internazionale di Architettura di Venezia

Marsilio, Venezia

Population

(an indicator of city growing)

Among different contemporary urban and regional phenomena (which often generate new forms of urbanity), processes of **urbanization** and **urban growth** have of course an important role.

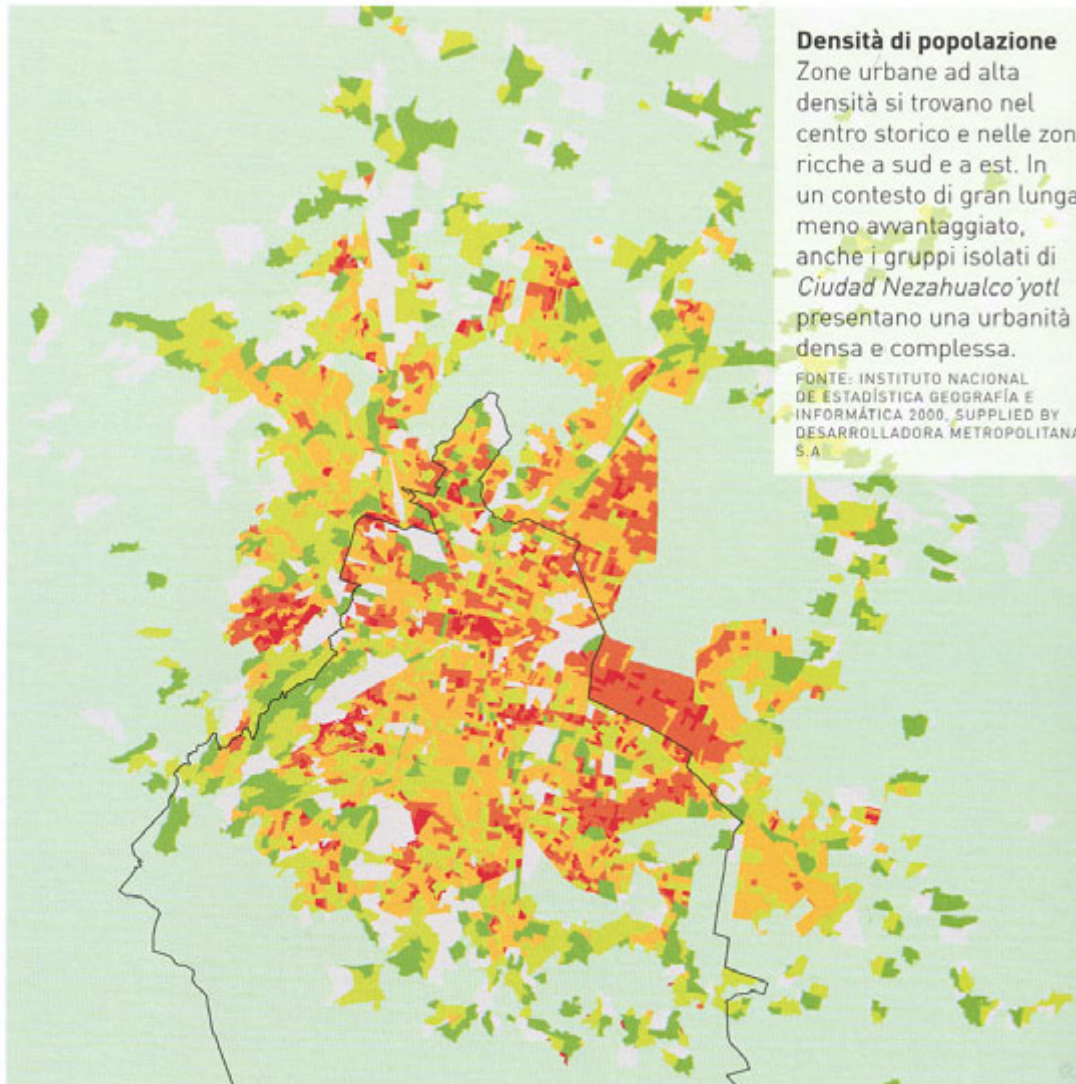


Density

(people within urban space)

Not just a matter of “quantity” and “pace” of growth.

It is possible to recognize **settlement of different kind** according to the distribution of people (in different geographical areas).



Densità di popolazione
 Zone urbane ad alta densità si trovano nel centro storico e nelle zone ricche a sud e a est. In un contesto di gran lunga meno avvantaggiato, anche i gruppi isolati di *Ciudad Nezahualcoyotl* presentano una urbanità densa e complessa.

FOONTE: INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTADÍSTICA GEOGRAFÍA E INFORMÁTICA 2000, SUPPLIED BY DESARROLLADORA METROPOLITANA S.A.

Density [people/km²]

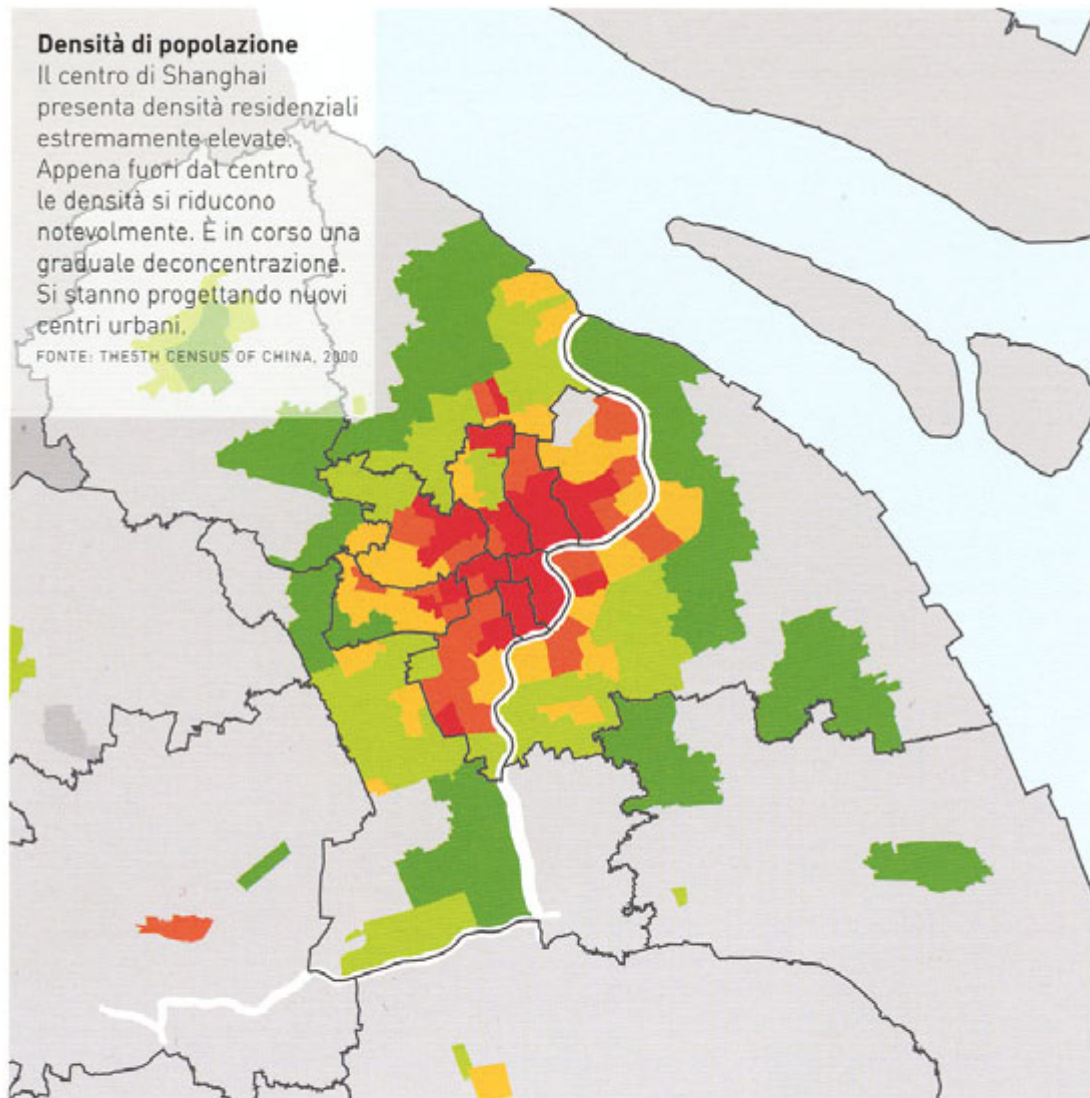


Città del Messico

Densità di popolazione

Il centro di Shanghai presenta densità residenziali estremamente elevate. Appena fuori dal centro le densità si riducono notevolmente. È in corso una graduale deconcentrazione. Si stanno progettando nuovi centri urbani.

Fonte: THE 5TH CENSUS OF CHINA, 2000

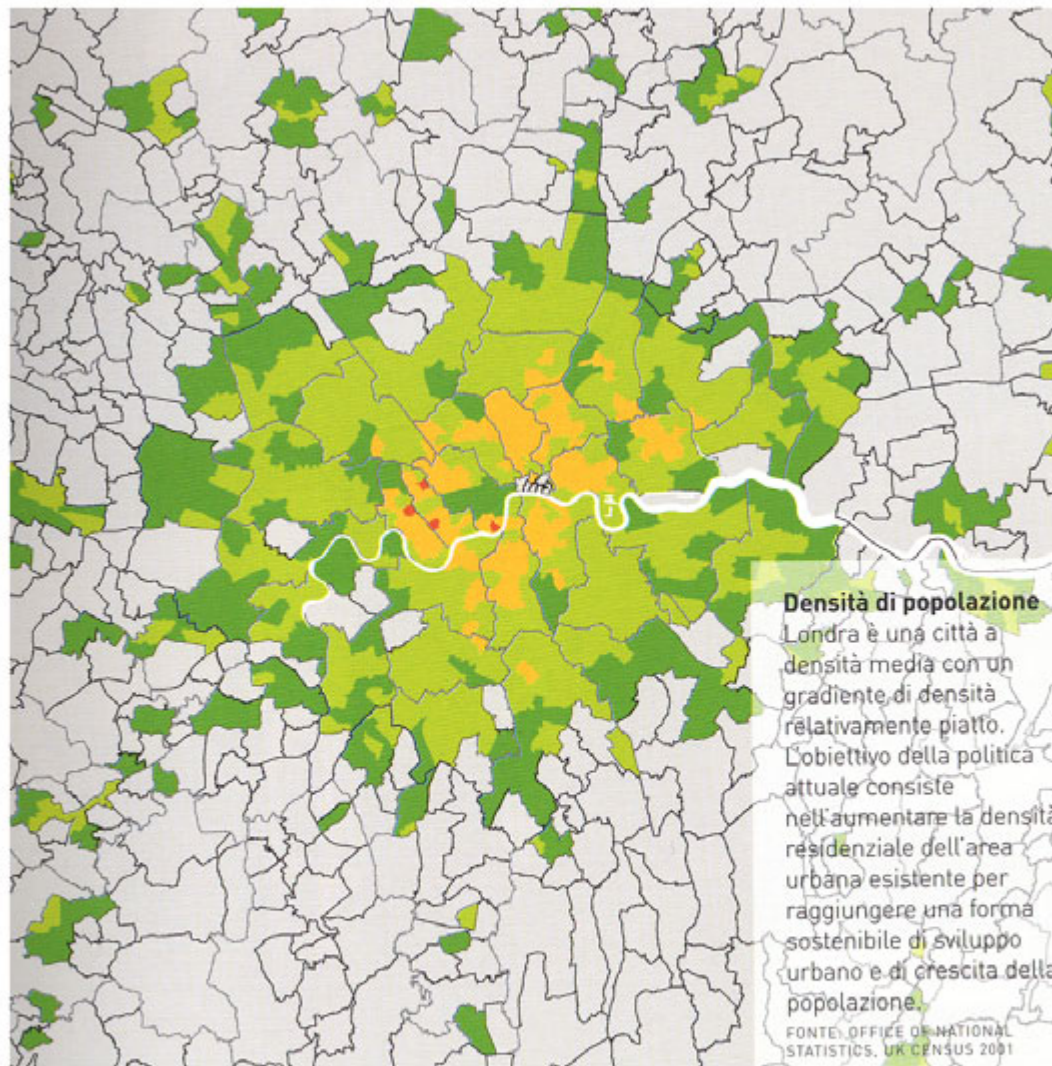


Density [people/km²]

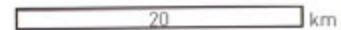


20 km

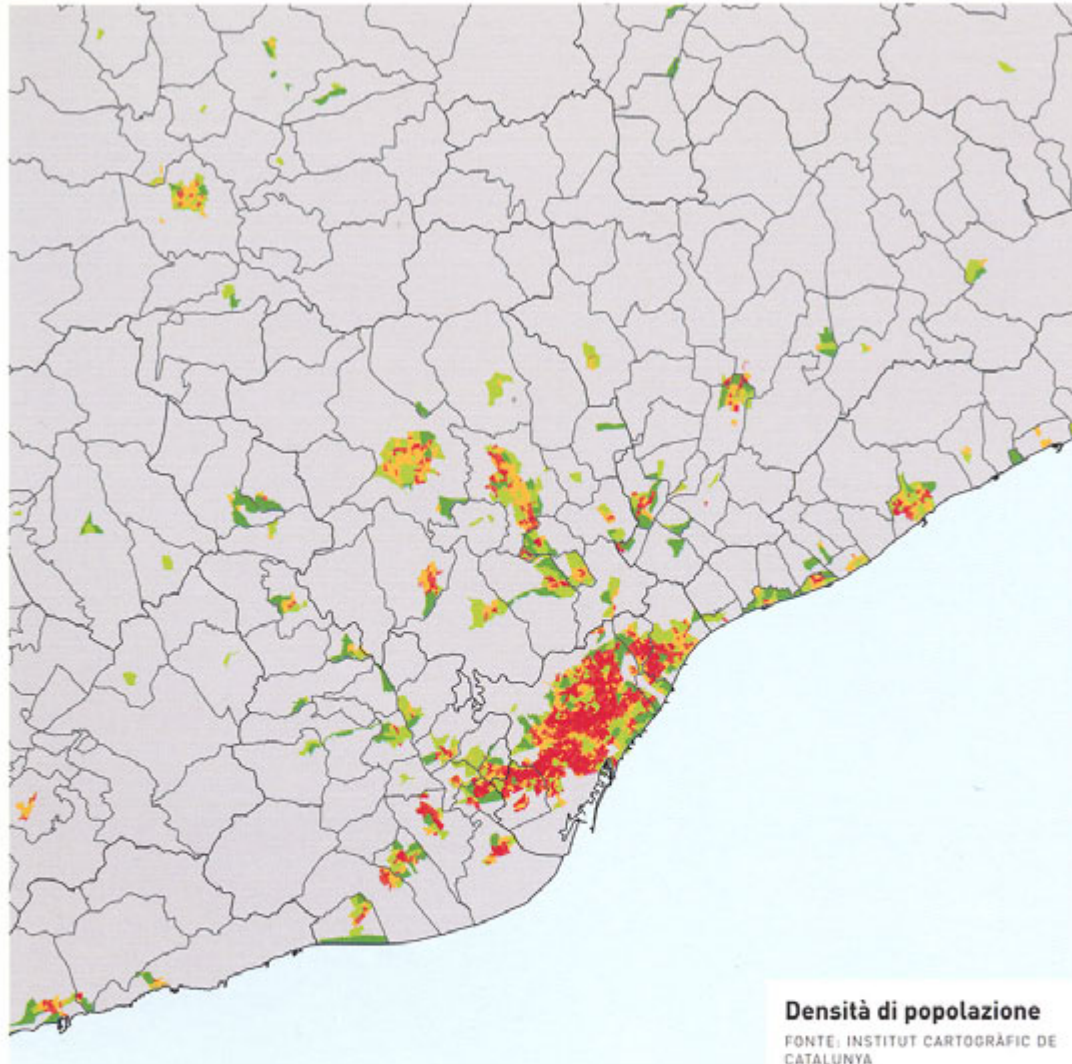
Shanghai



Density [people/km²]



Londra



Density [people/km²]



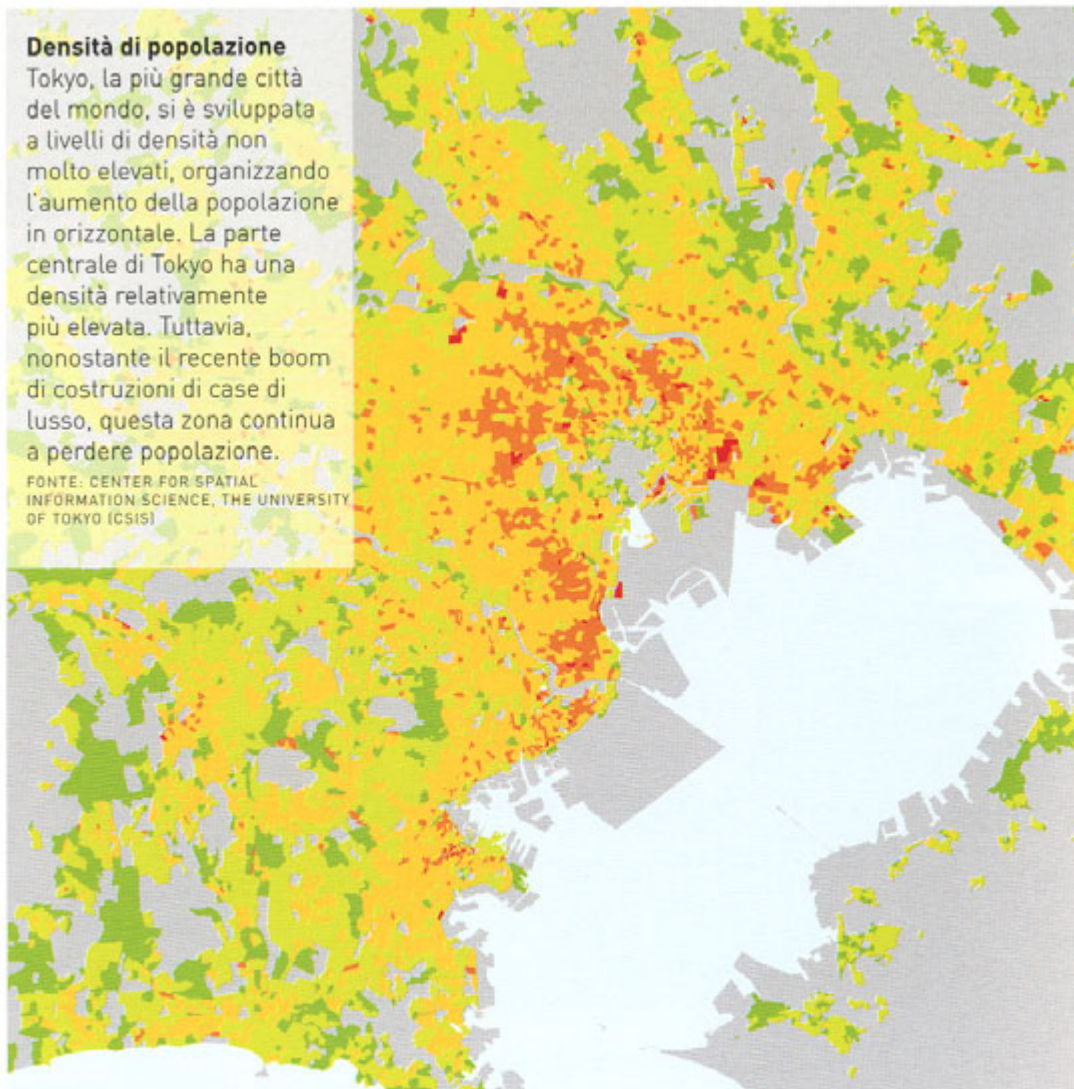
20 km

Barcellona

Densità di popolazione

Tokyo, la più grande città del mondo, si è sviluppata a livelli di densità non molto elevati, organizzando l'aumento della popolazione in orizzontale. La parte centrale di Tokyo ha una densità relativamente più elevata. Tuttavia, nonostante il recente boom di costruzioni di case di lusso, questa zona continua a perdere popolazione.

Fonte: CENTER FOR SPATIAL INFORMATION SCIENCE, THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO (CSIS)



Density [pers/km²]



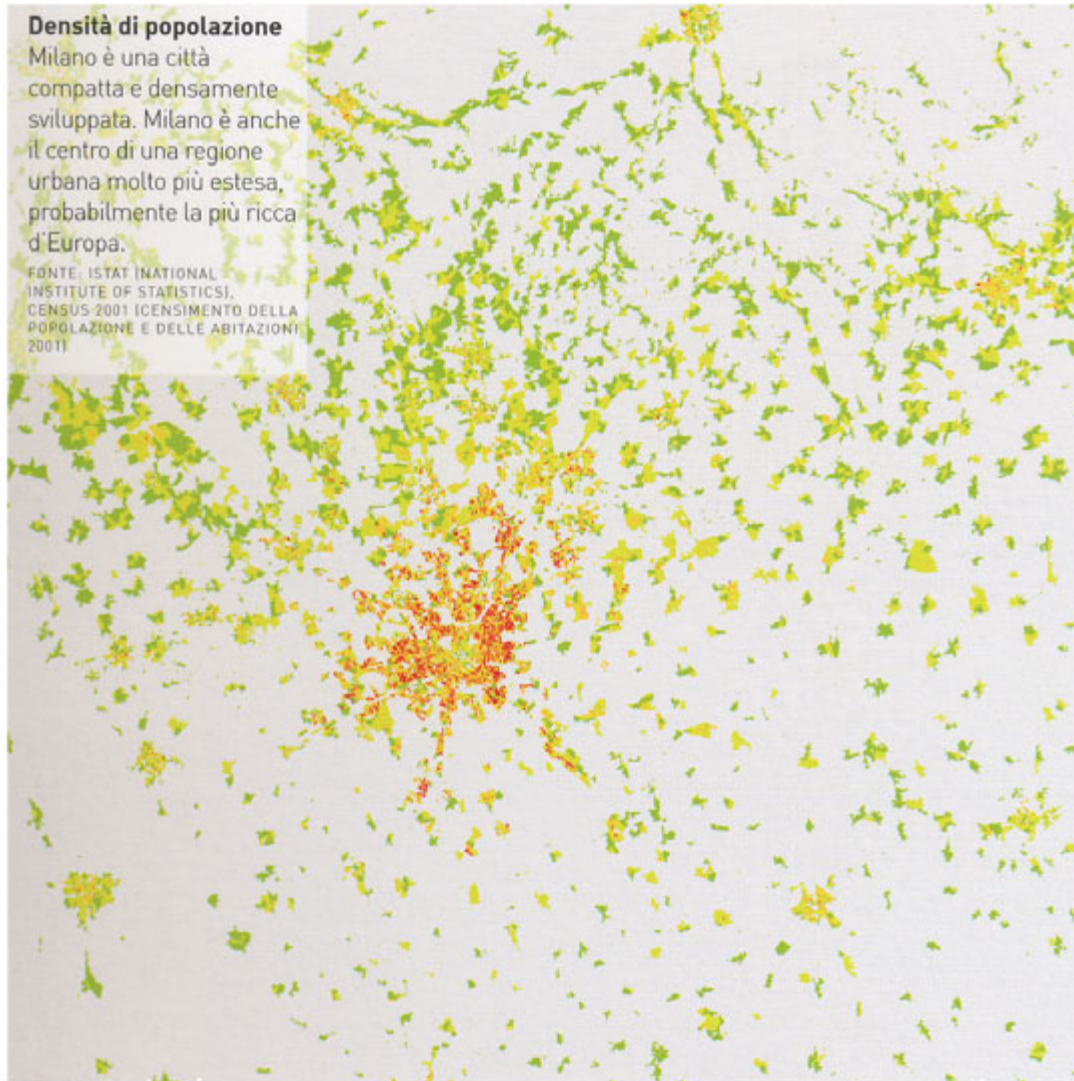
20 km

Tokyo

Densità di popolazione

Milano è una città compatta e densamente sviluppata. Milano è anche il centro di una regione urbana molto più estesa, probabilmente la più ricca d'Europa.

Fonte: ISTAT (NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS), CENSUS 2001 (CENSIMENTO DELLA POPOLAZIONE E DELLE ABITAZIONI 2001)



Density [people/km²]



20 km

Milano

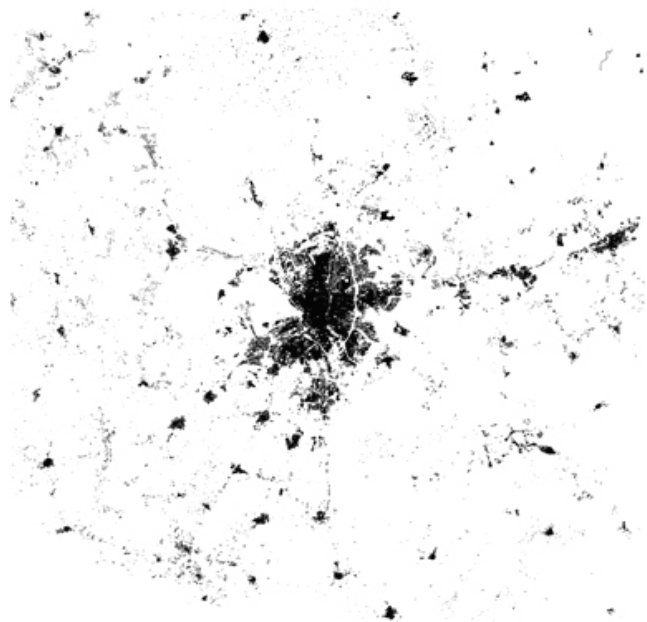
Indovina F., Fregolent L., Savino M. (a cura di) (2005)

L'esplosione della città

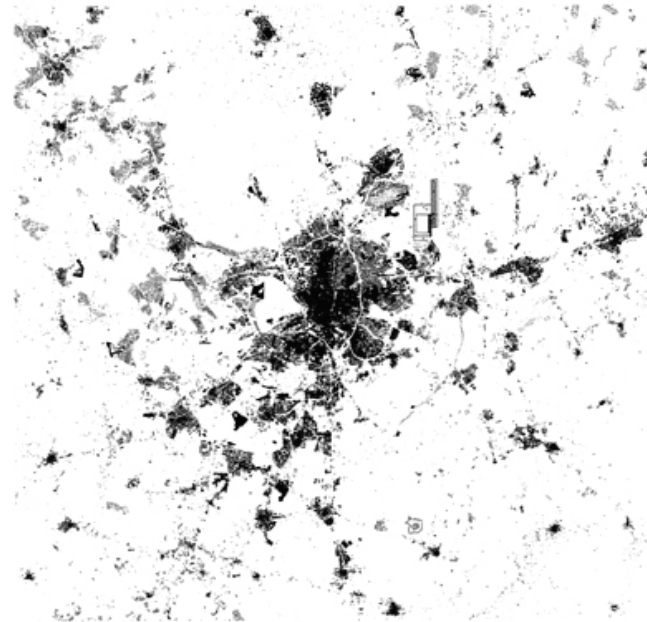
Editrice Compositori, Bologna

Space

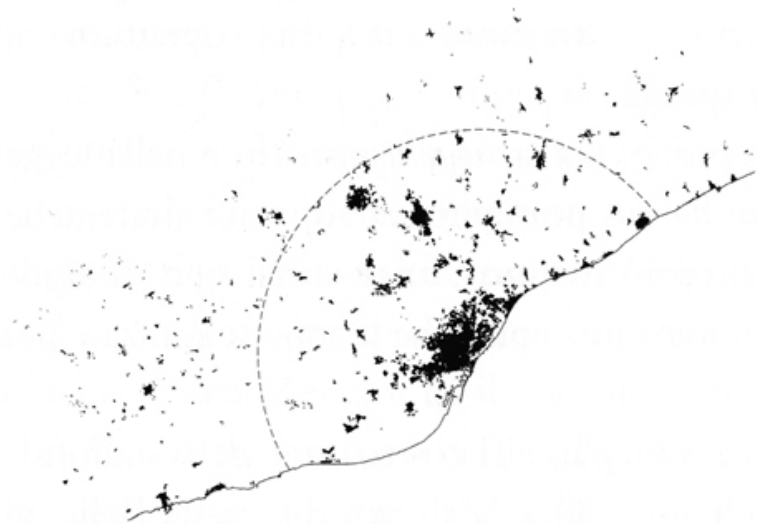
(and settlement features)



Madrid 1975



2004



Barcelona 1956



1994

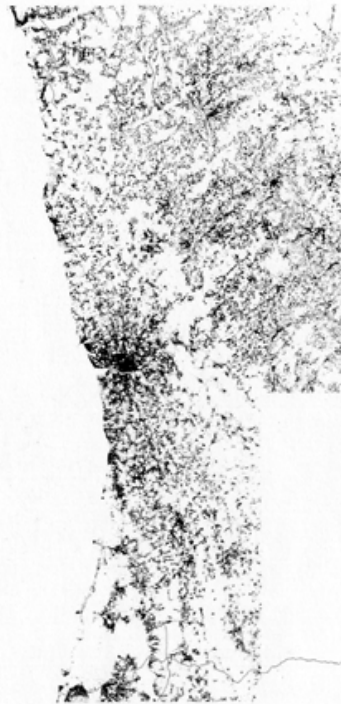


Lisbon 1965

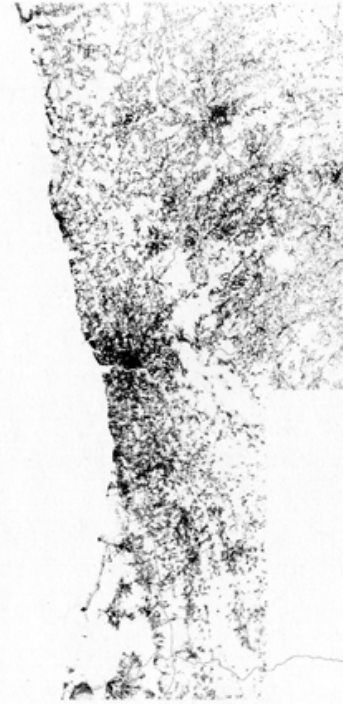


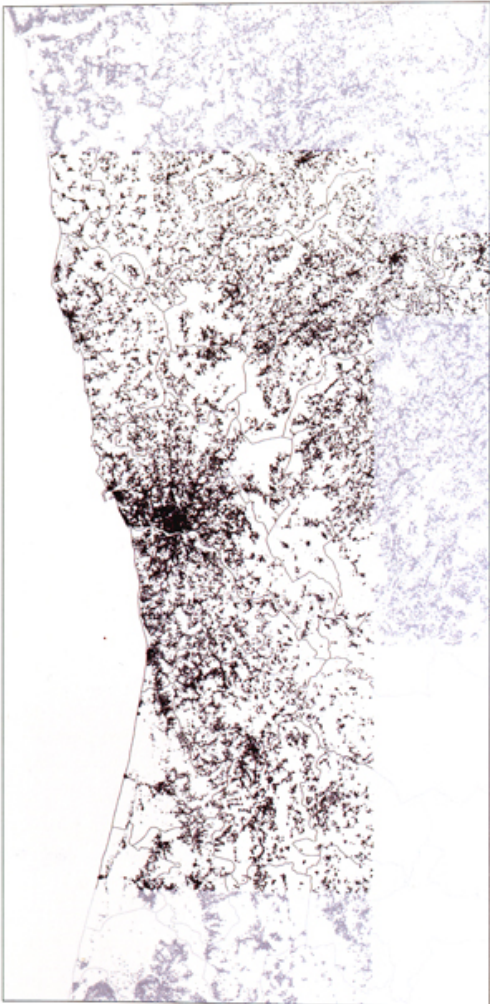
2001

Porto 1977

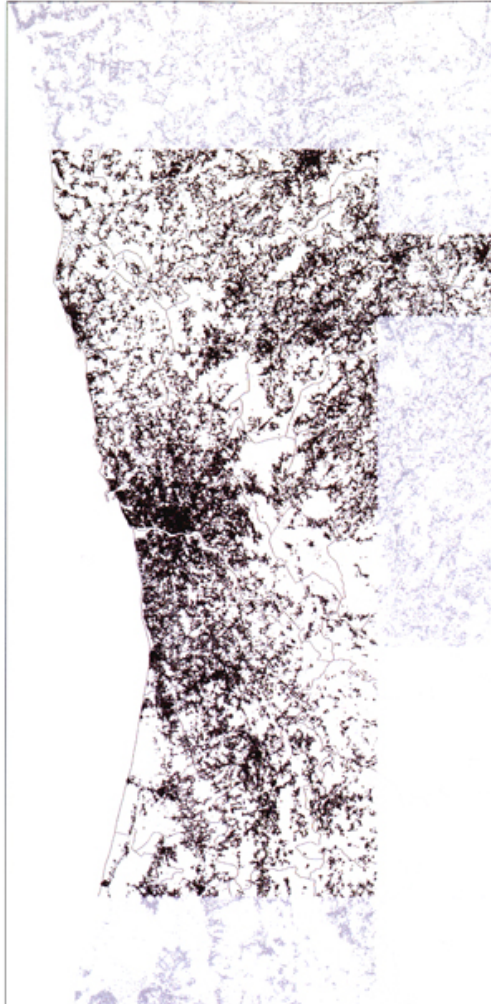


2000

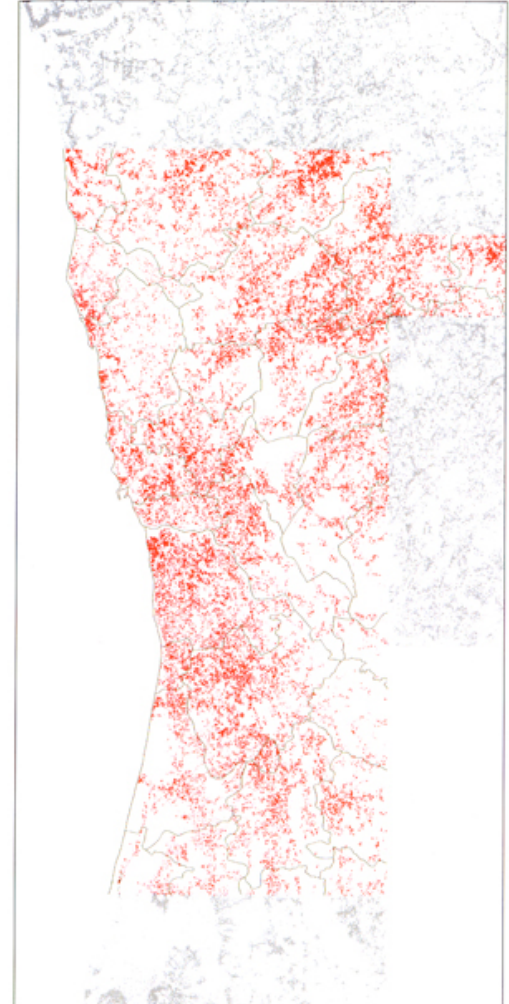




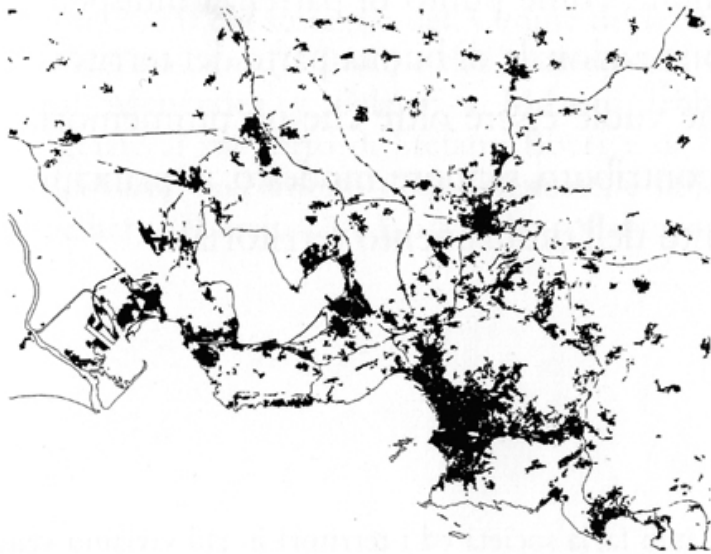
1988
Porto



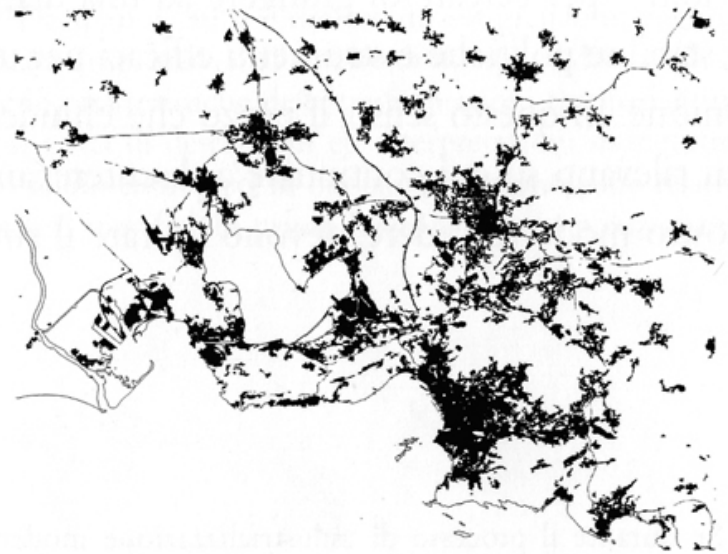
1999



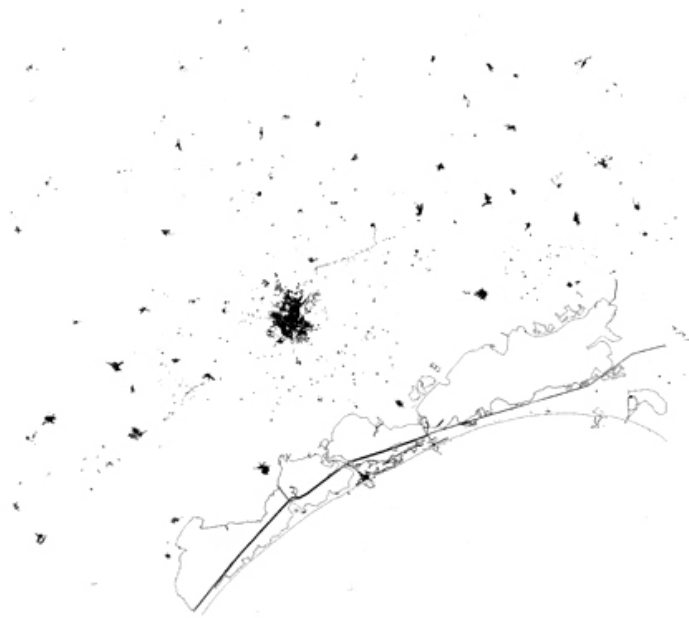
1988-1999



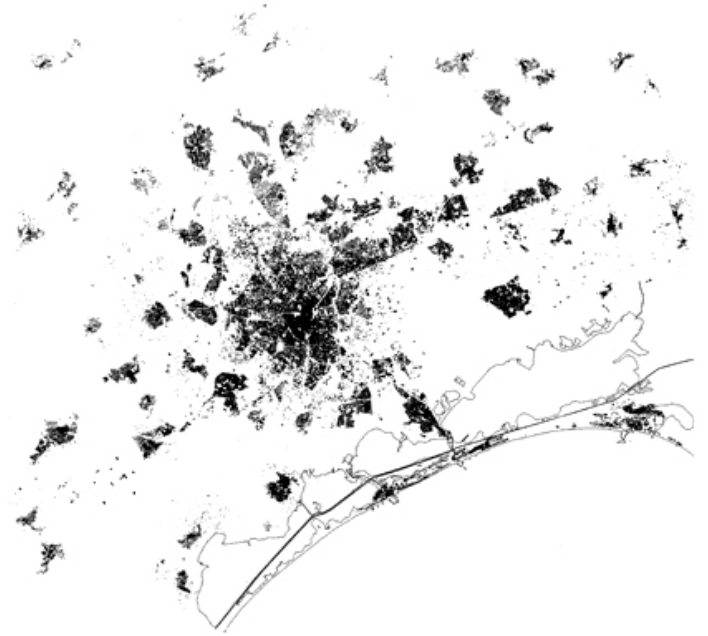
Marsiglia 1980



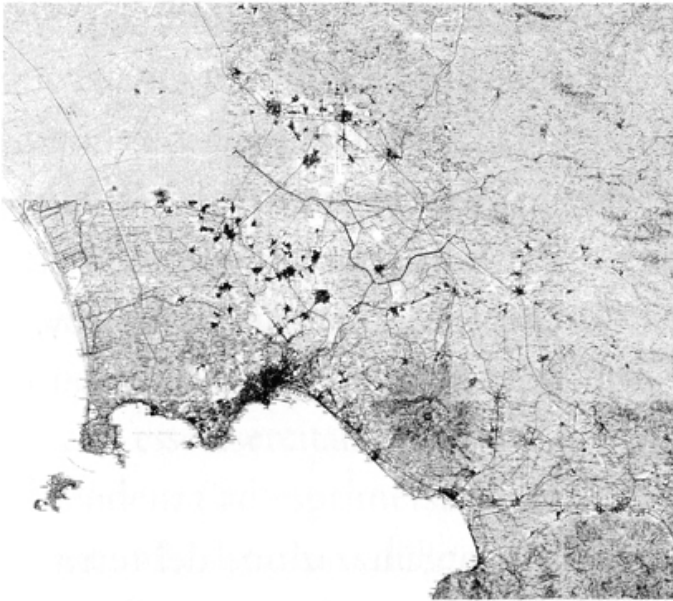
2000



Montpellier 1950



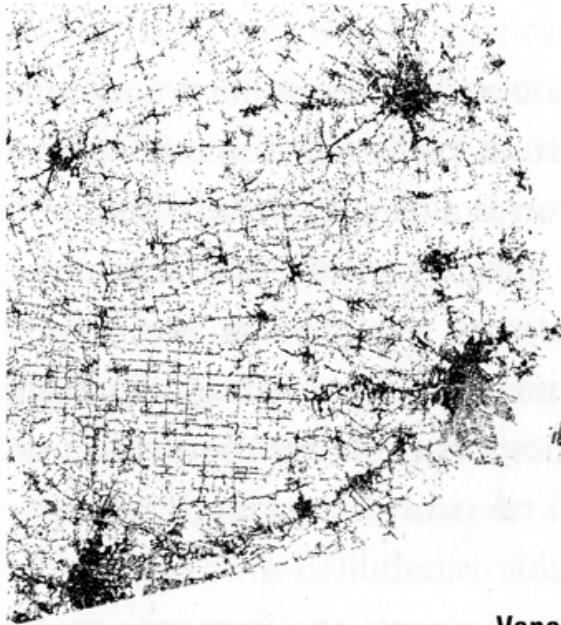
2000



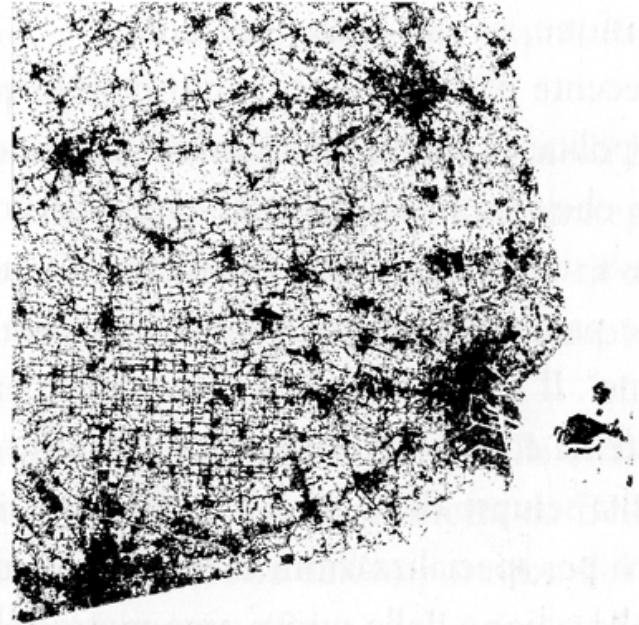
Napoli 1955



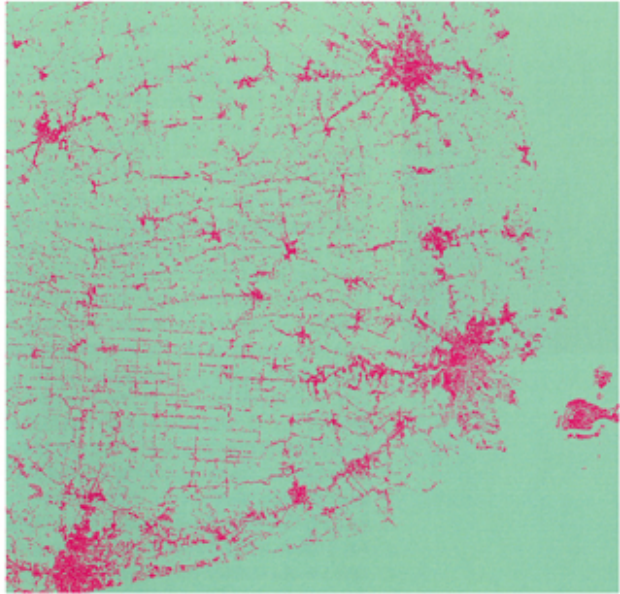
2000



Veneto Centrale 1970

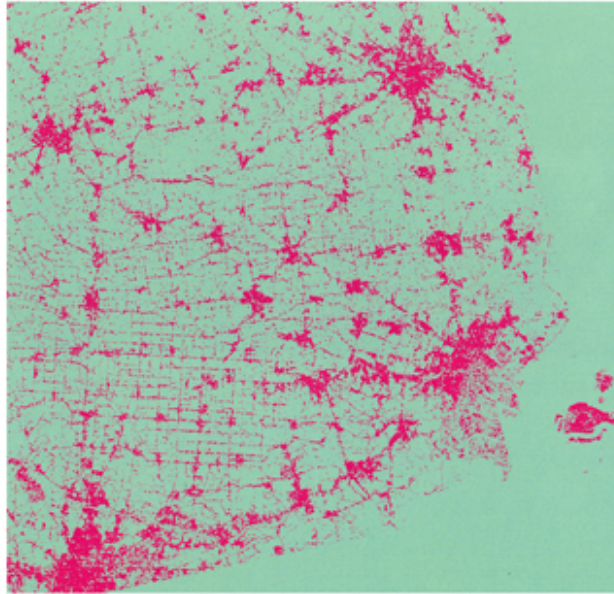


2000

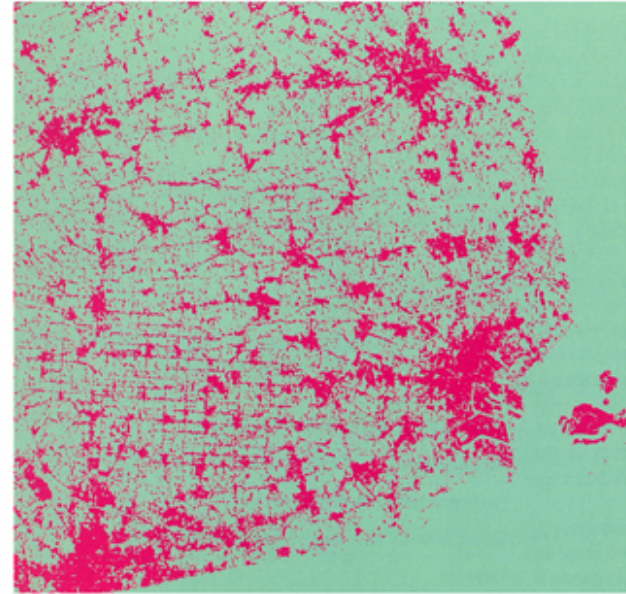


1970

Veneto centrale



1990



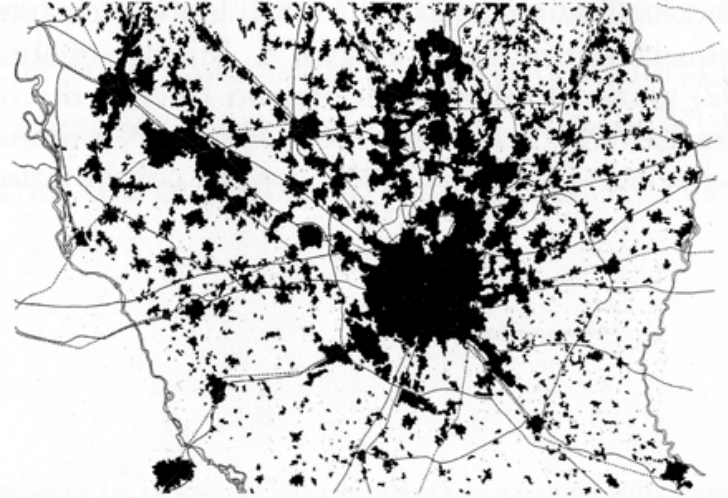
2000



Veneto, Build Spaces, 2006



Milano 1960

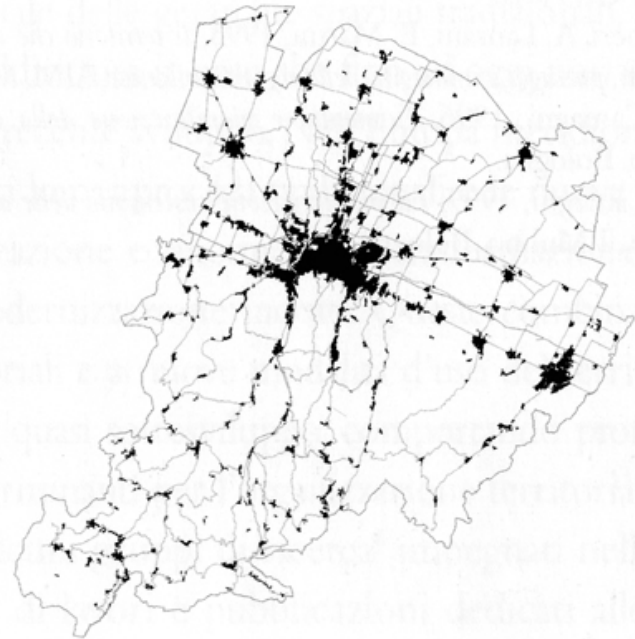


1994





Bologna 1955



2000



Bologna
e le "Città effettive"
dell'Emilia Romagna



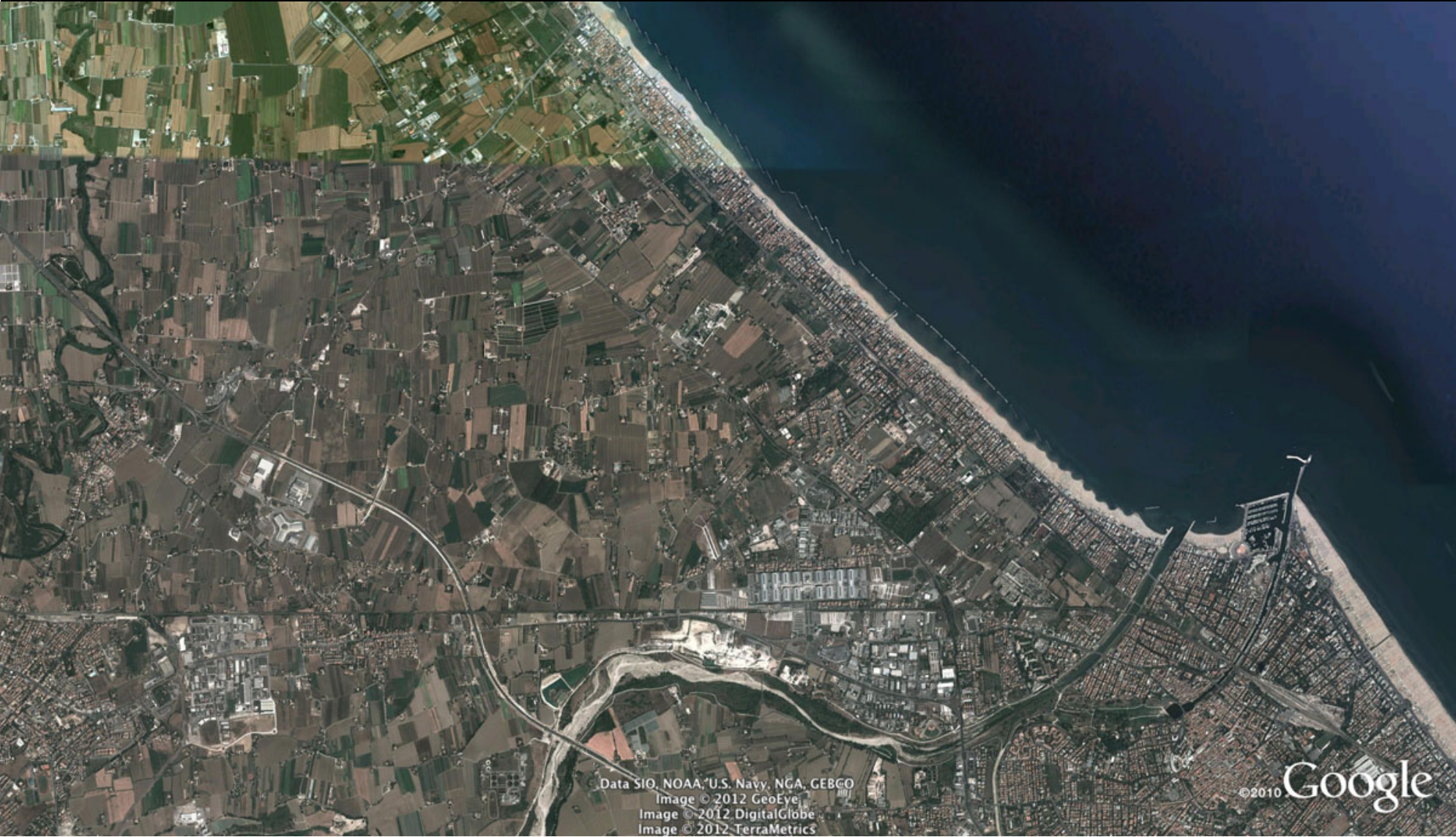


Space features

(urban patterns)

1st

Rimini (IT)



Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image © 2012 GeoEye
Image © 2012 DigitalGlobe
Image © 2012 TerraMetrics

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Rimini (IT)

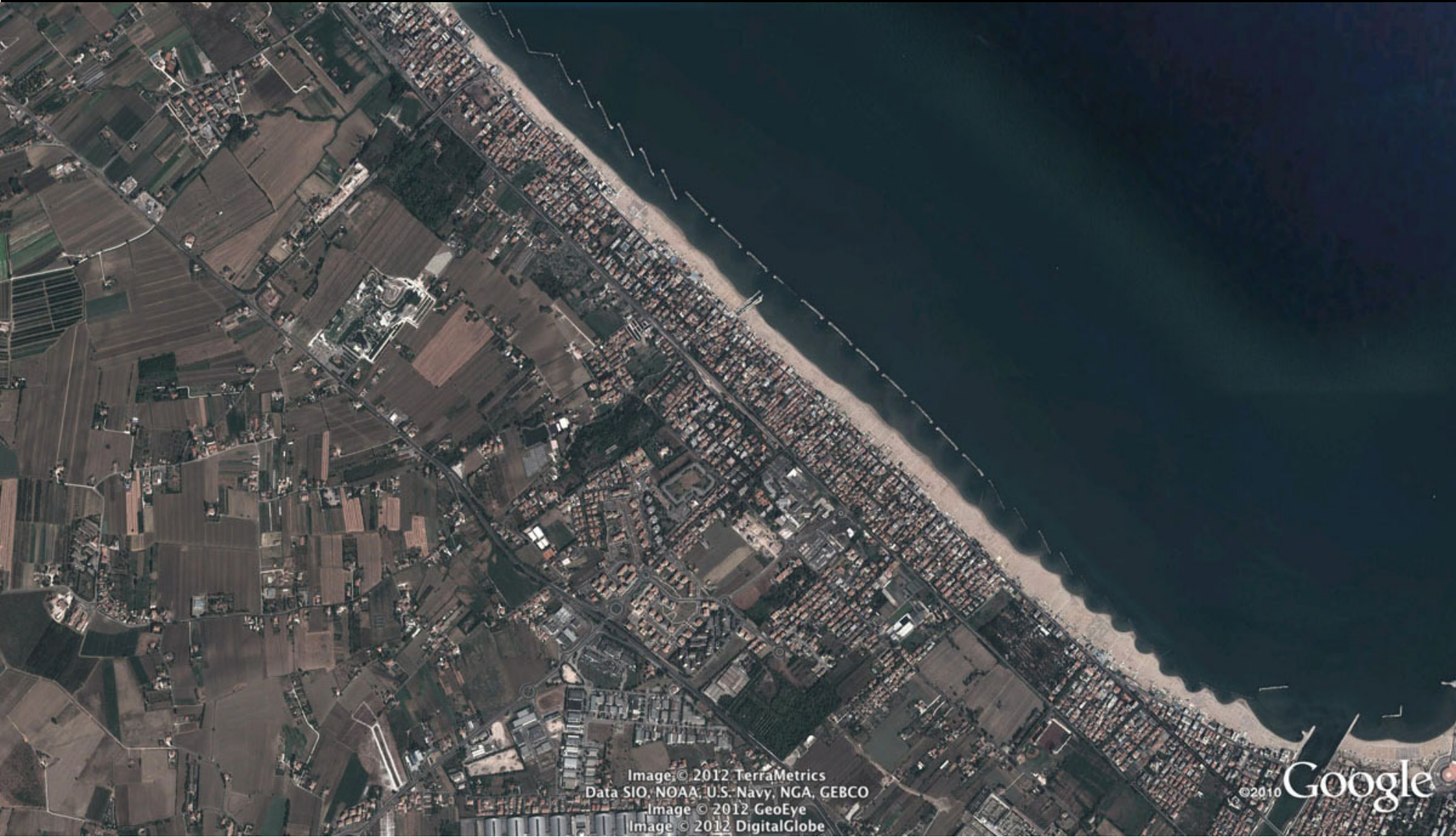


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Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image © 2012 GeoEye
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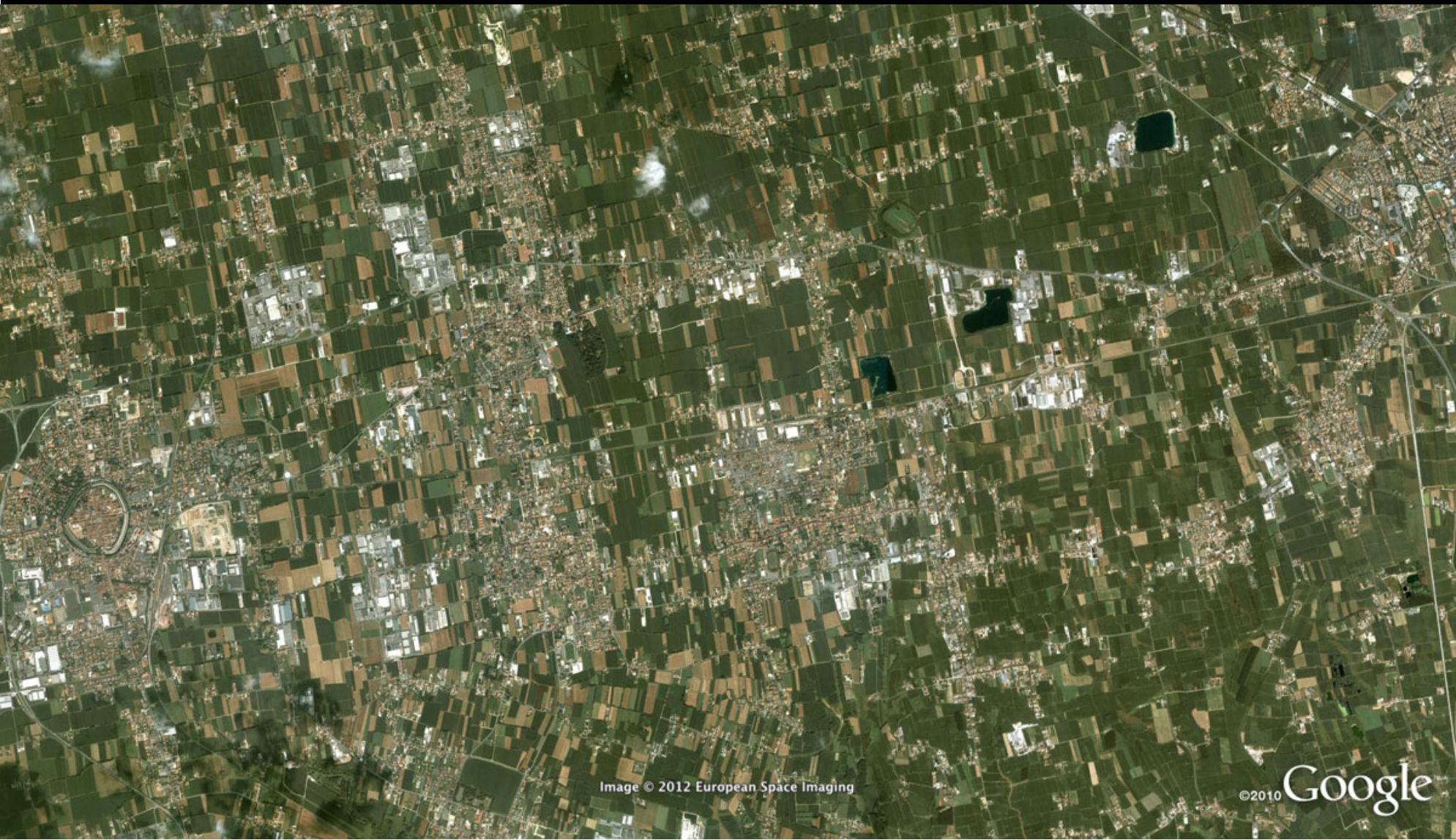
Rimini (IT)



Image © 2012 TerraMetrics
Image © 2012 GeoEye

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Tombolo (IT-Padua)



Tombolo (IT-Padua)



Tombolo (IT-Padua)



Pianiga (IT-Venice)



Pianiga (IT-Venice)



Pianiga (IT-Venice)



Nardò (IT-Lecce)



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Bruxelles (BE)



Bruxelles (BE)



Bruxelles (BE)



2nd

Paris (FR)



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Paris (FR)



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Genève (CH)



Genève (CH)



Genève (CH)



Lugano (CH)



Lugano (CH)

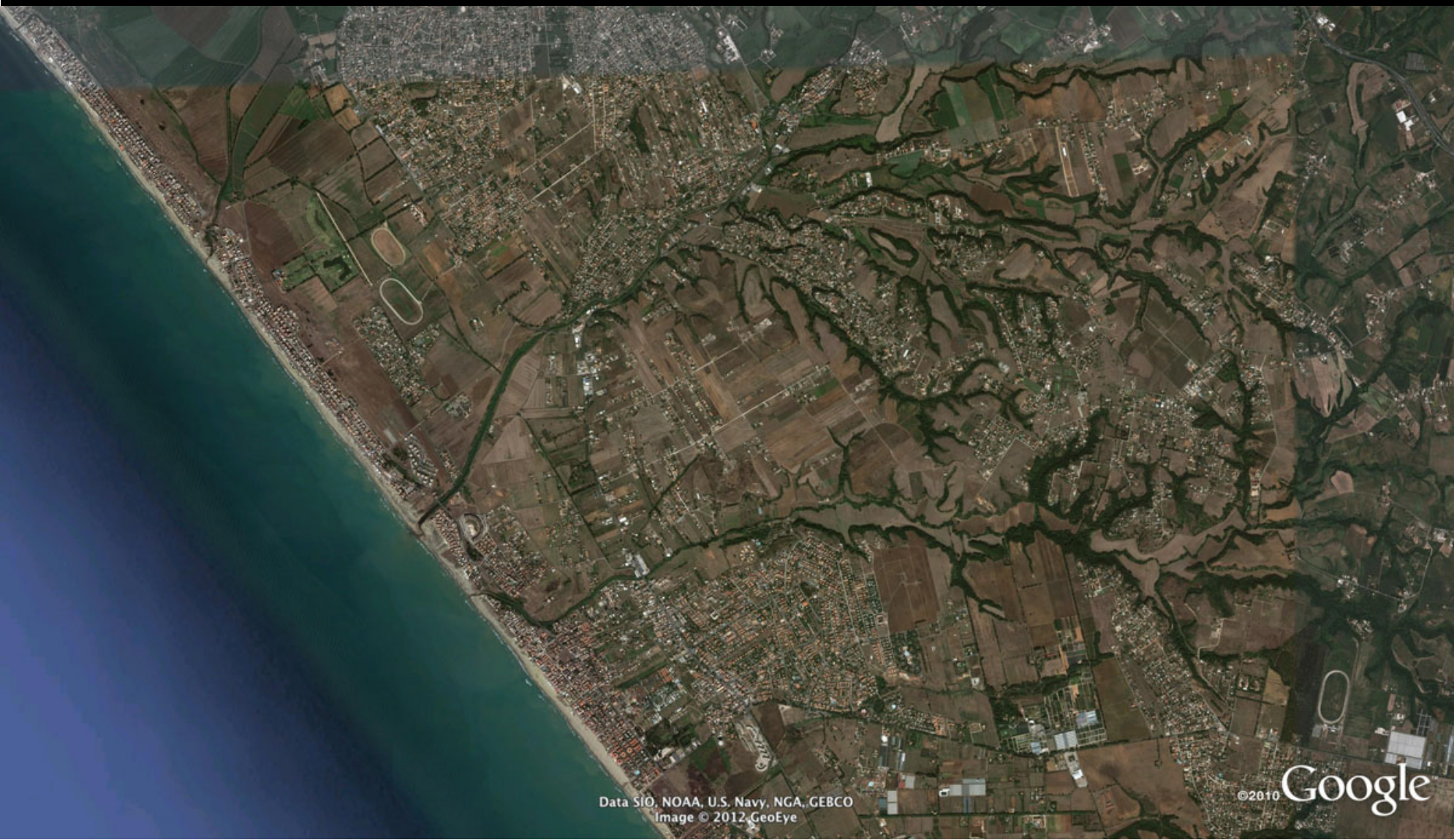


Lugano (CH)



3rd

Ardea (IT-Rome)



Ardea (IT-Rome)



Ardea (IT-Rome)



Ardea (IT-Rome)



3. Compositional concepts: a technical reading

The compositional problem at the origins of modern European urbanism was the **irrational growth** of cities:

- Unusual **size and growth rate**;
- Displacement and people movement generate a new **demand for infrastructure**;
- **Uneasiness** are mainly caused by congestion, degradation, inadequate facilities.

Different proposals strive for **urban growth management** and for **new city design** .

In Europe, and worldwide, **plans, projects** and **manifestos** promote the construction of new kinds of town according to some “**compositional concepts**”.

It is possible to sort several proposals referring to six different “**compositional concepts**”.

They are sometimes similar, regarding the **general compositional idea**, but different according to the **technical solutions and measures**:

- The **compact city**
- The **satellite/garden city**
- The **linear city**
- The **dense city** developed mainly in height
- The **extended city**
- The **functional city**

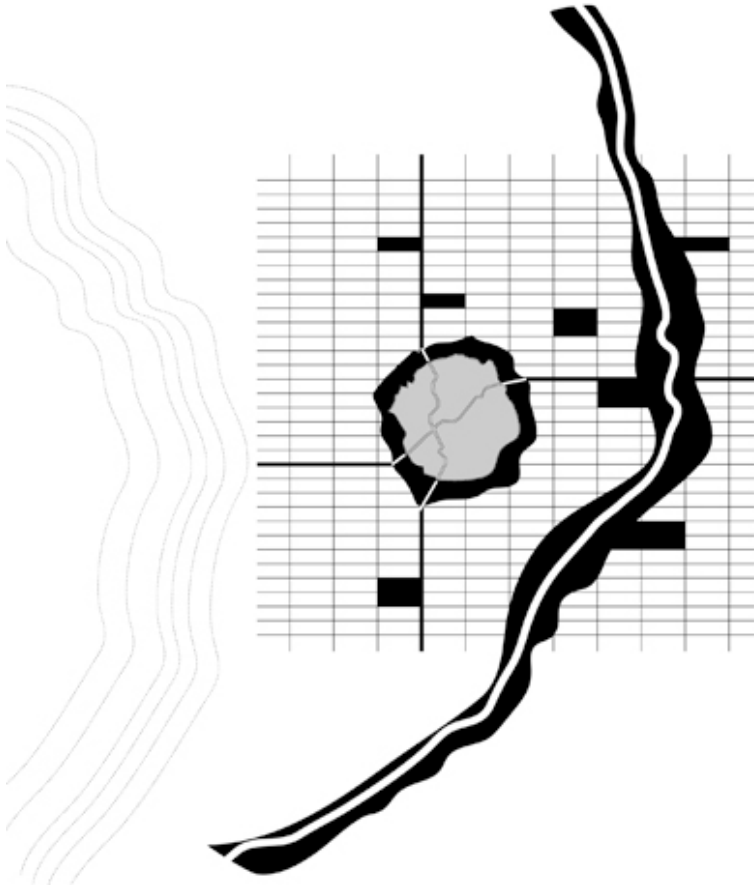
The Compact City

Second phenomena governing the spontaneous growth.

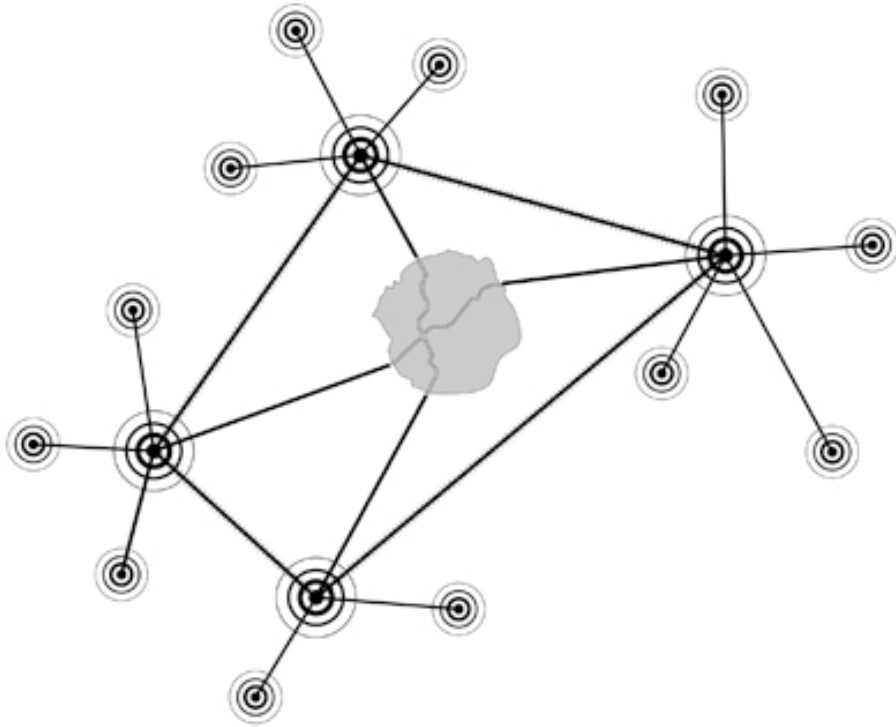
Growth around a pre-existing core.

Settling principle (radial/circular vs. quadrangular) defined by paths and open spaces (contrast of “oil stain” growth).

Ildefonso Cerdà (1854-1859) Barcelona Expansion Plan



The Satellite/Garden City



Reverse the trends of cities spontaneous growth and avoid the “oil stain” growth.

Boundary between town and country: defined size.

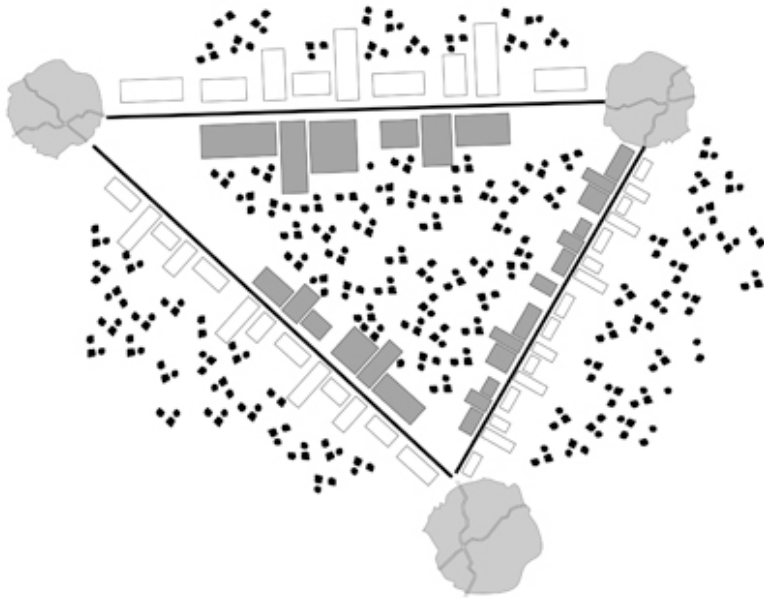
Isolated nuclei are separated the ones from the others, they have definite size, they are autonomous, hierarchically organized, connected to the original city by railway.

Ebenezer Howard (1898) Garden Cities of Tomorrow

Raymond Unwin (1909) Town Planning in Practice
(1904-1920) Letchworth

Patrick Abercrombie (1944) Greater London Plan

The Linear City



Reverse trends of spontaneous growth of cities and avoid oil stain growth processes.

The boundary between town and country: the growth happens in only one direction.

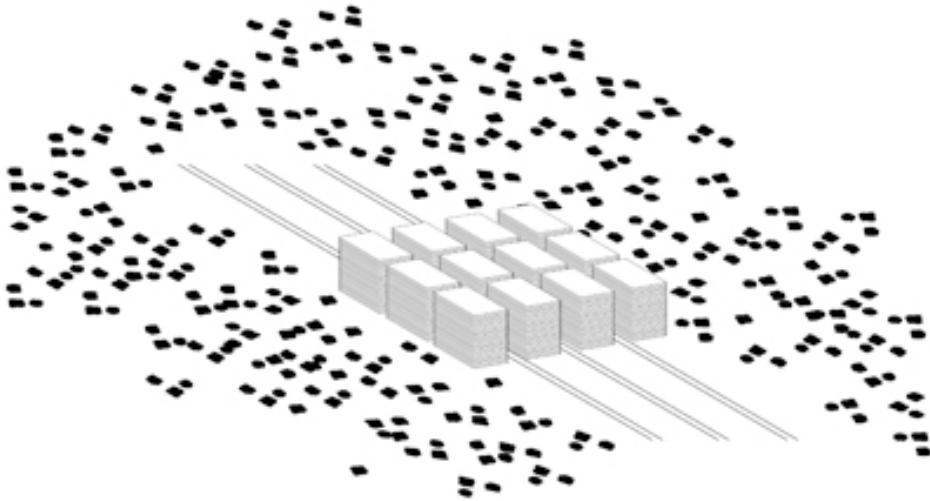
A street with a complex section links pre-existing cities; clear boundary definition between city and countryside and safeguarding of the countryside.

Arturo Soria y Mata (during the Eighties of Nineteenth Century) La Ciudad Lineal

Nikolai Alexandrovich Milyutin (1930) Concept for the linear industrial city of Stalingrad

Le Corbusier (1942-1943) Les Trois Établissements Humains

The Dense City



This city is mainly developed in height.

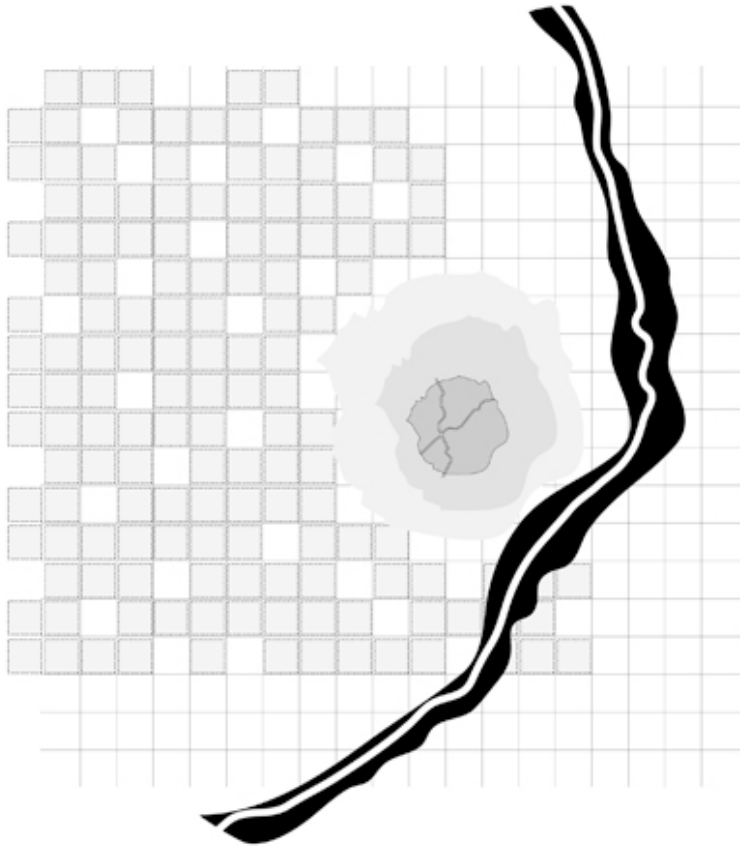
Second phenomena governing spontaneous growth.

Sharp boundary between town and country: containment of land consumption.

High density and vertical functional articulation.

Ludwig Hilberseimer (1927) Großstadt Architektur

The Extended City



Second phenomena governing spontaneous growth.

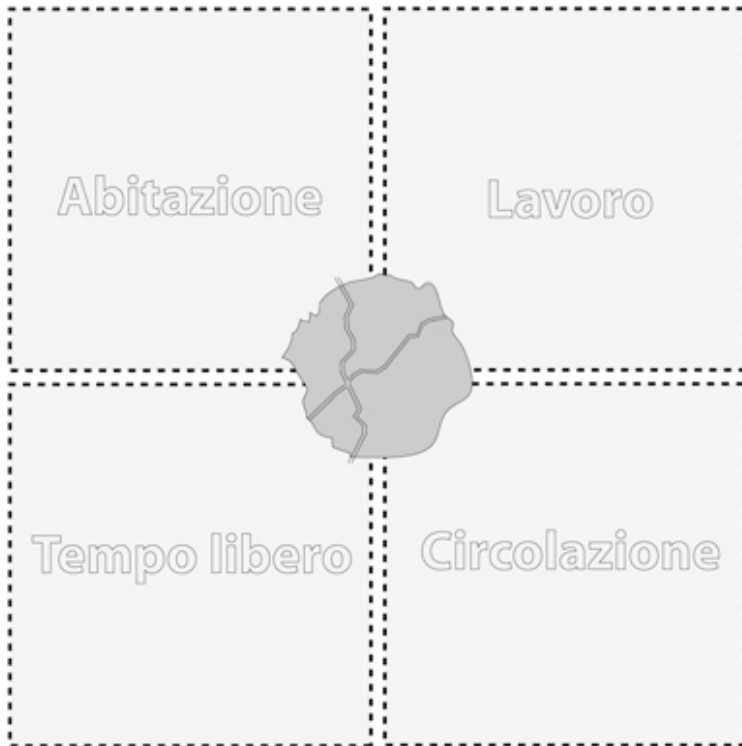
Low building and population density.

Without identified limit, organized on quadrangle street grid.

Doesn't provide a specific order for elements distribution.

Frank Lloyd Wright (1934-1935) *Broadacre City*

The Functional City



The compositional criteria don't consider the urban form and are the result of an exasperated search of rationality of the settlements.

The city takes shape through the sizing and detection of functionally distinct areas.

Tony Garnier (1901-1917) *La Cité Industrielle*

Le Corbusier (1933) *La Ville Radieuse*

Carta d'Atene (1942) *La Charte d'Athènes*

Cornelius Van Eesteren (1929-1932) *L'Algemeen Uitbreidingsplan di Amsterdam*

Some “Great References”

Ensanche of Barcelona (Ildefonso Cerdà, 1854-1859)

Garden City (Ebenezer Howard, 1898)

Greater London Plan (Patrick Abercrombie, 1942-1944)

Ciudad Lineal (Arturo Soria y Mata, 1880 circa)

Cité linéaire industrielle (Le Corbusier, 1942-1943)

Großstadt (Ludwig Hilberseimer, 1927)

Broadacre City (Frank Lloyd Wright, 1934-1935)

Cité Industrielle (Tony Garnier, 1901)

Ville Radieuse (Le Corbusier, 1933)

Amsterdam Algemeen Uitbreidingsplan (Cor Van Eesteren, 1929-1932)

Charte d’Athènes (Le Corbusier, 1942)

Some proposals accept and **follow spontaneous phenomena** and propose some rules (generally referred to lot subdivision, settling principles, building density) to manage the growth.

The compact city (Ildefonso Cerdà)

Growth surrounding the pre-existing core.

Settling principle (quadrangular vs. circular) is defined by ways and open spaces.

The city developed in height (Ludwig Hilberseimer)

High density. Vertical functional articulation.

The extended city (Frank Lloyd Wright)

Low building and population density, a town without an identified limit, organized mainly by a quadrangular street network, does not provide a specific order for elements distribution (flexibility of a squared grid).

Other proposals seek to **invert trends of spontaneous growth** of cities avoiding an undifferentiated growth (like “oil stain”) and to do that those proposals localize and manage growth in different ways.

The satellite/garden city (Ebenezer Howard, Raymond Unwin, Patrick Abercrombie)

The boundary between town and country and the defined size. Isolated urban cores, separated, with defined dimensions, tend to self-organize but they are connected with the original city by rail.

The linear city (Arturo Soria y Mata, Nikolai Alexandrovich Milyutin, Le Corbusier)

The boundary between town and country: the growth happens only in one dimension.

A complex axis structures and links new towns with pre-existing cities, clear boundaries definition and safeguarding of it.

Other proposals seek to **rationalize urban growth processes** planning urban **size** and **functions**.

The functional city (Tony Garnier, Le Corbusier, the Athens Charter, Cornelius Van Eesteren)

The main compositional criteria is the organization of functions, the city takes shape through sizing and functional definition of distinct areas.

To consider the technical aspects of different projects it is necessary to assume an appropriate point of view, mainly referring to some **technical issues**.

The main aim is:

- to identify **sets of rules** (used in different cases) and kind of guidelines;
- to realize a **comparison** and to gain some **achievements** examining key aspects (dense/sparse, extended/concentrated, high/low... in respect to planning parameters and ratios).

Focussing a set of rules

They are mainly referred to:

- The **compositional idea** (general structure; relationships with the great natural elements; orientation; shape of the communication network; articulation and relationships between different parts of the city; kind of relationship between built and open spaces; prevailing intended use);
- The **intensity of land use and population densities** (quantitative aspects and dimensions);
- The **shapes, sizes and characteristic materials** (considering different kind of ways; the partition of land into blocks and plots; the type and articulation of open and built spaces).

4. References

The Garden City

Raymond Unwin, Letchworth (1904-1920)

Raymond Unwin, London Hampstead district

Louis de Soissons, Welwyn (1920-1926)

Ebenezer Howard

Diagram of Garden City

1898

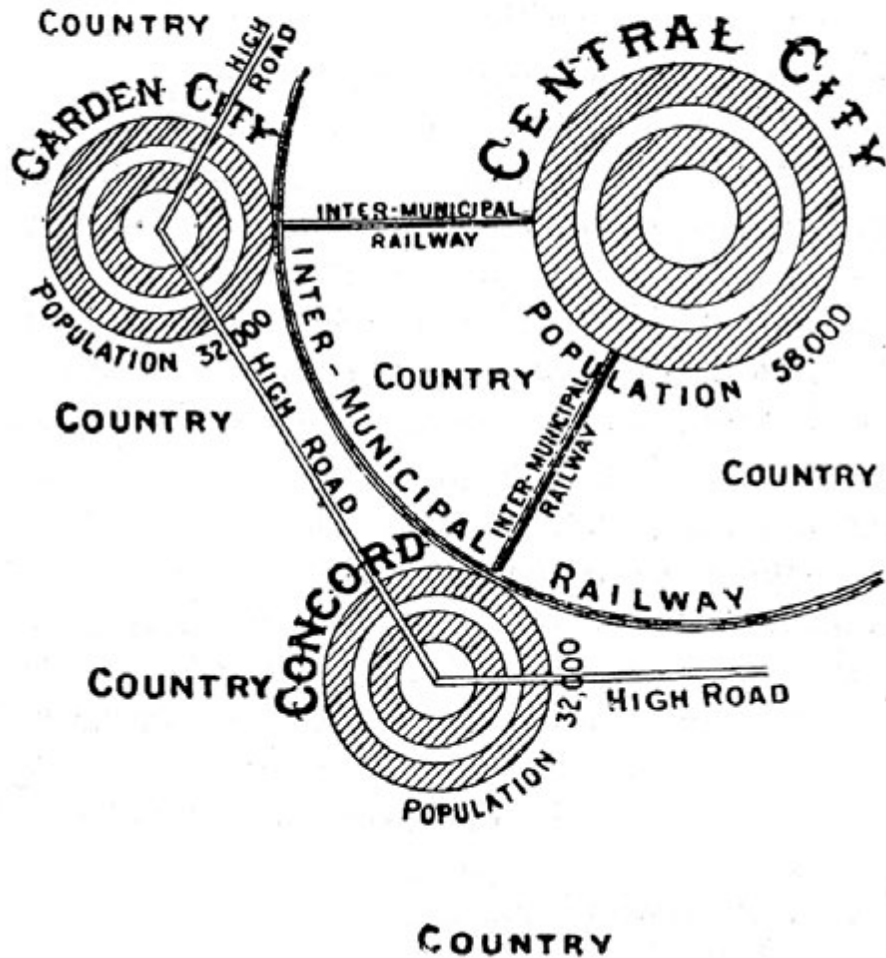
The problems of congestion within historic city.

The goals: reducing congestion into cities, programme the expansion, decentralization of population.

N^o 5.

— DIAGRAM —

ILLUSTRATING CORRECT PRINCIPLE
OF A CITY'S GROWTH - OPEN COUNTRY
EVER NEAR AT HAND. AND RAPID
COMMUNICATION BETWEEN OFF-SHOOTS.



Compositional Idea

The system consists of **regional satellite towns** separated and connected one with each other and with the original/main city (to avoid soldering).

Corretto principio di espansione delle città.

Compositional Idea

The structure of the city is **radial**: equipment and public spaces are placed in the **centre**, around them the residential parts, industries are along the railroad.

The **settlement extends** for 2.400 ha: 2.000 ha for agricultural activities, 400 ha are occupied for the urban core.

The **demographic dimension** is 32.000 inhabitants.

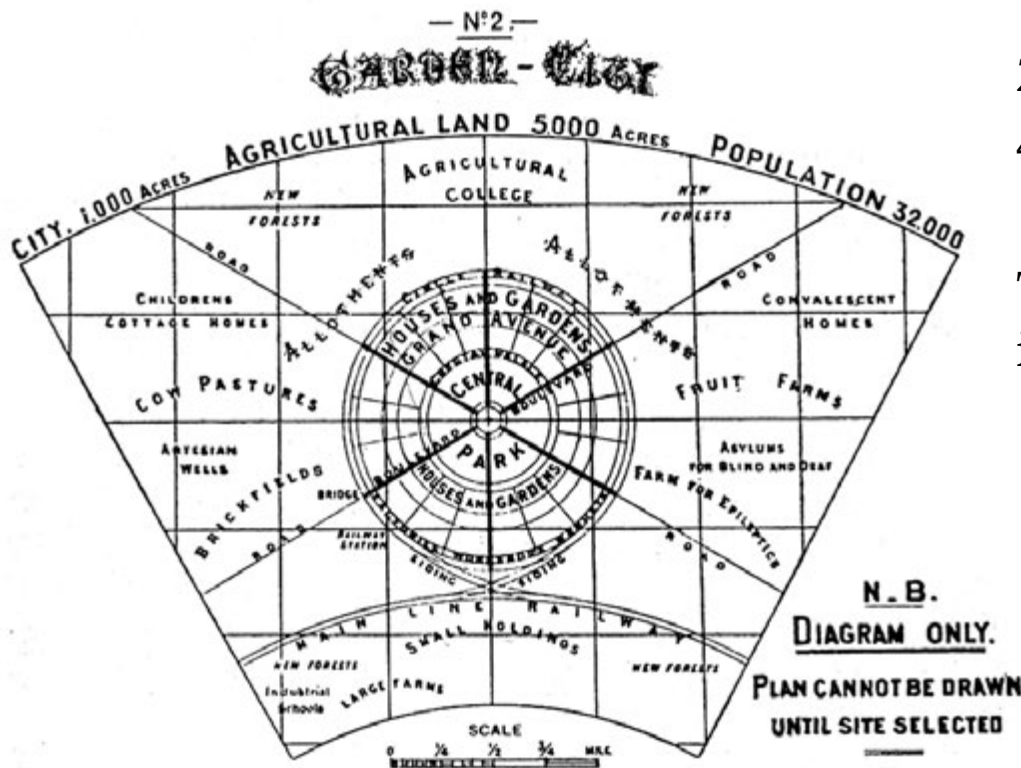


Diagramma - Il progetto non è disegnabile sinché non sia stata scelta l'area.

Compositional Idea

The scheme identifies **circular crowns** portions of variable size and produces a partition of urban land into 108 blocks, divided into 5.500 lots.

The **main elements** that organize the settlement are: the railway (within the territory); different kind of way (within the town); the green belt (outside the city).

The **services and urban facilities** are located in the city centre (urban level facilities) and along the Main Avenue (local facilities).

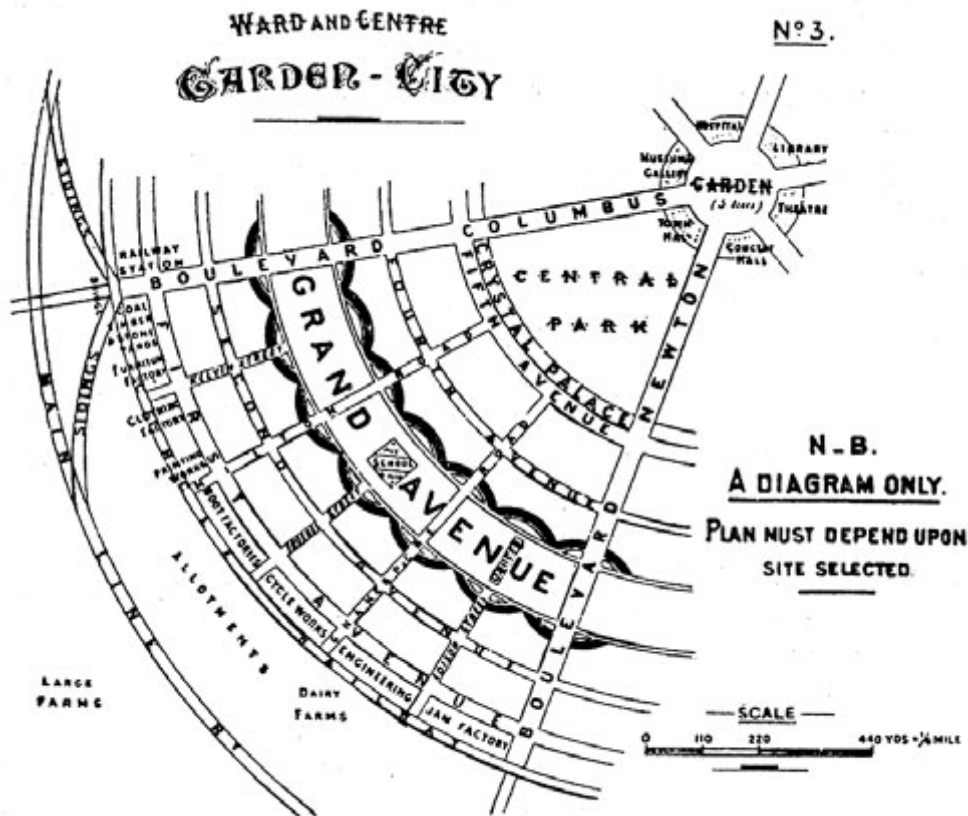


Diagramma - Il progetto è funzione dell'area prescelta.

Letchworth Garden City



Image © 2006 The GeoInformation Group
Image © 2006 TerraMetrics
Image © 2006 DigitalGlobe

©2006 Google™

Puntatore 51°57'21.56" N 0°09'57.60" O

Streaming  100%

Alt 9.89 km



Image © 2006 The GeoInformation Group

©2006 Google™

Puntatore 51°58'58.52" N 0°13'48.07" O

Streaming  100%

Alt 2.38 km



Image © 2006 The GeoInformation Group

©2006 Google™

Puntatore 51°58'51.54" N 0°14'23.49" O

Streaming 100%

Alt 618 m



Image © 2006 The GeoInformation Group

© 2006 Google™

Puntatore 51°59'15.11" N 0°13'43.74" O

Streaming  100%

Alt 618 m



Image © 2006 The GeoInformation Group

© 2006

Google™

Puntatore 51°59'19.49" N 0°13'57.83" O

Streaming 100%

Alt 301 m



Image © 2006 The GeoInformation Group

©2006 Google

Puntatore 51°58'54.91" N 0°14'37.64" O

Streaming  100%

Alt 301 m



Image © 2006 The GeoInformation Group

© 2006 Google

Puntatore 51°58'41.29" N 0°14'51.99" O

Streaming  100%

Alt 301 m

The Greater London Plan

Patrick Abercrombie

General Municipal Urban Plan

1942-1944

The problems: the large growth of population within the Greater London area (8.7 million inhabitants in 1939).

The goals: to manage the process of spontaneous growth of the city along the main star-shaped area by a strong infrastructural system.

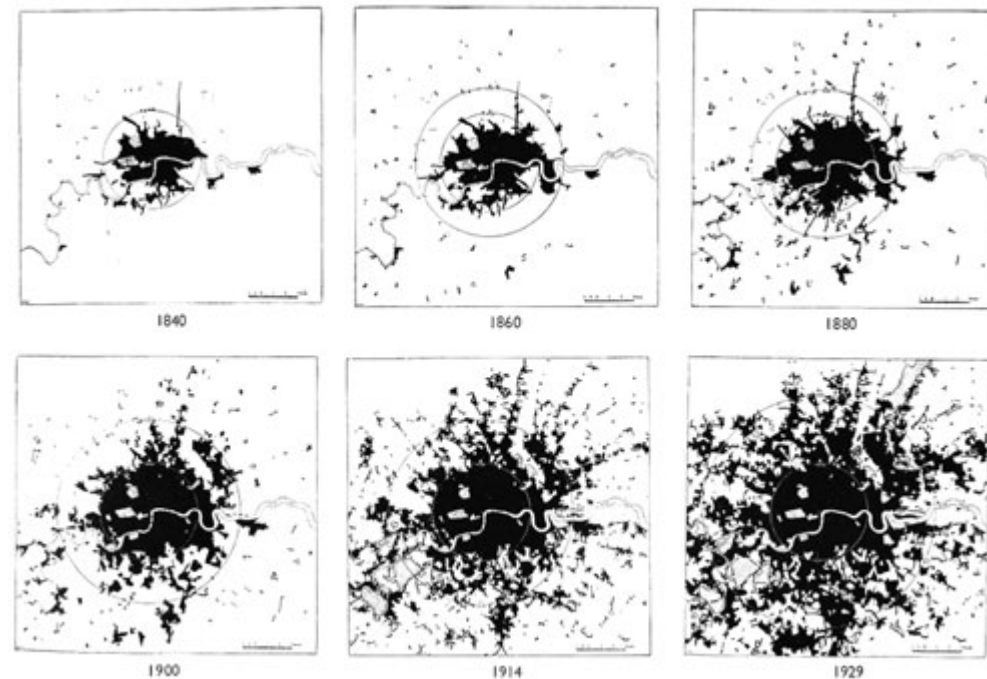
To stop the spontaneous processes of residential development in the central area, residence and industry decentralizing and de-densification.

Identify areas of planned growth (far and connected to the mother city) in order to control territorial physical organization and soil values.

Compositional Idea

The proposal **favours and governs the spontaneous growth** of urbanization processes (that happens in a seamless way around the core).

The proposal organizes a territorial system of “**Satellite New Towns**” around London to be implemented far from the urban core. Furthermore it identifies four “areas” with specific targets set in the form of concentric rings.

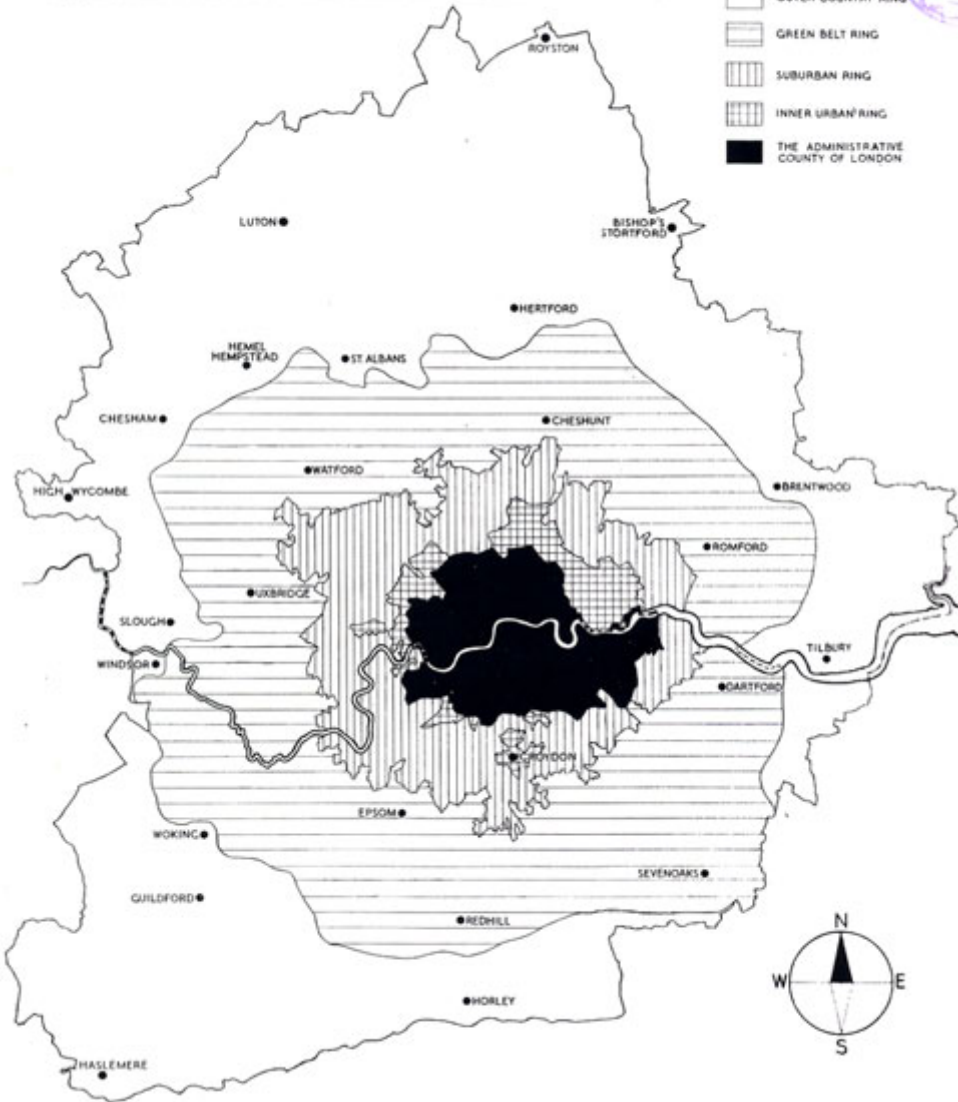


GREATER LONDON PLAN

MILES 0 5 10 15 20 25 30

THE FOUR RINGS

-  OUTER COUNTRY RING
-  GREEN BELT RING
-  SUBURBAN RING
-  INNER URBAN RING
-  THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF LONDON



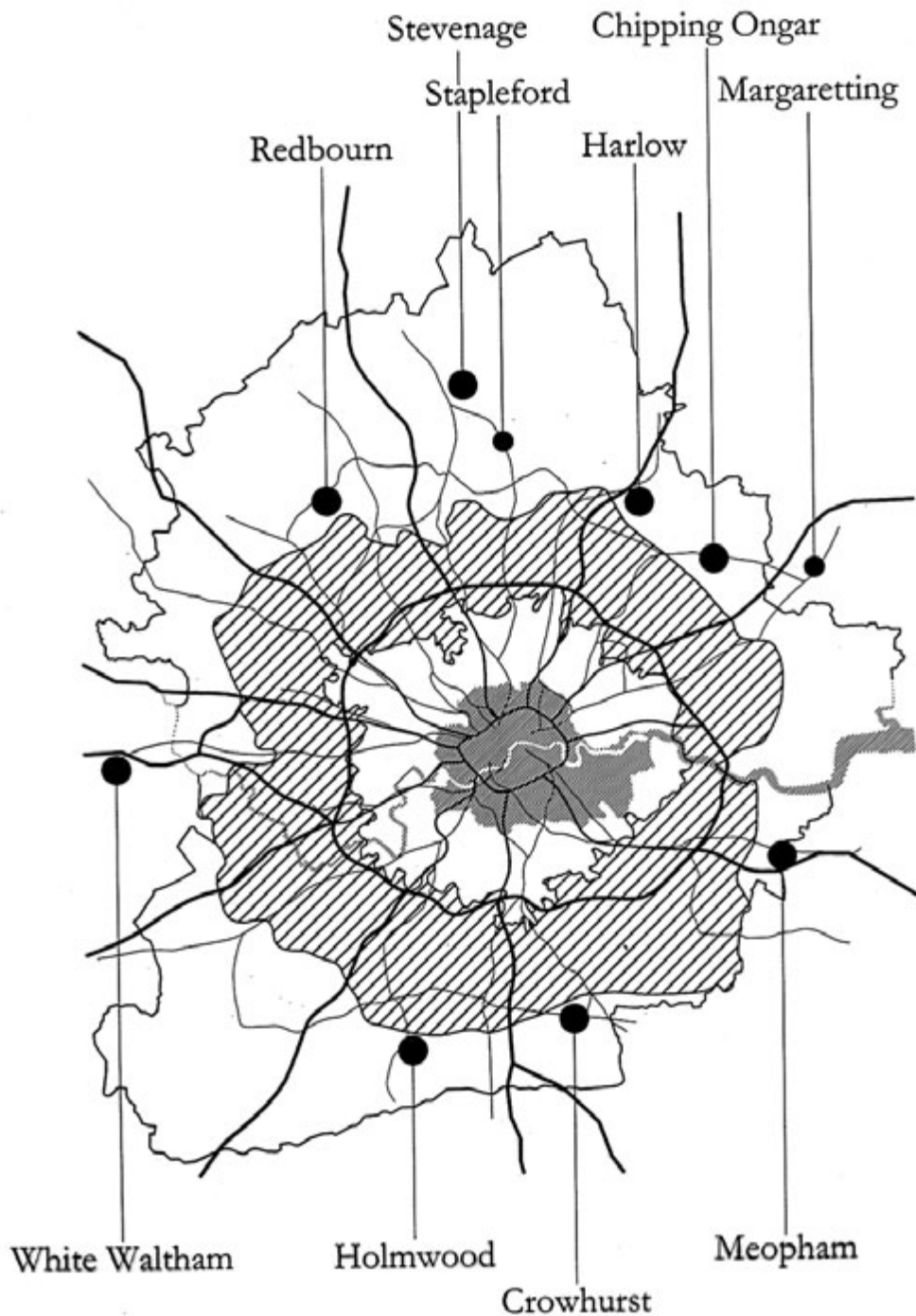
Compositional Idea

The **internal core** includes the inner-urban high-density areas around the County of London; here houses and offices prevail and it is ruled out the presence of productive activities.

A **sub-urban ring** is devoted for the consolidation of residential and industrial settlements through completions.

A **green belt** is intended for leisure time activities only, without agricultural uses and farming.

Beyond that, a larger ring is for agriculture and **10 new satellite city** (each one for approximately 60.000 inhabitants).



Compositional Idea

The whole plan is designed for a total of about **600.000 inhabitants** (10 cities established in the Satellite Towns), and the amount of completions in the suburban area.

In the allotment scheme of New Towns Abercrombie organizes the settlement according to the “**neighbourhood unit**” scheme (see Clarence Perry theory): so they are arranged around a civic centre and connected to an industrial area.

The **main elements** of the territorial organization are the railway and street network.

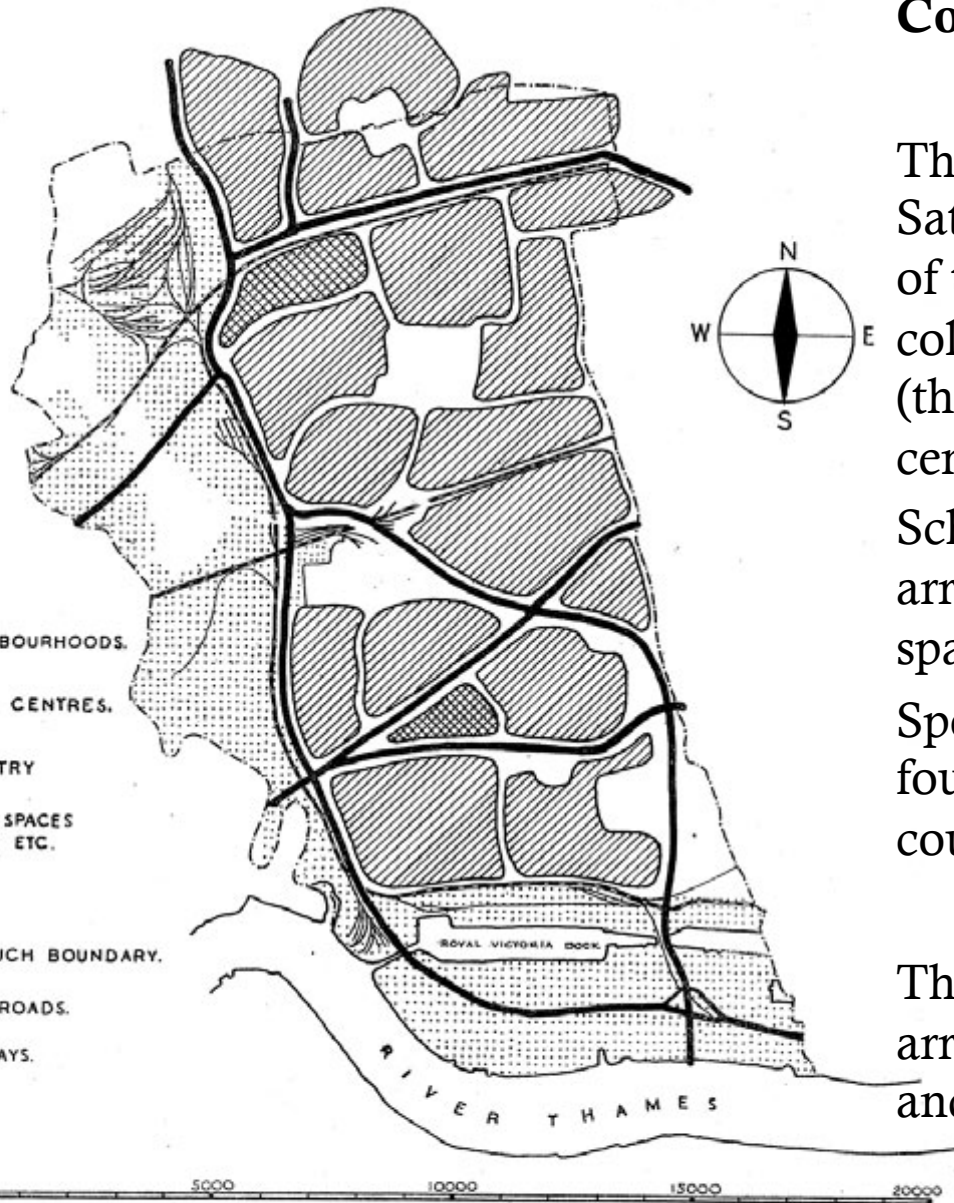
Compositional Idea

The **equipment and services** in New Satellite Towns are located in the centre of the neighbourhood unit and collaborate in shaping the civic centre (the settlement is organized around this centre).

Schools and pre-existing structures are arranged freely within large green spaces.

Sport and leisure facilities can also be found outside the Town in the countryside.

The “**neighbourhood units**” are arranged around the **main town centre** and the core of the city.



WEST HAM

DIAGRAM OF PROPOSED NEIGHBOURHOOD STRUCTURE

Harlow New Town



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Image © 2012 Getmapping plc

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2010 Google

Harlow
Advice
Centre

Specsavers

3





GS



BRIGGS
The Money Shop
The UK's Best for instant cashing, bank statements and more...

REED

ALL ENQUIRIES

EX

KISS CARDS



SHOP
TO LET

Horse & Carters

NatWest

BARNYARD

CRIBBY
EYES

The Linear City 1

Ciudad Lineal

Achievements: 5,2 km long district on the eastern outskirts of Madrid.

Arturo Soria y Mata

Movement for the “Linear City” and conceptual scheme.

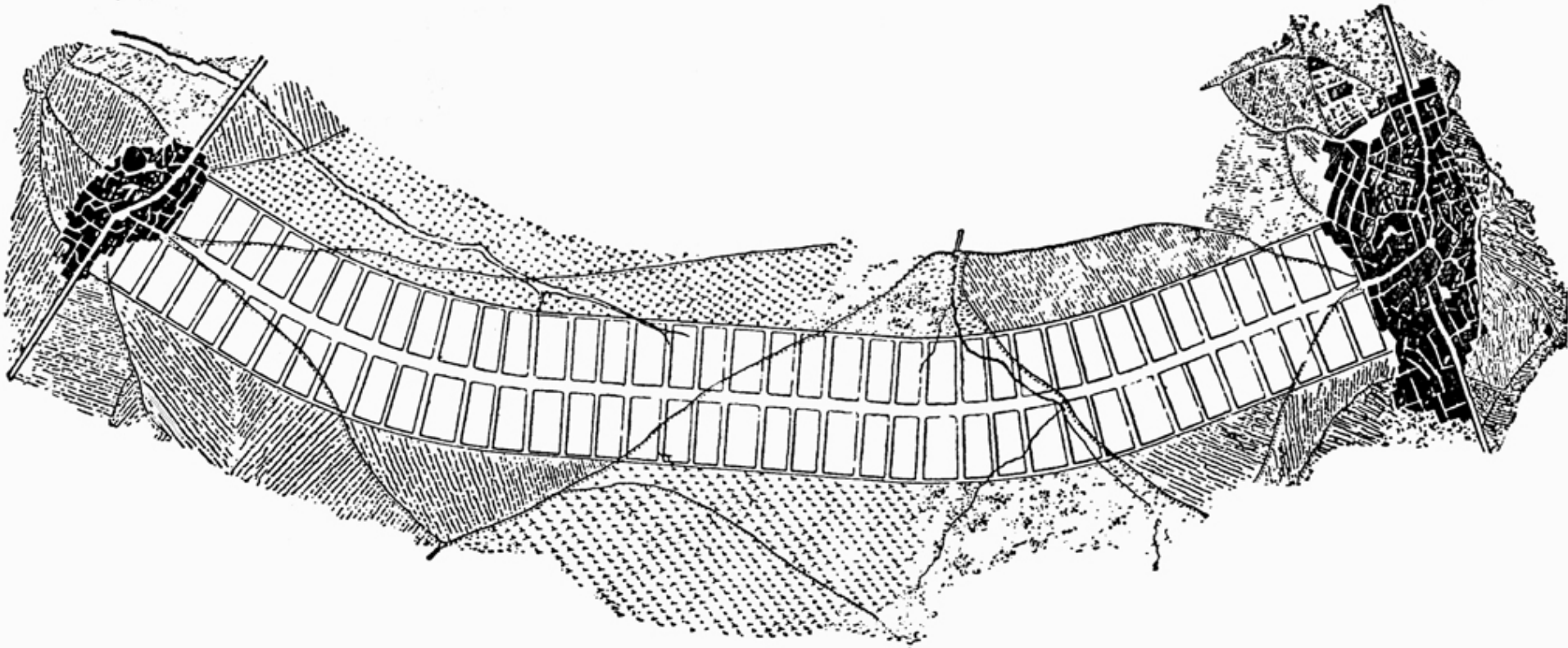
Project developed since the Eighties of Nineteenth Century.

The problem: the unhealthy city (to adapt infrastructure and to improve hygienic conditions of the city).

The goals: to modernize city, overcoming high density settlement pattern (building low density new settlements in the territory with adequate infrastructures) and spreading housing ownership.

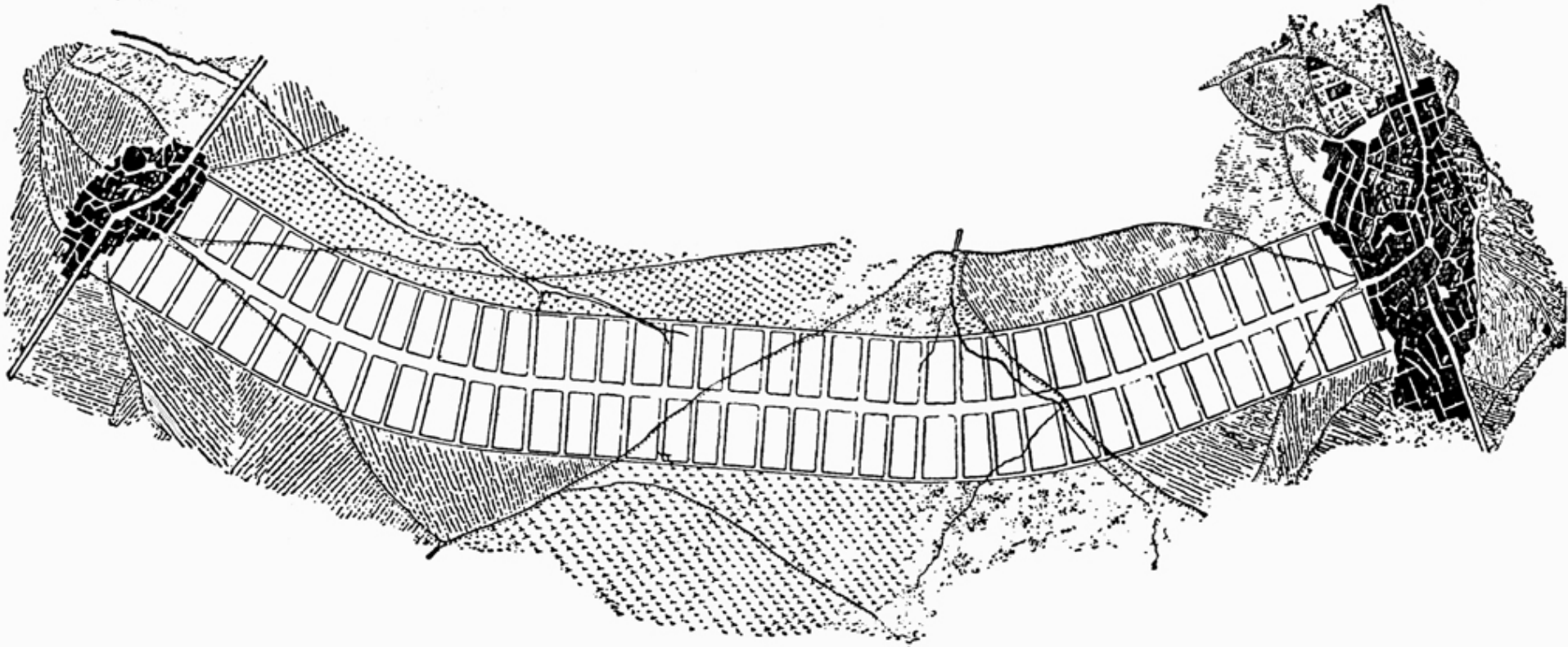
Compositional Idea

Within the territory, the settlement lay out linearly, reaching existing urban centres and creating extended triangulations.

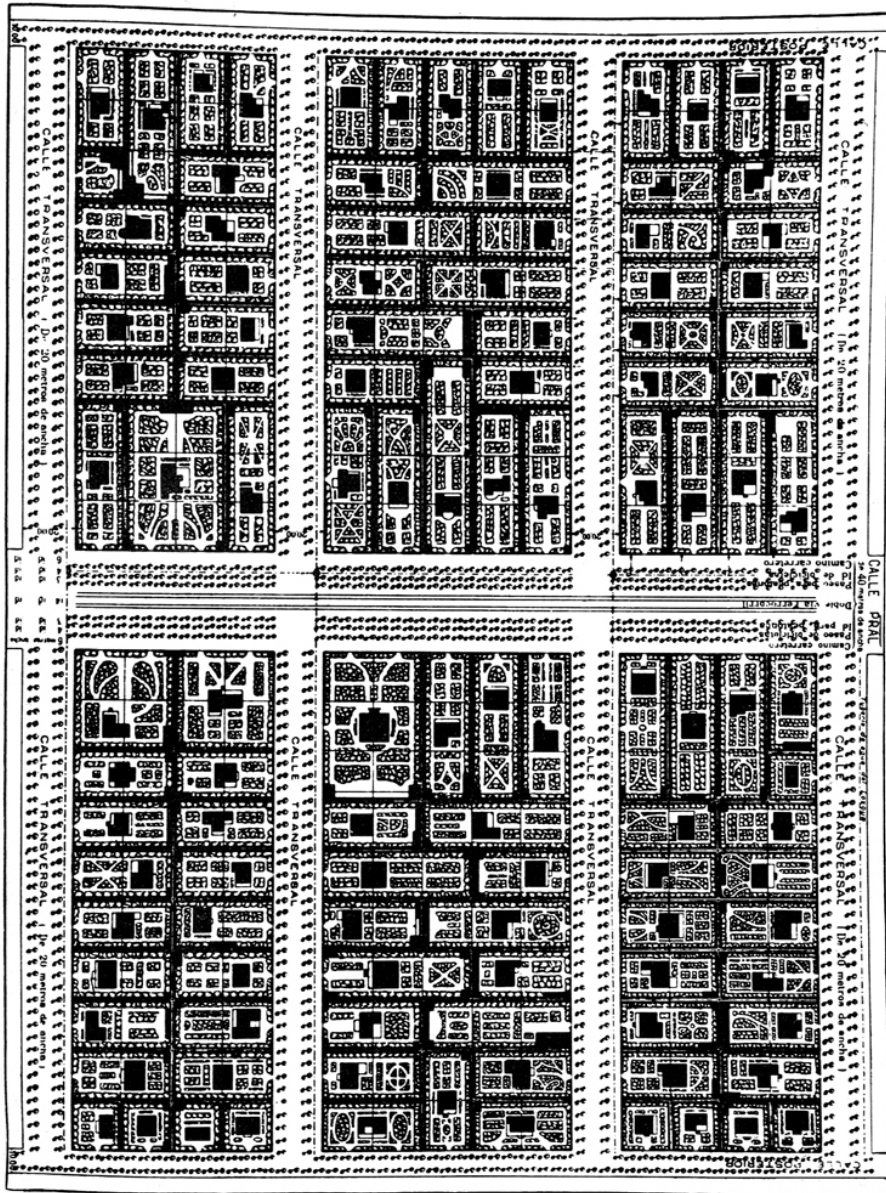


Compositional Idea

At the **urban scale**, the city is organized around a complex infrastructural axis, on both sides of which are blocks of constant depth are symmetrically arranged and separated by perpendicular streets that directly insert themselves on the central axis.



Compositional Idea



The **division into lots** organizes a linear sequence of blocks with a regular and recurrent size (80-100x200 mt): all the blocks are arranged in two parallel rows on both sides of central axis.

The residential block is the main element of the composition: the block repeats itself in an undifferentiated way, without specifying a particular organization of urban parts.

Facilities and **public services** would be located along the central axis, or possibly in the middle of blocks.

Madrid La Ciudad Lineal



Image © 2006 DigitalGlobe

© 2006 Google

Puntatore 40° 23' 53.06" N 3° 35' 45.18" O

Streaming 100%

Alt 10.10 km



Puntatore 40°26'09.74" N 3°38'24.69" O

Image © 2006 DigitalGlobe

Streaming 100%

© 2006 Google

Alt 4.88 km

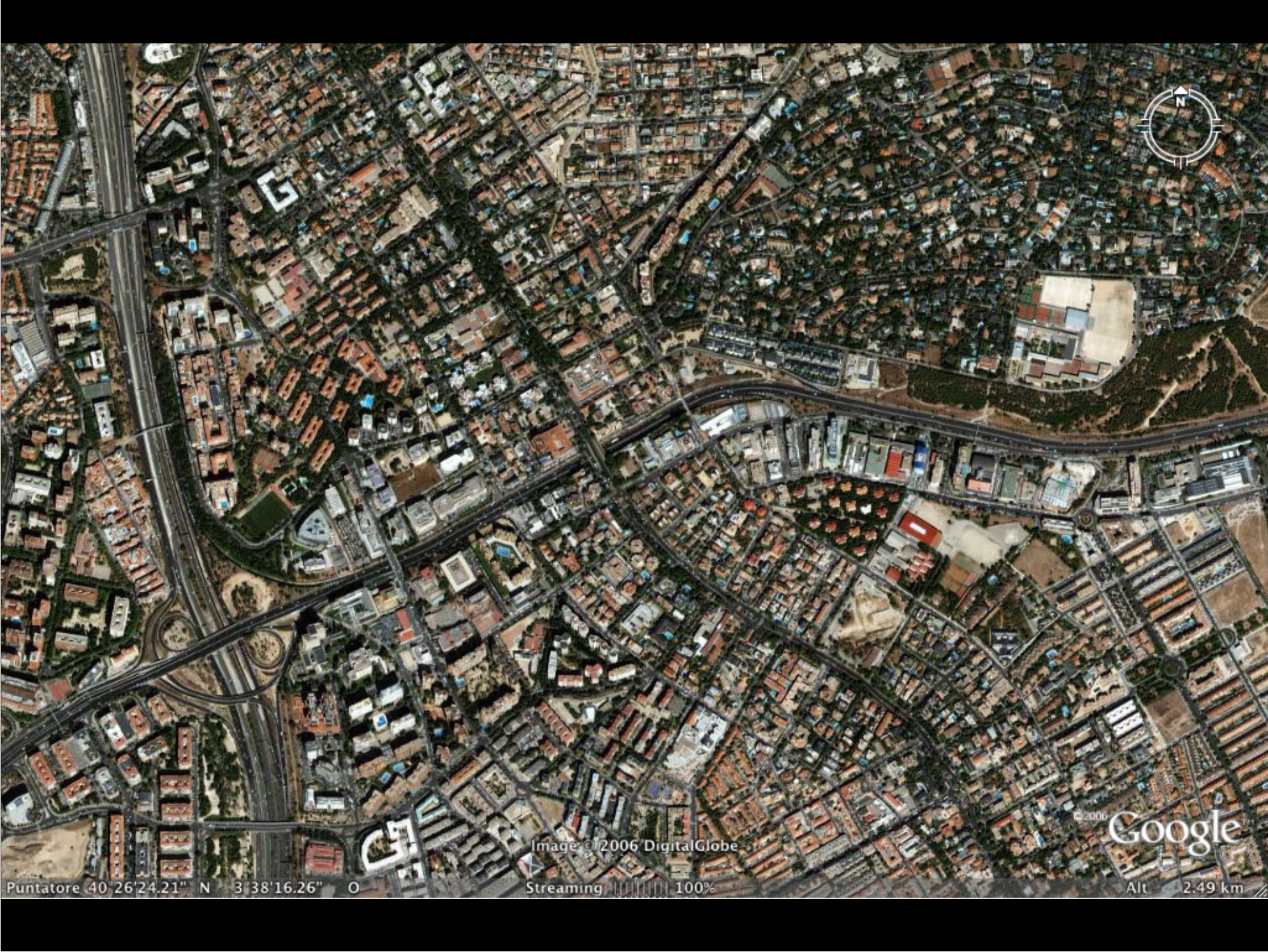


Image © 2006 DigitalGlobe

© 2006 Google

Puntatore 40° 26' 24.21" N 3° 38' 16.26" O

Streaming  100%

Alt 2.49 km

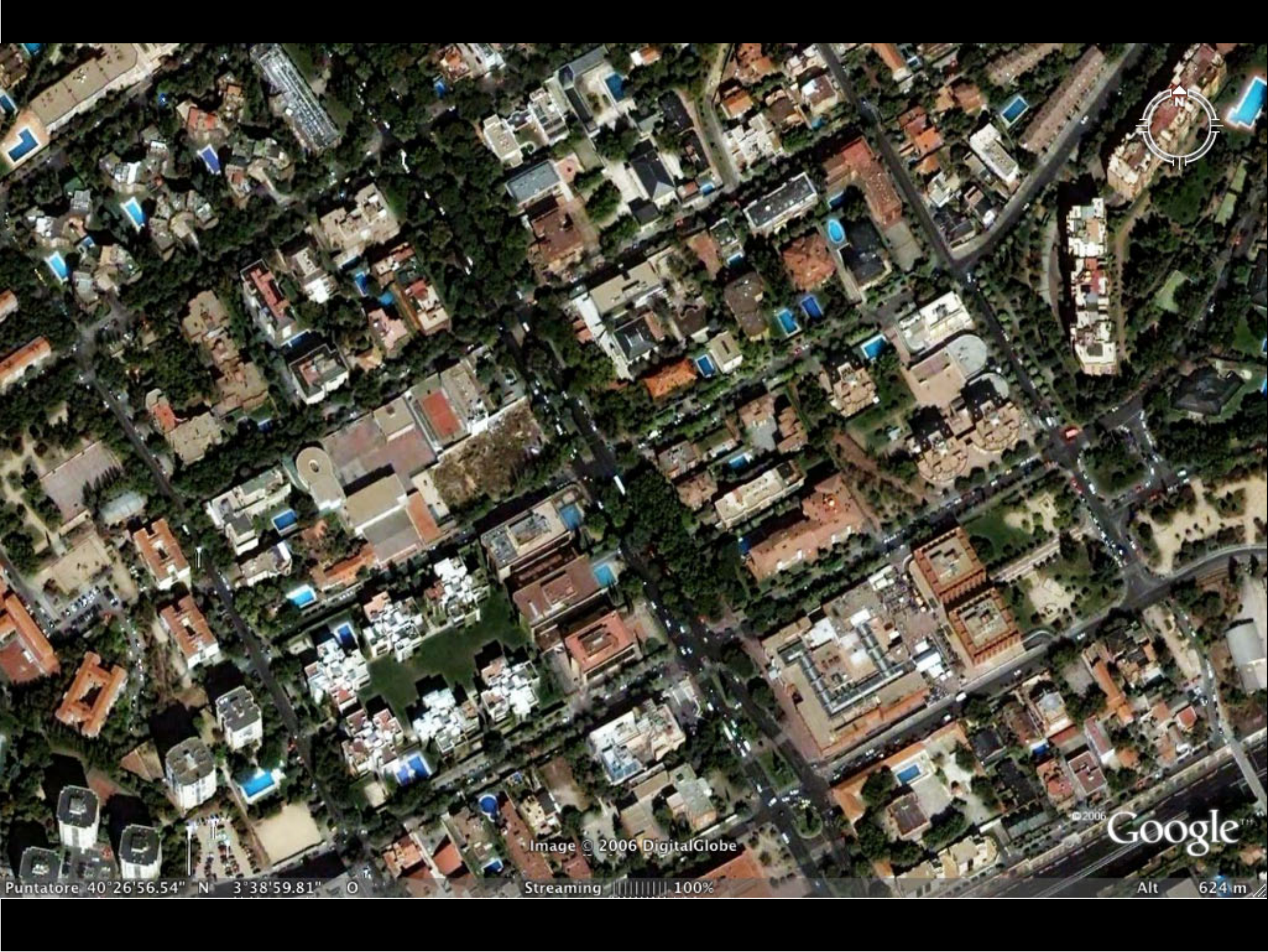


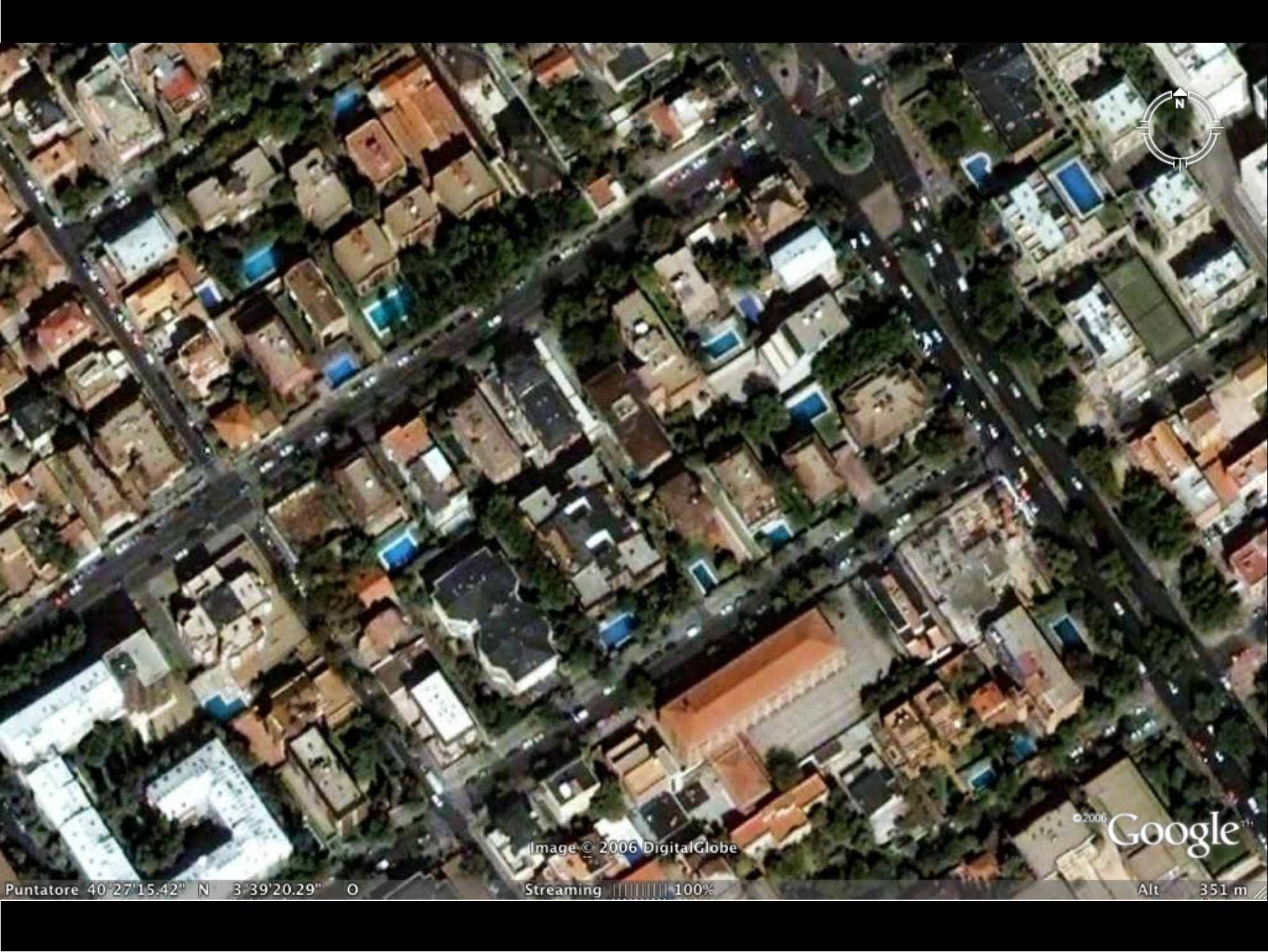
Image © 2006 DigitalGlobe

© 2006 Google™

Puntatore 40°26'56.54" N 3°38'59.81" O

Streaming  100%

Alt 624 m



© 2006 Google™

Image © 2006 DigitalGlobe

Puntatore 40°27'15.42" N 3°39'20.29" O

Streaming 100%

Alt 351 m



Puntatore 40°26'57.98" N 3°38'15.49" O

Image © 2006 DigitalGlobe

Streaming 100%

© 2006 Google

Alt 1.79 km

The Linear City 2

Cité linéaire industrielle

Le Corbusier

Manifesto Proposal "Les Trois Établissements Humains"

1942-1943

The main problem is the modernization of the ancient and inefficient city (sanitizing and building of infrastructures).

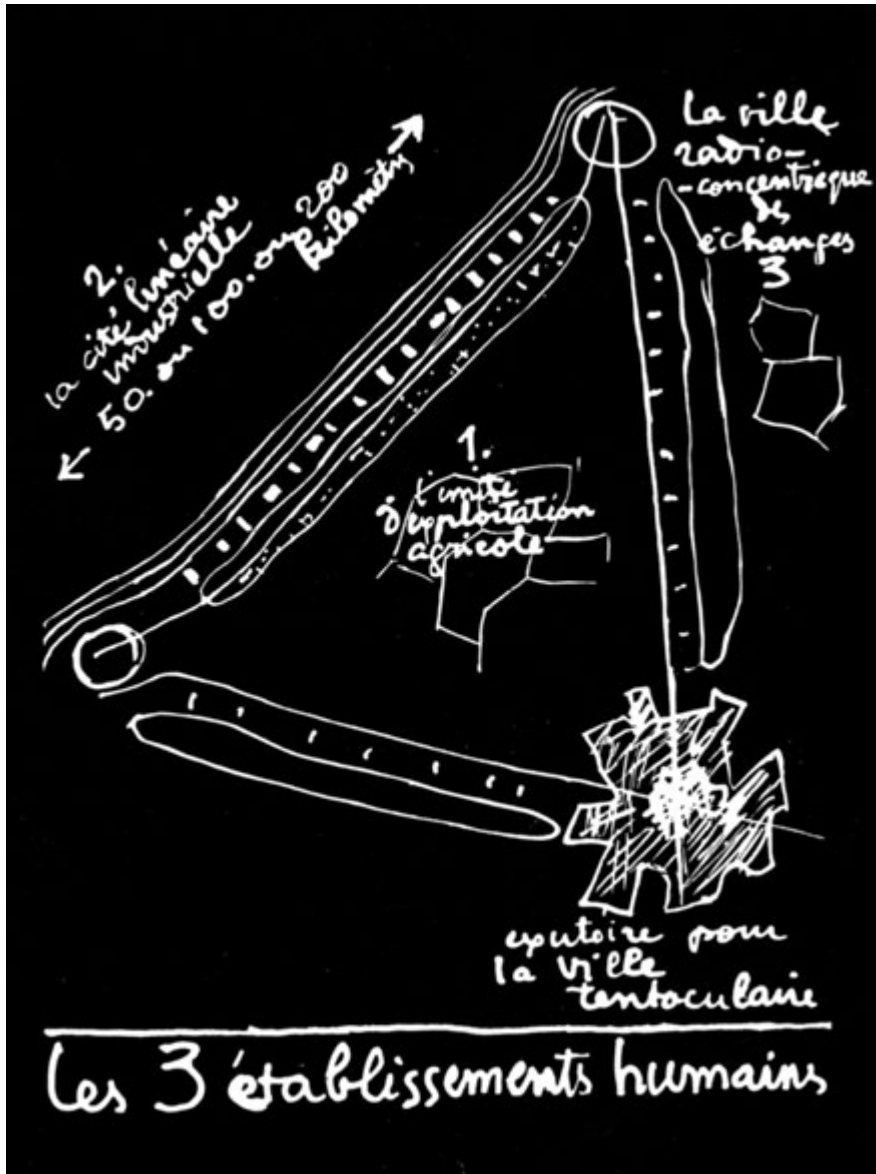
The objectives: overcome traditional settlement pattern characterized by congested and high levels of soil consumption; rationalize and mechanize the city.

Compositional Idea

The general plan for the Linear Industrial City is a part of the vaster program concerning **three kind of human settlement** (Les Trois Établissements Humains):

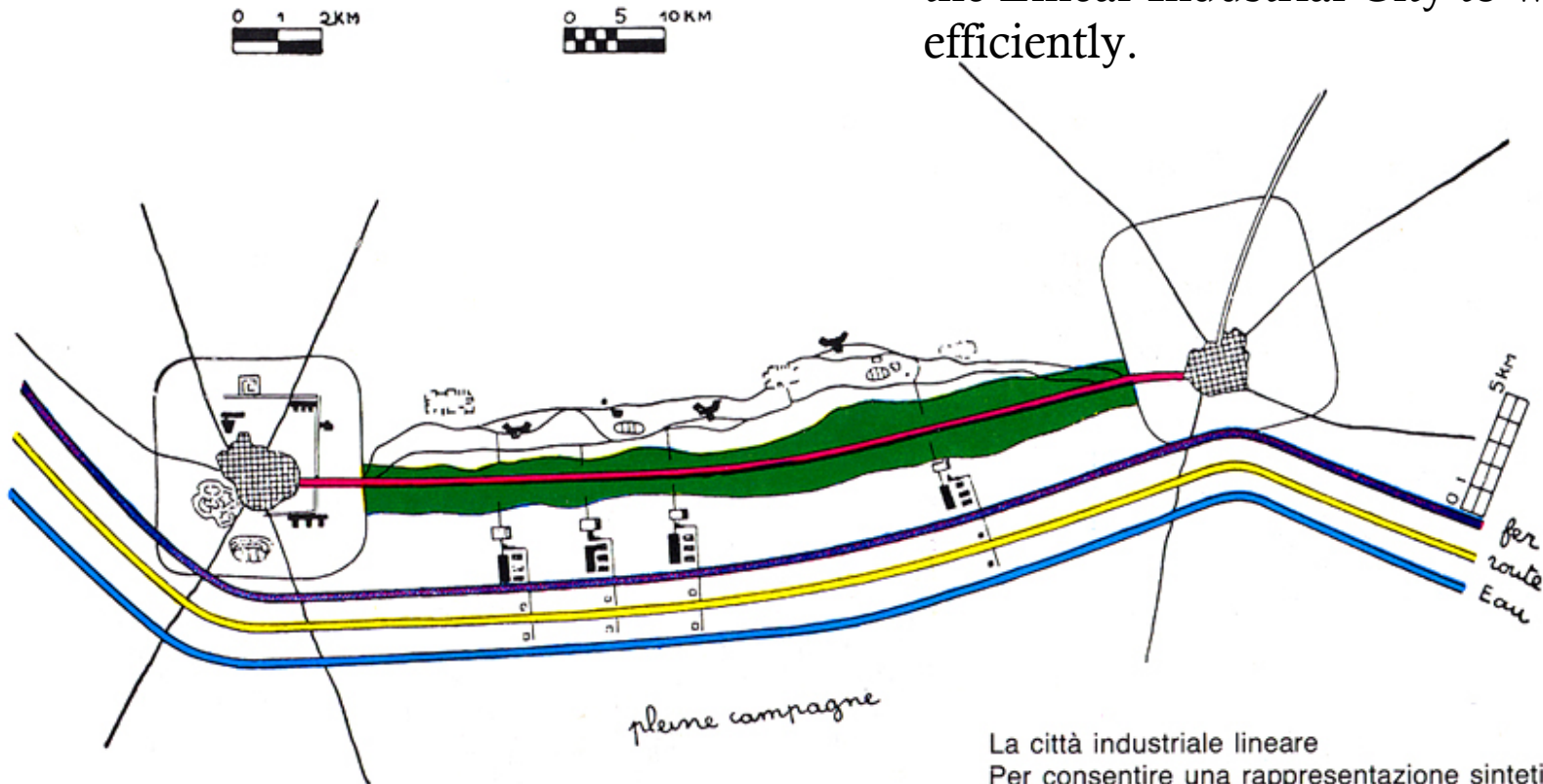
- Radial-Concentric Traditional Cities,
- Agricultural Units for Production
- Linear Industrial City.

These generate an extensive network of broad territorial triangulations.



Compositional Idea

The **main territorial element** is the highway (designed as a parkway) that separates industrial structures from residential settlement and services (“the apartment and its extensions”) and allows the Linear Industrial City to work efficiently.



La città industriale lineare

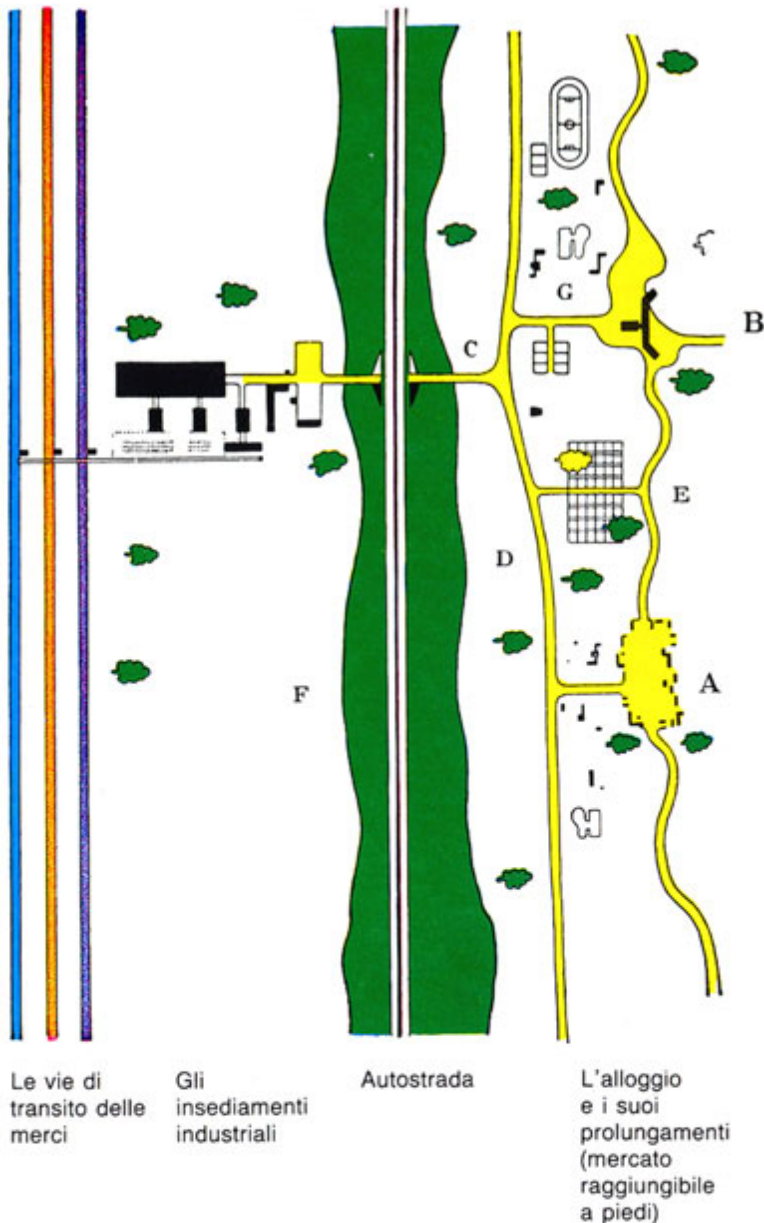
Per consentire una rappresentazione sintetica sono state riportate, a tre scale differenti, la città industriale, la città radio-concentrica, il dispositivo delle tre vie.

Compositional Idea

Main **equipment and services** are concentrated into traditional cities, while local equipment and services are distributed within the residential side of the Linear Industrial City.

The **layout** of the Linear Industrial City erases the original subdivision of soil into lots (according to the historical property structure) and put forward the idea of a general acquisition policy for public uses.

The overall **demographical dimension** cannot be defined a priori according to the variable length of linear settlement.



The extended city

Broadacre City

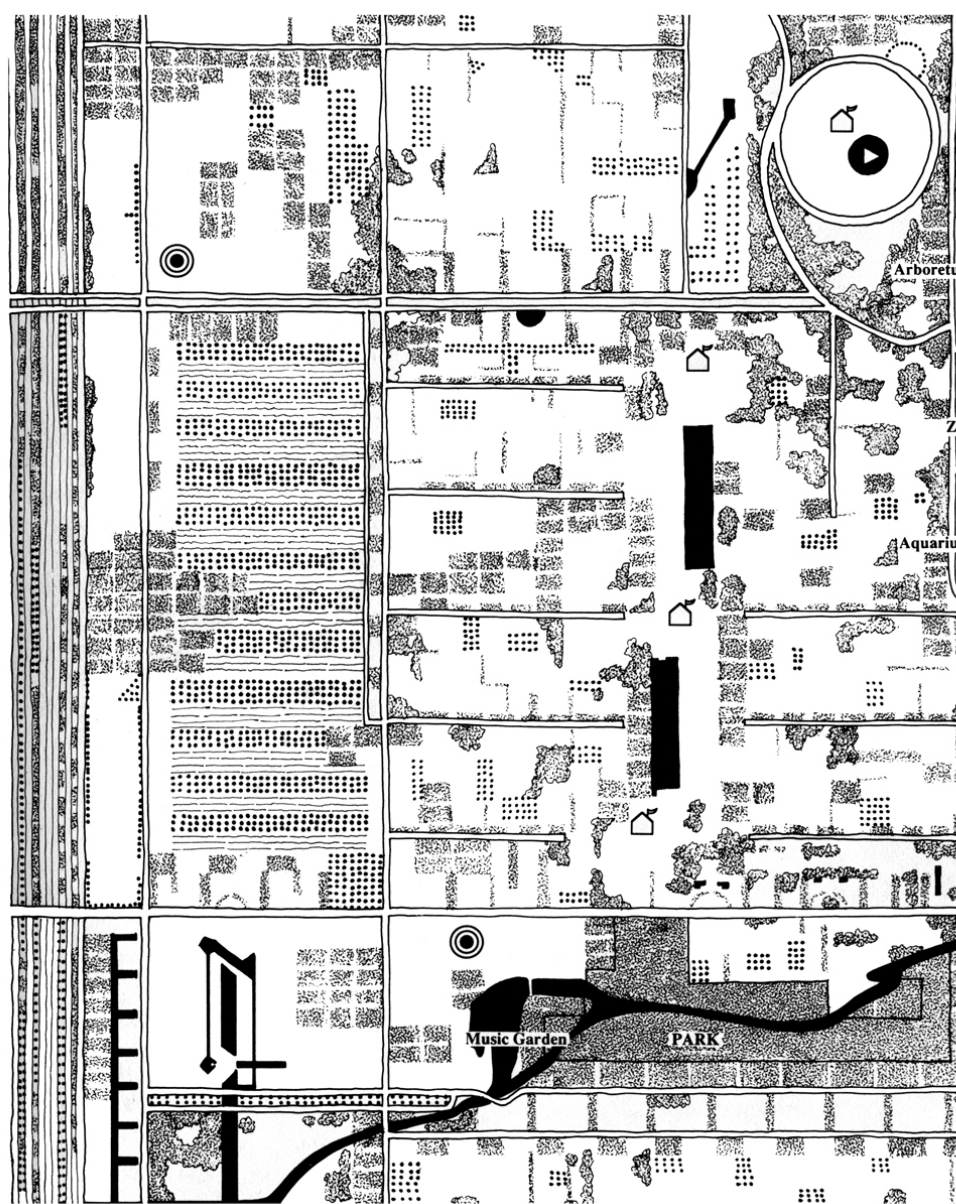
Frank Lloyd Wright

Manifesto for a "city of wide spaces" that lay out within territory.

1934-1935 (School of Taliesin).

The problems is the organization of a new relationship between town and country.

The goal is to build a wide, edgeless city planning new settlements adequate for urban and rural lifestyles (after the crisis of 1929 returning to the land is a priority).



⊙ Town center

🏫 School

🌳 Woodlots and hedgerows

🌲 Woodland

🍏 Orchard

🍷 Vineyard



0 2000 FEET

Compositional Idea

The **general layout** is organized on the extension (with an orthogonal grid) of a linear settlement pattern arranged around a large multi-lane road.

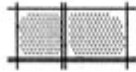
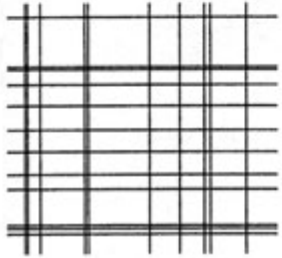
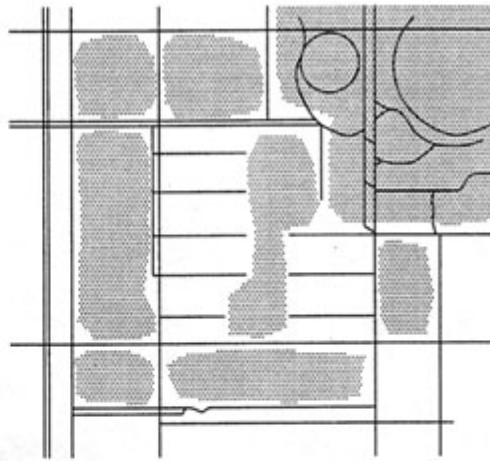
The proposal is based on widespread individual mobility.

The orthogonal grid defines a principle of order suitable to adapt according to the topography of soil.

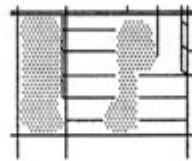
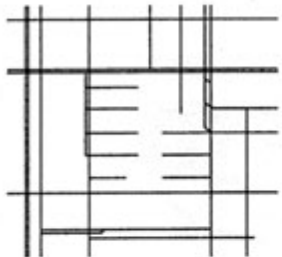
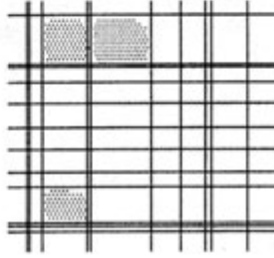
Residential, industrial and urban facilities are arranged freely within the grid.

48. Broadacre City: schema interpretativo del rapporto tra i tracciati e gli spazi verdi.

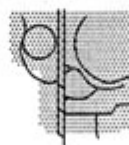
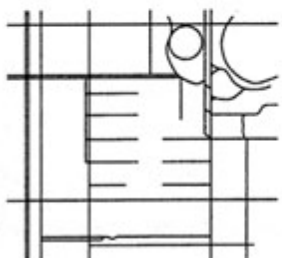
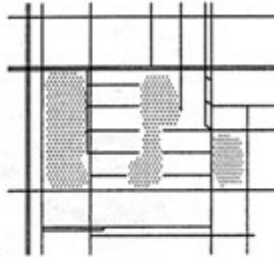
Le maglie gerarchizzate della rete stradale definiscono tre tipi di spazio aperto: a) quello che viene ricavato entro l'isolato; b) quello che si attesta sulle strade o le interrompe; c) quello che ingloba le strade ridisegnandole.



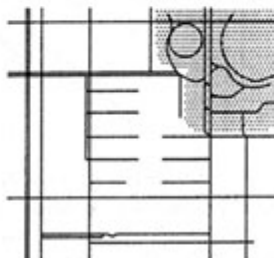
a



b



c



Compositional Idea

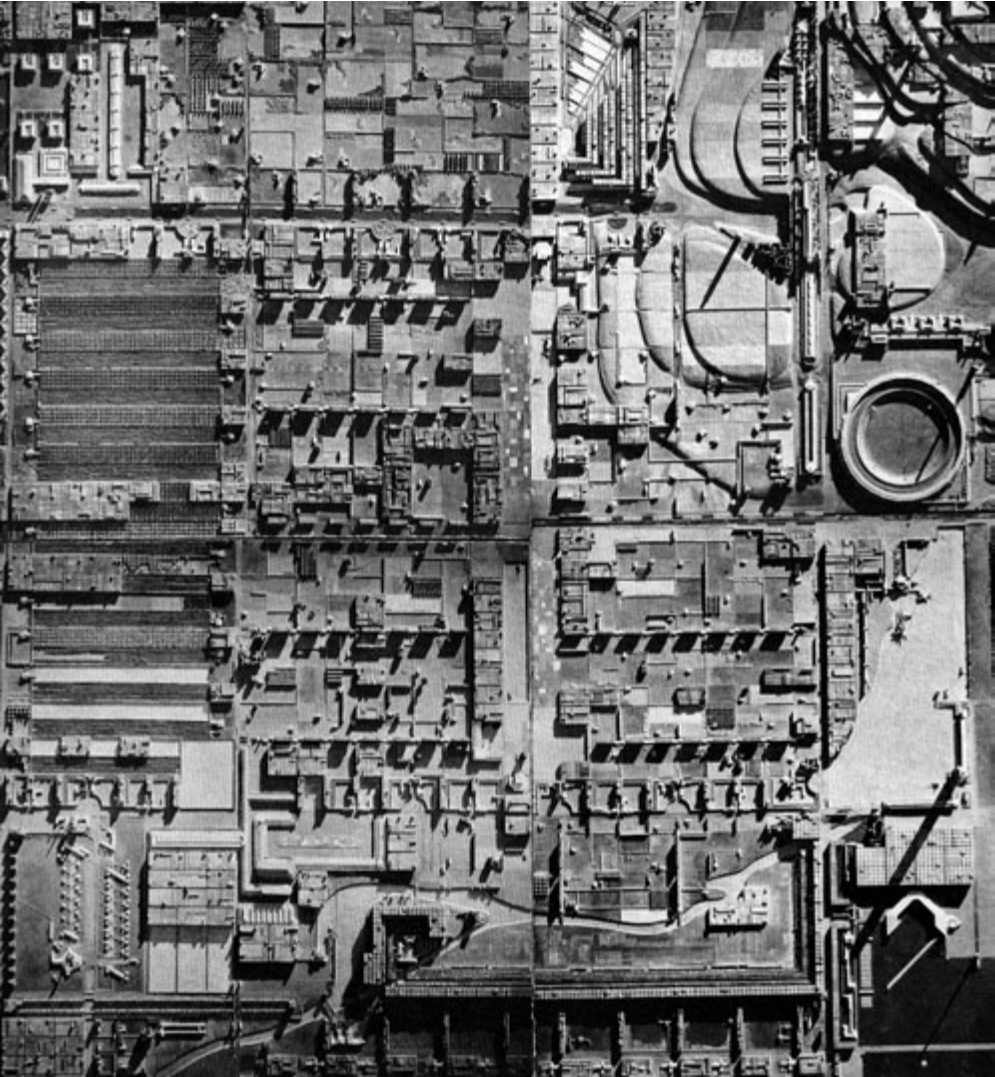
The **design of lot** provides an orthogonal subdivision and identifies large rectangular lots within blocks.

The **street grid** subdivides territory into large partitions.

The **organization of parts** is not defined a priori. The mixed lot is the basic functional units. Peculiar buildings serve as landmarks within territory.

Main **facilities and services** are concentrated in some few exceptional blocks, or are mixed with industry and residence within the standard lot, or enclosed in a plate with services and parking on the basement of the tower.

Compositional Idea



The **overall size** of the settlement is potentially unlimited. The proposal is referred to a square section of 3.200 mt side, covering an area of 1.024 hectares.

The **total capacity** can not be defined. Only referring to the standard section it is possible to have 1.400 families (and, considering 4 people families, about 5.600 inhabitants).

Clarence Perry, New York 1927

The Neighbourhood Unit

“The underlining principle of the scheme is that an **urban neighborhood** should be regarded both as **unit** of a larger whole and as a **distinct** entity in itself. [...]

There are certain [...] facilities functions or aspects which are strictly local and peculiar to a well-arranged residential community.

They may be classified under four heads: (1) the **elementary school**, (2) **small parks and playgrounds**, (3) **local shops**, and (4) **residential environment**. [...]

If it is to be treated as an organic entity, then it logically follows that the first step in the conversion of unimproved acreage for residential purposes will be its subdivision into unit areas, each one of which is suitable for a single neighborhood community.

The next step consist in the planning of each unit so that adequate provision is made for the efficient operation of the four main neighborhood functions.”

(Perry 1927, p. 34)

AREA IN OPEN DEVELOPMENT
PREFERABLY 160 ACRES ••
IN ANY CASE IT SHOULD
HOUSE ENOUGH PEOPLE TO
REQUIRE ONE ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL • EXACT SHAPE
NOT ESSENTIAL BUT BEST
WHEN ALL SIDES ARE FAIRLY
EQUIDISTANT FROM CENTER

A SHOPPING DISTRICT
MIGHT BE SUBSTITUTED
FOR CHURCH SITE

SHOPPING DISTRICTS IN
PERIPHERY AT TRAFFIC
JUNCTIONS AND
PREFERABLY BUNCHED
IN FORM

ONLY NEIGHBORHOOD
INSTITUTIONS AT
COMMUNITY CENTER

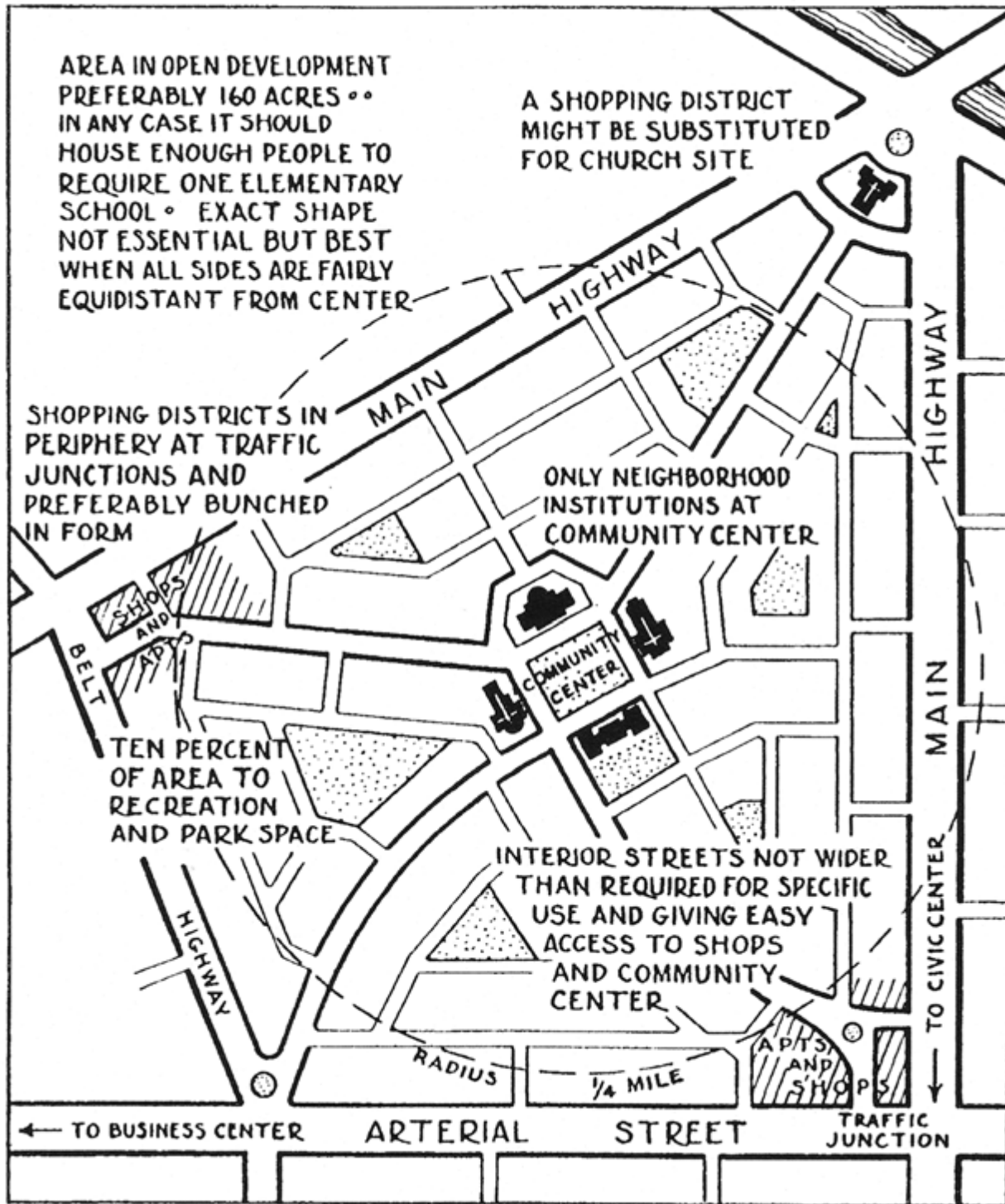
TEN PERCENT
OF AREA TO
RECREATION
AND PARK SPACE

INTERIOR STREETS NOT WIDER
THAN REQUIRED FOR SPECIFIC
USE AND GIVING EASY
ACCESS TO SHOPS
AND COMMUNITY
CENTER

← TO BUSINESS CENTER

ARTERIAL STREET

TRAFFIC
JUNCTION



Neighborhood Unit Principles

(Perry 1927, pp.34-35)

1- Size

A residential unit development should provide housing for that population for which one elementary school is ordinarily required, its actual area depending upon population density.

Neighborhood Unit Principles

(Perry 1927, pp.34-35)

2- Boundaries

The unit should be bounded on all sides by arterial streets, sufficiently wide to facilitate its bypassing by all through traffic.

Neighborhood Unit Principles

(Perry 1927, pp.34-35)

3- Open spaces

A system of small parks and recreations spaces, planned to meet the needs of the particular neighborhood, should be provided.

Neighborhood Unit Principles

(Perry 1927, pp.34-35)

4- Institution sites

Sites for the school and other institutions having service spheres coinciding with the limits of the unit should be suitably grouped about a central point, or common area.

Neighborhood Unit Principles

(Perry 1927, pp.34-35)

5- Local shops

One or more shopping districts, adequate for the population to be served, should be laid out in the circumference of the unit, preferably at traffic junctions and adjacent to similar districts of adjoining neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Unit Principles

(Perry 1927, pp.34-35)

6- Internal street system

The unit should be provided with a special street system, each highway being proportioned to its probable traffic load, and the street net as a whole being designed to facilitate circulation within the unit and to discourage its use by through traffic.

AREA IN OPEN DEVELOPMENT
PREFERABLY 160 ACRES ••
IN ANY CASE IT SHOULD
HOUSE ENOUGH PEOPLE TO
REQUIRE ONE ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL • EXACT SHAPE
NOT ESSENTIAL BUT BEST
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A SHOPPING DISTRICT
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SHOPPING DISTRICTS IN
PERIPHERY AT TRAFFIC
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ONLY NEIGHBORHOOD
INSTITUTIONS AT
COMMUNITY CENTER

TEN PERCENT
OF AREA TO
RECREATION
AND PARK SPACE

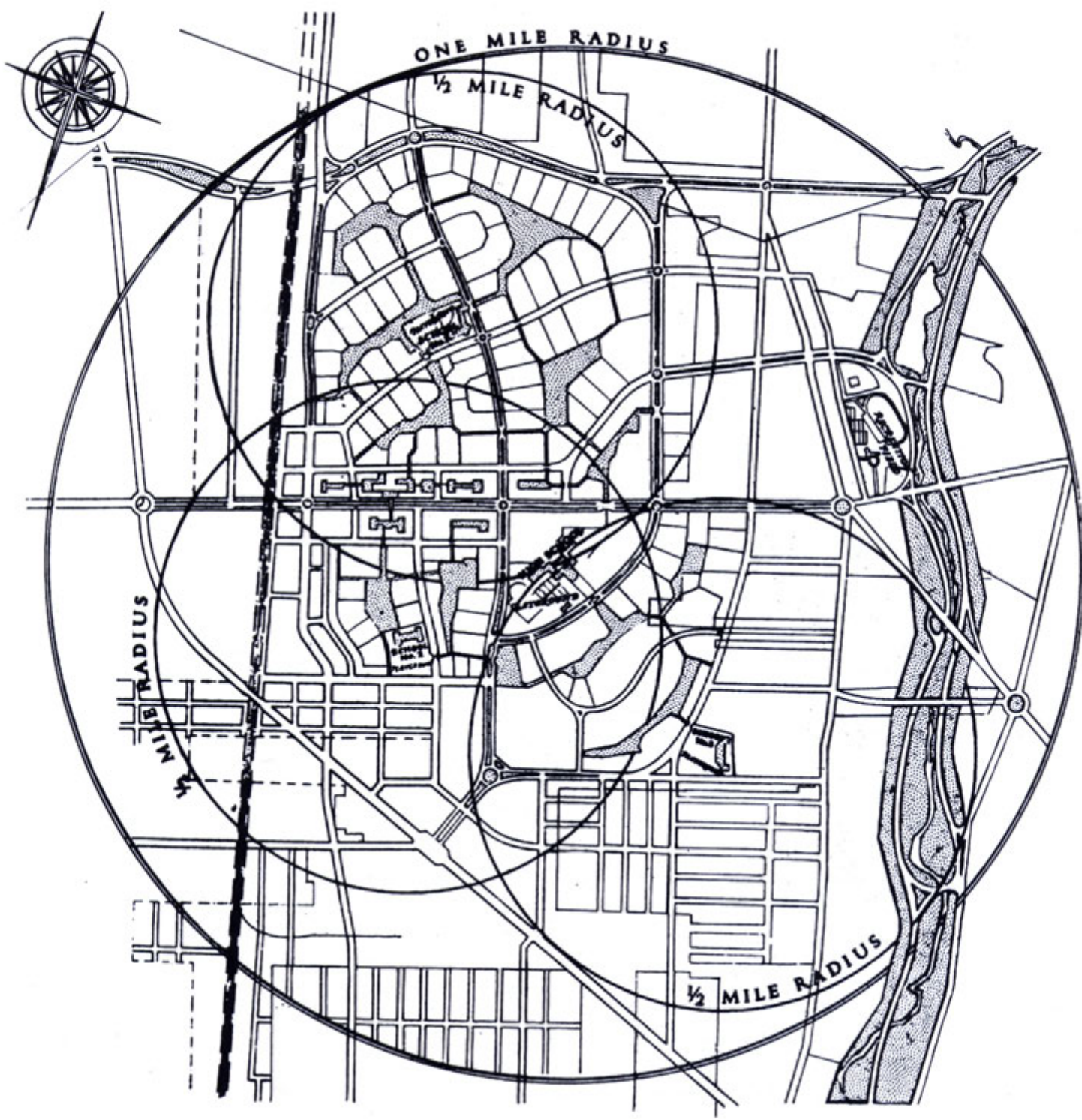
INTERIOR STREETS NOT WIDER
THAN REQUIRED FOR SPECIFIC
USE AND GIVING EASY
ACCESS TO SHOPS
AND COMMUNITY
CENTER

← TO BUSINESS CENTER

ARTERIAL STREET

TRAFFIC
JUNCTION







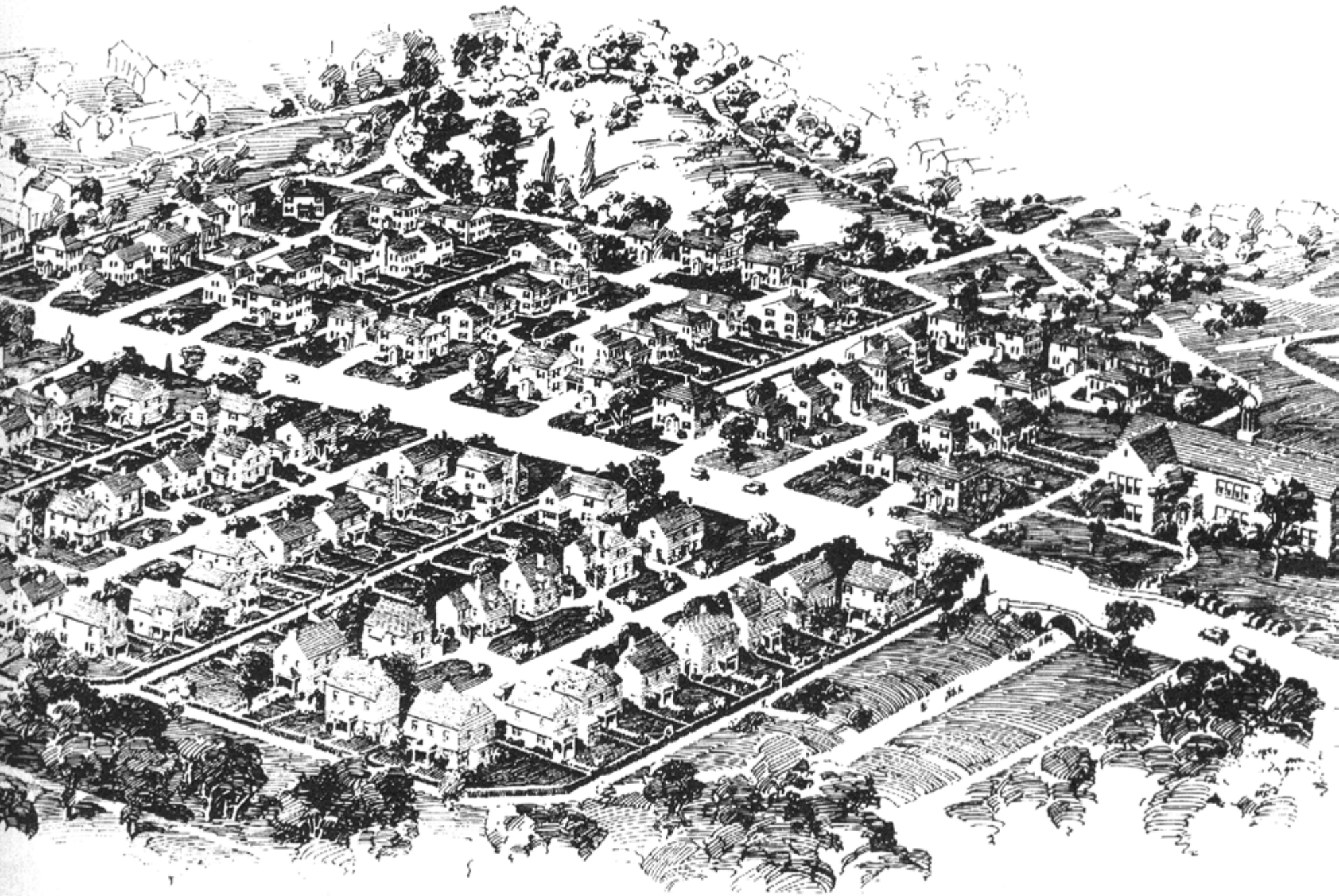




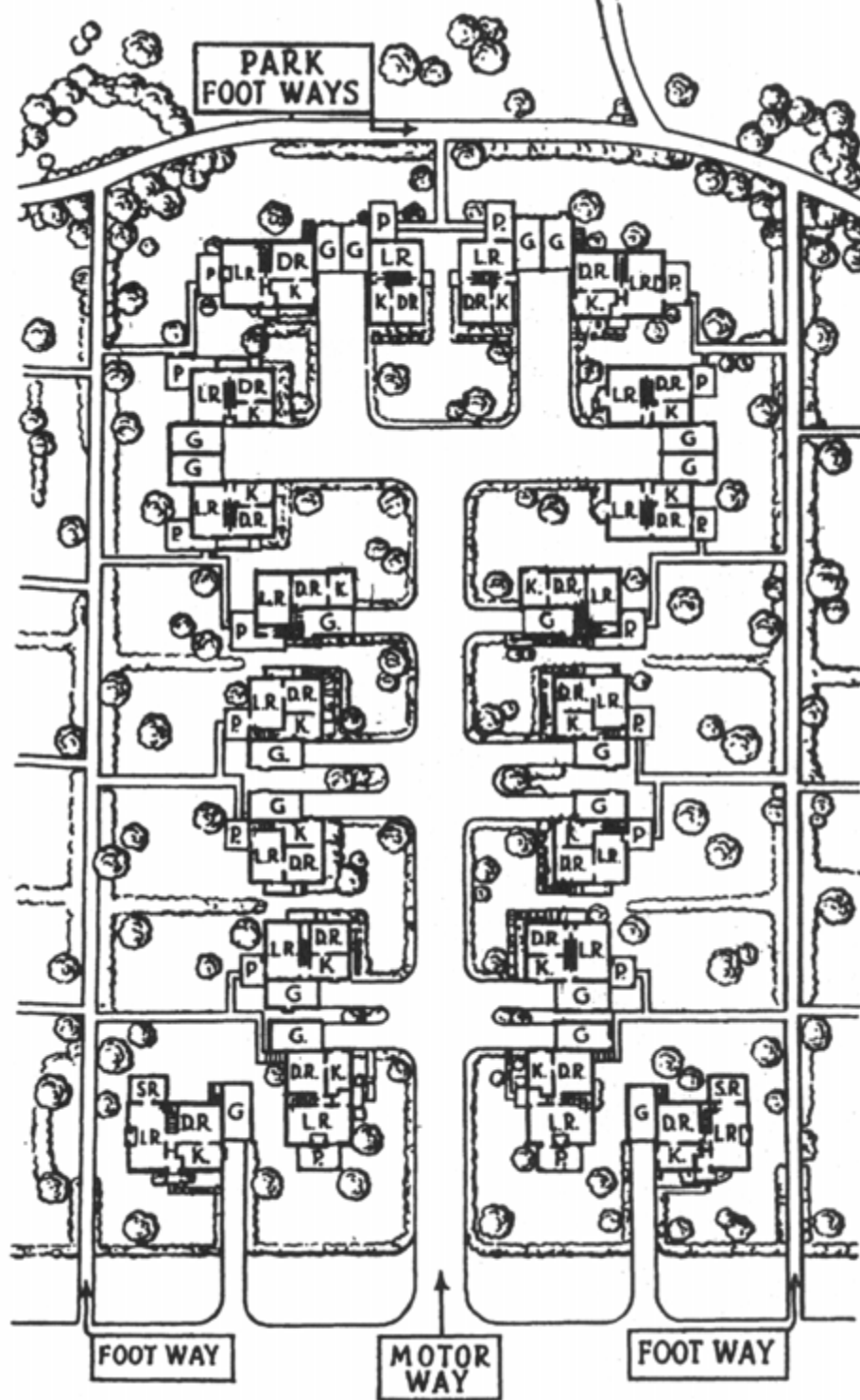
Image © 2010 DigitalGlobe

© 2009 Google

08

45°32'43.72" N 8°53'34.50" E 0 m elev

979 m Alt



VIII CIAM, Hoddesdon 1951

The Core of the City

The “Core of the City” is the main topic of the 8th CIAM Congress, held in Hoddesdon, in 1951.

The “core” is the part of the settlement where public spaces and facilities of collective interest are mainly located; here social relations unfold and find their expression in relation with different practices of public and social life.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines a “core” as “the most intimate central part, the heart of everything”.

The British group of the CIAM defined the core as “the element that makes a community a real community” and differentiates it from being a mere aggregate of individuals”.

(Rogers Sert Tyrwhitt 1954, pp.159-160)

CIAM



«If we want to give to our cities a clear shape, we must classify and divide them into sectors, defining “centers”, or “cores”, of the settlements for each sector.

These cores will act as “catalysts”, and the community life will develop around them. In these city’s new nuclei, various types of **public buildings** will be grouped, according to a precise harmony of forms and spaces.

These cores will be the **meeting places** for people, and in these new community centers **pedestrians** will be able to move freely out of traffic and business duties.

The **dimensions** will be based on the different activities that will take place in spaces. The main factors to keep in mind to determinate the final form are:

I) **distances** that could be covered by foot; II) **architectural features** pleasant to a man’s eye; III) in general, everything that contributes to improve **people’s space wellness** and sense of well being».

(Sert 1954, 6-8)

The main aspects related to the design of the core are:

- localization;
- formation process;
- time;
- relationships with the context;
- relationships between the core and the settlement and between different cores;
- principles for open space and building organization;
- function and activities.



- LAWN AND PUBLIC PARKS.
- OPEN SPACES.
- 3 STORY APARTMENT BLOCKS.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. ADMINISTRATION, POLICE, POST OFFICE. B. COMMUNITY CENTRE OF NEIGHBOURHOOD UNIT. C. COMMUNITY CENTRE OF PRIMARY HOUSING GROUP. D. SHOPS + OFFICES + LIVING QUARTERS. E. SHOPS + LIVING QUARTERS. F. CINEMA. G. CAFE + RESTAURANT + SMALL HOTEL. H. CAFE + LIVING QUARTERS. I. CHURCH. J. EXISTING CHAPEL (FOR PELGRIMS.) K. CLINIC. L. BAND STAND (OPEN AIR) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> M. NURSERY SCHOOL. N. PRIMARY SCHOOL. O. SPORT AREA (OPEN AIR) P. GYMNASIUM. Q. SWIMMING POOL. R. EXISTING SPORTING AREA (PRIVATE) S. CHILDRENS PLAY PARK. T. SMALL PLAY GROUND FOR CHILDREN. U. OPEN AIR MARKET. V. CARNIVAL AREA. Z. PLACE FOR COMMUNITY BUILDING (UNDETERMINED) |
|---|--|

ECH. SCALE

100 200 300 400 500 M

1/8 Mile

FIG. 2B, A DESTRA: Il piano ufficiale per la nuova città di Stevenage; essa è suddivisa in cinque quartieri in sé completi (stampati in giallo), ciascuno con un Cuore locale, separati l'uno dall'altro da prati verdi (in bianco) che appartengono per lo più alle scuole.

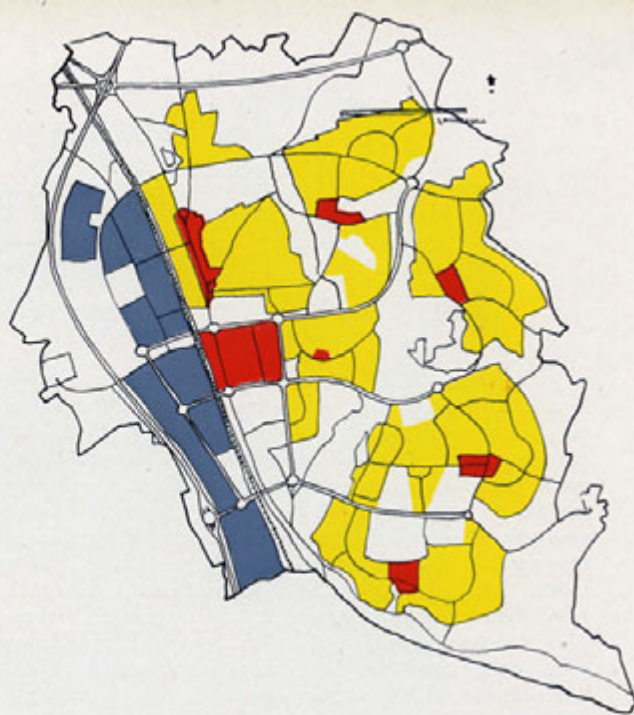
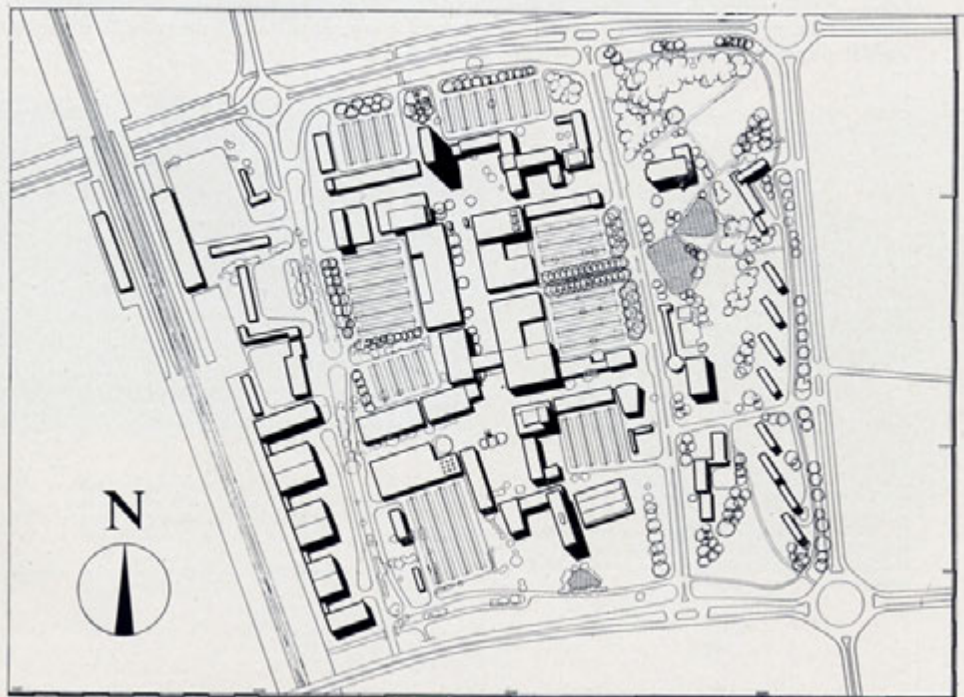


FIG. 3A, SOTTO: Il nuovo Cuore principale descritto nella pagina contro.



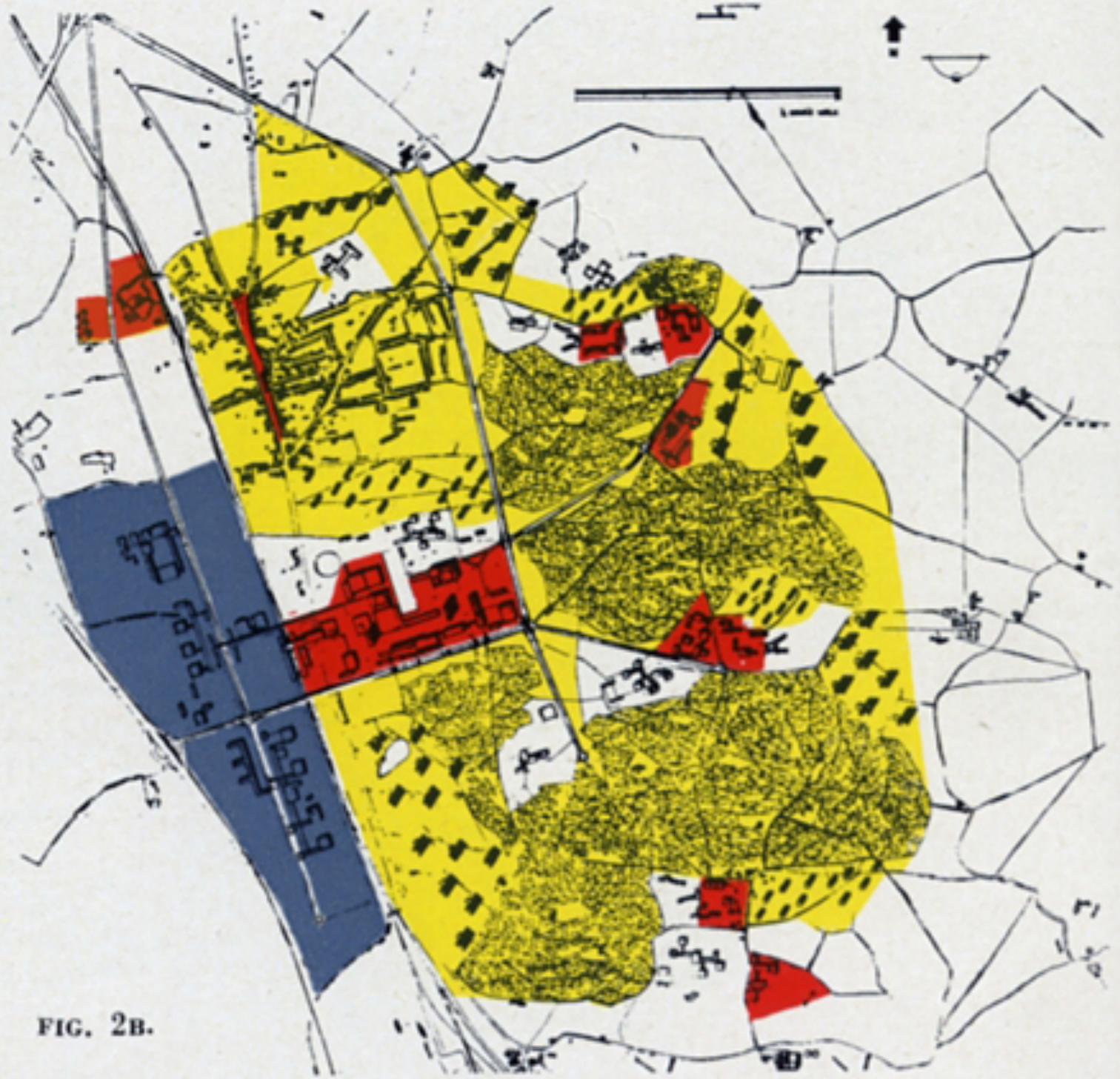


FIG. 2B.



In the contemporary city - where single family houses dominate and they are often the result of urban sprawl processes and incremental growth - it is almost always impossible to recognize kind of spaces that could have some analogies with the core's idea and its modern shape.

In these contemporary city parts, some **Superplaces of the Bigness** act as benchmarks of the territorial organization and as a reference for a growing number of social practices.

These spaces consist of big box commercial places and shopping malls, "citadels" of commerce and leisure, stations, terminals and spaces of mobility ...

These places seem to be related with various new meanings: they assume the role of new cores for the contemporary city.

In a perspective of retrofitting and refurbishment, it is necessary to recognize and to accept the **potentiality and the role of these important presences** (also at a regional scale), being references of a new territorial organization and **emerging centralities**.

The gradual formation of new cores and centralities should consider:

-the reorganization of existing facilities, redesigning the relationships between built space and open space;

-the expansion of possible functions and activities inside and close to existing facilities;

-the formation of interface elements between the centralities and the surrounding patterns;

- the articulation (multiplication and differentiation) of relationships with surrounding settlements: planning different types of accessibility in relation to different potential users and considering the users' needs for which the core will be equipped and attractive.

Aldo van Eyck, Amsterdam 1947-1978

Inbetween

Between 1947 and 1978, Aldo van Eyck realized in Amsterdam 735 playgrounds.

(Ligtelijn 1999, 35)

Playground are **small surfaces**, within city's fabric, arranged and equipped in an elementary way so that it allows children to play. They were **distributed** throughout the city and placed in **vacant open spaces between** different buildings or between buildings and roads.

(Ginex 2002, 11)

anderen Zwecken dienen, nicht zu sehr unterscheidet. Etwas Elementares, sinnvoll dorthin gestellt, wo es noch Raum gibt, und fähig, das Kind aus Dunkelheit und Gefahr in Licht und größere Sicherheit zu ziehen.

So entdeckt das Kind die Stadt wieder und die Stadt ihre Kinder. Dies ist eine wechselseitige Entdeckung oder überhaupt keine.

Seit dem Ende des Krieges hatte ich Gelegenheit, eine große Anzahl von Plätzen den Bedürfnissen des Kindes anzupassen. Etwa siebzig davon sind in den eng bebauten alten Vierteln von Amsterdam ausgeführt worden und etwa die gleiche Anzahl in den neuen Außenbezirken, wo das Problem weniger akut ist. Die Grundstücke, die dafür verwendet wurden, waren größtenteils schon vorhanden, nutzlos, leer und tot. (Ebensoviele gleichartige Grundstücke warten in jeder Stadt der Welt.) Unzählige formlose Inseln und Parzellen, vom Straßenbauingenieur und Abrißarbeiter übriggelassen, kleine staubige und spießige, von Papier übersäte Grünflächen. Orte, für das Kind immerhin besser geeignet als für eine öffentliche Bedürfnisanstalt.

Die Auswirkungen dessen, was bisher getan wurde, auf die Stadt im ganzen reichen über die Kinder hinaus, die dort spielen. Sie zeigen die latenten Möglichkeiten, die in dem Prinzip der Neubelebung eines Stadtteils durch »Injektion« stecken. Mit einem bißchen Beton, Holz und ein paar Aluminiumrohren sind Konzentrationspunkte entstanden, wo Energie sich zusammenballt und ausdehnt. Wo Kinder und Eltern sich treffen. Anweisungen also zur größeren Gemeinschaftlichkeit. Es sind Fortsetzungen der Türschwelle. Denn gerade dort durchdringen sich Innen- und Außenwelt, kollektive und individuelle Sphäre. Hier gelangt das Kind wieder in den Mittelpunkt.

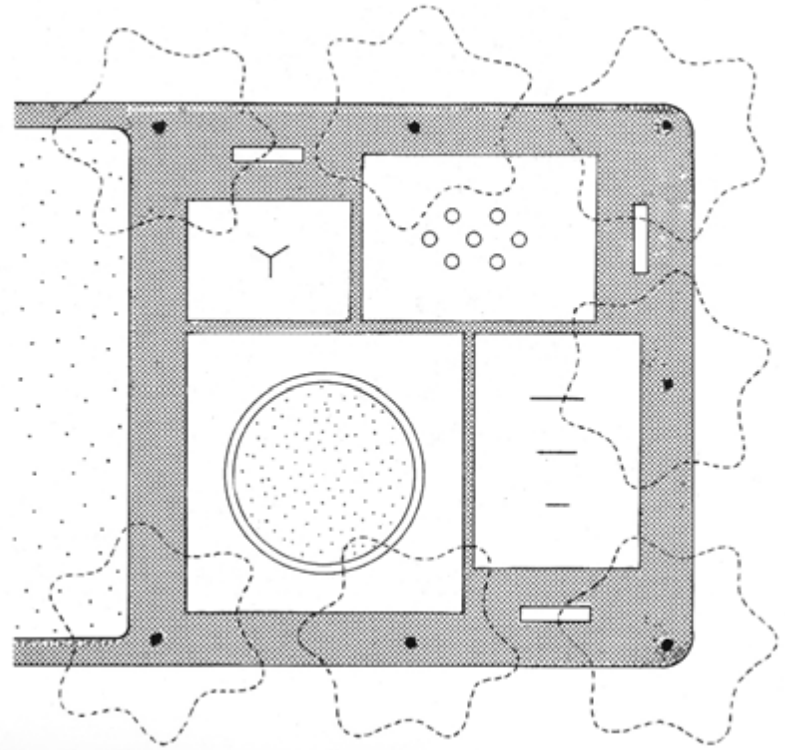
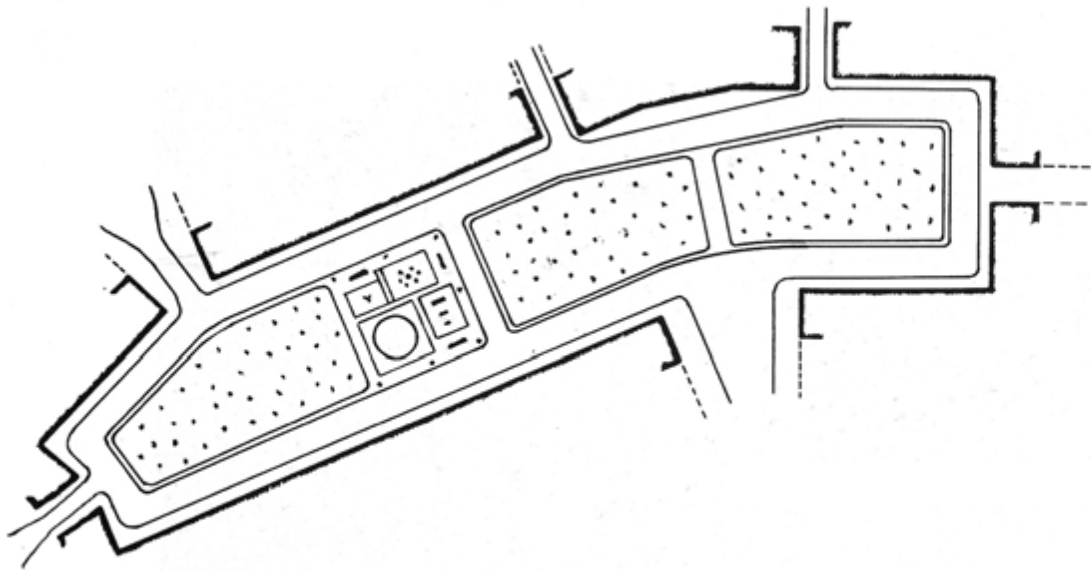
Da der Künstler seinem Wesen nach ein Verbündeter des Kindes ist, war es eine besonders stimulierende Tätigkeit. Doch es bleibt noch so viel zu tun. Unordnung und Leid brauchen keine Hauptbestandteile im städtischen Leben zu sein. Es ist Sache des Künstlers, was immer auch seine Mittel sind, Anmut zu erregen, wo Anmut verschwunden ist oder sich verborgen hält.

Behörden, lockt ihn aus seiner Abseitigkeit!

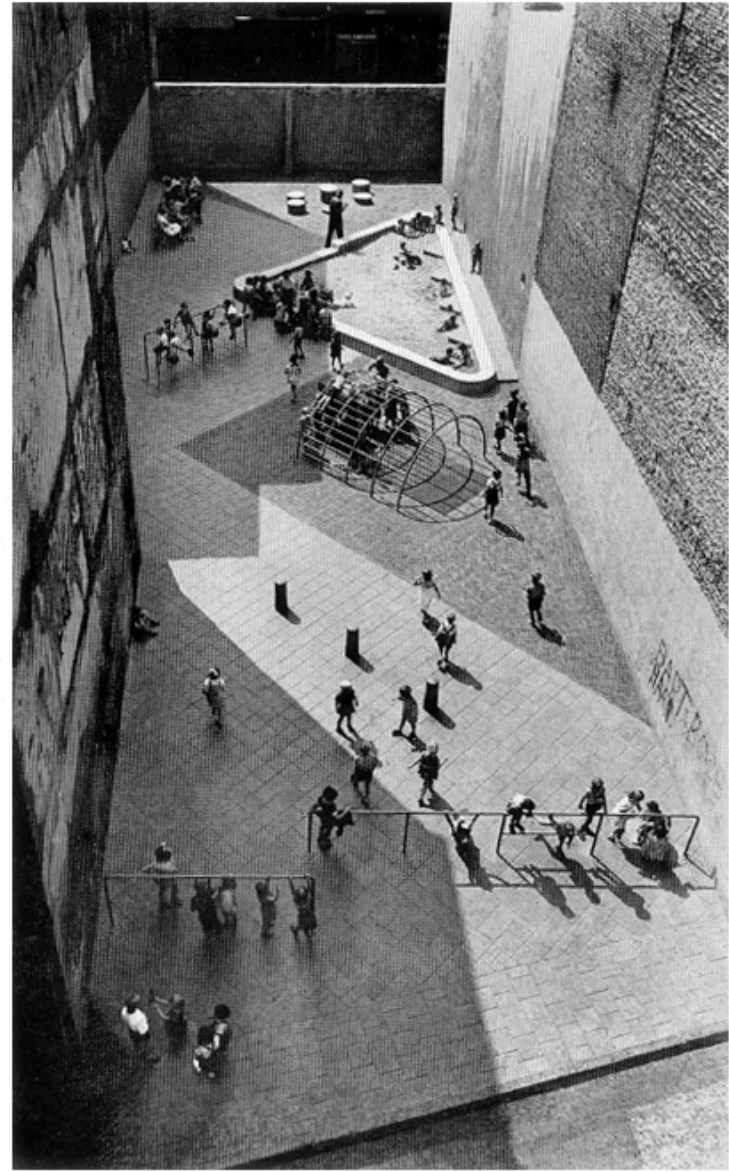
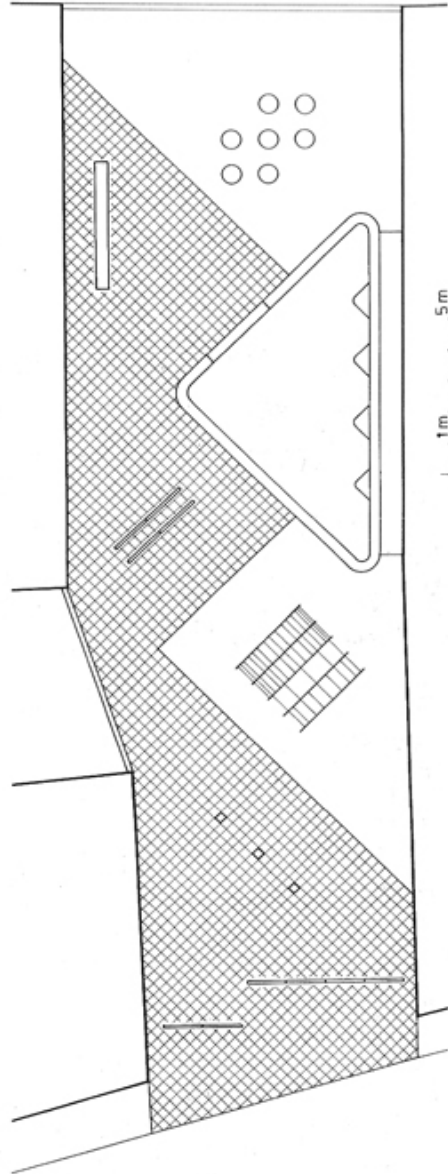
Wenn Kindsein eine Reise ist, laßt uns dafür sorgen, daß das Kind nicht bei Nacht fährt.

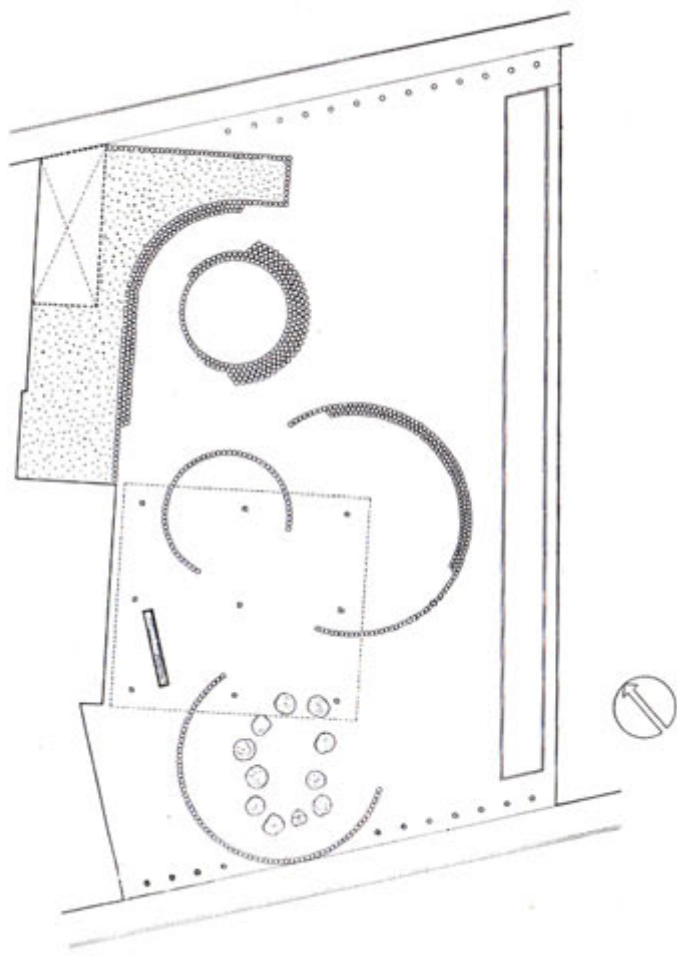


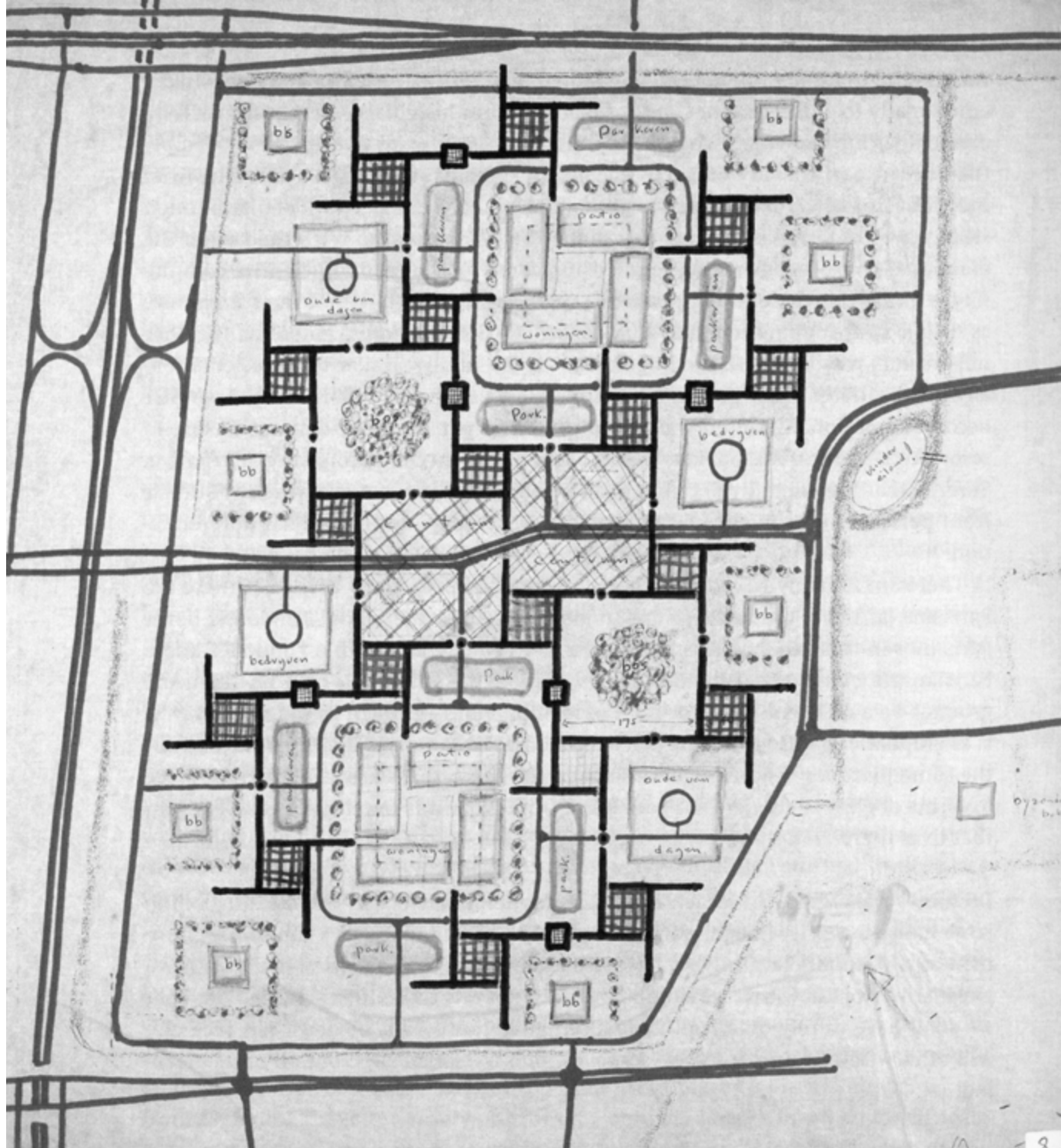


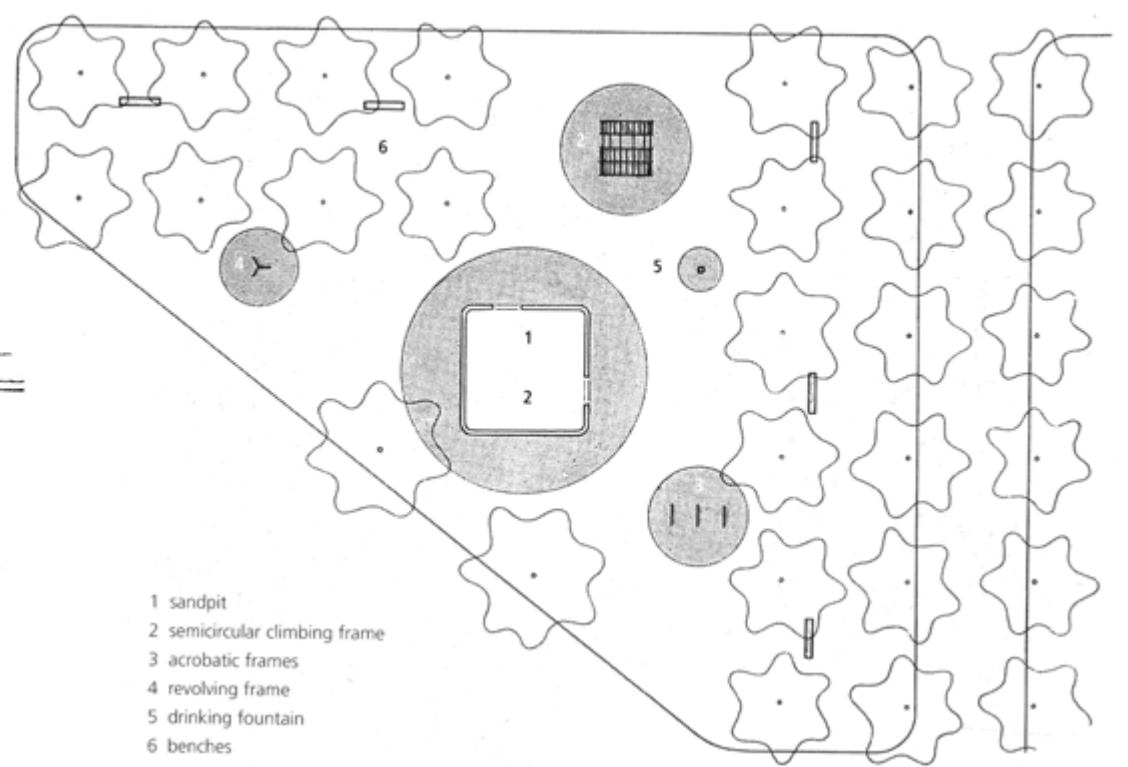
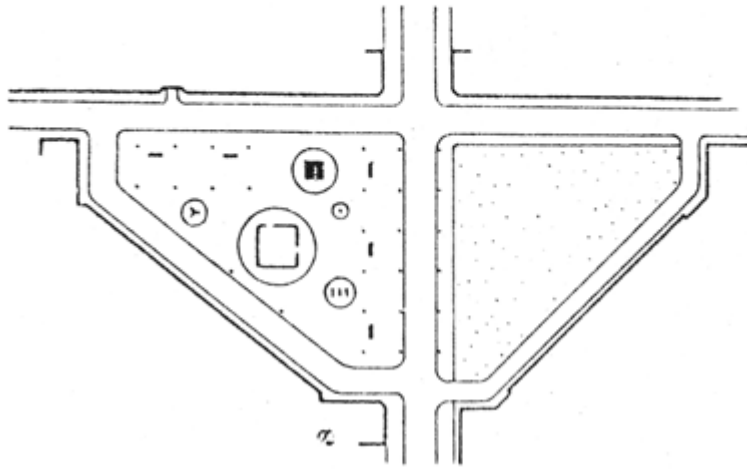












- 1 sandpit
- 2 semicircular climbing frame
- 3 acrobatic frames
- 4 revolving frame
- 5 drinking fountain
- 6 benches





Buskenblaserstraat, Bos en Lommer, Amsterdam-Nieuwwest, 1955, 1956



The main interest in van Eyck's experience realized in Amsterdam lies probably in two main aspects:

- from one side, a sophisticated logic of composition (the "in-between process),
- to the other side a practical and intelligent approach in providing technical solutions (playgrounds) conceived to meet populations contingent needs.

(Lefaivre Tzonis 1999, 17)

The overall strategy of "in-betweening" is considerable: a pervasive reorganization of urban open spaces was conceived and carried out, reorganizing and recovering innumerable residual and neglected spaces.

The “in-between” represents a **“diffusive” composition strategy** for common spaces; it is substantially **different from the concentration approach that characterizes the “core” theory** provided by the CIAM.

(Lefaiivre Tzonis 1999, 70)

This experience can be relevant because the contemporary city - with its many forms and diversified settlement - is characterized by the pervasive presence of the void.