



Post Carbon Cities **La Ville post carbone**

David Rudlin URBED



This is a presentation that has been developing for a number of years. This particular version was given at the Love Your City Conference at Sheffield School of Architecture on Valentines Day in 2012, then as a keynote at an academic conference in Paris entitled ‘Recherches pour une architecture de la ville durable’ organised by CNRS and then again at the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales in April.

At URBED we have been focussing since the mid 90s on the point at which sustainability and urbanism meet. However inevitably, as we have delved deeper into these issues I have focussed on my particular interest – urbanism, leaving sustainability to colleagues (falling into the very trap that we have warned against for years – one might argue). Then a number of years ago I was part of a panel discussion at the launch of a book by Jon Rowland to which I had contributed a chapter. I ended up having a disagreement, (argument might be a better word) with one of the other authors who has contributed a chapter on sustainability. He essentially accused me of being willing to sacrifice the future of the planet for the sake of my own prejudices about cities. As often happens in these cases you don’t fully manage to marshall your counter arguments until some hours after the end of the event. Well Bill – here is my response!



Part 1

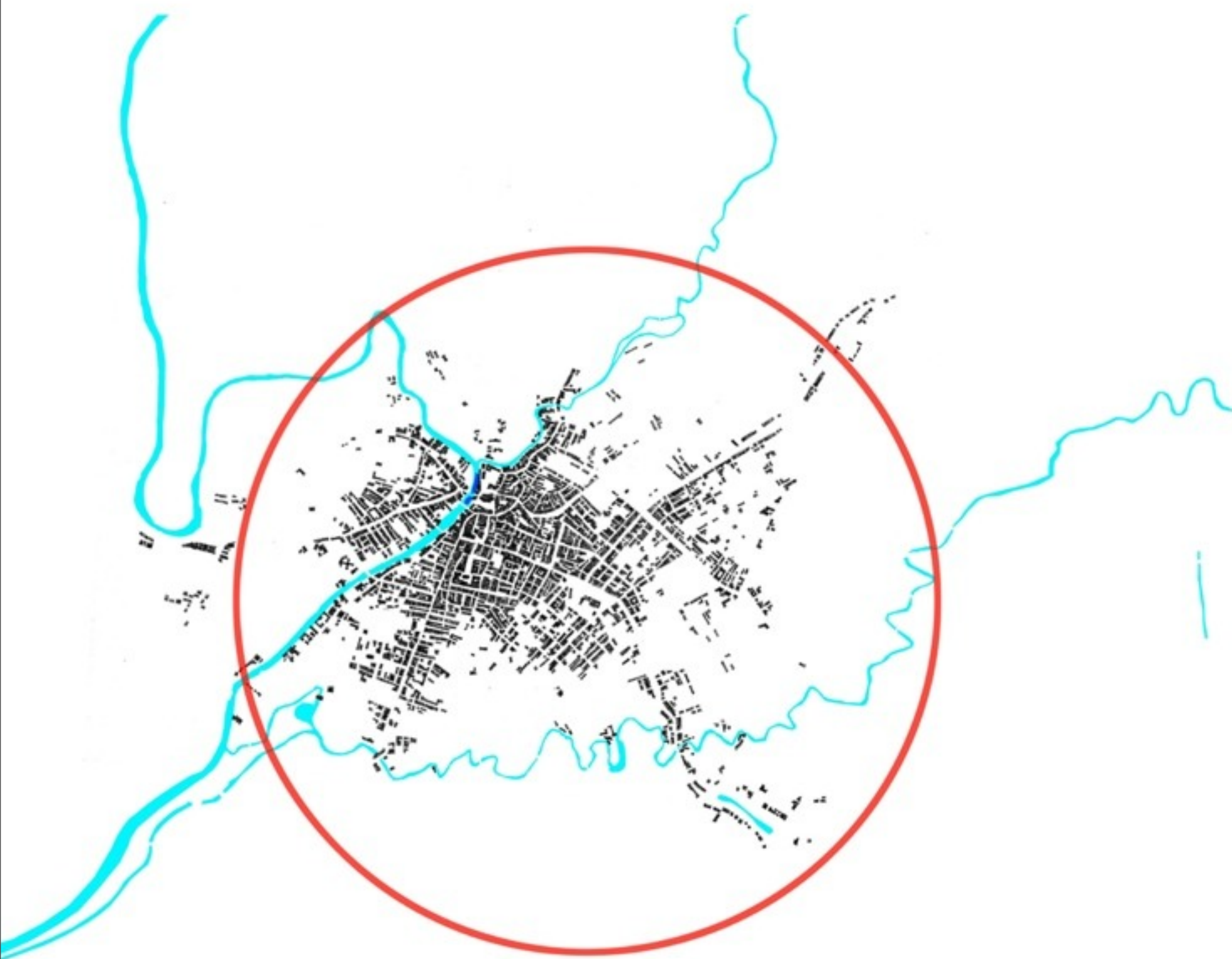
The 21st Century Home

Part 1 concerns the presentation concerns the 21st Century Home, which we have written about at length elsewhere and so will not repeat here. The following slides were put together and honed over many years to describe the core argument in our book, namely....

Throughout most of human history cities have been the centres of civilisation. However during the nineteenth century a change happened, starting in cities like Manchester. The shock of the industrial revolution and the appalling conditions that it created turned the English against cities and we in turn exported those attitudes to the Anglo-American world. The early suburbs were built by the wealthy middle classes to escape the horrors of the city. However by the end of the century a wider movement was growing, captured in the concept of the Garden City.

As a result of Ebenezer Howard's book, a government report (Tudor Walters) and the social and demographic changes that resulted from the first world war (the emergence of the nuclear family), much of the housing built from the 1920s onwards was suburban. The distaste for cities was exacerbated after the second world war when the modernist council estates of the inner cities were built so that by the 1980s and Thatcherism suburban sprawl was the predominant trend and cities were in steep decline.

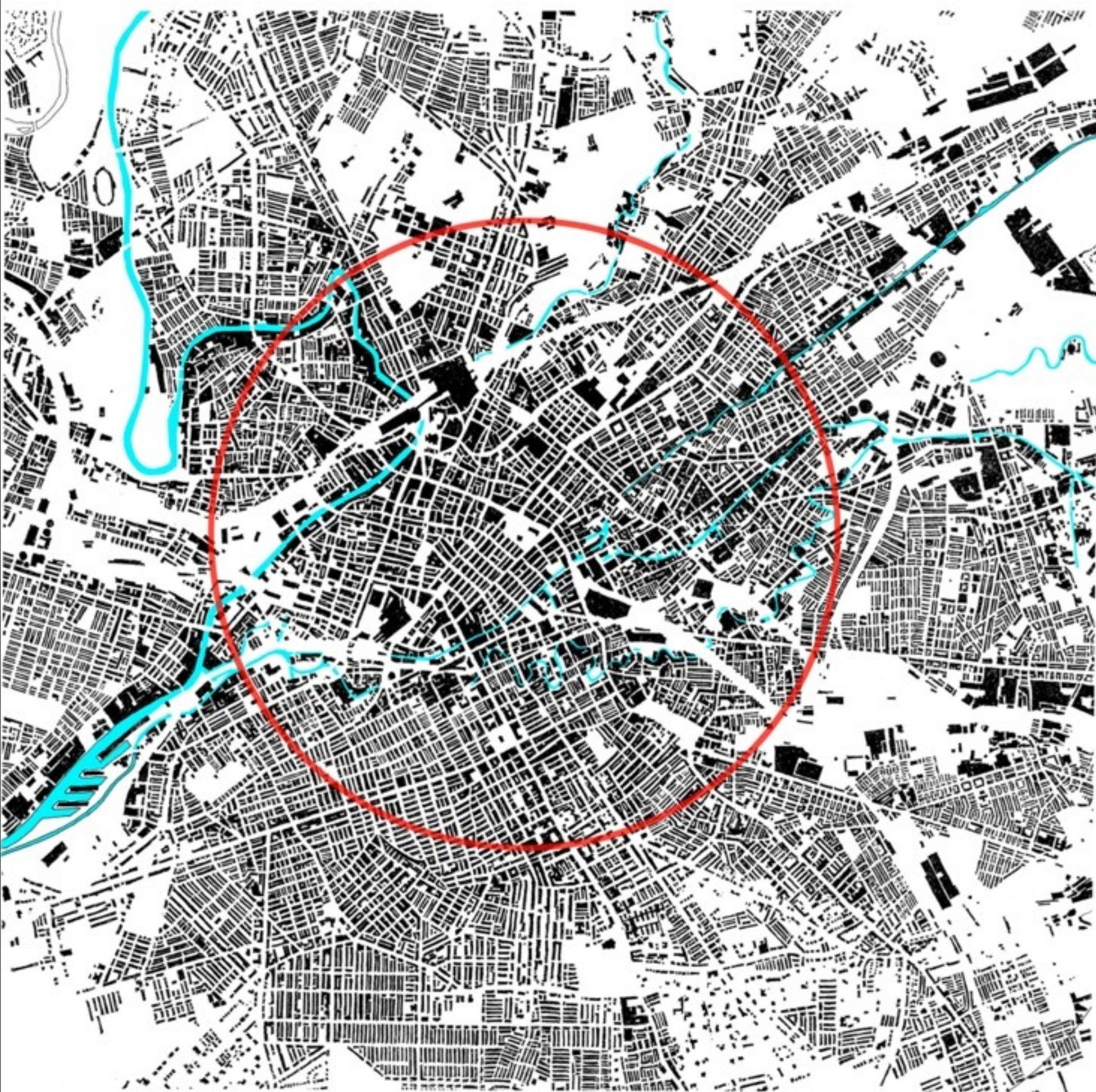
Our book argues that this has started turn around at the turn of the Millennium. Our Book – Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood, Building the 21st Century Home, argues that just as a confluence of circumstances created the suburb at the start of the 20th century so a equally powerful set of trends was heralding an urban renaissance at its close. This is part prediction and part description of the urban renaissance that did take place in the 2000s. The question at present is will it last?



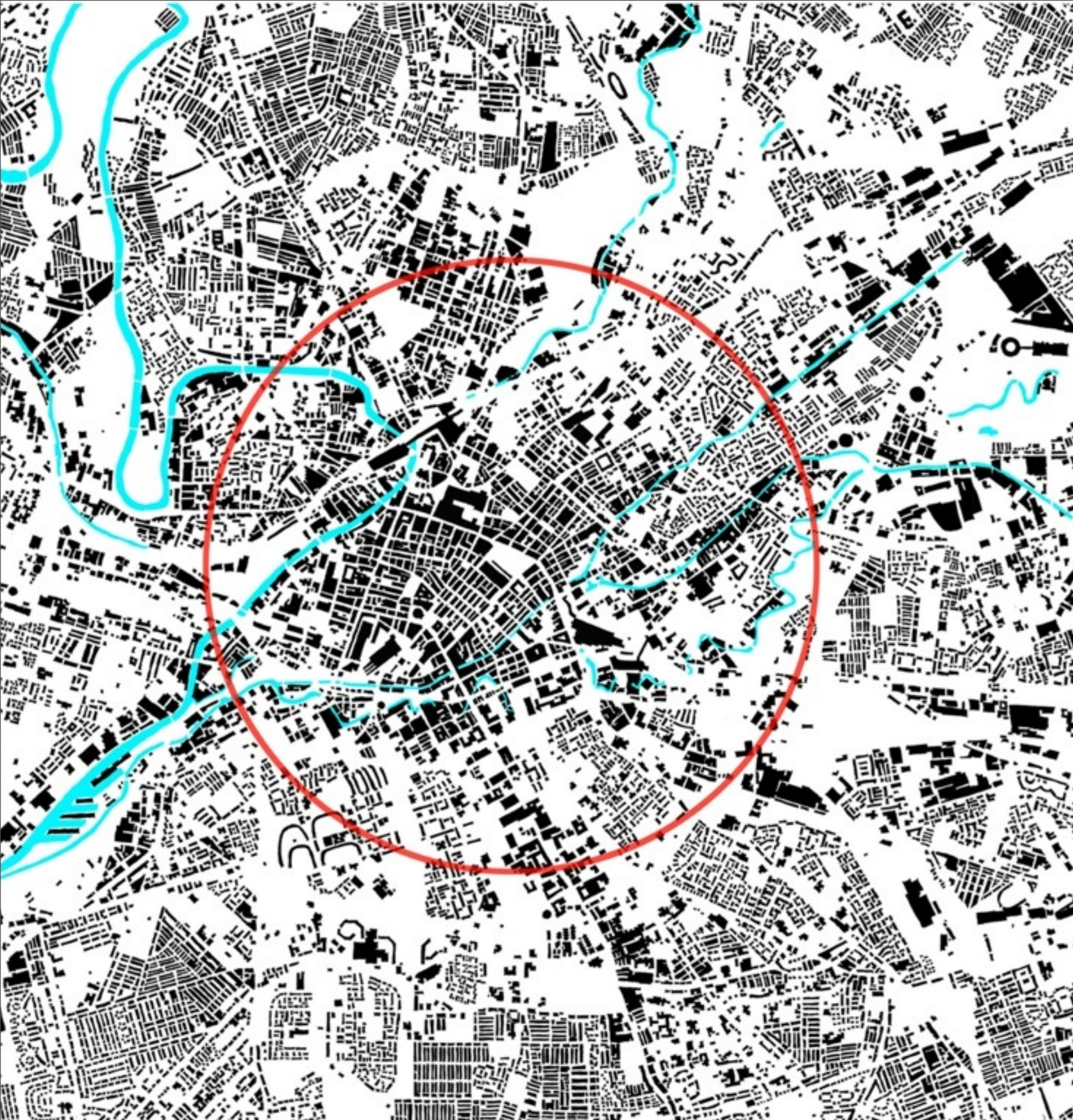
1774



1824



1924



1981



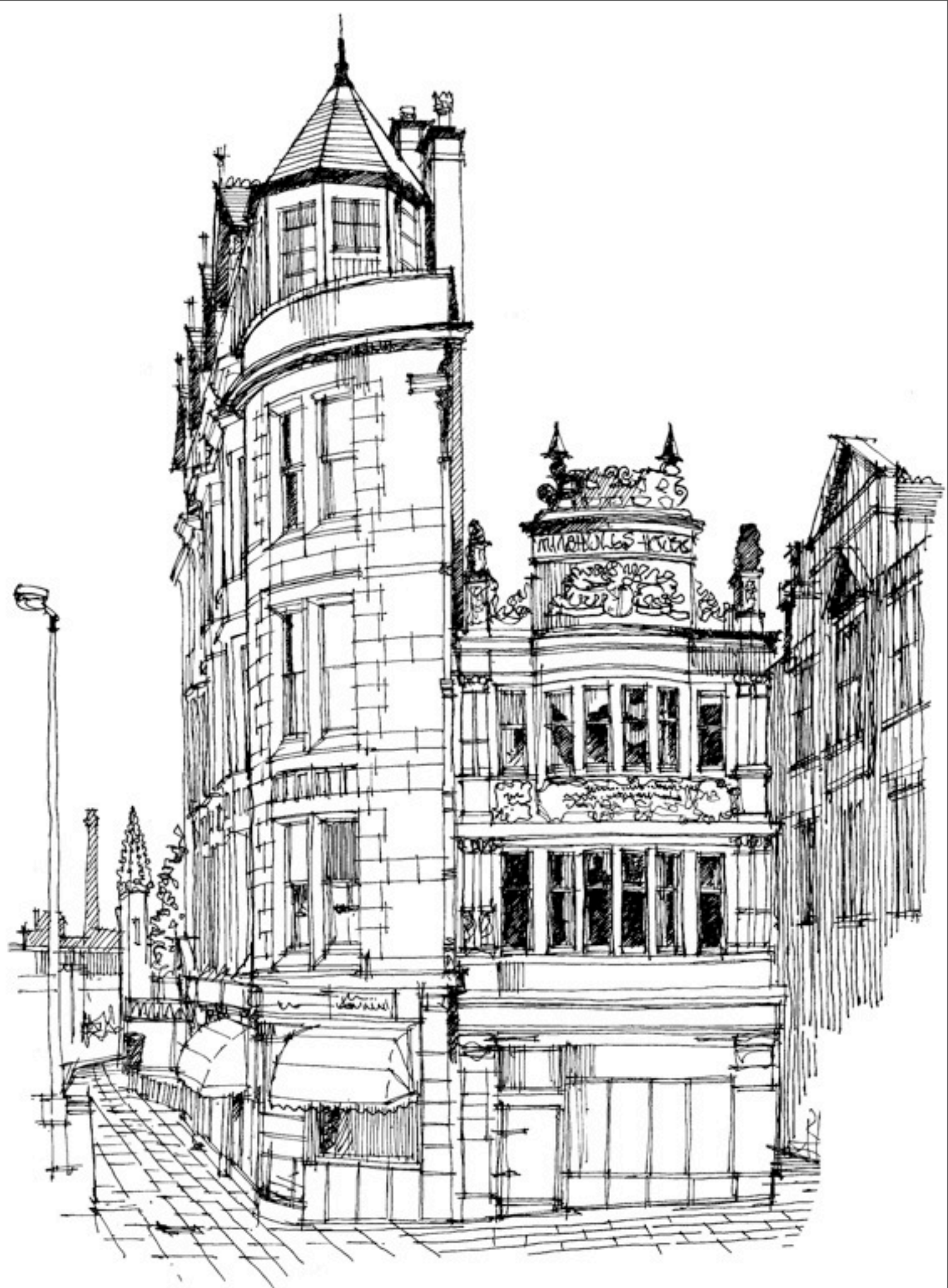
2006



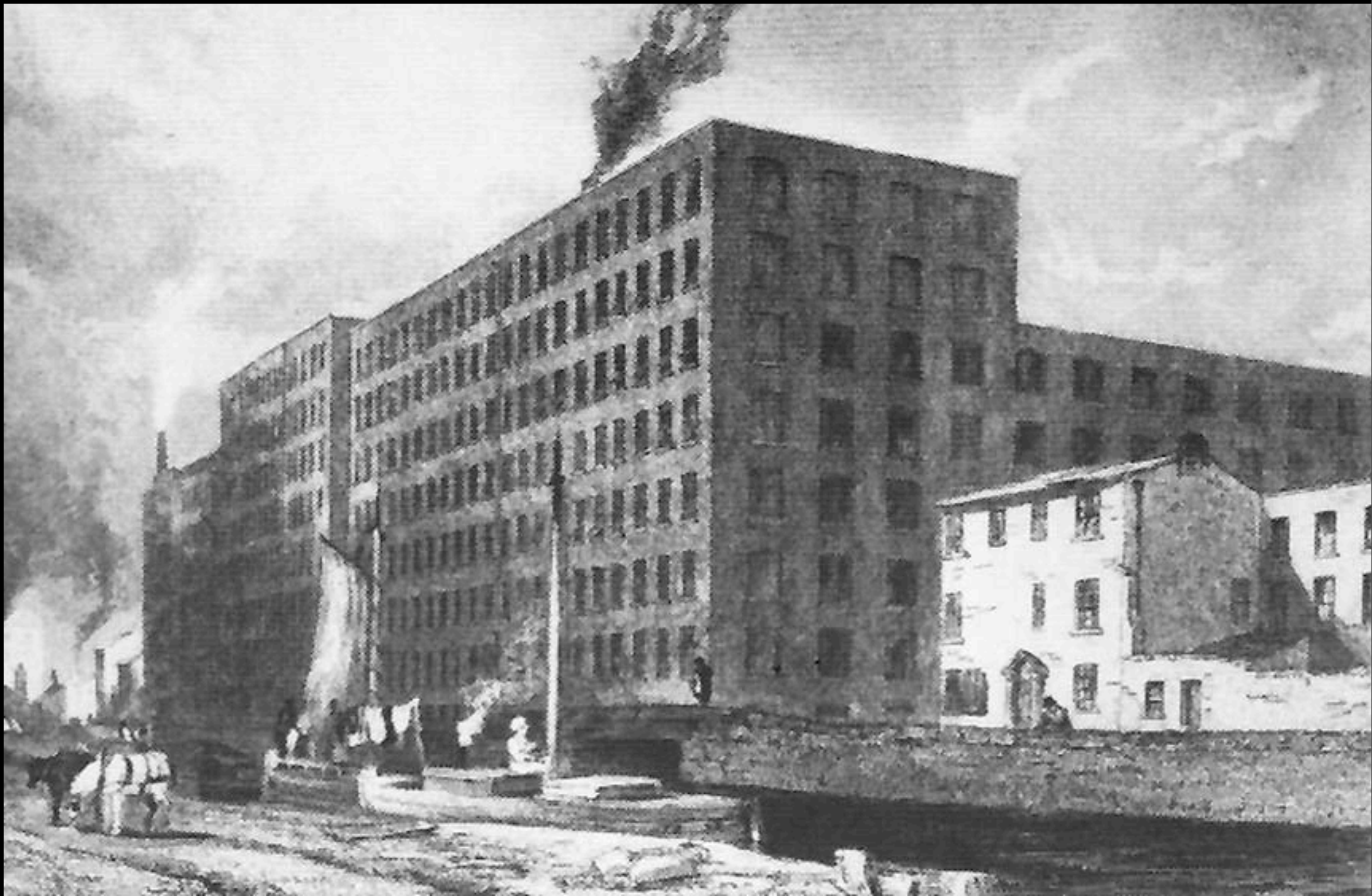


















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UNDERGROUND



The **A.I.** HOME I WANT

"You cannot expect to get an A.I. population out of C.3.homes"

C.3. Richard Reiss





THE THREE MAGNETS.

No. 1.

TOWN.
CLOSING OUT OF NATURE. SOCIAL OPPORTUNITY.
ISOLATION OF CROWDS. PLACES OF AMUSEMENT.
DISTANCE FROM WORK. HIGH MONEY WAGES.
HIGH RENTS & PRICES. CHANCES OF EMPLOYMENT.
EXCESSIVE HOURS. ARMY OF UNEMPLOYED.
FOGS & DROUGHTS. COSTLY DRAINAGE. LACK OF AMUSEMENT. BRICK SUNSHINE.
FOUL AIR. MURKY SKY. WELL-LIT STREETS. NO PUBLIC SPIRIT. NEED FOR REFORM.
SLUMS & PALACES. CROWDED OFFICES. CROWDED & DIRTY VILLAGES.

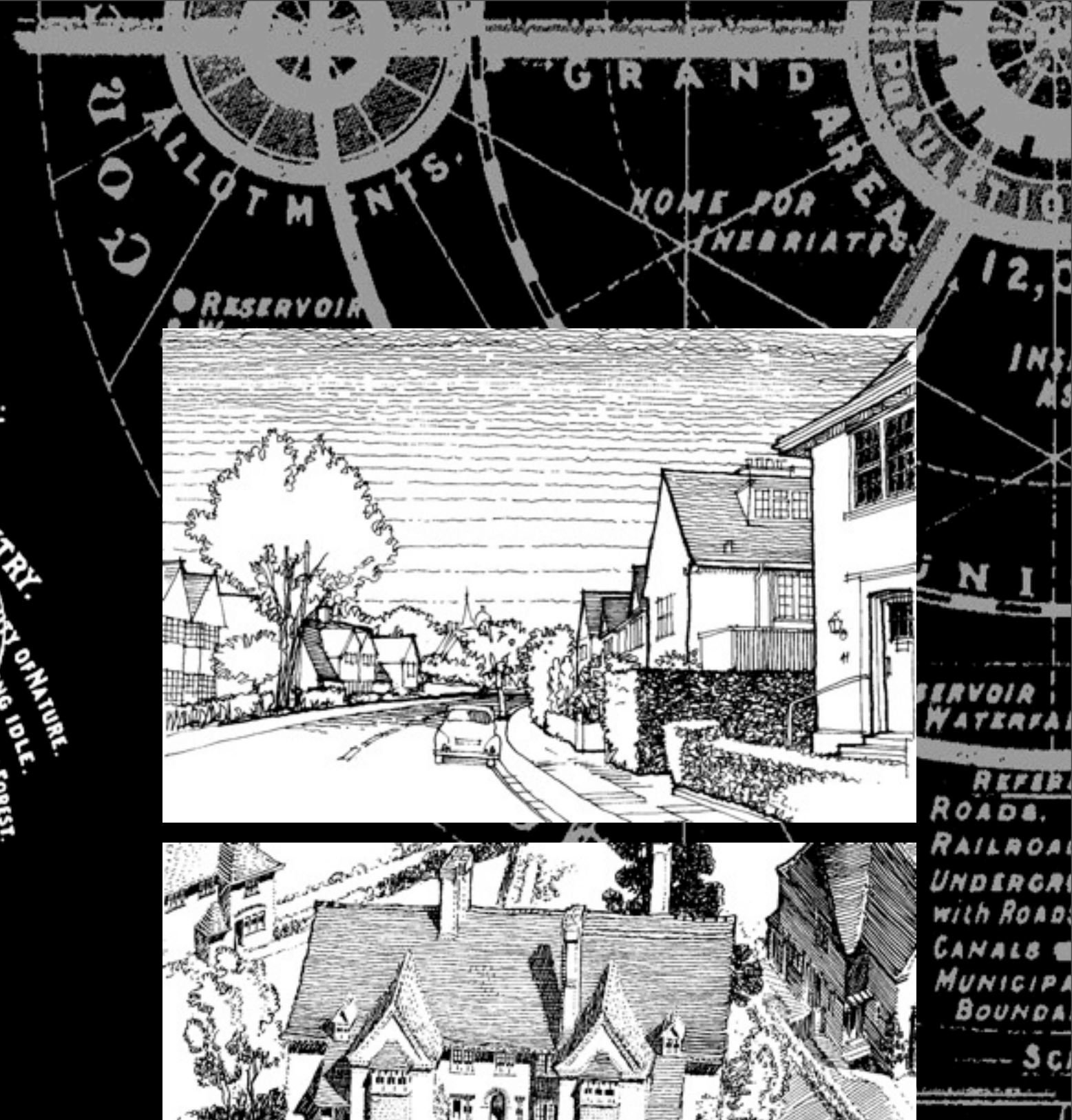
COUNTRY.
LACK OF SOCIETY. BEADY OF NATURE.
HANDS OUT OF WORK. LAND LYING IDLE.
TRESPASSERS. FRESH AIR. MADON FOREST.
LONG HOURS. LOW WAGES. ABUNDANCE OF WATER.
LACK OF DRAINAGE. BRICK SUNSHINE.

THE PEOPLE

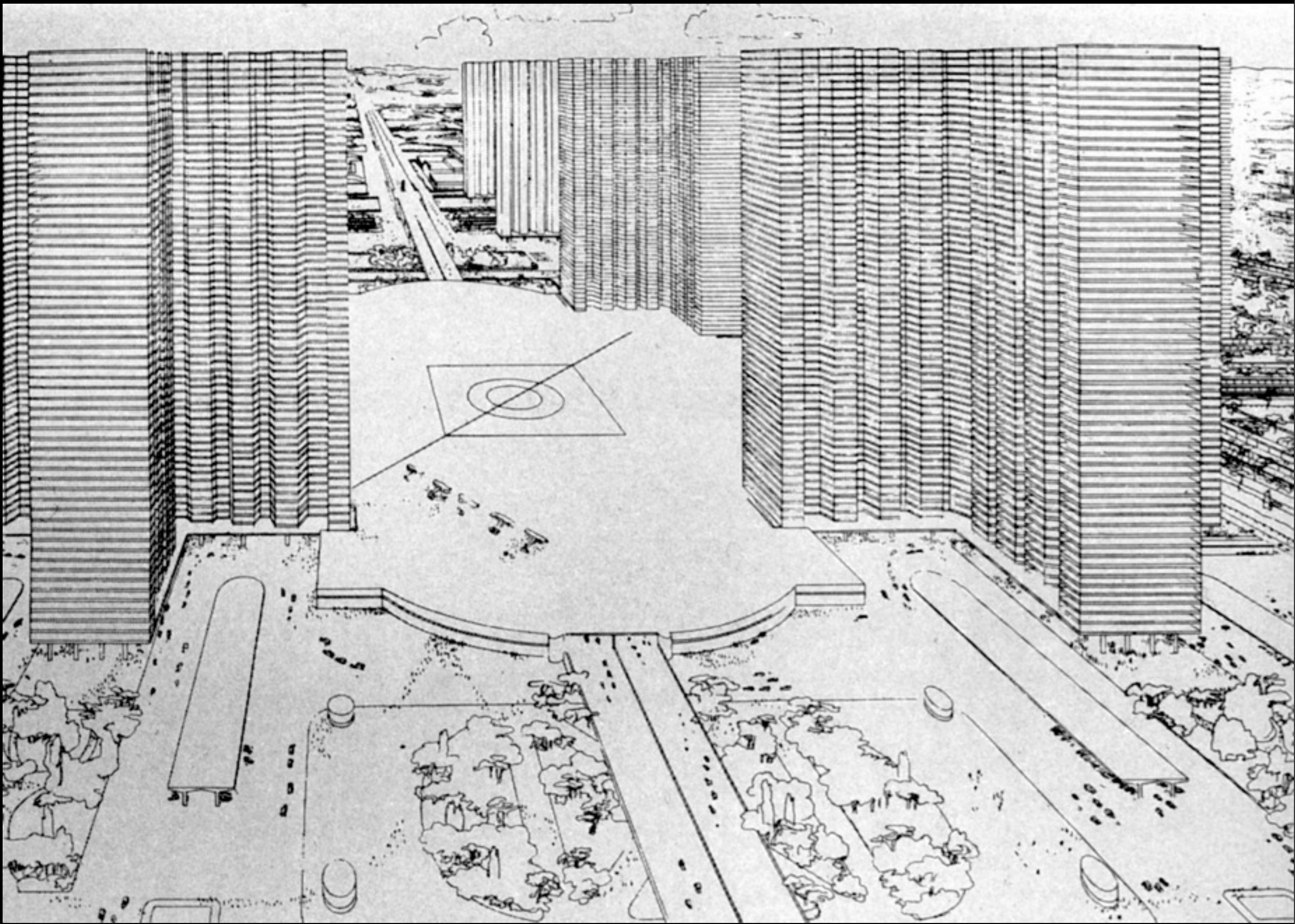
WHERE WILL THEY GO?

TOWN-COUNTRY.

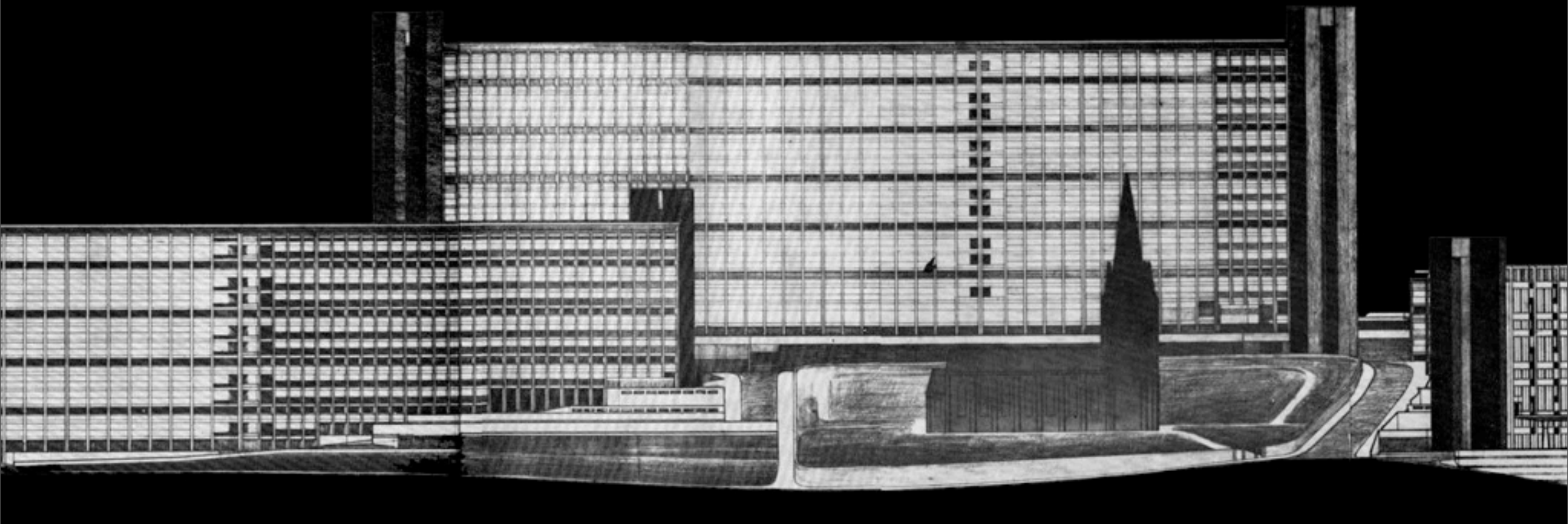
BEAUTY OF NATURE. SOCIAL OPPORTUNITY.
FIELDS AND PARKS OF EASY ACCESS.
LOW RENTS. HIGH WAGES.
LOW RATES. PLENTY TO DO.
LOW PRICES. NO SWEATING.
FIELD FOR ENTERPRISE. FLOW OF CAPITAL.
PURE AIR AND WATER. GOOD DRAINAGE.
BRIGHT HOMES & GARDENS. NO SMOKE. NO SLUMS.
FREEDOM. CO-OPERATION.

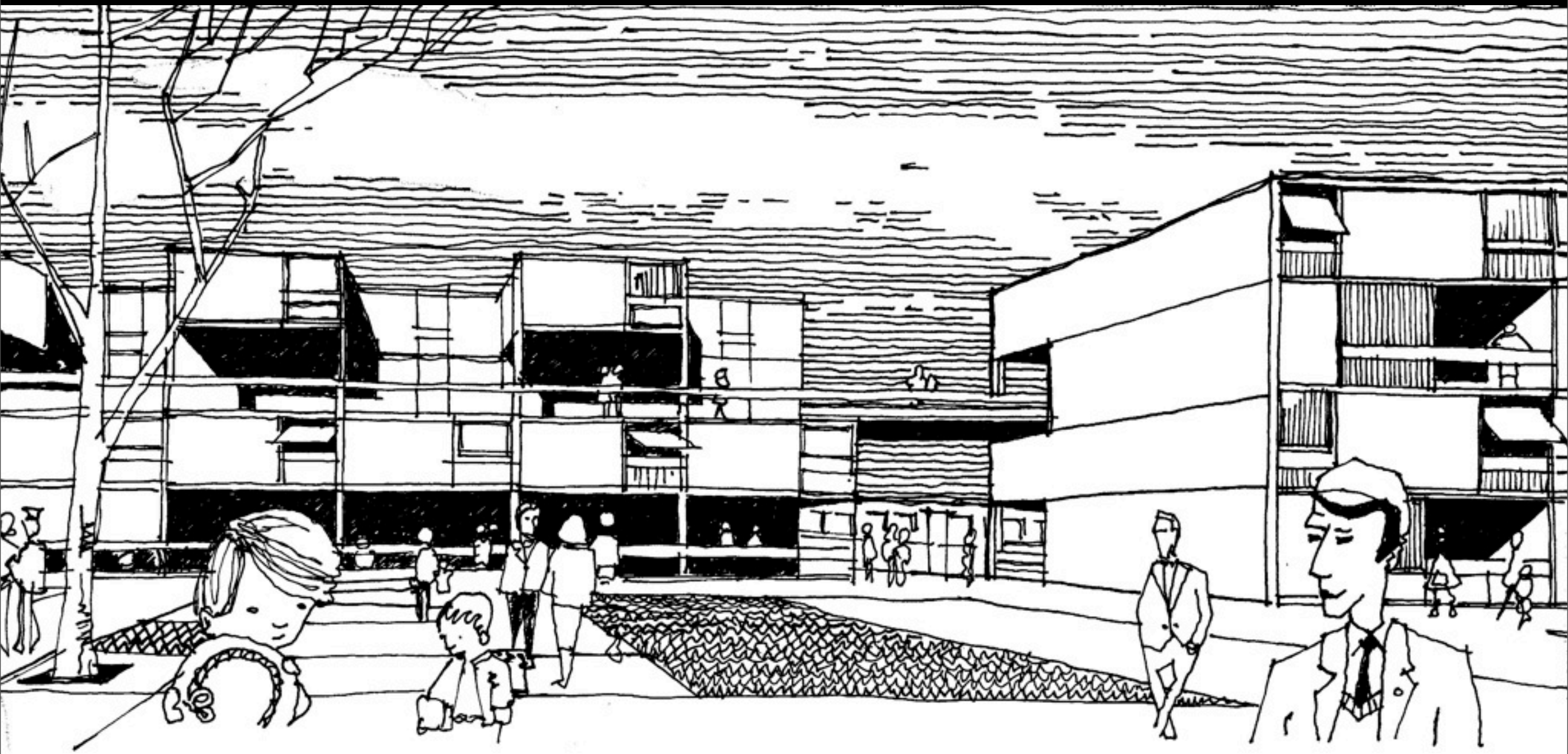















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Screenplay by VAL GUEST Produced by MICHAEL CARRERAS Directed by VAL GUEST

