

A Landscape Approach to Environmental Design

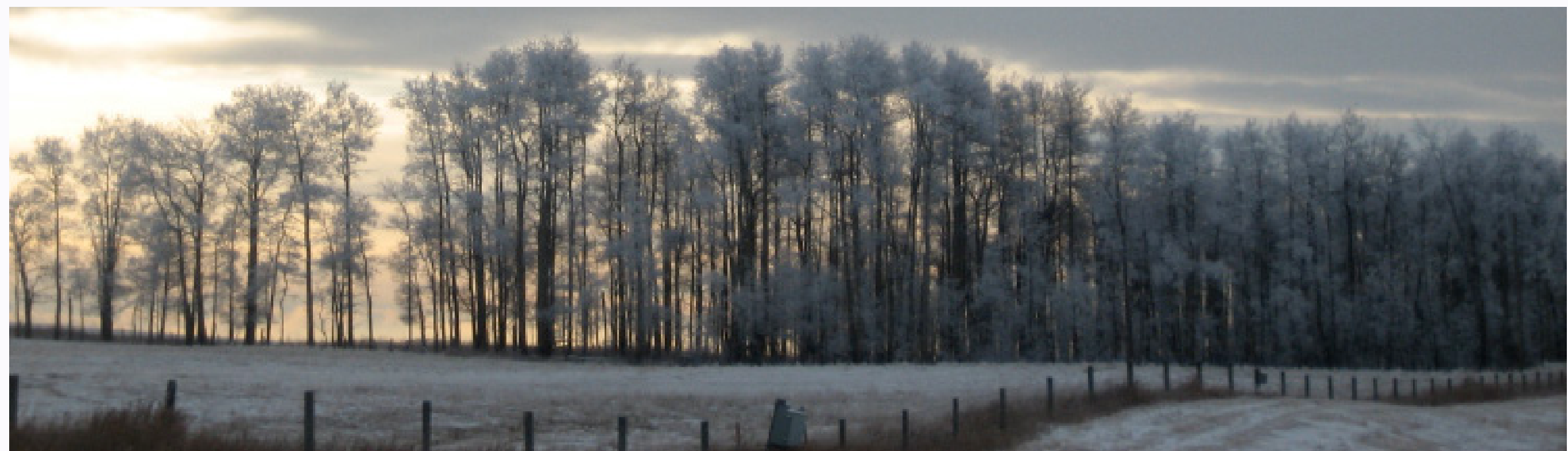
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CSLA ~ Making Waves ~ Halifax
September 2012



Change and form

- > over time, loss of connection to landscape and sense of place
- > sustainability issues (social, environmental, economic)
- > decline in the ability of the built environment to support physical activity or social connections

Change and discipline

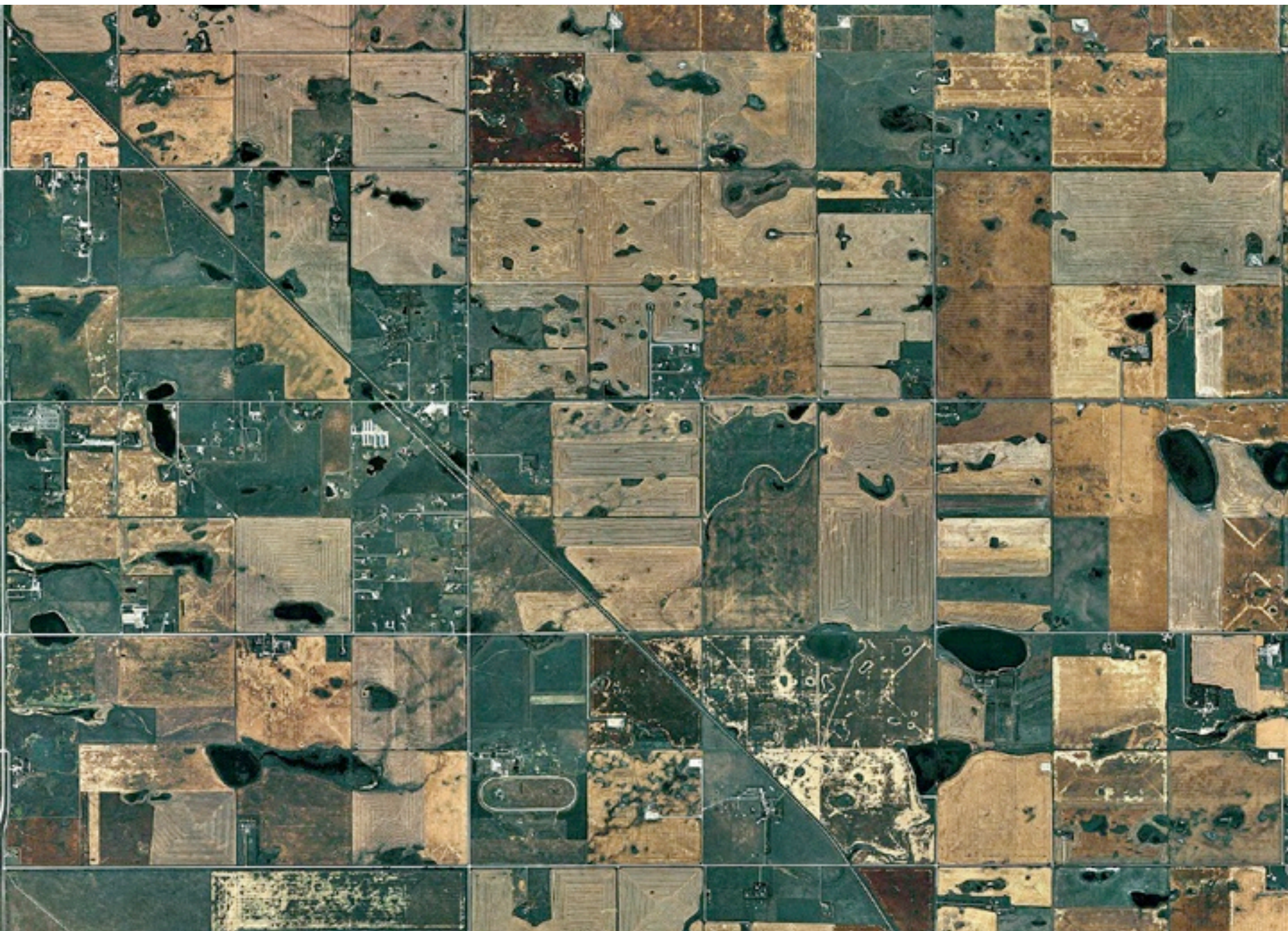
- > environmental design was once a more comprehensive endeavour
- > specializations and silos
- > public realm now often designed by default
- > CSLA perennially concerned with numbers / profile
- > emergent approaches (e.g. landscape urbanism) suggest that others think they can do a better job of landscape than landscape architects



> have we lived up to our landscape context?









➤ the worst aspects of the so-called 'American dream'





> what is happening?

> what should we do?

> illustrative case: Calgary

> Calgary est. 1883



Calgary 1884

rivers



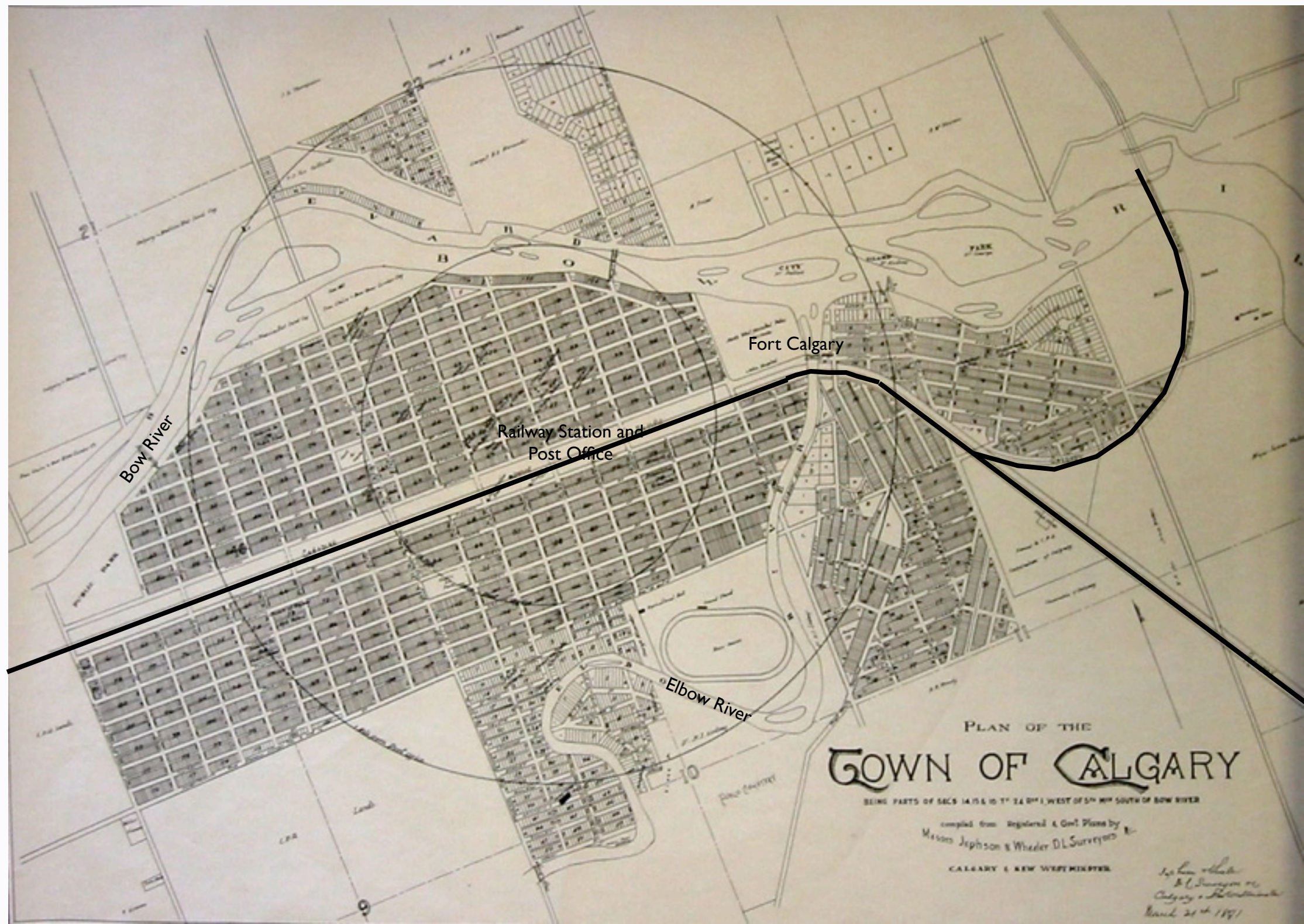
ranching

photos Glenbow Archives



> first phase of urban development - paradigm of tradition/historical precedent, response to local conditions

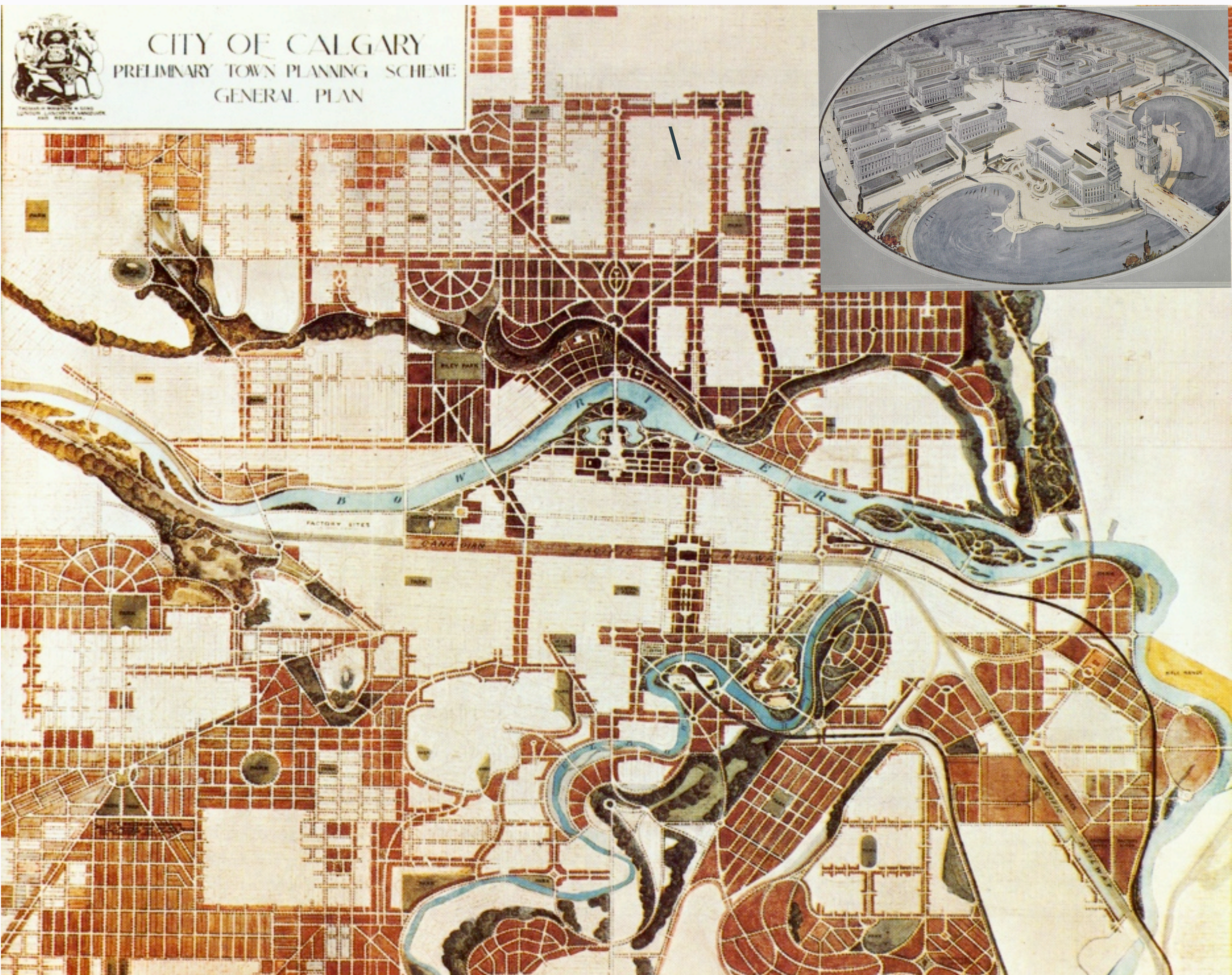
- the CPR was effectively Calgary's first planner
- grid pattern extending from railway/post office/downtown
- experience: inside - out



- 1911 - impressions of a new resident

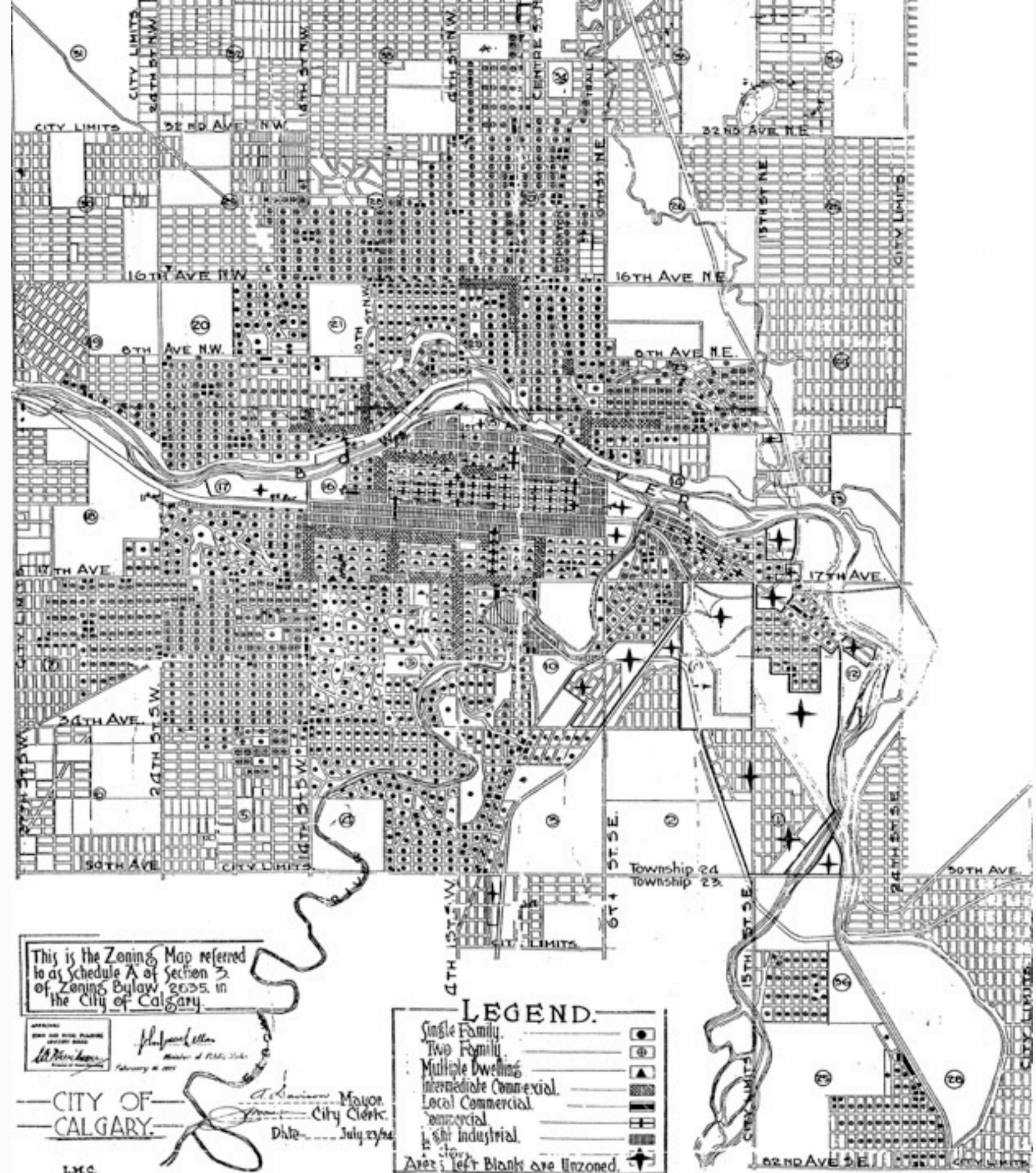


- The Mawson Plan 1914



- Zoning Map - 1934

up until then, and for its first 75 years, Calgary spread block by block in a grid pattern



- Central Memorial Park
ca. 1900-1915
Glenbow Archives



- 6th Avenue SW
treed boulevards and sidewalks
Glenbow Archives



- Glenmore water treatment plant
Glenbow Archives

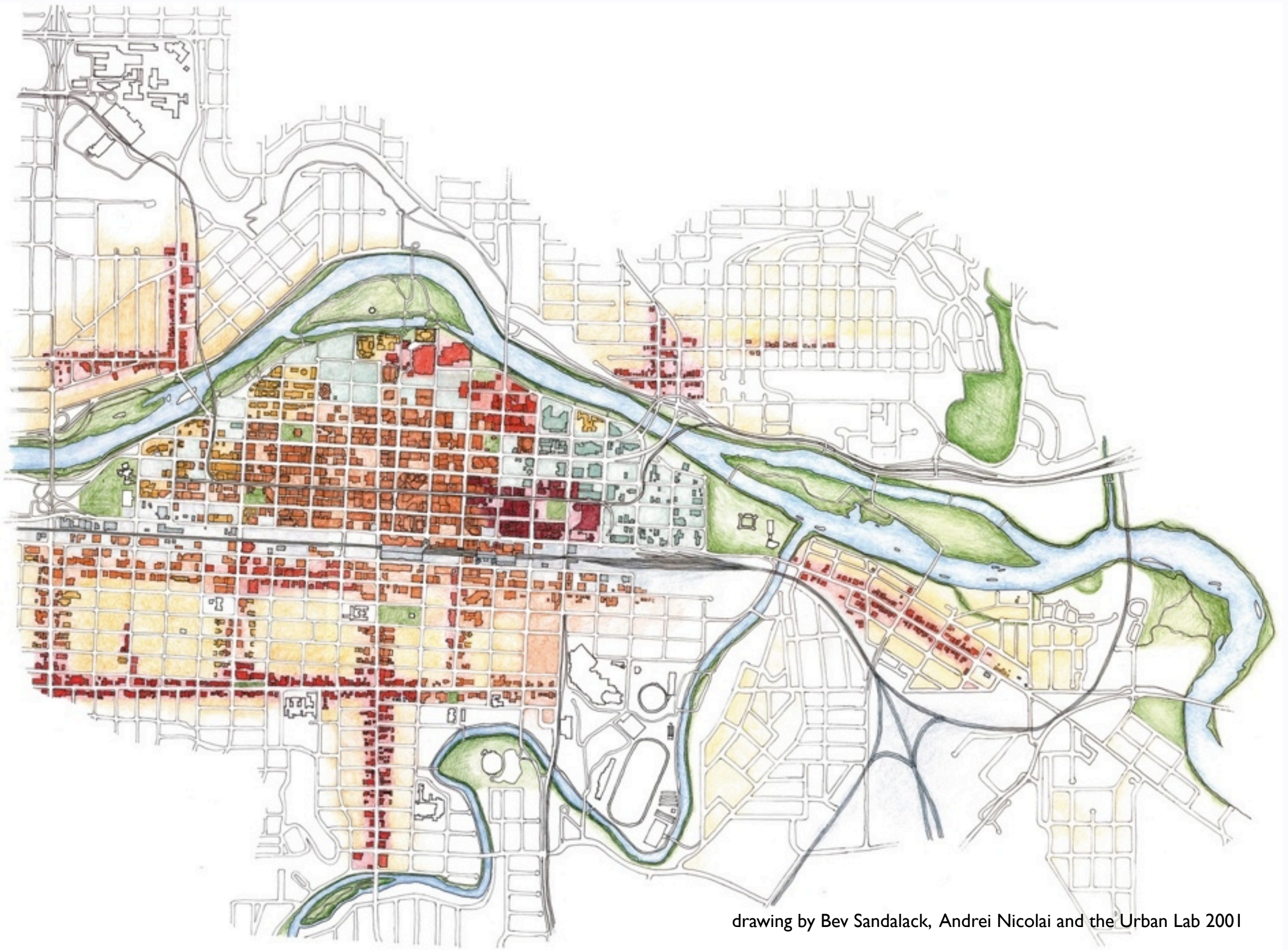


- Calgary 1956. Edward John Hughes



- early commercial 'main streets' developed around streetcar routes





drawing by Bev Sandalack, Andrei Nicolai and the Urban Lab 2001

- Oil.....



- second phase of urban development - paradigm of modernity and space
- the city as machine
- functional architecture
- introduction of modern planning methods

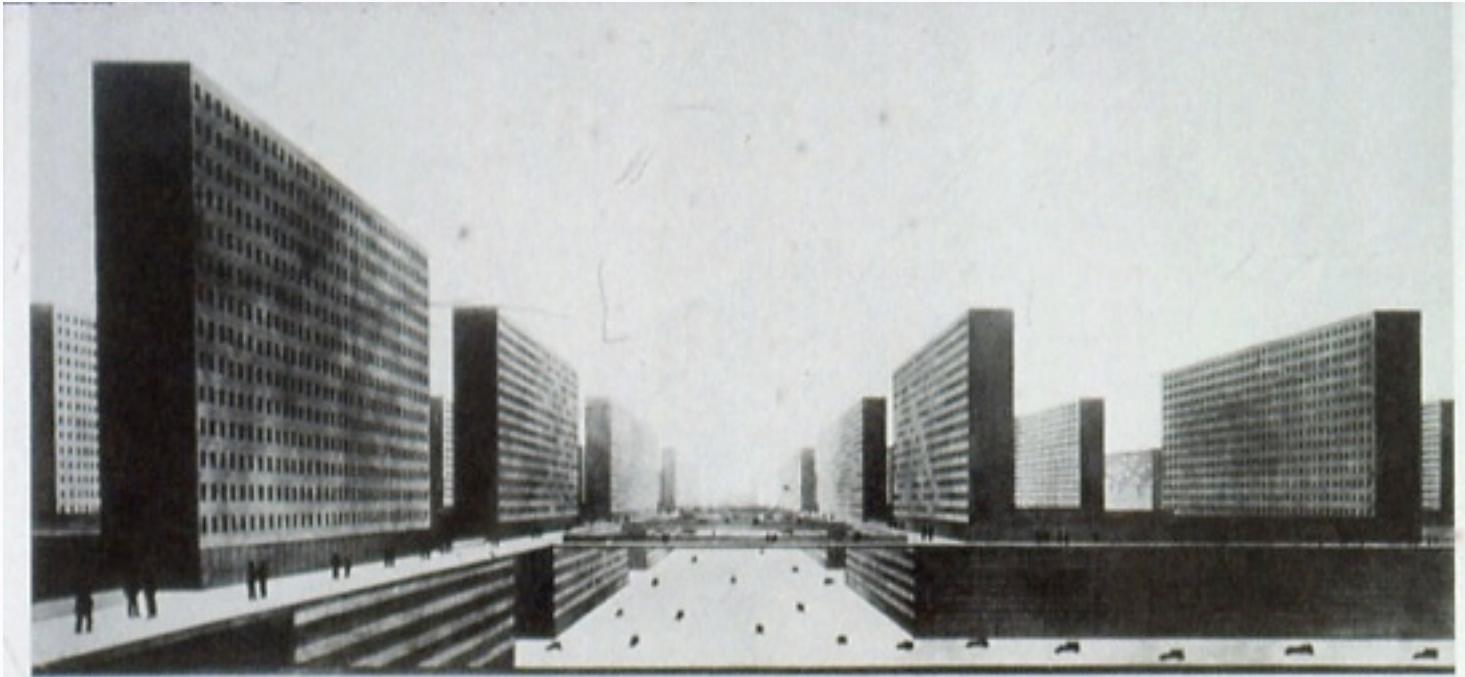
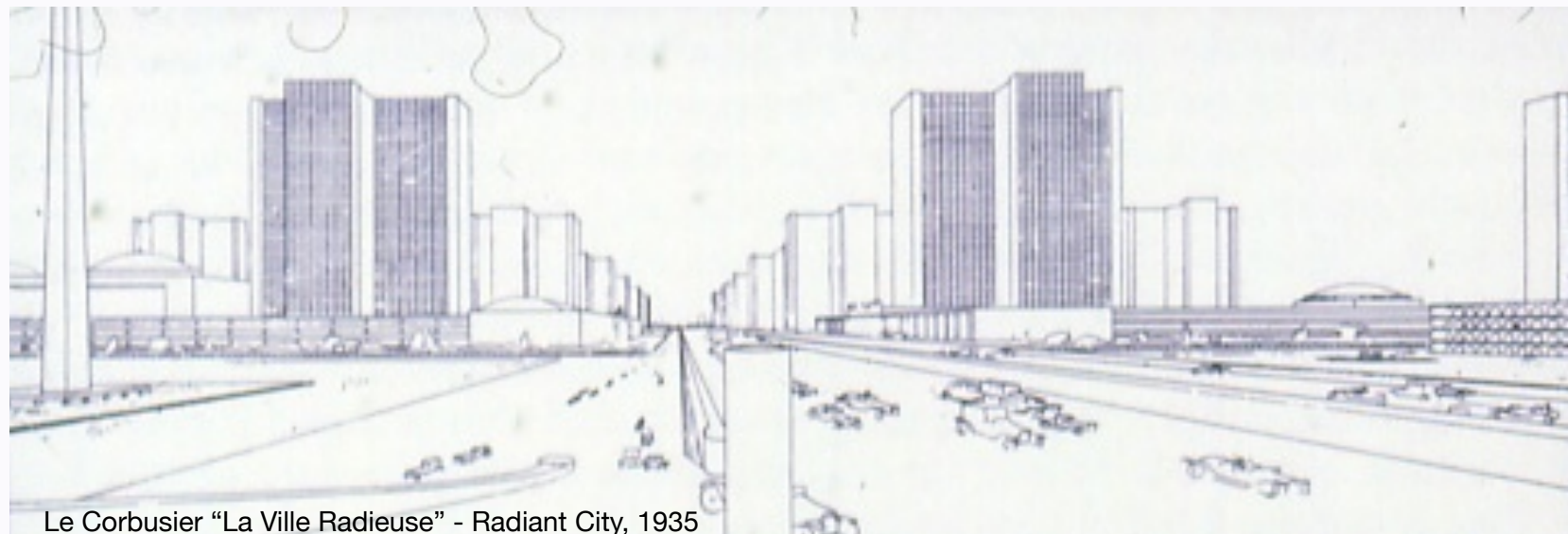


Figure 2-2. Ludwig Hilberseimer. *The Ideal City*. 1920.
Hilberseimer's drawing represents the Modernist utopia of high-rise buildings in straight, parallel rows. Traffic systems are rigidly separated, and functions are carefully zoned. (Courtesy: Dr. Franz Stedinger and the Museum of Modern Art, New York)



Le Corbusier "La Ville Radieuse" - Radiant City, 1935

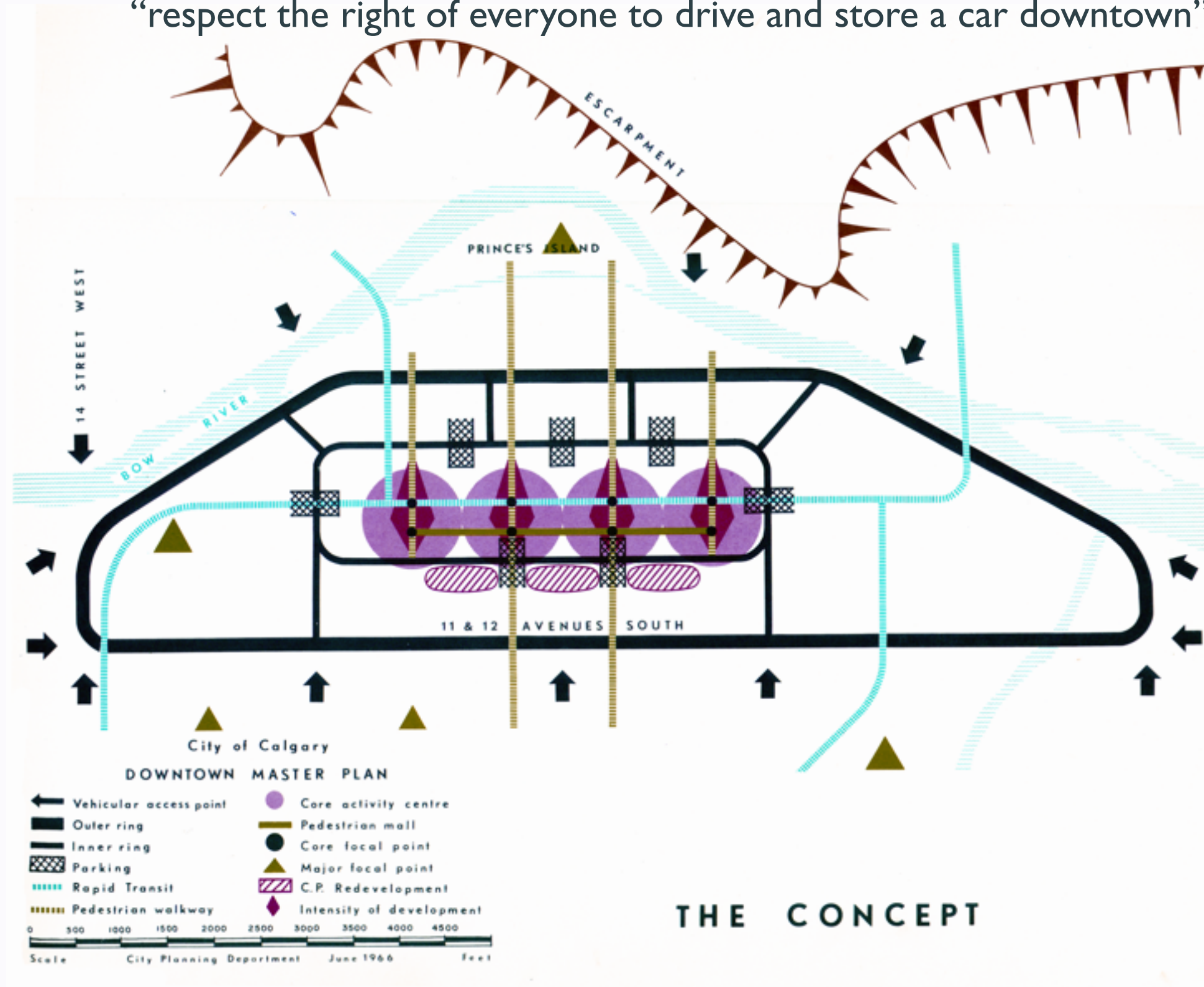
- Modernity in Calgary - building booms and urban renewal

1966 Downtown Calgary Plan

Objectives:

“double the number of cars that can enter the downtown”

“respect the right of everyone to drive and store a car downtown”



- Urban Renewal - the planning method of choice
 - existing urban fabric and medium scaled office buildings destroyed to make way for larger scale urban renewal projects



Railway station and plaza
photo Glenbow Archives

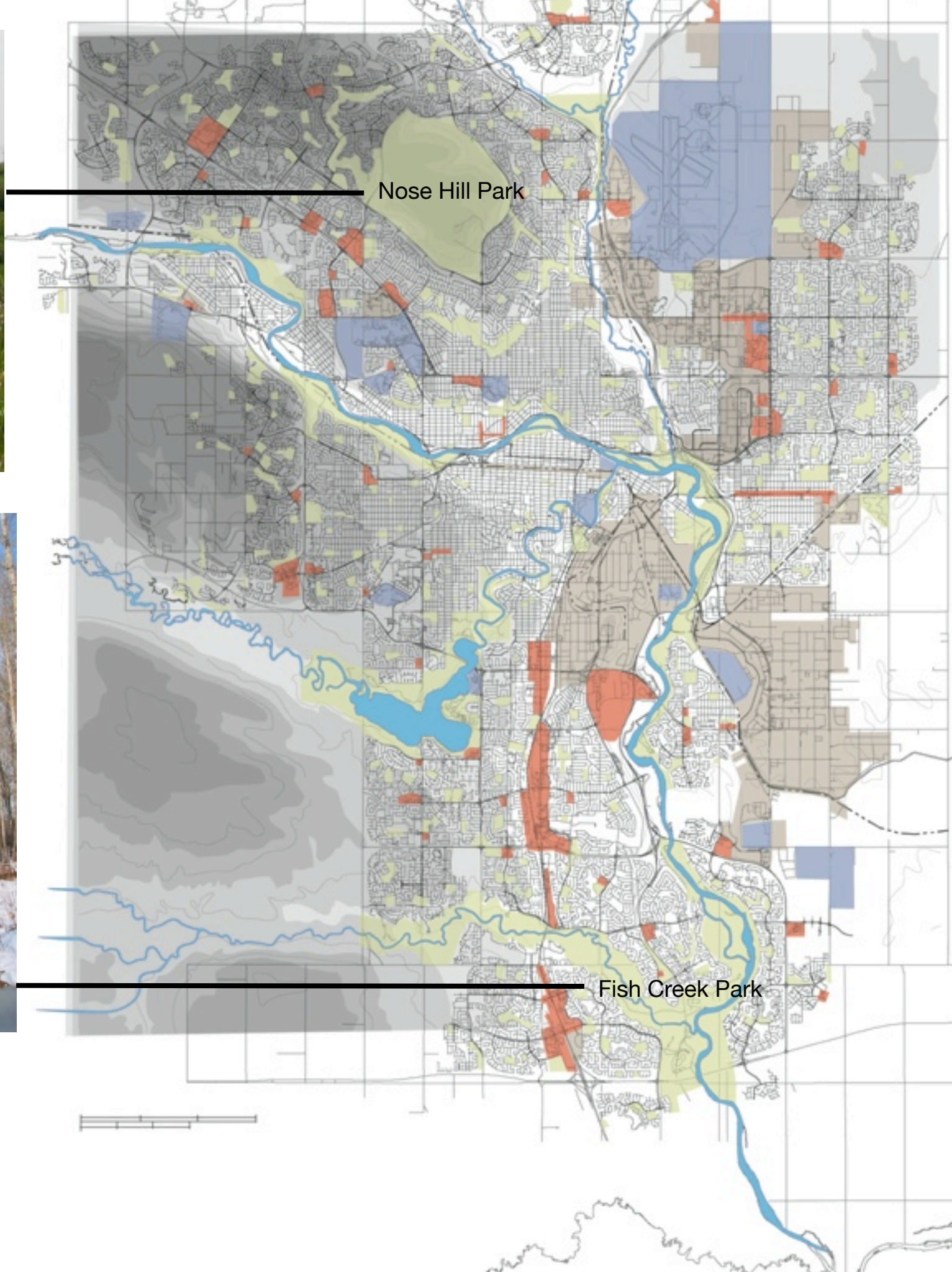


Replaced by underground station and
Palliser Square shopping/office complex
in 1960/70s

- Suburban expansion post WW2

- period of prosperity
- population boom
- huge surge in car ownership
- big demand for housing for families - mostly bungalows
- adoption of 'modern' planning techniques
- development industry expands and increases influence on patterns of growth
- professions disaggregate into silos - specialize but also isolate - the public realm often falls between the cracks





1994 Calgary Urban Park Master Plan

- built on ideas from 1914 Thomas Mawson & William Pearce
- continued river path project started in 1975



➤ third phase of urban development - paradigm of ambiguity, any time / any place?

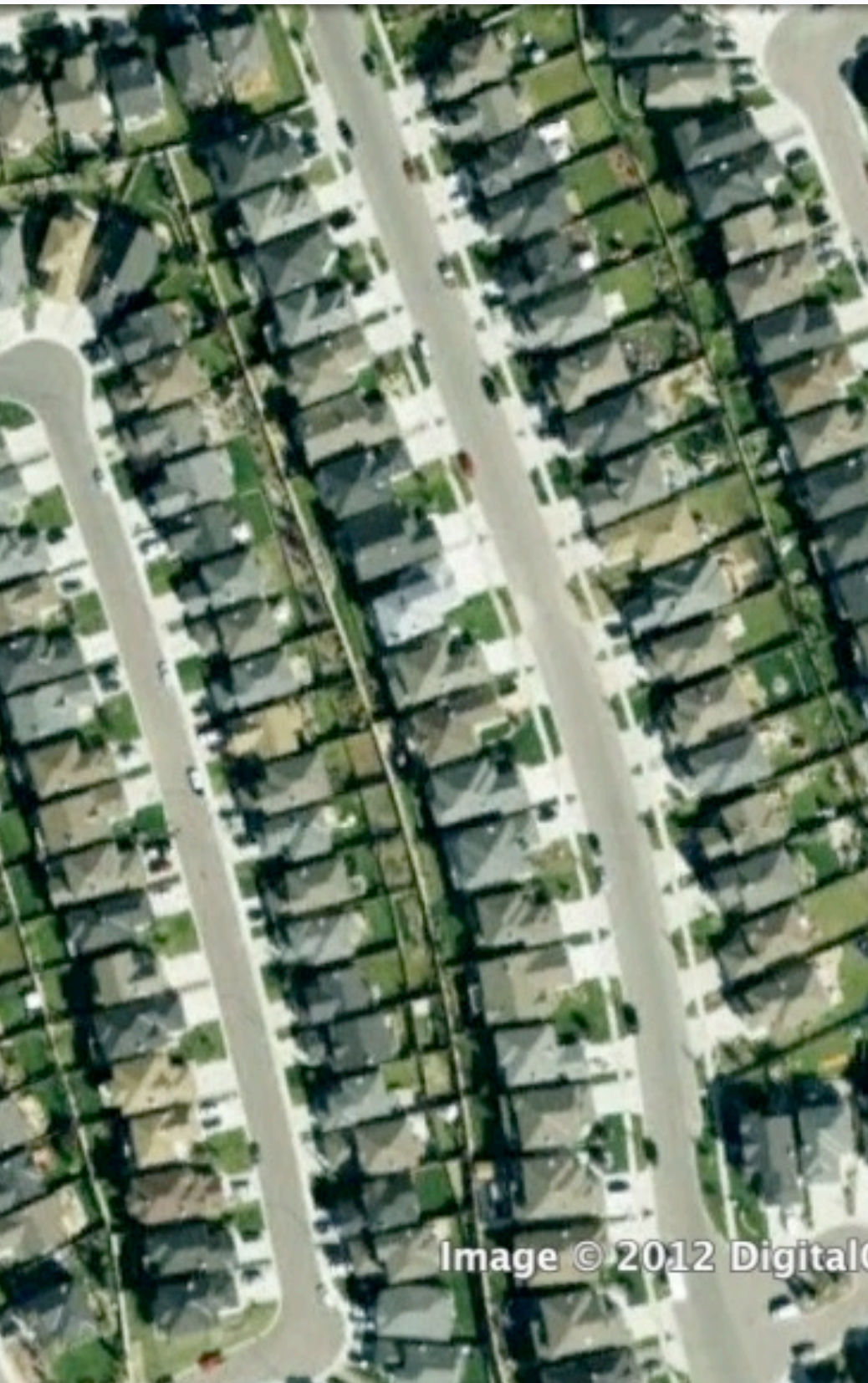


Image © 2012 DigitalC



- continued expansion outward, auto-oriented development
- better transportation infrastructure allows easy travel, but creates a culture of commuting
- induced traffic



- private realm at the expense of the public realm



■ changing quality of neighbourhood form

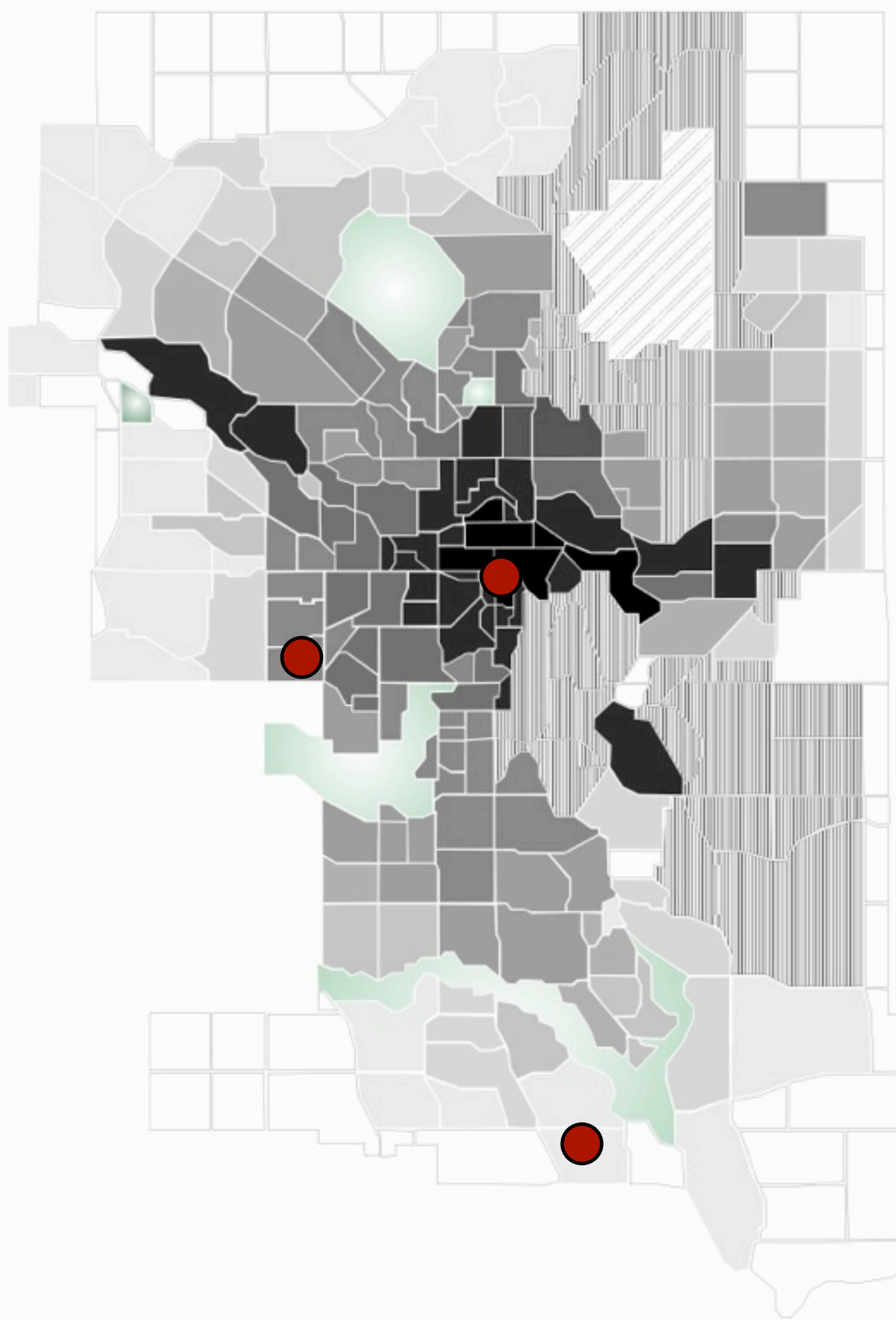
Roxboro 1910



Glamorgan 1953



Chapparal 2001



THREE FOR THOUGHT

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT... URBAN SPRAWL

The end of motor city

As gas and transport prices rise, so will the costs of our spreading, globally dependent economies. **CLIVE DOUCET** looks at how we got into this cul-de-sac

People are composed of stories, not atoms" is one of my favourite aphorisms. It captures a complex truth in a heartbeat. There isn't a moment in the day that we are not defined by the stories we carry around in our

city's streetcar lines. Unfortunately, suburbs haven't been built around anything but the car for 50 years.

When he writes about idealized landscapes, as opposed to how postwar suburbs really are, Carver's book is at its most attractive. His



Unfortunately, suburbs haven't been built around anything but the car for 50 years.

D12

ENVIRONMENT

Read my ... er, book: It's the oil, stupid

HOT, FLAT, AND CROWDED

Why We Need a Green Revolution – and How It Can Renew America

By Thomas Friedman
Farrar, Straus & Giroux,
438 pages, \$30.95

REVIEWED BY ANDREW NIKIFORUK

In 2001, the U.S. military had a hell of a problem resupplying its diesel-run military bases in Iraq's Anbar Province with fuel. Low-carbon insurgents strategically, and repeatedly, attacked the high-carbon truck convoys with roadside bombs, and the body-bag count became obscene.

the corrosive political influence of hydrocarbons, the moral collapse of his country and the dangerous threat of climate anarchy, but sounds as though he could be railing against the ineptitude of Canadian elites (a carbon copy of the Bush crowd), you know you have an important and timely book in your hands.

In fact, Friedman's incisive attack on the "Dirty Fuels System" reads like a well placed blow against the continent's power brokers, whose primary energy motto remains "as dumb as we wanna be."

The United States, argues the Pulitzer Prize-winner and



Friedman: The sooner we lessen oil's influence, the

velopment, for example, doesn't just undermine a forest, but funds Ottawa's climate-change blindness and vote-buying tax reductions. (Contrary to the recommendations of the International Monetary Fund, Canada does not report oil revenue transparently and has no sovereign fund.) Middle East oil, of course, fuels terror, corrupt government and religious fanatics. Russian crude energizes 19th-century-like gangsterism. The sooner we lessen oil's influence in global affairs, Friedman argues, the safer democracies will be.

For climate doubters and

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Globe and Mail 2005

Globe and Mail 2008

The background of the entire page is a photograph of several oil pumpjacks (jack-o'-lanterns) in an industrial setting. The pumpjacks are dark metal structures with large, curved, reddish-brown counterweights. They are silhouetted against a bright, overcast sky with soft, white clouds. The perspective is from a low angle, looking up at the machinery. The overall tone is somber and industrial.

STUPID TO THE **LAST DROP**

HOW ALBERTA IS BRINGING
ENVIRONMENTAL ARMAGEDDON
TO CANADA (AND DOESN'T SEEM TO CARE)

WILLIAM MARSDEN

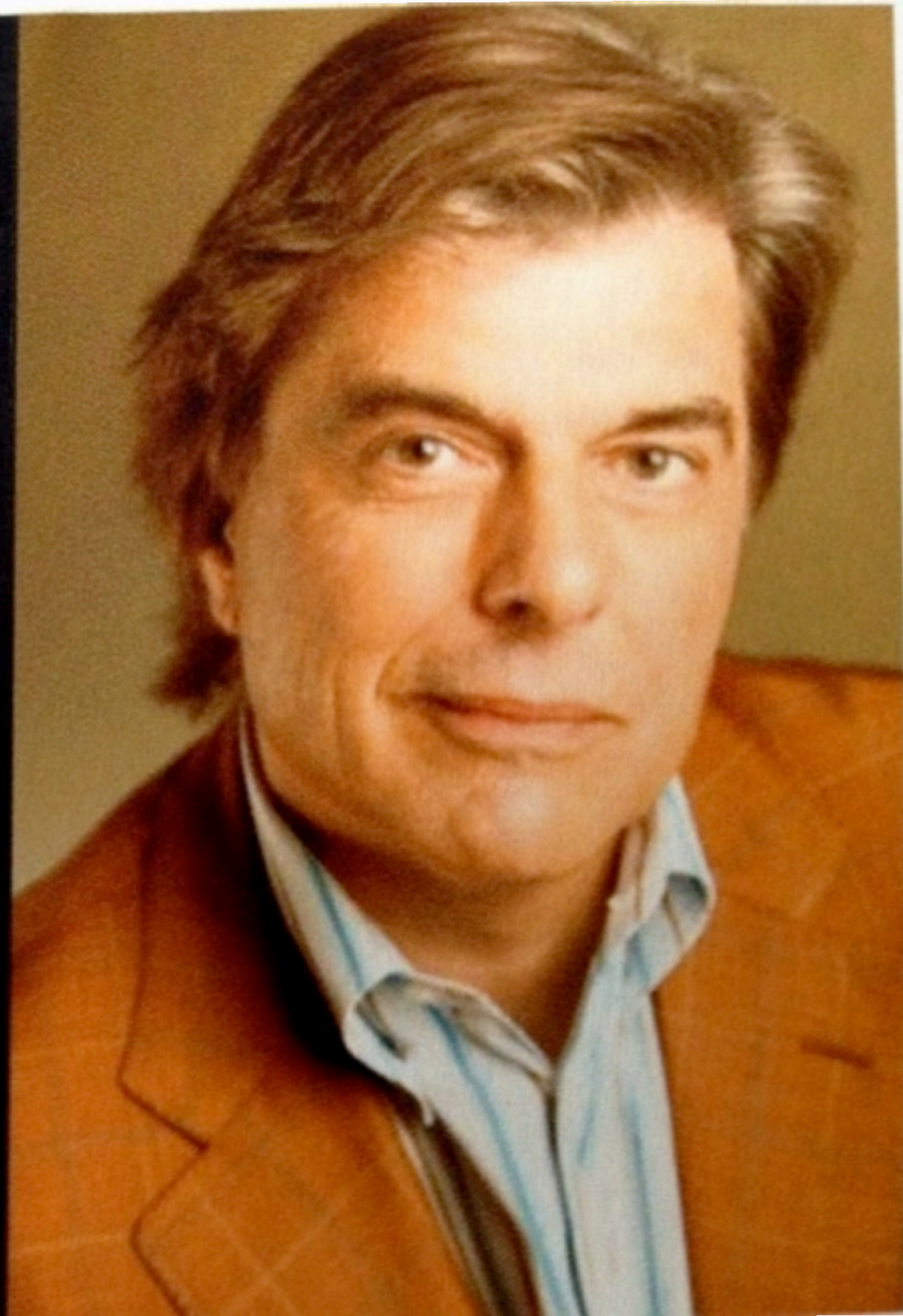
William Marsden 2007

WHY YOUR WORLD IS ABOUT TO GET A WHOLE LOT

SMALLER

JEFF RUBIN

OIL AND THE END OF GLOBALIZATION



Jeff Rubin 2009

> this is all good news

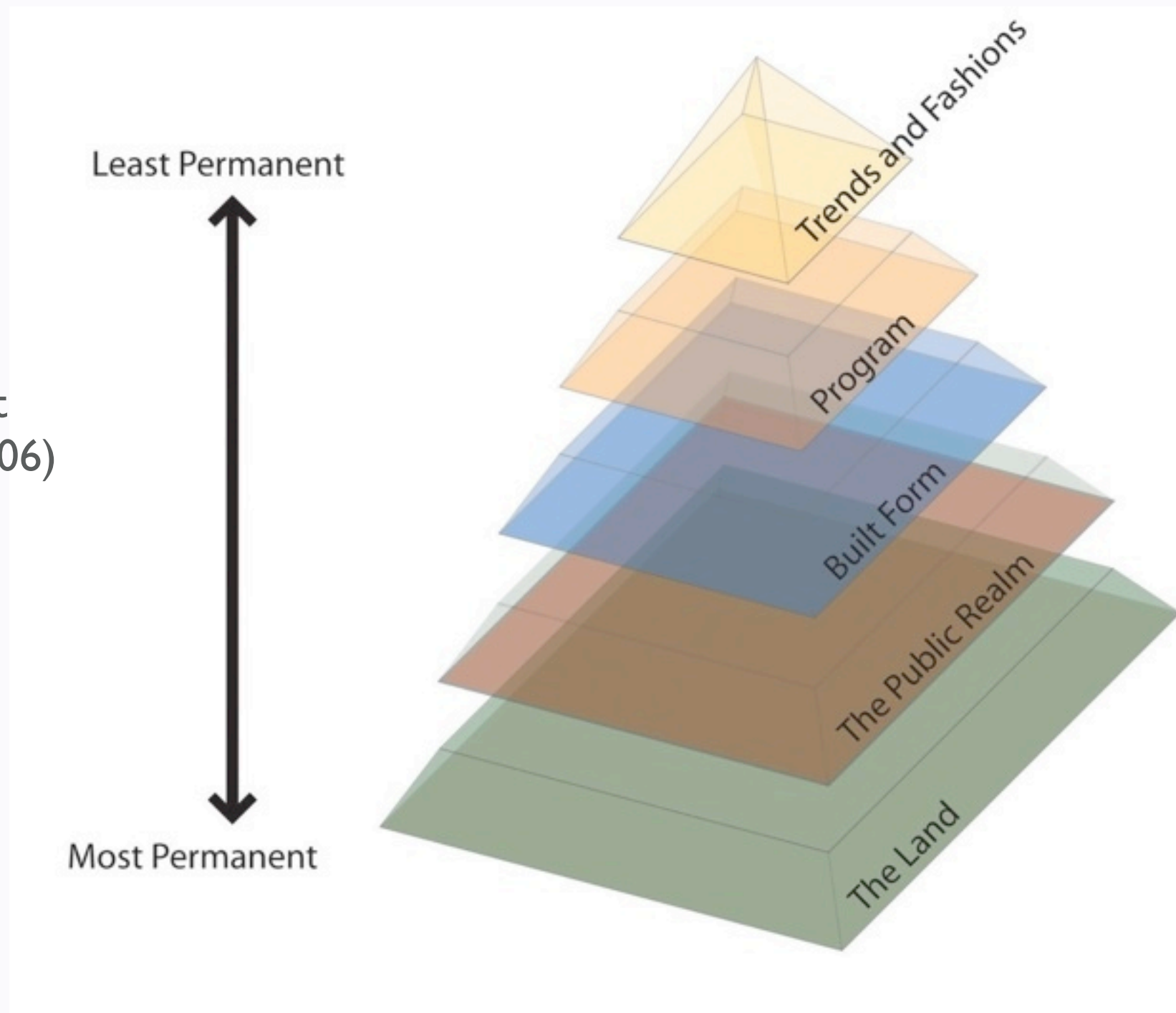
> fourth phase of urban development?

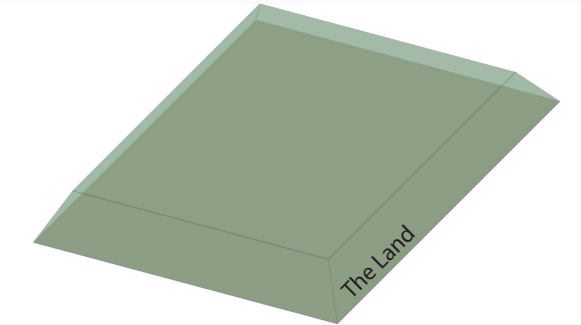
- paradigm of sustainability and emphasis on public realm
- interdisciplinary approach - landscape architecture - understanding of systems, relationships, planning and design at multiple simultaneous scales
- a landscape approach to urbanism?



A framework for environmental design

Layers of permanence
in the built environment
(Sandalack & Nicolai 2006)





the land and environmental factors

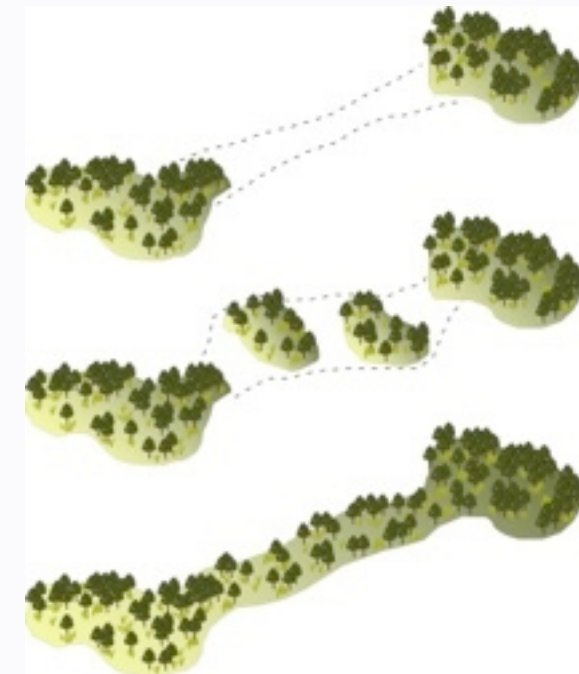
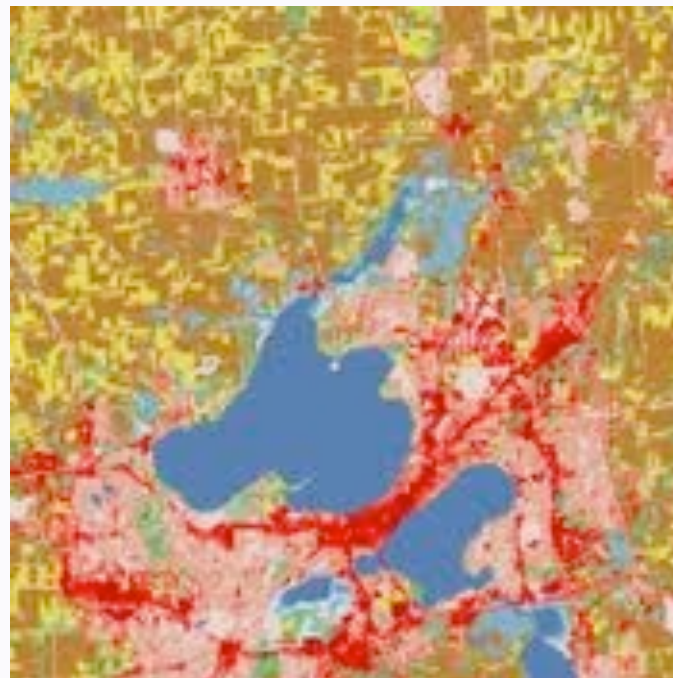
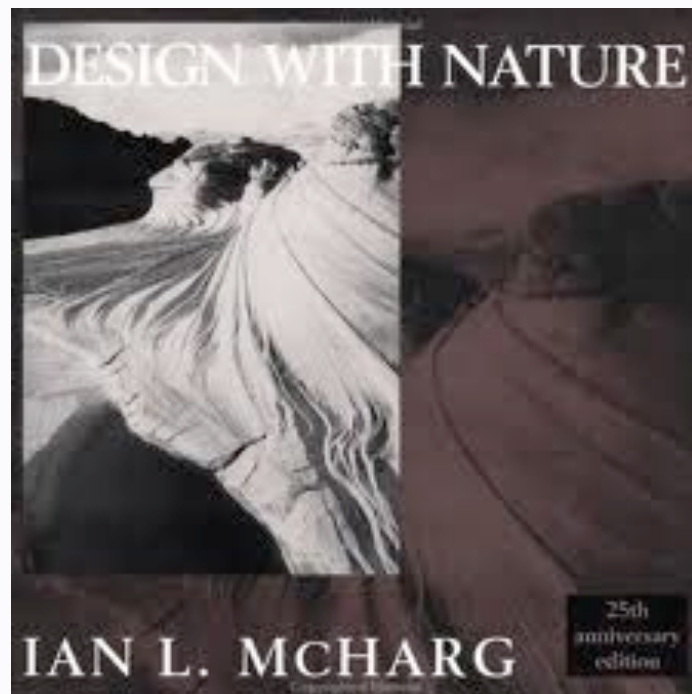


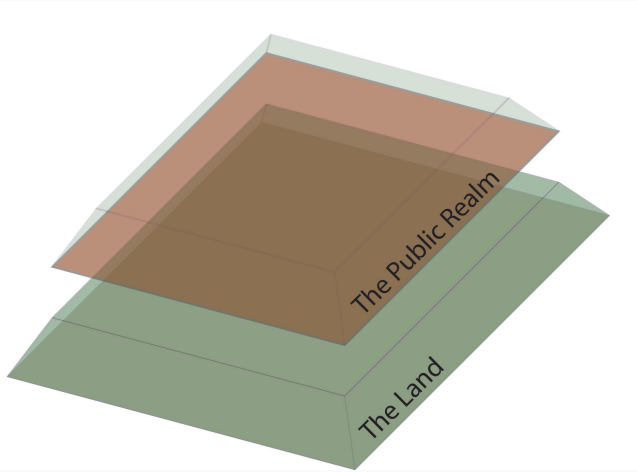
> Ian McHarg *Design with Nature*

> Richard T T Forman and Michel Godron *Landscape Ecology* and others

> William March *Landscape Planning*

Patches

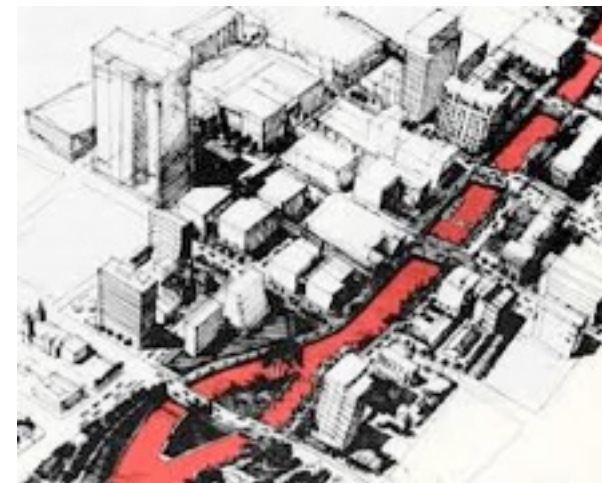
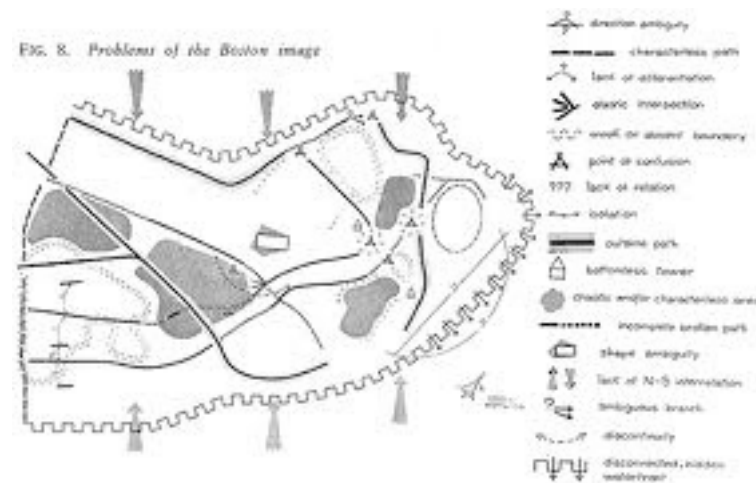
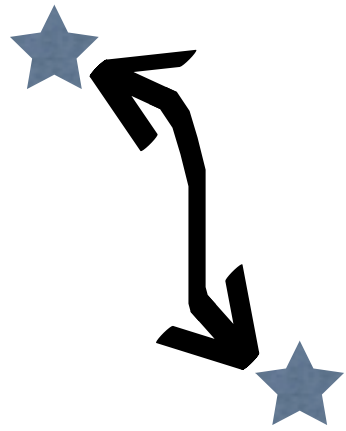




the public realm



- > Kevin Lynch *Image of the City* and others
- > Gordon Cullen - sequential experience
- > Fumihiko Maki and others - linkage theory





Banff Avenue and Cascade Mountain



Winnipeg river path system
- designed with the landscape
- 4 season/all time use



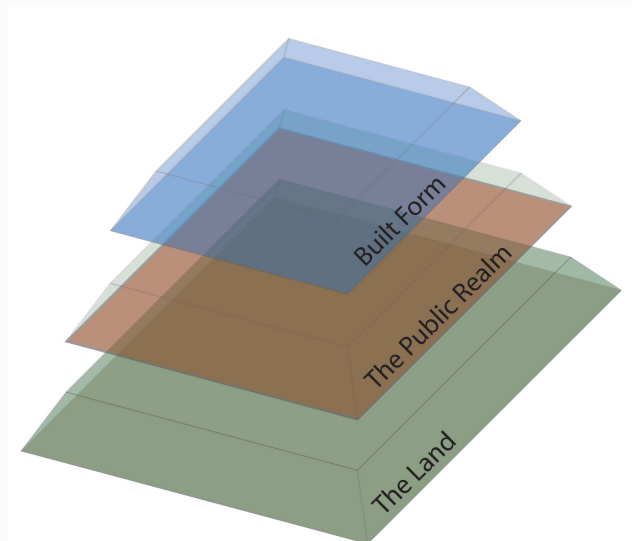
➤ Oslo Opera House
Snohetta and others



> it's only money!







built form

All buildings have a responsibility to contribute to the public realm

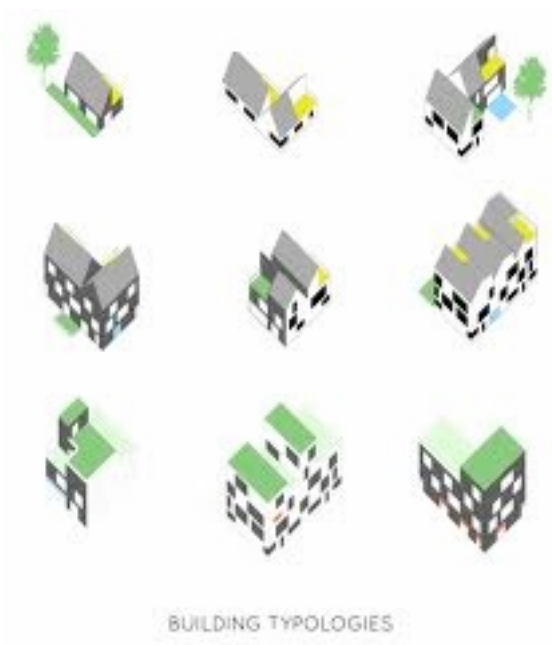


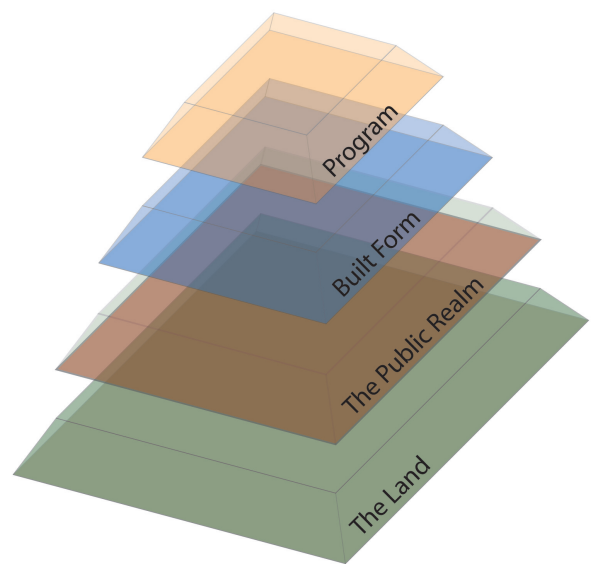
Good streets require a certain density/intensity



> 3 schools of urban morphology (Conzen - UK, Muratori and Caniggia - Italy, Castax and Panerai - France), also Anne Vernez Moudon and others *Urban Morphology*

> Aldo Rossi - urban typology





program

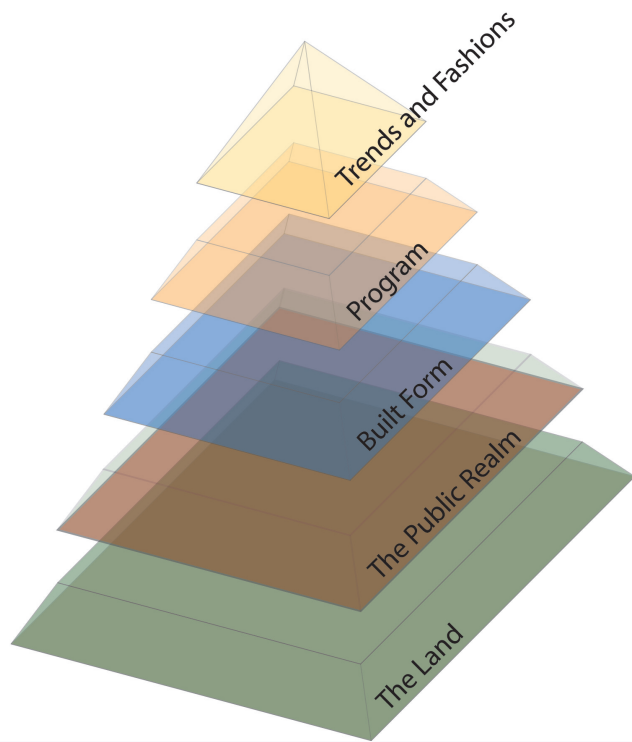
Aim for more resilient building types that can accommodate changing uses.....



Rather than single-use building types - become obsolete as needs change



trends and fashions





- > theoretical framework - exists already, emphasizes understanding of systems, relationships, consideration of various scales simultaneously
- > landscape and the public realm as the organizing infrastructure of urban form
- > sometimes the most innovative thing is just to do the right thing - landscape architecture has been too silent?
- > the 21st Century - time for landscape architecture to finally take the lead
- > where to next????



thank you ~ merci

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