

AIA Droga Architect in Residence 2014 Carmen Fiol Costa

# Arriola & Fiol urban civic projects

Definition of A&F urban civic project / A&F 10 principles / Create A&F urban civic projects / Inspirations to study the A&F conceptual approach / Creating a new city centre at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW

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The Arriola & Fiol Urban Civic Projects will identify conflict areas in the city toward urban neighbourhoods and recommend practical solution to transform this area into civic outdoor rooms. It will establish a new project for urban regeneration, founded on the principles of design excellence, social well-being and environmental responsibility within a viable economic and legislative framework.

For us public space is the leading issue of urban form. Public space as a combined structure of different streets and squares is the essence, the substance of coexistence, interaction and the redundancy that shared life brings. Designing the structure of spaces for the mobility, leisure and representation that link spaces of activity is what traditional urban planning is all about. When we speak of « public spaces » we have in mind the scale of the urban whole.

The connective surface of cities, its interstitial tissue of roads and paths, of gardens and squares, is of what is most structured of urban space. Public spaces proclaim the central role of interdependence. With our projects we solve topographical difficulties and thematic complexity into civic encounters.

Not all public space entails urban quality just because it has been successfully organised. A project can value the characteristics of the place and can express landscaping or utilitarian qualities without managing to give material form to any notion of urbanity. Civic identity in the dissolution of the individual place in the collective milieu, in pure citizenship. Public space is the condition for the city's existence.

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# I\_DEFINITION OF A&F URBAN CIVIC PROJECT

1\_An A&F urban civic project is a city scale project that is intended to be constructed, it is not simply a masterplan, but a project that when built will radically transform an area. People will be drawn to the area, they will like to live there as it is a beautiful, comfortable and respected place.

2\_There are three constitutive elements that make up an A&F urban civic project: the buildings, the streets-infrastructure and the open space. It is always a hybrid project and its program is place specific, defined for each particular site, neighborhood or sector. It is not a superstructure.

3\_The size of an A&F urban civic project depends on the scale of the city. If the project is a symbolic place, with special importance for the city, the size of the project would be small, between 500-1000 sqm. If the project is intended to be a catalyst for the neighborhood, the area of study would be larger, between 15-20 ha.

4\_The qualities of A&F urban civic projects are grounded, sustainable and responsive to topography; accessible by public and private transport with symbolic emphasizing particularities. We propose a geomorphological approach which focuses on scale, place and site more than on program and zoning.

5\_Examples of A&F UCP projects are **Fossar de les Moreres, Parc Central de Nou Barris, Granvia de Les Corts Catalanes in Barcelona and La Rose de Cherbourg in Paris.**

# Fossar de les Moreres

## 1\_The A&F urban civic project:

Establish a monument to commemorate the battle of 11th September 1714 where Catalan country lost the battle to preserve their own Government.

The project creates a monument but also a public space for the neighbourhood.

## 2\_The three constitutive elements of a hybrid project:

### - The Building.

The Basilica of Santa Maria del Mar. The demolition of a bridge connecting the church to the maritime façade of the city and the block of housing uncovers the magnificent façade of Santa Maria del Mar. The revealed Southern façade would be the new screen of the plaza.

### - The street infrastructure.

Opening the entry of Carrer Malcuinat to the maritime façade.

### - The open space.

The demolition of a block of housing built upon the original open space gave rise to a squared flat plaza with an unpaved central polygonal area.

## 3\_The size:

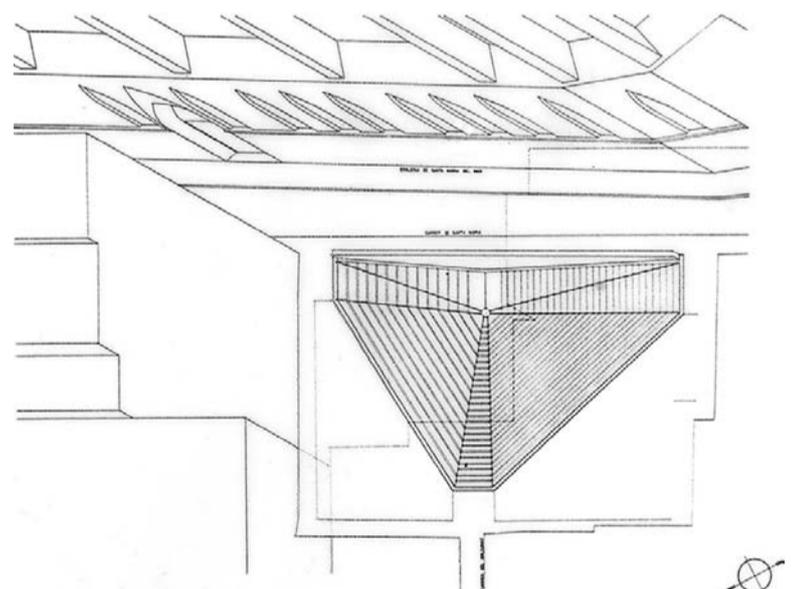
Fossar de les Moreres in the mediaeval city of Barcelona.

An open space about 1000 sqm in front of the church of Santa Maria del Mar was also used as a burial ground.

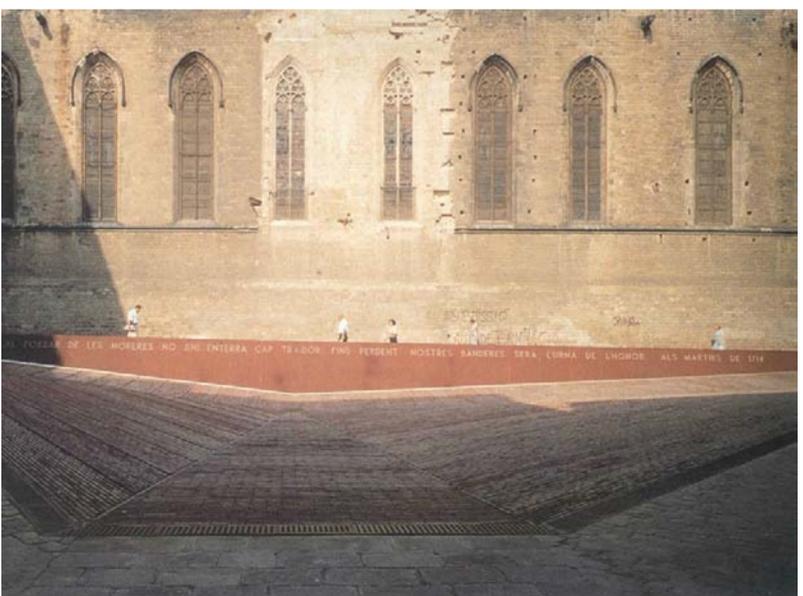
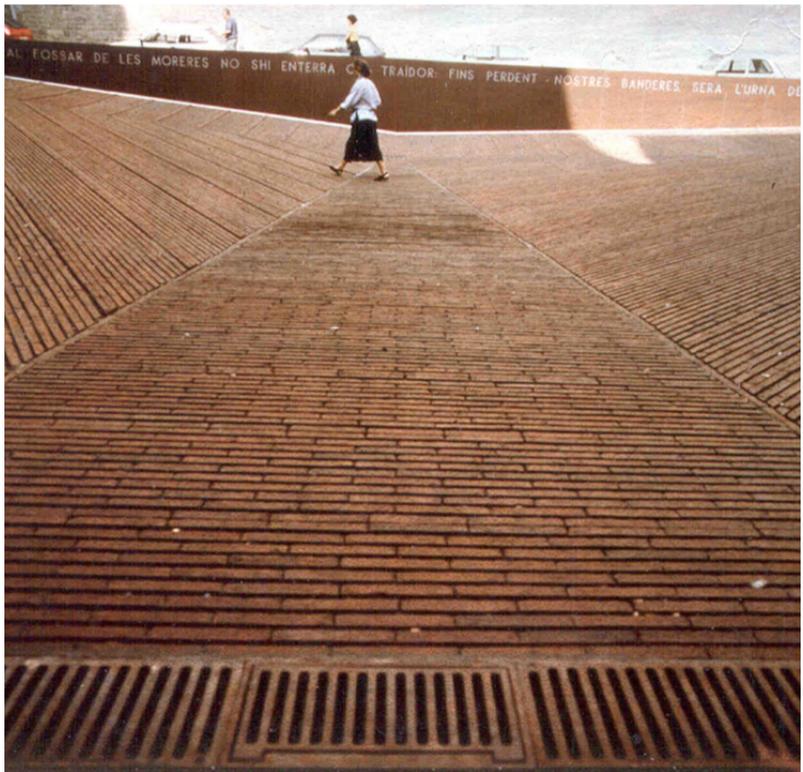
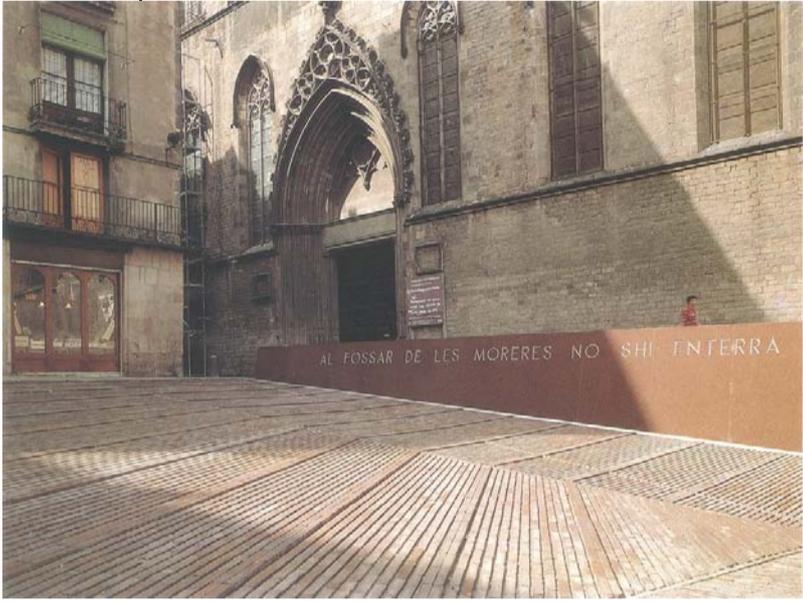
## 4\_The qualities:

- Topographical. A continuous space sculpts the memorial and connects with the façades of the plaza.

- Symbolic
- Accessible



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The aim of the work on the project was to convert the residual rectangular space adjacent to the basilica of Santa Maria del Mar into a symbolic space; a memorial to the events of 1714.

The most significant formal elements conditioning the proposal are the magnificent facade of the basilica and the Calle Malcuinat, a street perpendicular to the facade and situated on the opposite side of the square. The virtual axis of this street, which links Pla del Palau with the church of Santa Maria, becomes the basic datum of the project.

The work includes the polygonal limit of the existing paving of sandstone cobbles and slabs of Montjuïc stone as a trace of the recent history of the place. The work on the surface outlined by this perimeter defines the physical framework of the Memorial. The symbolic presence of the place is attained through the topographical manipulation of its surface.

The geometrical definition of this change in level, consolidated by the positioning of a low wall in red granite

# Parc Central de Nou Barris

## 1\_The A&F urban civic project.

Create a new civic centre reorganizing different uses according to the geomorphology of the site. Restore old buildings and build infrastructure, amenities and housing within a park.

## 2\_The three constitutive elements of a hybrid project:

### - The Buildings.

The Old Mental Hospital. The neighbourhoods around. The new different typologies of social housing, for standard families, for young or aged people. The buildings and the open space work together to form a cubist landscape.

### - The street infrastructure.

Opening a north south main axis to connect with the central city. Establish a vehicular lane to make accessible the whole park from east to west. A new net of paths within the park connect with the adjacent streets of the neighbourhood.

### - The open space.

Fragmented land with triangular spaces of different kinds, such as left over greens and out of order housing blocks.

## 3\_The size:

An open space of 17 ha surrounded by housing towers in the northern suburbs of Barcelona.

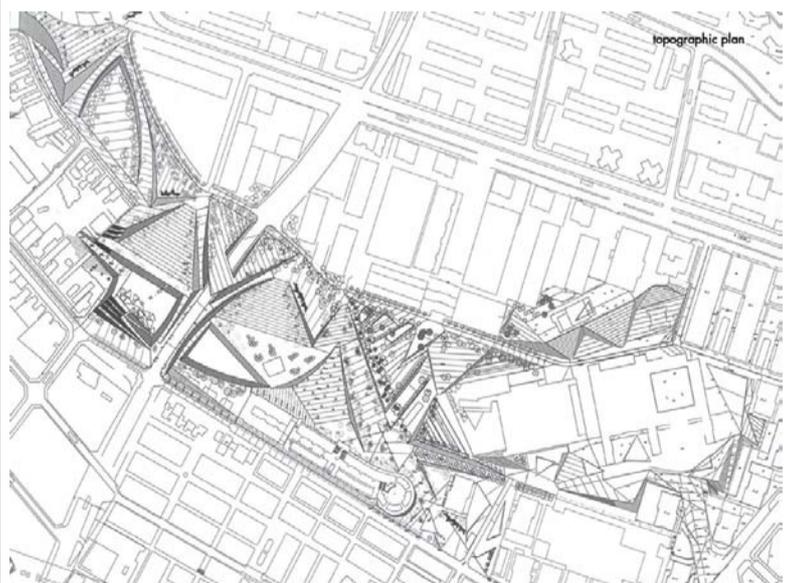
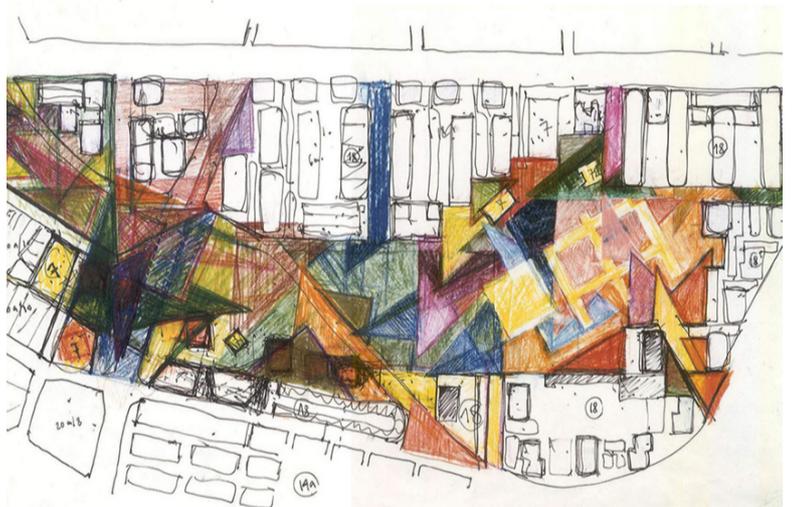
A grand scale where the sky and the dimension of the buildings asked for a simple configuration.

## 4\_The qualities:

### - Topographical

A continuous space sculpts the ground and relates the platform of the old hospital to the higher level of the city roads and the hills 40 metres above.

- Symbolic
- Accessible



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Architectural skills applied to the urban space have produced a certain degree of uniqueness and newness to the landscape practice, fundamentally in the urban environment. These works might be labeled more than urban spaces as outdoor rooms.

Parc Central de Nou Barris, in the northern edge of Barcelona was designed with the above as a tentative approach. The site is the empty space left over by the massive construction of housing blocks during the 60' and 70' in a part of Barcelona which up to that moment was not more than crop fields.

Besides the size of the problem the dimension of the area could hardly be seen because of the arrangement of the housing urban design. The project attempts to suggest another landscape that not only will propose a new urban park in the core of the dense neighbourhood but also will integrate the skyline and the massing of the housing as an inseparable and essential part of the new landscape.

# Gran Via

## 1\_The A&F urban civic project.

The main exit from Barcelona to the north, to Girona and France, was a highway arriving at the centre of Placa de les Glories until the year 2000. The project transforms the highway into an urban avenue.

## 2\_The three constitutive elements of a hybrid project:

### - The Buildings.

The facades of high residential buildings flank the highway.

### - The street infrastructure.

A new section of the Avenue maintaining the through traffic at the same level and position and directing the city streets to the central axe. New pedestrian bridges were positioned every 100 metres through the rest of the central city within the grid to connect the northern area with the southern one.

### - The open space.

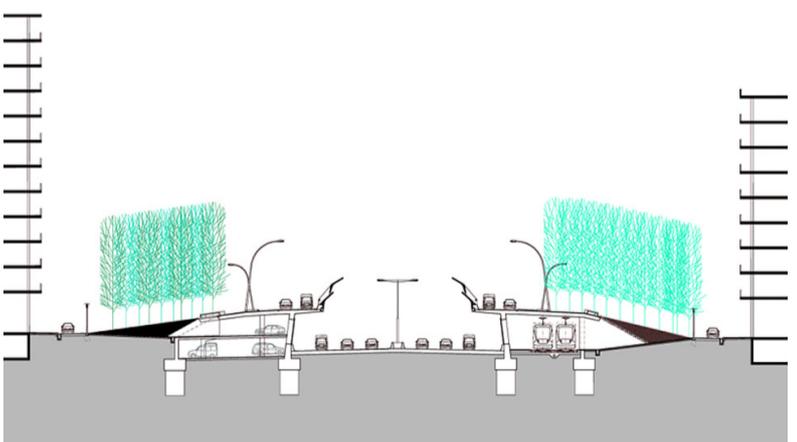
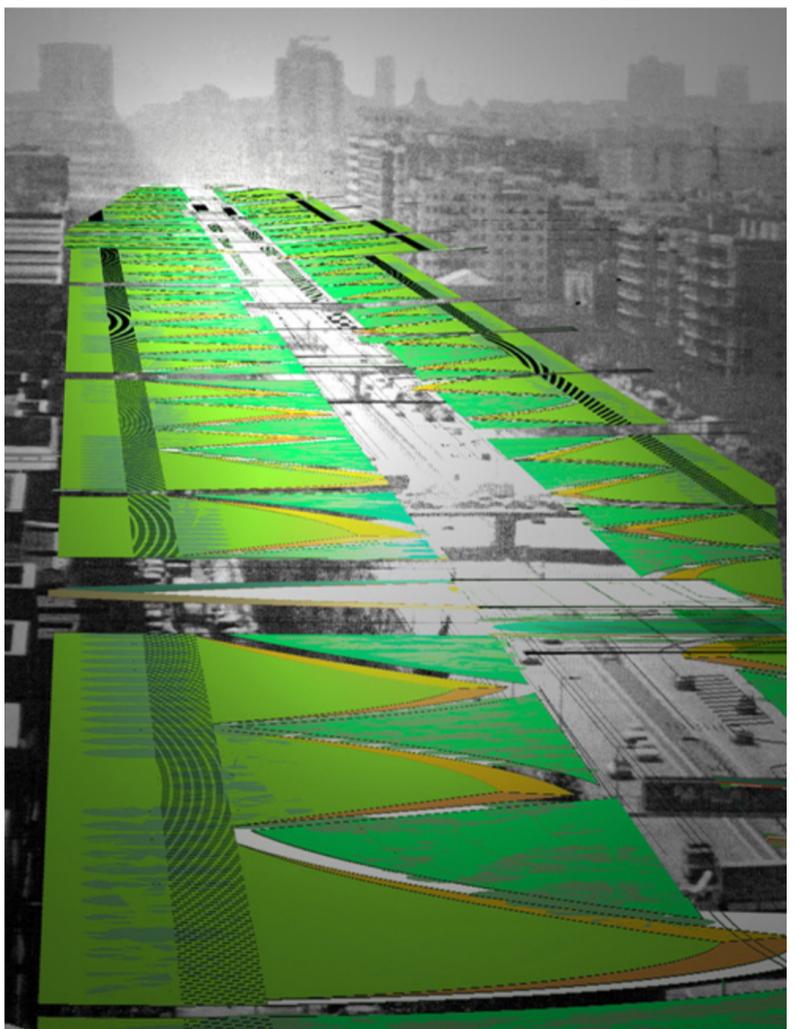
A continuous linear park was laid out on top of the highway along both sides of residential buildings. A series of plazas and green areas, together with a service lane, were established on each side.

## 3\_The size:

A highway of 2.5 km in length and a section of 100 metres with a central strip of 150 metres wide. This is an area of 250000sq or 25 ha.

## 4\_The qualities:

- Topographical
- Symbolic
- Accessible



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This is a project to improve the conditions of Gran Via the A-19 motorway. It proposes a new section: a projection of the service roads to forms 3.5 meter projections over the central carriageway. This solution reduces noise and atmospheric pollution.

Sound screens situated along the edge of the side projections protect the buildings in the Gran Via from the noise produced by traffic on the central carriageway. The walkways situated at the end of all of the perpendicular streets reinforce relations between the two sides.

Traffic is organized into three levels:

(1) a central trunk that channels fast traffic,

(2) service roads over the projections

(3) two traffic lanes and a parking strip with services (access to the central carriageway, car park entrances, loading bays, bus stops), and three-meter wide pavement and a bicycle lane. Linear parks resolve the difference in level between the buildings in Gran Via and those in the roads on either side.

The resulting 20% gradients are divided into level squares and sloping green spaces.

# La Rose de Cherbourg

## 1\_The A&F urban civic project.

A proposal for the public spaces and commercial buildings, infrastructure and park of the south-western sector of La Defense to connect the Paris CBD with the adjacent neighbourhoods of Puteaux and Boieldieu.

## 2\_The three constitutive elements of a hybrid project:

### - The Buildings.

Position and define commercial buildings and integrate three towers, two residential and one office building, into the scheme.

### - The street infrastructure.

Transform existing highway infrastructure into a promenade belvedere. The elevated roundabout interchange is preserved as a symbol of the area.

### - The open space.

Define a park in continuity between the residential areas.

## 3\_The size:

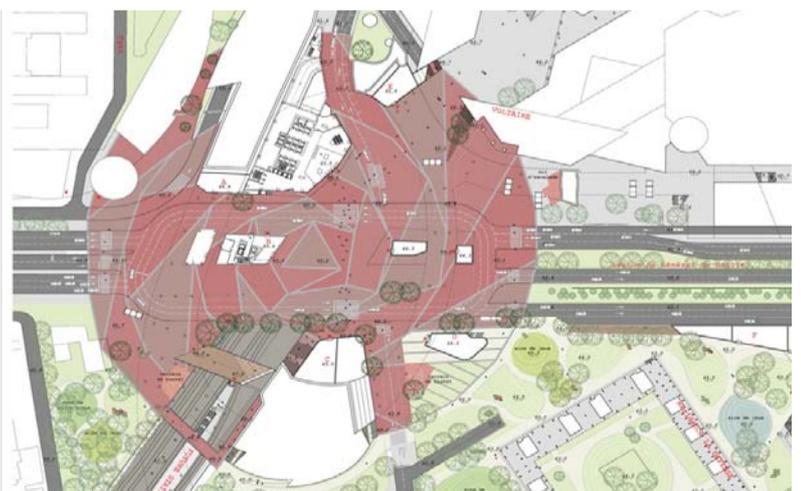
The first phase of the project is an area of about 14 ha adjacent to the Boulevard Circulaire and Rose de Cherbourg interchange and flanking Ave. General De Gaulle. The Boulevard Circulaire is being remodelled to give rise to a thoroughfare that connects main perpendicular avenues to the central axis of Paris.

## 4\_The qualities:

- Topographical. By demolishing the exit lane of the aerial infrastructure to Boieldieu, we established a flat ground level that creates a plaza of 200 metres of diameter which connects with Le Grand Arche, Puteaux and Boieldieu, the three main areas around.

- Symbolic. The existing Rose de Cherbourg infrastructure is transformed into a promenade belvedere where the railings are 'petales' used as benches and other higher 'petales' that announce the new civic area at night.

- Accessible. The upper level can be reached at ground level with accessible ramps from the park and plaza. A continuous promenade connects all levels. From the residential buildings you have direct access to the plaza and park, all in continuity.



## II\_A&F 10 PRINCIPLES

We propose that the following principles could be applied individually, as an urban civic project in itself-an urban episode, or applied collectively, where the project is an urban development in its entirety. In this case, the 10 principles would become active.

1 - Blue & Green strategy. Read the territory and take into account the geomorphology of the site. Consciousness of climate change implies sustainability in the design of water and drainage systems that work together with green belts and green fingers to increase biodiversity. Public spaces in the city will be integrated with the landscape. Urban fabric built on a high ground and trees planted in the streets will contribute to the integration of city and landscape.

2 - Site singularities. Define what is particular in relation to spatial form, urban layout, built fabric, morphology, typology, symbolic buildings and places. The site is never a blank sheet, there is always a palimpsest to discover, even if there is only a weak urbanisation. The context is more a potential than a restriction. Old and new buildings are integrated. A significant beauty emerges through the clash between buildings, infrastructure and landscape. Draw a synoptic picture of the site and define the program.

3 - A multi-perspective open scheme. Structure the detailed built form as a response to the broader contextual scale. The project is part of a system of fractal geometry. The project is never complete, and always allows subsequent phases of growth. The process of design is often based on a tridimensional geometry, established by using the tools of scale and rotation to integrate the new layout within the adjacent neighbourhood.

4 - Topographical architecture. Establish topographical continuity between the ground floor of buildings and the adjacent system of public domain-plazas, streets and parks around, to establish a walkable community. Work with the existing topography and transform barriers with a continuity of access that will bring to the place a broad multiplicity of use.

5 - Integrated Connectivity. Propose new streets and paths to become the major structuring elements that connect into the existing street network of the district. Identify significant crossings with high accessibility in and out and ensure the continuity of streets, connecting into the adjacent street context. In the case of an existing planned grid, it is important to maintain the whole system of streets within the original grid. Activities in cities are based on access and exchange. Public

transport desire lines must be integrated within the system of open space.

6 - High density precinct. Define density in the city centre, locating it in relation to the geometry of the site. It may be within the whole centre, towards the periphery of the centre or on certain axes or bands of the centre. Define a precinct within the city centre where residential density is secured and maintained. Without the density, development will cease, resulting in vast areas of vacant land used for parking lots. Remove secondary uses such as service roads and parking lots and replace them with basic city uses such as housing, offices and retail.

7- No zoning areas. Prioritise mixed use activities within the city centre over clusterings of singular functional uses. In commercial zones, reinforce residential and retail uses. In retail zones, reinforce residential and commercial uses. In residential areas reinforce commercial and retail uses. The city centre should be a vibrant place of multiple uses, activated both day and night. A specific program for the urban civic project should be defined, elaborating uses for buildings, plazas, streets and park.

8 - Tectonic, rational, and flexible building form. Procure a flexible, neutral building form that is not related intrinsically to specific functions. This will allow different uses to evolve through time. Establish hybrid building typologies. Integrate historic buildings with new buildings.

9 - Urban fabric variations. Define the structure of open and built space and establish variety within the system. Match new works to the scale and complexity of meanings within the city. Urban form is to be based on new typologies of residential or office towers, slabs and open courtyard buildings. There is to be no more urban sprawl where single houses or row-houses are dependent on private cars. Create high standards of streets and roads, green systems and built fabric. Define flexible frameworks and draw graphic regulations.

10 - A symbolic place on the map. Foster civic pride, ownership and citizenship within the inhabitants of a place. Broad participation and consultation is needed with both the authorities and the community. Project methods and techniques are not enough, the collective involvement of stakeholders within the existing political framework is essential. If it is not compelling, not compulsory and not financial, nothing will change. Given this, draw a 3dimensional view of the proposal which shows the potential for change, how the city could be transformed, what the city wants to look like.

# III\_CREATE A&F URBAN CIVIC PROJECTS

The project is a hybrid of buildings, streets-infrastructure and open space. A project that when built, radically transforms the area. A series of projects would transform the suburbs of a city into city centres within themselves.

## III.1\_Building the city in the suburbs through urban episodes

We could call the suburbs or periphery of the city the first phases of urbanisation when the organism is not fully formed.

A city is a place of active exchange and contrast of urban morphologies. In the majority of cases we find that there are limited or no dysfunctional urban environments or areas of conflict. It is the intelligent response from an architect who refuses to pretend to be a doctor. In the contemporary city, we often find different functional systems that are unfinished or unrelated to the city as a whole. In most cases there is only functionality.

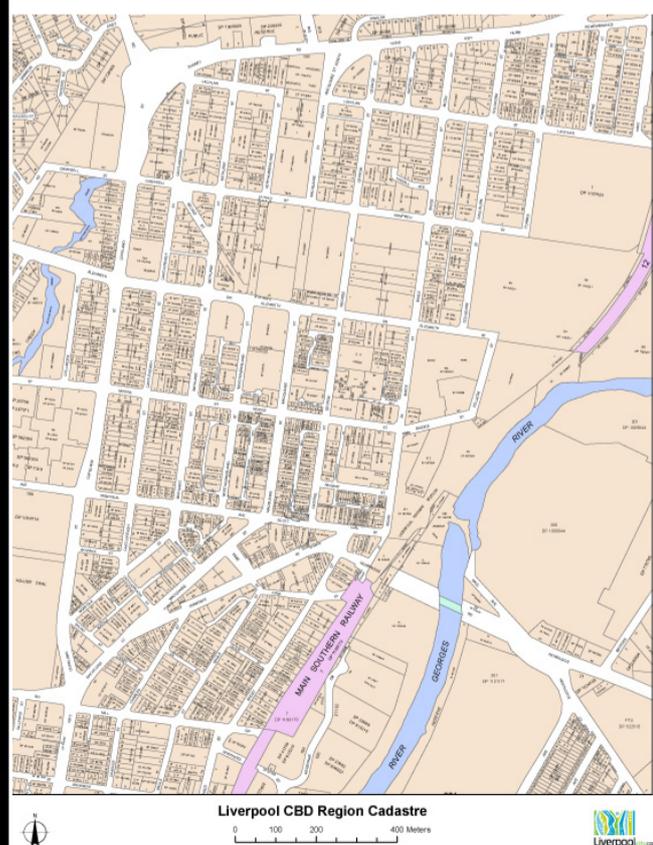
Time is needed to add meaning and complexity to the form of a city. To envision and build a specific urban civic project in a certain place of the city, a new activity hub is required that irradiates urbanity around. The pursuit is much greater than what would be built. The work becomes useful to the city and society.

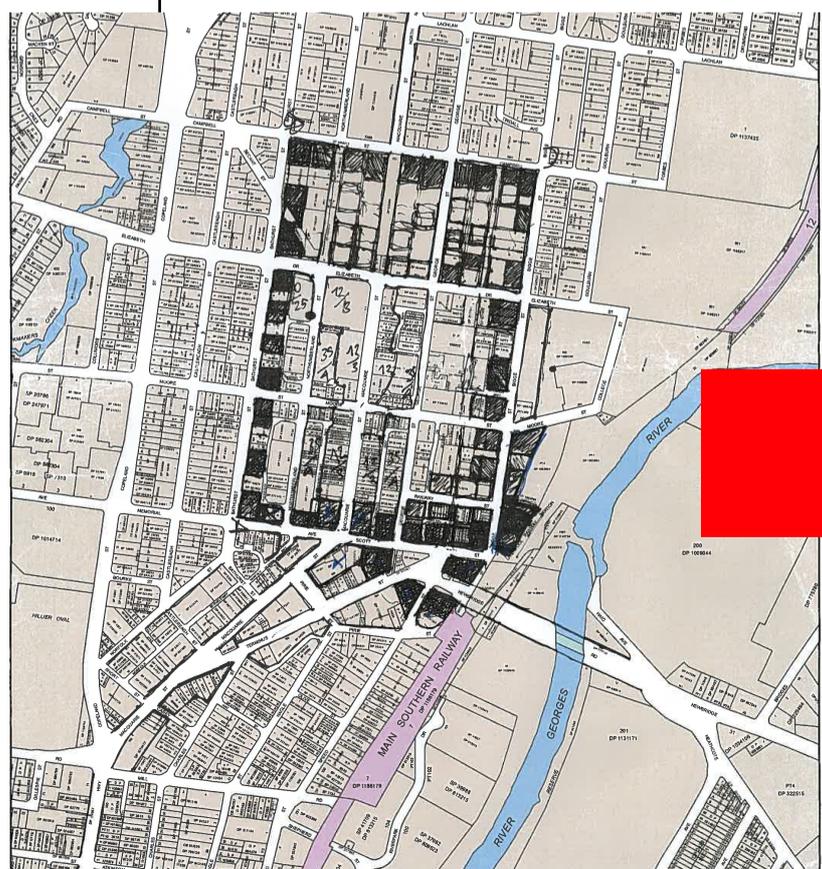
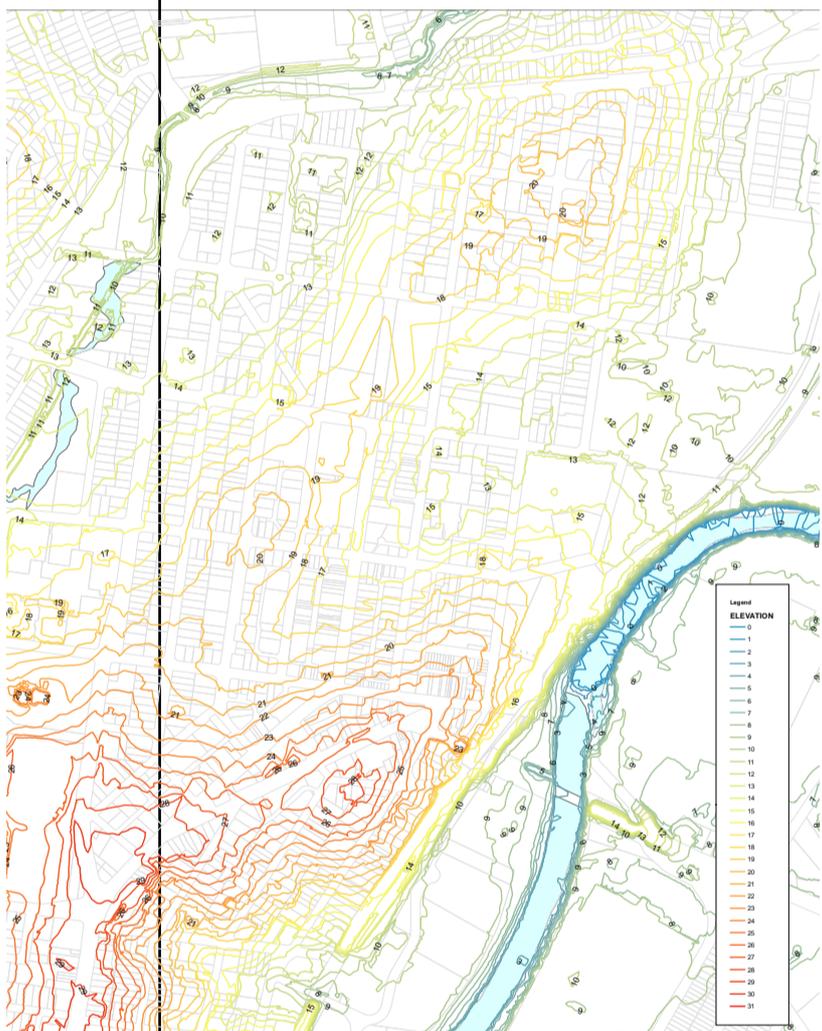
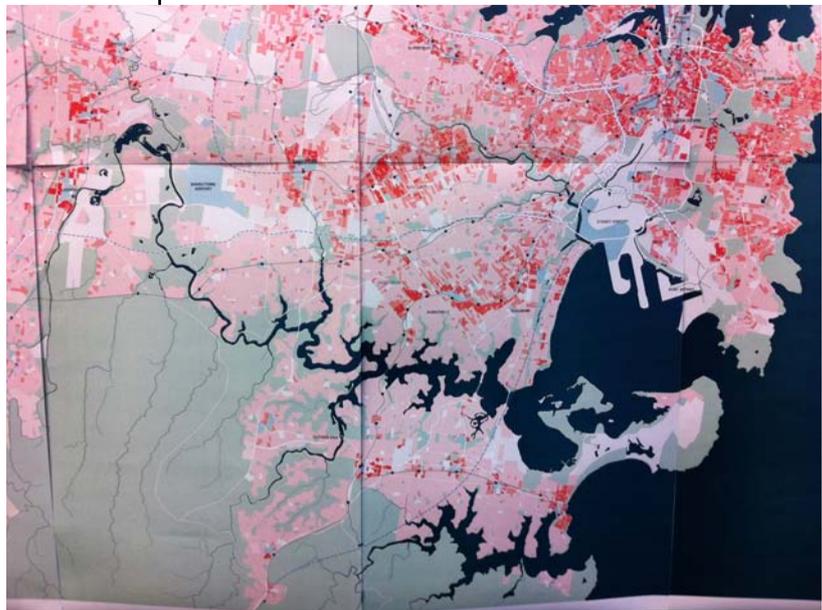
If we look at maps to understand changes in the history of any city, we realise that the building of a certain number of architectural projects, those that we call urban civic projects, are the turning points of the city structure.

The fertility is in the eye of the architect. We will find imaginative solutions to make the city better, to create appropriate pieces of urban fabric, urban episodes that radically transform the neighbourhood or district. An infrastructure that is the façade of the city could also be transformed into a building or even be reused with housing.

## III.2\_Geography, art and city

Landscape is the basic heritage of a city, a singularity that should be strengthened in order to create a civic city that constitutes a





worldwide reference.

In order to re-establish a relationship between art and city, it is necessary to train the eye and look at the territory from a bird's eye point of view to examine its structure, topography and geometry.

In a continuous city where the territorial structure is densely occupied by buildings, the first exercise would be discovering the original territory. That is, the rivers that flow into the bay, the ridge lines of the mountains and the torrent lines; identifying orientation and major winds, in order to find neuralgic points, crossroads, special places or eventual promontories to base a strategic urban layout.

The objective is to define a piece of urban settlement, an urban civic project, that will challenge social economic aims and cultural characteristics within the community.

The city is a complex environment. Different activities and functions take place both inside private and public buildings as well as outside private or public spaces. It is not a canvas painted by only one artist. It is a place for community interaction and interchange.

In a young and powerful city, geography is the base for its beauty and the reason for its richness. In most of the cases the growth has occupied all the territory around the original centre. At this moment what is needed is not to build, but to demolish, prioritising quality over quantity. Some elements of the landscape will be strengthened and others will be toned down.

As a result of functionalism or zoning, in a young contemporary city we find vast areas with the same typology of building form mingled with geographical features like rivers and meanders. The main areas that we find are industrial sheds, single family houses, high rise buildings and clusters of social housing.

It is necessary to introduce new elements such as main streets, mixed-use zones and cultivated landscape, reintroduce orchards and agricultural land, all based on the form of the territory as well as significant buildings that have the capacity to adapt to new functions.

### III.3\_Towards a sculptured territory

We propose to investigate the contemporary relationship between territory and city through hand drawing and models, comparing it with original references from the first settlers. We will look to aboriginal art as a magnificent

example of harmony between people, animals and nature on earth.

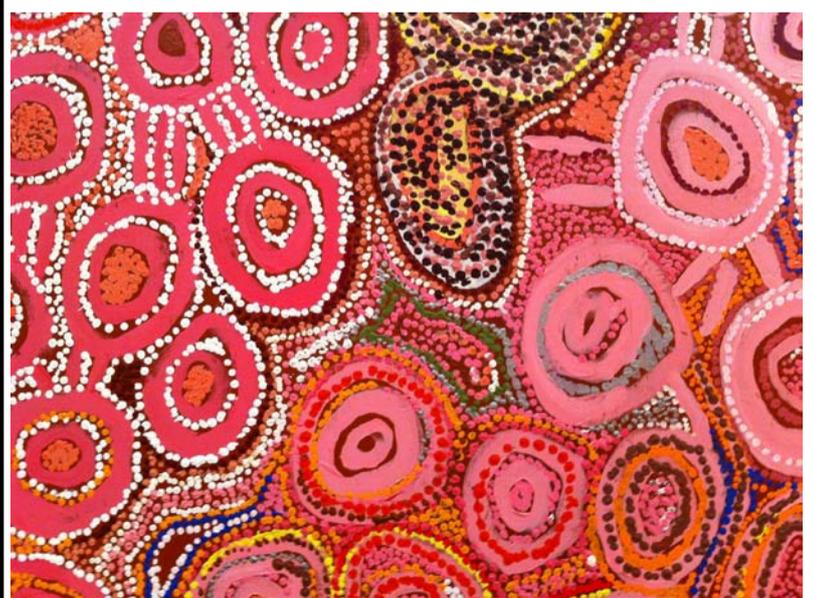
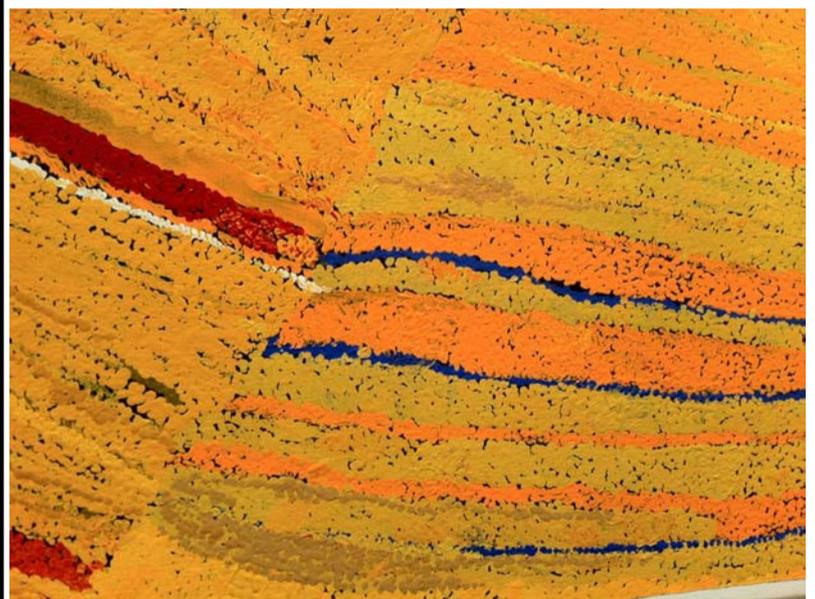
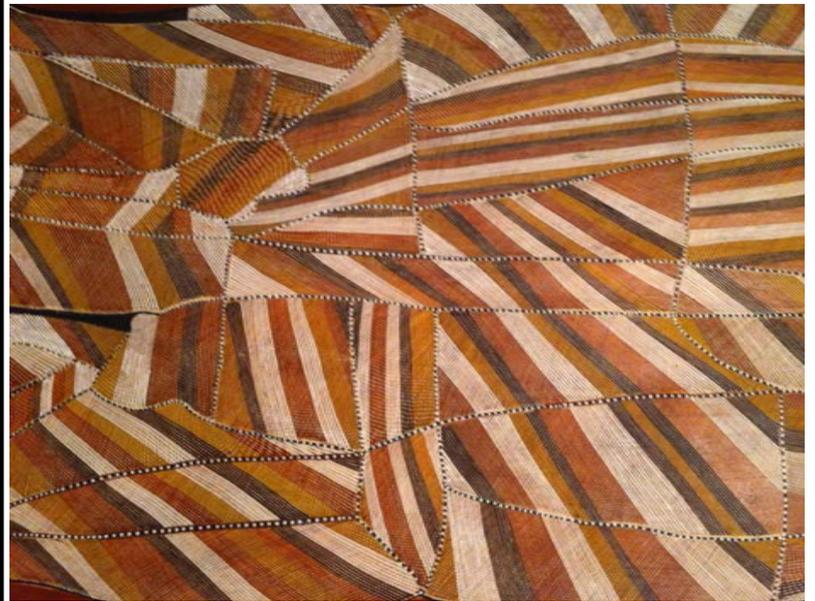
In the periphery of cities, elements are placed following a pattern of distances, the different elements interrelate with each other as signs, heights and bulks, as imams. Metal slender elements, lit transparent advertisements or colourful plastic bubbles express their identity through distance. And the distance between them is not full of content but is an urban void, an empty space that has no meaning until you arrive at the other element.

The acknowledgement of this fact and its acceptance (as featured in the book *Learning from Las Vegas* by Scott Brown) has been on one hand, a recognition of the continuity of the peripheral urban phenomena and of its spatial qualities shown by spectacular atmospheric images - the heroic presence of human beings across a territory of absences, the scale and clash of the constitutive elements-sky, land, gas station and scattered objects at dusk, but on the other hand, it has represented a surrender to the zeitgeist, that is, the appreciation of the fragments per se without any attempt to guide the suburban sprawl.

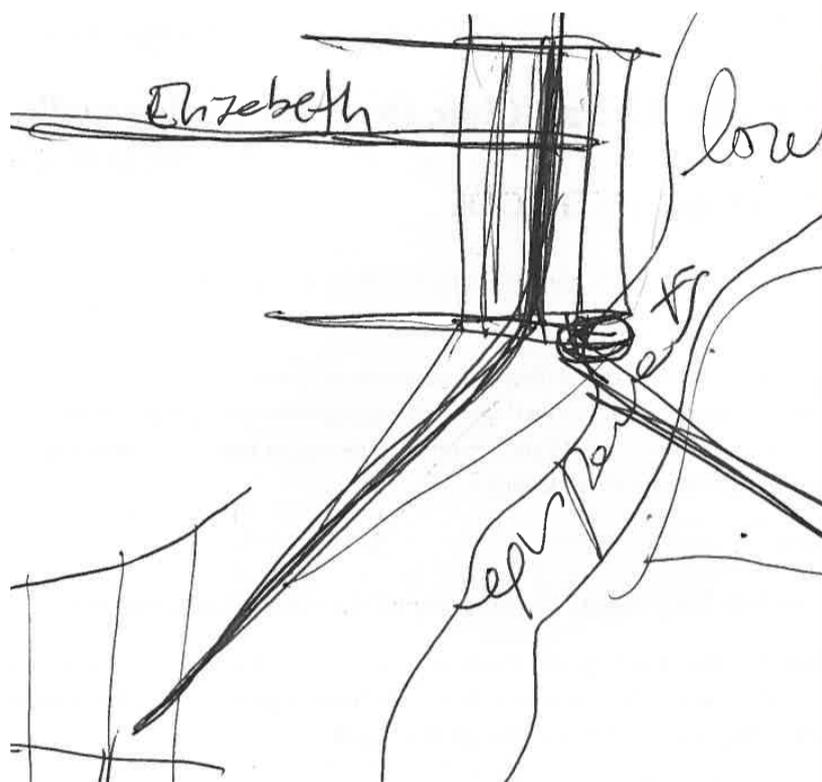
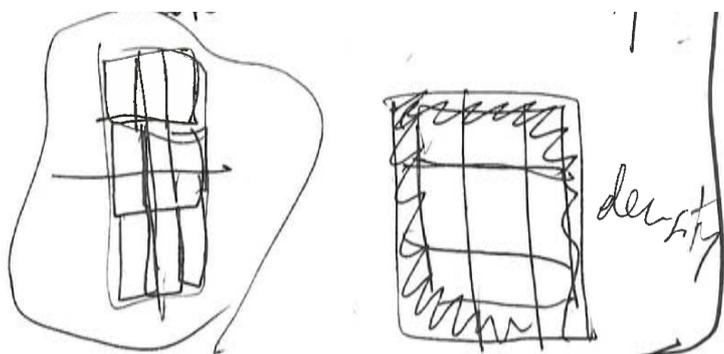
Russian constructivists attempted to destroy classical European city through their constructive artefacts, the Narkomfim housing condensers, the steel towers or the communal theatre prototypes. Wenders praised Berlin's terrain vague, and Basilisco enhanced the sublimit Milan's periphery. Under the influence of American leadership and consumer's society, photographers, architects and other artists, learned to look at the city with real eyes. These eyes were not deformed by the traditional view of admiring only the historical city and its monuments.

In the 60's and 70's the medieval walled city and the XIX century bourgeois city were diminishing their relative surface in relation to the city as a whole. Suburbs were growing at a fast speed within the capital cities of Europe but nothing compared with the growing cities of Asia and South America. Nevertheless, visitors were only paying attention to the original historic city.

At the turn of the millennium, revolutionary ideas of Russian constructivism and even pop-art had become reactionary. The peripheries or suburbs of our cities were already an extensive and dismal landscape, an unsustainable waste of land and time for commuting. The surface of the original city is tiny in comparison to the surface of the whole suburbs around. The other has become the common identity. And surprisingly from our point of view, within this setting most developers only seek out potential new CBD precincts, business parks, or claim



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for mix-used areas.

Conversely, we think that it is the right moment to reorganize the city, to revitalize suburbs with a new centrality to ensure that they are not simply places in which to sleep, but can be revitalised as CBDs also for living. We propose an integral holistic approach where the city forms part of the landscape and where buildings and open space have the same value. New projects will build continuity within the existing fragments of urban elements and provide density to transform unconnected objects into a sculptured territory.

The tectonic sculptural earth works of Khan-Noguchi, Giacometti, Chillida, Barceló could serve as urban models to shape open space and buildings into a tridimensional continuous connected space.

### III.4\_Towards physical organisation in a growing city

#### III.4.1\_Activities, height and density in the city centre

Arrival of people from a many different countries of the world brings new vitality and growth to the city. Growth in population requires new residential, retail and commercial buildings. Increase in height is required in order to develop a new centre with enough density to support a whole variety of city activities.

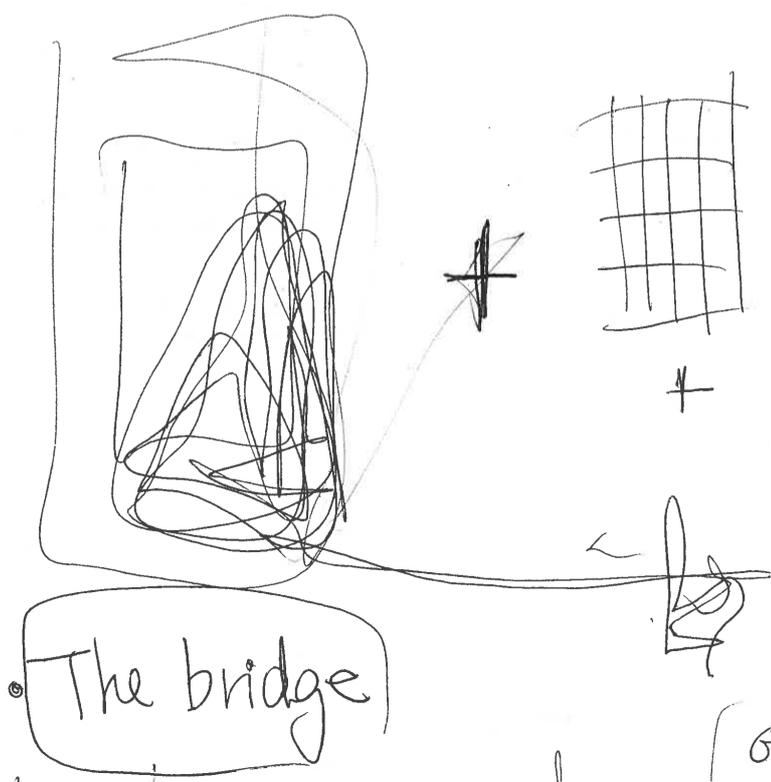
It will be necessary to respond to market conditions in terms and land market values. Private initiative should be guided by city and government institutions in order to prioritise public interest and ensure common wealth.

Strategic patterns such as precincts or axes would be established to make density happen. At the same time, spontaneous growth of new building typologies and towers of different functions, footprint and height within these areas will be encouraged.

Instead of zoning, it would be better to establish areas of density with special volumetric characteristics to allow different architecture typologies to be built with flexibility, allowable uses would be specified.

#### III.4.2\_Grid, city fabric and urban guidelines

While some cities do not have urban guidelines directing development within their districts, it is essential that every city



has an appropriate plan to guide its growth. This plan for growth must one adapts to the variations of the ground conditions, that is topographical, and that provides free lines of access to everybody, streets for pedestrians and all other kinds of circulation.

The history of cities has showed that a grid that defines the layout of the streets and the size of the blocks is a perfect tool for this purpose. Examples of different kinds of grids, regular or irregular are Cerdà's eixample at Barcelona, Quaroni's grid at Bari, Le Corbusier' at Chandigarh, Tokio's grid or Milton Keynes's grid.

Moreover, in order to create a city fabric, it is important to have a series of strategic and open guidelines.

Taking into account the land ownership, it will be necessary to establish a geometric pattern to study the best location on which to build office-residential towers and where to leave plazas or open spaces. Art of the XXth century taught us that figure and ground is equal in importance, we must apply this knowledge to the architecture of the city.

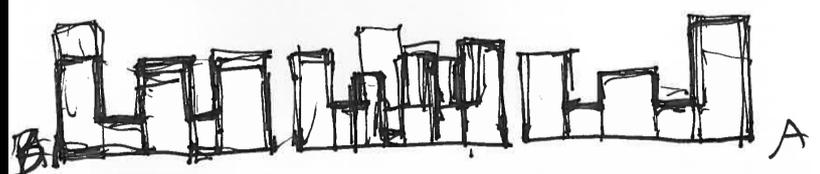
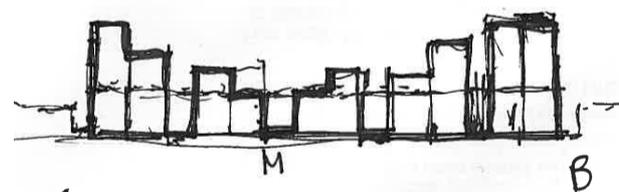
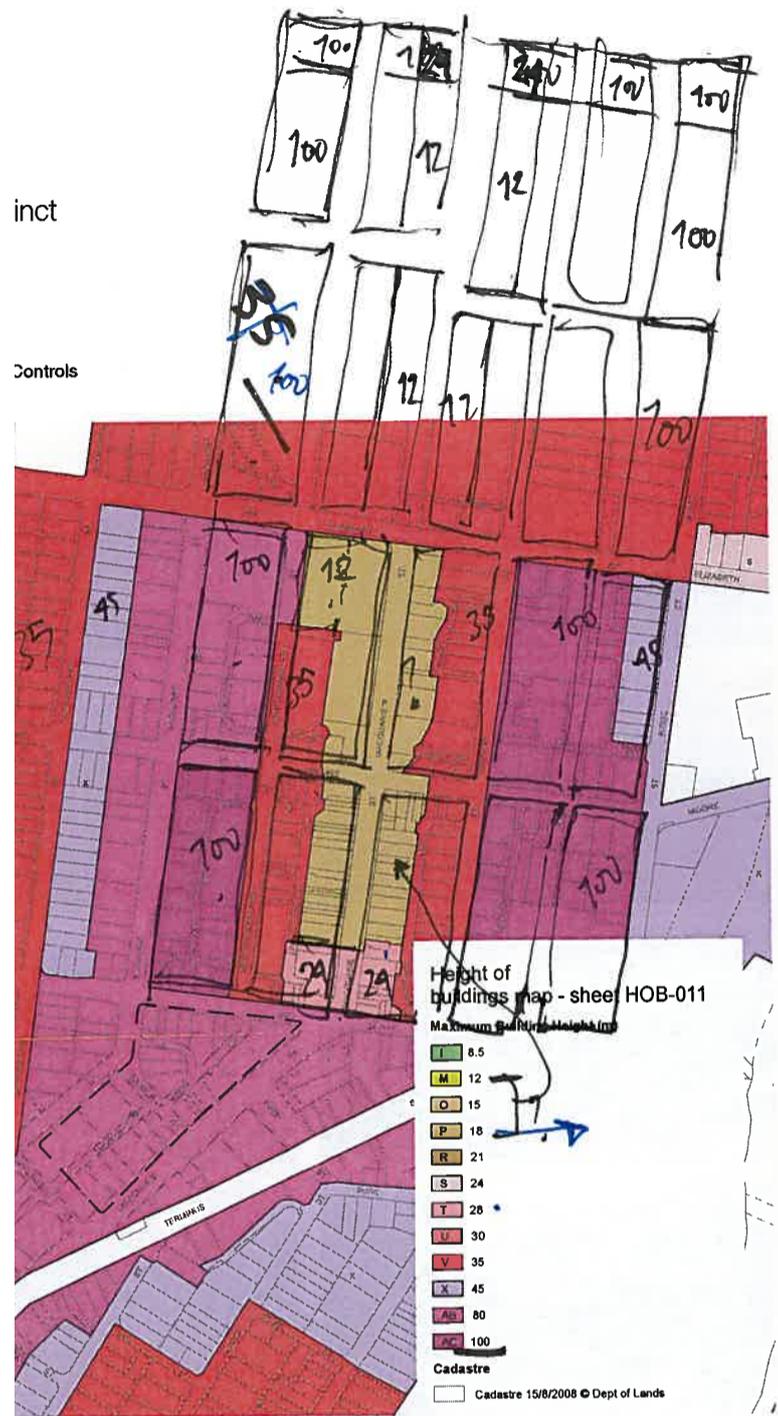
Learning from a nature based on fractal geometry is an open and adventurous investigation in order to build the present city. Art is not a duplication of nature but a human interpretation, an architecture of the city being founded in the land would be a human expression of the tectonic relation between city and territory.

**III.4.3\_A mixed use development vs. an urban civic district**

The complexity of urban form within most European cities is the result of the sum of different levels of civilization. In a new city, it is important to make connections between different functional zones and different architectural typologies in order to mix activities and enable people interaction.

Our contemporary cities are based on dynamicity and on infrastructure (transporting lines and digital communication), the notion of "place" has lost its importance. It is important to strategically identify key crossroads and other points within the city to be developed as new city centres and communication hubs.

Projects should be intrinsically sustainable and adapted to the climate. Projects should respond to a functional program but this is secondary to environmental integration. We understand mixed-use as a direction of activity within a building, demonstrating the possibility of a building to house different





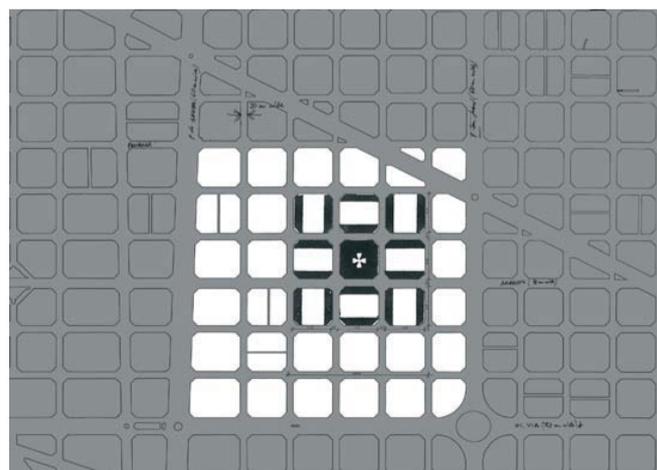
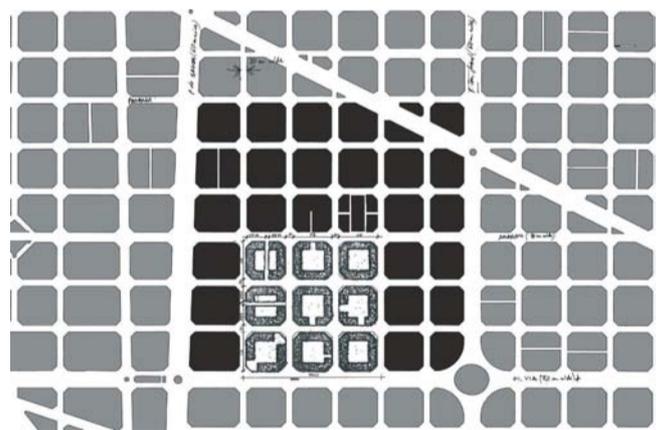
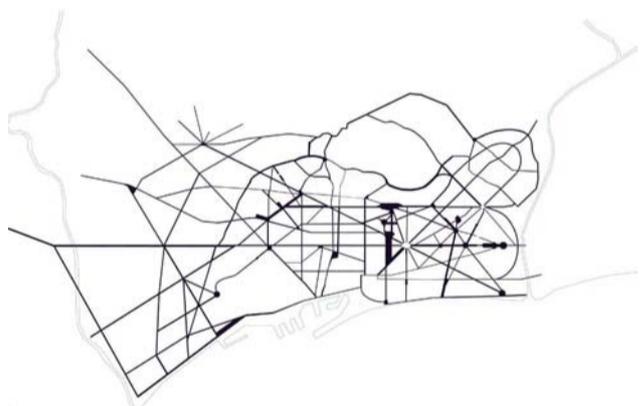
functions. We also advocate for neutral buildings that adapt to different functions through time.

A mixed use development is a design complete in itself. A platform as a white sheet of paper is established to build the neighbourhood of a utopian mixed use city. Like a market brand, it is a product city that could become an icon, defined by a logo.

Conversely, a civic district approach takes place within the existing urban fabric and searches for an anthropomorphically relationship with landscape. Referential signs of Australian artists (such as Barragan for Mexican architecture) should be examined and used, as art has always been most related to the geography of the place.

## IV\_INSPIRATIONS TO STUDY THE A&F CONCEPTUAL APPROACH

Identify relevant projects for the construction of the city. Choose a particular geomorphological area to establish a new urban civic project.



### IV.1\_In relation to urban fabric

Create the structure of a new city centre referencing elements of historical cities including:

- Limits to the city, circuits, ring, and landscaped belts vs. the walled city. Ex: Chicago's Burnham plan.
- Entrances or meeting points vs. the doors of the walled city. Ex: El Mercadal de Girona, Città di Lucca.
- Main streets vs. cardus and decumanus, foundation of a Roman city. Ex: Barcelona, Paris Champs Elysees-Boulevard Sebastopol-St. Michel
- Main streets in continuity with the territory Ex: Broadway New York, Diagonal Barcelona
- The grid vs. historical gridiron cities, ex: Aigües Mortes, Paris, Bcn, Chicago
- Linear cities

Read the urban fabric at different scales

- The buildings vs. the plaza, the street. Fossar de les Moreres

- The neighbourhood vs. the park. La Rose de Cherbourg

- The city vs. the territory. Jaussely plan 1907

Establish the best location for public civic buildings

Civic buildings are amenities that can make the structure of the city visible. They are not only public buildings but all kind of buildings that act as activity hubs for certain groups of people, accessible to the whole community, e.g. transport station, market, music school, art centre, museum, theatre, church, shopping mall, infrastructure. Examples, Cerdà Barcelona...

Make the urban fabric

Study the effect building typologies have on variations to the city fabric. Examples: Courtyard buildings forming a city tapestry, Mies van der Rohe; Mixed typology of housing, James Gowan, London; Housing courtyards and Edge city buildings, Steven Holl; Maisons-domino Pessac, Le Corbusier.

**IV.2\_In relation to the system of public spaces**

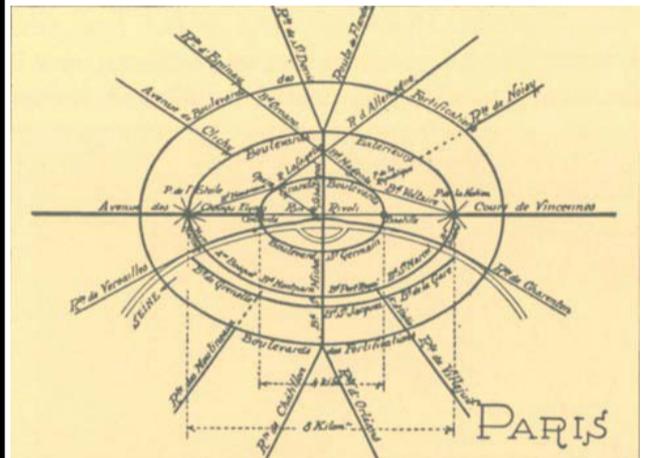
Establish a sustainable relationship between the city and landscape within a contemporary city

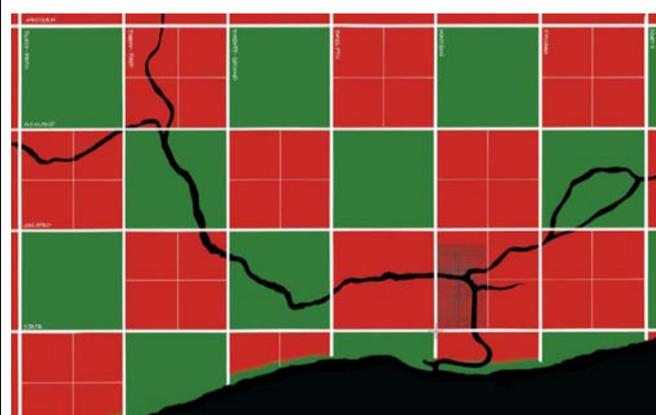
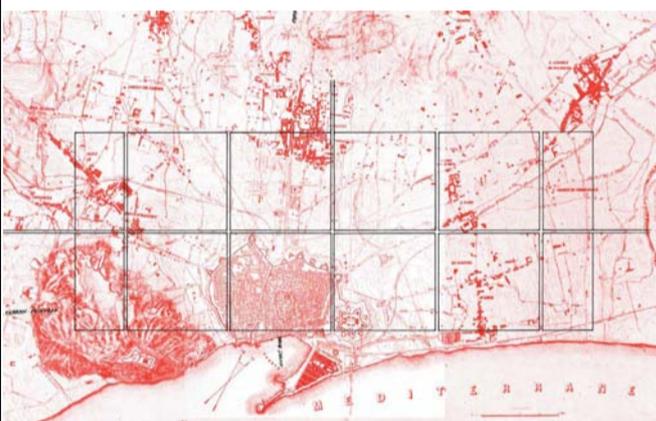
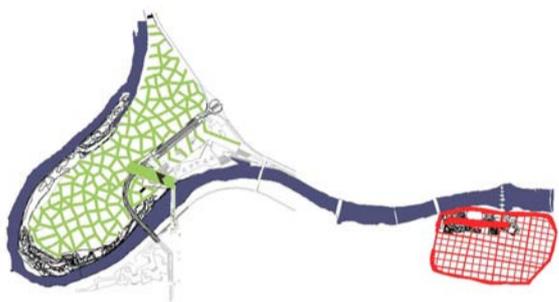
. Public access, road connections. Integration city-territory. Examples of Grids. Establishing a grid. Measures of the grid of Barcelona. Measures of Chicago grid.

. Study the territorial relationship with the global city, structure mobility in relation to the geography. Integrate linear infrastructures of highways and railroad with the meandering riverbeds and green corridors. In general, design transportation lines according to the topography of the land, either in green belts or in green exits from the city centre. Bicycle paths. Ex: Chicago Burnham plan

. Preserve areas of vacant land for natural parks. Preserve areas of the grid for pastures-park-agricultural fields. Ex. Chicago Checkerboard grid. Case study application.

. Transform an industrial site into a park. What kind of park? A Green Park, an Australian Park, a technological park or





a thematic park? Competition Pirelli Milano.

. Preserve, integrate or create agricultural fields. Ex: Expo Hannover 2000, Expo Zaragoza 2008

. Transform golf parks into natural parks. Ex: Botanical Garden Vancouver.

. Transform The English Park into The Local Park. Rio di Janeiro Burle Marx

. Consider agriculture and wood lands as the most genuine of park, establish continuity between open land and city open space.

. Make the landscape visible in the city through the system of public space.

. Topographic liaisons. Build with reference to the ground planes of the open space surface and the planar relationship with the ground level of the surrounding buildings. Ensure a pedestrian accessibility is available to everybody, everywhere.

. Examine the patterns of living of people coming from abroad and their relationship with the ground. Compare with historical first nations traditions, paintings and artworks.

. Create Fractal cities. A city within a city, City Centre Liverpool, Liverpool, Sydney. A neighbourhood civic centre, within a district within a city, Parc Central de Nou Barris, Nou Barris, Barcelona.

**IV.3\_ Coordinate the urban form of UCP with the needs of the community to live comfortable and connected.**

Invent the site, create a symbolic urban landscape.

The first visit to the site is fundamental to absorb not only the specific urban context, but the atmosphere characteristics. It is worth noticing the city in relation to the landscape and territory around.

Careful reading of the ortho-photo map and historical research through old maps will follow.

The strategy is to discover singularities to ensure that the future project emphasizes urban civic qualities and tones down non desirable characteristics.

This approach would allow us to develop and design a particular reading of the

site. Together with a process of participation with administrators and community a specific program would be developed for the urban civic project. It would add another layer of significance to the city and when built would transform the site into a vibrant place.

- Identify the singularities of the place (the civic places), the meeting places (plains), visual places, and crossroads.

- Find the appropriated places to locate new developments

- Define the size and scale of the project.

Analysis of the density of the existing grain and fractal geometry of the territory vs. new building structure for the proposed Urban Civic Project.

- Integrate the conceptual drawing of the site vs. conceptual tectonic model of the UCP. Check the hybrid structure of the project with the site; analyse its size, composition, accessibility and uses to be a social condenser irradiating urbanity.

#### IV.4 Define uses and the program of the urban civic project using a participative process; ensure liveability.

Establishing values and symbols of the community.

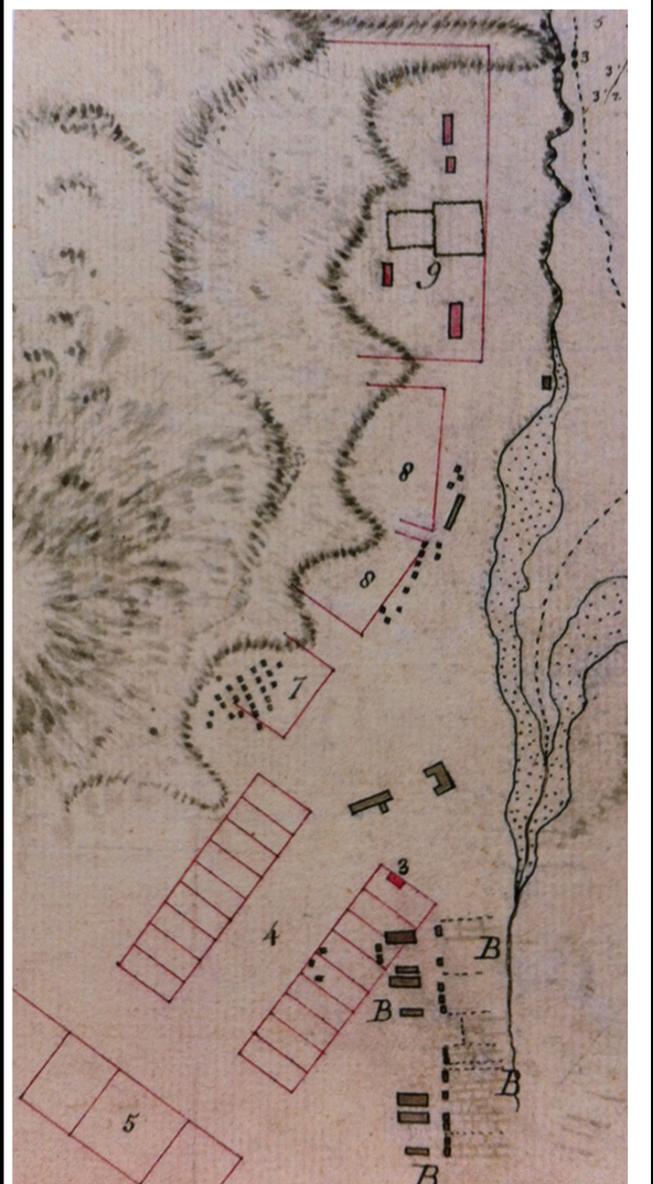
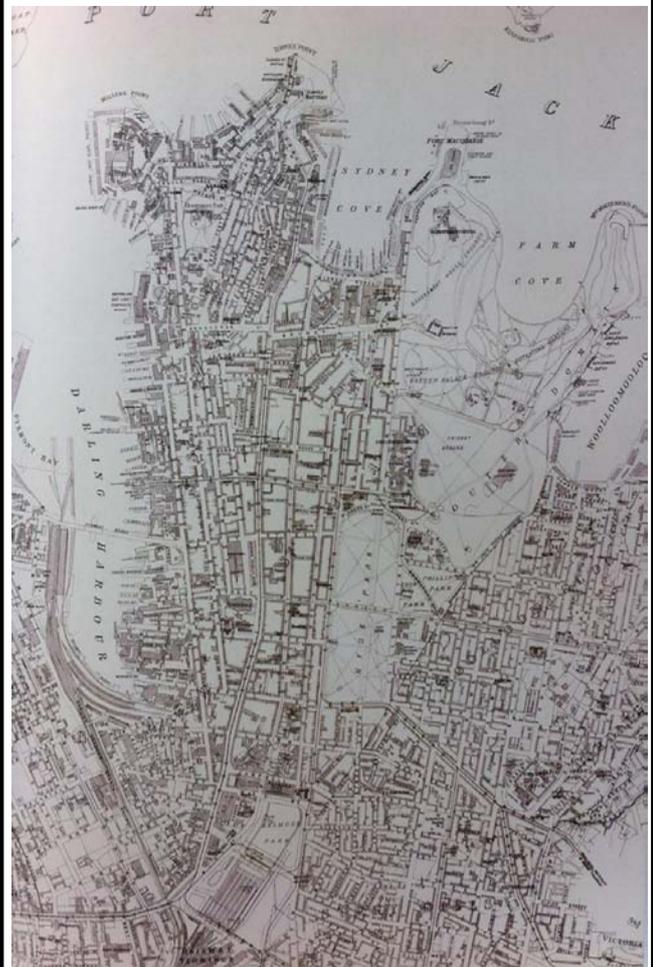
Ask citizens which are the places that they like? What is singular to the city? What is the origin of the city? What were the original uses, which industries? Agricultural uses?

What is beautiful, a fountain, a sculpture, a light? Where do you like to go when you have spare time? What do you like to do on Sunday?

Cinemas. Market. Plaza. Theatre. Dancing. Painting. Singing. Playing chess. Playgrounds. Underline differentiation and civic pride. Agricultural fertile outskirts. Local Art. Local Food. Music Festival. Local tradition. Sport events. Urban Furniture. Macro Market. Food market. Crafts market. Macro disco with citizens of the world.

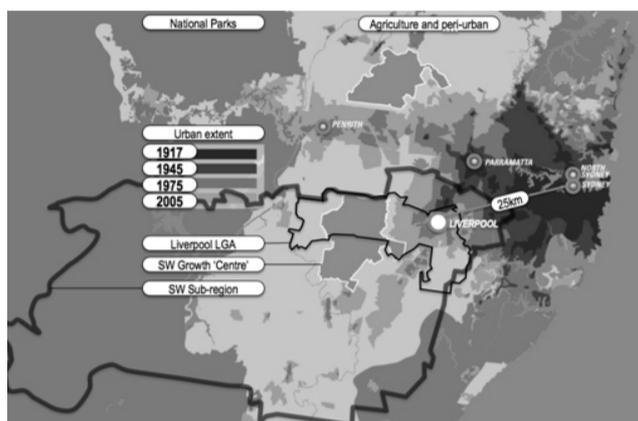
Train Station. Hotel. Cinemas. Film Festival. Hospital health city. Social housing. Hand-made housing.

Write and draw a cartoon of the project, a narrative to explain clearly the vision and the process of the project-to make it happen.



# V\_CREATING A NEW CITY CENTRE AT LIVERPOOL, SYDNEY

The new project will discover the singularities of the site and will be based on the physical organisation of the favourable expectations of growth.



## V.1\_Main singularities of the suburb of Liverpool, Sydney

Main transport interchange:  
Train station / Bus terminal / Wi-Fi / Hotel / River/ Pirelli site

Market hub: Reorganize as a quality shopping mall, a good belvedere of the landscape around. Let streets go through. Maintain the public streets of the original Hoddle grid. Reorganize parking lots. Integrate with the city using the street grid.

Hospital hub: Apply a similar approach to the market hub. Integrate with the city using the street grid. The Medical Research Precinct is to be developed as a series of plazas.

Grid - Avenues/Streets: Establish different kinds of sections in relation to their orientation and placement within the grid. Organise pedestrian, cyclist, common transport, cars, delivery and highway. Plant trees in the streets.

Mall: Main Street. Organize a Rambla, a central elongated public space where people can promenade along and gather and play chess. Children play is allowed but no play structures are to be located in the middle, they could be placed in the church garden or at other adjacent plazas or gardens.

Sustainability: Green & Blue (agriculture) + Accessibility / Communication

V.2\_New urban civic projects in the city of Liverpool

Participants in URBAN CIVIC PROJECTS for Liverpool city centre.

City of Liverpool, NSW Government Architect, Stakeholders, Urban Design Consultancies City of Liverpool, University of Sydney, Arriola&Fiol Droga Residence Architect AIA.

The Landscape of Liverpool

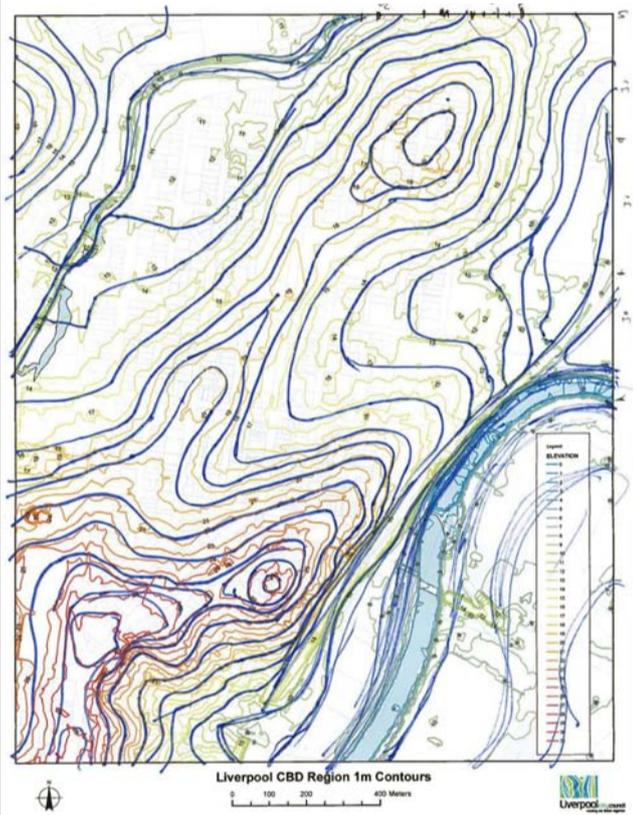
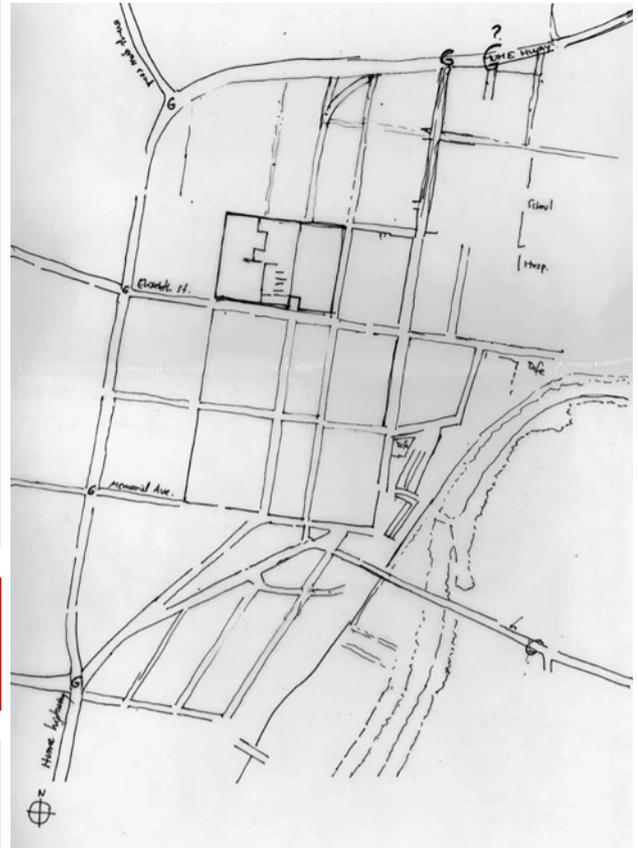
Near a National Park and flanking Georges River, Liverpool is a western suburb of Sydney. There is limited interest to visit except if you live in the place and you normally commute every day to work outside the city.

The City of Liverpool has a vision to build on the CBD and add a focal point to the metropolis of Sydney in order to place Liverpool on the map for any citizen and for visitors too.

From my point of view it is a great idea to build a city, within a city, within a city. Establishing nodes of reference enables clear orientation and wayfinding within the territory.

As such the main city is Sydney, the city is Liverpool and the nucleus of the station and communication hub will become the main urban civic project of Liverpool. The main urban civic hub will be complemented with other activities such as hotels, apartments, offices, convention centre, gallery and sculpture park along the river.

Newbridge is the main gateway to Liverpool and will direct visitors into the city, landing in a new plaza flanked by new high-rise buildings.

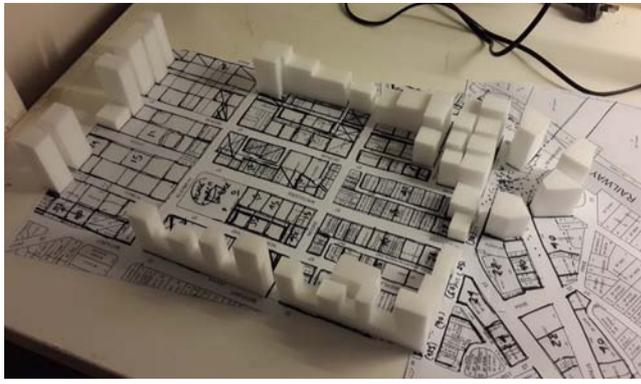


## The Landscape of Liverpool

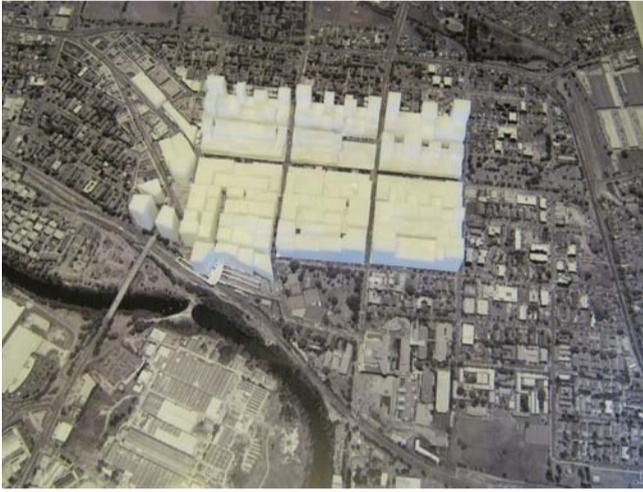
Liverpool as a city is rethinking its future. Looking with new eyes at the common features of the river, the hills, the gates, the bridges and the roads that connect the territory around, I understand this process could enable a new formation of the city. The structure of the city already exists, it was founded once by establishing a grid.

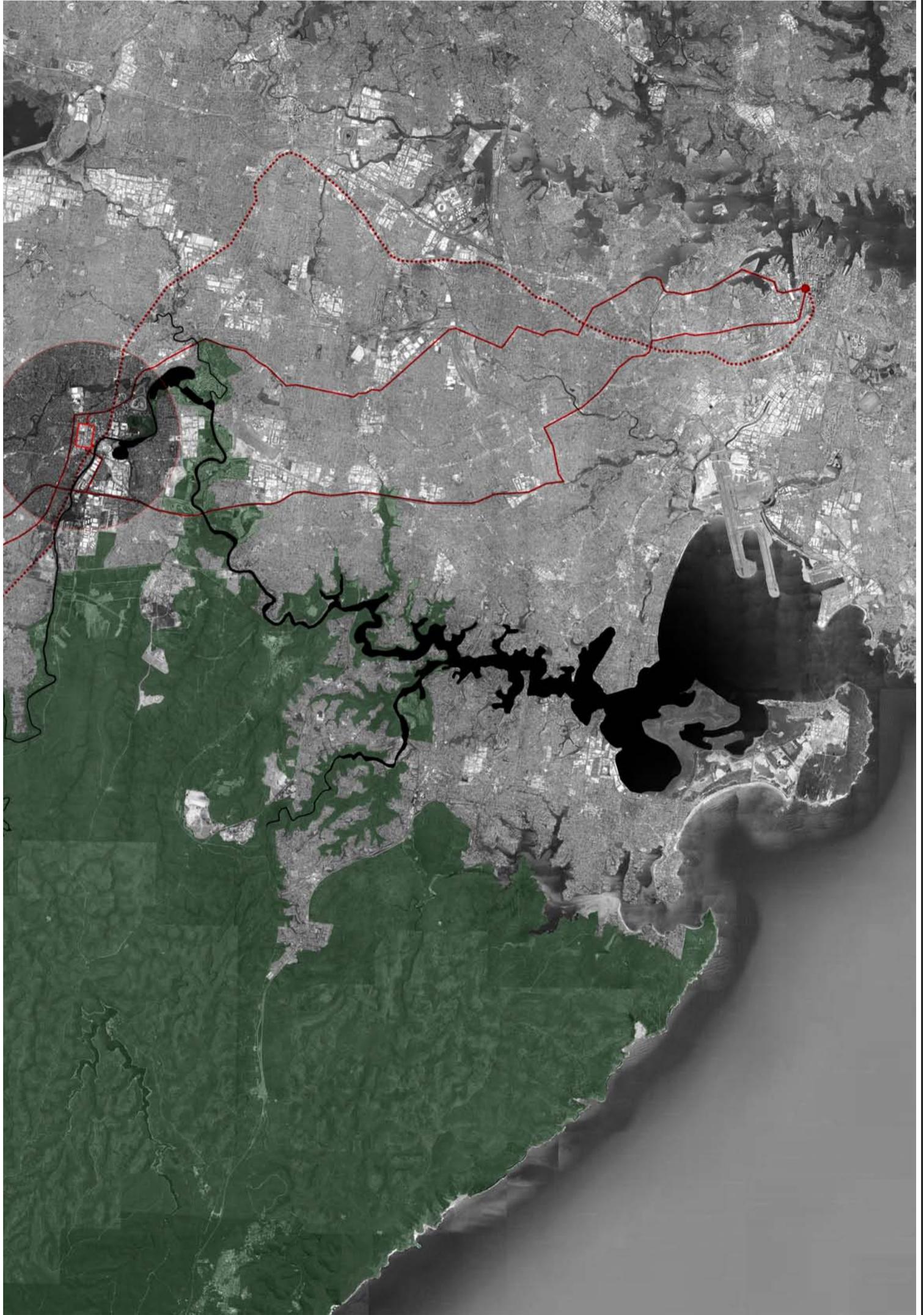
The existing should be integrated into a new vision. The rectangular geometry of the CBD, built in a continuous perimeter, only penetrable by the streets defining the city blocks, would appear visible at any distance, and from any view point that one approaches the 'new' city of Liverpool.

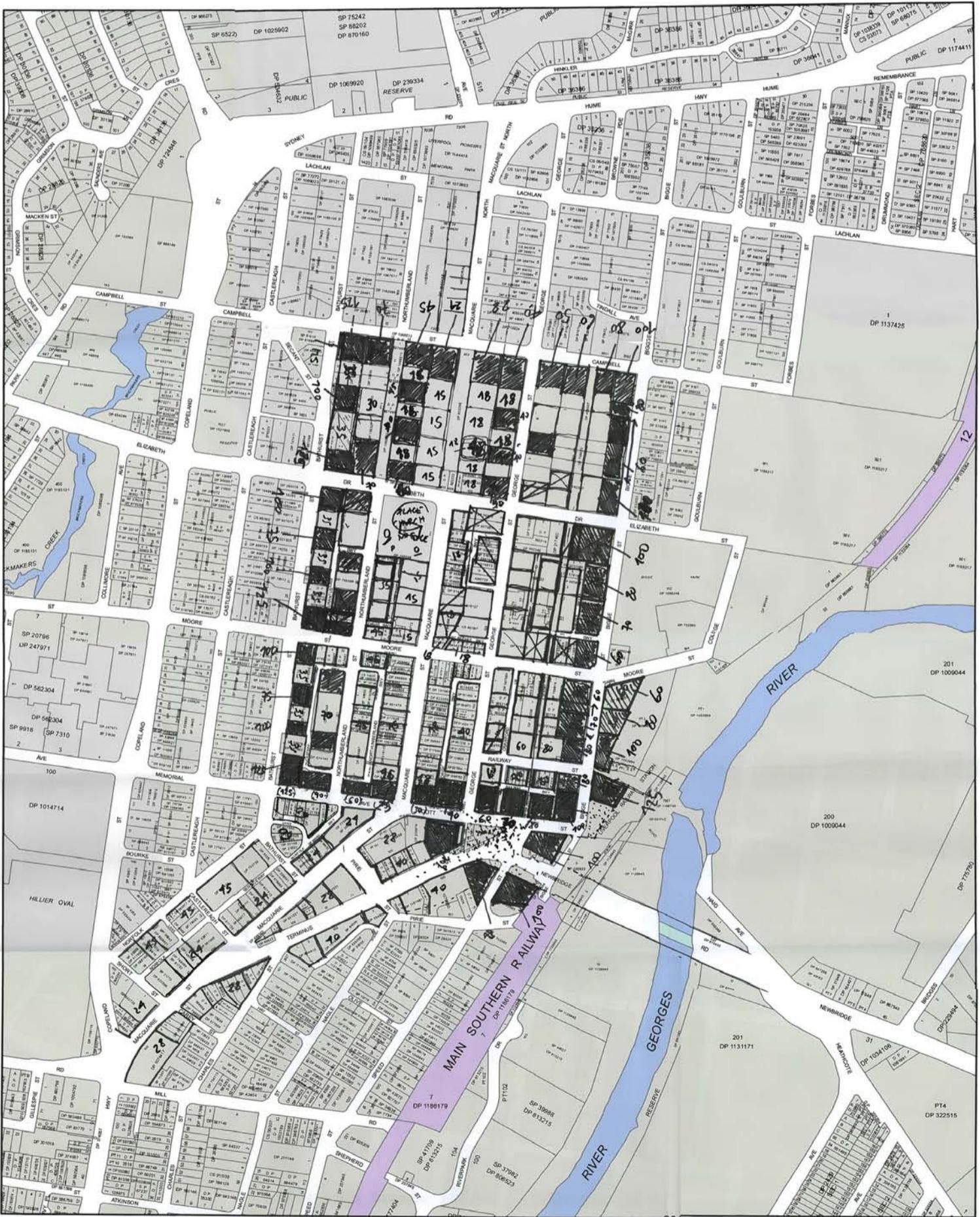
As a Roman city with main streets Cardus and Decumanus, as a medieval city with gates opening to routes, the new Liverpool will be standing slender in the landscape of river and hills.



Volumetric study of city centre







Liverpool CBD Region Cadastre

