

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

OPENING THE GRID PLAN -- CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Problem:

How can we modify the existing grid plan to improve circulation, encourage the development of parks and new neighborhoods, and clarify the order implied by terrain itself?

This project reconciles two theories of city design: the traditional city, a solid mass with spaces carved out of it; and the city in a park, an open meadow in which isolated buildings are placed. To do this the area is divided into three zones: two as "the city in a park"; the third as the existing grid plan preserved and improved. New open space would be provided in the east and west zones, which in effect would extend Central Park north to the Harlem River in two green corridors. Ten new 60 story apartment towers are suggested for these new parks along with long low units of terrace housing. The eastern zone incorporates Mt. Morris Park and adds to it a new formal lake. A building complex ten blocks long for commercial and perhaps light industry facilities is also proposed.

Both the central and west zones terminate in a new stadium at the north; at the south, flanking Central Park, the plan distinguishes an enclave which incorporates Park West village and other housing. Existing blocks of traditional housing in this section are opened up by the removal of those units no longer worth rehabilitating. Interior yards would be converted into quiet alcoves opening off the street.

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