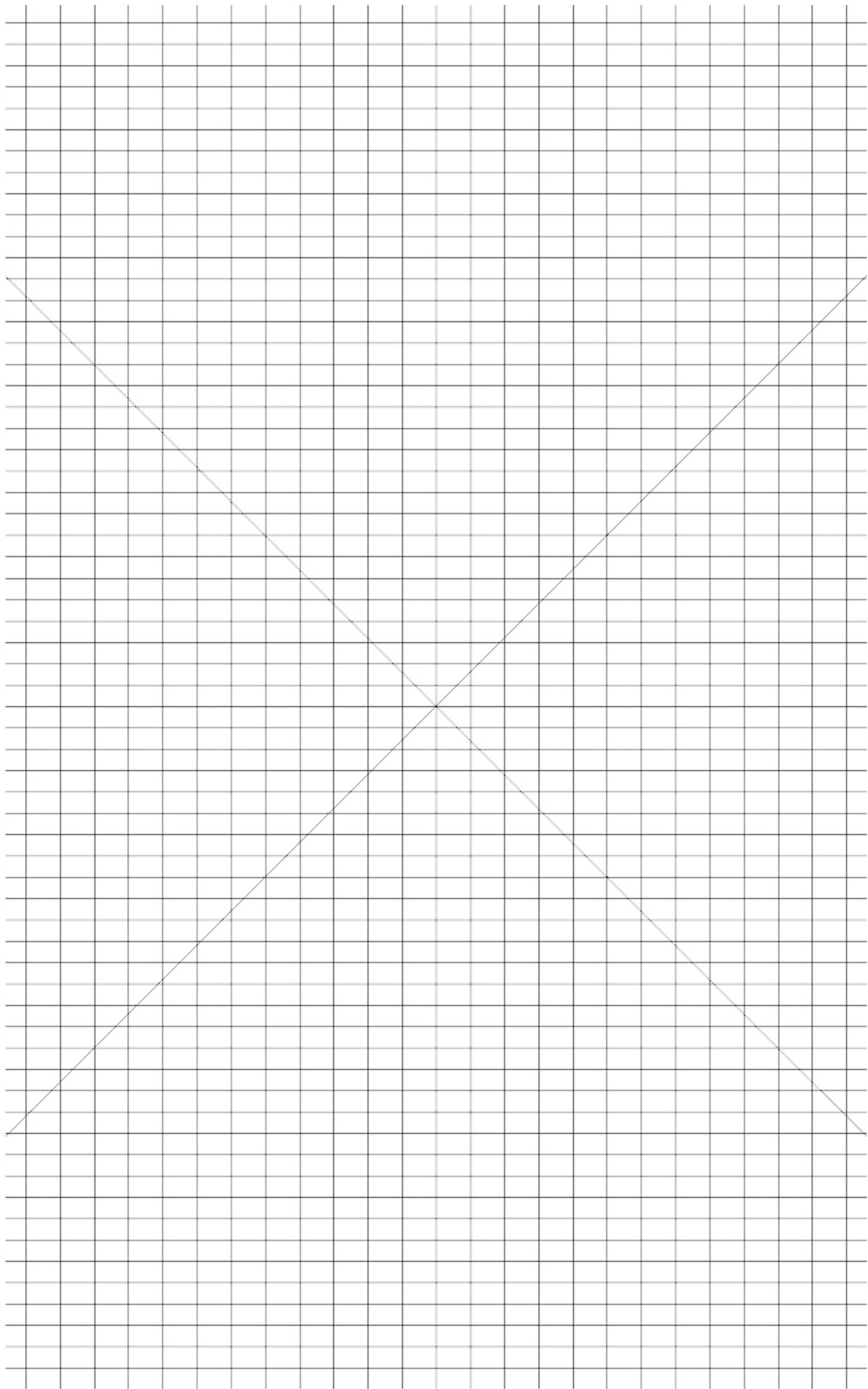
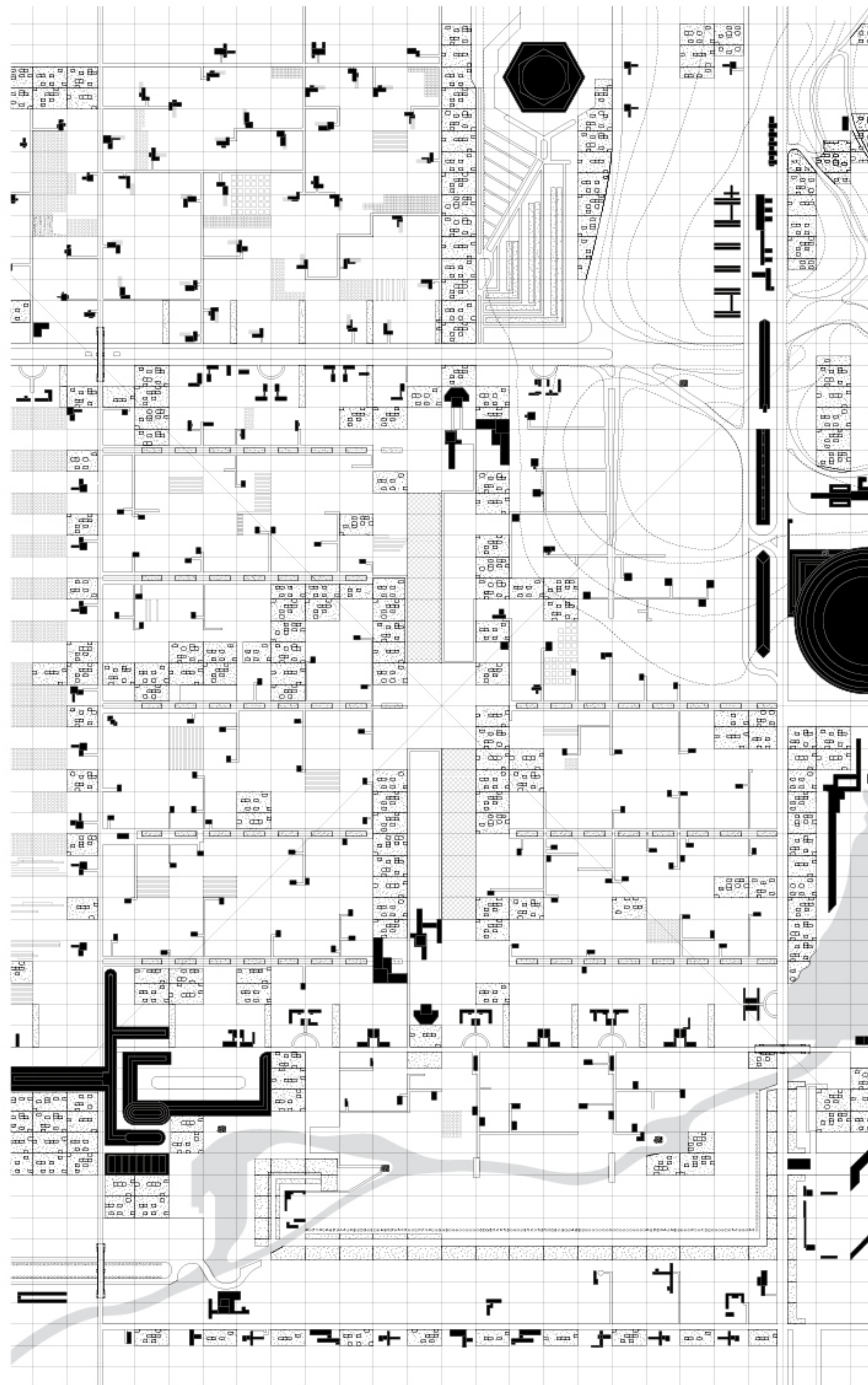






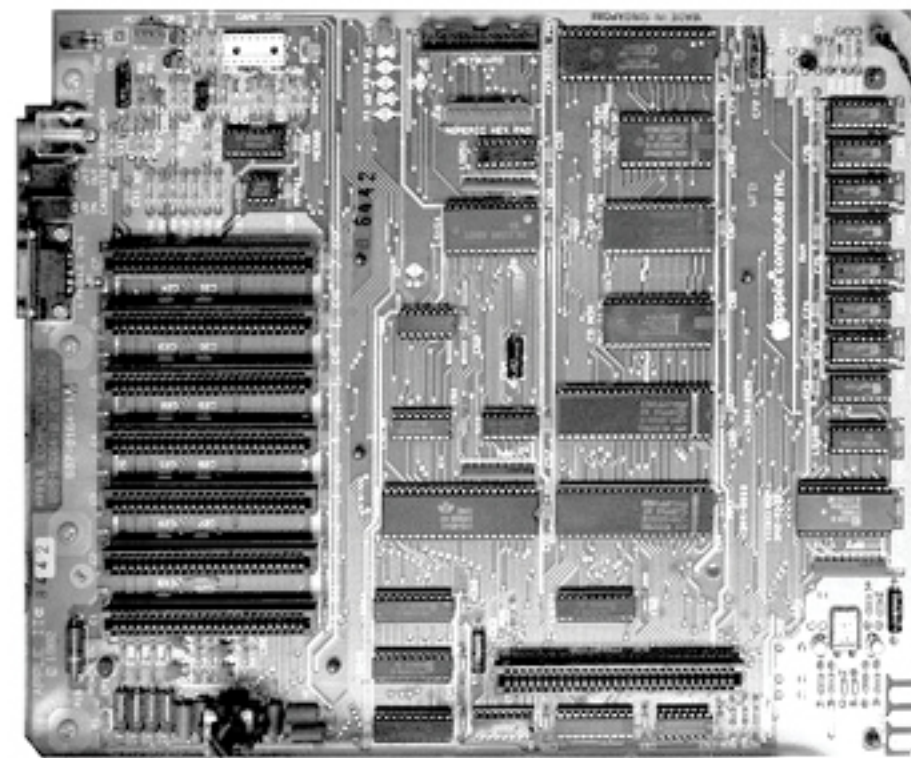
Machine

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Form, Contingency, Agency: Introduction to Urbanism
University of Toronto: Daniels Faculty
Professor Roberto Damiani
Michael Angelo DeGirolamo



1983 Apple motherboard



1935 Model of Broadacre City

As The Mother Board

Comparing

As Frank Lloyd Wright's idea was that of a solely democratic society, returning back to the Jeffersonian ideals, the geometry can be assumed for its theoretical purpose of the provider as the cultivator and thinker (Dehaene, 2002). Hence, the motherboard is a direct relation to how the site functions. The zones are formed via the grid and are given purpose through their occupancy, so to does the modern city and its specific blocks and neighbourhoods.

1983 Apple motherboard:

Steve Jobs' initial positional statement in 1977 of what we know as Apple Inc. today.

"Our whole company is founded on the principle that there is something very different that happens with one person, one computer ... What we're trying to do is remove the barrier of having to learn to use a computer"

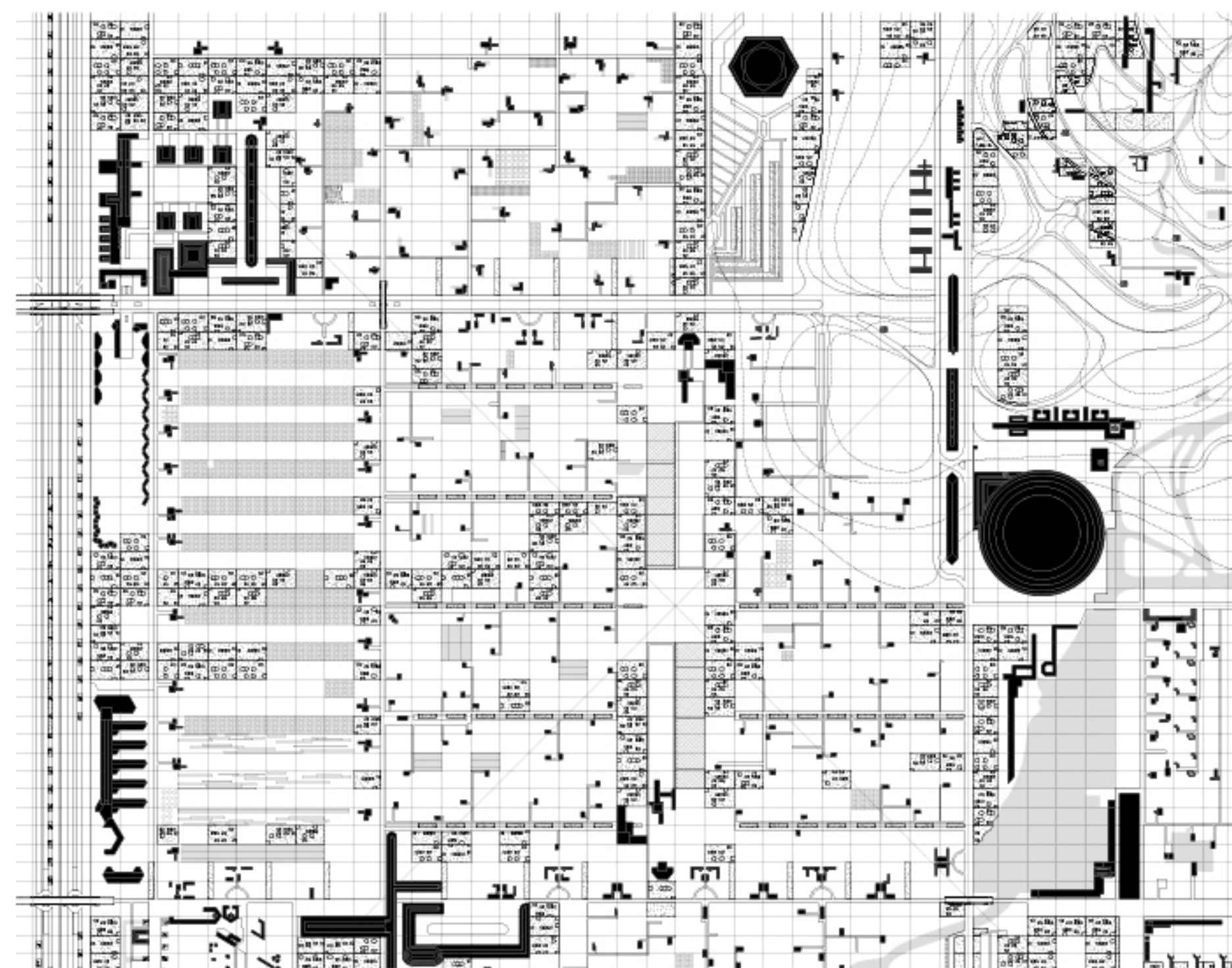
(Baer, 2015).

Per Drake Baer's article, Jobs' understanding of the computer was to create another 'domesticated' item so to become another daily 'appliance' in the ritual of everyday life (2015).

1935 Model of Broadacre City:

Similar to Jobs, Wright uses the establishment of components (road-networks, built-form, agriculture, open-space, and etc.) of the city to form a democratic society within the Jeffersonian ideal. The broadacre grid carries out these functions for the individual to be in a highly enlightened state by removing the barriers of typical ownership and rental agreements, which was understood by Wright as not conforming to the 'anti-capitalistic way of living' (Alofsin, 2011).

Wright understood, similarly as the barrier of learning to use a computer, the barrier to civilized society was the "nature of social forces" (Alofsin, 2011) and that "bureaucracy was the antithesis of human individuality" (Steffensen, 2015). By creating the series 'components', as mentioned before, under the agrarian Broadacres approach one could become truly enlightened (Alofsin, 2011).



The Components

Singular Elements

Noting Donald Leslie Johnson's article, *Broadacres Geometry: 1934-35*, he uses the analogy of the human body and how the processes of Broadacre match that of human arteries (1988). On website forum discussions, such as arktktr.tumblr.com and numerous others, a better analogy in my opinion is used to discuss Wright's processes similar to a motherboard. This analogy holds true due to Wright's programmatic specificity and positioning of the entire site, which resembles the elements of Wright's vision via gestural means as discussed.

Circuit Board:

Landscape, the basis of everything on the site, becomes the source of all embedded programming. The landscape conceptually houses the communities, which are surrounded by the Transistors, External Ports, Memory, and Processor, which is connected via the Copper Tracks.

Copper Tracks (circuit connections):

Street network that moves people (information) around the site, to-and-from specific locations.

Transistors:

Housing and green-space where all of the family oriented functions are contained can act as a protector to the external forces.

Memory (hard-drive and ram):

Where the commercial centres are located and where goods are stored to be distributed to the communities. In addition, where services of large scale are housed.

External Ports (video, memory, and devices):

Where the proposed hub of storage facilities connects to the outer network or city via expressway. Relays all of the interior information (goods and services) outward to surrounding communities and cities.

Processor (central and graphics):

Core functions, such as education and family oriented housing which are located at the gestural centre of the site.



Machine As 'Form'

Points of the City as Broadacre

Machine as 'Form'..

Classifies function:

The rationality of functional areas or zones (Johnson, 1988), in Wright's perspective of the concept in an organic architecture, lets the "ground itself predetermine all features; the climate modify them; available means limit them; [and the purpose/use] shape them" (Wright, 1935).

Separates and classifies 'building' and 'infrastructure':

Buildings of all typologies and morphologies as architecture ('poorhouse' to the 'opera house') (Pope, 2012).

Infrastructure as the formal matter of 'streets' and 'services' that controls 'Buildings' and location (Pope, 2012).

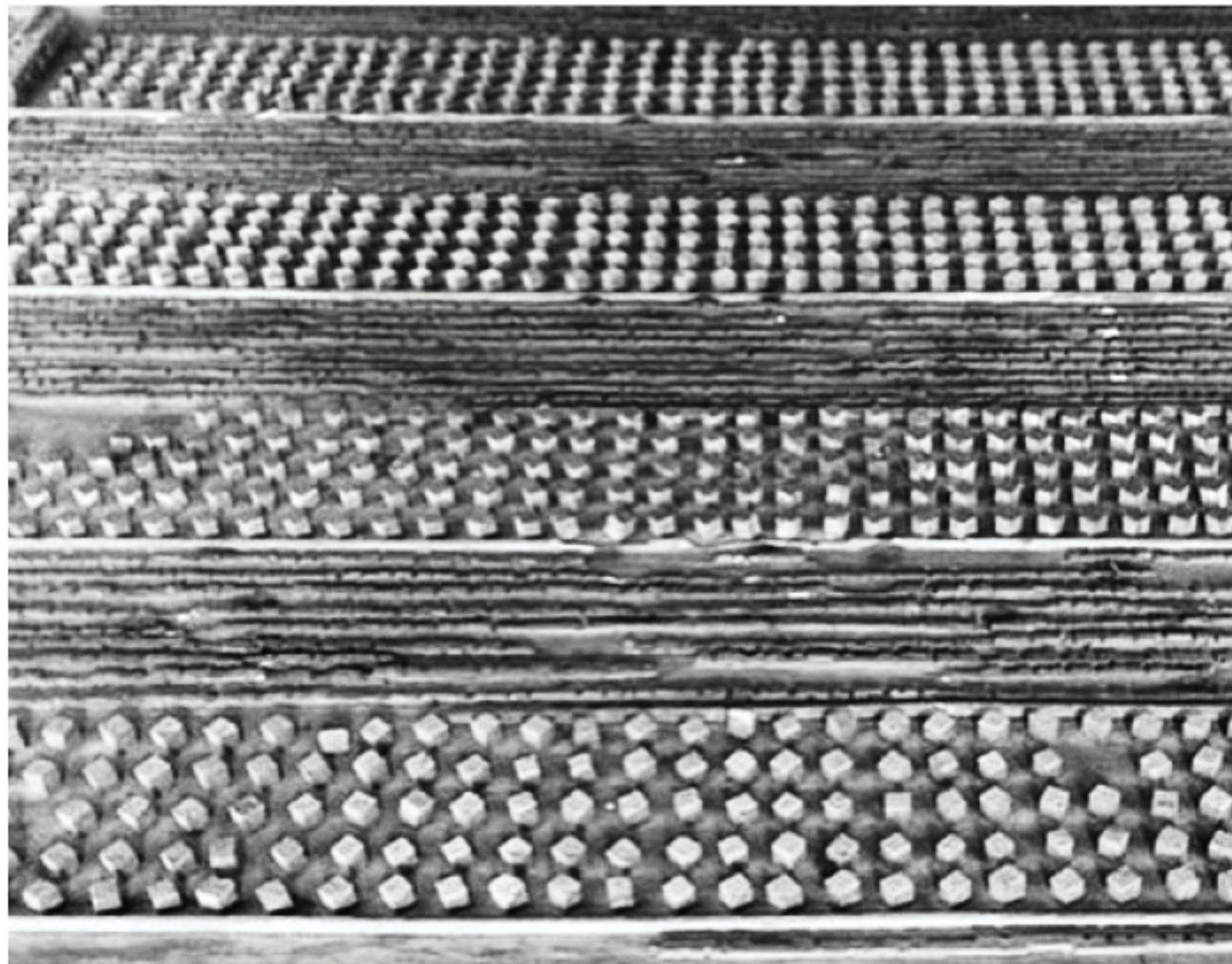
Highways and feeder roads:

Organized along the grid structure to maximize utility for users safety and convenience. Used for work and leisure related activities (Alofsin, 2011). Safety, in relation to schools and children, are resolved via 'low-rise buildings' at the centre to create a zone where "children can go without crossing traffic [(i.e. galleries, museums, concert/lecture halls, small gardens, well-lit spaces, small zoo, and etc.)]" (Wright, 1935).

Contains rhythm within repetition and standardization of the grid:

Rhythm alters repetitions and standardization whenever it forms within the grid via modifiers, such as art, architecture, or nature but must follow the rule set out by Wright that "it must to be [for] lasting human value" (Wright, 1935).

Form: The city, as the grid and module, organizing and placing people and services.



Machine As 'Contingency'

Points of the City as Broadacre

Machine as 'Contingency'...

Relays information as the controller:

Similar to the way the motherboard functions for the computer, the grid of the city relays 'important information' to the outlying systems allowing varying causal links (Dehaene, 2002).

Proposes diversity:

From the analysis of the grid, grids embedded within grids create "diversity in unity [which] recognizes the necessity of cultivation as a need for formality" (Wright, 1935).

Imagines future goals:

The grid was used as a structure to project future interests such as the advent of mass production and the ownership of the motor vehicle. This would be a prediction that mass production would solve the issue of ownership thus needing resolution to what the future may evolve to contain (Alofsin, 2011) (Shelton, 2011).

Responds to expansion:

Constructed under the expandable infinite grid as the creation of "inevitable ...growth as a people and a nation" to limit the 'finality' of the city (Wright, 1935).

Contingency: The city [the grid] framework as an anticipatory [adaptable, scalable, and morph-able] framework to adapt to the future events and social causes.



Machine As 'Agency'

Points of the City as Broadacre

Machine as 'Agency'...

Providing autonomy:

The city, as the future defined by the grid, allows people to move as free autonomous beings through zoned areas 'lush with flora and fauna'. Under the Broadacres scheme, the city would be conceived as a place that "automatically ends unemployment and all its evils forever" (Wright, 1935) with 'universal ownership' for the means of production and distribution sustaining the occupiers (Nelson, 1995) (Lapping, 1979).

Creating stability:

Idea of combating the great depression as a long-term goal, the agrarian grid allows the "individual, or the family, the means to provide for themselves and others" (Alofsin, 2011). This is by Wright's endeavor to create a democratic union allowing complete freedom and creativity of the individual. Completed via the affordability of "little farms, little homes for industry, little factories, little schools, and a little university going to the people mostly by way of their interest in the ground for profession" (Wright, 1935).

Allowing diversity and privacy:

Varying typologies and morphologies as dwellings, placed along rationalized spaces governed by the grid, affords the residents (the individual and the family) to own their own land (Alofsin, 2011). In addition, creates a "fair means of subsistence for all by way of their own work on their own ground or in their own laboratory or in common offices serving life as a whole" (Wright, 1935).

Agency: The city, as the occupants and stakeholders [the utopia] providing the services within, organizing and producing "transactions". Transaction can be any form of movement or exchanges as verbal or item based.

* Note, some information may be overlapping within sources, specific information will be cited via the applicable source and an additional reference guide will be supplied separately.

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Figures

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