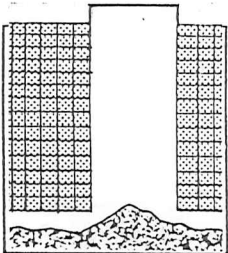
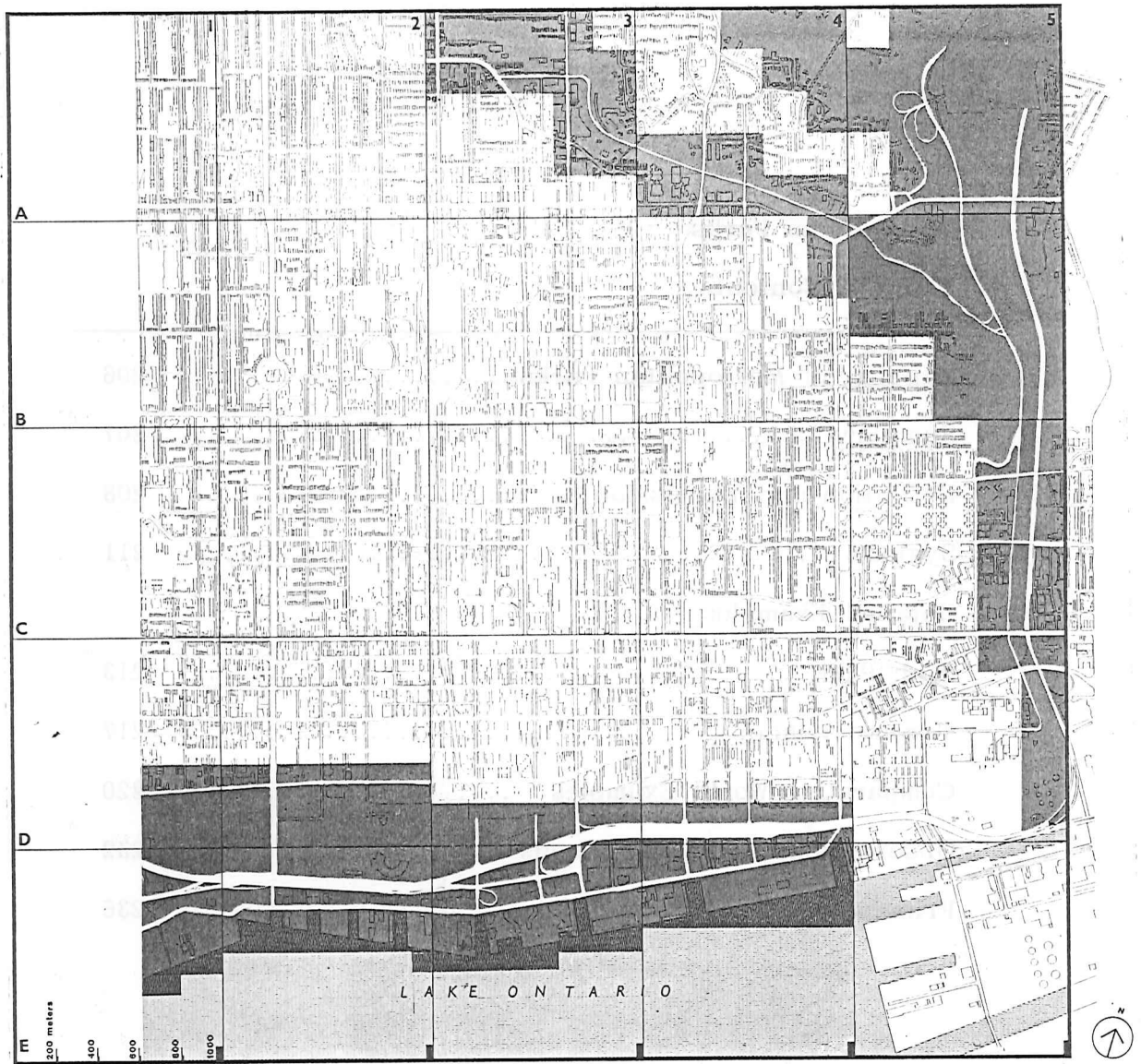


Metropolitan Parks

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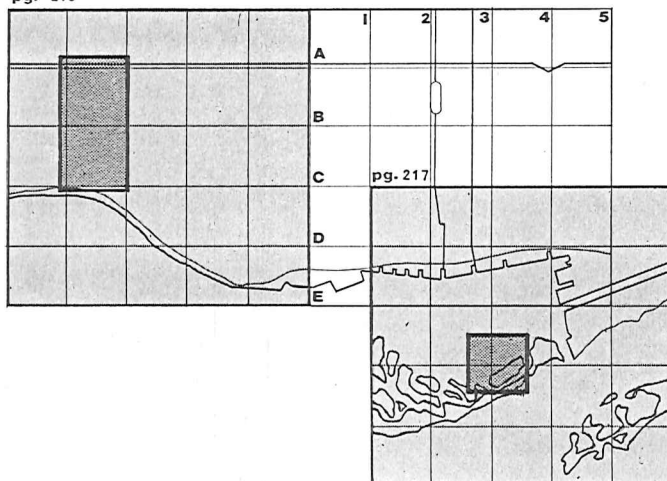




METROPOLITAN PARKS

M A P P I N G

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Metropolitan Parks

**Definition** An open space of "grand dimensions" whose users come from a more regional area.

**Location** Forms a limit to the downtown core; often is located at a major natural element

**Size** The largest type of Toronto's open spaces; comparable to the size of a normal city neighbourhood.

**Edge** The edges normally are made by both city streets and a natural boundary like the waterfront or a ravine. the edges to the city should be made as an intermediate zone having both elements of the city and the park, to extend the public space of the city into the natural setting of the park periphery.

**Landscape** The planning of the park should allow for the intermediary zone between the city and the park. major public routes should travel through the park to promote constant use and occupation. Movement systems should clearly connect into public routes. The scale of the park permits a full range of public facilities.

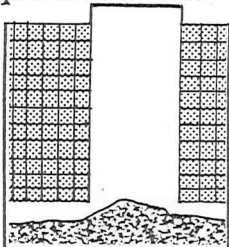
**Use** Large scale activities like exhibitions, amusement attractions, sports fields mixed with individual pursuits, and casual use. Planning should allow the use of the park by both large formal gatherings and individuals.

**Weather** Areas of shelter and shade to be provided as a normal support occurring in a regular pattern through the park.

**System** The metropolitan park can be the initiator or destination of an open space system established in the downtown core of the city.

**Other** All routes should connect clearly to major public systems that run through the park. Built facilities should be designed to provide phone booths, lighting and emergency help.

Metropolitan Parks







### Definition

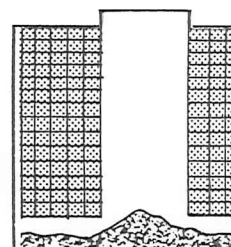
A metropolitan park is an open space that possesses "grand dimensions" and whose users come more from the urban region than from the city proper. The metropolitan park, although in many cases surrounded by built up areas, was originally often planned at the fringes of the original city boundaries. This type is usually developed around a major natural feature.

For example, an implied set of boundaries of the centre of Toronto is formed by **High Park**, the **Toronto Islands** and the **Lower Don Valley lands**. High Park encompasses Grenadier Pond and an extensive tract of land. The Toronto Islands are special by virtue of being islands, and the Lower Don Valley, though presently underdeveloped as a public open space, contains the Don River and extensive valley lands. These metropolitan parks contain natural landforms, like ravines, mounds, rivers, and ponds. While the external limits of the metropolitan park may be formed by the normal structure of the city grid, the internal order of this type generally sets out an independent set of structural organizations.



An important distinction should be made between the Metropolitan Park and the Provincial Park. The Metropolitan Park is still an open space set in the urban condition and cannot constitute a true "wilderness area" such as can be found in the Provincial Park's much larger and removed tracts of land. Metropolitan Parks in Toronto, like the Don Valley, are generally conceived and created as artificial natural settings that offer shelters to indigenous flora and fauna.

This singular ideal of the Metropolitan Park is being challenged by both theoreticians and by growing numbers of interested user groups who now suggest that the metropolitan park could more accurately reflect the nature of the users and consider the open space as a public space of grand dimension, striking a balance between the urbane and the artificial "natural" facility.



### **Adjacencies / Edges**

Metropolitan parks, originally set on peripheries of cities, become engulfed by the city to the point where their edges eventually face complex urban conditions. Often these parks have one or more major edge onto a natural feature, but how the city actually is broached by the Metropolitan Park in setting up an exchange of the urbane spaces of the built city and the open public space of the park represents the essential character of this type.

The edges and the entrances into the metropolitan park can be developed in a way that makes the open space comprehensible to the user, by giving an understanding of the scale of the space in reading its systems and facilities.

The simple contrast between built and non-built form ignores the possibility of an intermediary zone of dialogue, of urbane edges, of public facilities, of a truly public access to its major open spaces.

The planners of the metropolitan park, such as High Park, or the Don Valley Lands would do well to emulate the international examples where a more pluralistic view of the nature of the park and of public space can be developed to accomodate a multiplicity of city users.

The edges are the interface where this can begin. This area of interface between the open space and the urban condition is a potential zone where an exchange of "natures" can be designed. Consequently, this intermediary zone should be considered by designers as a distinct space that carries elements of both the urban and the natural conditions, co-existing and reinforcing each other.

### **Facilities / Use : Intensity and Frequencies**

The grand dimensions of the Metropolitan Park open the possibilities of use to boundless potential. The size of the metropolitan park allows for the accommodation of major built public facilities and major open space installations for performances, cultural displays, exhibition, major sports activities, major recreational enjoyment and large gatherings. It should also be noted that "wasting one's time" luxuriously in the space of a metropolitan park must be considered as part of use. Low intensities, non-use or infrequent use are quite meaningful and significant events that also should be recognized and promoted.



## Buildings : Intensity and Frequency of Use and Safe Places

Buildings in Metropolitan Parks have historically been major public institutions like exhibition halls, amphitheatres, public theatres, zoological grounds, and botanical gardens that are architecturally memorable and significant. The building in the park is provided for public enjoyment and benefit and is traditionally more festive than is normally found in its urban counterpart. These buildings sometimes become architectural icons like the monumental Crystal Palace (by Paxton), the folly-like garden buildings of Kew Gardens in England, and the Umbraculo Pavilion in Barcelona.

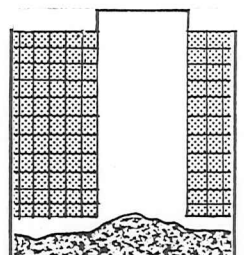
Toronto's counterparts can be found in the Canadian National Exhibition grounds and amusement parks like Ontario Place. These public pavilions are built at a scale to match the grandness of the Metropolitan Park. The smaller scale of public buildings, like washroom facilities, concessions, club houses, changerooms and shelters should equally reflect an architectural excellence.

All built form should be sited strategically in concert with a legible movement system to provide destination points and visual focal points to make the vast scale of the park comprehensible. As in smaller open space types, buildings also can furnish a setting for both day and night use, providing safe zones for telephone booths, first aid and security staff. It is particularly important that these facilities be set up at regular intervals within the park to provide individual users a sense of security and to also give reference points to measure distances to and from the more populated areas.

## Spatial Structure : Surface, Form and Vegetation

The spatial structure of the Metropolitan Park first depends on a clear system of vehicular and pedestrian circulation that allows the user to move through the large open space with some understanding of its organization. Many large parks accomplish this by the use of a ring road that parallels the city edge. This technique allows the user to circle the entire metropolitan park, and to choose to enter the interior knowing that the way back to the ring road will lead back to the city street. This sets up the legible circulation while allowing both undulating and orthogonal types of roads or walking paths. The ring road also maximizes the vastness of its interior allowing grand views, as in the famous vista of the Long Meadow at Prospect Park in Brooklyn. Finally, the ring road provides the potential intermediary zone for more publicly oriented facilities and spaces, which mark a transition between the city and the park.

The road system, whether based on the ring road, a radiating system or by dissecting roads through the park, must be accompanied by a corresponding network and pattern of landscape systems and park structures that set up a second order of structure of the park. Major elements like water fountains, public facilities, exhibition halls, gardens, and formal tree planting should be sited to elaborate upon the spatial structure of the park. The Metropolitan Park can sustain both large areas of natural landscapes and hard surfaced public spaces in a balance that allows for a full range of interests and programmes.



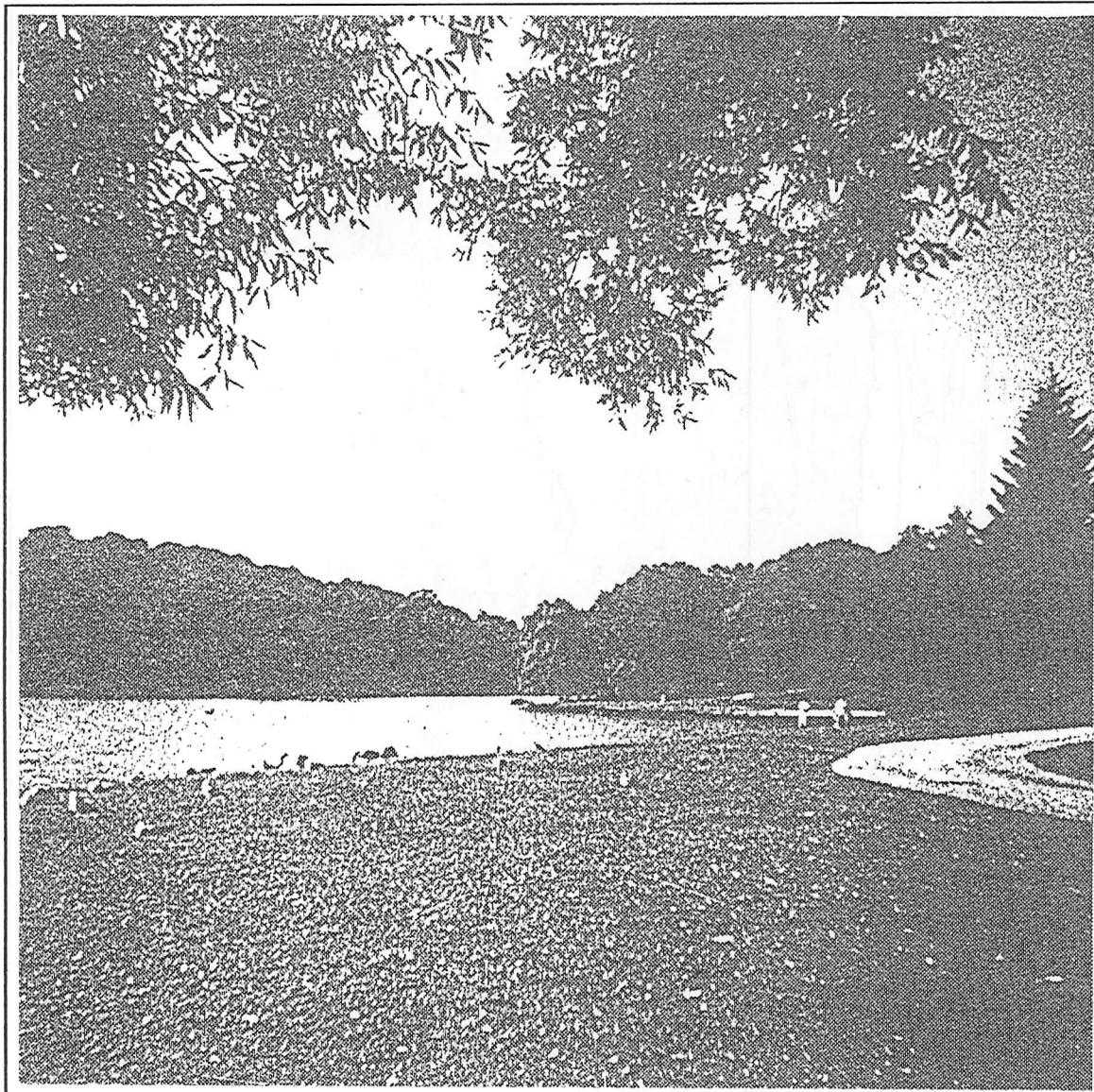
## System

The legibility of the Metropolitan Park is heightened by its connections back to the city and to other open space types. The natural landforms of Toronto, some of which occur in existing open spaces, provide the city with a great potential because of the linear ravine spaces that travel the length of the city and can link to the lakefront.

These connective pieces provide a possible continuous system that can join the metropolitan parks together in a larger regional context. ie. High Park, with its ravines and Grenadier Pond joining a continuous waterfront system (though presently cut off by Lakeshore Boulevard), in turn connecting to the Toronto Islands and to the Don Valley, and eventually to the Rouge Valley.

At a smaller scale, the Metropolitan Park can act as a destination point and anchor integrated with local systems and patterns of small urban places, urban parks and small squares.

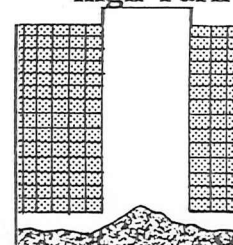




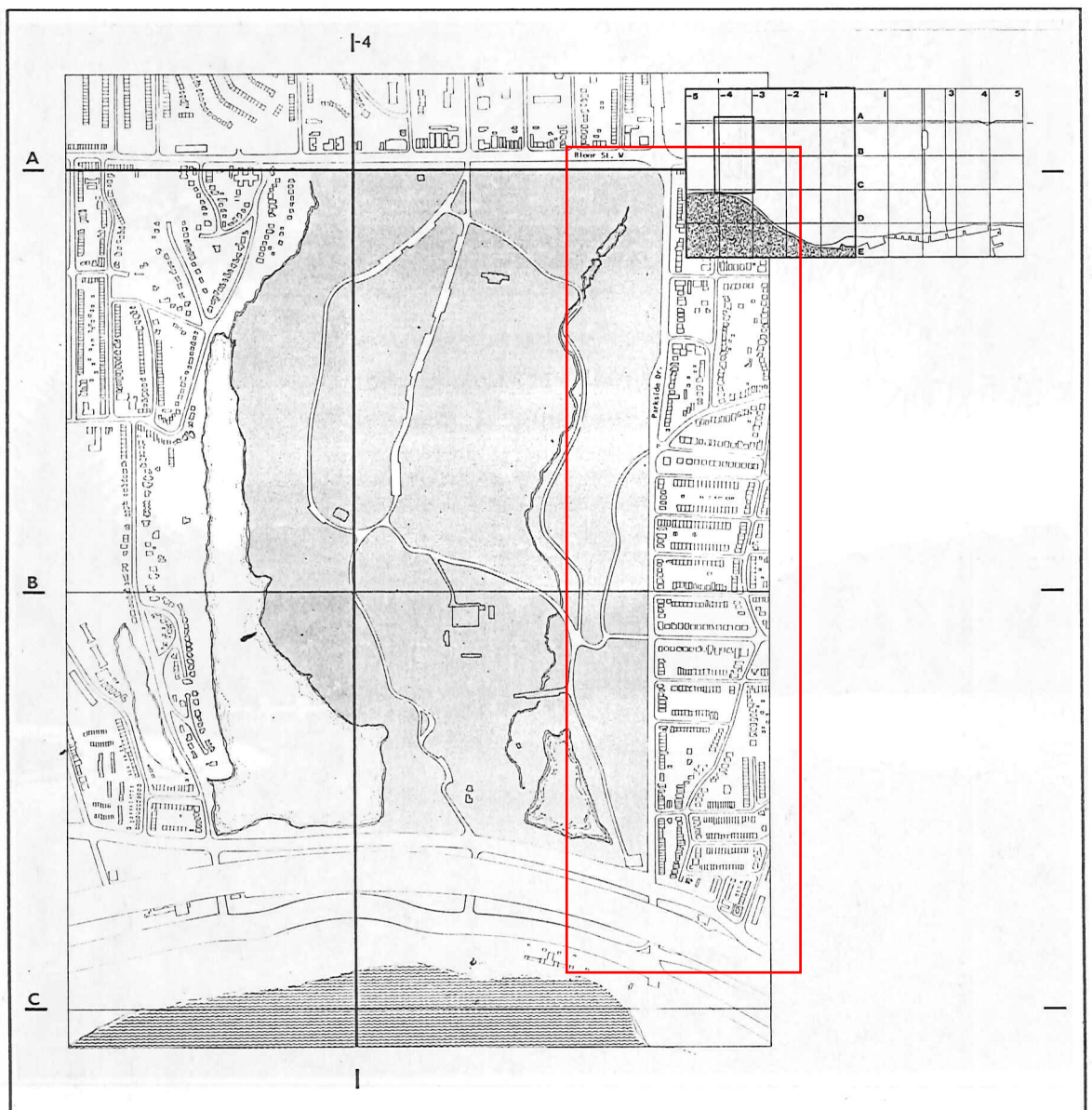
Context and Plan

Ownership:	Public
Frontage:	1040m
Depth:	1650m
Area:	1,716,000sm
Form:	80% Soft Surface: trees, lawn, flower beds 20% Hard Surface: asphalt drive, paved walkways
Edges:	North: Bloor Street South: The Queensway East: Parkside Drive West: Grenadier Pond
Use:	recreation scenic promenade open-air performances picnics exhibitions, (floral, animal...) historic home site
System:	forms natural boundary to city neighbourhoods and central city area

High Park





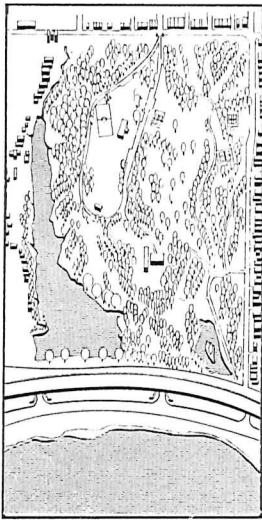


**Context and Plan**

High Park was originally a private estate owned by John George Howard. After the donation by Howard of his estate, the boundaries of High Park were considerably expanded by further acquisitions by the city. Colborne Lodge, named after Howard's patron, Sir John Colborne, still stands on a hill overlooking the lake. The park is located just east of the Humber River Valley and south of Bloor Street, bounded by Parkside Drive extending down to the Queensway to the south, separating it from Lake Ontario. High Park contains a large pond, (Grenadier Pond), and a natural ravine interconnected with a series of winding woods and paths.

High Park makes a distinct edge with the surrounding city streets. Its main entrance facing onto Bloor Street consists mainly of car access and caters to the efficient and safe flow of traffic, while not exploring the potential of a more public type of space that would take advantage of the nearby subway station and the commercial and pedestrian traffic on Bloor Street. The park edge here is an expanse of open space with scattered trees and picnic grounds raised up from the street level.

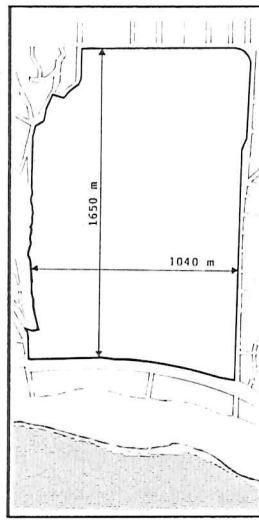




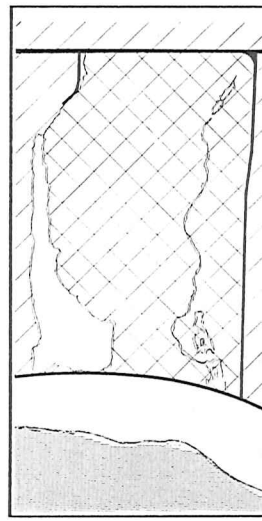
Volumetric



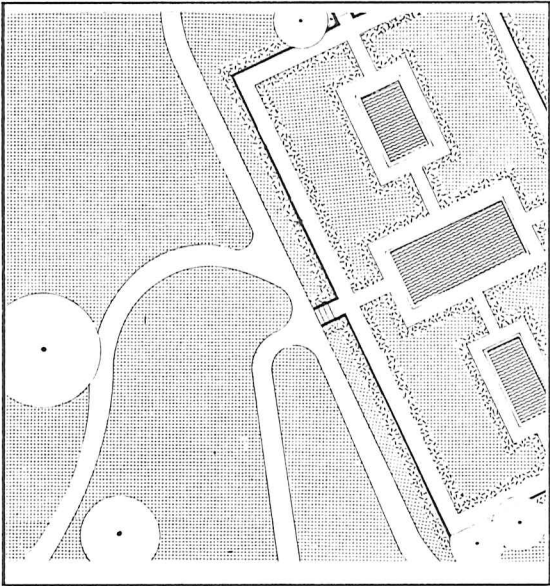
Movement



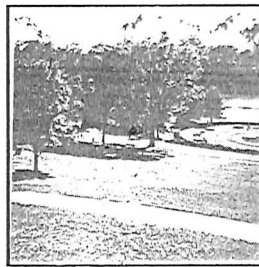
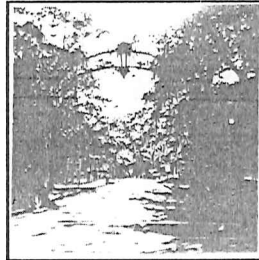
Size



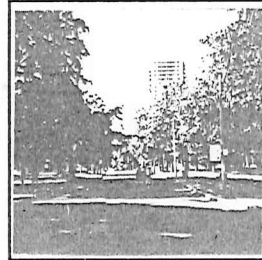
Public/Private



Detail Plan

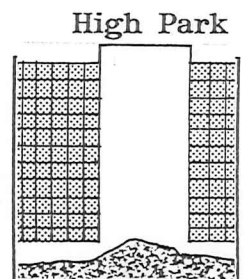


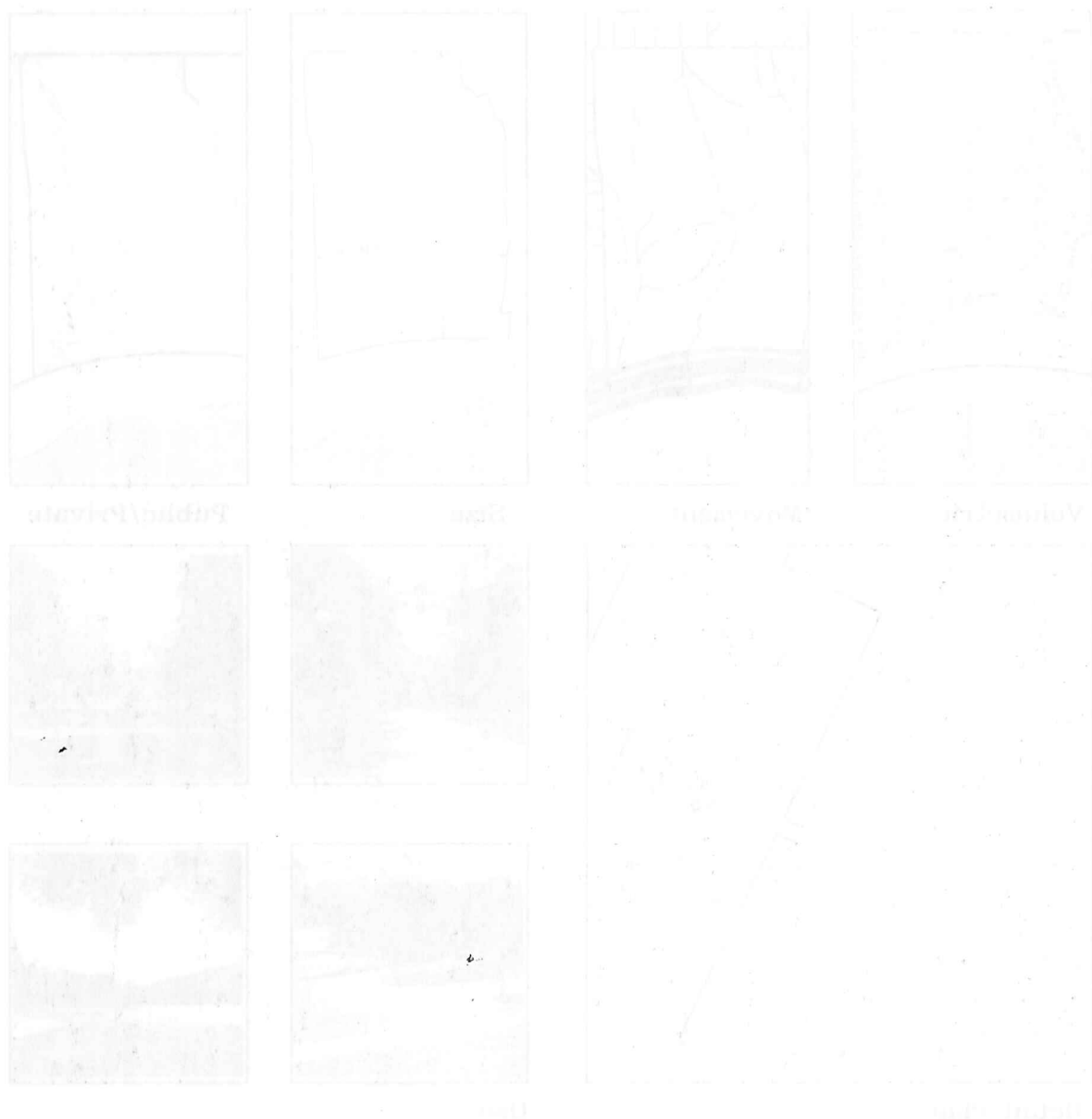
Use



The western ravine edge is heavily forested to the mouth of Grenadier Pond. The eastern edge to the facing residential neighbourhood on Parkside Drive is also densely forested with two other entrances that again cater to the passage of cars. The separation of High Park from the lake prevents the park from the obvious rich connection it could make to the entire waterfront system and negates a wonderful opportunity of extending its borders to encompass public beach facilities as a suitable park boundary rather than the many lanes of traffic.

The facilities of High Park include the original Howard home, a children's petting zoo, a small train, floral exhibits, outdoor performances, picnic grounds, a restaurant and playgrounds. These facilities are set into the interior of the park and are reached by an irregular network of roads and paths that run through open spaces and through densely forested areas. The present system of movement in high Park has been criticized by several interest groups for its lack of legibility that makes many users feel unsafe and isolated from the populated areas beyond.



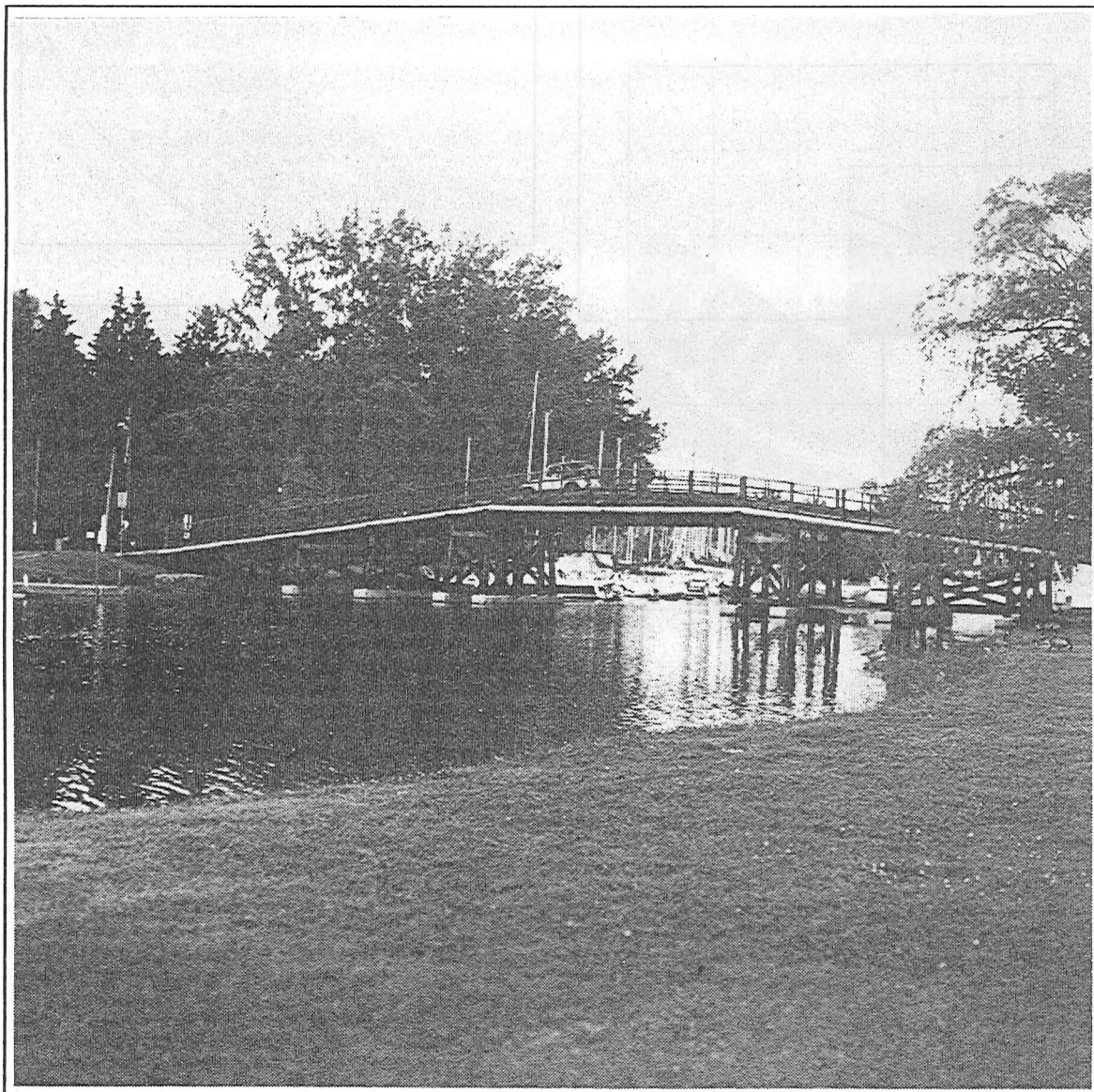


The map shows a variety of urban forms, including public/private, urban, suburban, rural, and urban. The maps are arranged in two rows of five. Each map shows a different pattern of land use, with some maps showing a mix of urban and rural areas, and others showing more homogeneous patterns.

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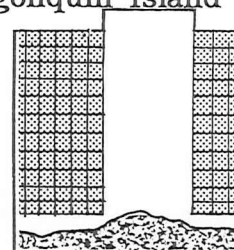


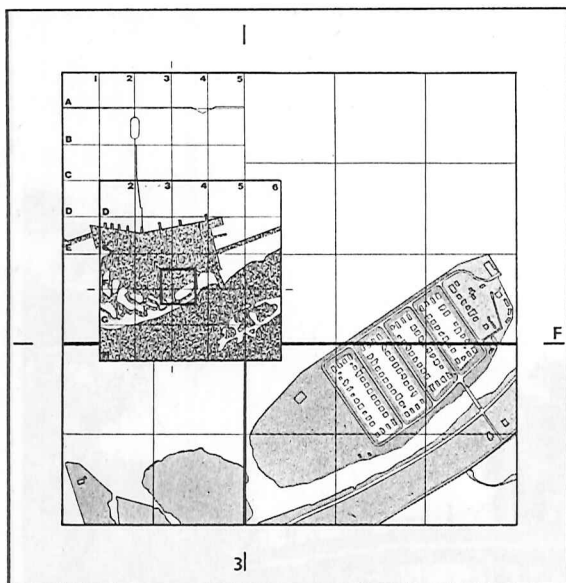




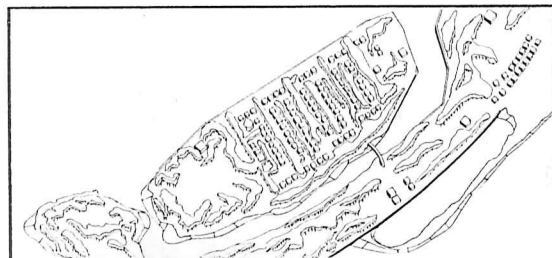
Ownership:	Public with private leases
Frontage:	250m
Depth:	690m
Area:	172,500sm
Form:	80% Soft Surface: lawn, trees, flower beds 20% Hard Surface: paved walkways, promenades, ferry docks
Edges:	North: Toronto Inner Harbour South: Wards Island East: Wards Island West: Snake Island
Use:	residential recreation yacht club scenic promenade picnics
System:	connection to Wards Island, Centre Island network of unique island public spaces

Algonquin Island

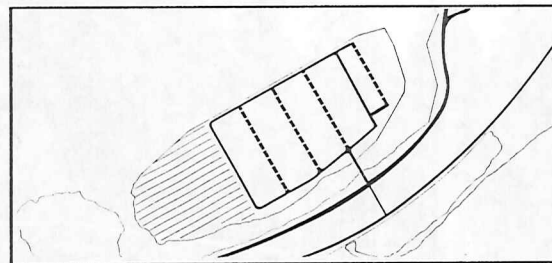




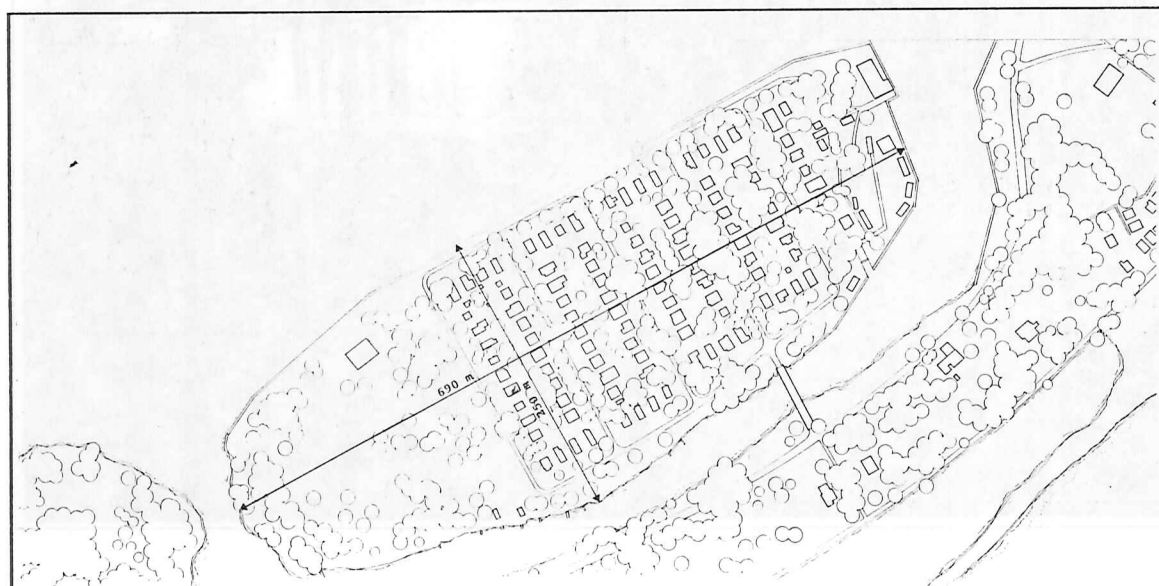
Context



Volumetric



Movement



Plan

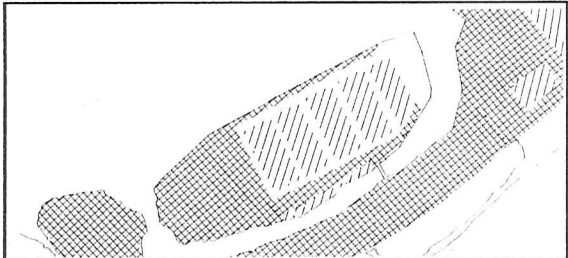
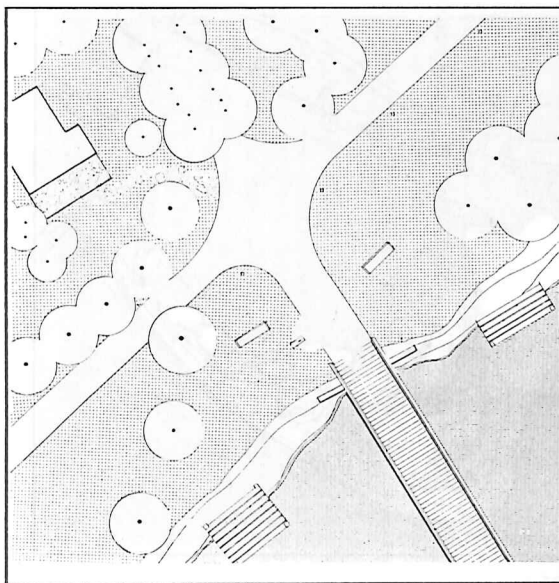
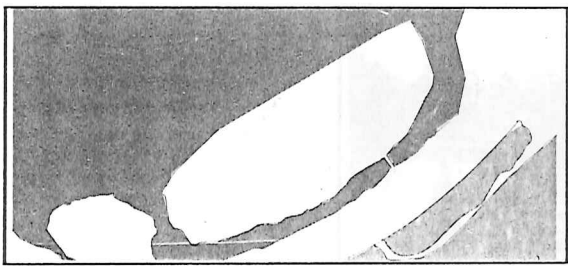
The Toronto Islands form a string of small islands off the city shore of Lake Ontario and establish an inner harbour. These islands are considered as a metropolitan park by virtue of their special landform nature, scale, position as a boundary to the city, and by their regional attraction.

They contain a wide and contrasting set of functions and facilities. Part of the islands are inhabited by year long residents and other islands are uninhabited. The islands are cut by the western and eastern channels and form an entry area into the Toronto harbour.

The islands also contain an airport, yacht clubs, a children's amusement park, beaches, inner lagoons, gardens and open green meadows. The island ferry terminal is located at the foot of Yonge Street, with three island destination points: Ward's Island, Centre Island, and Hanlan's Point. The islands are sites for festivals, and large picnics and are enormously popular with both the Toronto citizenry and visitors.

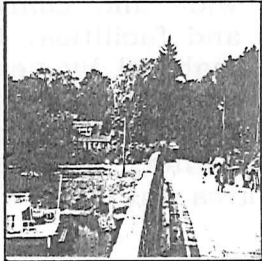
W: - Bay St. (used to be on Yonge!)



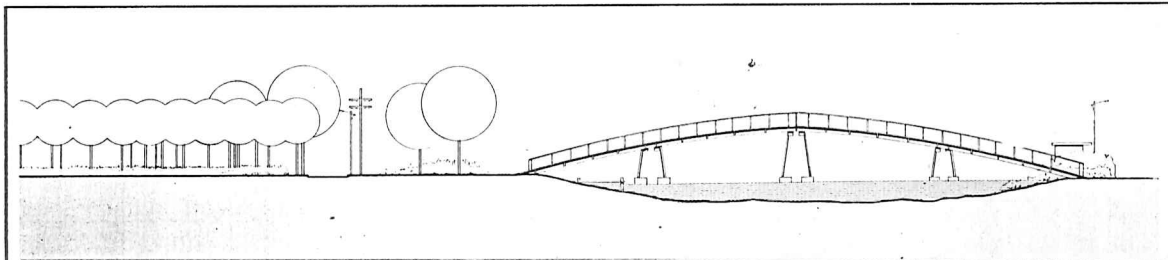


Public Private

Detail Plan



Use

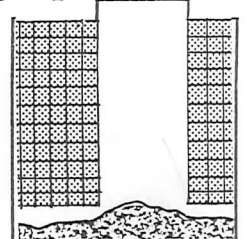


Detail Section

Algonquin Island is reached by a single bridge that crosses from Ward's Island, and is partially inhabited by a small community of cottages with a local daycare centre laid out in a grid regulated by orthogonal sidewalks. Its western half is undeveloped open space of wild meadows and brush surrounded by the water. The eastern tip of the island is occupied by a private yacht club and boating facility.

This island reflects the diversity of types of spaces possible in the large scale of the metropolitan park. The community on the Toronto Islands lends a stability to the whole, and its ambience is an attraction in itself as a pleasant walk through its pedestrian sidewalks. The natural side of the island illustrates an original landscape in contrast to the manicured lawns and water edges found on the other islands.

Algonquin Island



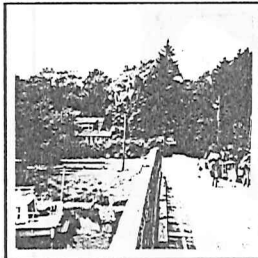
## Toronto



### Toronto Islands



Plan



View

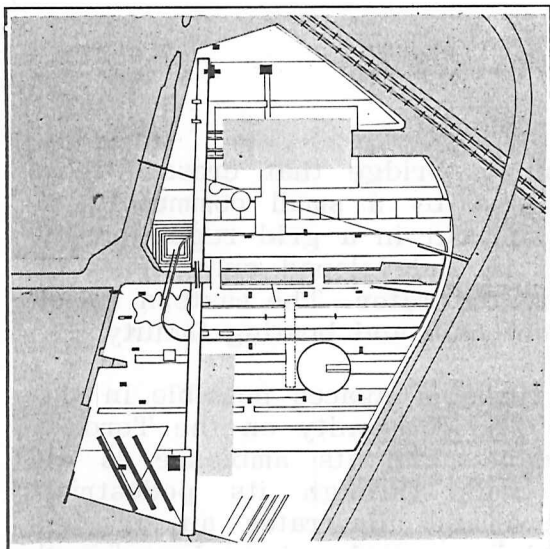
The Toronto Islands form a string of small islands off the city shore of Lake Ontario and establish the Inner Harbour. These islands are considered as a metropolitan park by virtue of their special landform nature, scale, position as a boundary to the city, and by their regional attraction.

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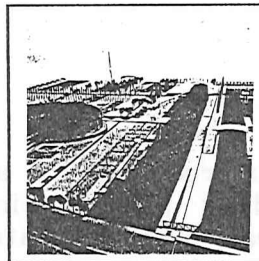
## Paris



### Park La Villette



Plan

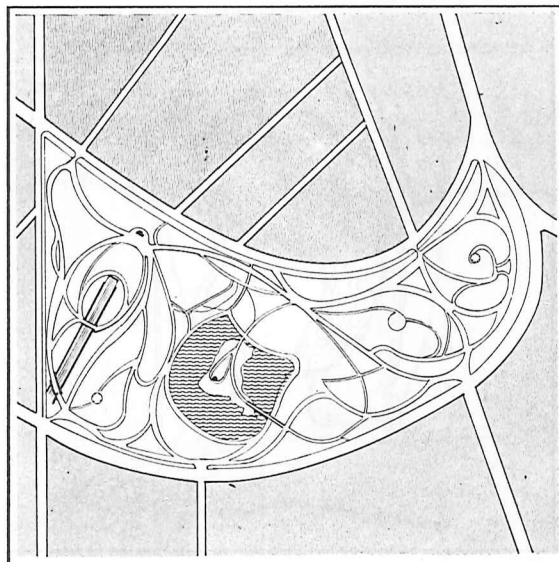


View

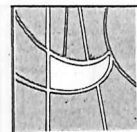
This unbuilt project designed by Rem Koolhaas and The Office for Metropolitan Architecture was part of a limited competitions for a design for the Parc de la Villette in Paris. The site, 55 hectares of industrial building land and former slaughter houses situated to the north east of

Paris has been the subject of several competitions over the past twenty years, and has always addressed the issue of the reclamation of former industrial lands. The site is crossed through its centre by a canal which forms an open end of a Haussman type of cross-roads.





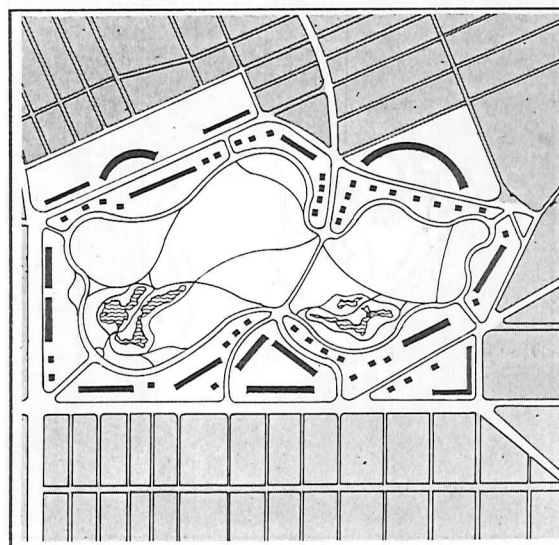
Plan



Buttes Chaumont

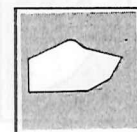
Buttes Chaumont Park, located in the south east of Paris, is an urban public park laid out in a picturesque pattern under Baron Haussman in the 1860's. This park formed part of a hierarchy of planted areas in the city designed by his engineer Alphand, including promenades, squares, public gardens and suburban parks.

The design of Buttes Chaumont was based on an earlier prototype of the new city park at Birkenhead located in a suburb of Liverpool designed by Joseph Paxton.



Plan

Liverpool

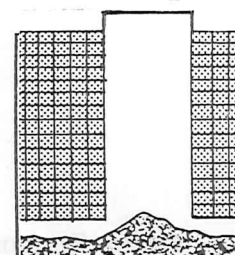


Birkenhead

Birkenhead Park was originally located in a suburb of Liverpool, and was designed in 1814 by the well known gardener Joseph Paxton, (famous for the Crystal Palace) as a new prototype for an urban park of 183 acres.

Birkenhead Park served as a model for both Haussman and Olmstead. Paxton integrated the large park into the city by surrounding the park with a range of different single and multiple house types within the boundaries of the park. These housing structures share both the surrounding streets and the interior way of the park, with alternating

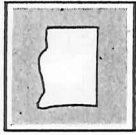
fronts and gardens that set up contrasts and richness. Through the use of an interior road, Paxton established another front space, sprinkled with smaller structures and housing types in a garden context, creating an intermediary zone between the park and the city.

Comparative  
World Examples

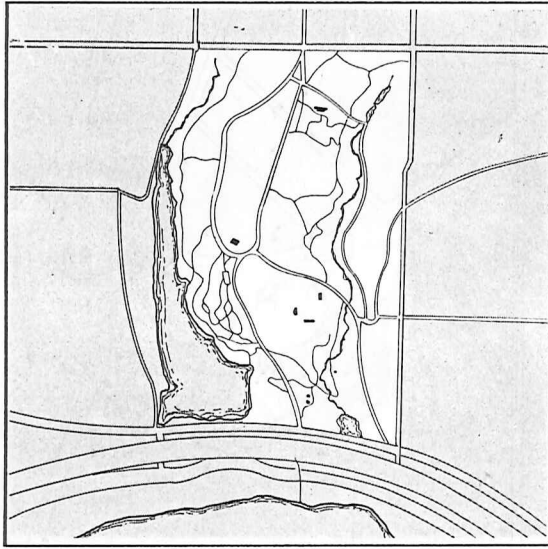
Metropolitan Parks



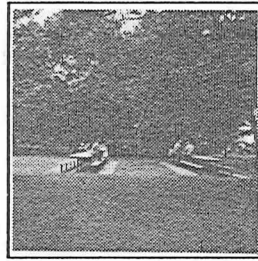
## Toronto



### High Park



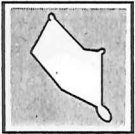
Plan



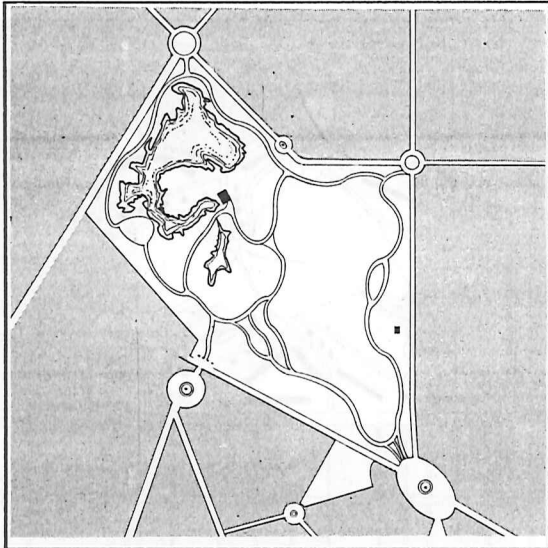
View

High Park was originally a private estate owned by John George Howard. After the donation by Howard of his estate, the boundaries of High Park were considerably expanded by

further acquisitions by the city. Colborne Lodge, named after Howard's patron, Sir John Colborne, still stands on a hill overlooking the lake.



### Prospect Park



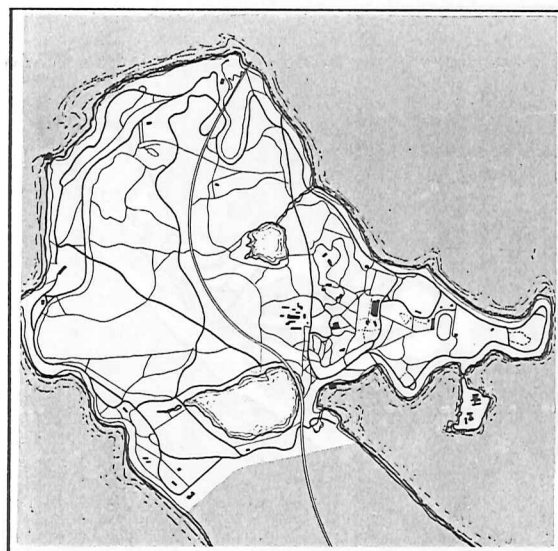
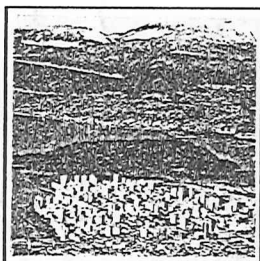
Plan



View

Prospect Park, a joint design by Frederick Law Olmstead and C. Vaux, is located in the City of Brooklyn. Designed after his major work in Central Park, Prospect Park is considered to be Olmstead's most successful and satisfying park design.

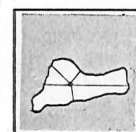
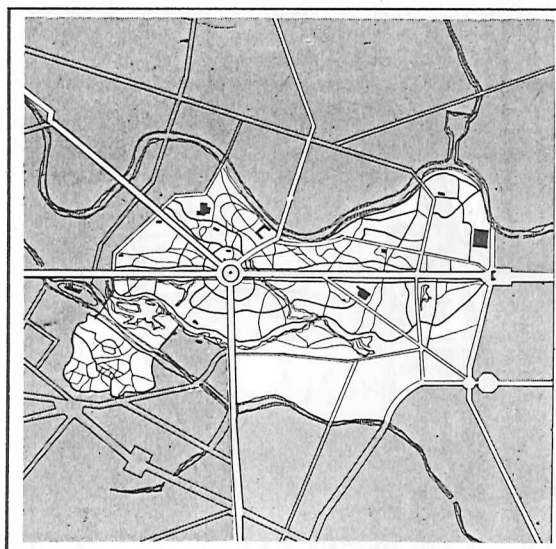
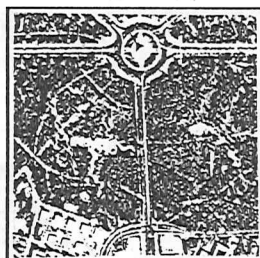




Stanley Park

Stanley Park was originally a military reserve that was turned into parkland by the federal government through the efforts of Vancouver city council, and was officially opened in 1888. Stanley Park is one of the largest inner metropolitan parks on the continent. Within walking distance from downtown, the park is a peninsula rimmed by a sea wall and

walkway all along the water's edge. The walk introduces the user to the ocean, the harbour, and the forest and gives spectacular views of the mountains and the city. Along with the enormous forested area are located internationally known facilities such as the aquarium, a zoo, a "Lost Lagoon", botanical gardens, yacht clubs, restaurants and golf course.

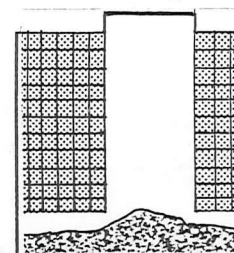


Tiergarten

The Tiergarten is a large metropolitan park located in Berlin, framed by the Spree River and a boundary canal. The context around the Tiergarten contains embassies, motorways, city gates, tree planted areas, museums, libraries and philharmonic halls. The

park in its original condition, prior to the Second World War, contained clear demarcations of forest areas from meadow areas, and had a system of monuments which have since been stored away or lost.

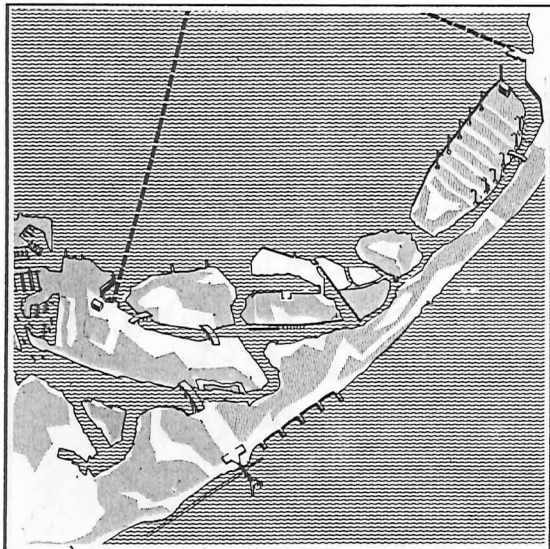
## Comparative World Examples



Metropolitan Parks

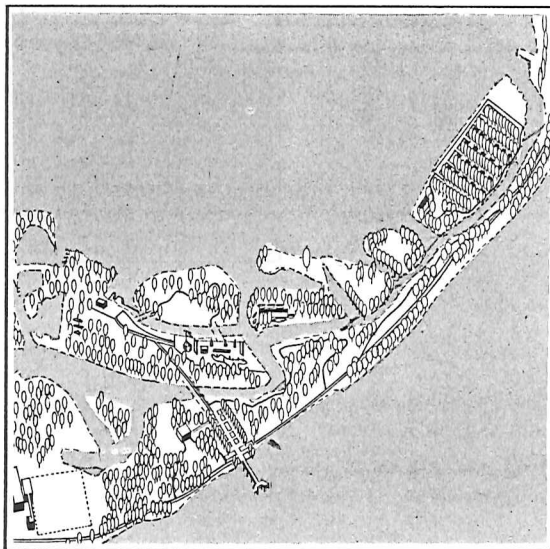


Toronto Islands



Edge Elements

The islands also contain an airport, yacht clubs, a children's amusement park, beaches, inner lagoons, gardens and open green meadows. The island ferry terminal is located at the foot of Yonge Street, with three



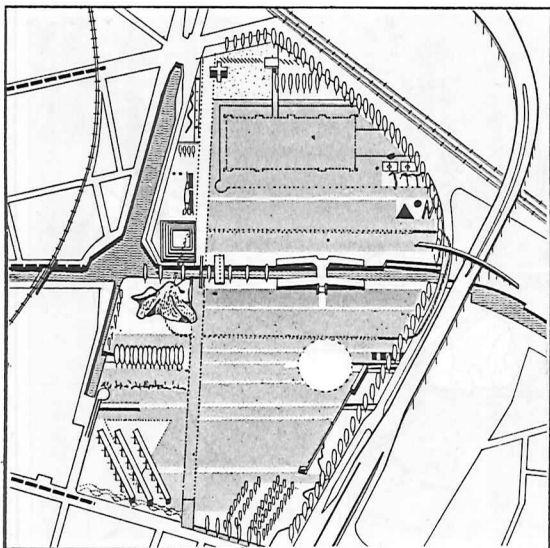
Internal Elements

island destination points: Ward's Island, Centre Island, and Hanlan's Point. The islands are sites for festivals, and large picnics and are enormously popular with both the Toronto citizenry and visitors.

Paris

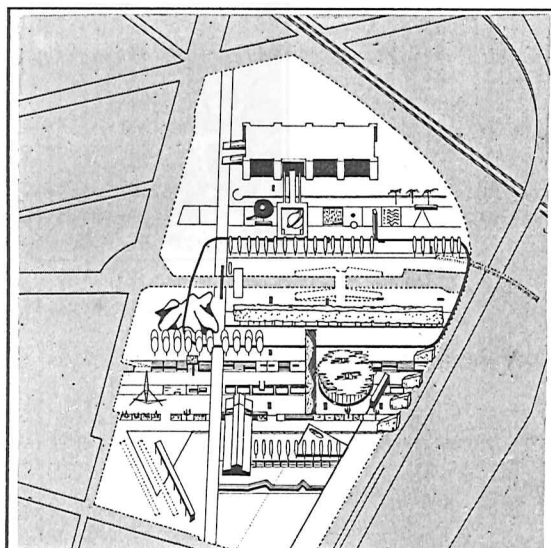


Park La Villette



Edge Elements

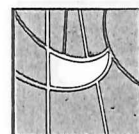
In this project, the designer proposes a park that is not dependent on specific programmes but assumes a constant evolution of use that will employ the various structures and landscape elements that are placed on the site. The site is structured by bands of elements running east-west, parallel to the canal. The design develops a language of planting: the linear forest, and the circular forest.



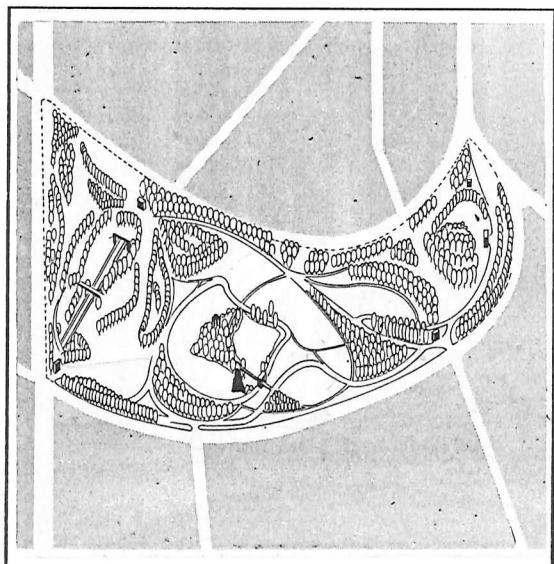
Internal Elements

Layered over these bands are patterns of nodes formed by kiosks, recreation fields, picnic areas, and refreshment stands. The main promenade crosses through all bands with a orthogonal "ring" that branches off the promenade to encircle the major area of the park and the final layer of important monuments and structures.

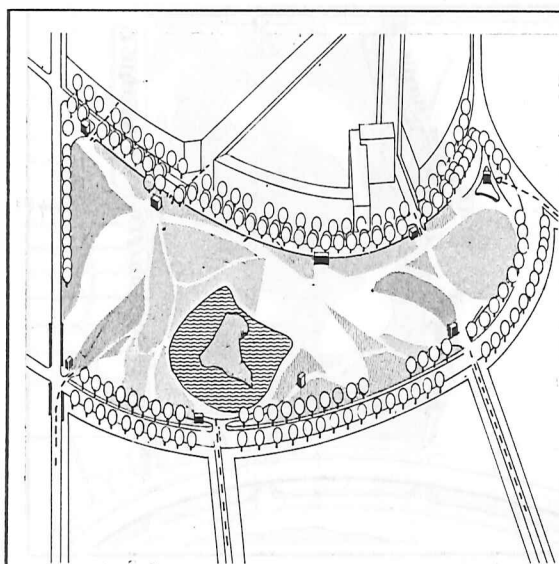




Buttes Chaumont



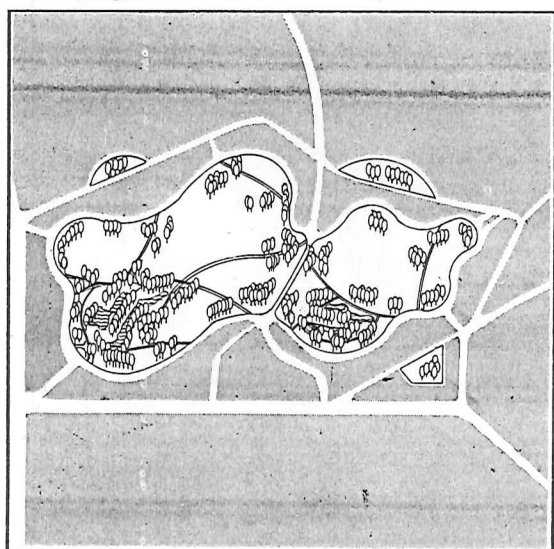
Internal Elements



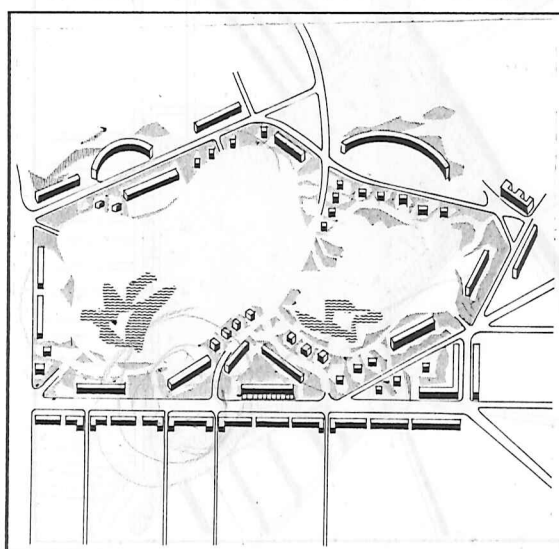
Edge Elements

The Alphonse park treats the park in a fundamentally different way from Olmstead and Paxton. This park is a celebration of technology and treats the natural garden as an artificial nature constructed in space. The effect of the new machinery substitutes iron and cast iron for the organic materials of rock, wood and stone used by Olmstead and Paxton.

The design of the park created a spectacle of magnificent expanse and outward show. It was made to be looked at and enjoyed; as public space it worked almost as if it were merchandise, its customer, the public. This integrated idea of the park and nature with the machine made the natural more natural than nature itself, since constructed natural features could be provided in any situation on any site according to demand.

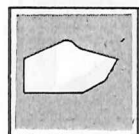


Internal Elements



Edge Elements

Liverpool

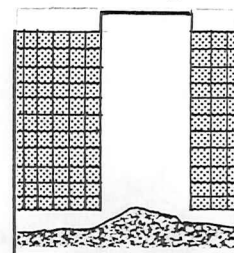


Birkenhead

The new development that was initiated at Birkenhead Park was the introduction of two independent movement systems, one for pedestrians, and the other for horse and carriage. The wider route undulates within the park and forms a circuit while smaller paths connect into it and relate to smaller independent functions.

The surrounding street with the encircling crescents and housing forms contributes to the park by visual and physical connection to the open space. Unlike the example of Prospect Park where a sharp contrast

exists between the city and the open space, the street, the housing types, gardens, and entrances form a distinct zone that enhances the publicness of the park edge and injects a landscape into the realm of the city.

Comparative  
World Examples

Metropolitan Parks

## Toronto



### High Park



Edge Elements



Internal Elements

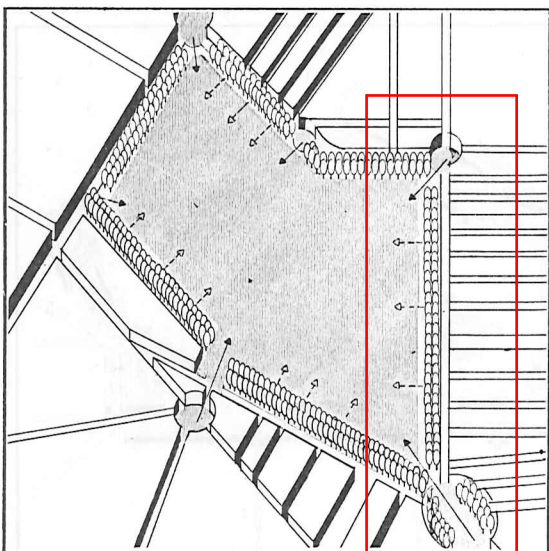
The park is located just east of the Humber River Valley and south of Bloor Street, bounded by Parkside Drive extending down to the Queensway on the South. Its major features are a large pond and ravine interconnected with a series of winding woods and paths. These paths and many of the later plantings were consciously cultivated by its

earliest planners to promote a totally "natural" effect, and to suggest an original landscaped condition. Cultural activities that occur in the park include an annual summer Shakespearean production. Facilities and features of High Park include picnic areas, floral exhibits, public promontories, animal exhibits, and treed and open green spaces.

## Brooklyn



### Prospect Park



Edge Elements

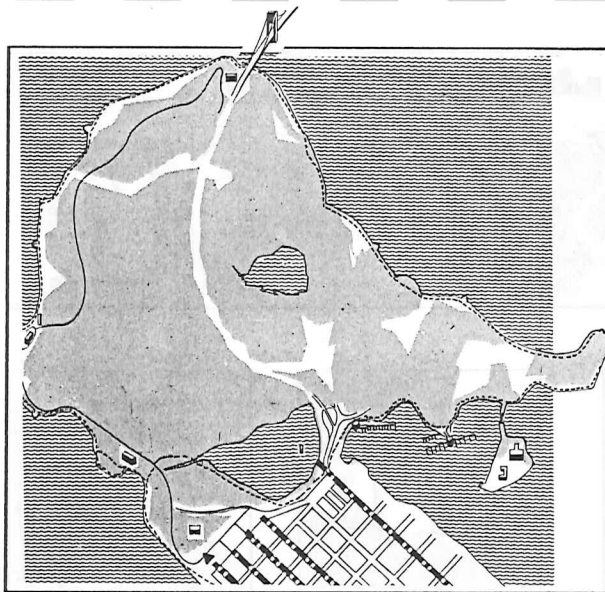


Internal Elements

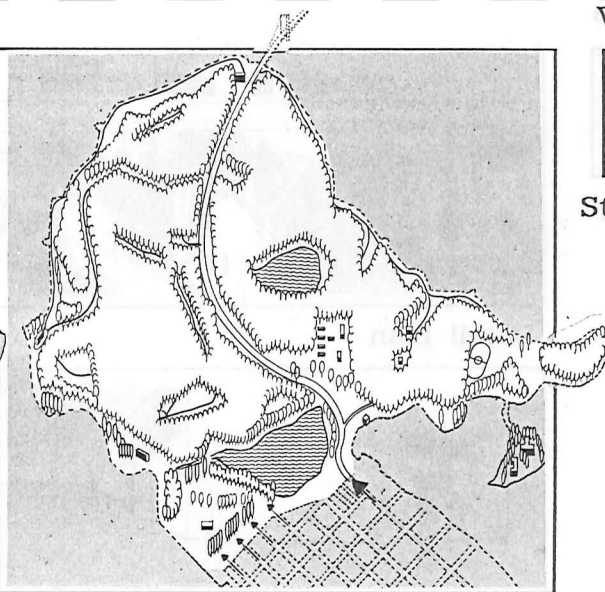
Prospect Park, unlike Central Park, has irregular edges formed by large frontages on Ninth Avenue and Flatbush Avenue. Prospect Park employs broad curving spaces as open meadows of green that give the park a sense of spaciousness. These spaces are connected by park structures, bridges, and arches along with separate systems for footpaths, bridlepaths and carriageways. The

consideration of site circumstances and the design of "public pleasure grounds" formed the background to the design of the park. The strong presence of a lake and spacious open areas parallel to the surrounding streets and principal entry point into the park involve the park and the city in a symbiotic and considered manner.





Internal Elements



Edge Elements

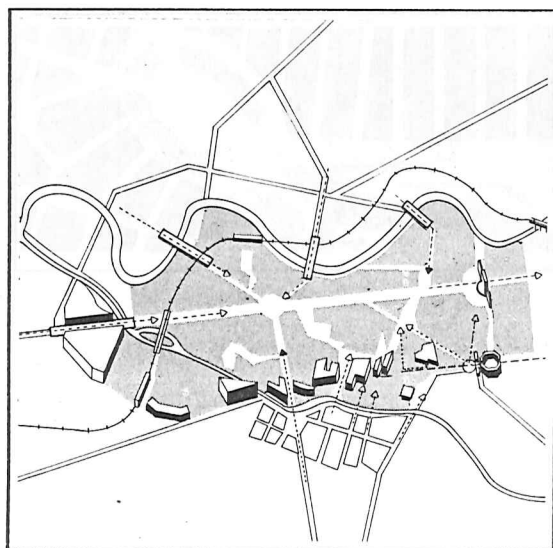
Vancouver



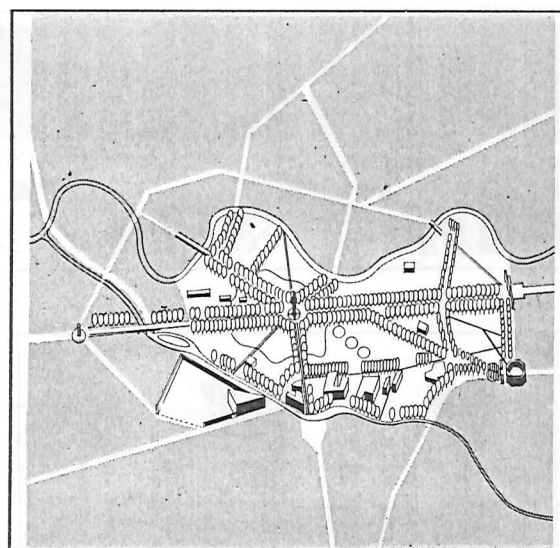
Stanley Park

Stanley Park is connected to the downtown by the Lions Gate Bridge and avenue that crosses the park. Its waterfront network connects to other shoreline routes like English Bay, and

connects into the West End residential neighbourhood of Vancouver. The system of movement of the park is formed by a primary ring road with secondary routes that connect to the interior.

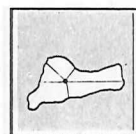


Internal Elements



Edge Elements

Berlin

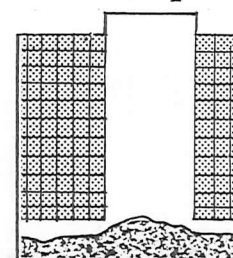


Tiergarten

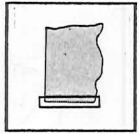
This park is a good example of a mature metropolitan park where a strong bond has been developed between itself and the city, the city routes, Baroque alignments, 'gates, public facilities and cultural buildings. These substantially contribute to the attractiveness of the park and its continued focus of the city in its use and appropriation by its citizens.

The difference in layout and pattern of the Tiergarten as a metropolitan park type has evolved particular city and park interrelationships. Especially interesting is the way in which monumental objects, through their situations within the space, mark off and set in focus the user's logic of the space through memory and relationships.

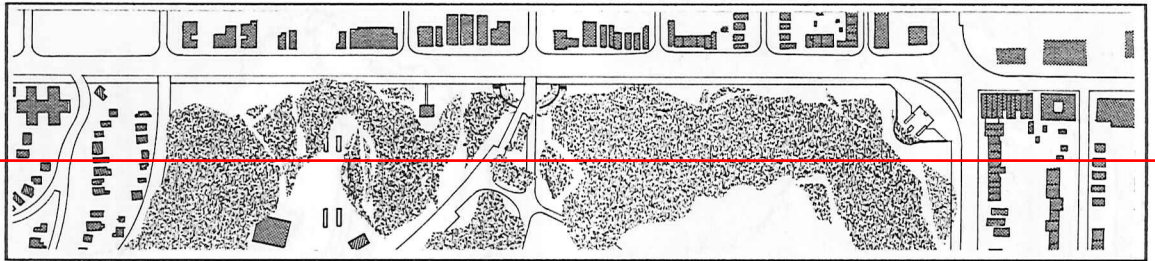
Comparative  
World Examples



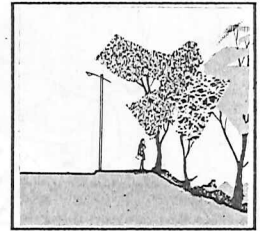
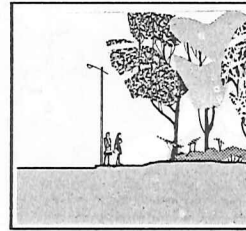
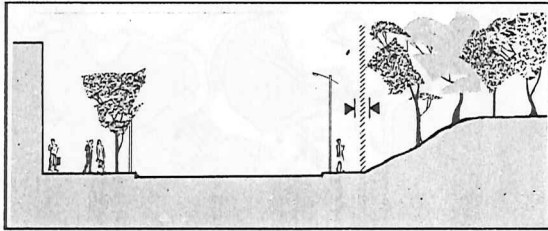
Toronto



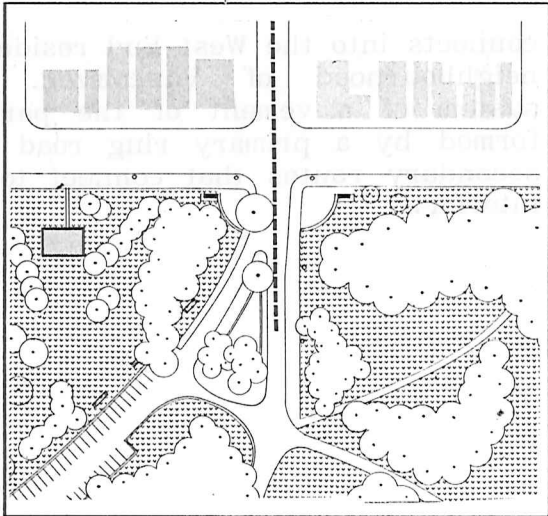
High Park



Detail Plan

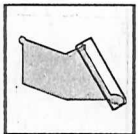


Detail Sections

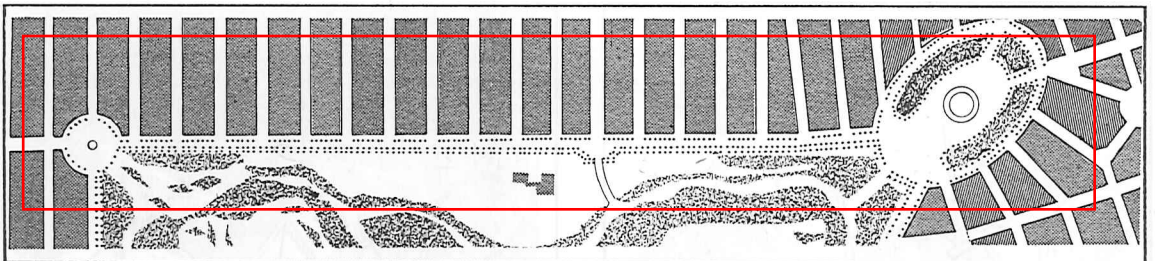


Entrance Detail

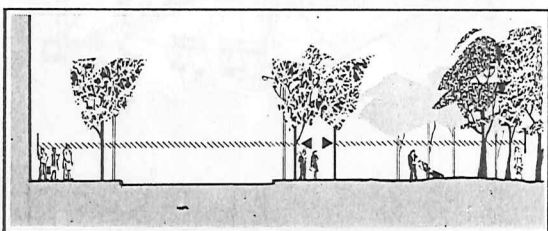
Brooklyn



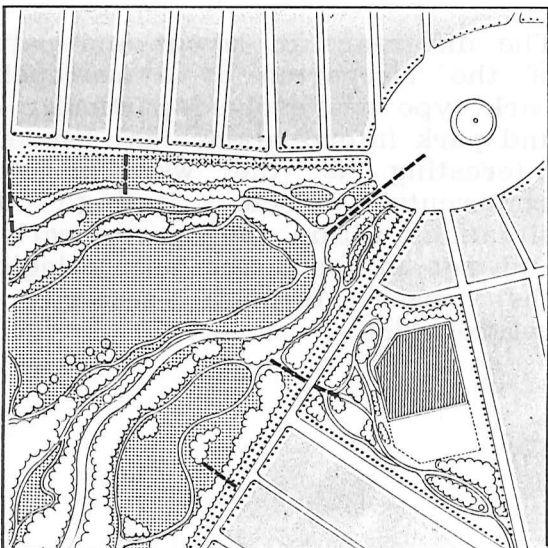
Prospect Park



Detail Plan

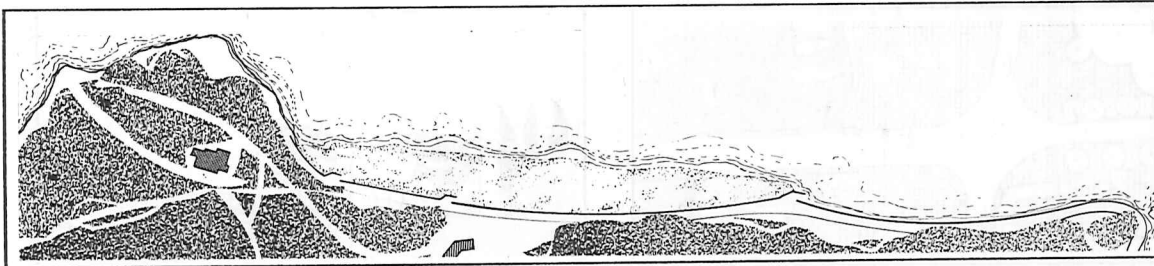


Detail Section



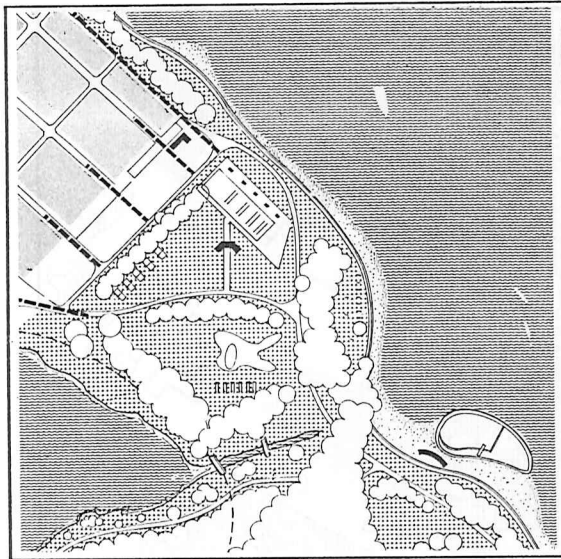
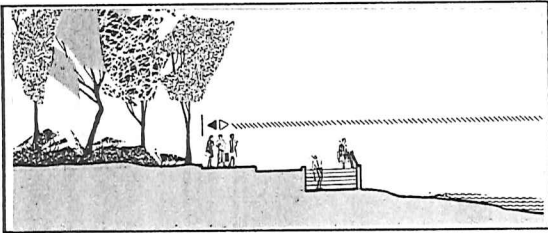
Entrance Detail



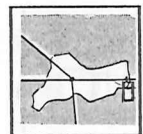
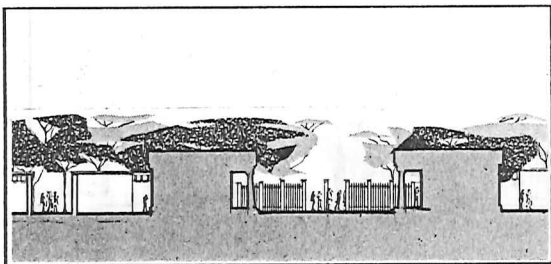


Stanley Park

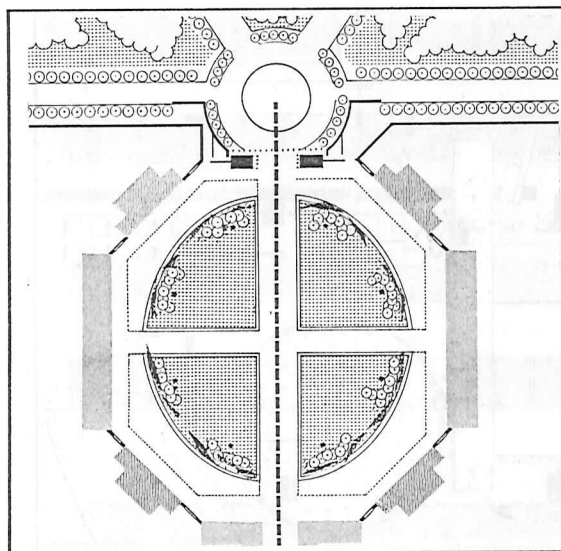
Detail Plan



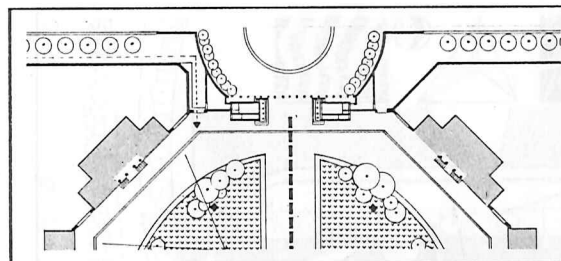
Entrance Detail



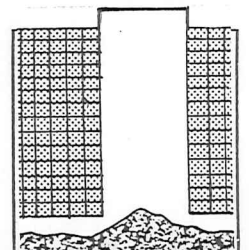
Tiergarten



Detail Plan



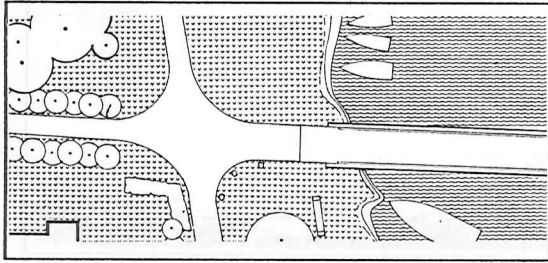
Entrance Detail



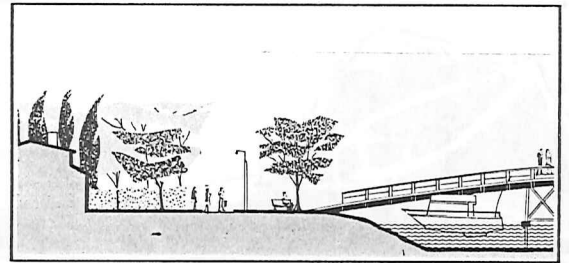
## Toronto



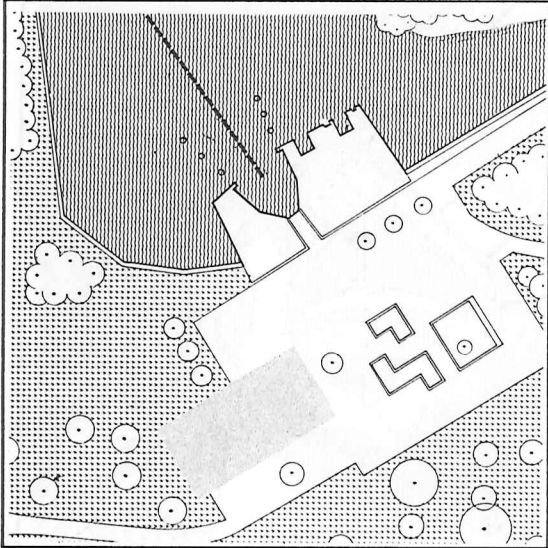
### Toronto Islands



Detail Plan



Detail Section

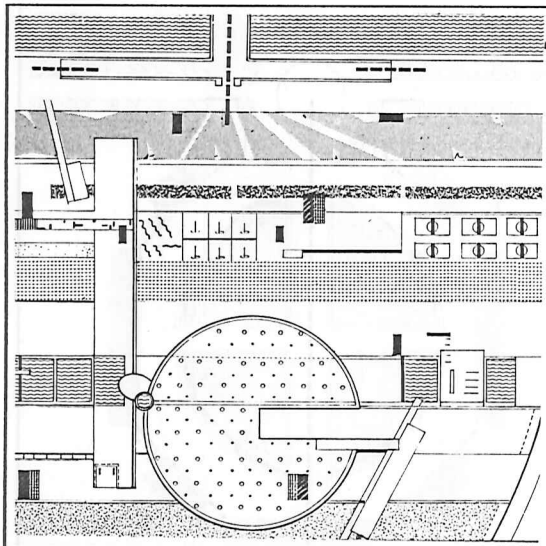


Entrance Detail

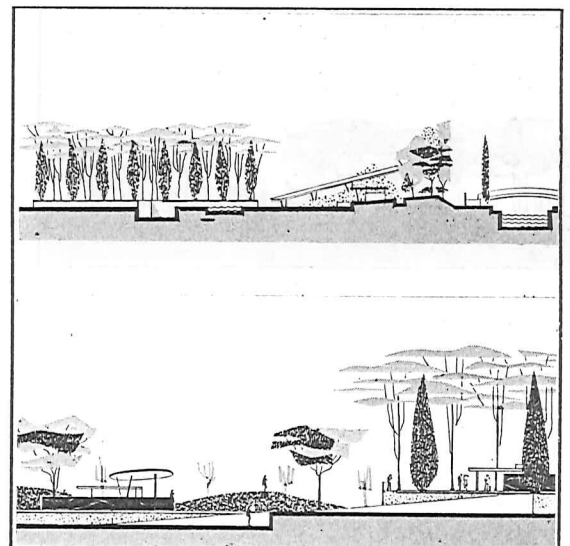
## Paris



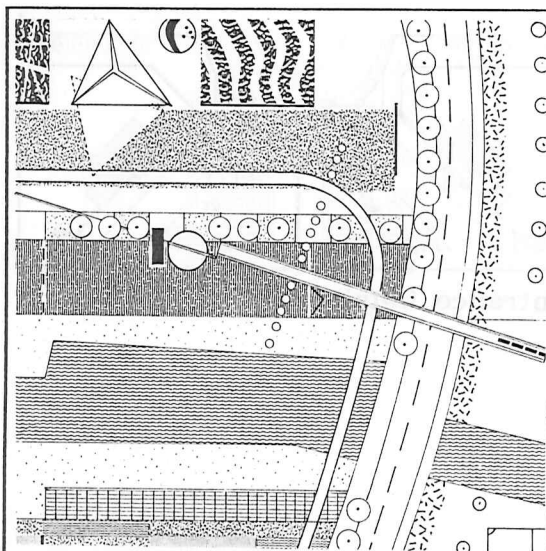
### Park La Villette



Detail Plan

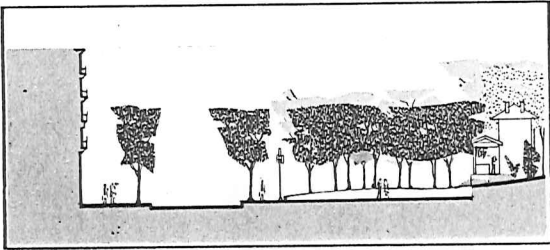


Detail Sections

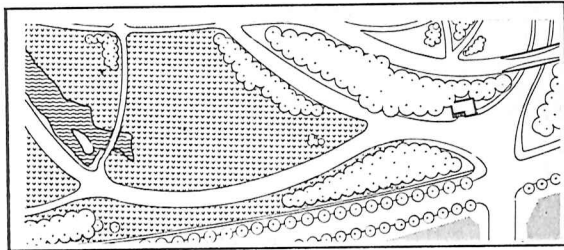


Entrance Detail

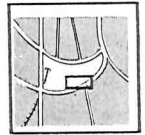




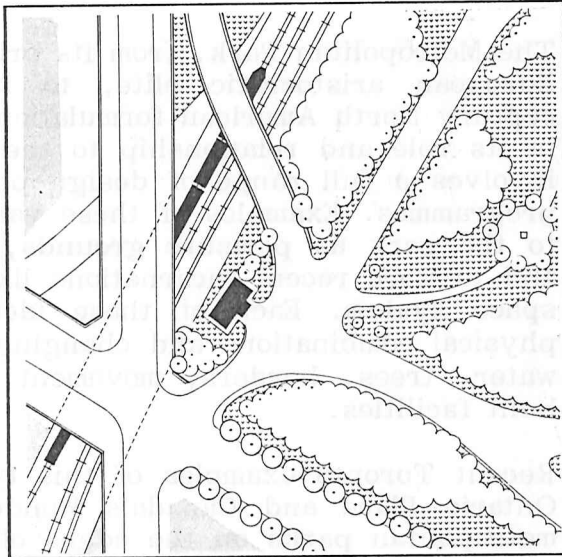
Detail Section



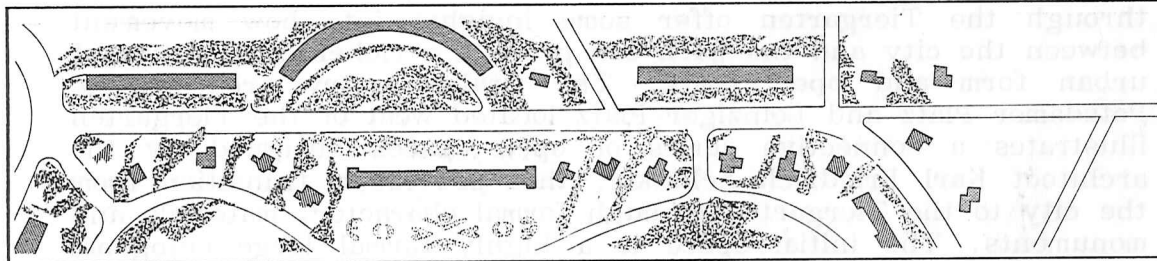
Detail Plan



Buttes Chaumont



Entrance Detail

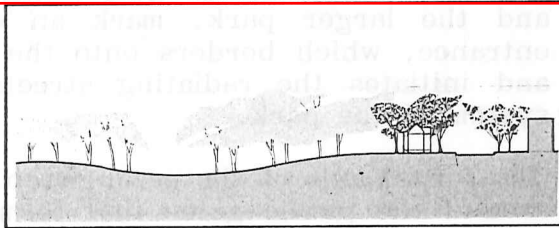
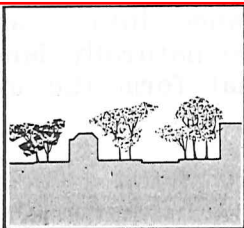
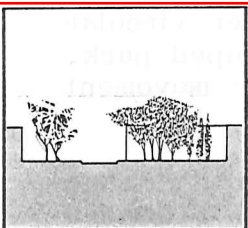


Detail Plan

Liverpool

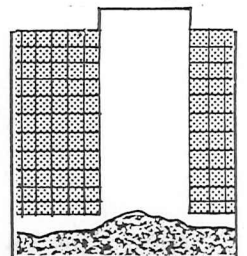


Birkenhead



Detail Sections

Comparative  
World Examples



Metropolitan Parks

## Observations and Comparisons

The Metropolitan Park, from its original conception as a gift from a European aristocratic elite, to its more recent 19th and 20th century North American formulations, has been continually evolving in its role and relationship to the city. This progression of ideas involves a full range of design philosophies, social objectives and programmes. Examples of these various ideals in park design refer to the park as **pleasure grounds, reform park, playground park**, and to more recent incarnations like **recreational facility, and open space system**. Each of these ideals can be traced through the physical combinations and changing emphasis on park elements like water, trees, borders, movement, sculpture, and architecture of built facilities.

Recent Toronto examples of this type as **parks of attractions**, like Ontario Place and Canada's Wonderland, illustrate newly created metropolitan parks on the edges of the city. The wider attractions that these parks offer, and the distinctive character and image they portray have begun to supplant the traditional idea of High Park as a Metropolitan Park. The parks of attractions have become a place to be in public, to be seen in a context of large crowds.

The deeper significance of the evolving metropolitan park lies in the ways in which their organizational structures, monuments, borders and open spaces engage the public, and how well they successfully serve the intermixing of persons and diverse activities.

The Berlin Tiergarten is an example of a mature Metropolitan Park. The Baroque planning of Berlin and the connections into and through the Tiergarten offer some insights into how movement between the city and the park can promote a richer intersection of urban form and open space. The smaller entry area of the Potsdamer Platz and Leipziger Platz located west of the Tiergarten illustrates a connective series of open spaces designed by the architect Karl Friedrich Schinkel, that provide a transition from the city to the Tiergarten through formal character, materials and monuments. The initial space is a highly formal large octagonal urban space with arranged sculptures and tree planting around an inset oval form. Public gates, located on axis with the open spaces and the larger park, mark an entrance into a smaller circular entrance, which borders onto the more naturally landscaped park, and initiates the radiating streets that form the major movement system of the park.

The formal axis of the arrangement also allows a secondary passage around the public gates that forms a subsidiary system of smaller courts and paths that connect to the smaller scale neighbourhoods. This solution to movement distinguishes between the high form of access through the city gates and the other lower form that creates a sequence of places that have a practical and useful value in connecting to the lesser surrounding street pattern. Schinkel's design of the Tiergarten gates and entrance squares provides a significant and highly elaborated public place of moving between the city and the metropolitan park.



In sharp contrast, the entry gates and places of arrival in the examples of the Toronto Islands and High Park undervalues the immense and significant roles that these public spaces could present. The passage to the Toronto Islands offers users the wonderful experience of the ferry ride across the lake to a landing that offers the choice of three destinations. When one arrives at Centre Island, large crowds are left to wander in any direction, with little sense of the "city in the park" and the "park in the city".

This concept is illustrated in Schinkel's planting of a formal circular tree arrangement around the Potsdamer Tor as a reminder of the park ahead. By contrast, the idea of arrival at the Toronto Island park is not suggested by a significant spatial or architectural concept that would lead visitors to understand its regional significance in a metropolitan context. The existing pavilion located nearby is quite beautiful but unrelated to an overall spatial organization.

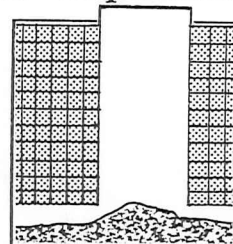
Perhaps more telling is the manner in which the loading of the ferry boat is handled on the often crowded trip back. Instead of being treated to a formal and civic space, crowds are forced to line up in a canopied "corral" provided for the sole purpose of crowd control, mirroring the same concern for orderly embarkation that exists at the city's ferry dock which also disregards any potential for a satisfying public space.

A good potential exists for the connection of the ferry terminal to currently disconnected bordering open spaces further off in the Harbourfront lands. A connection of these spaces could create a coherent system of movement from the more urban public spaces of Harbourfront to the naturally landscaped islands across the lake.

High Park has five entrances into the park. The Bloor Street entrance is probably the most heavily used, being served by the nearby subway and also providing a common access for pedestrians and vehicular traffic. The entrance to the park conflicts with the need for a transition zone between the urban nature of the city and the natural elements of the park. The single functional view of the efficient moving of cars and pedestrians is typical of how other entry points into the park fail to integrate the street into the space of the park.

Consequently, the social qualities and opportunities to understand the park, its structure and publicness are decreased. The Tiergarten example provided not only discernable choices of movement and entry but tangible supports for different needs, spaces and more significant memorable experiences. The entry areas of both High Park and the Toronto Islands could become highly public spaces that celebrate the entrance and takes advantage of the large numbers of people that might stop and linger as they pass through, or those people on the street that might only use the introductory public space.

#### Observations and Comparisons



Unlike the pastoral landscape of the Toronto Islands or the found ravines that make up High Park, **Stanley Park** in Vancouver offers a densely wooded natural forest as its main feature and attraction. Stanley Park faces onto the city at one structured edge. Its irregular outer edge then forms a continuous circuit around the park onto the water. Georgia Street, Barclay Street and English Bay extend into the park. This transition is done with the aid of the promontory and structured walkways that allow its outer edges to face onto beaches, gardens, and picnic grounds.

Both **Prospect Park** in Brooklyn and **Buttes Chaumont** in Paris are based on the precedent of Birkenhead Park. **Birkenhead Park** in Liverpool is an early design of a park (1814) by Paxton that created an intermediary zone between the city and the park. An undulating park route parallels the city street and forms a transition area where a system of gardens, housing types, entrances and open spaces is composed that enhances the publicness of the park edge and projects a landscape into the realm of the city.

The creation of this zone is in opposition to the very distinct cut made by the Vaux/Olmstead design for **Prospect Park** in Brooklyn. In this park, Olmstead suggests a very strict boundary between the natural and the urban as a way of heightening the effect of each. Unlike Olmstead's earlier design for Central Park in New York City, Prospect Park is set into an irregular grid system that allows for the creation of entrance spaces varying from the smaller traffic circles to the large Grand Army Plaza. These spaces help to create zones of integration between the city and the park and become organizing poles for the undulating circulation routes.

The main park drive more or less parallels the surrounding city streets and set up potential intermediary zones. Although the edges to the streets are for the most part heavily planted, the Zoological Gardens and other public facilities are located in this zone and suggest an intermediate zone of pavilion structures and public spaces that give way to naturally landscaped areas that cater to the individual user. By concentrating the main routes at the periphery of the park, the huge expanse of the long meadow is made possible.

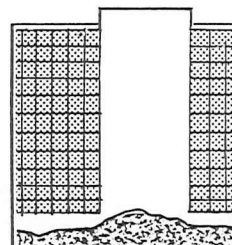


The paths and circulation routes of Toronto's High Park, while designed in the same undulating manner, do not match the legibility of Prospect Park's routes. Paths do not necessarily lead to public areas, and the roads do not set up a parallel zone that connects to the city within a short distance. This lack of internal structure has repercussions in terms of safety and public comprehension of the interior of the park and where one might logically go to reach the park's many attractions or how to directly find the city street. The paths of Birkenhead and Prospect Parks maximize the interior space of the park by travelling around it. The paths of High Park effectively divide the space.

Buttes Chaumont in Paris, designed by Alphand, takes the legibility of the path system of Birkenhead Park and intensifies their occurrence so that there are many paths closely connected to the city streets that lead to central attractions in the interior. The design of Buttes Chaumont also intensifies the idea of Paxton's landscaped park ideal and creates the landscape as a spectacle, a technological wonder that heightened the natural attractions, perhaps establishing a precedent itself as a forerunner to the modern amusement park.

The unbuilt competition entry project by the Office for Metropolitan Architecture for La Villette park in Paris intensifies pedestrian systems in a series of overlapping parallel landscapes that are connected by a major transverse route. While this park does not repeat the undulating romantic path, it does extend the technological ideal of Buttes Chaumont by setting up situations of overlapping uses and landscapes, providing sites for attractions that explore human inventions. The serial parallel paths connect repeatedly through the park to the city, and treat the metropolitan park as an intensifier of public space and landscapes rather than a retreat.

#### Observations and Comparisons



## Observations and Principles

### 1. Place Creation and Modification : Limits to Open Space

- Metropolitan parks are the largest order of open space in the city. This size is comparable to that of a normal city neighbourhood. This has an impact not only to its immediate context but to that of the entire city structure.
- Metropolitan parks normally are positioned at city peripheries, and may become enveloped by the growth of the city over time. When new metropolitan parks are proposed by city and metropolitan planners, the park's role in directing and influencing future growth of the city should be considered.
- The preservation of environmentally sensitive zones of public value and the preservation of natural waterways and landforms form part of the memory of the city. As such, these elements form the basis and focus for metropolitan parks. The metropolitan park should be enclosed by natural boundaries that distinguish the landforms from urban and inhabited zones.

### 2. Place Definition

- The metropolitan park can contain many smaller types of open space within its vast size. These smaller spaces should have edges of definition within the larger order of the park.
- The edges of the metropolitan park should contain the more public spaces with some built facilities within a peripheral zone that is easily accessible from the public realm of the city street. This zone would include built form aspects of the city and landscape aspects of the natural setting of the park supporting and enhancing the other.
- The metropolitan park should establish visual links that connect it back to more distant areas of the city, that place it into a larger city context.



3. Place of Possibilities :

Space in relationship to objects, to each other and to a whole

- Smaller orders of space that are contained within the larger metropolitan park should conform to a legible organization that allows the user to experience the smallest part with some understanding of its place in the larger order.
- These smaller contained spaces should possess their own internal autonomy as spaces that reflect a specific nature, a considered design and an intention.
- The space of the metropolitan park should have the potential both to accommodate very large crowds of people, as well as individual users.
- The entrances to the metropolitan park should be developed as intensely used public spaces that signal the status of the park and are clear points of access.
- The natural setting of the metropolitan park and the more built, hard surfaced structures of urban public space should be permitted to co-exist in an integrated balance that promotes the use of the park for a majority of the citizens in a secure, safe manner.
- The natural setting provides a necessary relief from the congestion of the city, but also can isolate individuals, placing them in vulnerable, unsafe conditions. Clear movement systems that lead quickly and directly to safe areas of more public and collective use should be developed.

Observations  
and Principles

