

Gridless New York

New York Rising: How Real Estate Shapes a City | Fall 2022 | Professors: Kate Ascher, Thomas Mellins

At the outset of *New York Rising: How Real Estate Shapes a City*, students were asked to imagine what New York would look like—and what it would *be* like—if its ubiquitous street grid had not been adopted in 1811.

Students in turn posed other questions: Would New York be so large and populous? Would it be a city of skyscrapers? Would Central Park exist? Would the city be more picturesque... equally efficient...more equitable?

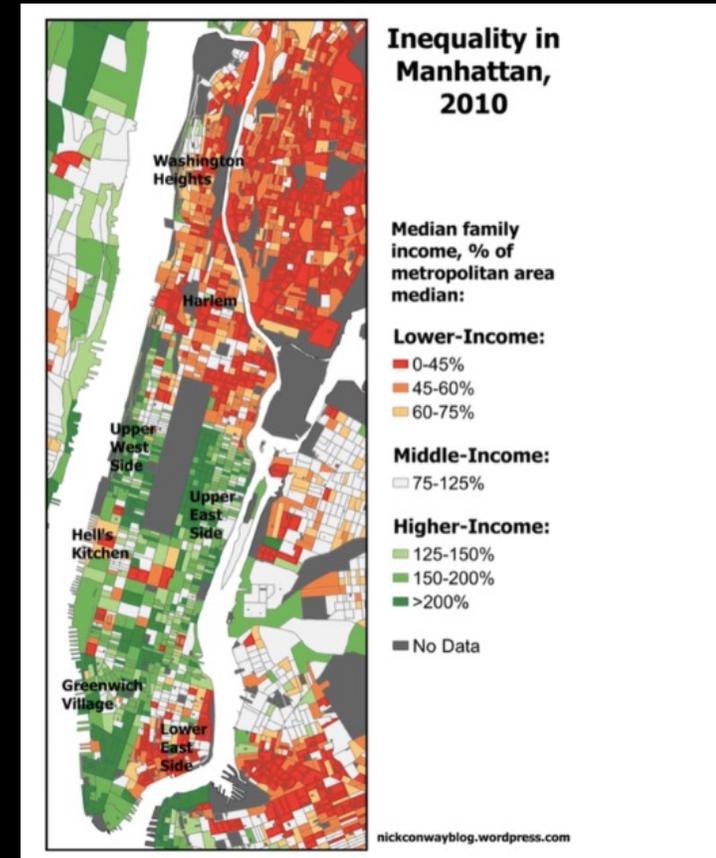
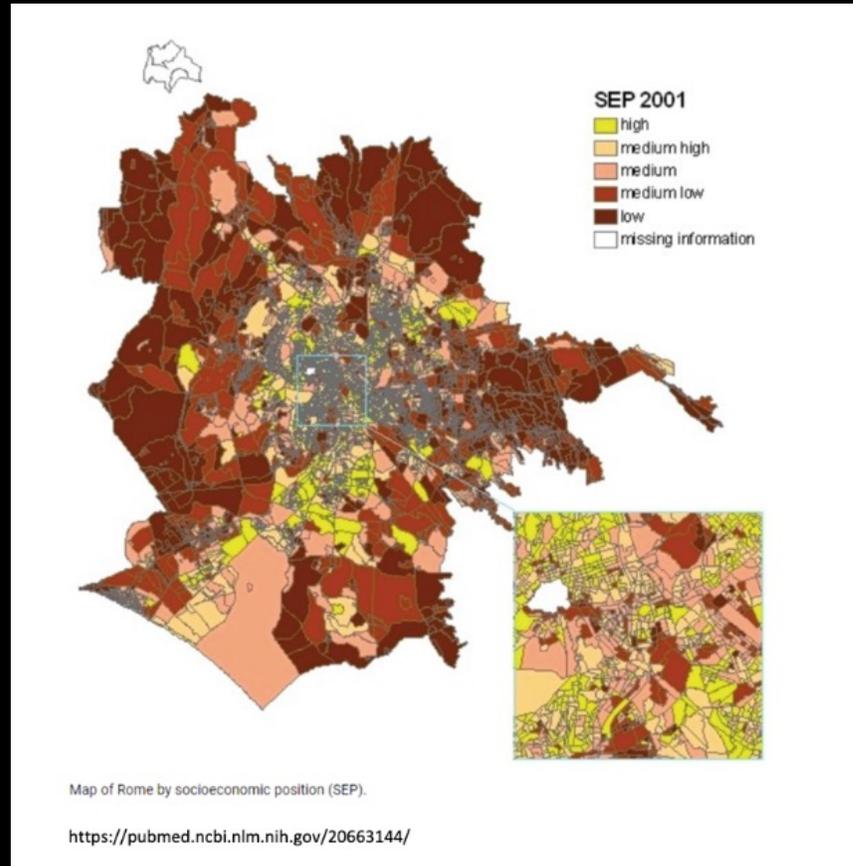
Presented here are maps and diagrams created by ten students that illustrate their concepts of a gridless New York.

Ana Maria Arpi, Urban Planning



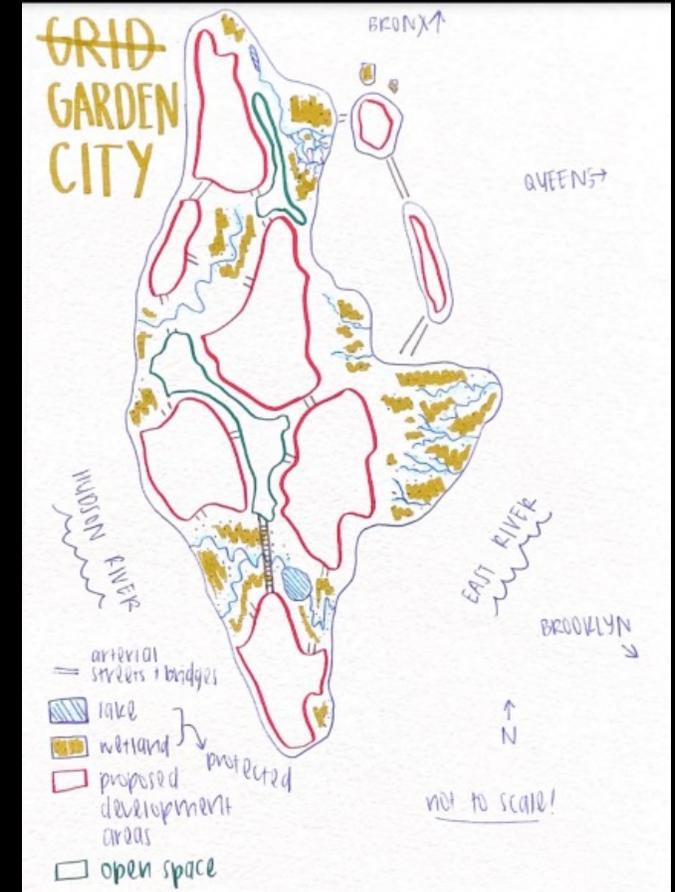
Aerial view of Manhattan showing superimposition of Barcelona's street grid.

Annie Yan Bailey, Real Estate Development



Left to right: Superimposition of the Noli plan of Rome (not to scale) on map of Manhattan; map of Rome showing socioeconomic status; map of Manhattan showing income distribution.

Eliza Dekker, Urban Planning



Left to right: Manhattan, 2009; imagined view of Manahatta, 1609; sketch of imagined “Manahatta plan” showing Manhattan as a garden city.

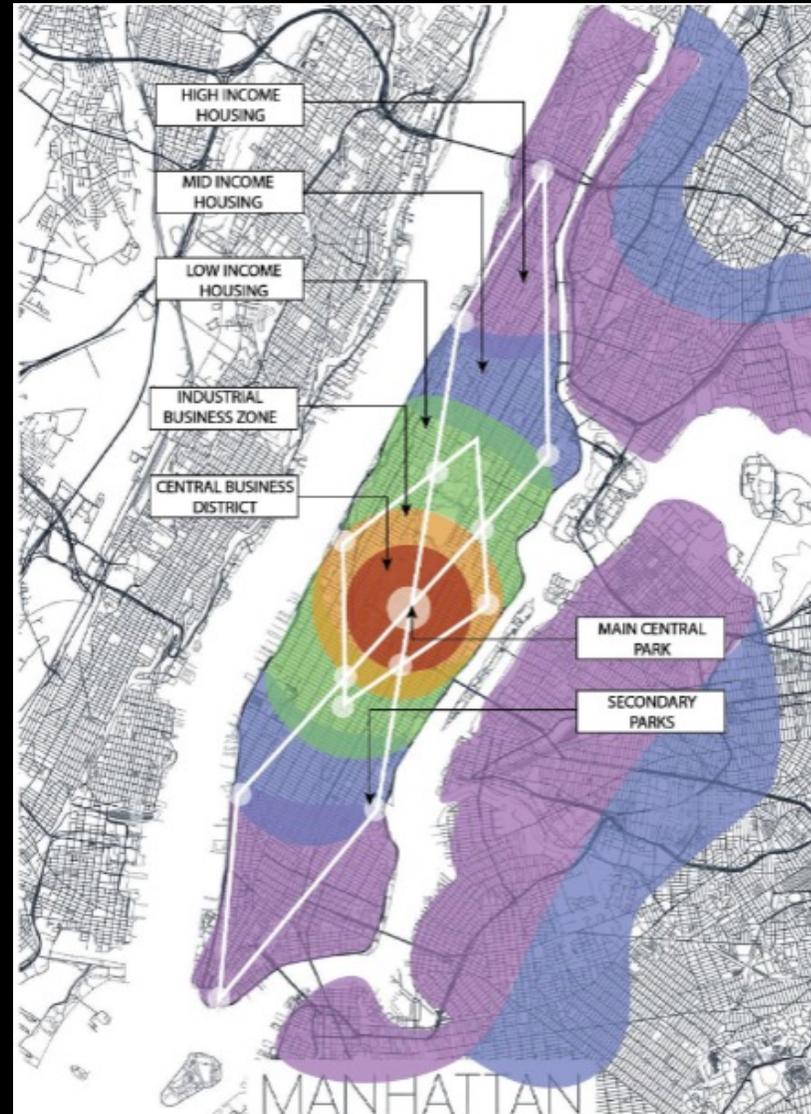
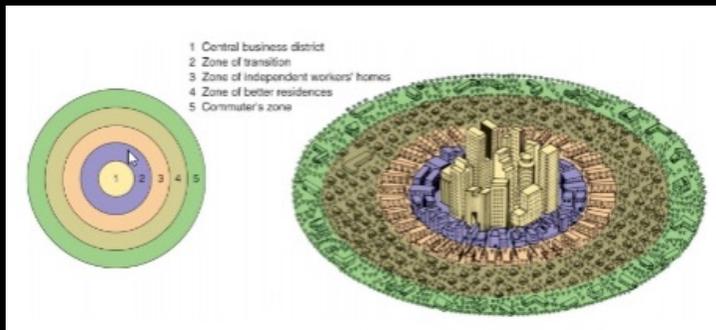
Marina Ferreira Guimaraes, Architecture and Urban Design



Map of New Amsterdam, 1624 (above) showing its similarity to Amsterdam in 16th century (top right). Bottom right: Map of Amsterdam showing the expansion of its street pattern in the 17th century.

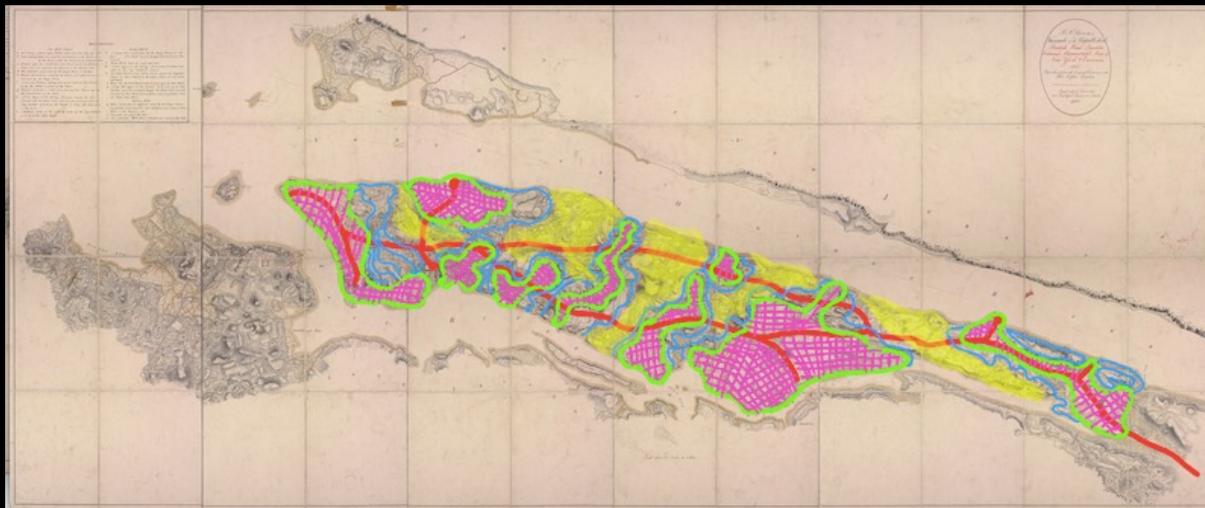


Alyna Karachiwala, Real Estate and Urban Development



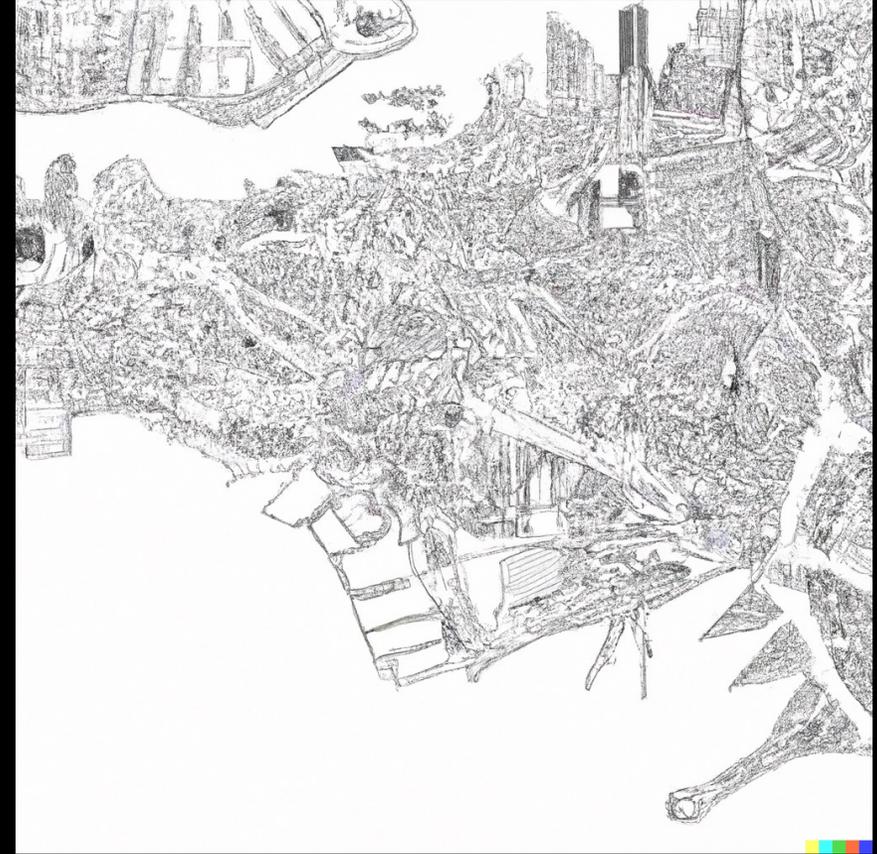
Referencing sociologist Ernest Burgess's "concentric zone model" (far left), this map imagines Manhattan developed as a series of rings.

Claire Koh, Advanced Architectural Design



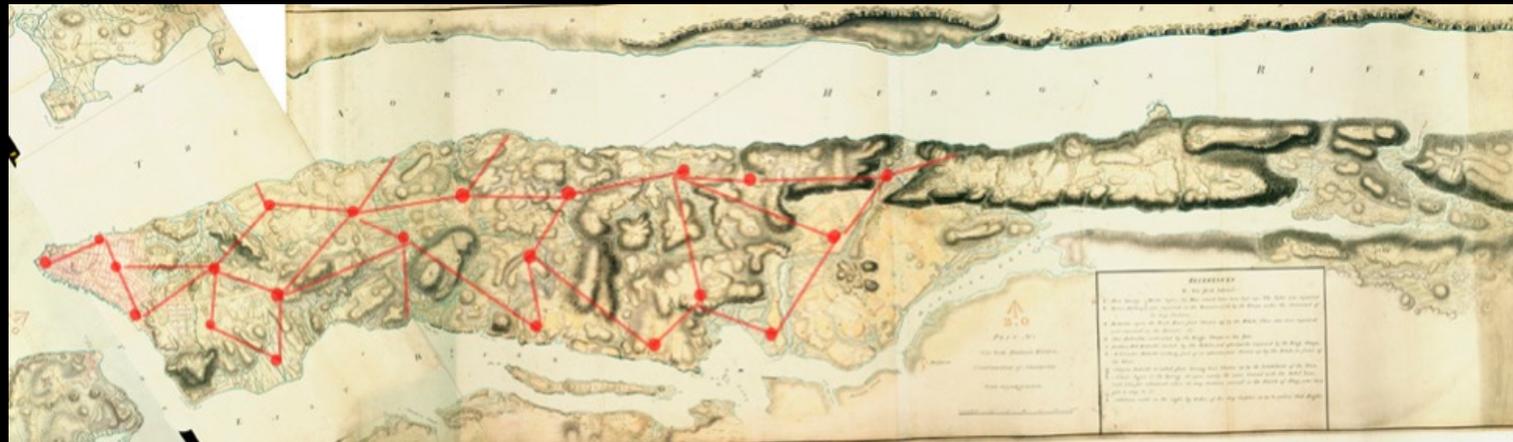
Above: Manhattan showing native American footpaths. Below: Manhattan showing imagined development if street pattern had reflected footpaths and Manhattan's topographic features.

Taha Erdem Ozturk, Architecture



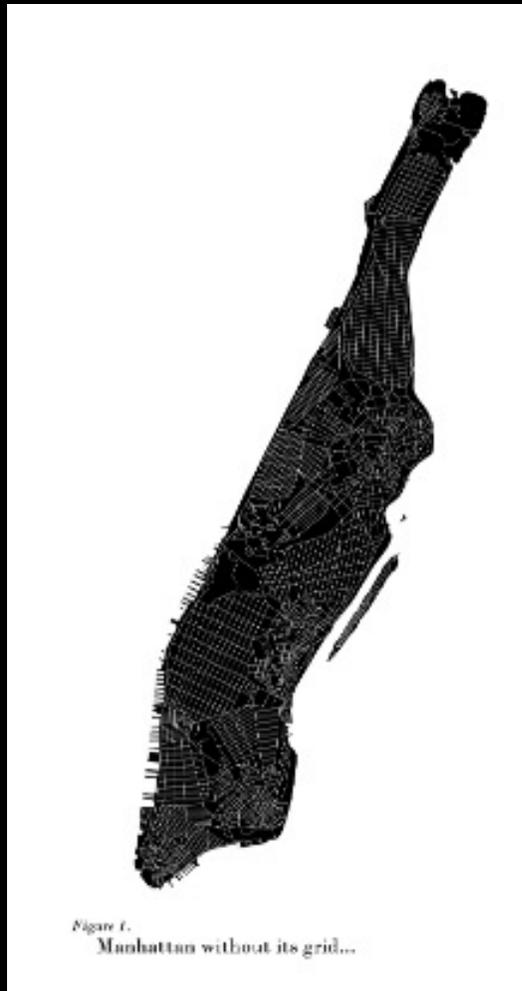
Left: Imagined aerial view of Manhattan if it had developed along the street patterns of Istanbul. Right: Istanbul street pattern.

Saloni Shah, Real Estate Development



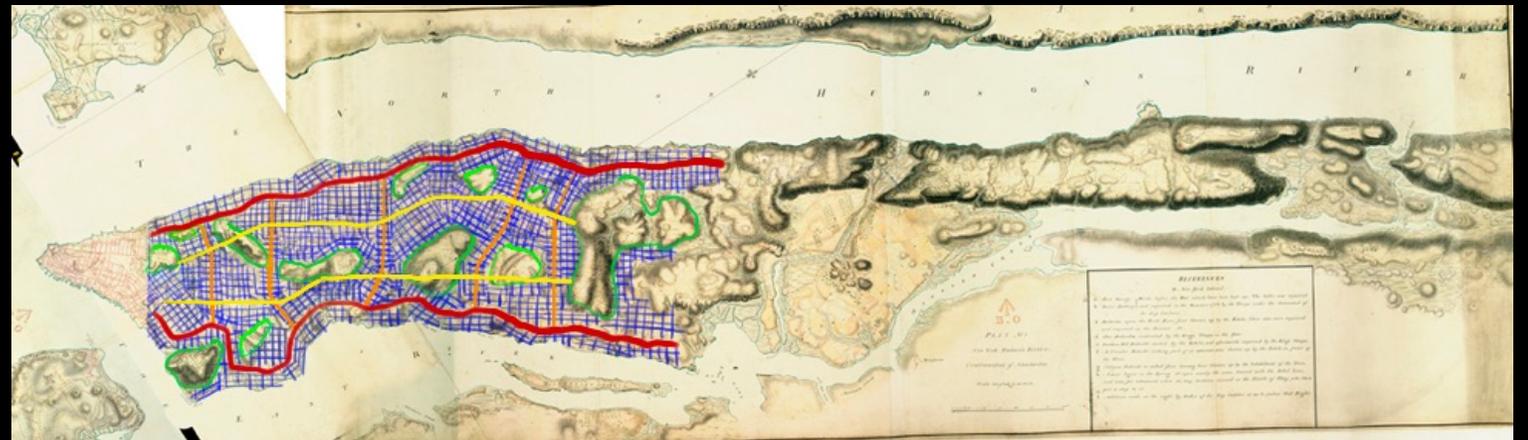
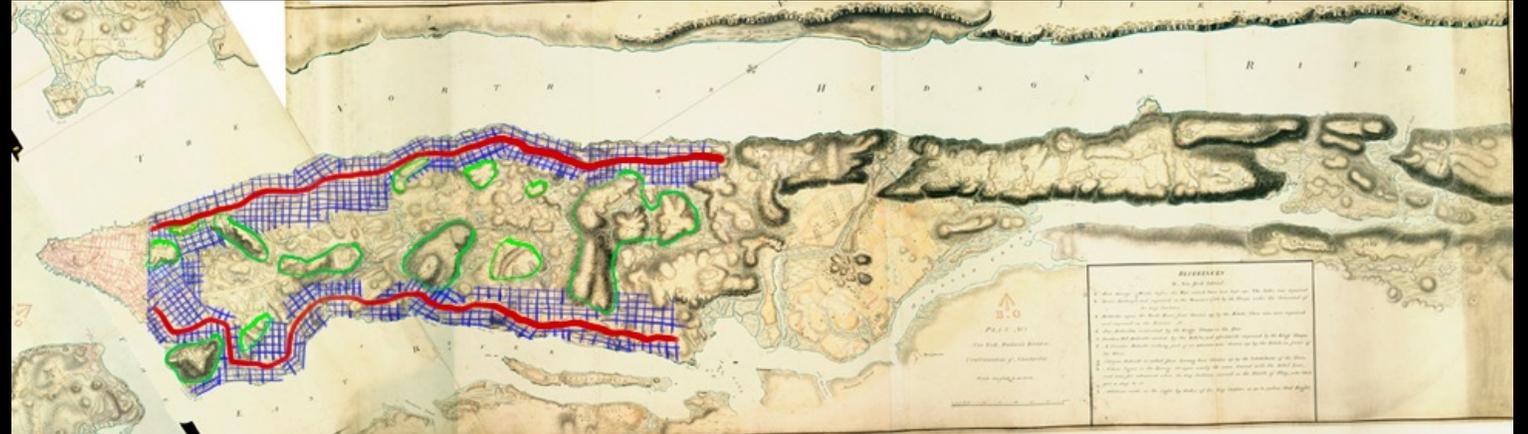
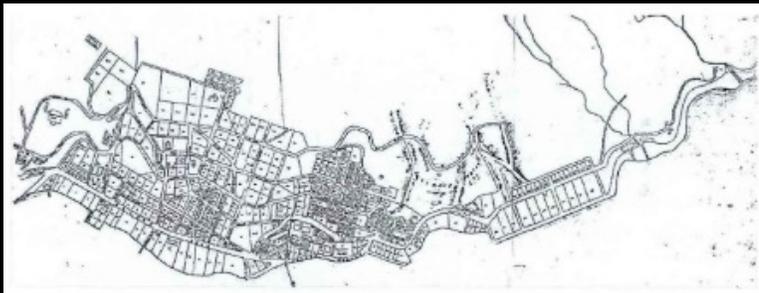
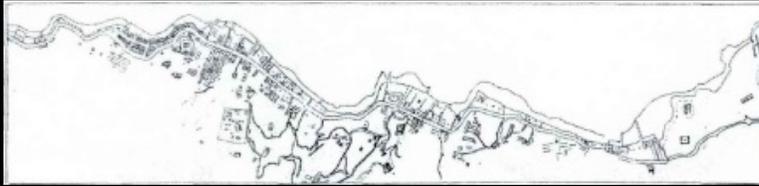
Above: Topographic map of Manhattan. Below: Imagined multinodal pattern of development reflecting topographic features

Daniel Joshua Vanderhorst, Architecture



Maps of Manhattan with imagined irregular street pattern showing multiple concentrations of development and maps of comparative downtowns.

Brent Huifeng Zhang, Advanced Architectural Design



Above: Partial map of Hong Kong Island in 1843 (top) and in 1850 (below) showing growth inland.
Right above: Imagined early phase of development if Manhattan had grown from the waterfront inland.
Right below: Imagined later phase.