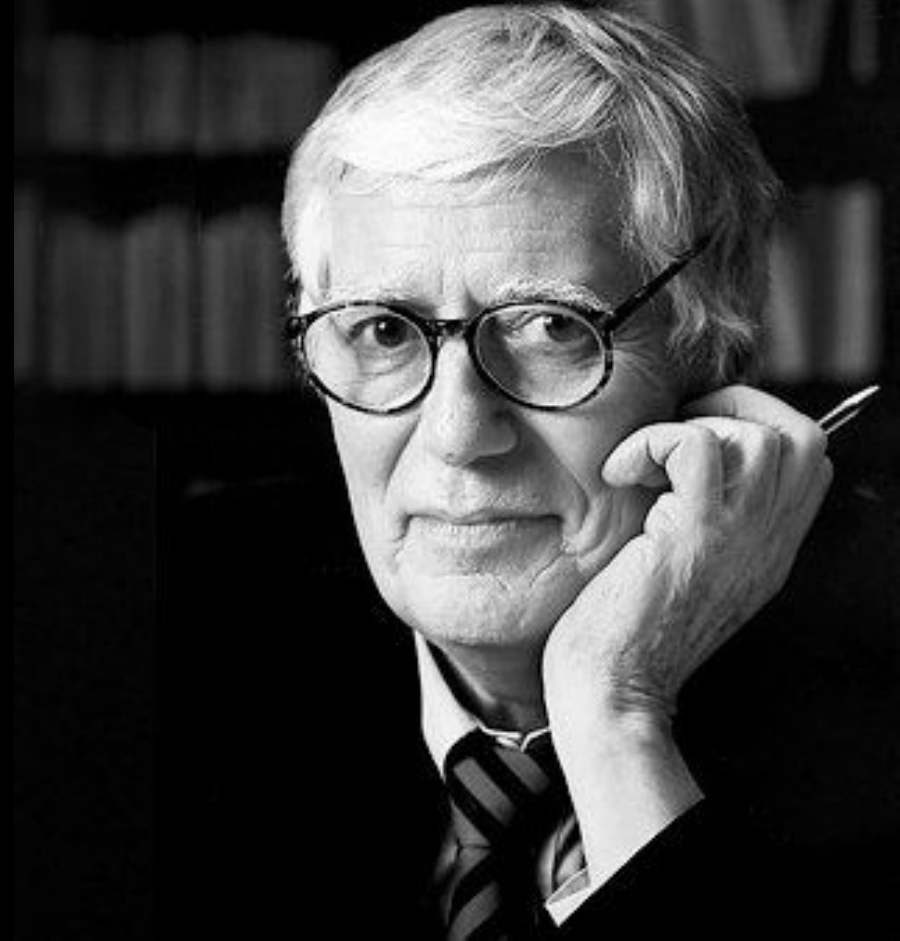


## URBAN DESIGN

Oswald Mathias Ungers  
The City as Archipelago





# Oswald Mathias Ungers

- 1926-2007
- Frankfurt/Germany
- Architectural Theorist
- The Archive for Architectural Research
- *“representative of radical neo-rationalism in antithesis with certain trends in the new avant-garde movements”*

# Archipelago

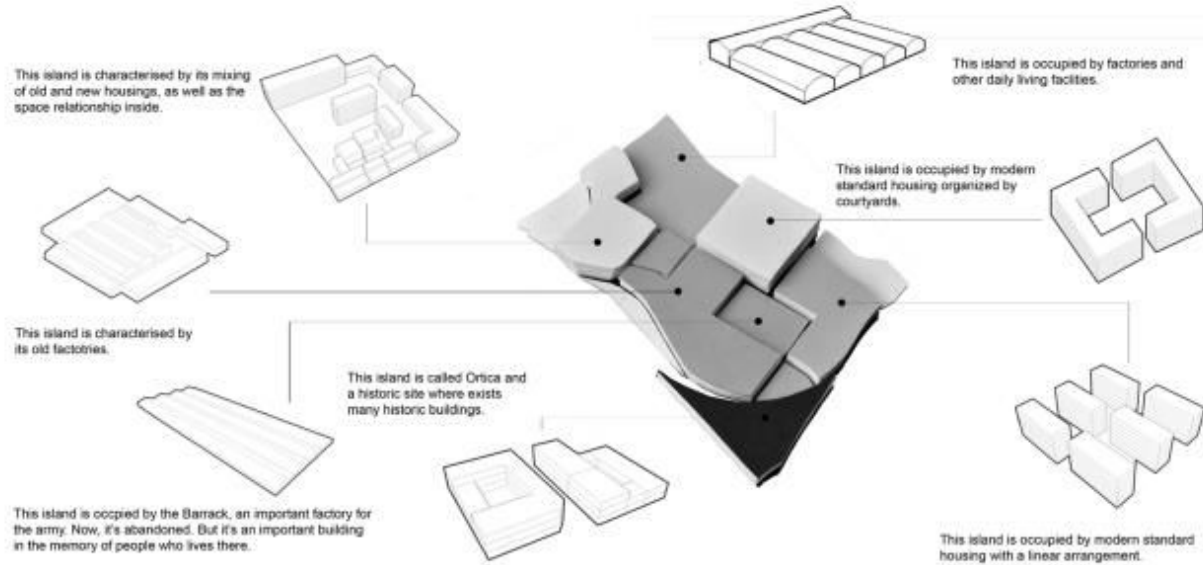
/,ɑː.kɪ'pɛl.ə.gəʊ/

(Cambridge Dictionary)

a group of small islands or an area of sea in which there are many small islands:

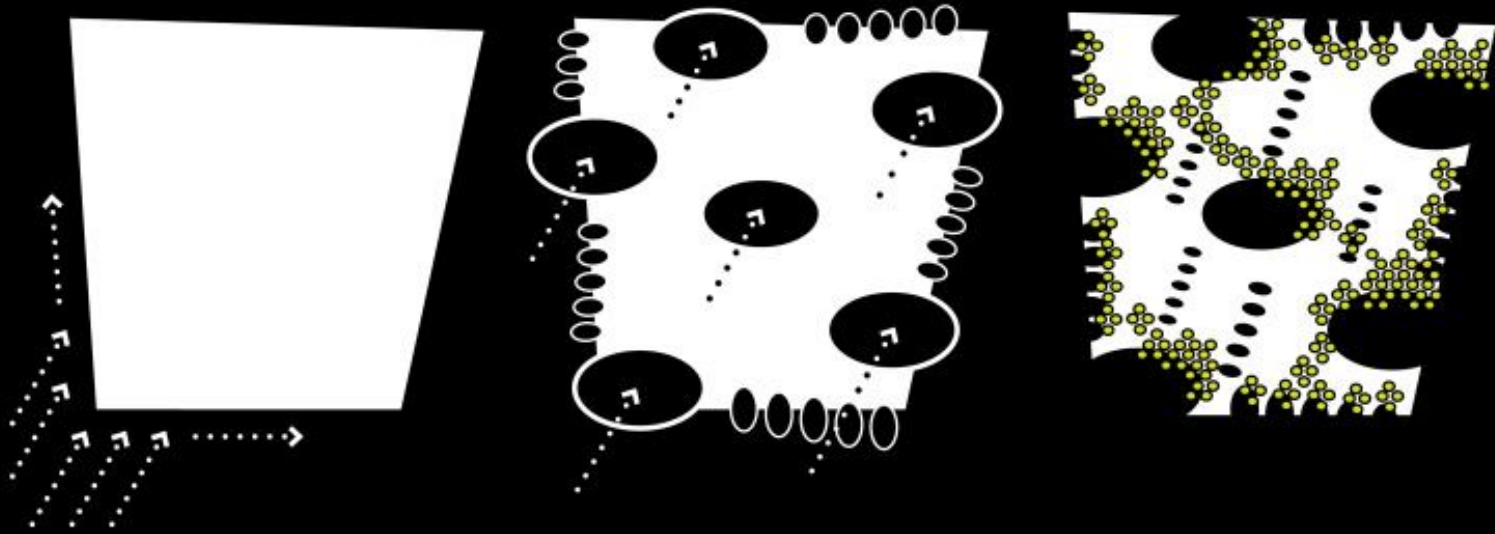
*the Hawaiian archipelago*

# What is Archipelago?

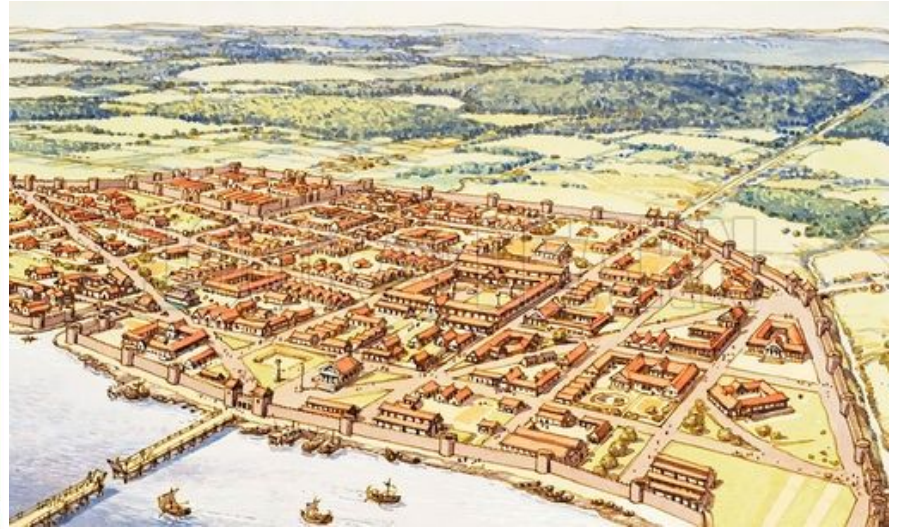


An archipelago is a group of islands set in a sea that simultaneously unites and divides them. Each island is a part of the whole composition and works together. However, even in the absolute separation of the islands, there is not any center. The centerless is both a thing that attracts the islands toward each other and separates them. As a result, it prevents a single mass and it increases the relationship between the islands.

Archipelago describes a condition where parts are separated but at the same time, still united by the common ground of their juxtaposition. This concept is based on creating different well defined zones of the city. These zones are surrounded by other urban context, but keep their character preserved.



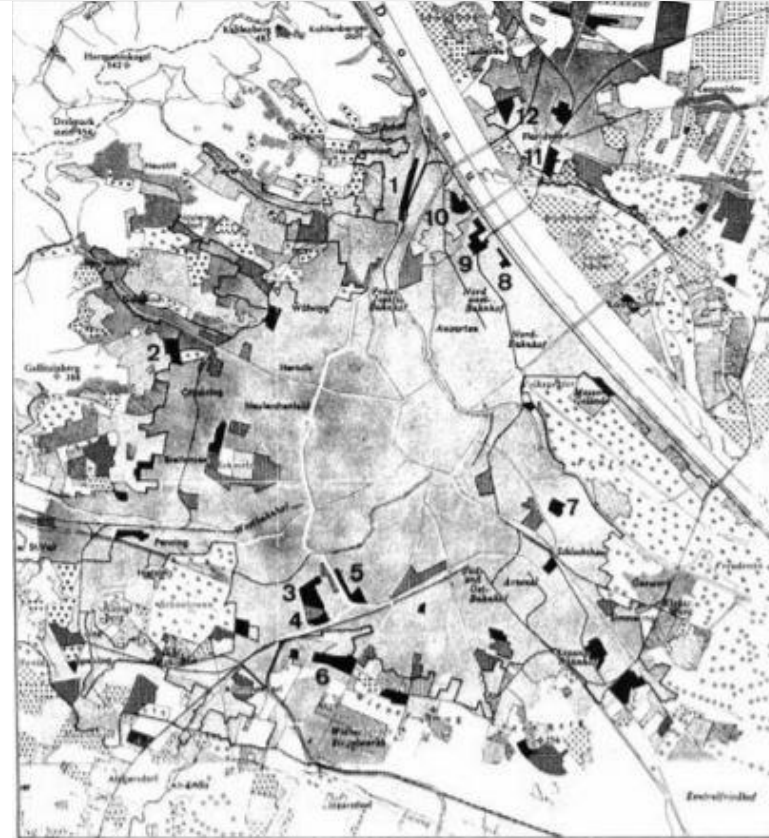
For example, if we compare Greek polis and The Roman Empire in terms of the geographical and political form, we can say that the Greek polis can be described as an archipelago.



# Vienna as an Archipelago

Red Vienna can be considered the clearest representation of what a “city within the city” means, and is thus one of the most important references for Berlin as a Green Archipelago.

Superblocks that defined in the case of Vienna are self-sufficient blocks. This approach for city situated within the city as self-sufficient islands in pronounced contrast to their surroundings.



# Berlin as a Green Archipelago

Berlin in the 70's was an example of the Archipelago condition. Germany was divided into two opposing blocks after the war, so do Berlin as East and West Berlin. West Berlin enclosed by a wall, and surrounded by a hostile territory. The surrounding walls and borders make it harder for that part to recover from the war conditions.



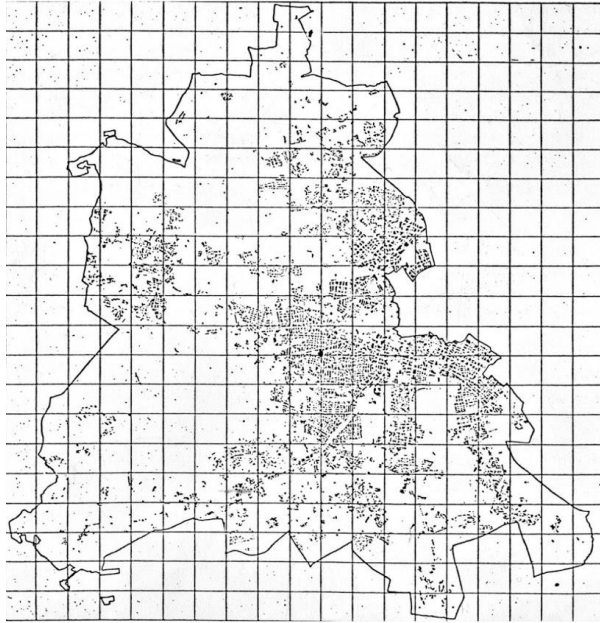


# WHY GREEN?

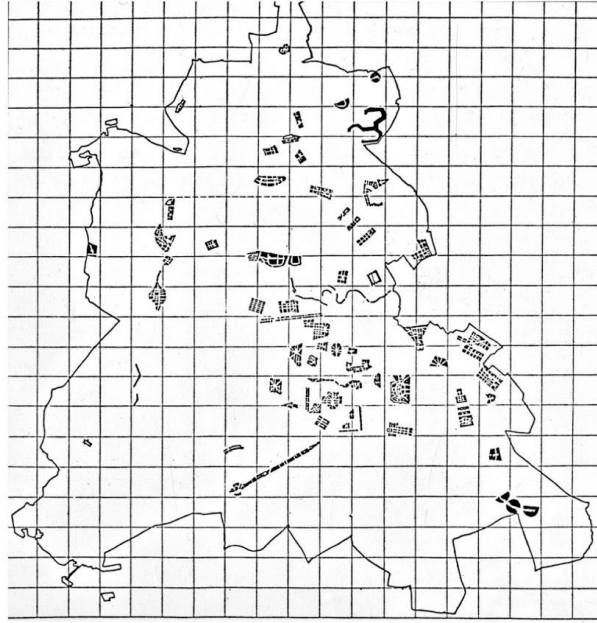


The city consists of many 'urban islands', were separated from each other by green corridors, thus resulting in a 'green archipelago'.

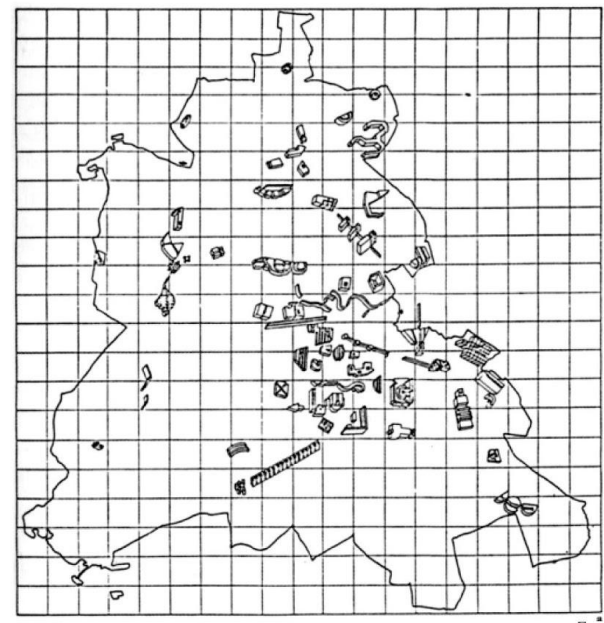
In 1977, Oswald Mathias Ungers, Rem Koolhaas, Peter Riemann, Hans Kollhoff and Arthur Ovasca suggested a rescue project called 'Berlin as a Green Archipelago'. According to them, the postwar problems has created '**cities within the city**' or in Unger's terms, '**a city made by islands**'.



La città nella città

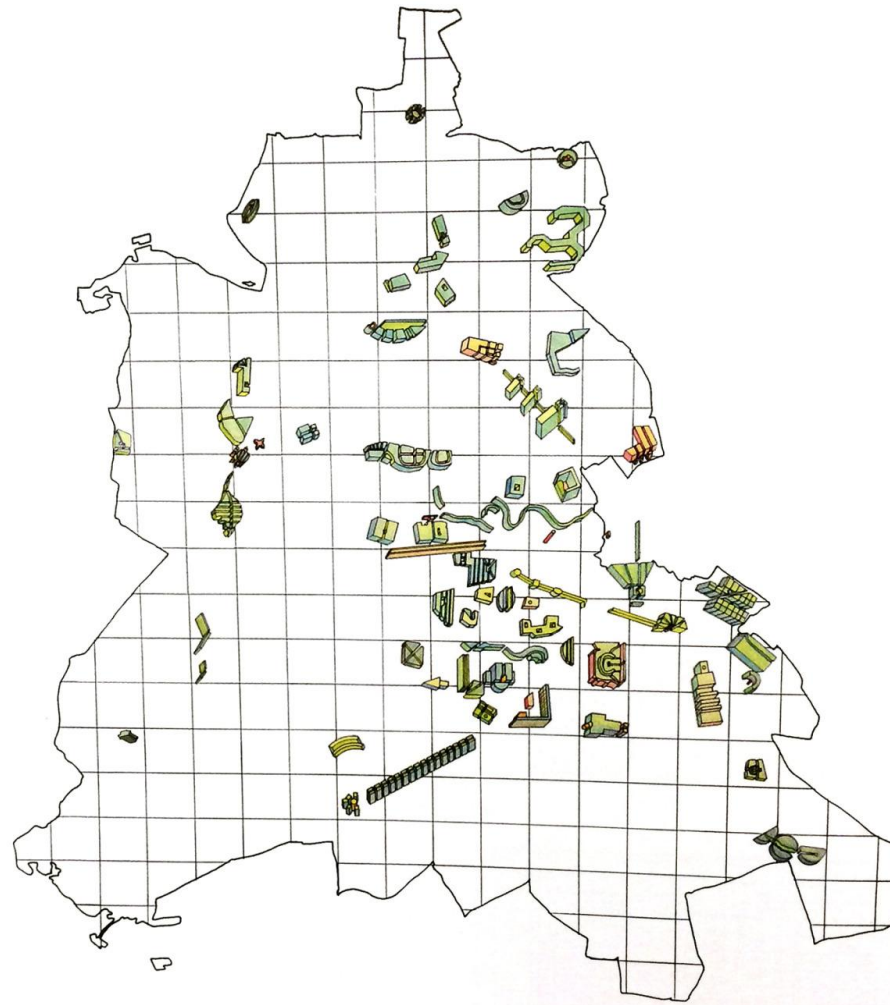


Pianta delle isole urbane



Carta della sostanza edilizia di Berlino

Berlin's fragmented reality provided Ungers with a basis for interpreting the city as an entity no longer reliant on large-scale urban planning but rather composed of islands, each of which was conceived as a micro-city.



Ungers derived this approach from Karl Friedrich Schinkel, who was the city architect of Berlin.

Schinkel had envisioned Prussia as a fabric punctuated by singular architectural interventions. For Ungers, this approach could overcome the fragmentation of postwar Berlin by turning the crisis itself, the impossibility of planning the city, into the project of the city.

So, Ungers developed his theory of the city as an archipelago.



# THE CITY BERLIN: IN THE A GREEN CITY ARCHIPELAGO

**A manifesto (1977) by  
Oswald Mathias Ungers and Rem Koolhaas  
with Peter Riemann, Hans Kollhoff,  
and Arthur Ovasca**

Berlin as a Green Archipelago is one of the very few projects in the history of city planning to address an urban crisis by shifting the focus from the problem of urbanization.

Ungers's archipelago formed the existing city by accepting its process of depopulation. This acceptance was not resulted as a "disurbanization" of the city, but as a way to reinforce its form by defining the limits of each "island" in an archipelago.

# The City of Captive Globe - Rem Koolhaas

Koolhaas interpretation on archipelago is defined as a grid system. Sea is the grid itself and plots are the island that defines an archipelago. The plots that discussed in the system is not only buildings but are cities in miniature or, as Koolhaas calls them, quoting Oswald Mathias Ungers, "cities within cities."

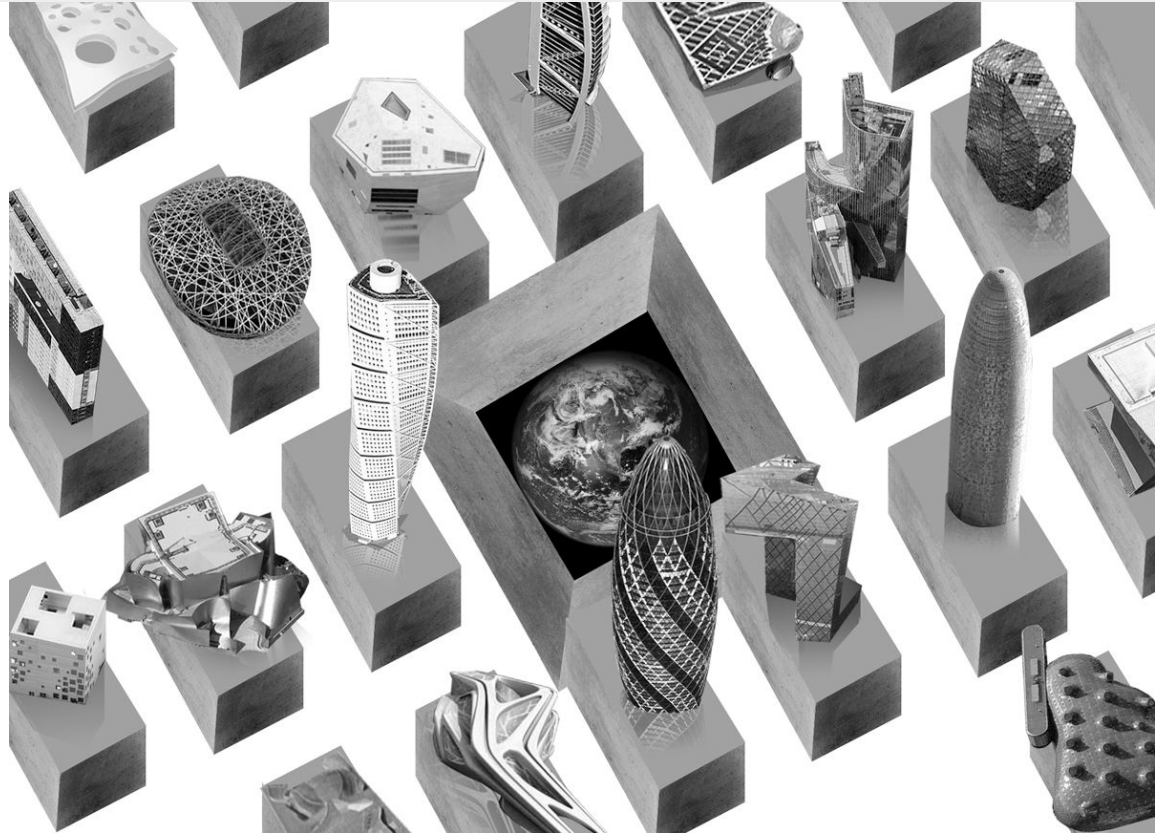
New York Manhattan is the city that example of The City of Captive Globe.





# Koolhaas' City of the Globe

The differentiation of total scheme between architecture and the functioning of the island makes form of the building less able to function. In Koolhaas' City of the Globe is not really a kind of island, that has relation between inside and outside is vital but is more like an enclave, and it dependences of accessibility and circulation provided by the landmark.

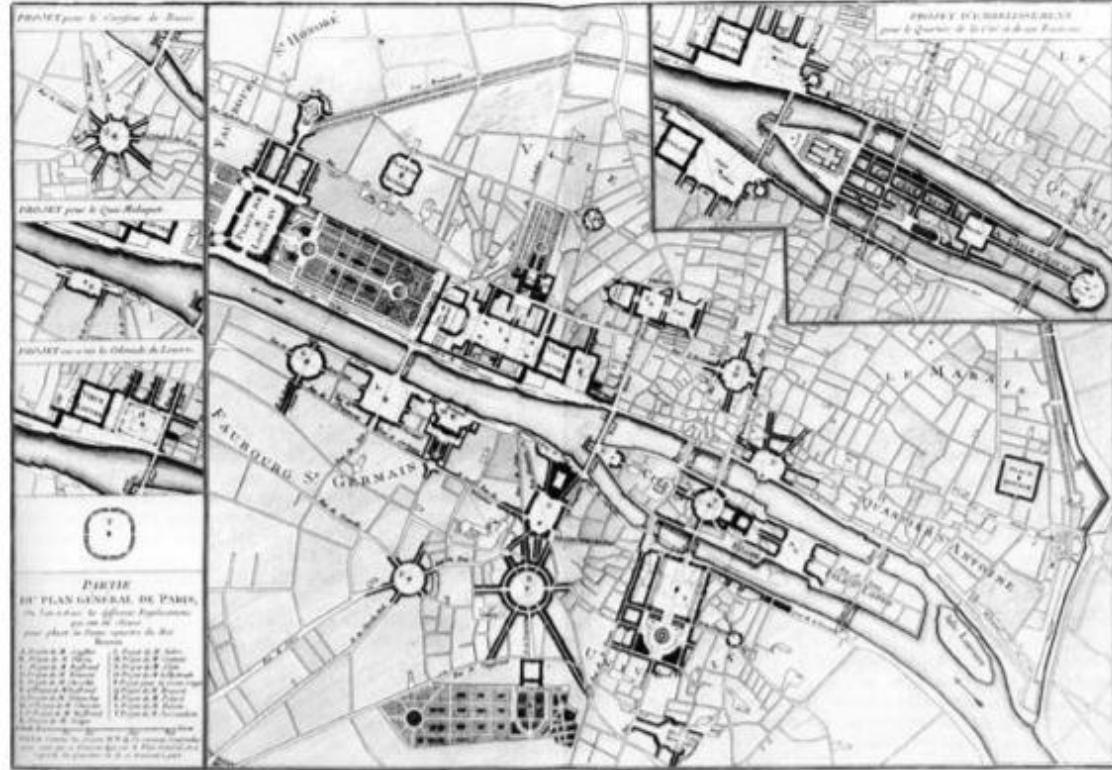




# Circulation of Paris

Pierre Patte, *Partie du plan général de Paris*, 1765.

The city is composed of an archipelago of voids of circulation and space, the main themes of the emerging metropolis city using a rational language that reduced the problem of urban space to one of depicting voids.



What sort of architecture embodies  
the archipelago?

“Iconic Buildings”



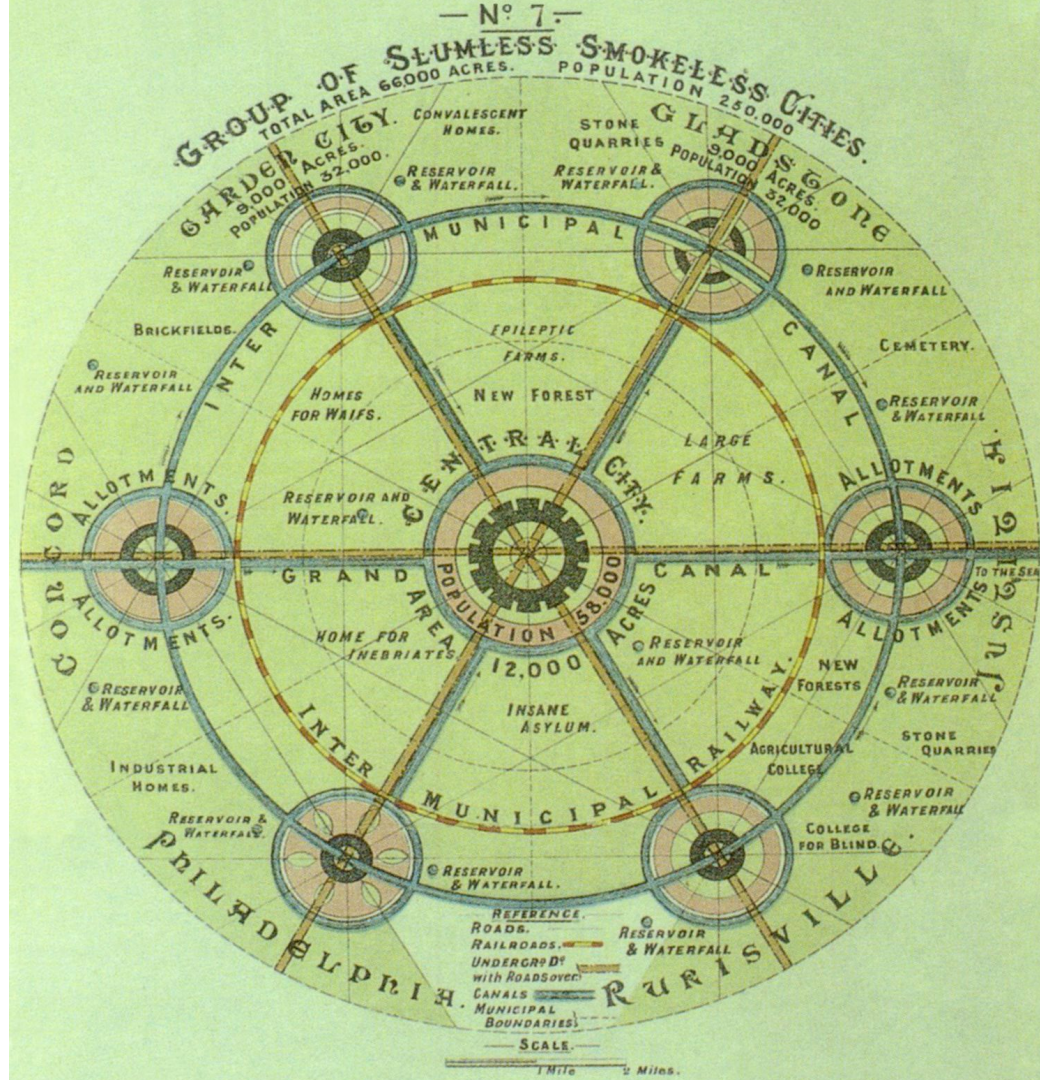
# COLLAGE CITY



# ARCHIPELAGO



What Are The Similarities  
And Differences  
Between Archipelago  
And Garden City?



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