

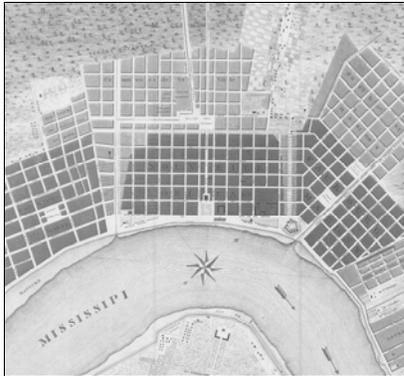
New Orleans 2020: City of Districts on the High Ground

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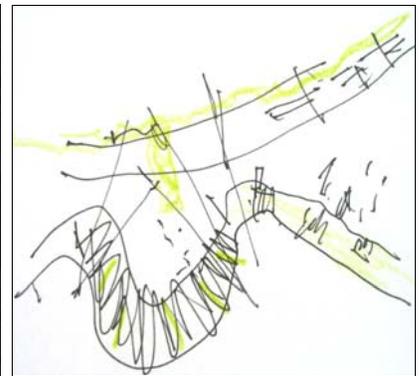
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1815: Historic Plan



2000: Satellite View



2020: City of Districts

Summary

This proposal for a post-Katrina approach to the reconstruction of New Orleans outlines a vision derived directly from the identification of distinct neighborhoods within the city. These districts are evident in the city's historic plan as well as in the pre-existing physical and cultural urban fabric.

This faculty-led design project emerged from a Spring 2006 design studio for the international student competition for a single-family house prototype, sponsored by Tulane University and *Architectural Record*.

Conceptual Collage as Vision

As a critical reassessment of American urbanism, this comprehensive plan for New Orleans both respects existing idiosyncrasies of the city and provides a flexible, intellectually rigorous vision for viable implementation.

This plan is a conceptual collage derived from a cross-section of approaches to the design of the city: New Orleans' historic colonial plan of 1815, Garnier's *Cite Industrielle* Rowe's contextualism, Ungers' Berlin Archipelago proposal, Frampton's critical regionalism, and Koolhaas' optimism. Ideas derived from each of these sources co-exist as interrelated conceptual frameworks that accommodate reconstruction and change over time.

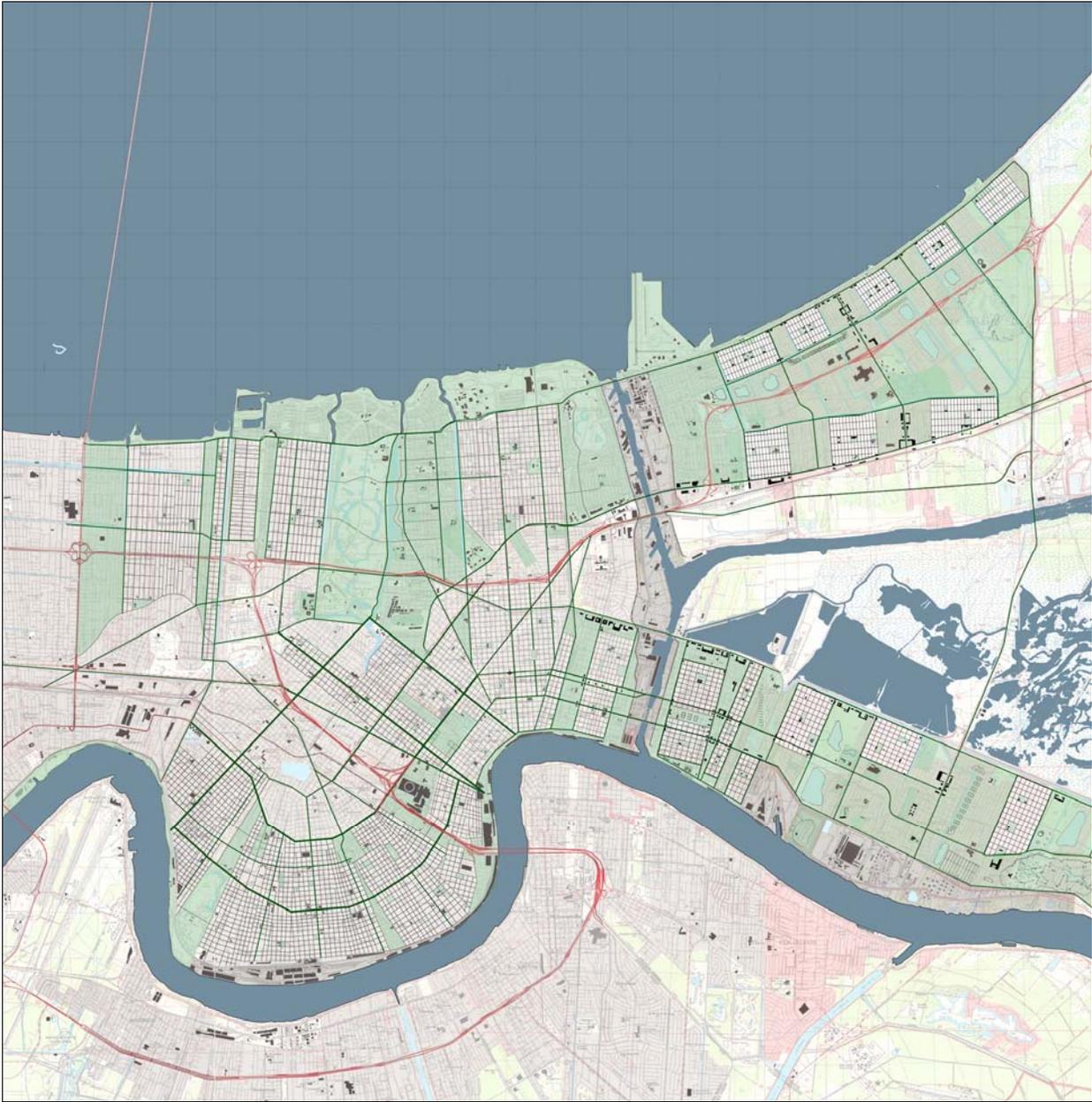
Description

New Orleans' post-Katrina population is less than half of its previous size. Thus, this proposal is an urban strategy addressing shrinkage and abandonment, while simultaneously rebuilding devastated areas in the Ninth Ward, to the east of the city center.

West of the Industrial Canal, many residents have returned to salvage their flood-damaged homes. These districts will be clearly defined and protected with design guidelines determined by residents.

In the devastated area to the east, this proposal provides new districts built on high ground, created by fill from dredging operations in the Mississippi delta. These neighborhood district "plateaus" are at a higher elevation than the surrounding green space and are thus protected from future flooding. Citizens unable to return to their previous homes will receive new lots in the existing or redefined districts. A range of affordable new housing prototypes is suggested.

This proposal gives the public sector a clear comprehensive plan for implementation that accommodates contemporary practices in private investment and development. Likewise, the unique characteristics of New Orleans are recognized as necessary in the continuum of the city's history.



The City, with clearly defined neighborhood districts interconnected with broad tree-lined boulevards and green space.



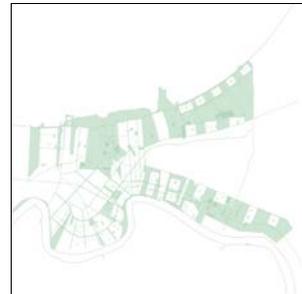
Water:
River, lake, canals, estuaries



Block structure:
Pedestrian mixed use districts



Boulevards:
Tree-lined, vehicular connectors



Green space:
Parks, boulevards, civic space



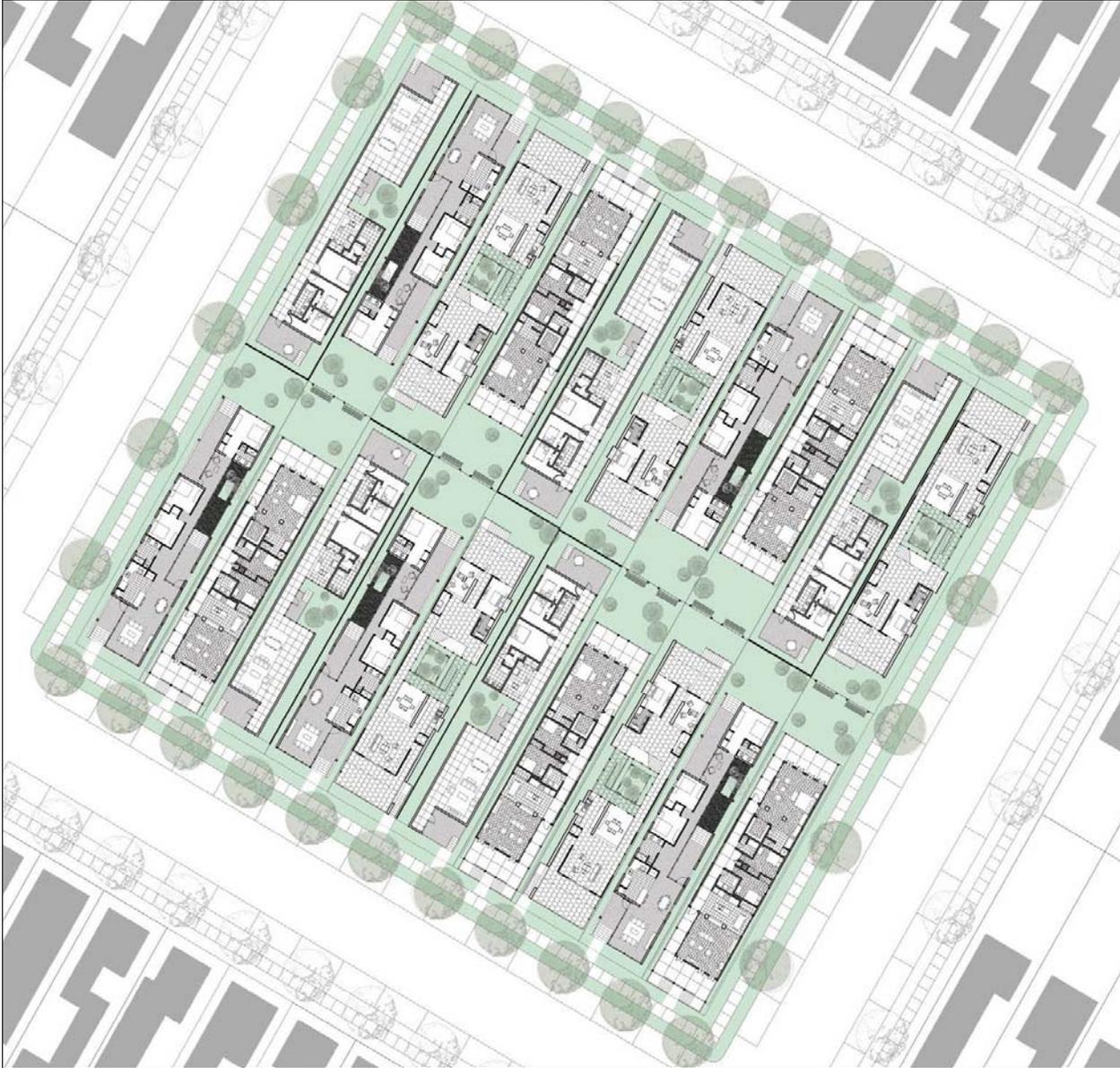
The District, constructed on high ground in the East City, with a block structure derived from the historic plan of 1815. While the mixed-use districts are pedestrian-oriented, tree-lined boulevards connect the districts and contain large-scale buildings.



A post-Katrina street in the Ninth Ward, east of the city.



A reconstructed street with single-family house prototypes.



The Block, with its narrow lot dimensions based on the historic block structure of repetitive single family "shot-gun" houses. A range of housing prototypes, characteristic of New Orleans, will provide rapid affordable construction options.

