

Rebirth of the Boulevards

PROJECT

Rebirth of the Boulevards: an examination of the design opportunities, life and organization of the major underutilized street corridors of Los Angeles. Students will develop architectural and urban design proposals for revitalized boulevards to create a new linear pattern of development, denser and greener, sustainable and livable, while respecting and preserving adjacent neighborhoods of single-family houses.

INTENTION

To develop a new paradigm for urban living, urban architecture and urban design in Los Angeles, recognizing the extraordinary opportunities presented by our underused boulevards. To challenge conventional apartment design. To explore interrelationships of architecture and urban design.

PROGRAM

Design of buildings and streets, at selected boulevard sites in different areas of the city. Emphasis will be on new residential types, including family housing, live/work and mixed-use, with supporting institutional, commercial and recreational and park facilities. Roofscapes, occupied and otherwise, will receive particular attention, as will streetscapes. Green buildings will incorporate natural ventilation, solar energy, daylighting and onsite water management. Boulevards will be “Green Lines”, with distinctive plantings to create identity. Boulevard design will focus on street spaces, street frontage for buildings and desirable pedestrian and bicycling experiences.

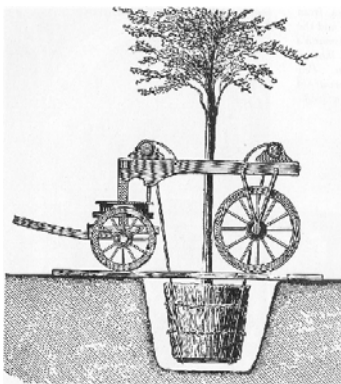
BACKGROUND

The first city developed to accommodate the automobile, Los Angeles has perhaps the largest urban street grid in the world. The grid includes hundreds of miles of “boulevard” frontage zoned for commercial use, along major streets spaced roughly a mile apart. Most of this frontage is severely underutilized. Due to the low density of adjacent development, and the changed economics of retailing, these areas will never be used for commerce. They present an unprecedented design opportunity, small in transverse section, enormous in linear extension.

A greener, more sustainable Los Angeles region will require containing sprawl and accommodating population growth within the older areas of the city. The studio will test the premise that the boulevards can accommodate substantial increases in density, while providing a new livable, sustainable urban pattern.

STUDIO STRUCTURE

- Typological Analysis and Precedent Studies. (Team Work)
- Selection of Boulevards and Sites (Team and Individual Work)
- Schematic Street Design (Individual Work)
- Schematic Residential/Mixed Use Building Design (Individual Work)
- Reiteration and Presentation of Integrated Building and Street Design (Individual Work)



Street Tree Planting, Paris ca. 1860



Beginning of the Street Grid, San Fernando Valley, 1923