

# CENTRAL PARK CITY

THE INWARD SPIRALLING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PARK & NEW YORK CITY

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The Central Park project discovers the existence of the plan of New York City embedded within the plan of Central Park.

The designer of Central Park, Fredrick Law Olmstead, deplored the non-design approach of placing a rational grid over the natural island of Manhattan in order to design a city. In his writings, he implies that he would have preferred that the design of New York be more like that of a romantic "European continental city." In observing the plan of Central Park, one can see that he used the existing road structure of New York as an underlying order for his design of Central Park. One concludes that he designed what he imagined to be the ideal romantic plan for New York City.

One might consider the Park to be a city clothed in foliage, rather than the stone, concrete, glass, and steel forms of traditional cityscapes. The model is a reconstruction of the city implied by the existing plan of Central Park. The paths and roads become streets in a dense urban fabric. The architectural structures (the Grand Promenade, the Mall, Bethesda Fountain, the Bowling Green, etc.) become boulevards and piazzas held within the myriad of streets. One begins to perceive the plan of a medieval city. The twentieth century mind observes the cityscape of New York's imagined history in the romantically idealized plan.

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# CENTRAL PARK ANALYSIS PAINTINGS & MODEL

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Central Park too was my home away from home, having spent thousands of hours wandering endlessly with my labrador and friends; exploring and savouring this gorgeous 'green reservoir' of a Park, at the heart of the city. Knowing Central Park like one of my many 'homes', I wanted to learn more about other dimensions of the Park, during my Architecture Thesis year at Cooper Union in 1979-80. I began making paintings of the Plan of Central Park and discovered many secrets buried within.

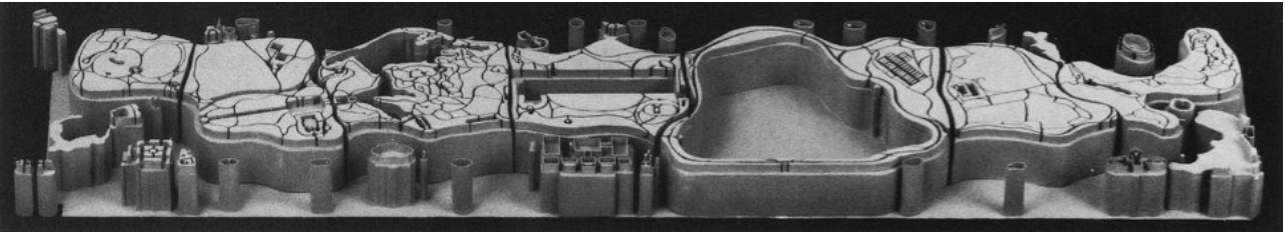


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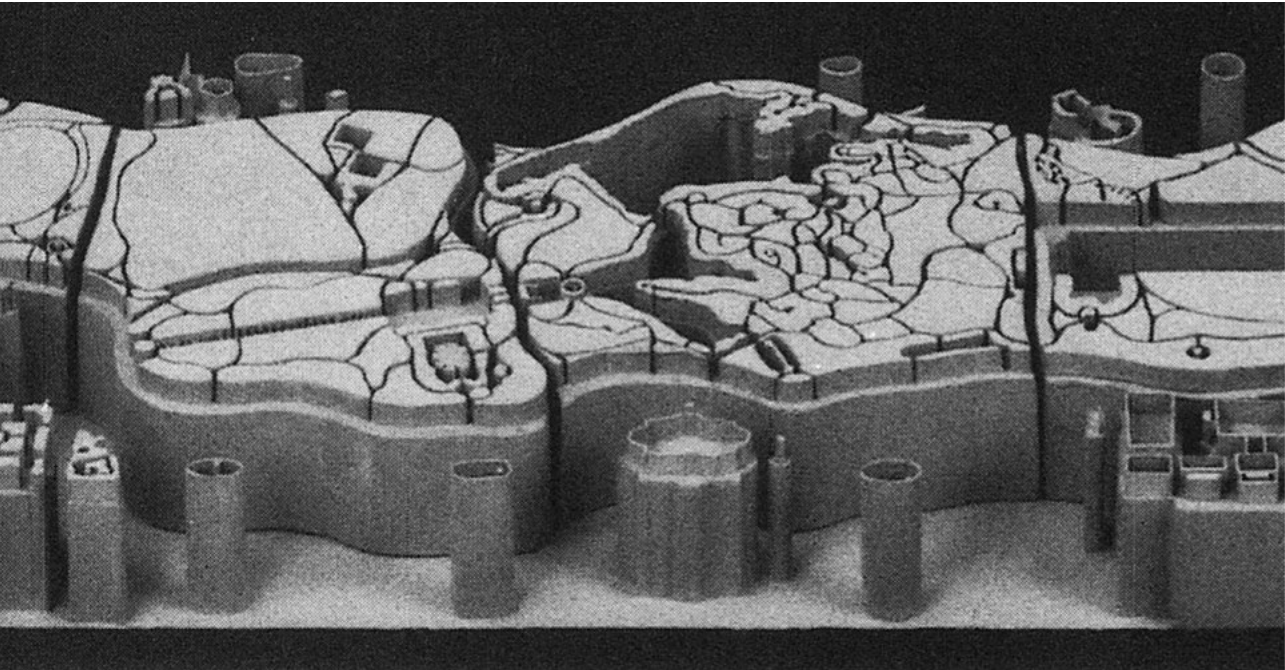




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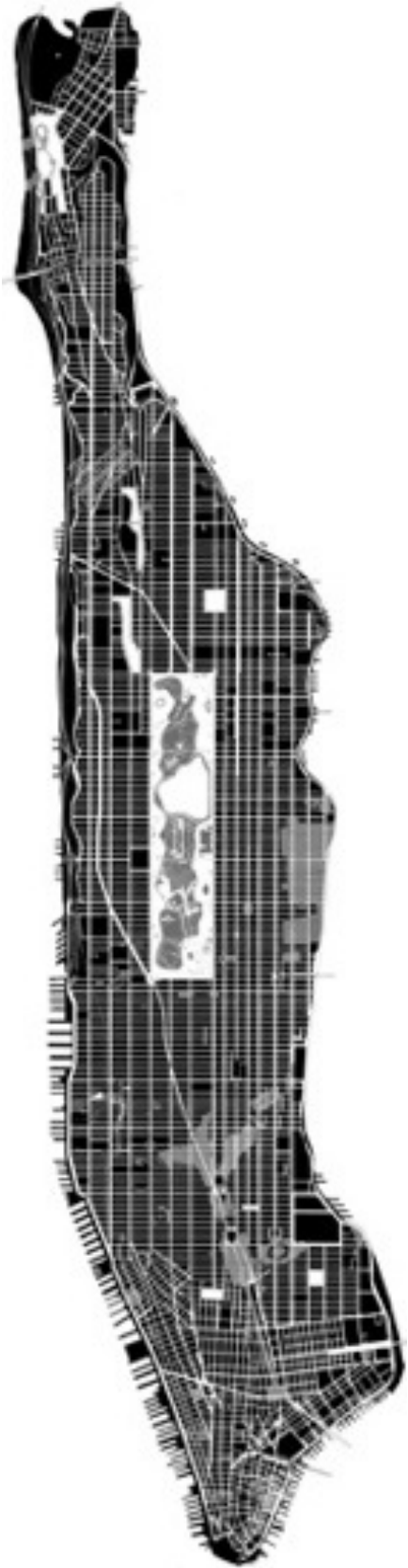


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**Manhattan and Central Park plans below, highlighting:**

- 1) The two islands, Manhattan and Central Park, literal and metaphorical.  
Each island has the same proportions of 1:5**
- 2) Each Island has the central rectangular space;  
A) Central Park in Manhattan  
B) the rectangular reservoir of Central Park  
(removed in the early 20th c.)**
- 3) Broadway and the Grand Promenade of Central Park parallel each other.**

**Numerous other mirror conditions exist in the inter-relationships between Central Park and Manhattan, the subject of my upcoming book.**



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