

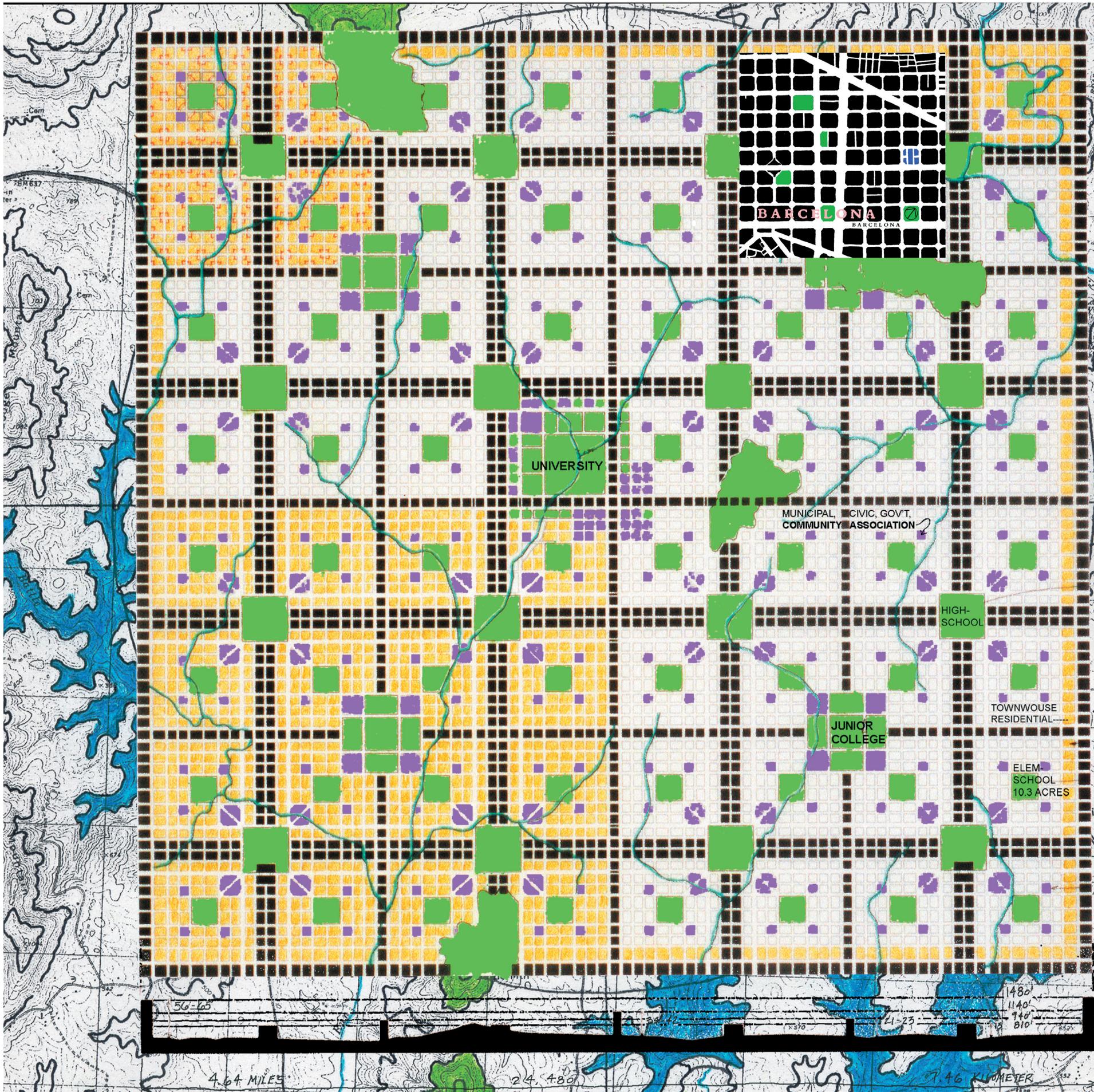
City Walls

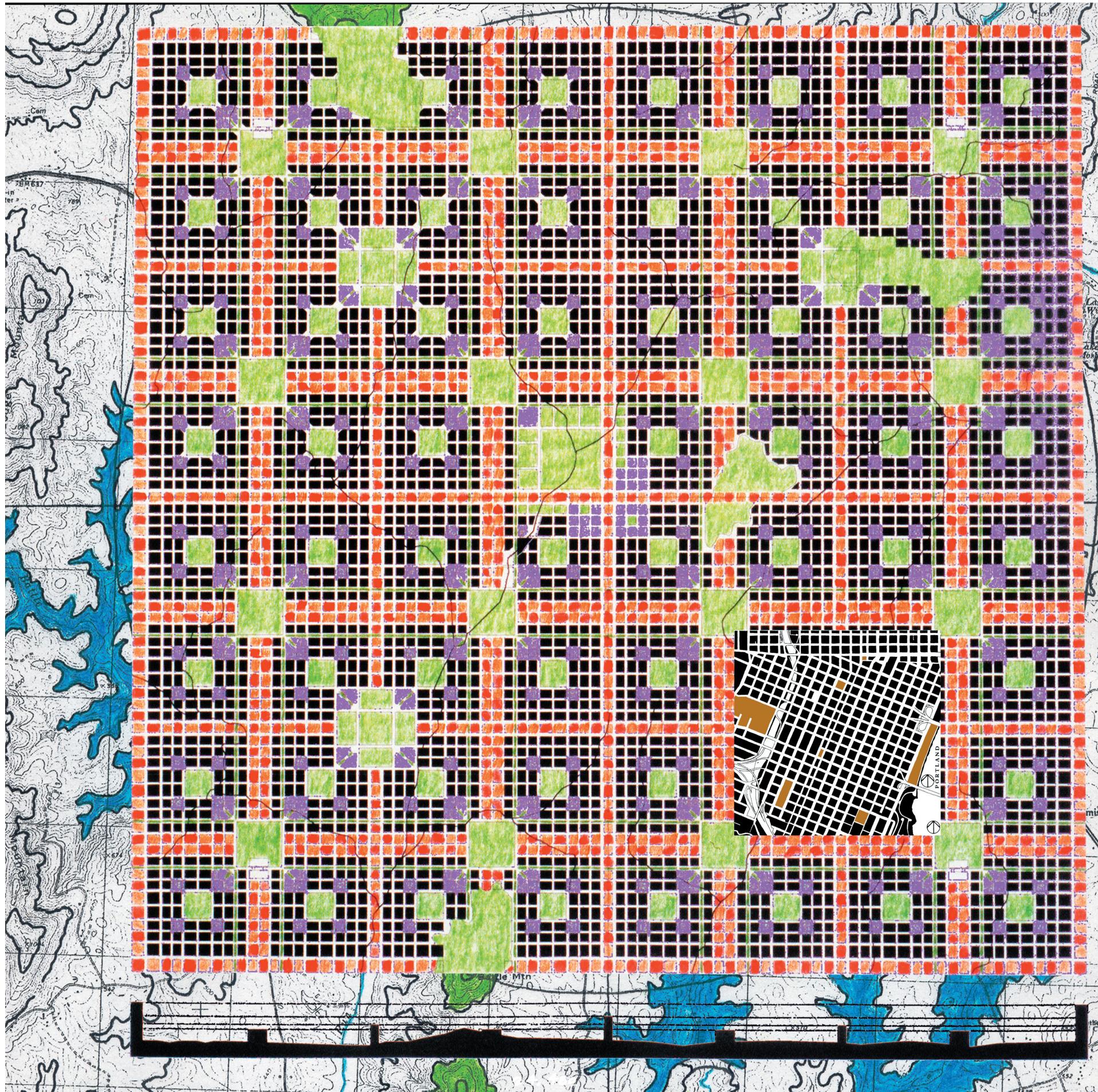
Fractal City Theory subsumes the concept of proportional distribution of various maximum height buildings by the use of established zoning ordinances. The idea of city walls derives from the cognitive resolution of a long row of tall buildings into the perception of a wall. Fractal City Theory makes deliberate use of this accidental perception.

This example shows the tallest buildings at the perimeter of the city. The logic for this was twofold. First, as stated in section 11-Parks, larger parks potentiate taller buildings at their perimeter. The edge of the city borders the largest park, namely the regional park subdividing the urban nodes from one another. Second, tall buildings need high-speed transport to and from and among them. High speed transportation is most possible at the perimeter of the city where building rail and automobile beltways is both more feasible and less disruptive to the urban fabric. The city blocks allowing taller buildings are here all shown black. The section shows the relative maximum heights of these to the short building height blocks and to one another.

Enclosure

Fractal City theory distributes city walls as a system of enclosure. The tallest walls (55-70 floors) are at the perimeter of the city. Next walls of 34-42 floors form a cross with a north-south wall intersecting an east-west wall at the center of the city. These walls together with the perimeter walls form four equal sized quadrants, familiar in many cities as northwest, northeast, southwest, and southeast. Third, walls of 21-25 floors subdivide each quadrant into four sub-quadrants. Finally these sixteen sub-quadrants are each subdivided by eight double walls where



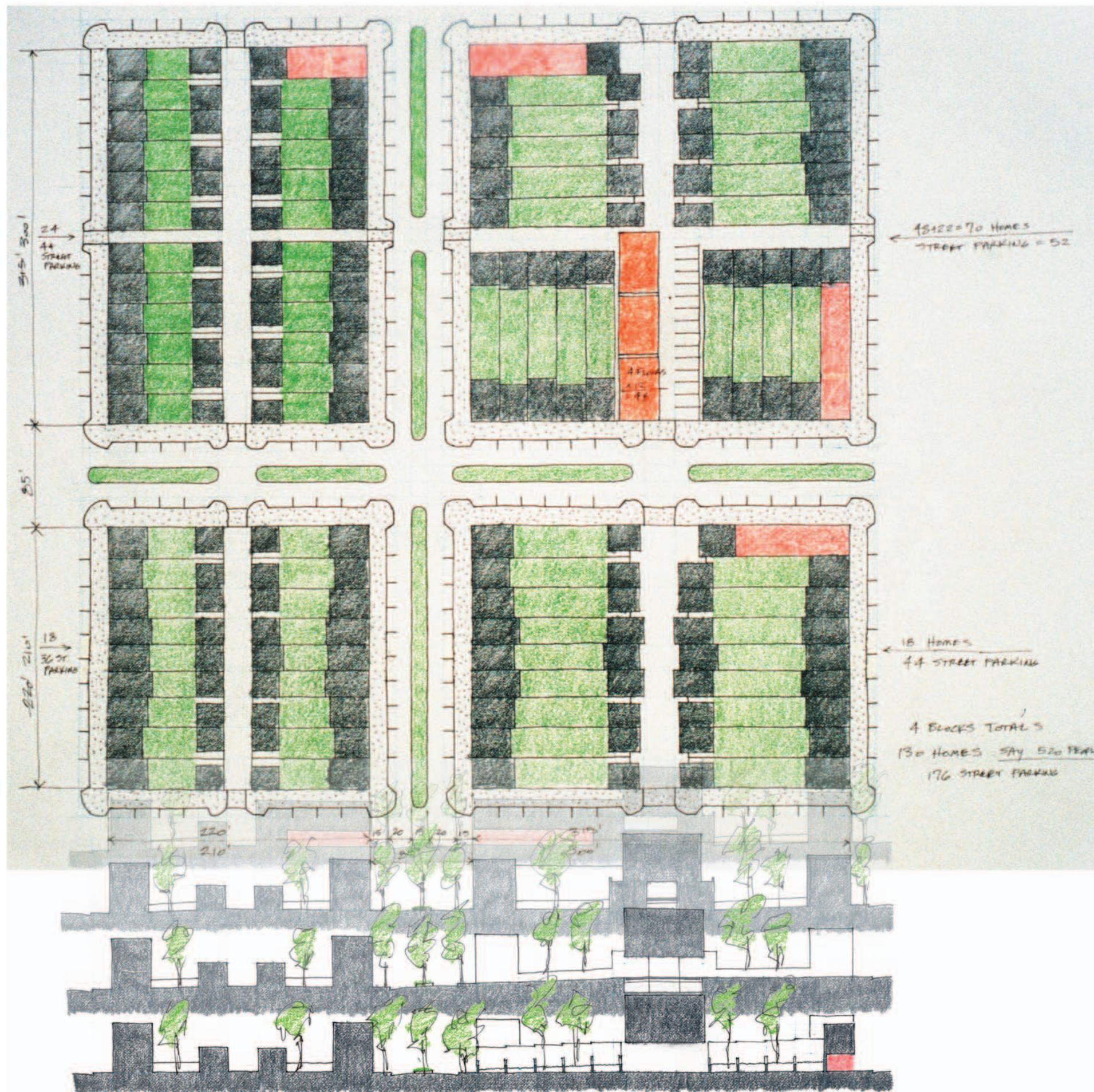


the allowable building heights are 8-13 floors. Double walls not allowed at other heights to minimize the canyon effect prevalent with taller buildings. Preservation of long views from the taller buildings is an important benefit of this kind of building height distribution.

Interstitial Walls

The fractal character of building height distribution resides in the multi-scalar arrangements of city block walls having buildings of different heights. Evaluation of city design occurs from the perspective of someone walking the streets. In this layout, the pedestrian experiences a deliberately wide range of vista terminations with clear delineation of various allowable building heights. Views down streets, avenues and boulevards are sometimes continuous, sometimes have maximum one-mile terminations and sometimes have maximum terminations of one-half mile. The spaces between the walls are designated exclusively for townhouse height structures. The parks with their schools and community centers occupy the centers of these townhouse areas. The university occupies the center most park. The unlikelihood of fully realizing this scheme adds the advantage of a random element to the urban design. Since the heights of buildings will line up in some places and be more irregular in other places gives the pedestrian the experience of diversity when viewing the manifold skylines of the city.

City Elements



City blocks are in some proportion to the time that it takes a person to walk their length or width. The length and width of each block are in some proportion to one another and to the width of streets that border them. The areas of blocks are proportional to the number of dwelling units that can be fit into them. The areas of different blocks are in different proportion to one another. The size of streets is in proportion to the size of blocks. The widths of street rights of way are in proportion to the heights of adjacent buildings. As people walk through the city, changing perspectives created by their eyes scanning among these and many other built proportions form the rhythms of movement and contexts of place throughout the city. The manifold composition of all of these proportions also determines whether the city is perceived as chaotic, stimulating or boring.

City blocks can accommodate a variety of uses including residence, education, recreation, shopping, public association and activity, offices and industry. These activities can also be distributed into one or more urban blocks in a variety of proportions. As people walk through the city, the changing ratios of availability of various functions form the sense of accommodation to the various needs of its citizens.