

Revisiting the Field

What does the redevelopment of public housing imply for the ends and means of planning?

1. The strengths and limitations of modernist design and the dilemma of expert vs. indigenous knowledge (Jacobs, Fishman, and Scott)
2. Decision-making (Briggs and Fung)

Jane Jacobs:

Critique of:

The Radiant Garden City Beautiful

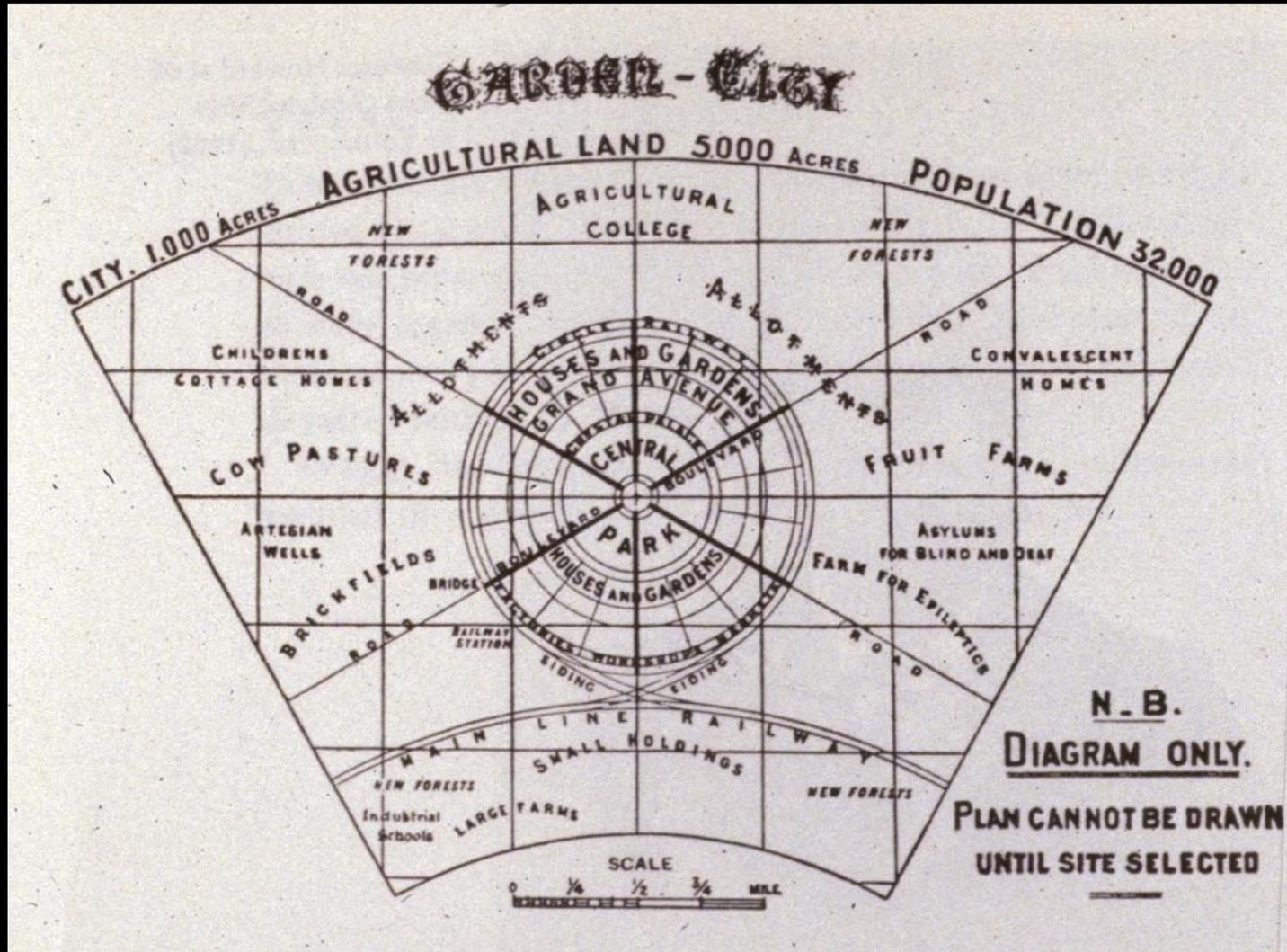
Jane Jacobs:

Warns of “the dishonest mask of pretended order, achieved by ignoring or suppressing the real order that is struggling to exist and be served.” (p. 15)

Urban Design Utopias

- Ebenezer Howard, Garden City
 - Letchworth Garden City, 1904
(Parker and Unwin)
 - Welwyn Garden City, 1920
(Louis de Soissons)
- Le Corbusier, Radiant City
 - Contemporary City for 3 million(1922);
 - Voisin Plan (1925); Ville Radieuse (1930)

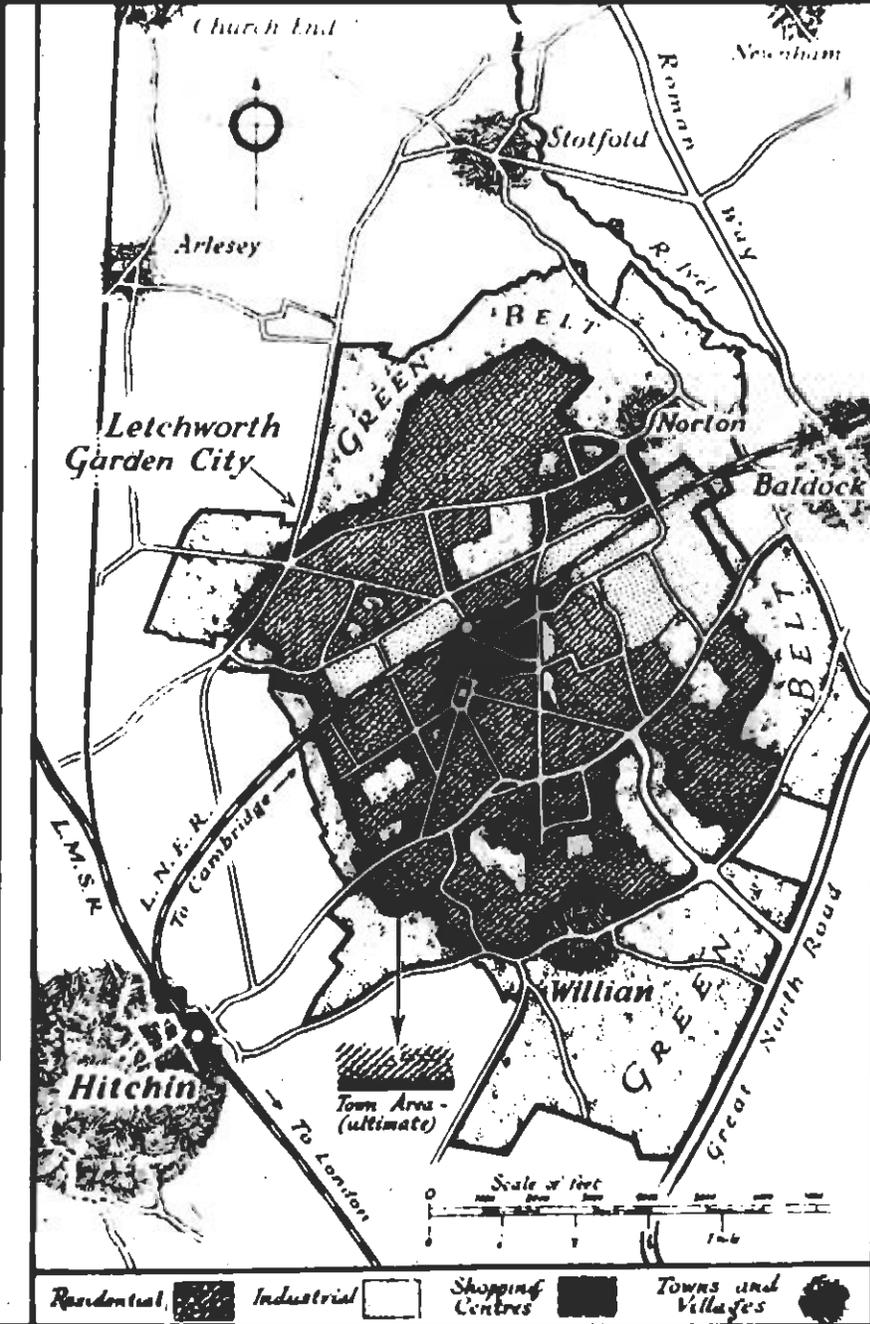
Howard, Ebenezer. *Garden Cities of Tomorrow*. London, UK: Swann-Sonnenschein and Co., Ltd., 1902.



**HEALTH of the COUNTRY
COMFORTS of the TOWN**



LETCWORTH
The **FIRST GARDEN CITY**







The Three Magnets Free House

Free House The Three Magnets Free House

Jane Jacobs:

[Howard's] "prescription for the city was to do the city in."

He advocated: "really nice towns if you were docile and had no plans of your own, and did not mind spending your life with others who had no plans of their own."

1850

1928



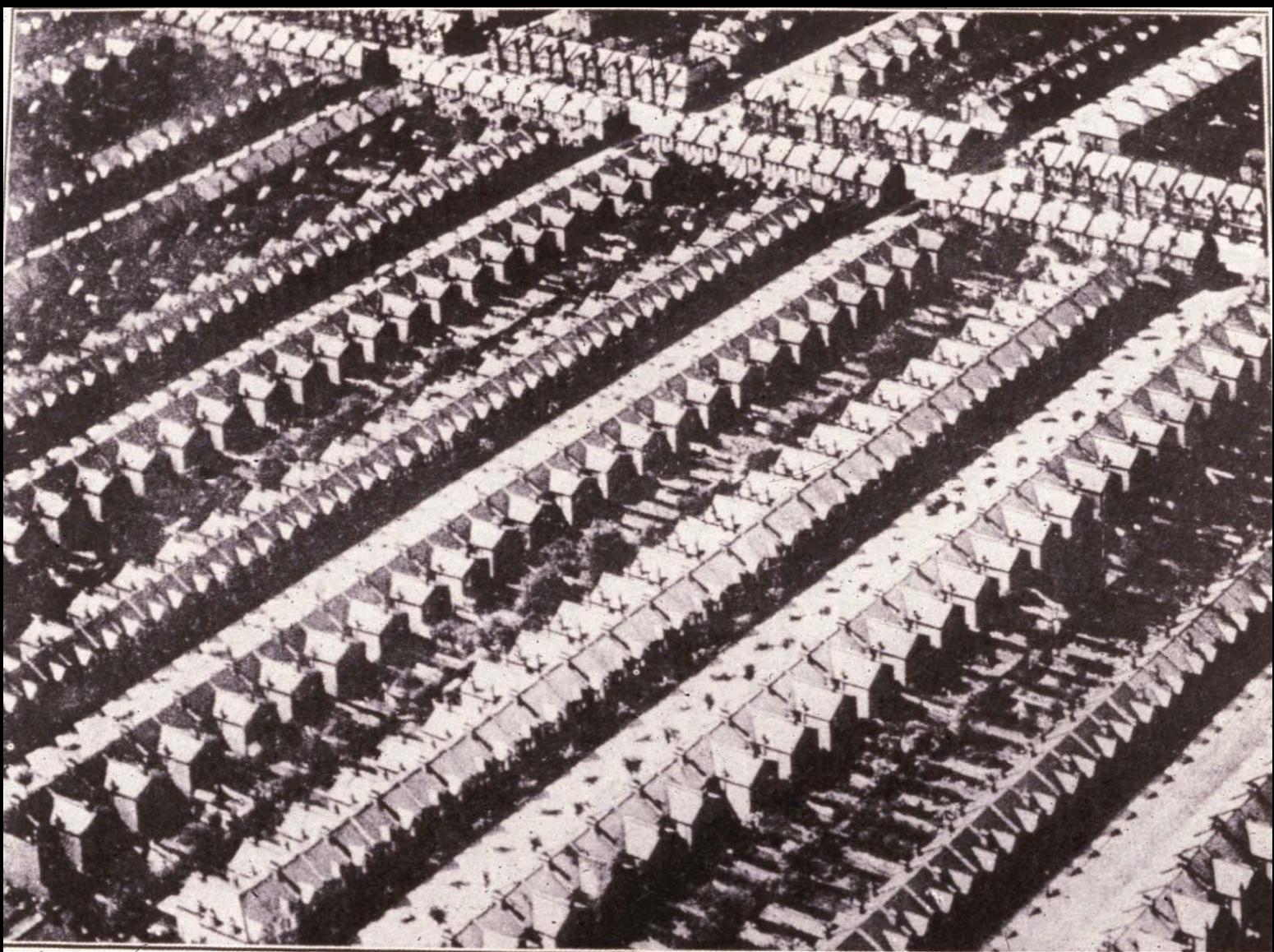
SIR EBENEZER HOWARD

FOUNDER OF WELWYN GARDEN CITY IN 1920
HIS VISION AND PRACTICAL IDEALISM PROFOUNDLY
AFFECTED TOWN PLANNING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Jacobs on Howard's Influence:

- Sorting city into self-contained uses
- Housing as primary and suburban
- Plan as static and complete
- Planning as paternalistic

“Virtually all modern city planning has been adapted from...this silly substance.”



Le Corbusier Decries London's Monotony

Le Corbusier compares Manhattan and “A Contemporary City,” (his own design) --
at the same scale.

See Le Corbusier. *The City of Tomorrow and its Planning*. Translated by Frederick Etchells.
New York, NY: Dover, 1987. ISBN:
0486253325.

Jacobs on Le Corbusier:

- Radiant City as high-density Garden City
- Super-block and “project neighborhood”
- Unchangeable Plan
- Empty open space
- Kept pedestrians off streets and in parks

“Immense impact on our cities”

James Scott: Seeing Like a State

- Brasília as an example of “Authoritarian High Modernism”
 - rational design of social order
- Relationship of formal order and informal processes (metis)
(adaptability/reflection-in-action/ability to out-wit/situated local knowledge)

Jacobs on “City Beautiful”

- Sorting out monuments from the city
- Complete unit, separate and well-defined