

CITY 248 | ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY RESEARCH WORKSHOP

SPATIAL HISTORIES OF HEALTH



Professor M.C. Overholt | T/Th 2:40–4pm | Dalton Hall 1 | moverholt@brynmawr.edu

BRYN MAWR COLLEGE



Pennsylvania Hospital Museum,
Philadelphia, PA

NEW CONFIRMED DATE:

Thursday, September 17

Schedule:

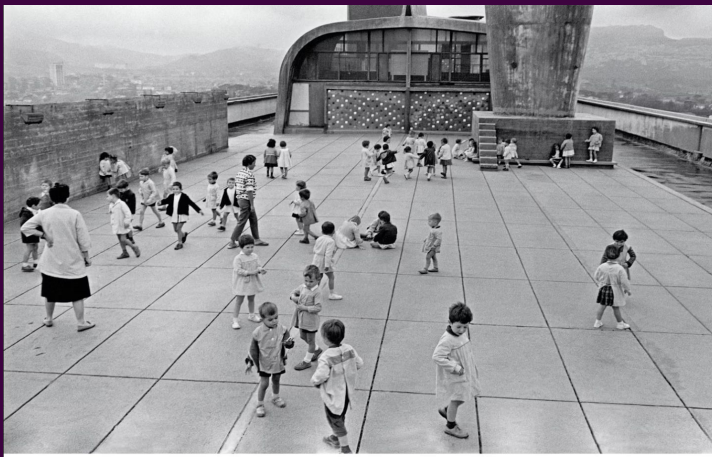
1:50pm Meet at Campus Safety

2pm Depart in 2 vans

3-4pm Tour

4-4:30pm Buffer time

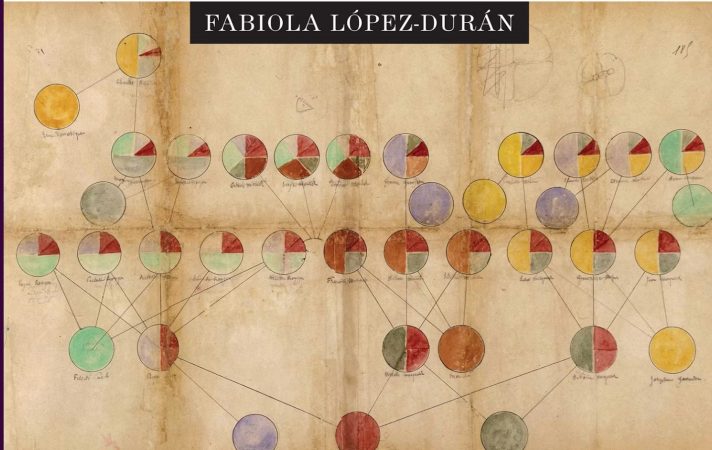
4:30-5:30 Drive back to campus
*With traffic we might
return closer to 6pm



EUGENICS IN THE GARDEN

Transatlantic Architecture and the Crafting of Modernity

FABIOLA LÓPEZ-DURÁN



What is **eugenics**?

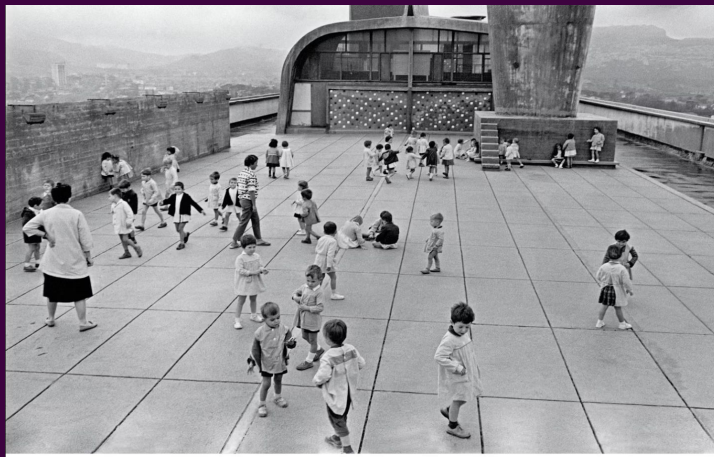
[Merriam Webster]

: The practice or advocacy of controlled selective breeding of human populations to “improve” the population’s genetic composition

: A form of racist and ableist pseudoscience that posits certain bodies as “desirable” and worthy of reproduction, and others as undesirable and therefore unworthy of reproduction

Eugenics has produced human rights violations, from mass sterilization campaigns, to “ugly laws,” segregation, immigration and marriage restrictions, and genocide

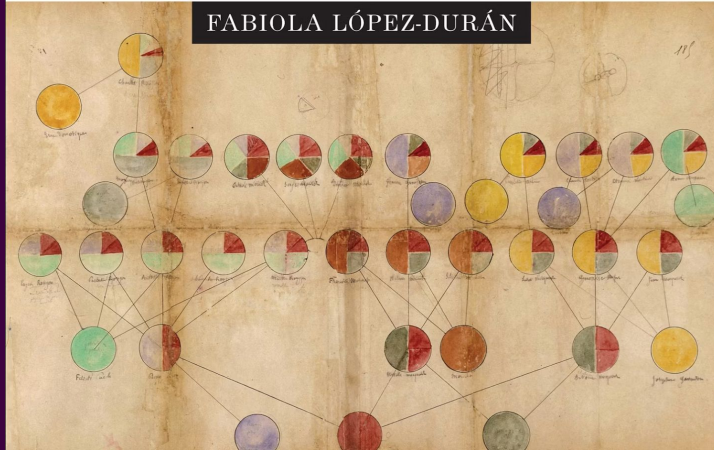
We see eugenics present today in some modern genetic science and gene-editing technologies (think discourse on “designer babies”)



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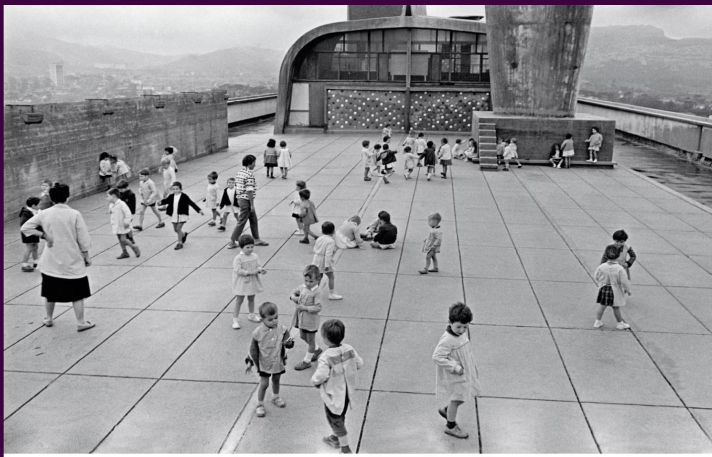
FABIOLA LÓPEZ-DURÁN



For Fabiola Lopez-Duran, **eugenics** meets architecture and urban planning in France and Latin America through the language of “**social hygiene**”

What does she mean by “social hygiene?”

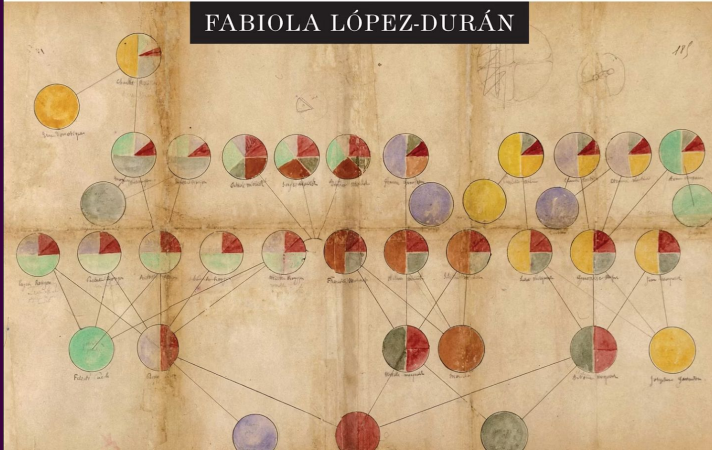
What did this concept mean in the context of the late 19th/early 20th centuries?



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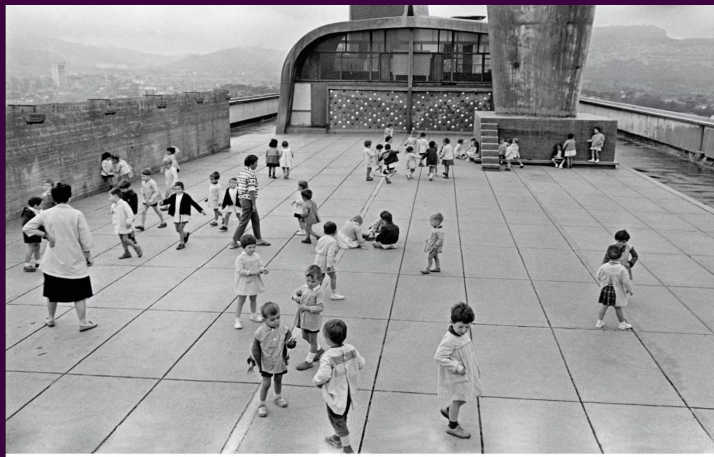
FABIOLA LÓPEZ-DURÁN



Social Hygiene

: The idea that “constant improvement” of the “human race” can be achieved by transforming its (social, educational, and architectural) environment as a matter of public (rather than private or individual) concern

: An “economic science concerned with the outputs of human capital: production and reproduction”



How and when did the notion that urban planning (and urban renewal) could produce 'healthy citizens' and 'healthy populations' emerge?

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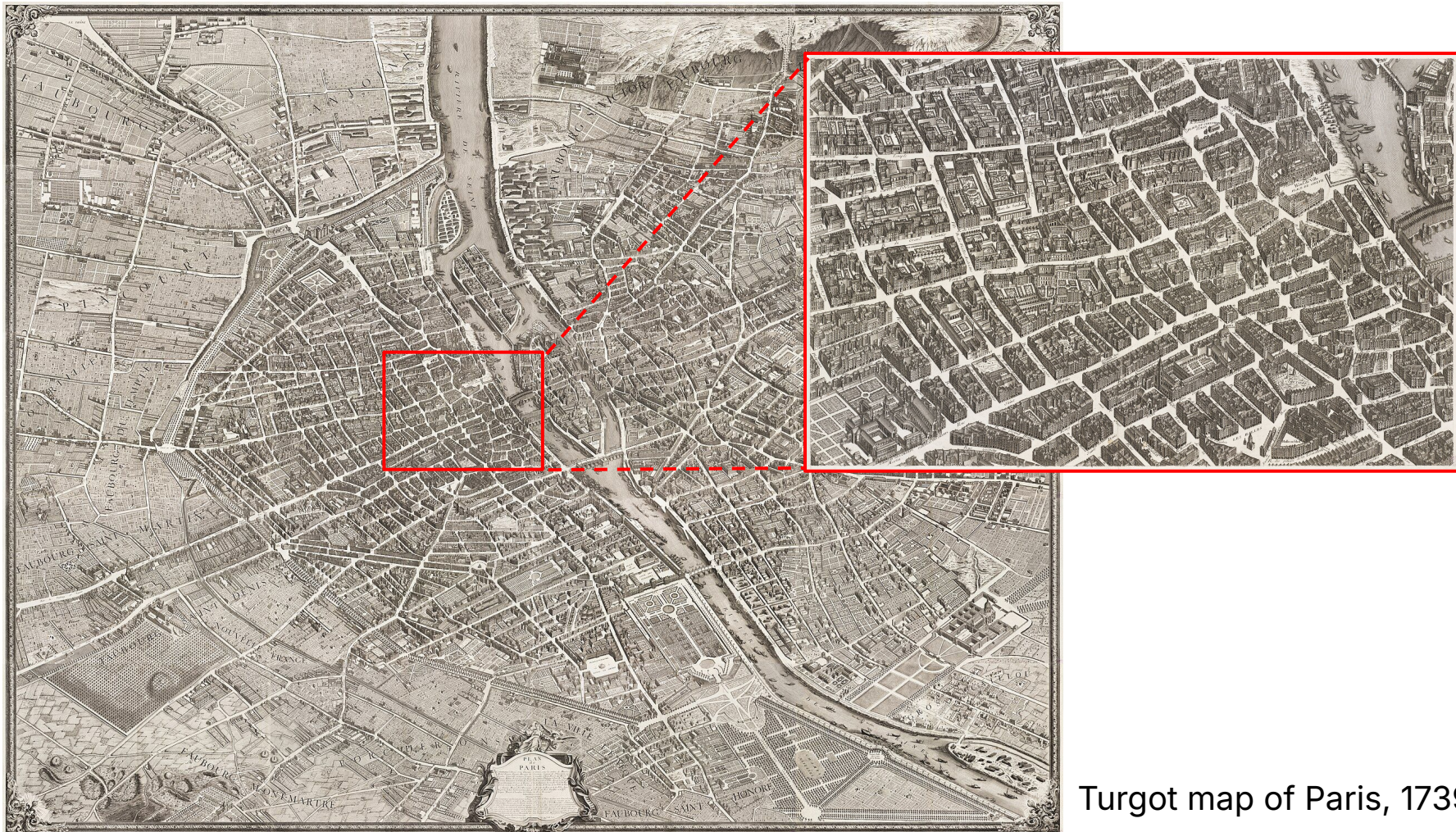




Baron Haussmann

(Baron Georges-Eugène Haussmann
préfet de la Seine)

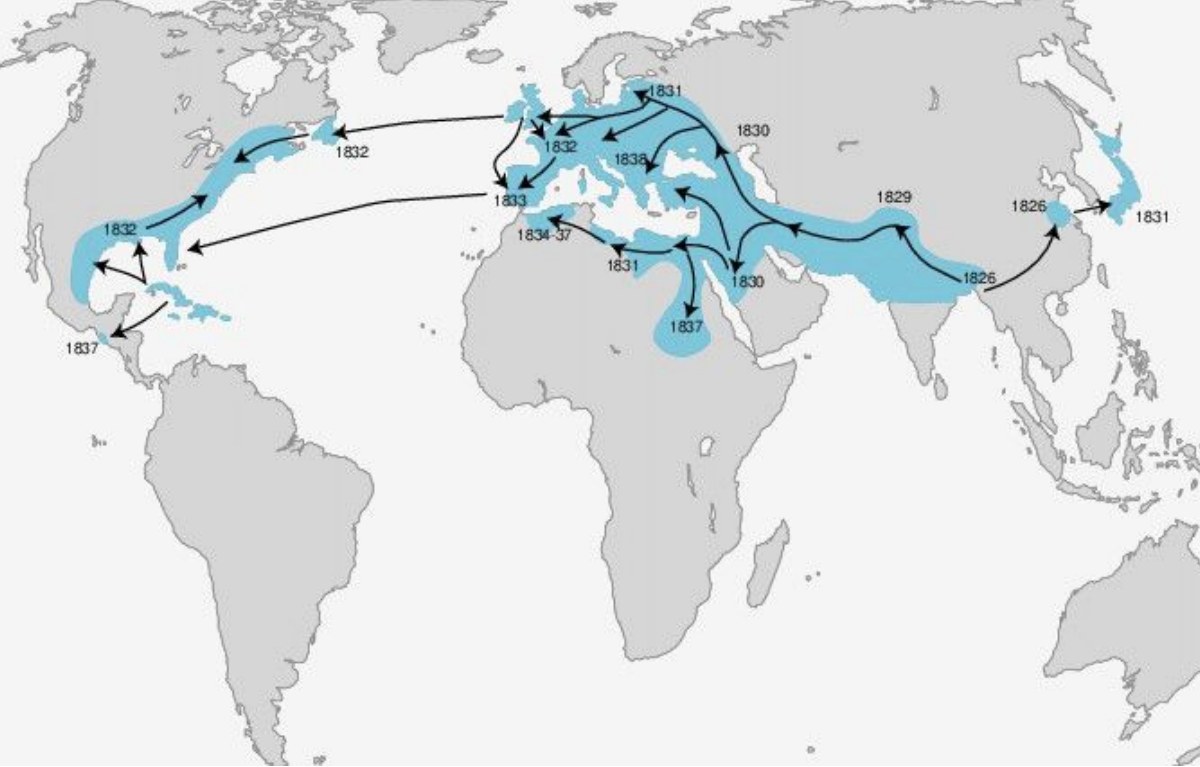
- Born upper-class in Paris, 1809
- Started his career in public administration in 1831
- Career ascended when Napoleon III came to power
- **Responsible for the reconstruction of Paris under Napoleon III, 1853–1870**
- **Nicknamed the "artiste démolisseur" or "demolition artist"**



Turgot map of Paris, 1739



Charles Marville, Cours de la Bièvre (Course of the Bièvre River) (fifth arrondissement), 1862.
This image shows tanning factories along the highly polluted Bièvre River.



Some major pandemics
of the 19th century:

1810s, Typhus

1817-1824, Cholera

1820s-1880s, Scarlet fever

1827-1835, Cholera

1839-1856, Cholera

1840s, Typhus

1863-1875, Cholera

1880s-90s, Plague

1881-1886, Cholera

1889-1893, Flu

1899-1923, Cholera

(Local outbreaks)

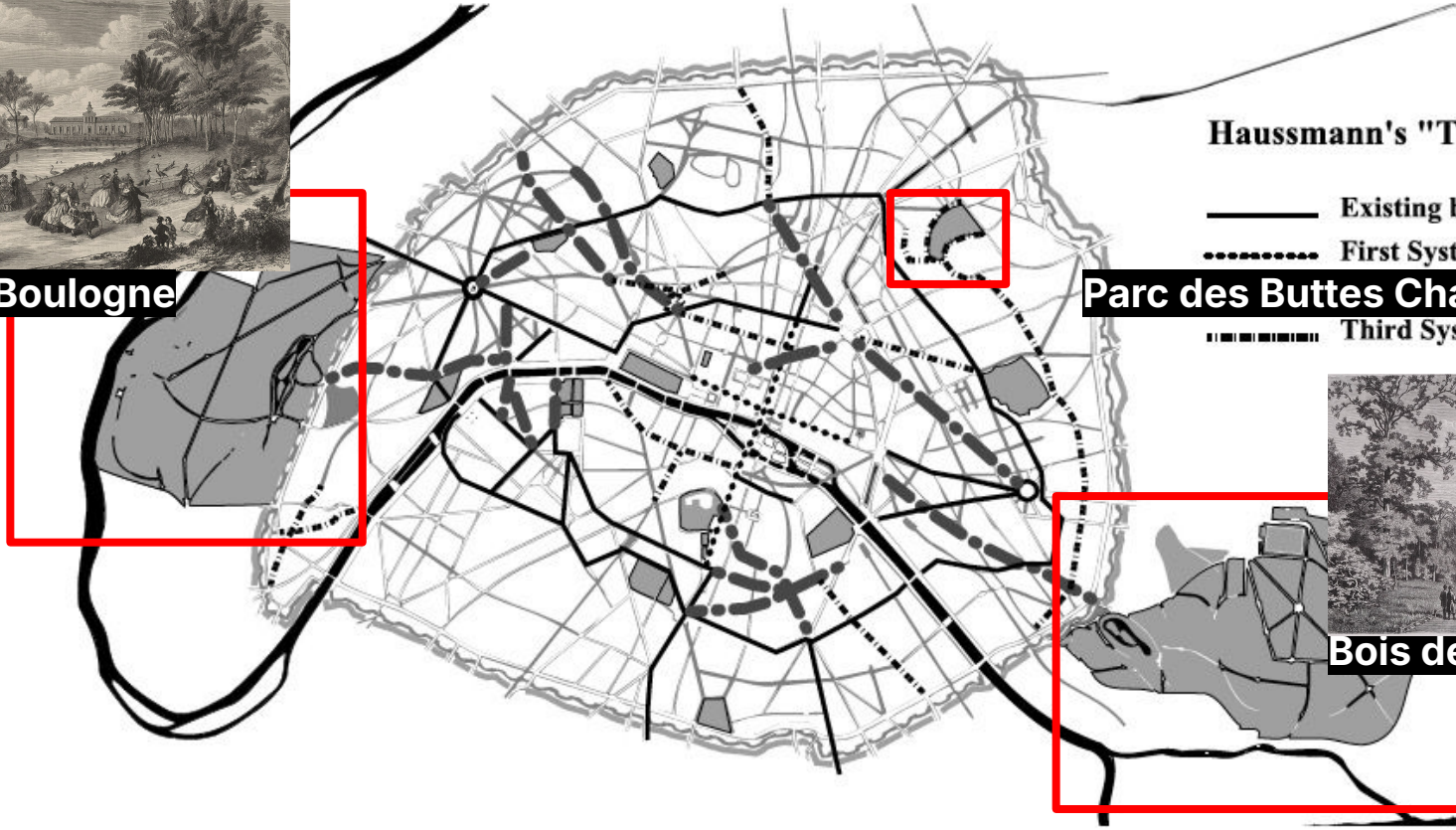
Smallpox

Yellow fever

Map of the cholera pandemic of the 1820s-30s



Bois de Boulogne



Haussmann's "Three Routes"

— Existing before 1853

..... First System

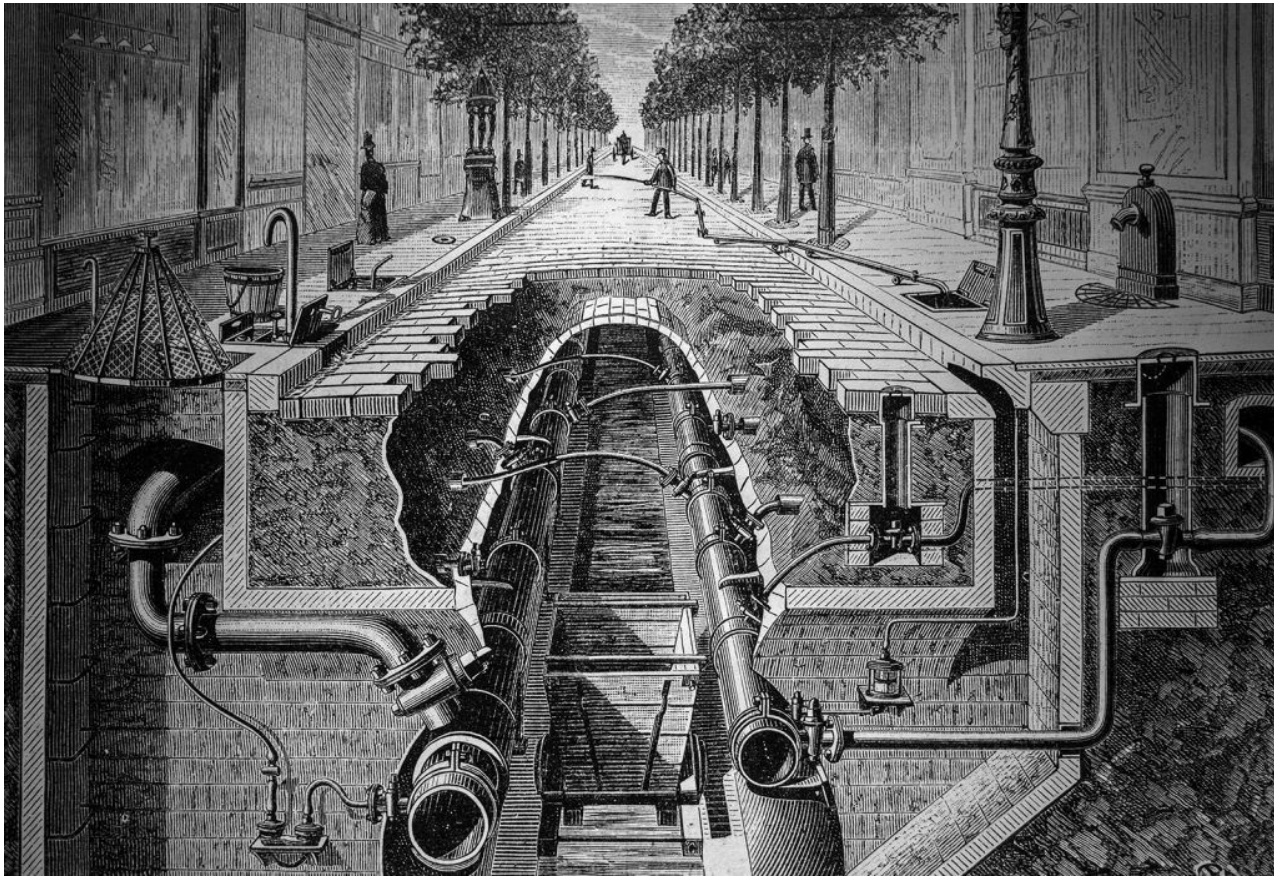
Parc des Buttes Chaumont

— Third System



Bois de Vincennes

Parks as the "Lungs" of Paris



Haussmann's modernized sewer system in Paris



Bois de Boulogne



Bois de Vincennes

Parks as places of bourgeois leisure



N° 8



Ap. Bureau des Annonces 11, rue Taitbout.

Imp. Coulboul. Paris

LE CASTOR (Activité-Lucre).

(Left) Caricatures by French artist Honoré Daumier, critiquing regimes of displacement and landlord greed in Second Empire Paris, c. early 1850s.
(Right) Satirical caricature of Haussmann as a beaver ("le castor") holding a trowel, demolishing Paris.



NOUVEAU PARIS. — VUE GÉNÉRALE DU ROND-POINT DE L'ÉTOILE; dessin de M. Bertrand. — Voir page 610.

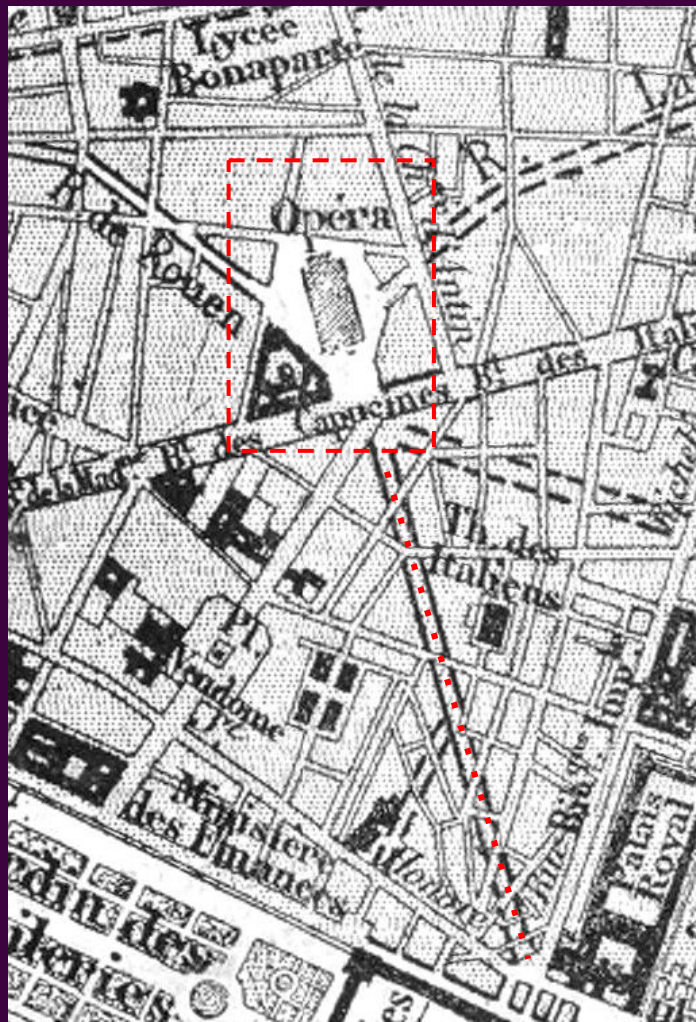
1868

DB 298

The Place de l'Étoile
and Arc de
Triomphe, 1868.



Camille Pissaro, Rue Saint Lazare, 1893



**Charles Garnier, Palais Garnier
(Paris Opera House), 1860-75**

Avenue de l'Opéra



1889 Paris Exposition

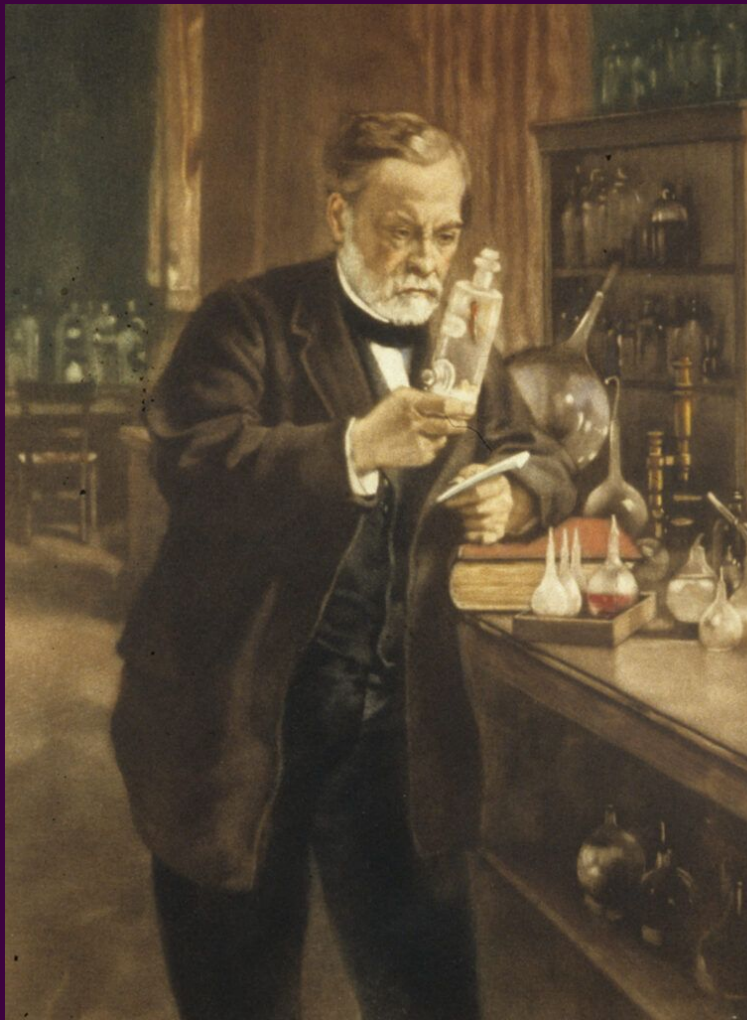
Presented an uneven image of the world: “ethnological” and colonial exhibitions displayed non-Western peoples and their dwellings as objects of observation. Meanwhile, the hygiene exhibition (designed to look like a Roman bath) presented French scientific and technological progress through sanitation, bacteriology, and public health.



Charles Garnier,
“The History
of Human
Habitation”

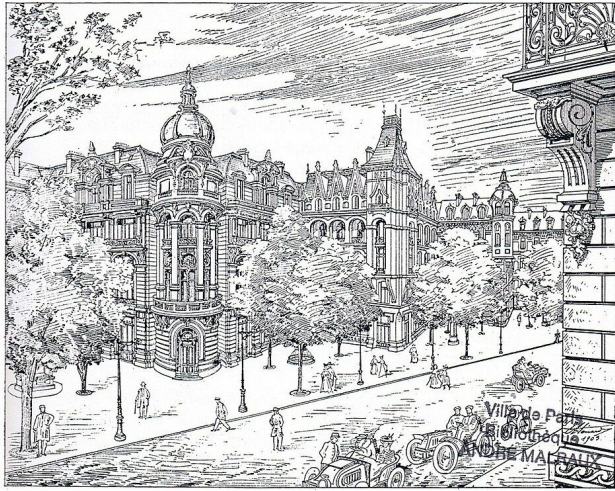


Charles Girault,
Pavilion of
Hygiene and
Public
Assistance

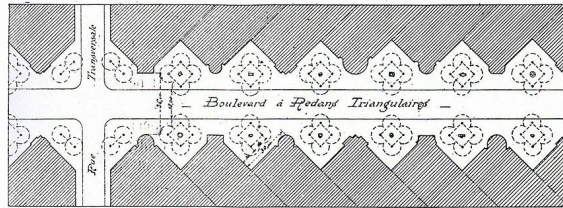


Louis Pasteur and Bacteriology

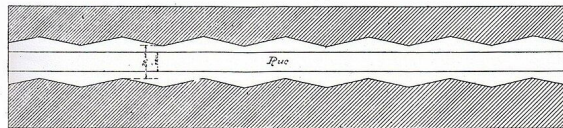
- The theory that microscopic organisms (germs) are responsible for illness
- Processes like Pasteurization (heating liquids) can kill harmful bacteria
- Vaccination can also prevent the spread of illness
- Displaces “miasma theory”: the theory that “bad air” creates illness
- Pasteur and Robert Koch made these discoveries over three decades (1857–85), and they were widely accepted by the 1880s



VUE PERSPECTIVE DU BOULEVARD A PEDAN'S TRIANGULAIRES



PLAN D'UN FRAGMENT DE BOULEVARD

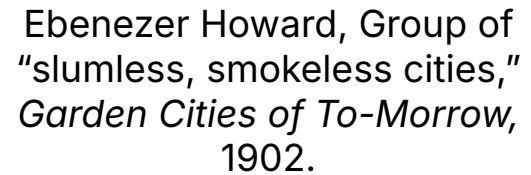
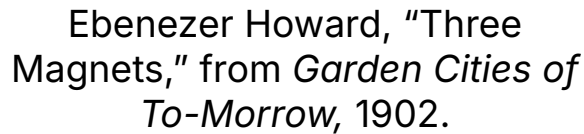
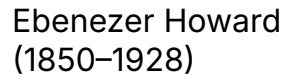


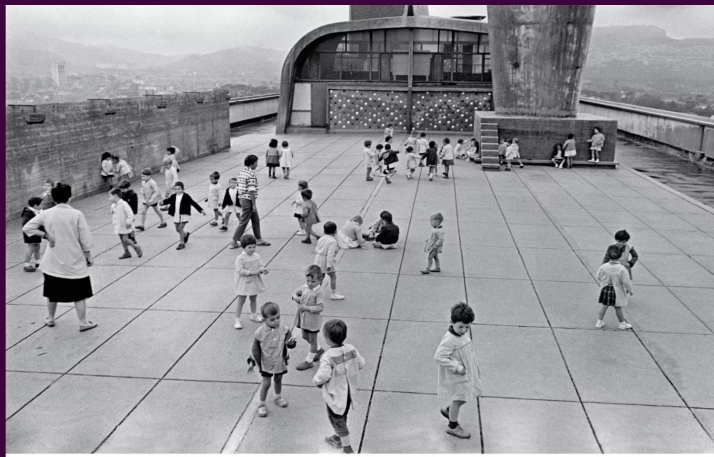
RUE SIMPLE A ALIGNEMENT BRISÉ

Musée Social

- French institution founded in 1894 (opened 1895)
- Research and policy institution focused on the “social question,” including social housing, urban planning, public health, and social hygiene
- Became an important “thinktank” for urban reform, connecting architects, hygienists, social scientists, and policymakers
- Its networks—including the Alliance d’Hygiène Sociale—helped circulate French ideas about social hygiene and urban planning internationally, including in Latin America

← Example of an urban design strategy advocated by the Musée Social, staggered housing to allow for more green space and light





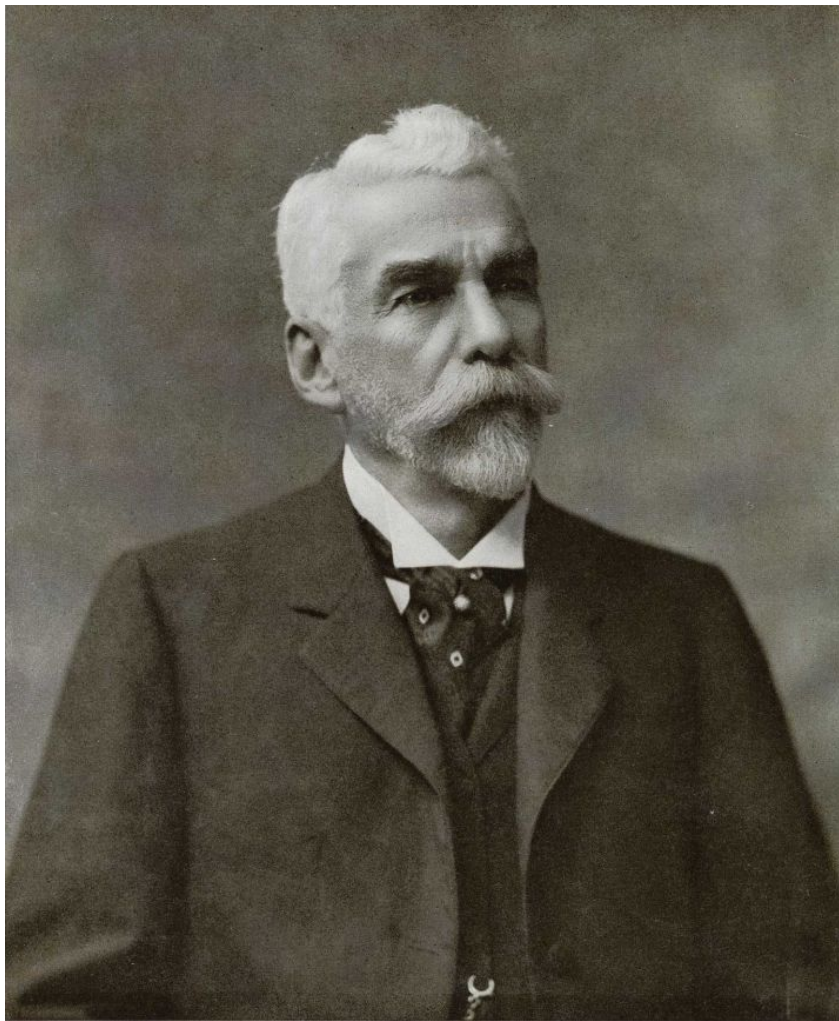
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How did the Haussmannian urban renewal, the “garden city ideal,” and the approaches of “social hygiene” movements of late 19th c. France shape policy, planning, and design in Latin America?



Francisco Pereira Passos (1836–1913)

Key Dates:

- 1852–1856: Studied Math & Engineering at the Military School of Brazil
- 1857–60: Moves to France to continue studies and witnesses the Haussmannization of Paris
- 1860–1870: Works on the Brazilian railroad system
- 1875: Proposes a New Plan for Rio
- 1902–1906: Mayor of Federal District of Brazil (including Rio de Janeiro), adoption of 1875 plan for Rio

PLANO DO DISTRITO FEDERAL
dos MELHORAMENTOS PROJECTADOS pelo
PREFEITO DR. F. P. PASSOS
dos MELHORAMENTOS projectados pelo GOVERNO FEDERAL
1903



Plan of Rio in 1903.

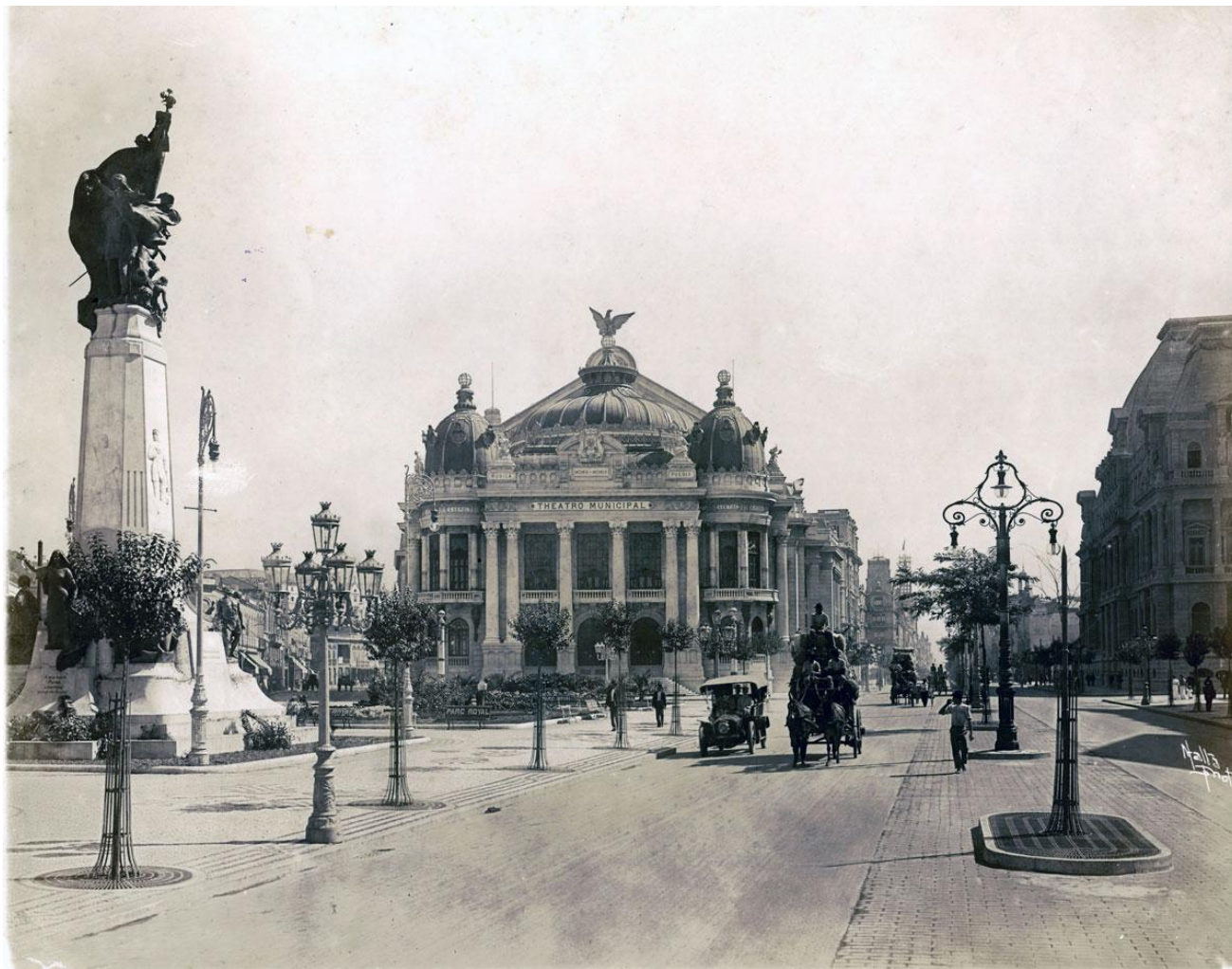
Avenida Central in green; other planned demolitions in red. (More demolitions completed subsequently)



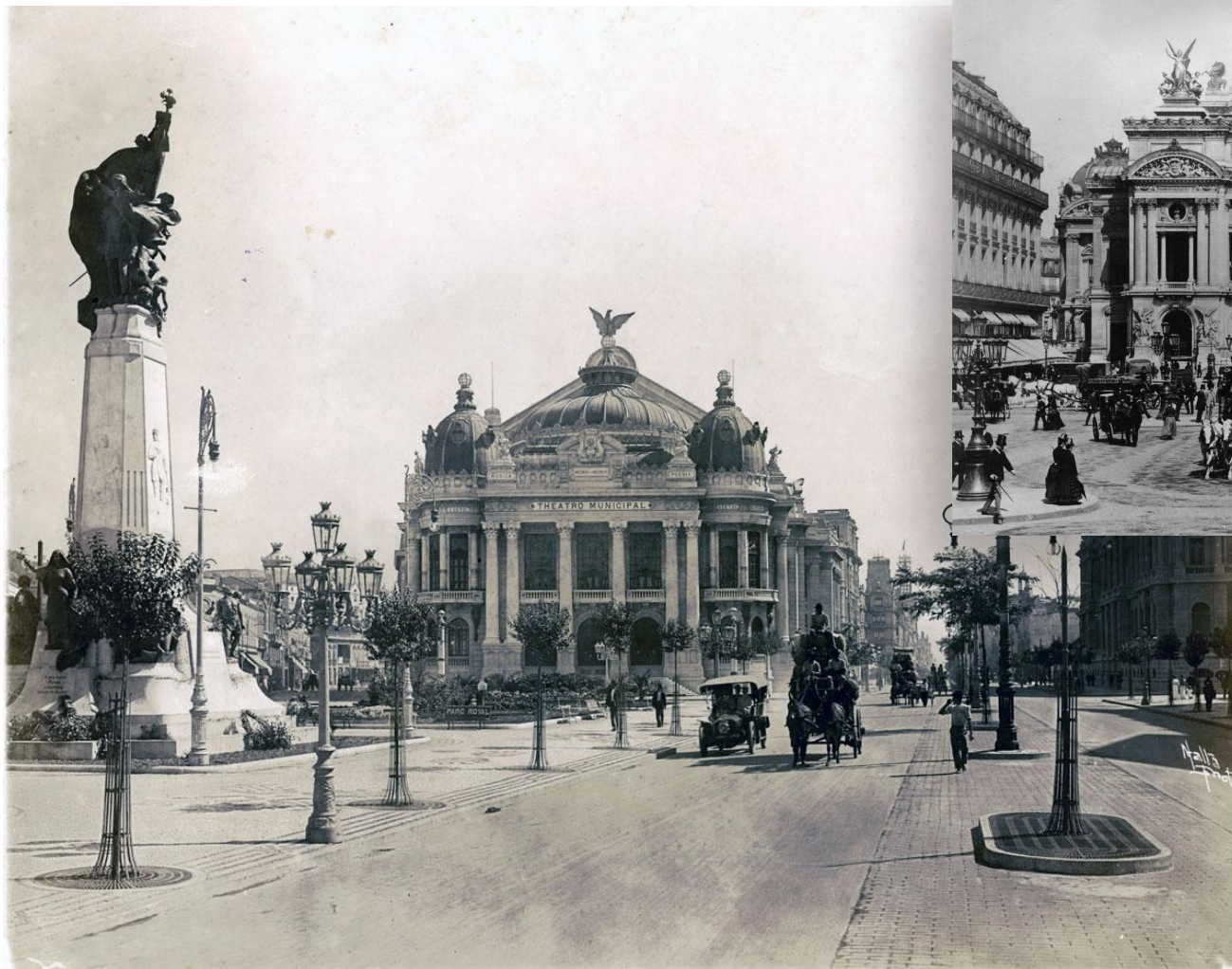
Rio de Janeiro, Avenida
Central (later Avenida Rio
Branco), c. 1922



Modern
infrastructure along
Copacabana, Rio de
Janeiro



Augusto Malta, View of
the Teatro Municipal
along the Avenida Central,
1909

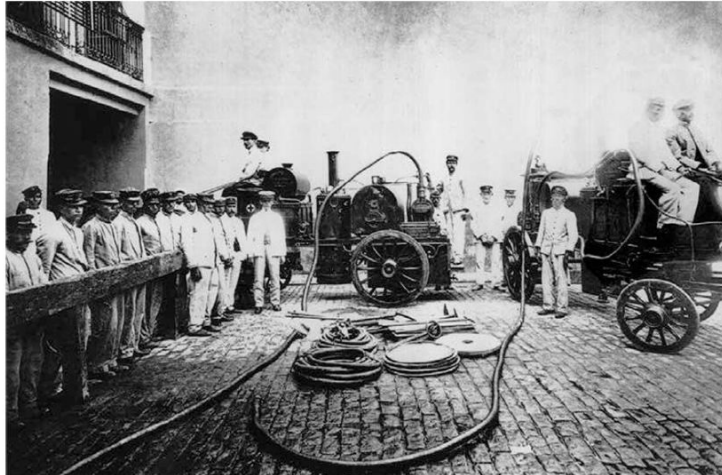


^ Palais Garnier, Paris,
1860–75

Seem familiar?



Oswaldo Cruz, 1872-1917



Fumigation of Rio de Janeiro, 1903



Cartoon of the 1904 Vaccine Revolt in Brazil,
published in the magazine *O Malho*, October 29, 1904



Luiz de Moraes Junior,
Instituto Oswaldo Cruz, Rio
de Janeiro, 1904–1918

**Key
project**



Moorish Revival Style (late 19th/early 20th c.)

Horseshoe arches

Geometric patterns (tile)

Polylobed arches

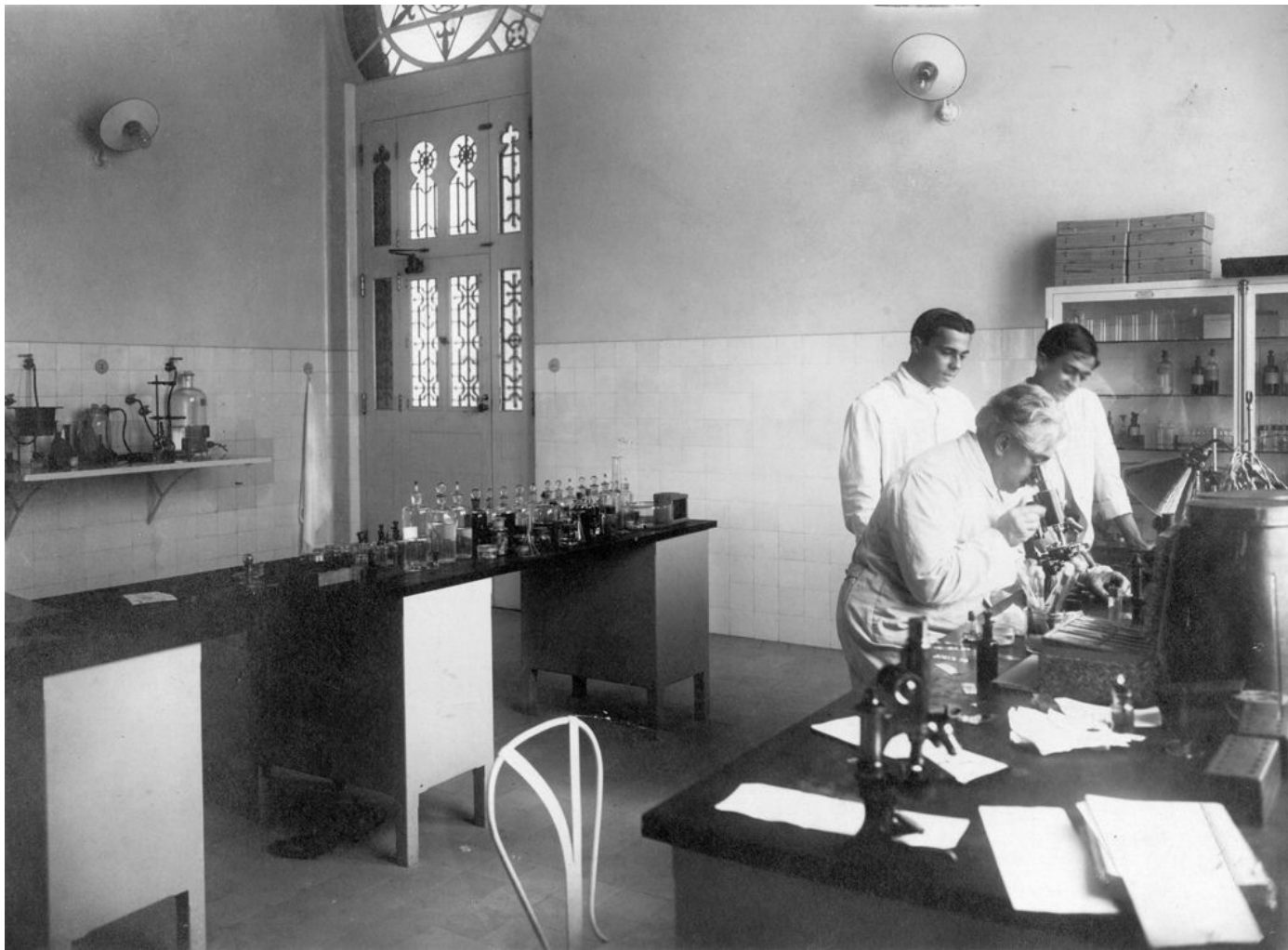
**Key
project**



(Below)
Neo-Moorish style in Portugal,
Quinta do Relógio, Sintra,
designed by
António Manuel da Fonseca
Jr. in the mid-19th c.



**Key
project**



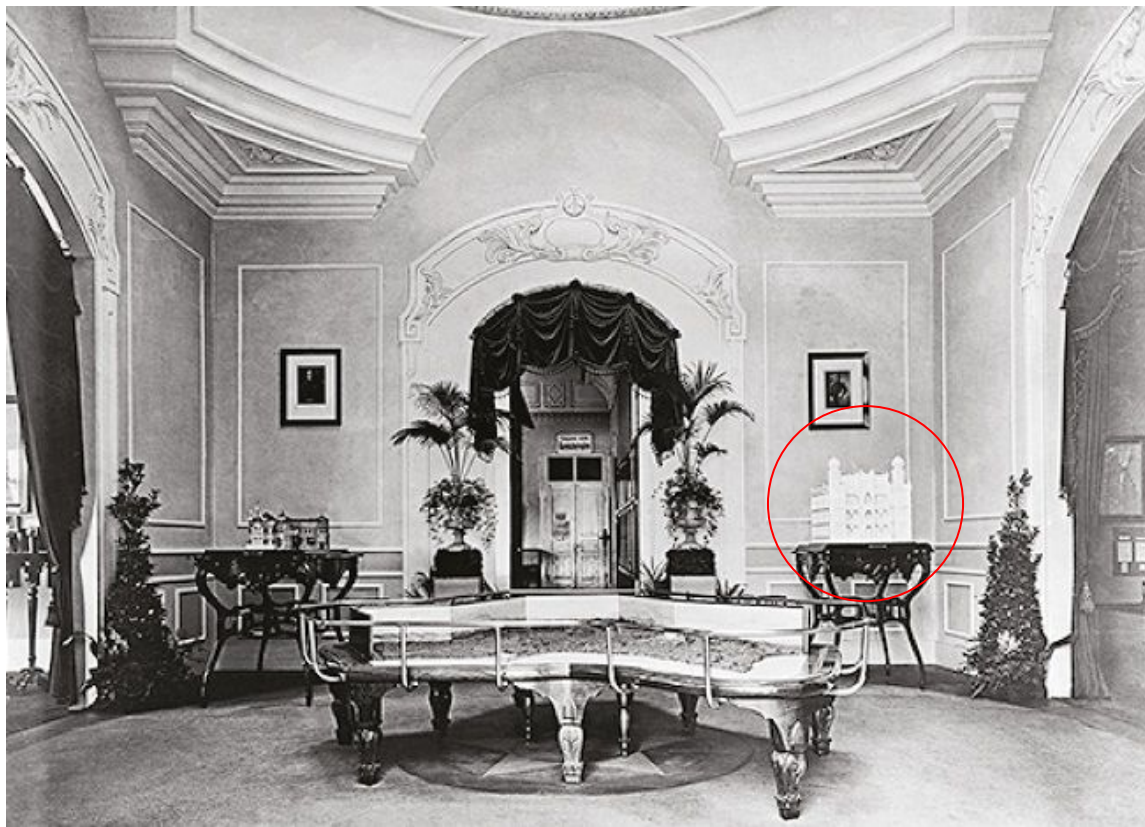
Luiz de Moraes Junior,
Instituto Oswaldo
Cruz, Rio de Janeiro,
1904–1918

**Key
project**



Patient care/research
interior space at Instituto
Oswaldo Cruz in Rio de
Janeiro, Brazil.

**Key
project**



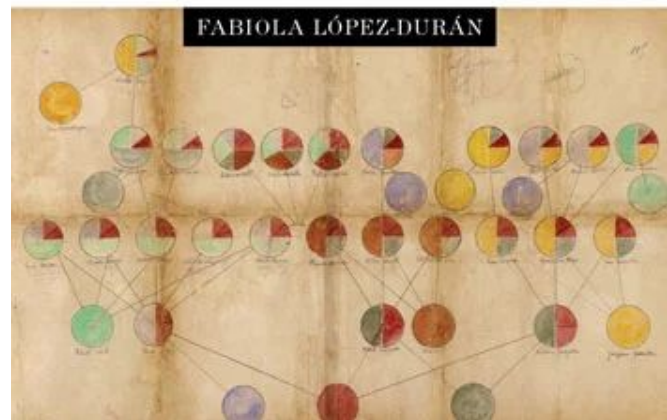
Entrance hall of the Brazilian pavilion at the International Hygiene Exhibition in Dresden Germany (1911), designed by Luiz de Moraes Junior.



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Demolition of Morro do Castelo

1904-5: First demolition efforts by Mayor Pereira Passos

1920: Total demolition by Mayor Sampaio

1920-22: Construction and opening of Centenary Exhibition





“So the demolition of the Morro de Castelo was the climactic moment in which science—in the form of eugenics—justified both the radical transformation of the built environment and almost two-decades-long marginalization of the disenfranchised, mostly blacks and mulattos, from the center of the Brazilian capital.”

Fabiola López-Durán,
Eugenics in the Garden, 58



Federal District pavilion
(showcasing Brazilian
healthcare, education,
industry and commerce.



What are the racial politics of this poster for the 1922 Centennial? What do you think it's trying to say about Brazilian modernity?

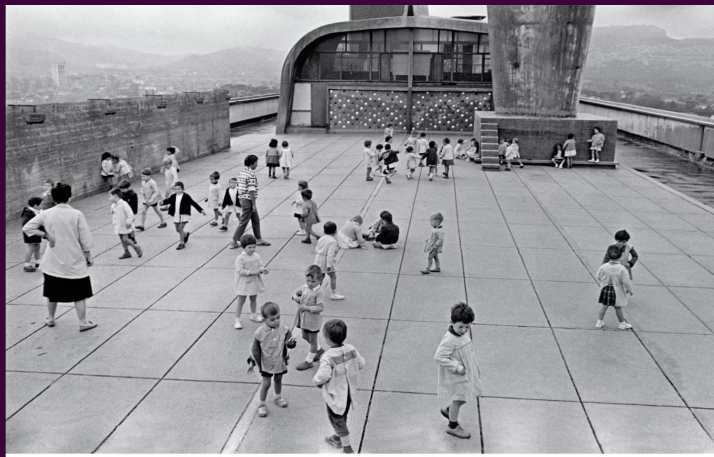
Agache Plan for Rio (1927–30)

- Designed by Alfred Agache, French architect working in Rio connected to the Musée Social
- Designed to control population growth and decelerate the densification of Rio
- Wanted to create a “tropical Versailles” with boulevards, vistas, and opulent Beaux-Arts architecture
- Envisioned demolishing Morro do Santo Antônio (doesn't happen until the 1950s)



RIO DE JANEIRO

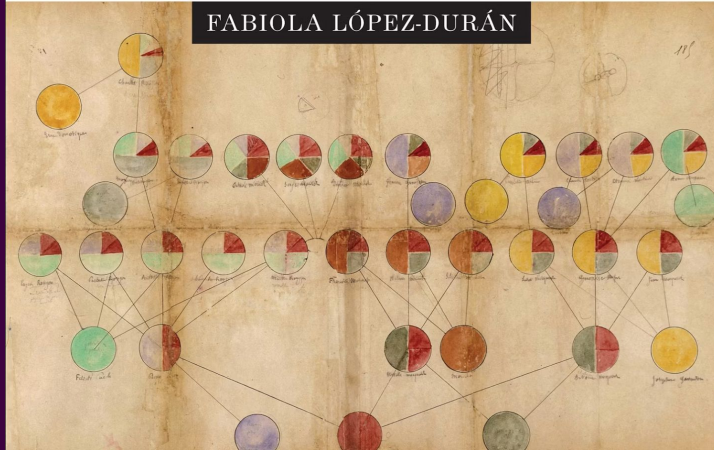
PERSPECTIVA AEREA DO CENTRO
MONUMENTAL E DOS BAIRROS DE
INTERCAMBIO E DOS NEGOCIOS,
IDEALISADA PELO PROFESSOR
D. ALFRED AGACHE.



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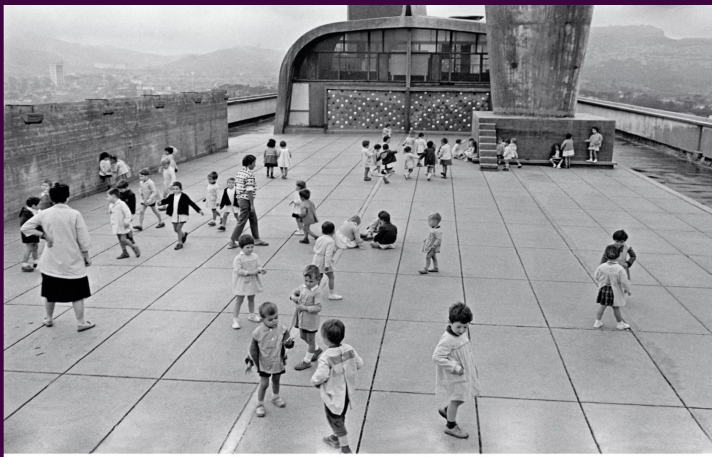
FABIOLA LÓPEZ-DURÁN



“Nevertheless, to outline the plan, even before its adoption, it is relevant to put an immediate stop, to raise a prophylactic barrier against the overwhelming infestation of the beautiful mountains of Rio de Janeiro by the **plague of the ‘favelas’ [the slums]---**the leprosy of aesthetics that emerged on the hillside... and was spread everywhere, filling in dirt and misery. [The Slums] do not constitute purely a ruthless crime against aesthetics; they are particularly a serious threat to peace and public health.”

Mattos Pimenta (on Agache’s plan for Rio) at the Rotary Club in Rio (almost a thinktank for eugenics) 1926

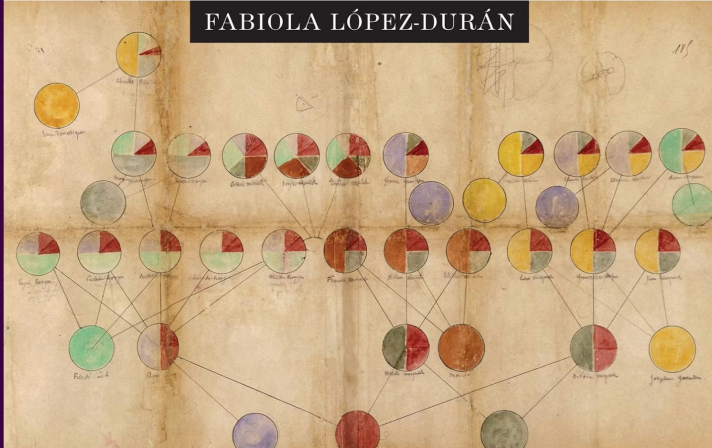
*Quoted by López-Durán, *Eugenics in the Garden*, 78



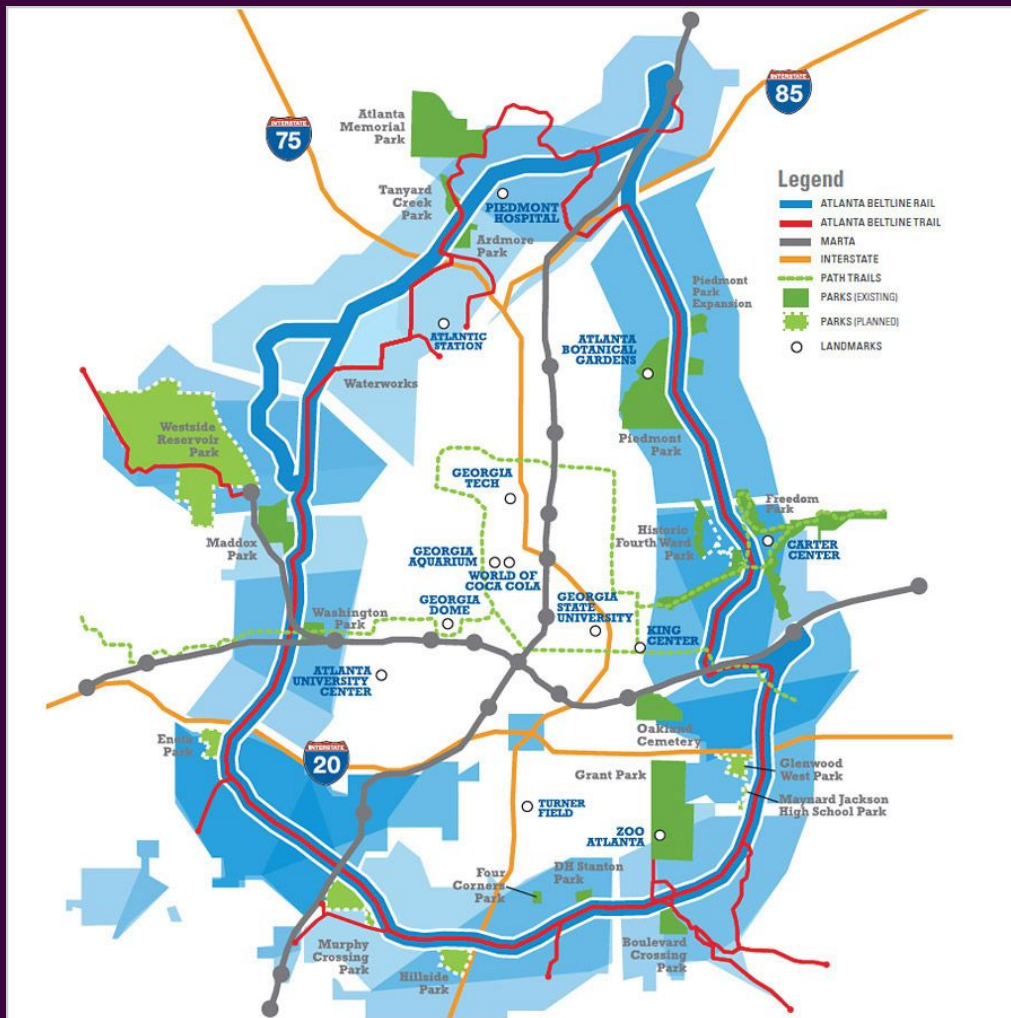
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What legacies of social hygiene do we see in public health discourse and urban renewal today?



Atlanta BeltLine Trail

1999

Started with a proposal made by Georgia Tech architecture student Ryan Gavel, who proposed a 22-mile abandoned railroad loop be turned into a continuous system of parks, trails, transit, housing, and cultural infrastructure

2004

Idea gains steam, landscape architect Alexander Garvin proposes the *BeltLine Emerald Necklace*

2005-6

Project management begins

2008

First trail opens



“A well-designed BeltLine project can encourage healthy behaviors by providing people with the infrastructure and urban design to encourage walking, biking, and transit as viable transportation options; by providing parks and trails for physical activity and social interaction...”

Atlanta BeltLine Health
Impact Assessment
(Catherine L. Ross with the
CDC, Georgia Tech, Robert
Wood Foundation)



Green Gentrification

“[Urban greening] initiatives, while positive for the environment, tend to increase inequality and thus undermine the social pillar of sustainable development. Although greening is ostensibly intended to improve environmental conditions in neighborhoods, it generates **green gentrification** that pushes out the working-class, and people of color, and attracts white, wealthier in-migrants. Simply put, urban greening “richens and whitens,” remaking the city for the *sustainability class*.”



Kenneth Gould and Tammy Lewis,
Green Gentrification (2017)



Green Gentrification

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Kenneth Gould and Tammy Lewis,
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How does the Atlanta BeltLine trail imagine the relationship between the built environment and the 'health' body?

What kind of 'healthy' city does it envision?

