Ideal City

Vision:

Concept

Comfort

- Safe environment

- Comfortable human scale urban space

- Convenient infrastructure
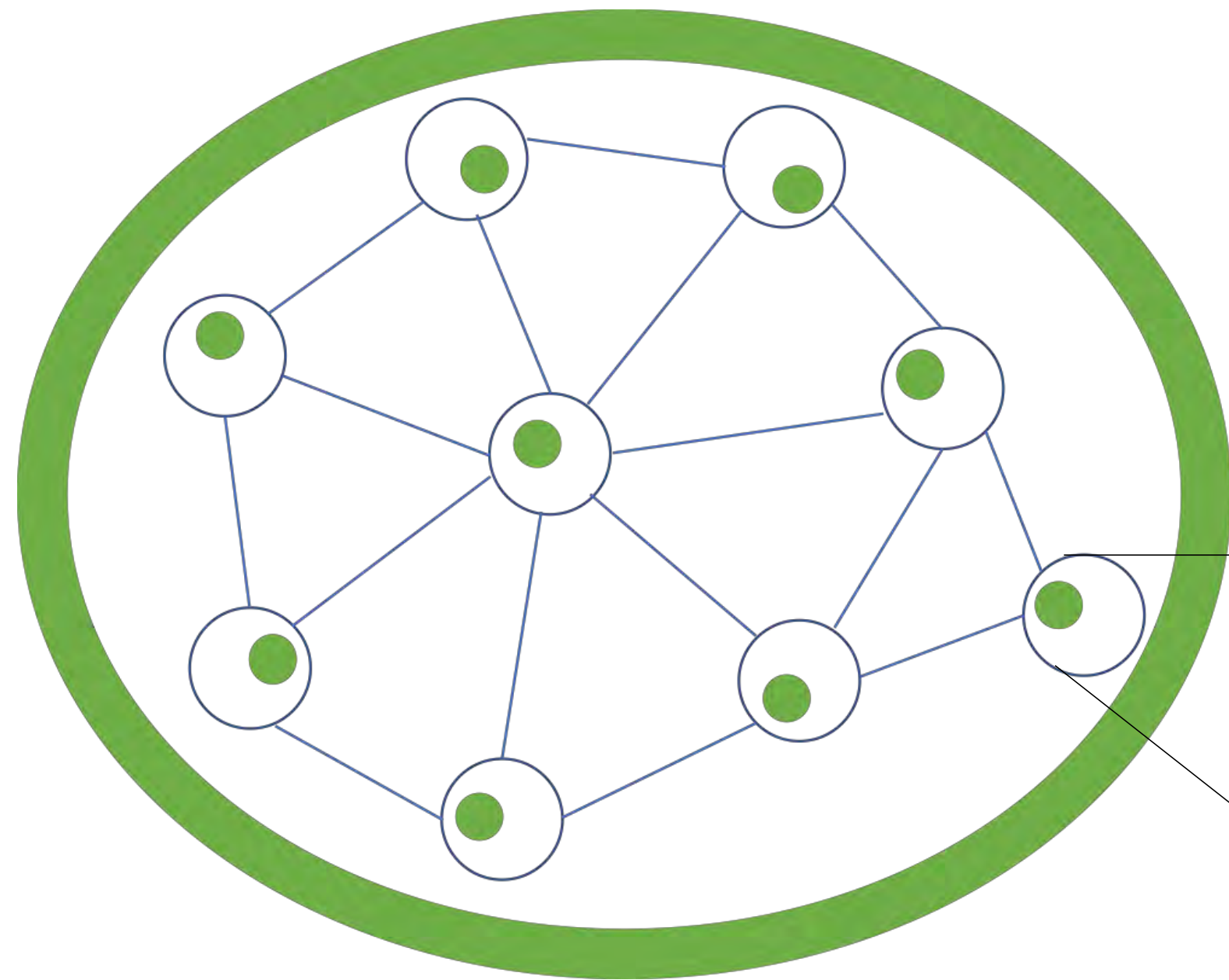
- Short distances

Environmental sustainability

- Resilience

- Energy efficiency

- Space use efficiency
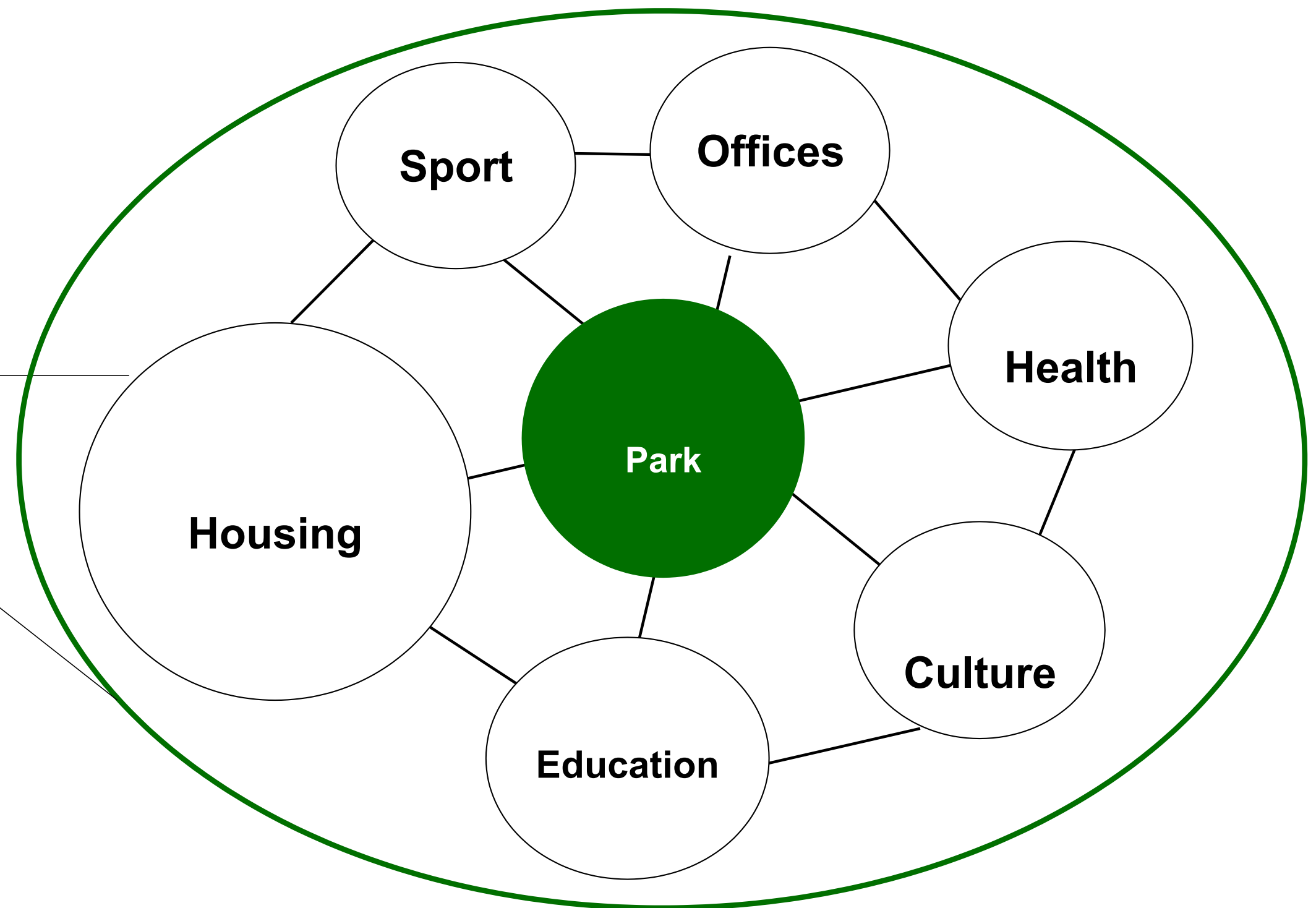
- Eco friendly transport

Community

- Housing

- Public events

- Inclusive spaces

1. Polycentric city

Schematic depiction of one of the "centers"

Multiple "centers" and gravity nodes

Sport
Offices
Health
Housing
Park
Culture
Education

2. Green Belt

I strive for every city on Earth minimizing its negative environmental effect. Nowadays, numerous cities are facing an issue of an uncontrolled urban sprawl due to chaotic construction and lack of relevant regulations. This results in increased energy use, over-reliance on private transport, air pollution, decline in community coherence, etc. Growing urban areas also destroy wildlife habitat.

A green belt would help improve air quality and serve as a recreational area for the people. Moreover, green belts incentivize city authorities and inhabitants to look for more creative solutions and a more productive use of space.

Image source: http://www.highlivingbarnet.com/green-belt-matter/

The following picture depicts the green belt around London. The green belt with iconic British landscapes is a natural border for urban construction.
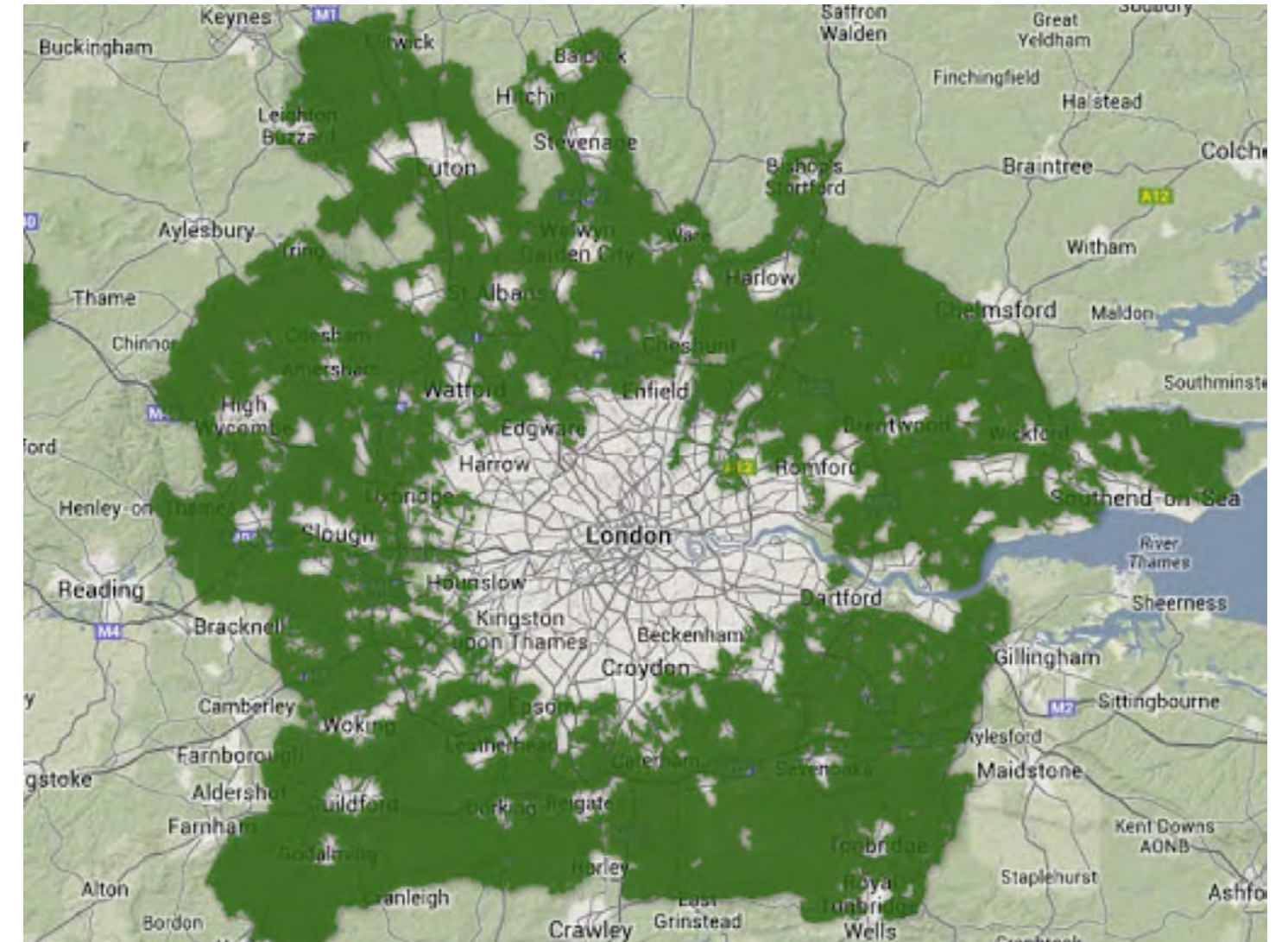
3. Transportation

Only eco-friendly transport would be allowed for use in the Ideal City: Electric automobiles, tramways and electricbuses, bicycles.

The central areas would be mostly car-free (except for service vehicles and emergencies), with comfortable pedestrian infrastructure. Special automobile parking spaces would be arranged around the central area, for people to leave their cars and continue traveling by foot, bicycles, or public transportation.

Okayama electric tramway
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Okayama_Electric_Tramway

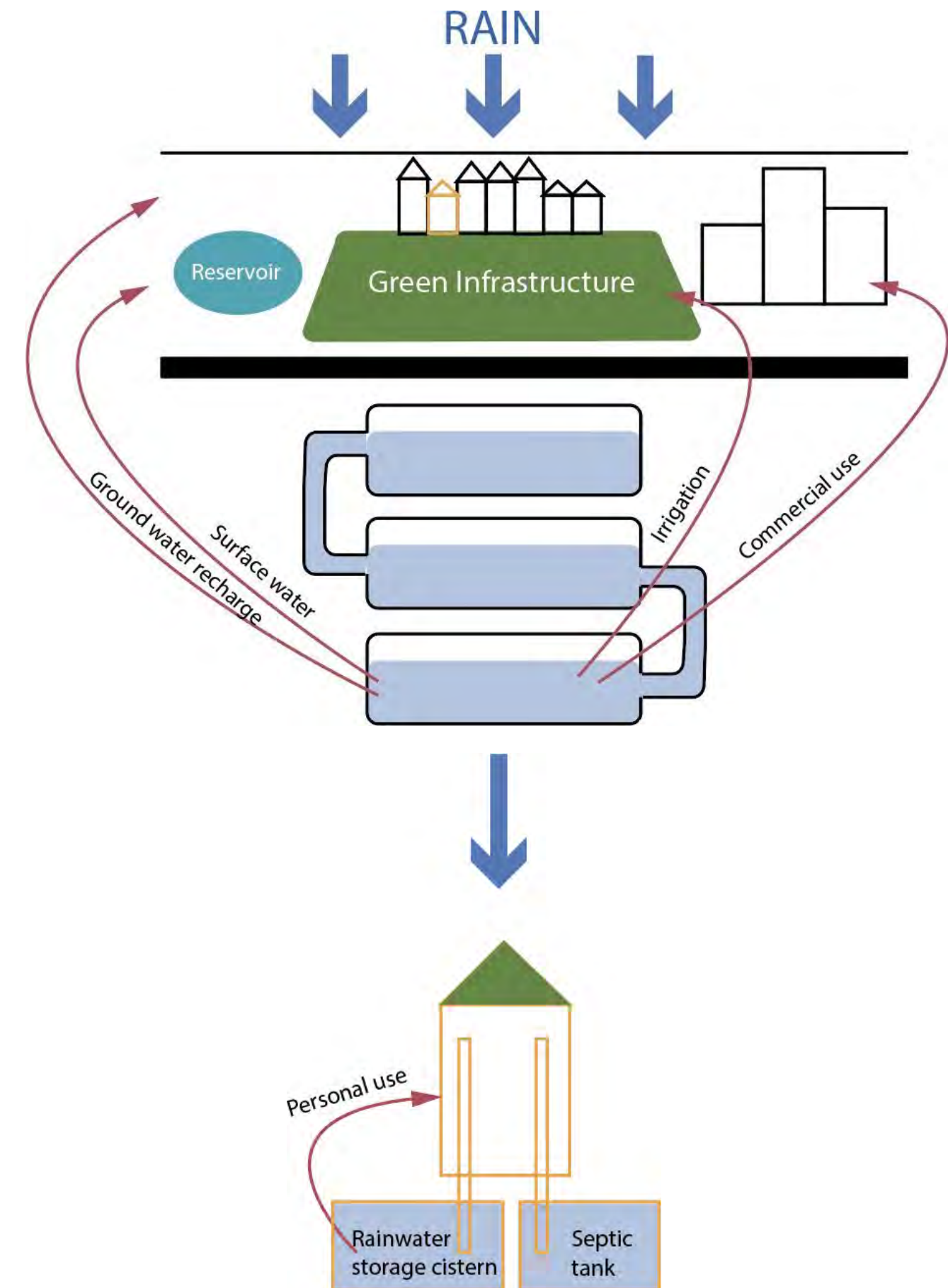https://www.eqmagpro.com/global-electric-vehicle-lithium-ion-battery-market-revenue-strategy-2019/

Bicycle highway in Netherlands
https://cycling.today/watch-the-netherlands-built-a-highway-just-for-bikes/

4. Green city — Green housing

The Ideal City is self-sufficient:

- Large park areas, wetlands for rainwater storage, and permeable surfaces for storing excess runoff.

- Collected rainwater can then be filtered, cleaned, and reused. Rainwater would also be collected and cleaned in housing units for further use of the communities.

- Plants-covered rooftops would be arranged in both public buildings and private housing for recreational use and gardening.

- The use of solar and wind energy would also be implemented throughout the city.

4. Sponge city

Climate change causes the increased natural disasters. Extreme rainfall events are more frequent and difficult to predict.

To ensure safe environment for the people, a resilient infrastructure is needed at the Ideal City, as urban floods are becoming a threat, even for the urban developments that are not within the flood-prone areas.

Use of permeable surfaces and green infrastructures is offered by the Sponge city concept that is already being implemented, mostly in Chinese cities, and is evolving.

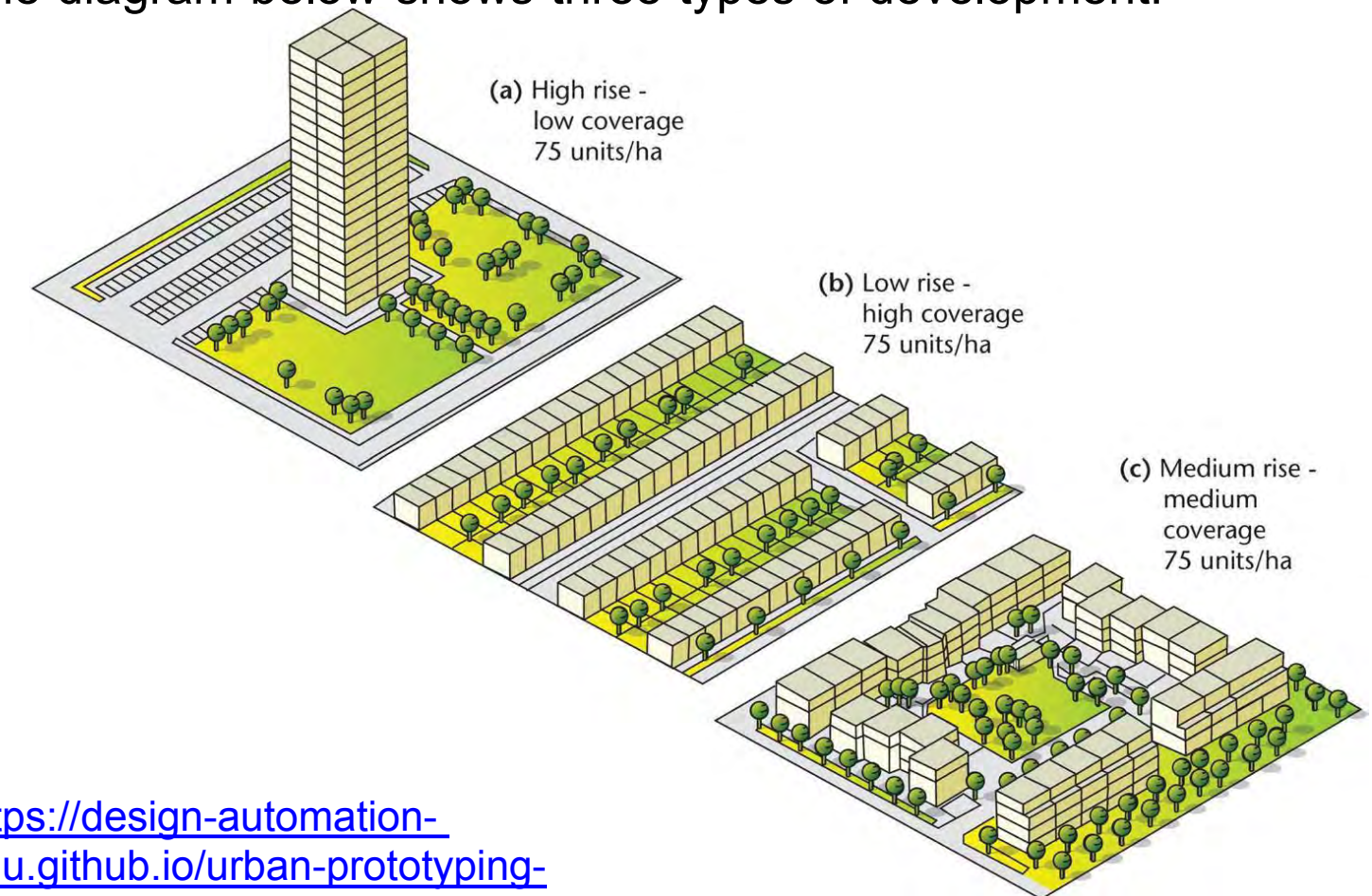The following image depicts an example of the street section design by Sasaki.

https://www.sasaki.com/projects/cedar-rapids-10th-street-streetscape/

6. Housing

A) Permanent structures

Apartment housing allows for more green areas for community use. Low rise (2-3 stories) and medium rise (4-9 stories) apartment buildings create comfortable human scale city space. They also allow for more sunlight and better air flow.
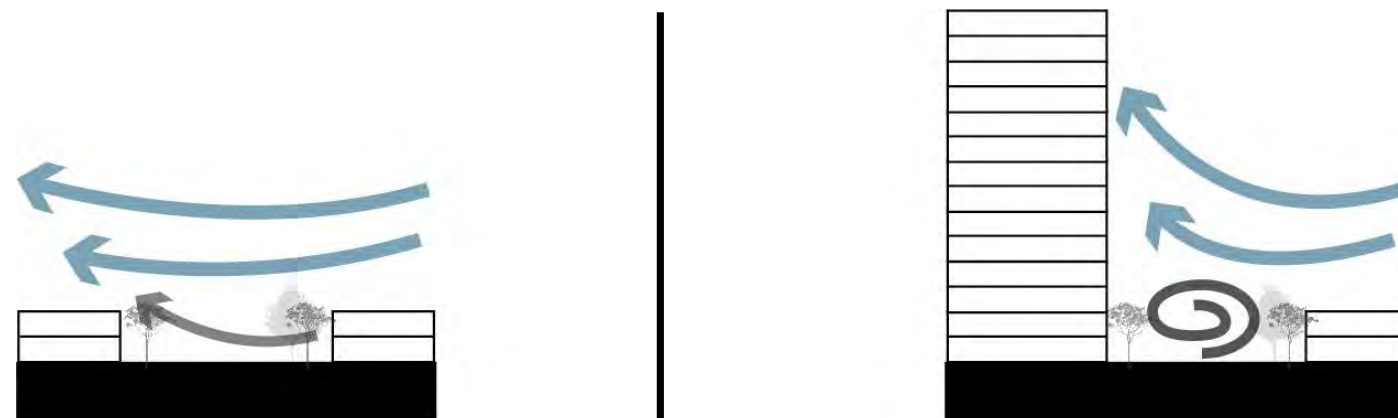
Unlike high rise apartment buildings, low and medium rise buildings are better for building up communities and inter-personal communication.

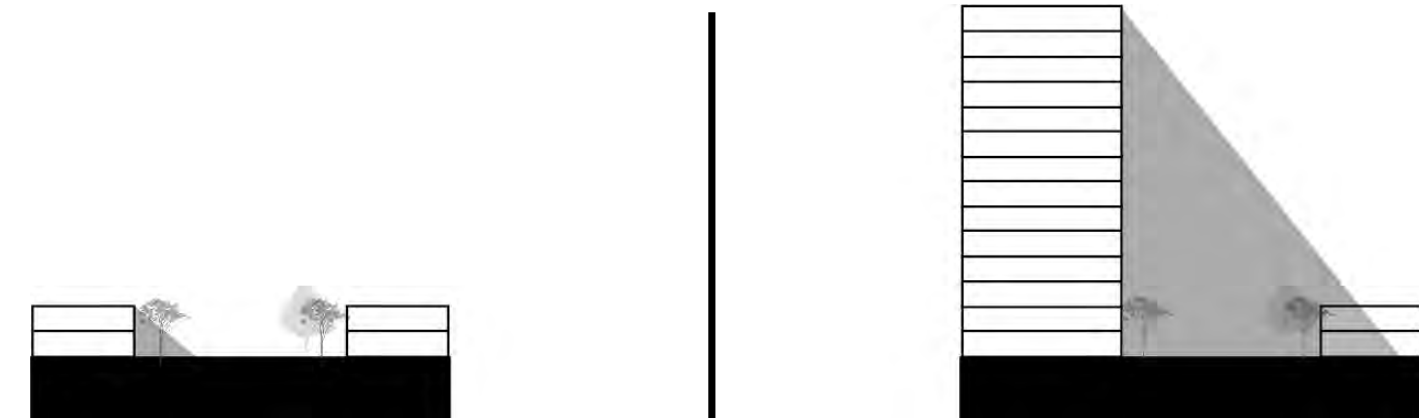The diagram below shows three types of development:

(a) High rise - low coverage 75 units/ha

(b) Low rise - high coverage 75 units/ha

(c) Medium rise - medium coverage 75 units/ha

https://design-automation-edu.github.io/urban-prototyping-2018/xin_yi/introduction.html

Air flow

Sunlight

6. Housing
B) Flexible structures

Nowadays, the world is open and interconnected. More and more people travel locally and globally. But, East or West - home is best. Imagine being able to move together with your home.

Alongside classic permanent dwellings, the Ideal City would have large structures to accommodate personal detachable housing units. These units can be transported to other places and used as separate dwellings.

This concept also decreases a need for new construction.

Image sourse: https://worldarchitecture.org/architecture-projects/cgve/mobil_space_residential_unit-project- pages.html

The following picture is one of the drawings of Plugin-city concept. Although, the idea is similar to the Ideal City, these huge megastructures are not likely to create pleasant human-scale environment in the cities.
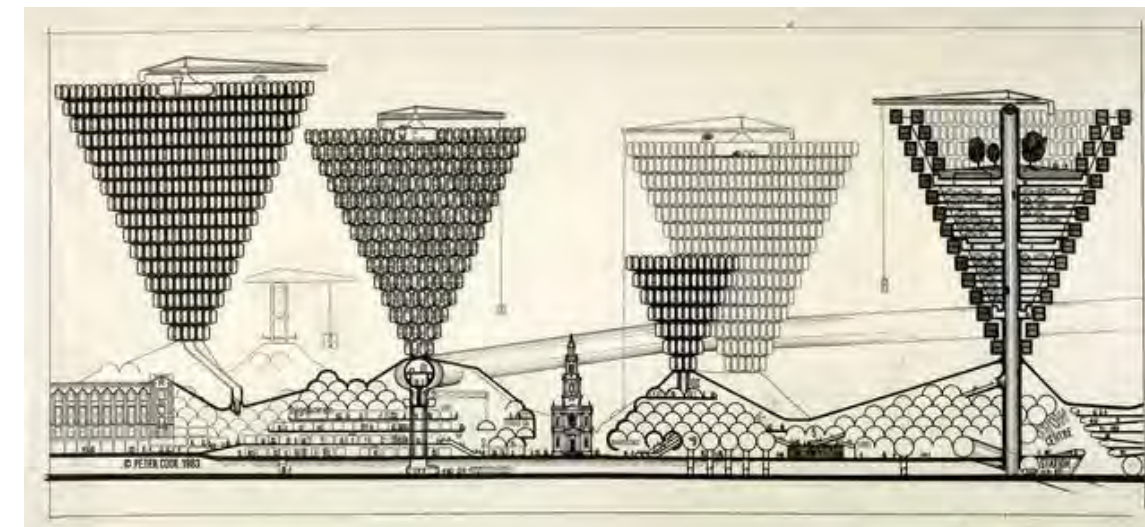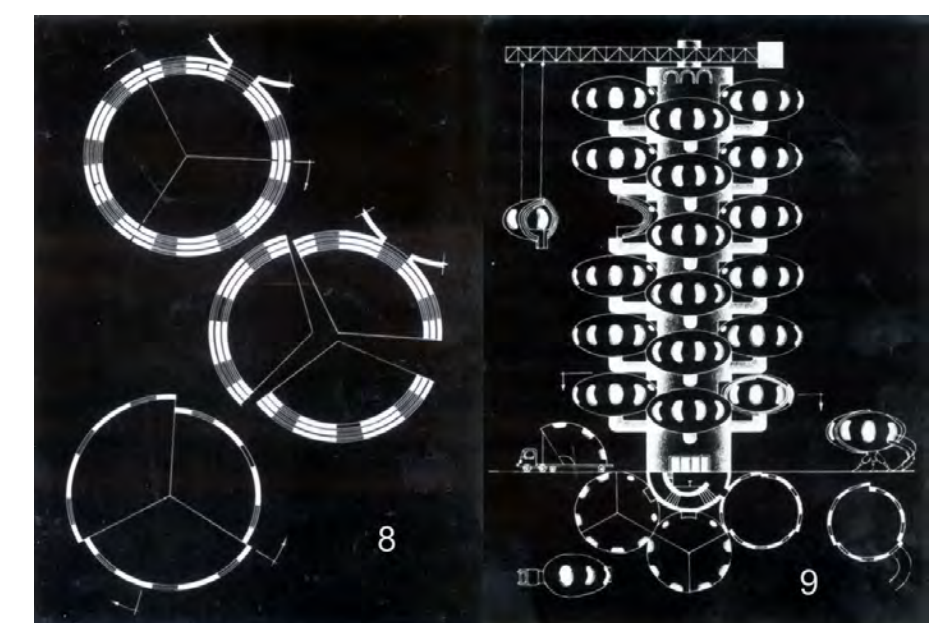

Image sourse: https://www.archdaily.com/399329/ad-classics-the-plug-in-city-peter-cook-archigram

The pictures below depict a similar concept of a smaller scale unique units, offered by Saken Narynov, a Kazakhstani architect and artist.

7. Public Architecture

The current pandemic has changed the landscape of people's socializing, making large gatherings and cultural events hard to organize. There is a huge need in safe and comfortable outdoor spaces suitable for public events and regular daily activities. They could be arranged on the ground floors of public buildings, such as libraries, museums, galleries, concert halls, theaters etc. These spaces would be used both for big events and as alternative space with the regular functions of the cultural institution. The following picture shows an example of the ground floor open space use.

https://studioninedots.nl/project/facette-bordeaux/

The Ideal City would also have special open-air theaters with structures protecting people from unpleasant weather conditions, similar to the one on the picture on the right.

Accessibility should be a priority in designing public spaces, transportation, and buildings in the Ideal City. The city needs inclusive and responsive public space that would accommodate everyone.

https://www.makmax.com/de/applications/recreational-de/sopot-opera-de/

8. Public events (flexible space use)

To increase the possibilities for the use of open spaces and to revitalize urban life, there would be definite areas with flexible use: some bridges/squares/streets would become traffic free on special days/hours or weekend.

This kind of informal event spaces would not only provide more platforms for communities', activities but could enhance the sense of belonging of the city inhabitants, as well as serve as a tourist attraction.

The images depict an example of a flexible use of the Green Bridge in Budapest, Hungary.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Szabadság_Hid_-_Budapest.JPG

https://hungarytoday.hu/bridge-picnic-returns-budapests-liberty-bridge-closed-weekends-summer-30875/