

CONCLUSION

This chapter has introduced techniques for historical and townscape analysis. It is emphasized that the survey strategy adopted will depend on the nature and scope of the project and upon the time allocated for project preparation. There is always a great danger of collecting too much information, much of which, while of academic interest, may have little influence on the final design outcome. The main purpose of the survey and its analysis is to form an understanding of the problem being investigated and to provide a framework for the development of innovative ideas for solving that problem. The use of an extensive survey should not be used as an alternative to thought nor should it be permitted to stifle imagination. The purpose of the survey is not to provide instant recipes for action or catalogues of ready made design details. However, an understanding of the environment and its history is the foundation from which innovative development springs. This understanding of a particular city or town begins with an analysis of past developments in the area, followed by a perceptual study to define the structure which determines the image and identity of that city or town. Detailed studies of the city or town, in terms of its permeability and visual qualities, complete the townscape analysis.

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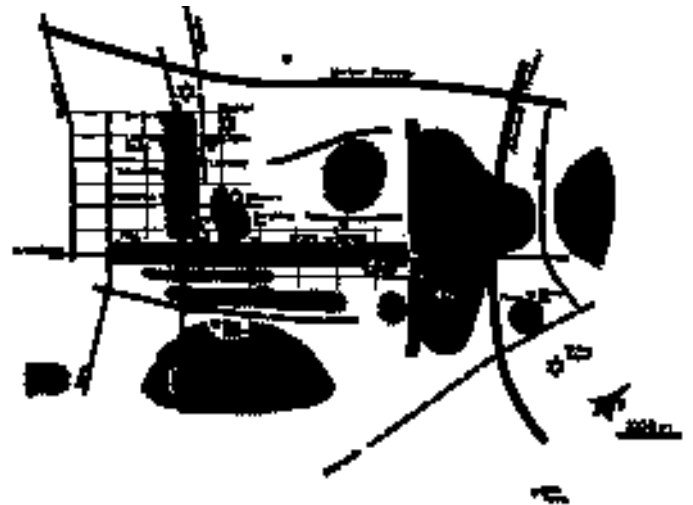


Figure 3.54 Perceptual image: the Los Angeles image derived from sketch maps.

Figure 3.55 Perceptual image: the visual form of Los Angeles as seen in the field.