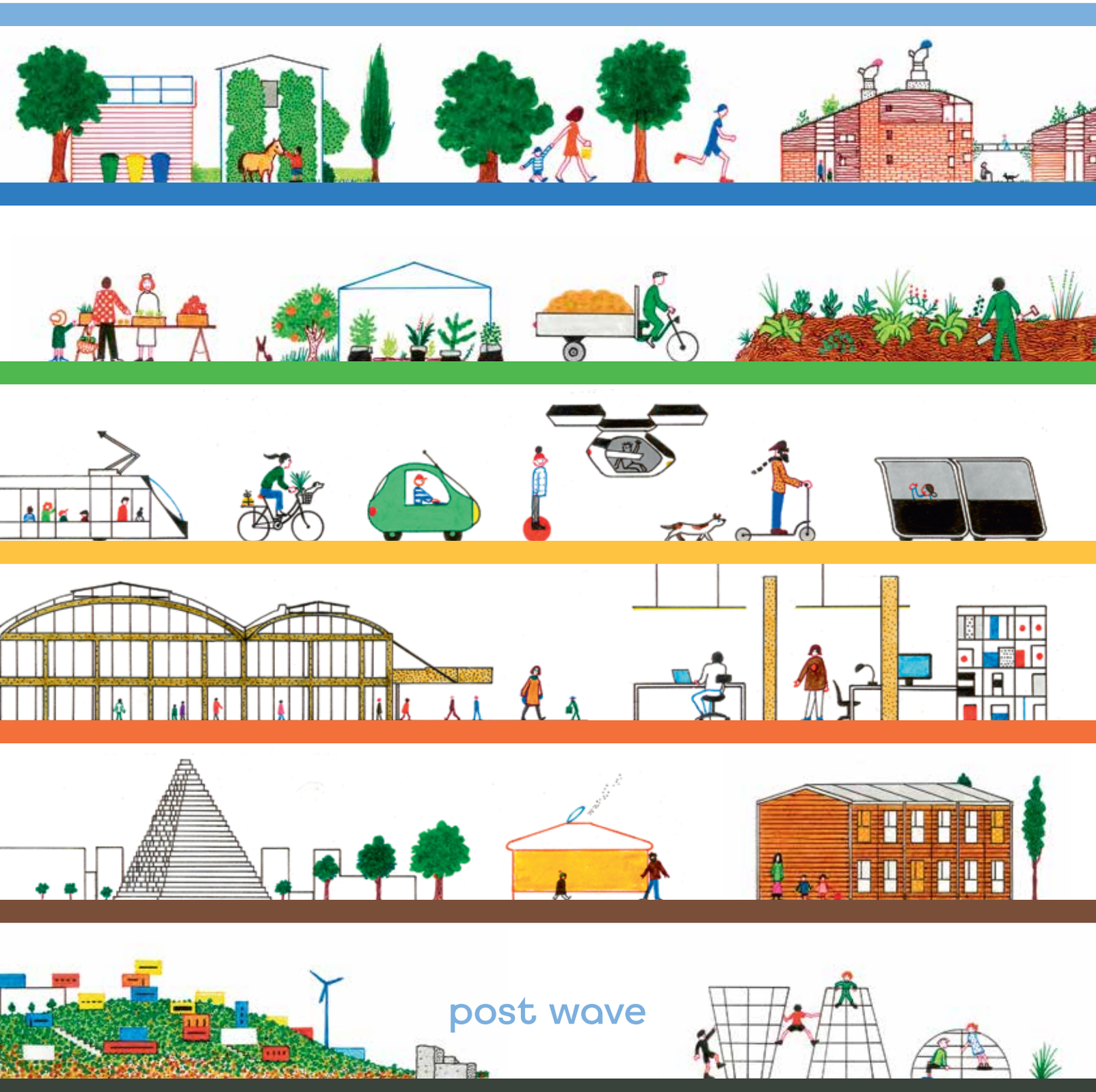
THE CITIES OF THE FUTURE

DIDIER CORNILLE



post wave

For Ugo and Maxence

Published in the UK in 2025 by Post Wave Children's Books,
an imprint of Post Wave Publishing UK Ltd,
Runway East, 24-28 Bloomsbury Way, London, WC1A 2SN
www.postwavepublishing.com

A catalogue record of this book is available from the British Library.

All rights reserved, including the right of reproduction
in whole or in part in any form.

First edition 2018
Published with permission of Hélium / Actes Sud
Original title: *La Ville Quoi De Neuf?*
Design copyright © Hélium / Actes Sud
English translation copyright © 2025 by Post Wave Publishing UK Ltd

Copyright © Hélium / Actes Sud, France, 2018

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

ISBN: 978-1-83627-020-1

Printed and manufactured in China by Leo Paper Products,
Heshan, Guangdong, Jan 2025



THE CITIES OF THE FUTURE

DIDIER CORNILLE

Translated by Charis Ainslie





7 CITIES ARE AMAZING!

13 COULD OUR CITIES BE GREENER?
A Vertical City, Marseille
A Modern Town for Outdoor Living, Chandigargh
Leading the Way in Ecology, Berlin
Nature Makes a Comeback, Milan

25 CAN WE GROW FOOD IN CITIES?
The Railway Farm, Paris
ECObox Gardens, Paris
Saving a Struggling City, Detroit

35 COULD WE USE LOCAL MATERIALS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY?
King of the Ecodistricts, London

41 HOW CAN WE GET AROUND THE CITY?
Planning with People in Mind, Curitiba
A Well-Connected City, Medellín
City of Cycling, Copenhagen

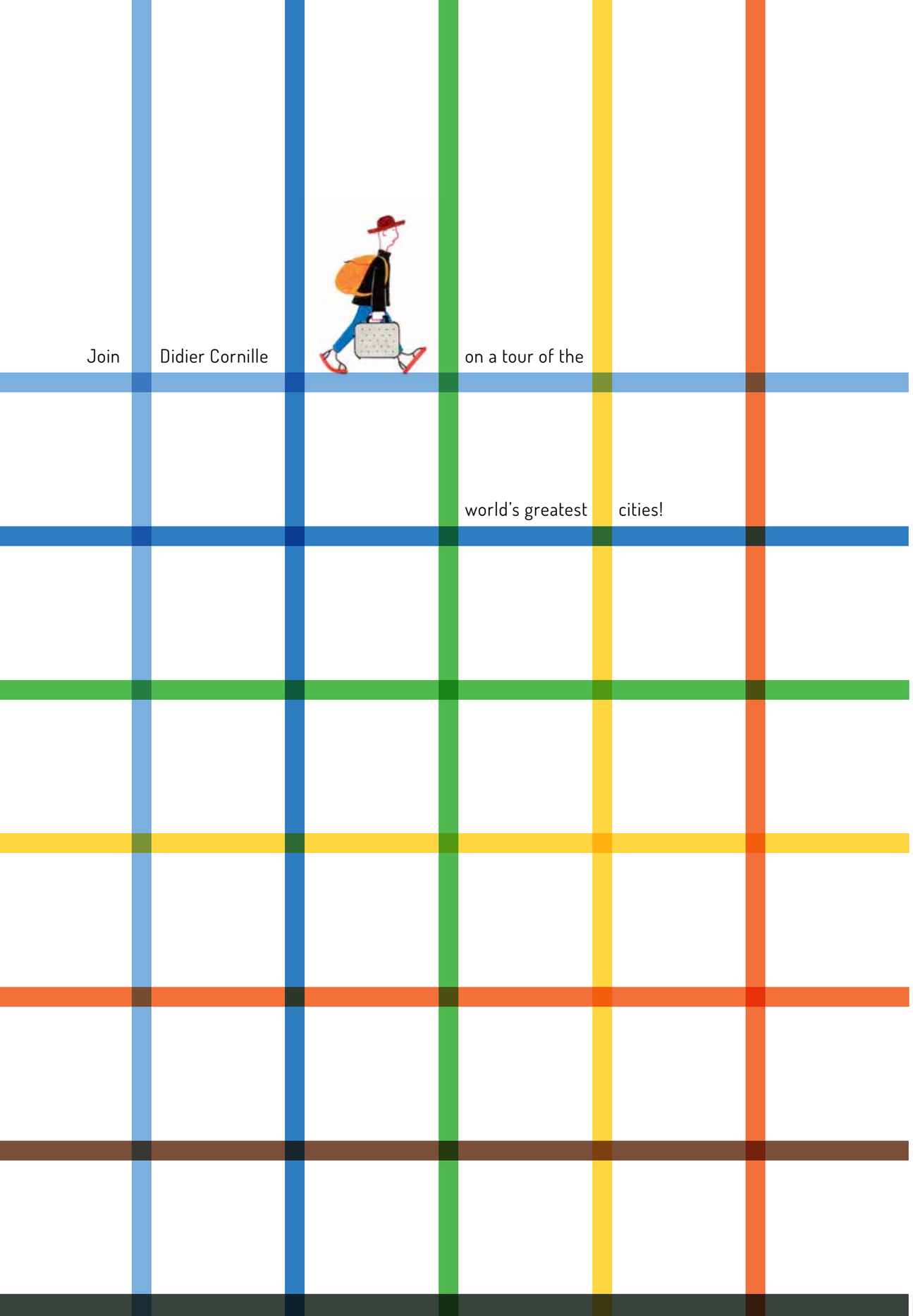
51 CAN A CITY BE SMART?
The Smart City, Singapore
The Car of Tomorrow

57 WORKING IN THE CITY
The Social Palace, Guise
Station F, Paris
Mam'Ayoka, Paris
The Woodland City, Shimokawa

67 HOW DO WE CREATE THE CITY WE WANT?
The Morrinho Project, Rio de Janeiro
Letting the People Design their Town, Laingsburg

73 CAN WE BUILD A CITY THAT'S PRETTY AND WELCOMING?
Haussmann's Paris, Paris
The Pompidou Centre, Paris
The Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao
The Water Mirror, Bordeaux
The Triangle Tower, Paris
The Emergency Housing Centre, Ivry-sur-Seine

83 CITY LIVING IS GREAT!
Space to Play, Amsterdam
The New York High Line, Manhattan
The LX Factory, Lisbon



Cities Are Amazing!

They are full of bright lights, incredible sights and thousands of people adding to the hustle and bustle. But cities can also feel chaotic, with too many people searching for space to share, too much traffic and pollution and not enough green spaces for city dwellers to enjoy and connect with nature.

Today, half of the world's population lives in cities — and by 2050 this will rise to four in every five people. We need to think about how we can solve the problems that make life in cities difficult, and how we can create a culture that means city living is not only possible and sustainable, but also enjoyable.

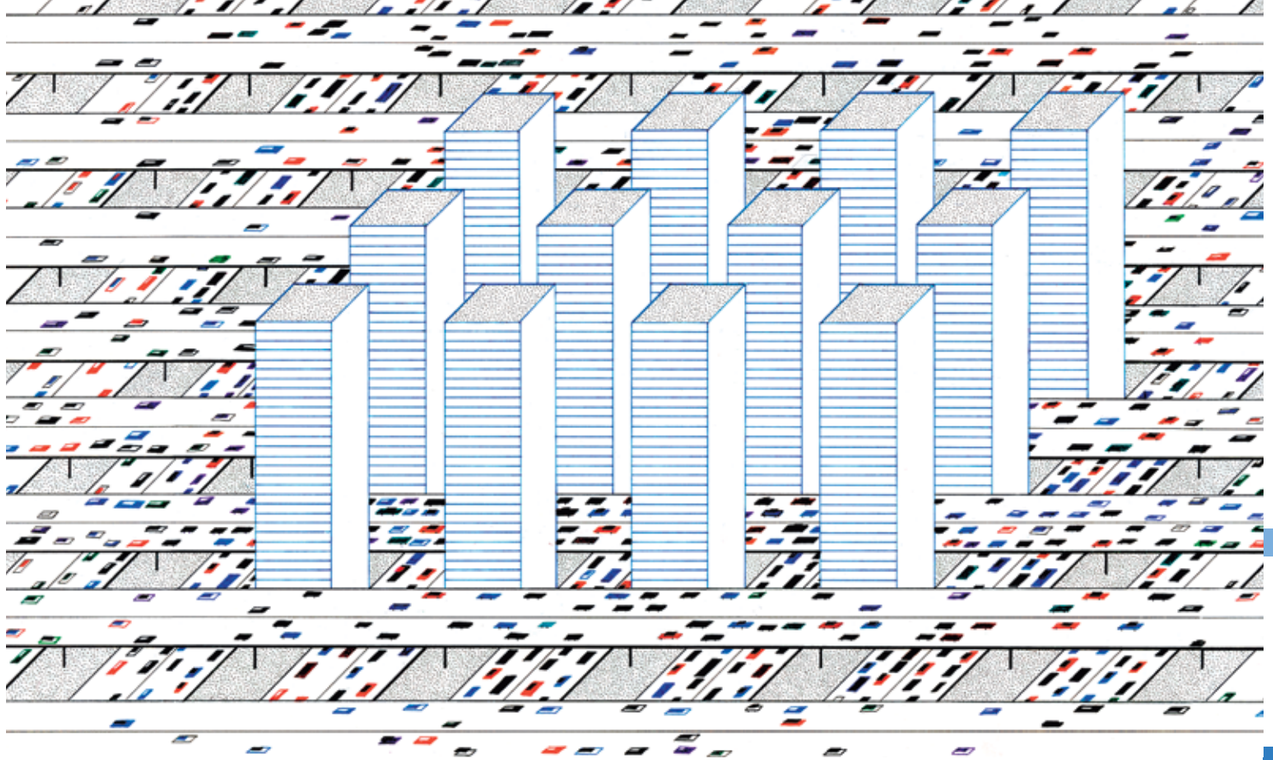
Many cities around the world are dreaming up new ways of living, and some of them have had surprisingly good results. So, why not take inspiration from them to help design the Cities of the Future?

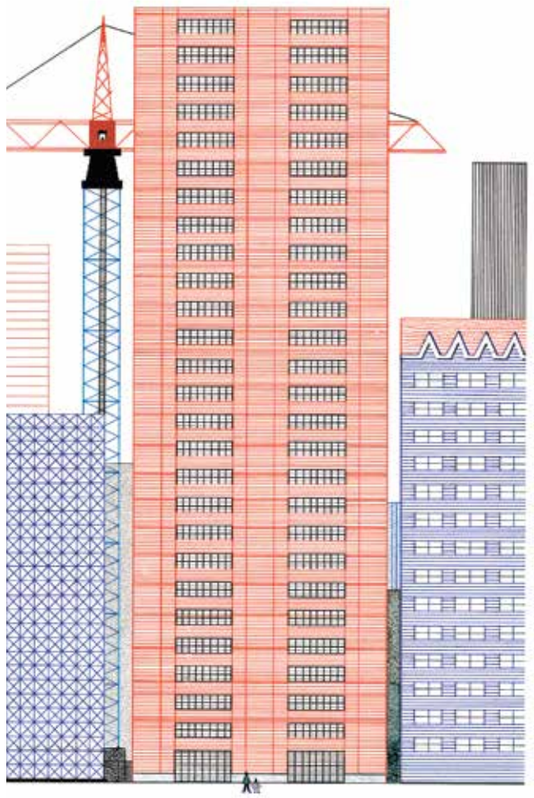
With this book in your hands, you can dream about the kind of city you'd like to live in. And maybe, one day, you'll help build it!

In the 1970s, as the world's population grew, large numbers of people flocked to cities to find jobs.

Cities became vast and sprawling, fed by busy roads carrying chaotic traffic and criss-crossed by cyclists and pedestrians.

Slowly, they spread further and further, eating into the countryside, threatening nature and pumping out pollution.





If you can't build outwards, build upwards! To create homes and workplaces for everyone, skyscrapers that reached dizzying heights were built.

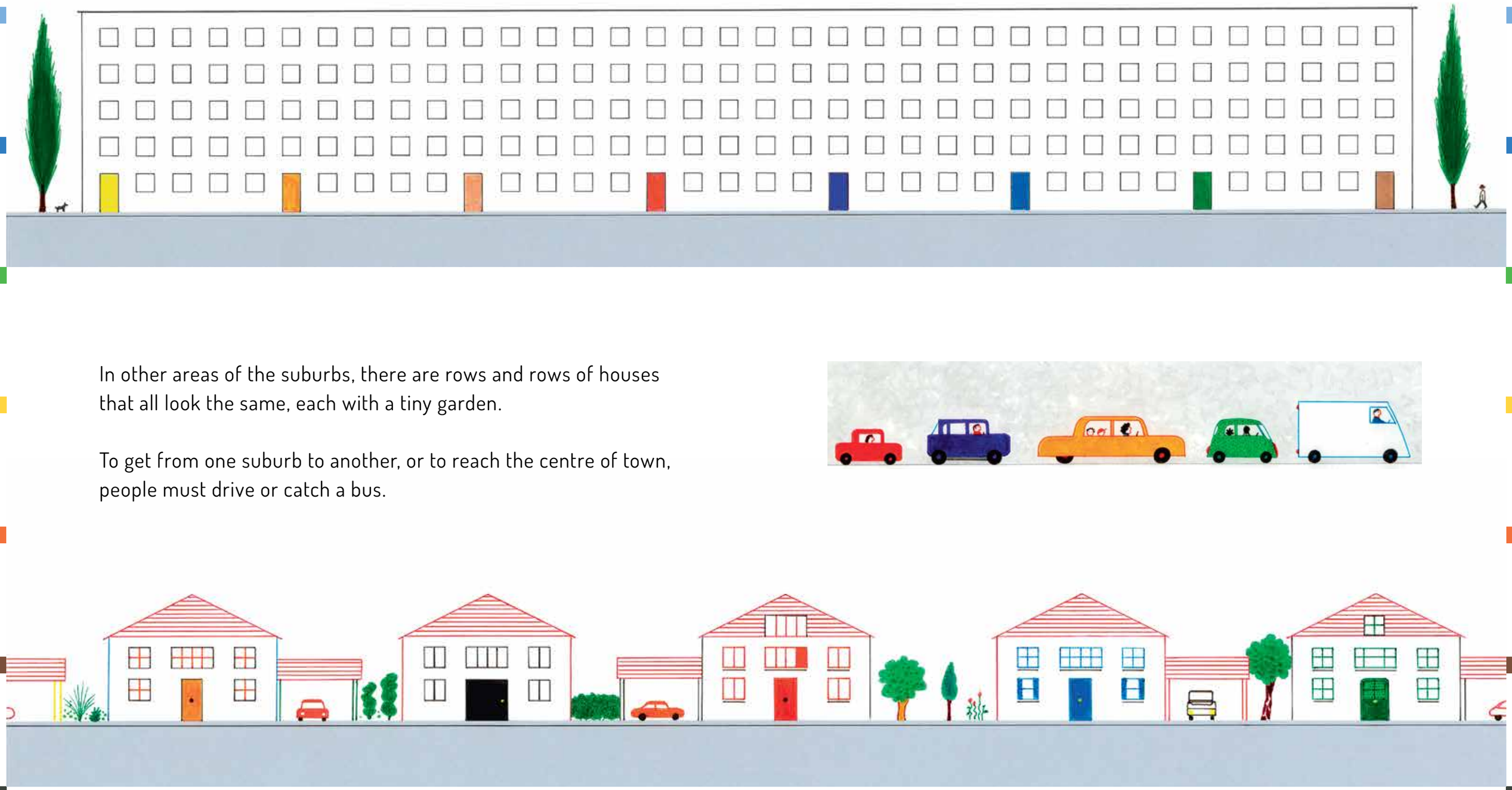
In other areas, makeshift communities sprang up. The people who lived there were very poor and built houses out of whatever they could find. Life in these areas could be difficult, but neighbours often supported each other.

It raised the question: how can we tackle poverty in cities?



Suburbs grew around the cities – often in the shape of large housing estates. Although cheap to build, these homes were often a long way from the city centres where people worked and lived.

People living in the suburbs need homes, as well as schools, medical facilities and a good transport network, along with places to relax, exercise and have fun.



In other areas of the suburbs, there are rows and rows of houses that all look the same, each with a tiny garden.

To get from one suburb to another, or to reach the centre of town, people must drive or catch a bus.

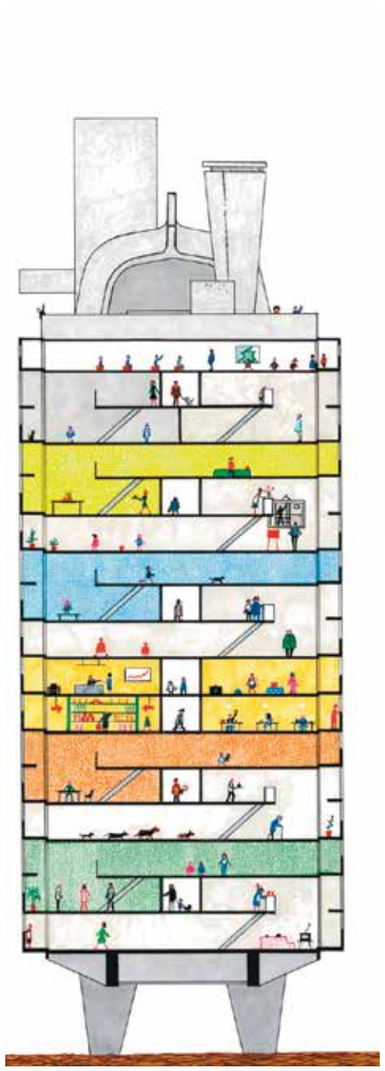


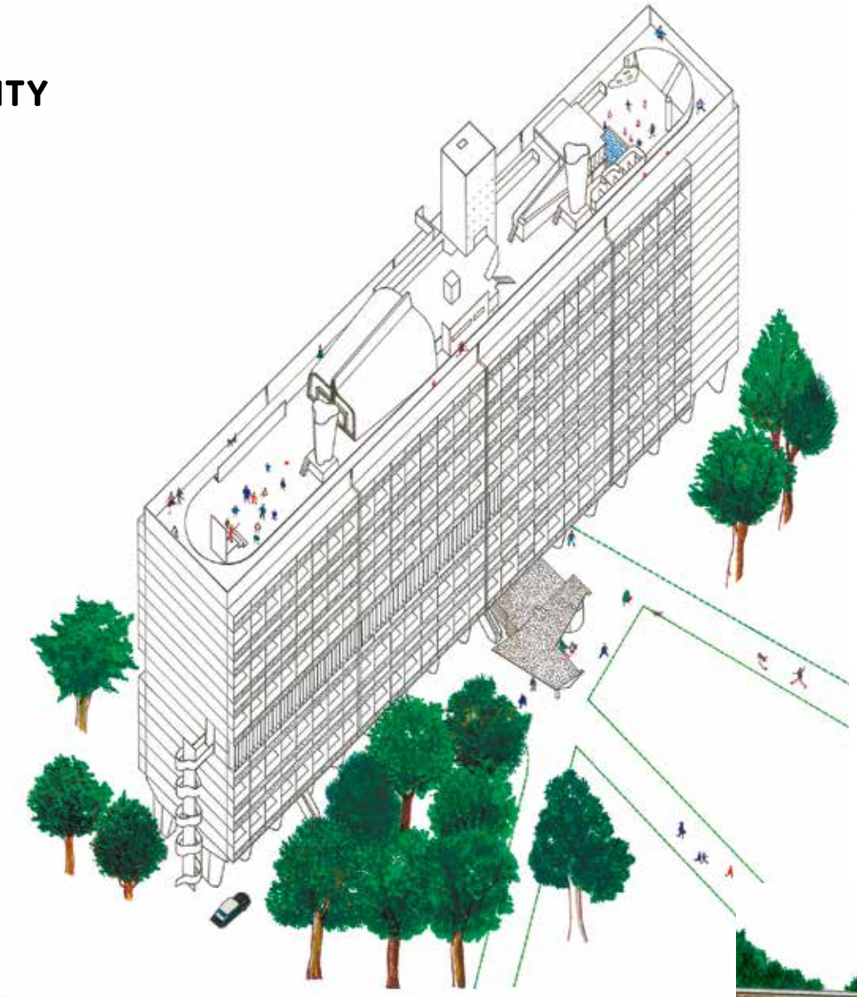
Could Our Cities Be Greener?

Heavy traffic, central heating, air conditioning and smoke from factories causes pollution in our cities. This has contributed to rising temperatures across the planet.

How can we provide clean air for the people who live in cities and are faced with this pollution every day? The answer is clear – we need to bring nature into our cities!

MARSEILLE: A VERTICAL CITY





Cross section of The Housing Unit, Marseille, France
Architect: Le Corbusier (1952)

In the 1930s, the architect Charles-Édouard Jeanneret, known as Le Corbusier, came up with a design for an ingenious modern town that could be built anywhere in the world. His idea was to group homes together in housing estates, keeping cars and pedestrians separate and protecting green spaces.

The Radiant City was built in Marseille, France, in 1952 and was part of the reconstruction that took place after the Second World War. It is a tall concrete building stood on stilts. Outside, it is surrounded by a park; inside, there are 360 apartments, most of which have two floors. They fit together on 'streets' inside the building.

On top of the building is a roof terrace with a sunroom and a running track around the edge. Halfway up the building, there's a shopping centre with a bakery, shops and even a hotel. A school, a gym, a stage, a paddling pool and several children's play areas complete the design – not forgetting the incredible views from the top of this vertical city!

Le Corbusier designed similar projects in other towns in France and elsewhere in Europe, as well as in India.

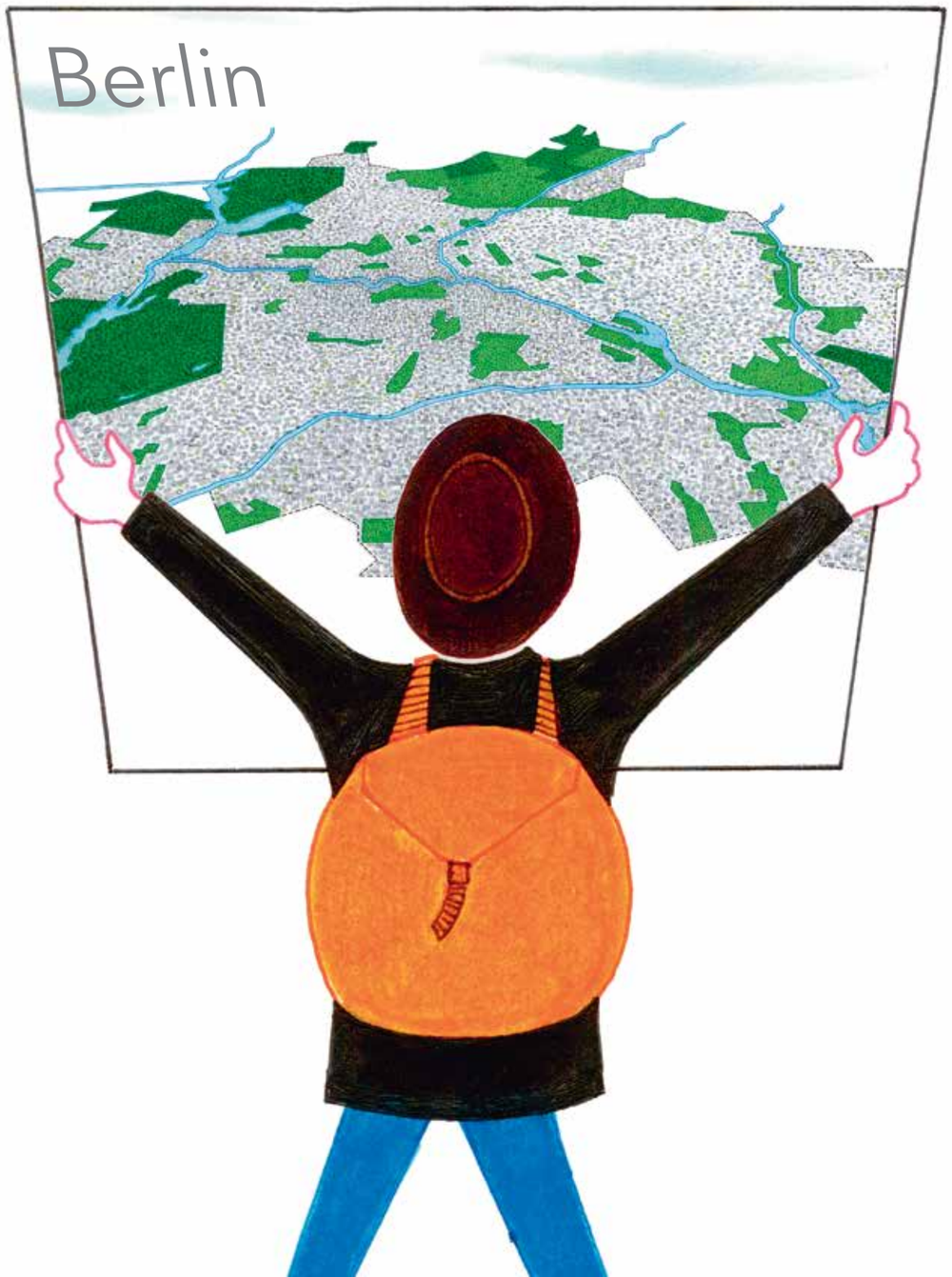
CHANDIGARH: A MODERN TOWN FOR OUTDOOR LIVING



Relaxing in Sector 23, Chandigarh, India
Architect: Pierre Jeanneret (1958)

In 1947, India gained its independence. Le Corbusier and his cousin, Pierre Jeanneret, were invited to build a new capital in the Indian state of Punjab.

The cousins observed that people in India lived more outside than in, spending their time on terraces, under colonnades and in gardens. With this in mind, they proposed a new version of the Radiant City, this time with homes arranged in a low, horizontal design.



BERLIN: LEADING THE WAY IN ECOLOGY

Berlin is one of Europe's greenest capitals. Home to millions of people, this huge city in Germany is surrounded by vast forests and criss-crossed by rivers and canals.

Since 1910, Berlin has created lots of green spaces within the city, along with a ring of parks around the outside using a method called 'urban planning'.

Trees were planted along the riverbanks in the 1980s and pleasant pathways were created to link parks together. Not only did this provide a nice environment for the people living there, but it also created a permanent habitat for plants and animals.

Since 2004, the city has been making changes to tackle climate change: new buildings are more spread out, there are more green spaces and air circulation has been improved to keep the city cool.

And that's not all. Residents have been coming up with their own ideas, too. Berliners really care about their city – they've set up communal gardens for everyone to share, worked together to design new green spaces and even created pop-up gardens!

Berlin is a city made by the people, for the people.



THE GLEISDREIECK PARK

This large park was created on the site of a disused railway station not far from the centre of Berlin. The old railway tracks have been replaced with plants and greenery. Local residents have helped to set up outdoor activities that everyone can enjoy.

Park am Gleisdreieck, Berlin, Germany

Landscapers: Atelier LOIDL, Berlin (2014)

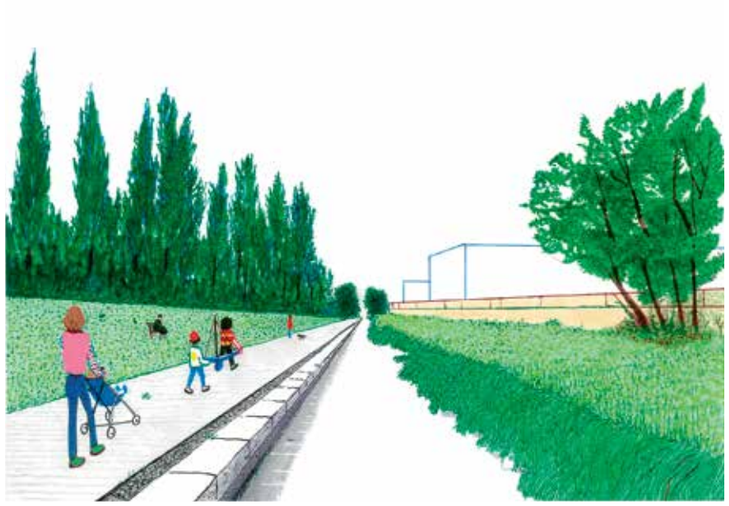




The private gardens that once ran alongside the railway tracks remain the same.



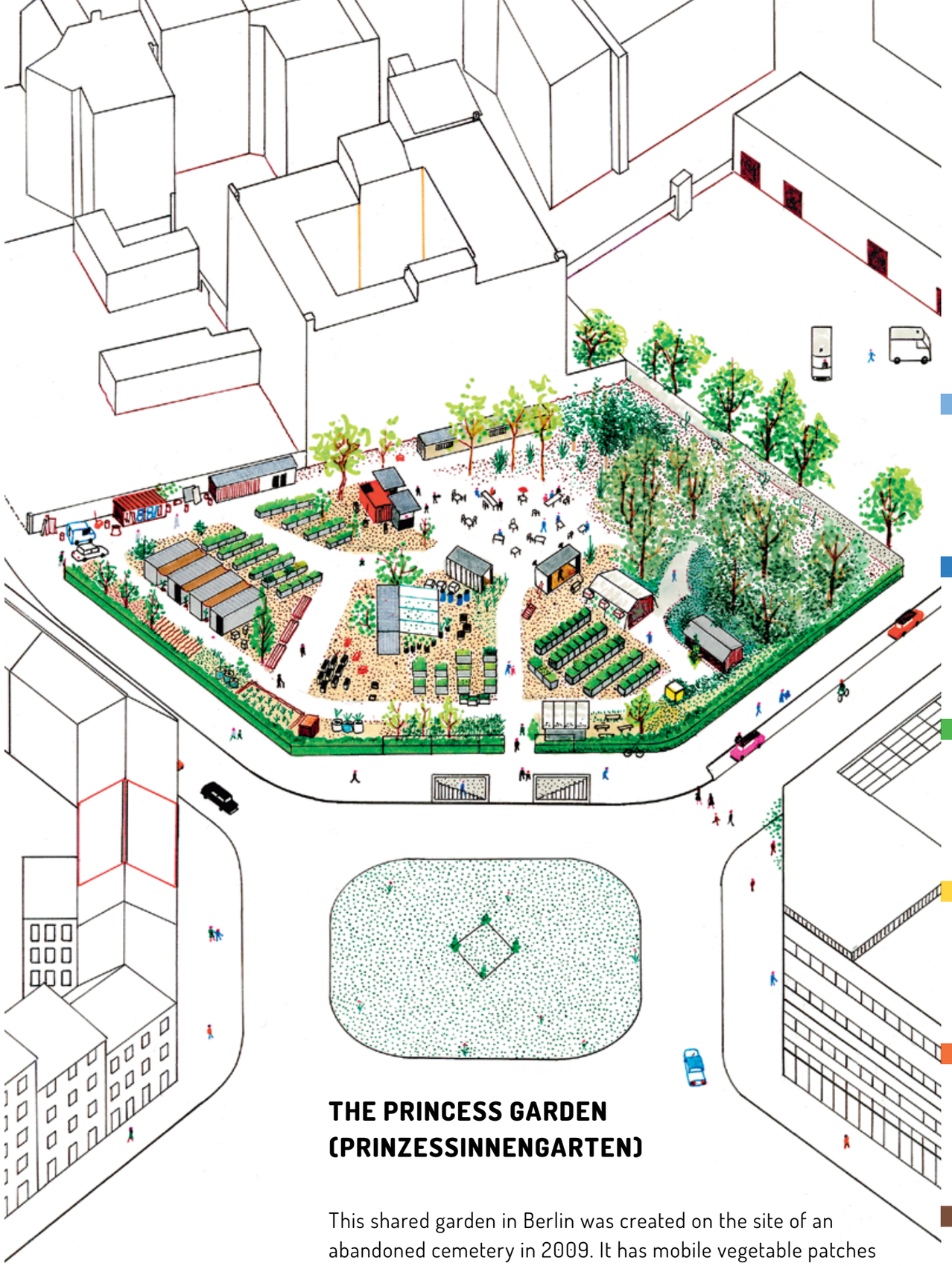
Children play under the railway bridge near the new housing.



The Panke is a little river that runs through Berlin.
Once hidden underground, it has now been uncovered and the banks have been transformed into a lovely place to walk or rest.



The walls of the apartments nearby are covered in a thick coat of leaves, keeping the buildings cool in the summer and warm in the winter. There's even a little farm where children can pet the animals.



THE PRINCESS GARDEN (PRINZESSINNENGARTEN)

This shared garden in Berlin was created on the site of an abandoned cemetery in 2009. It has mobile vegetable patches and shows local residents how much fun gardening can be.





In every country around the world, you will find cities full of incredible landmarks and diverse people.

But today's cities also have problems: overcrowding, pollution, heavy traffic and poverty.

Luckily, cities are used to adapting, and they're already coming up with new ways to modernise, making them attractive, welcoming and pleasant places to live.

As a city-dweller of the future, dive into this book to discover clever new ideas and dream about the kind of city you'd like to live in. Who knows, maybe one day you'll build it!



£16.99
ISBN 978-1-83627-020-1
9 781836 270201
postwavepublishing.com

post wave

