

A very brief history of the  
beginnings of the profession of  
landscape architecture

LSA 220 Fall 2014

Richard Hawks



# Mid 1800's

- The romantic period Greek and Gothic architecture revivals
- Picturesque landscapes
- Expansion outside cities due to advent of trolleys
- Economic growth – rise of middle class
- Decline of cities due to industrialization and over crowding
- Expansion of frontiers

# Cemetery Design

- 1831 Mt Auburn
- 1838 Greenwood
- 1859 Oakwood









Prospect  
Park

Green-Wood  
Cemetery



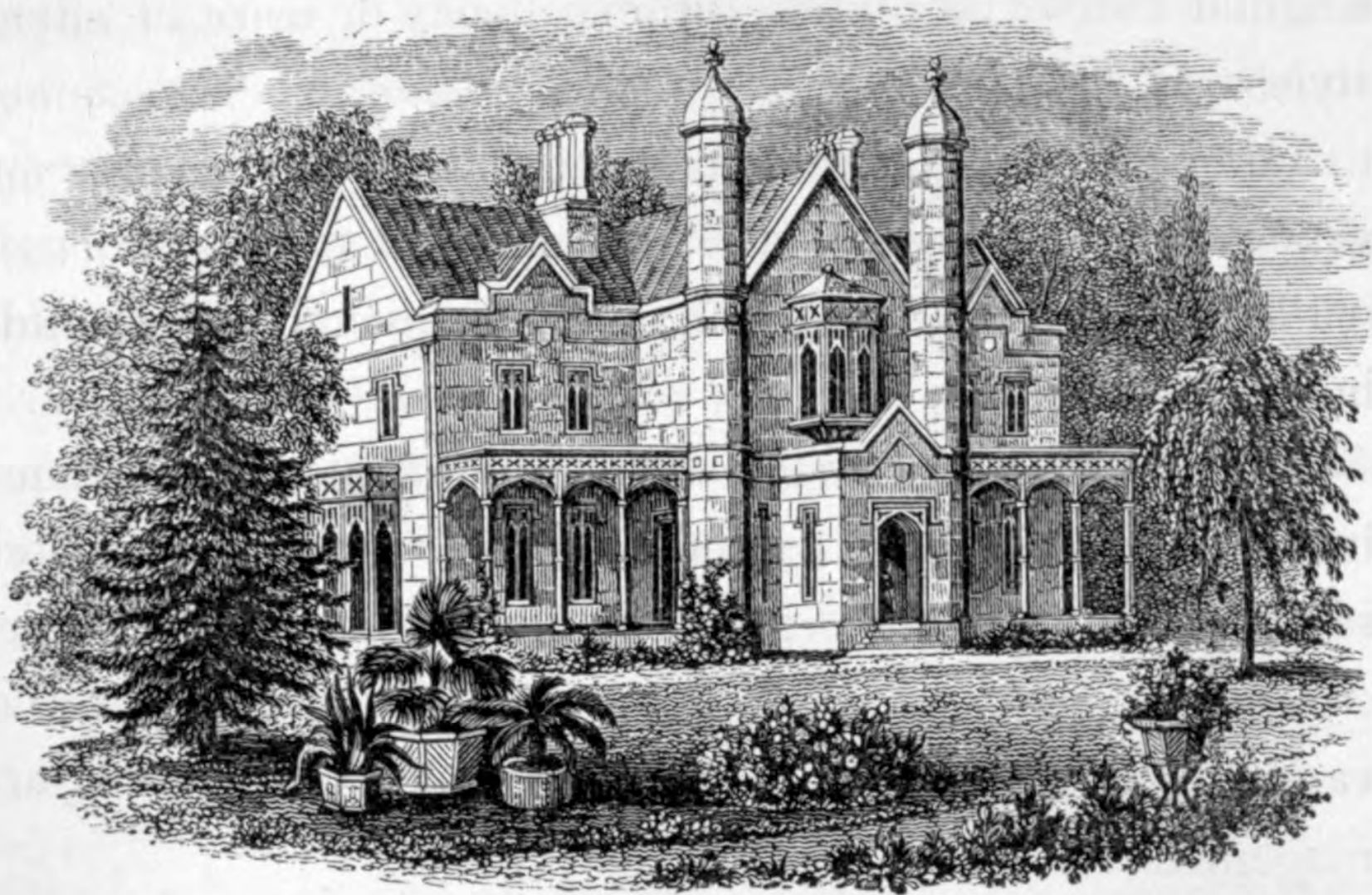
Andrew Jackson Downing

1815-1852

- “A Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening” 1841
- Improvement of Country Residences
- Influenced by romantic garden movement of England
- Remarks on Rural Architecture
- **Moderate** desires, establishments, and expenditures...emergence of the suburbs

# Beauty is.....

- Simplicity of flowing forms
- Romantic English landscape garden of sinuousness
- Accented specimen trees
- Composed views
- Screening masses to conceal boundaries



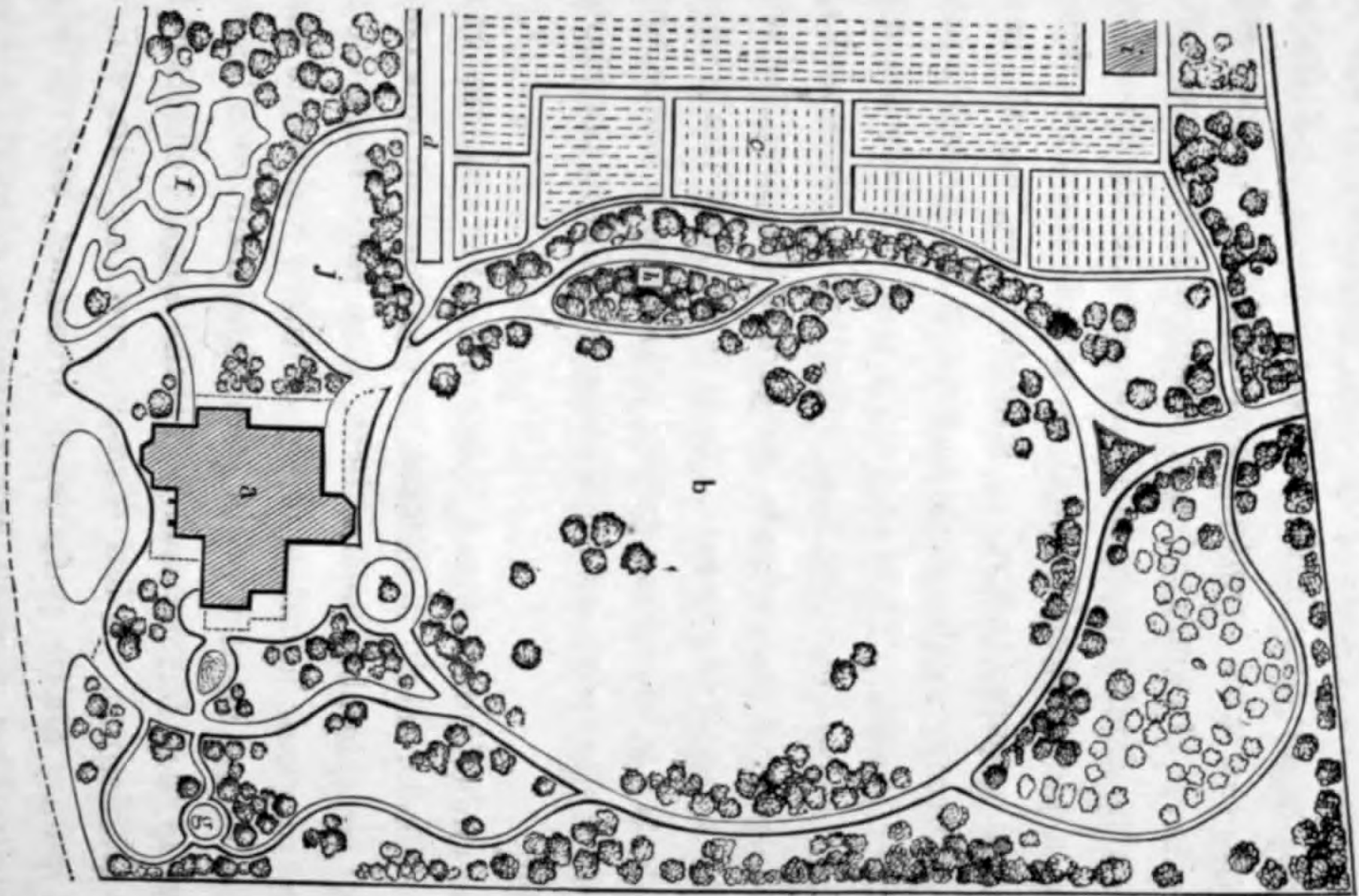
[Fig. 35. Residence of the Author at Newburgh, N. Y.]



[Fig. 2. View from the Drawing room Window at Cheshunt Cottage, looking to the Left.]



[Fig. 8. Plan of a Suburban Villa Residence.]



During a trip to England in 1850 he  
brings back Architect Calvert Vaux  
and they become partners

Early supporter for the idea of NYC  
Central Park

Downing dies at 37 in 1852



Frederick Law Olmsted Sr.  
1822-1903

Father of the profession of  
Landscape Architecture

# Olmsted

- Born Hartford, Conn.
- Attended Yale in Agric. Science
- Topographic engineer
- 1846 Geddes farm “Fairmont” followed by 10 years as an experimental farmer
- Tireless traveler – “The Walks and Talks of an American Farmer in England”, articles on the south and slavery and urban social conditions

- Olmsted thinks of himself as a farmer but his travels make him into a “urban reformer”
- Vaux seeks out Olmsted because of his writings on European parks although he had never done any design work
- They win the competition for Central Park

# Olmsted practice

- 700 Public parks
- 2,000 Private estates
- 350 Planned communities
- 250 Schools and colleges
- National parks

# Central Park and the emergence of public urban parks



# **Sustainability**

Design that meets the needs of the present without compromising the needs in the future

# Central Park

## 1850's

- Exclude city from park
- Separate circulation
- Make the park look country like
- Lead the public in use, movement and behavior
- Active and passive recreation
- Free to the public



MOUNT AUBURN

Proprietors J. & J. Jones

Printed by NATHL. DEARBORN Boston 1839



Map of Mount Auburn from Nathaniel Dearborn's 1839 catalogue.



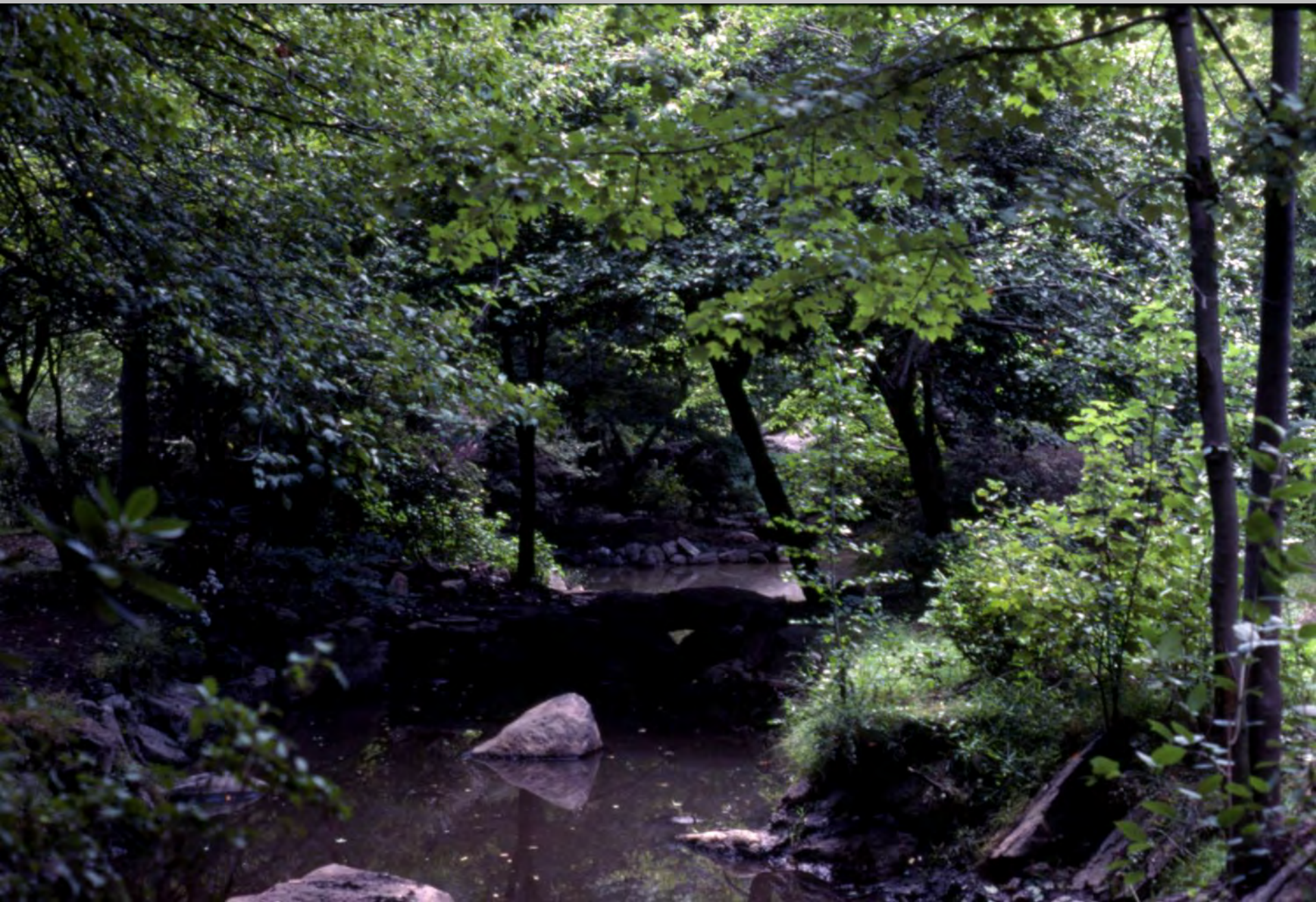
























# Yosemite and the beginning of the national parks

Yosemite 1864







# Estate planning and design

Biltmore 1880







GUIDE MAP  
— OF —  
**BILTMORE ESTATE**

SCALES



1886

PREPARED BY OLIVIERO OLIVETTI & ELIO, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS,  
BROOKLINE, MASS.

Map Scale: 1 inch = 100 feet  
 Springs: ————  
 Trails: - - - - -  
 Contour Lines: 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000 feet



TABLE OF DISTANCES

From Biltmore House to	
Biltmore Chapel by Automobile Rd.	26.4
"          "          "          "          "	27.6
Ferry House by Biltmore Rd. and Ferry Rd.	17.6
Beginning of Automobile Rd. to Biltmore House	17.6
"          "          "          "          "	17.6
From Biltmore Chapel to	
The Library by Automobile and Mountain Rd.	27.6
"          "          "          "          "	27.6
From Library to Ferry House	17.6
From Ferry House to Biltmore House	17.6
From Biltmore House to	
"          "          "          "          "	17.6
"          "          "          "          "	17.6
"          "          "          "          "	17.6
From the beginning of the Automobile Rd.	
to Biltmore House by Automobile Rd.	17.6
"          "          "          "          "	17.6
"          "          "          "          "	17.6
"          "          "          "          "	17.6
"          "          "          "          "	17.6

Area of Table covering site of Biltmore Estate 1886-1887.

PLAN OF BILTMORE, ca. 1890-1900  
*Olmsted found Biltmore particularly satisfying because*



# Expositions, Olympics, Theme Parks

Columbia Exposition 1893











# Suburbia and Planned Communities

Riverside 1868



DETAILS OF RIVERSIDE

*From a nineteenth-century promotional brochure. Olmsted saw the well-planned suburb as the place where one would find "the most attractive, the most refined, and the most soundly wholesome forms of domestic life, and the best application of the arts of civilization to which mankind has yet attained."*





GENERAL PLAN  
OF  
**RIVERSIDE**  
BLAKISTON, MARR & CO. LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS  
1888



# Ecological urban open space systems





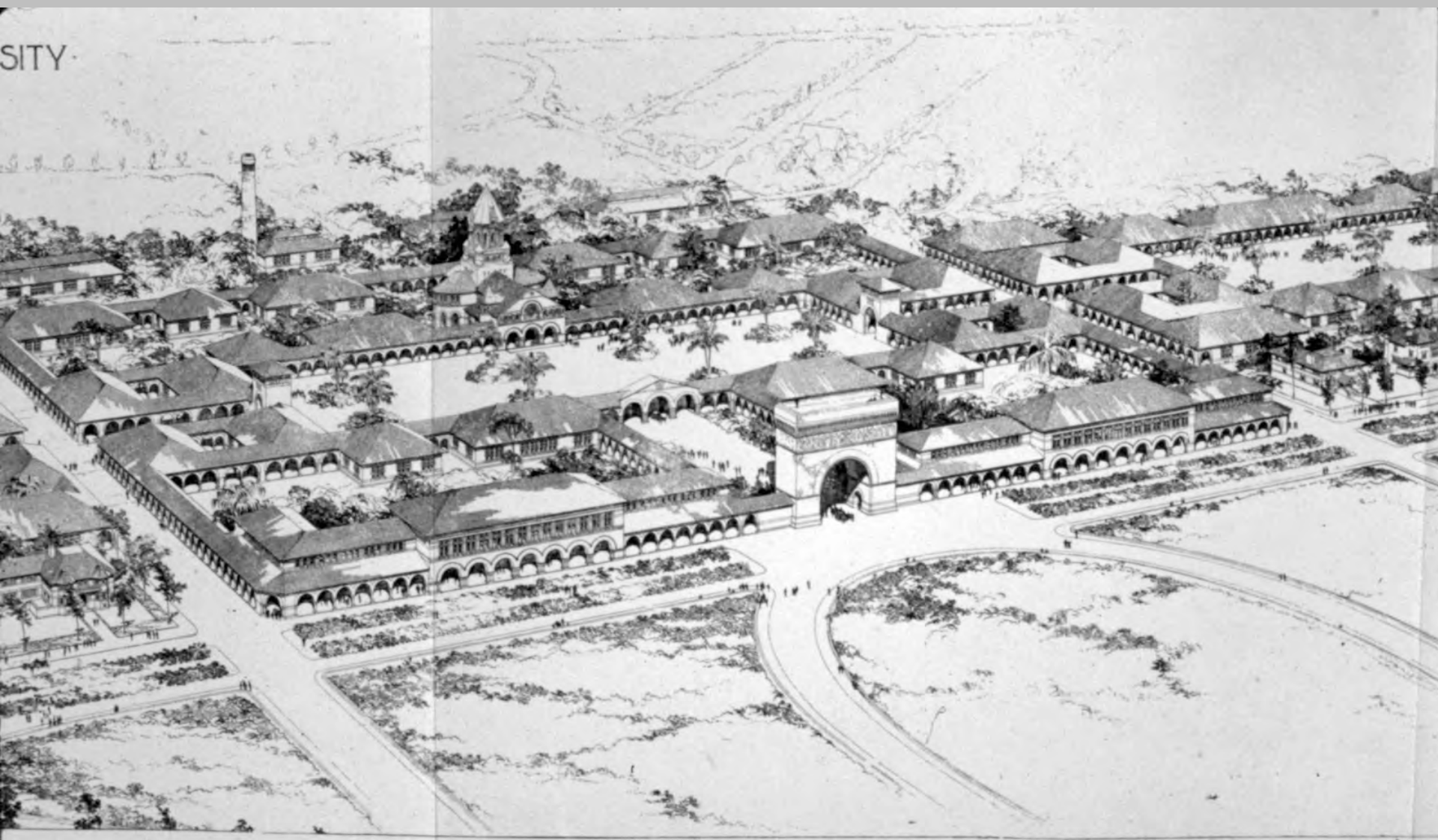




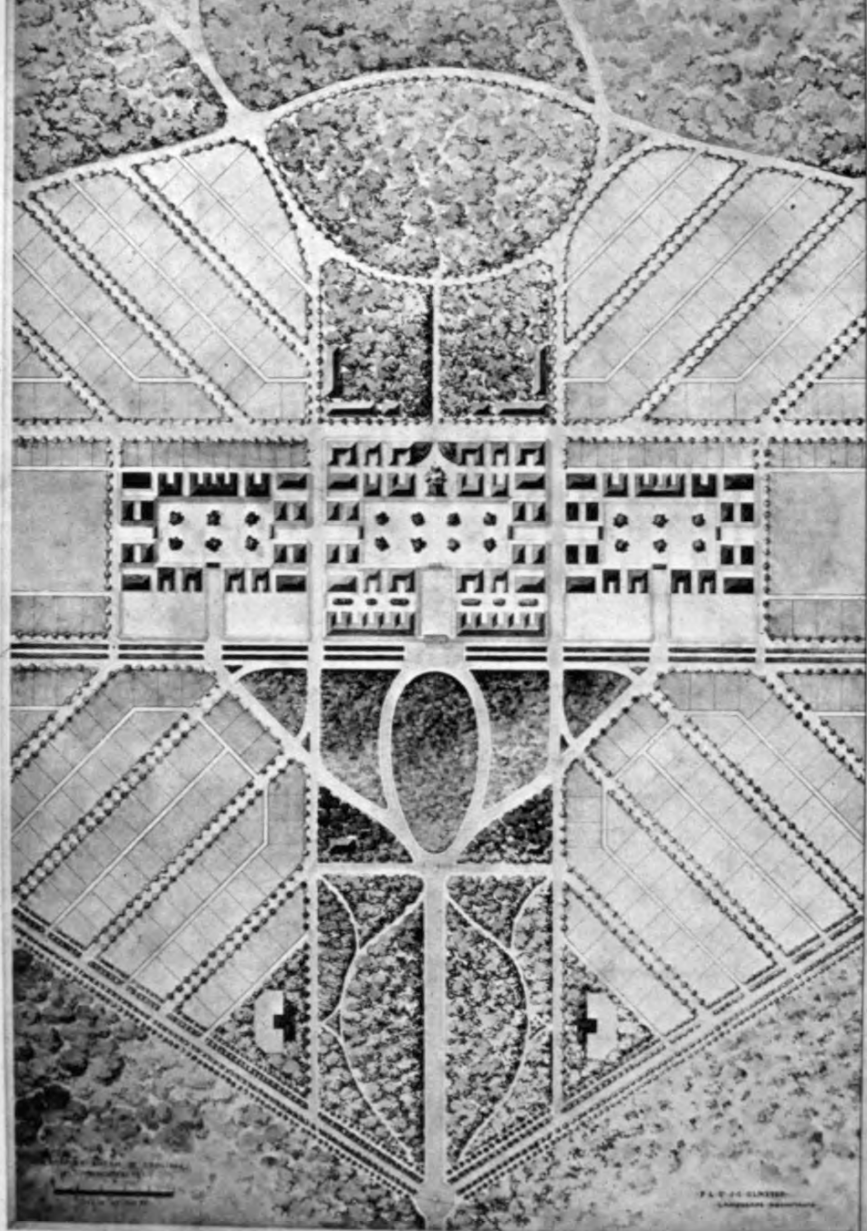
# Campus planning and design

Stanford and Berkley 1865

SITY



THE DELAND STANFORD JUNIOR UNIVERSITY  
PLAN OF CENTRAL PREMISES - 1888









# Parkways and Scenic Highways





What is a profession ?

# What is a profession ?

- Unique body of knowledge
- Unique skills
- Service to the public
- Behavior based on trust of society – granted autonomy

# Characteristics

- Expertise
- Responsibility to the public
- Responsibility to the environment
- Ethical practice and behavior
- Dedicated to the practice of LA

# Process of becoming a Landscape Architect

- Professional education – standardized curriculum, accreditation
- Internship – 3 years
- LARE exam - CLARB
- License/registration –states, CLARB, title and/or practice
- State police power to protect public (Health, Safety, Welfare) (CA first state in 1953, NY 1961)
- Practice
- Continuing education