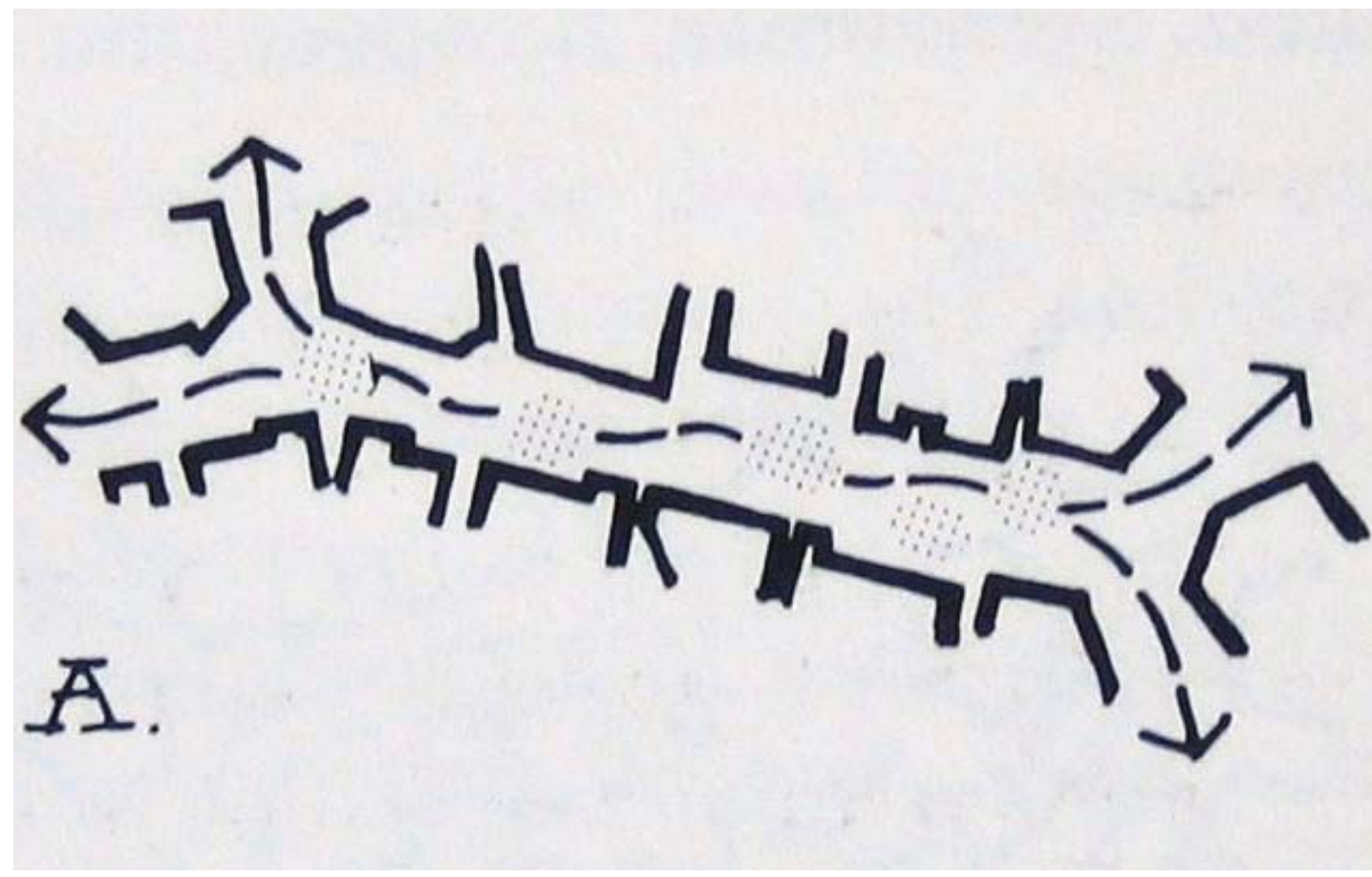


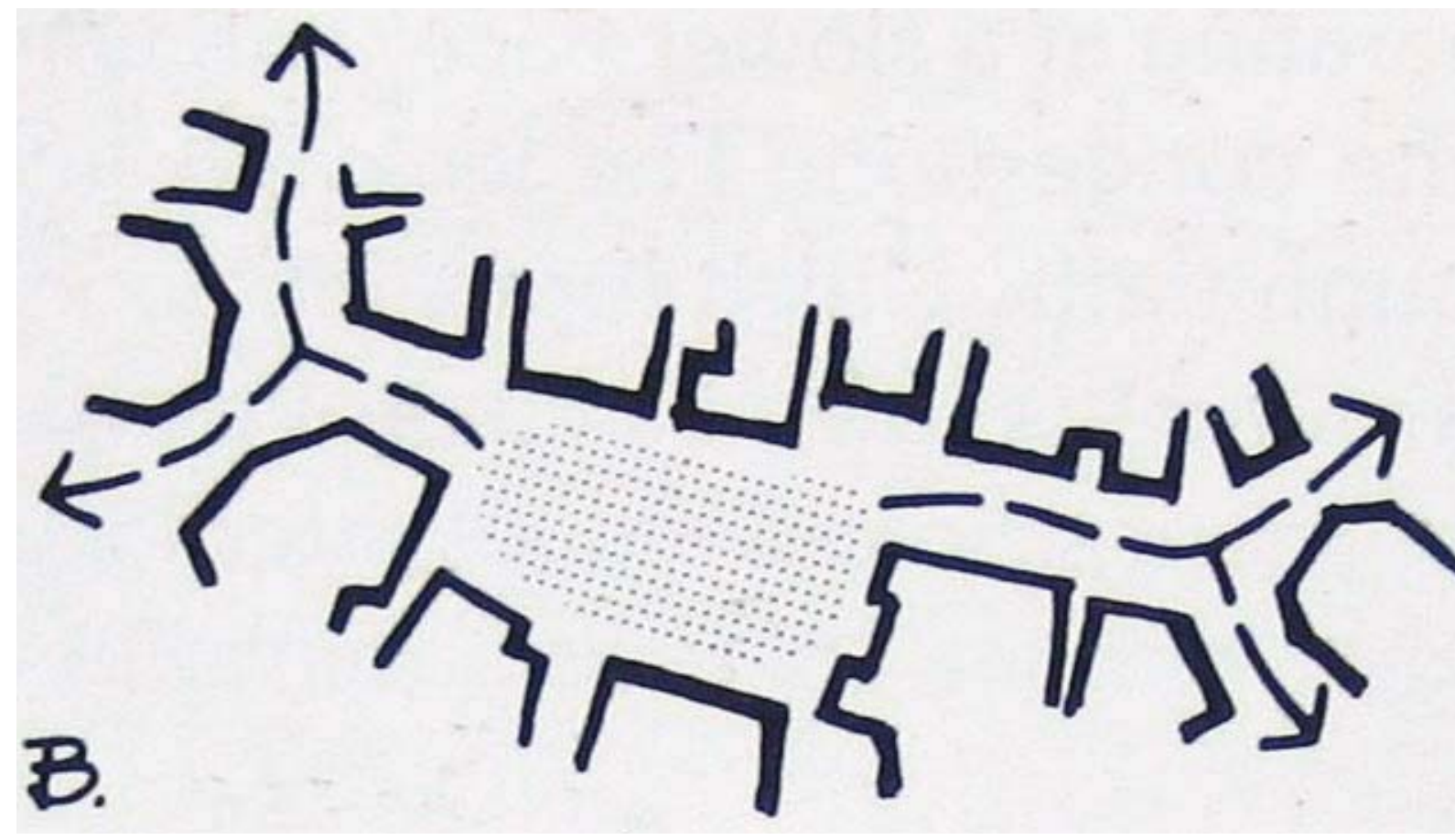
What is Going Wrong ?

...with Today's Main City Squares

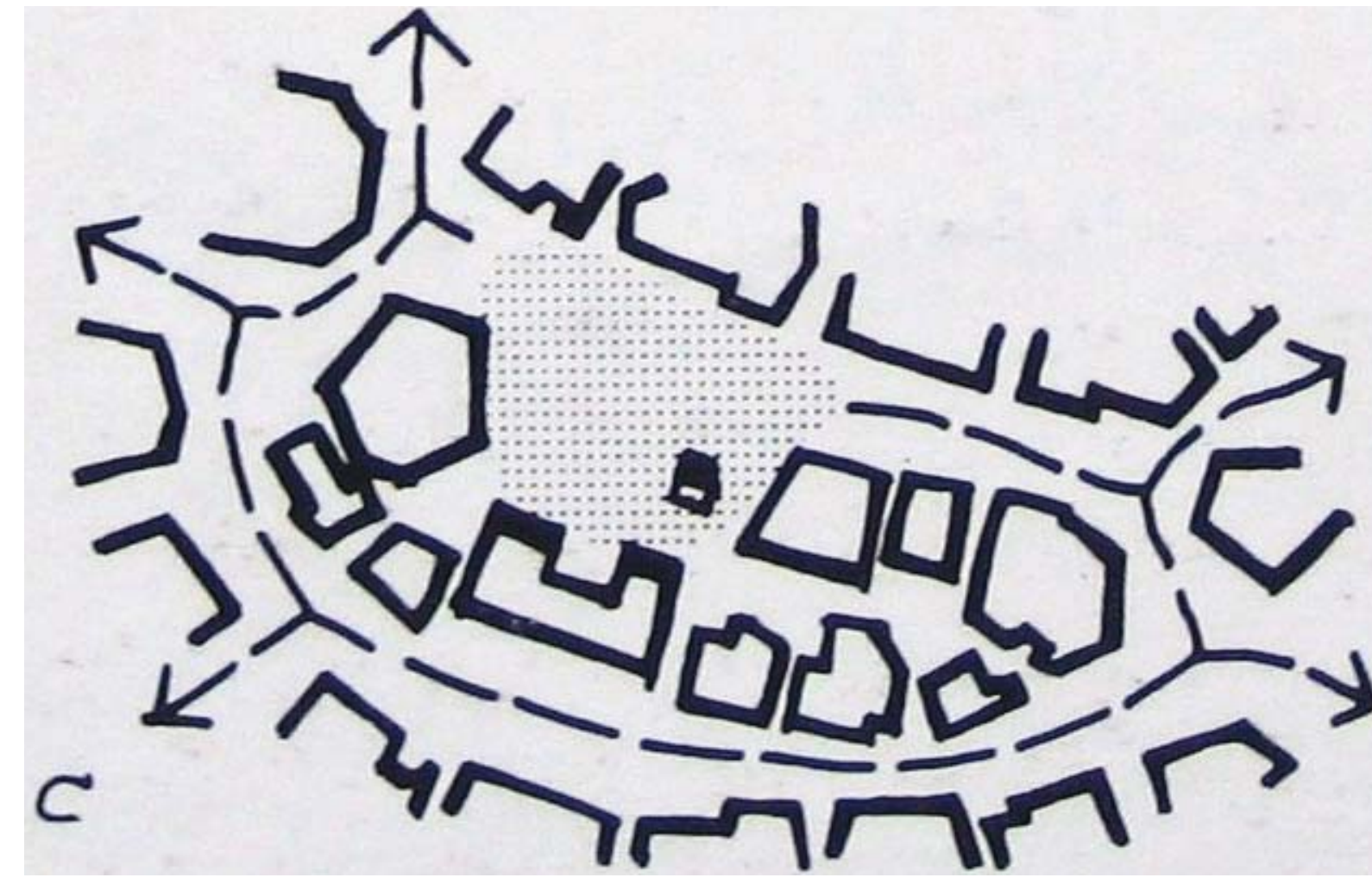
Line of History



Main street in use for trade, around the 8th century. (French, 1978)



Widening of the street; creating more room to trade, around the 11th century. (French, 1978)



True market square; separate traffic routes and placing of prominent buildings, developed around the 14th century. (French, 1978)



Old Market Square of Nottingham; still a main hub with a fountain and prominent buildings.

...from 'Necessity' to 'Preference'

Changes in Society



Increasing car ownership; city squares in use as car parks. (Lenzholzer, 2008)



Car parking in Almere; parking garages underneath the centre minimize walking distances.



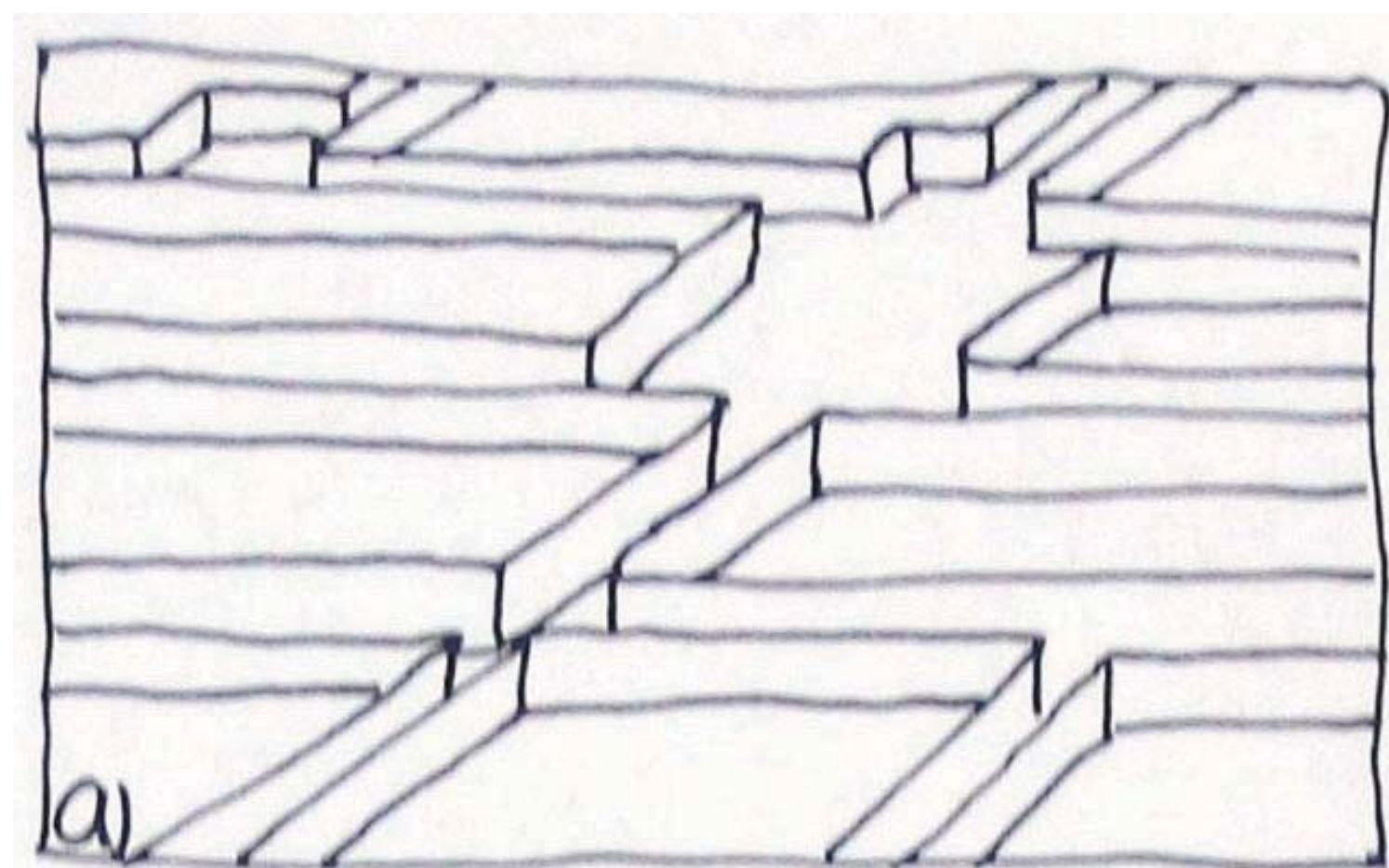
City centre of Milton Keynes; pedestrians do not have priority. (Picasa)



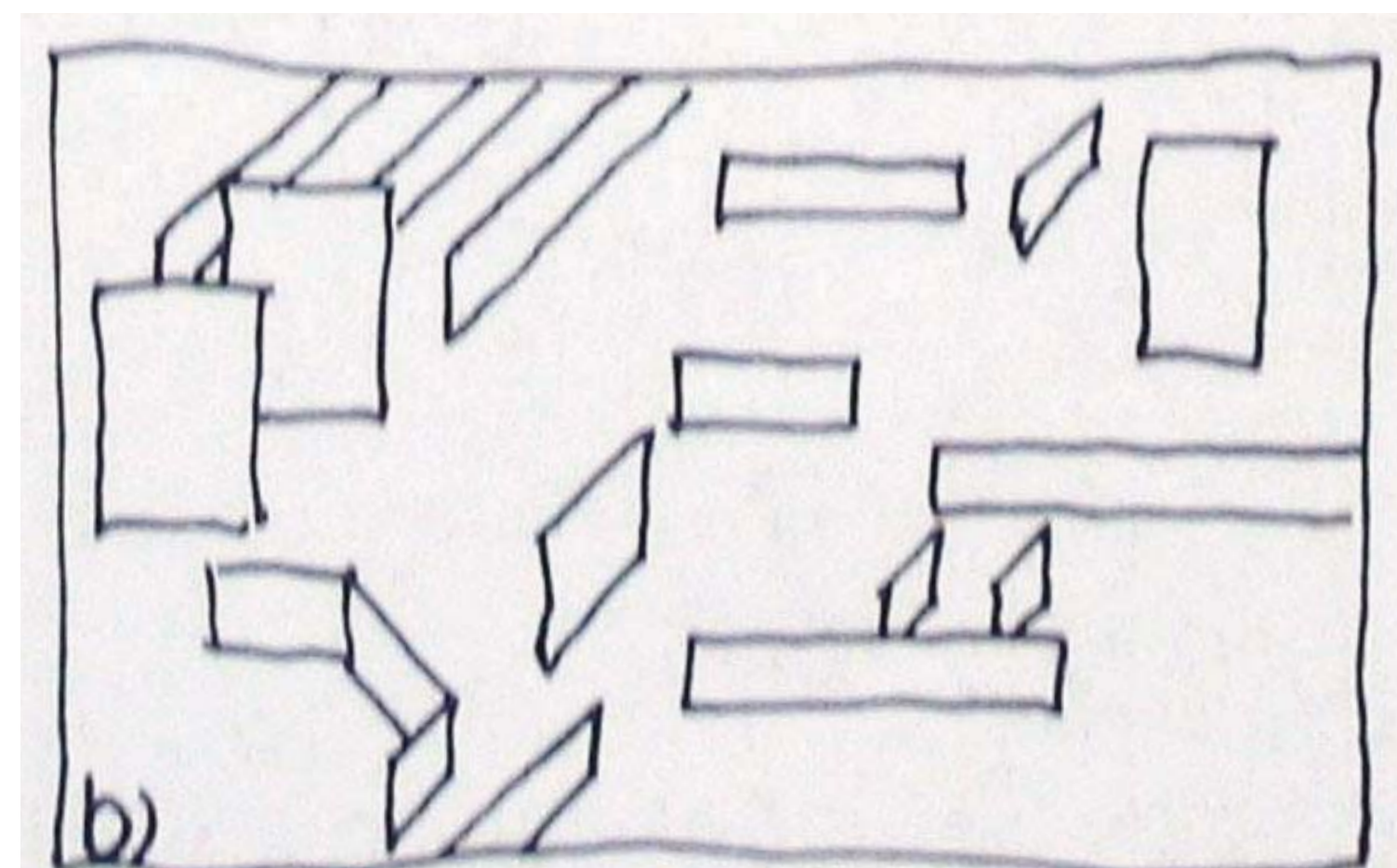
Virtual contact through mobile phone and Internet or face-to-face at the main square?

...from 'In-Natura' to 'Calculated'

'World view' of Planners & Designers



Traditional city; clear borders guide people through the city and to the square. (Krier, 1979)



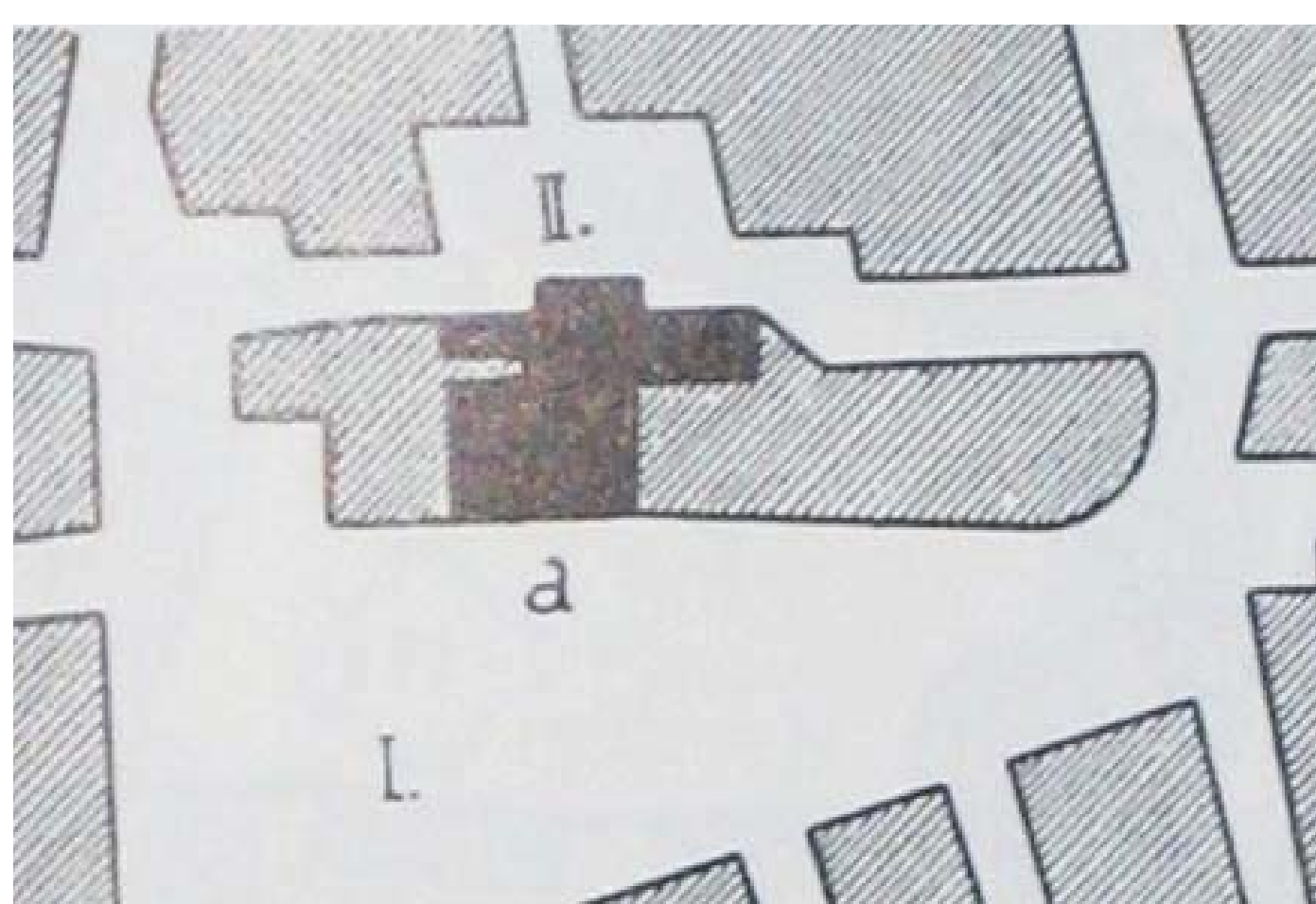
Modern city; unclear boundaries and undefined open spaces cause disorientation. (Krier, 1979)



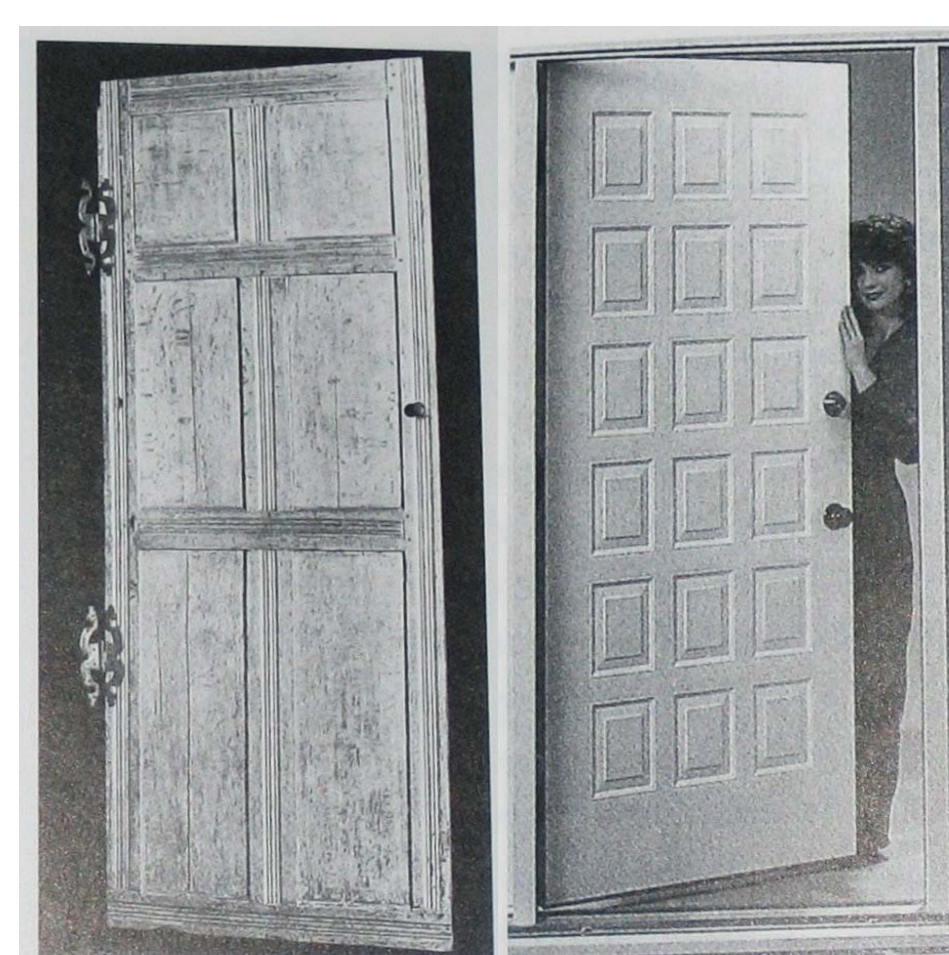
City centre of Zoetermeer; individual buildings with open spaces in-between. (Plaats.nl)



City centre of Almere; modern buildings, wide streets and left-over space. (Reijndorp, 2008)



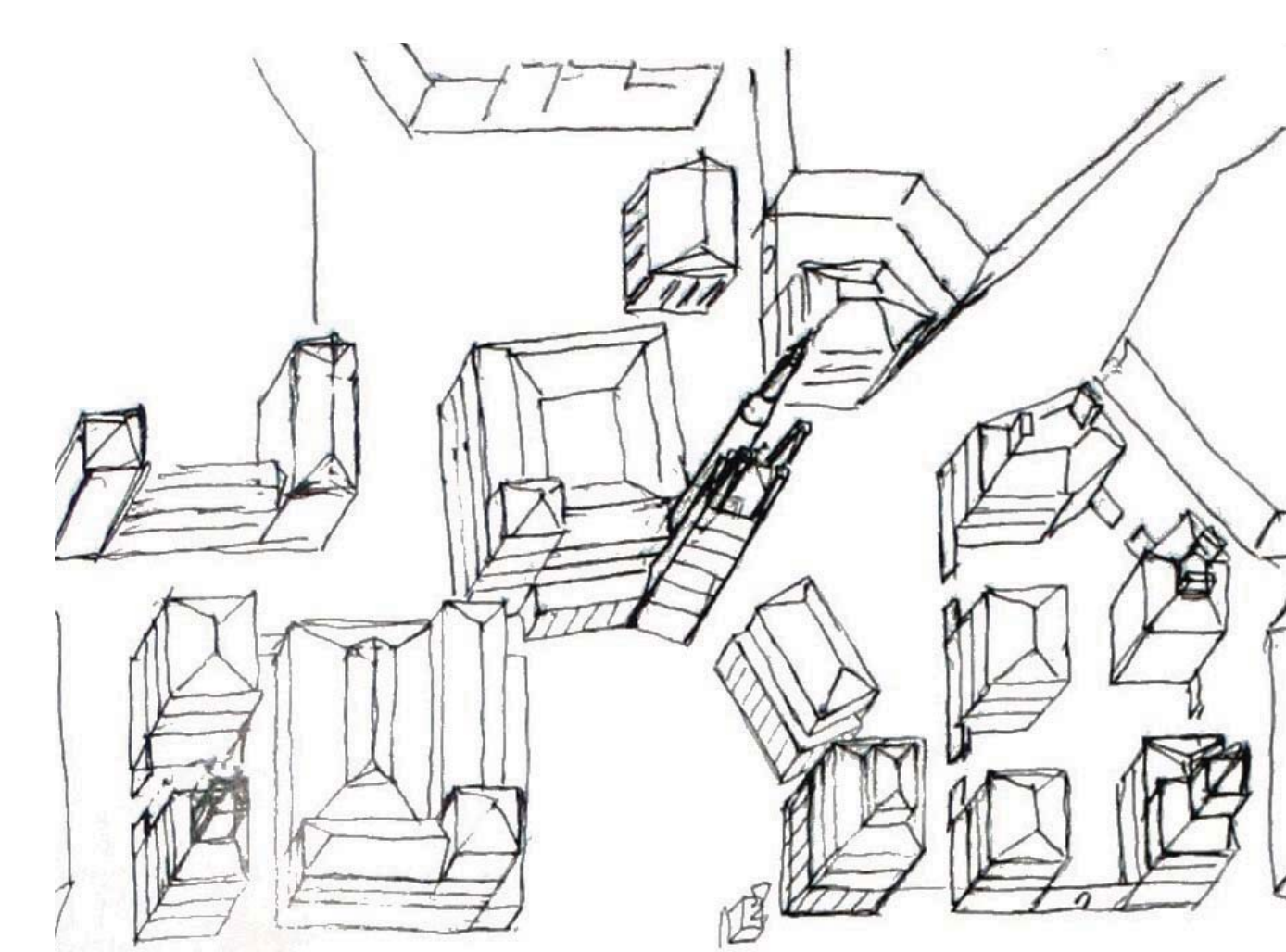
The difference between traditional and modern squares, according to Camillo Sitte; corresponding squares (left) and left-over spaces. This is gradual development from a pedestrian view (left) and design from a drawing board; creating space vs. placing buildings. (Sitte, 1889)



Example of actual details in design (left) and a modern imitation. (Alexander, 2002)



City centre of Almere; rectangular, top-down design with left-over spaces as main squares (red).



Léon Krier's design of Poundbury proves that a New Town can have a charming main square too. (Krier, 1998)

Today's Main City Squares in North-western Europe