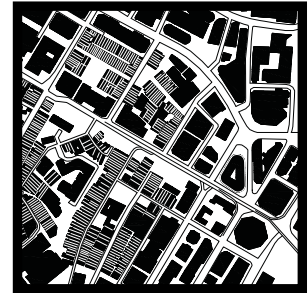


Is there a Right Density?

To many of us, urban density is mathematical: the average number of inhabitants per unit area. But are there other ways of understanding density? Architects and planners use figure-ground maps to study the relationship of built form to open space. Asst Prof **Erik G. L'Heureux** and his students at the Department of Architecture, School of Design and Environment, National University of Singapore, developed these images comparing one-square-kilometre sections of 10 iconic cities with 10 Singapore neighbourhoods. These suggest how density is manifested and experienced in different ways, raising further questions: Are dense cities always crowded? Can a crowded city be pleasant? Is there a right density for cities?



Manhattan, New York,
United States of America



Telok Ayer, Singapore



Kallang, Singapore



Tokyo, Japan



Rome, Italy



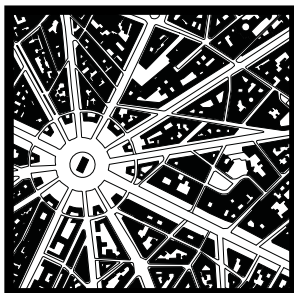
Chinatown, Singapore



Fort Canning, Singapore



Thanon Phetchaburi, Bangkok, Thailand



Paris, France



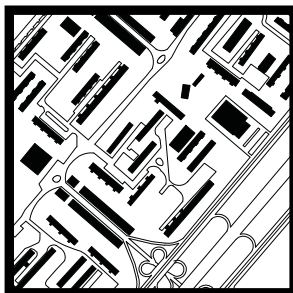
Clarke Quay, Singapore



Amsterdam, Netherlands



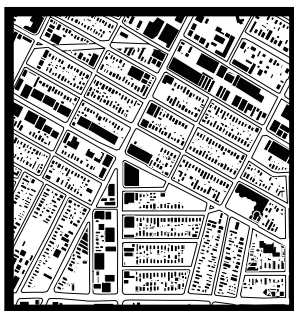
Orchard, Singapore



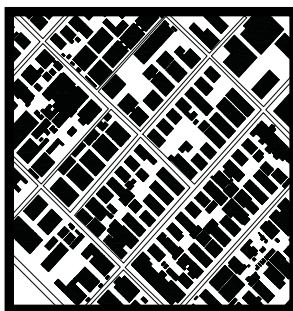
Brasilia, Brazil



Tiong Bahru, Singapore



Los Angeles, United States of America



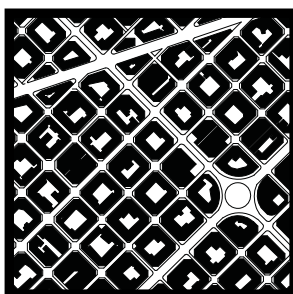
Tuas, Singapore



Venice, Italy



Toa Payoh, Singapore



Eixample, Barcelona, Spain



Little India, Singapore