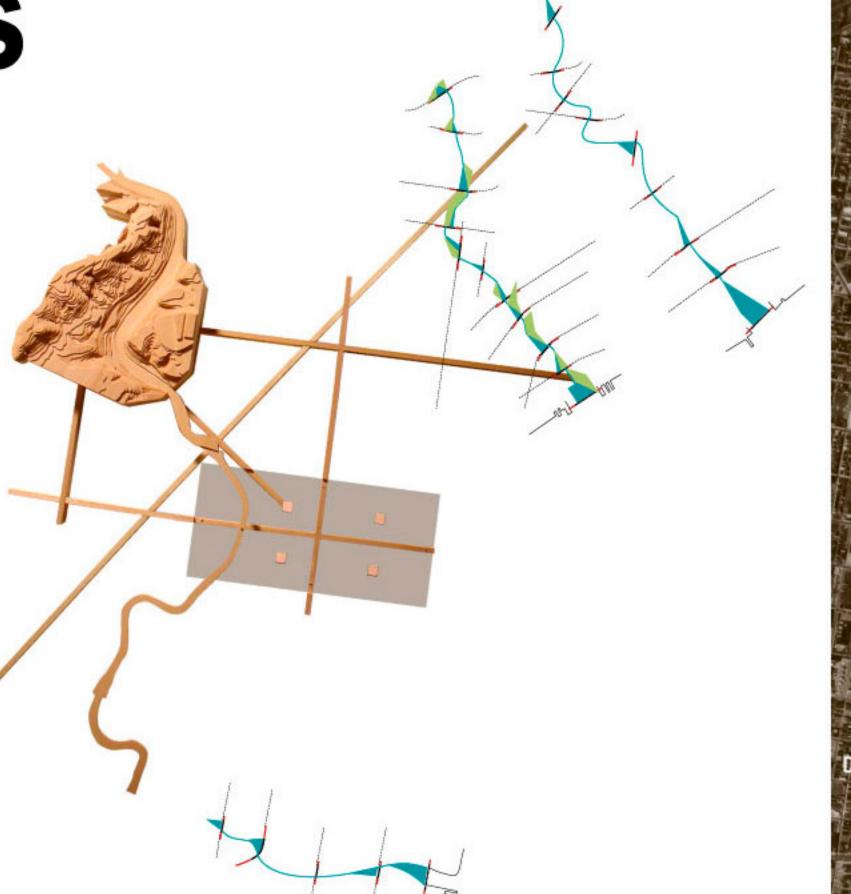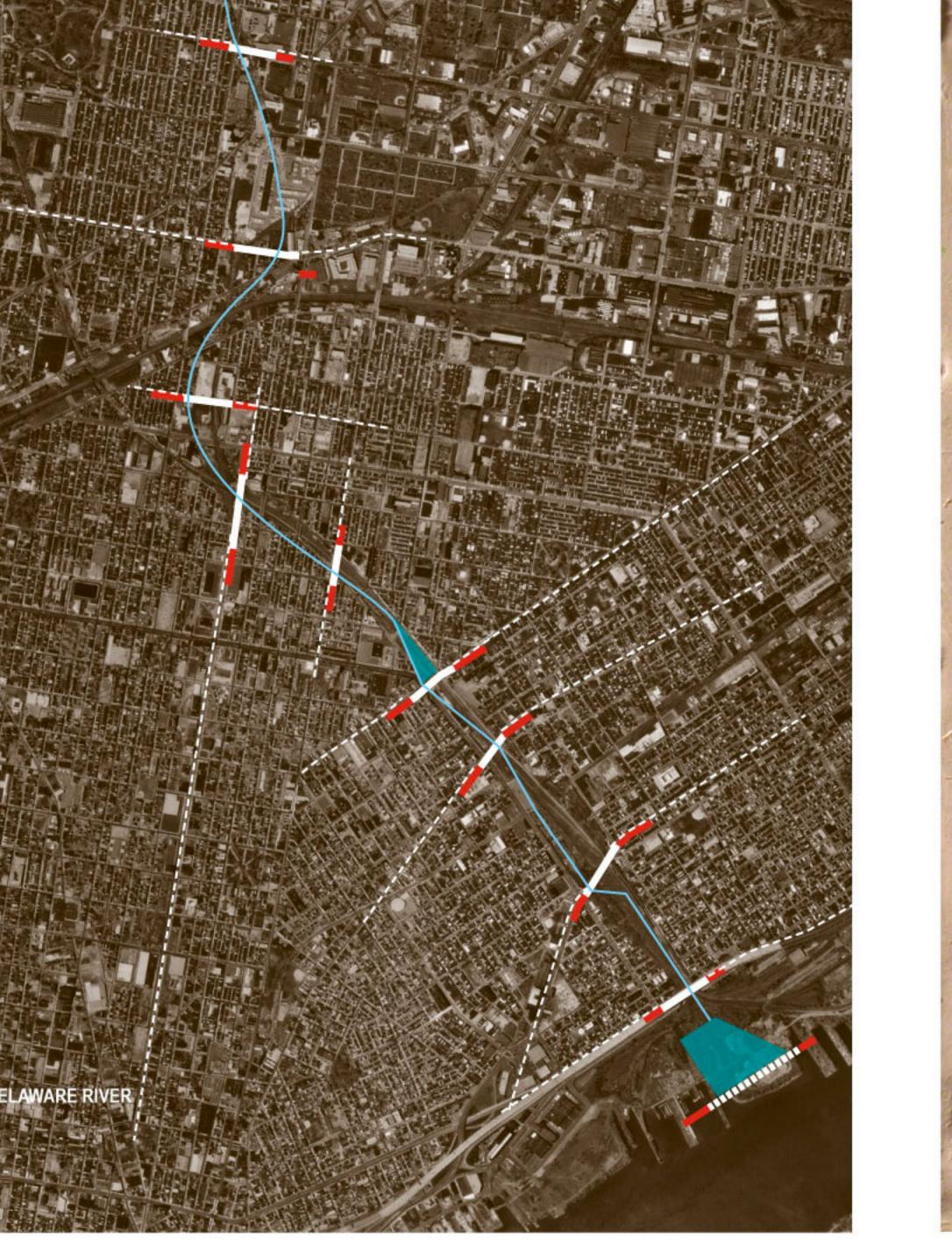The topography of Philadelphia has changed considerably over the last two centuries. Creeks which once connected low points and pioneered industry are held in sewers and storm water drains beneath a surface altered by cuts and fills.

We propose to engineer new creeks on this altered surface, transforming it yet again into a topography that gathers in pools and streams rather than in drains. These gatherings are places for a biotic culture that engenders biotech invention toward a new infrastructure and architecture .
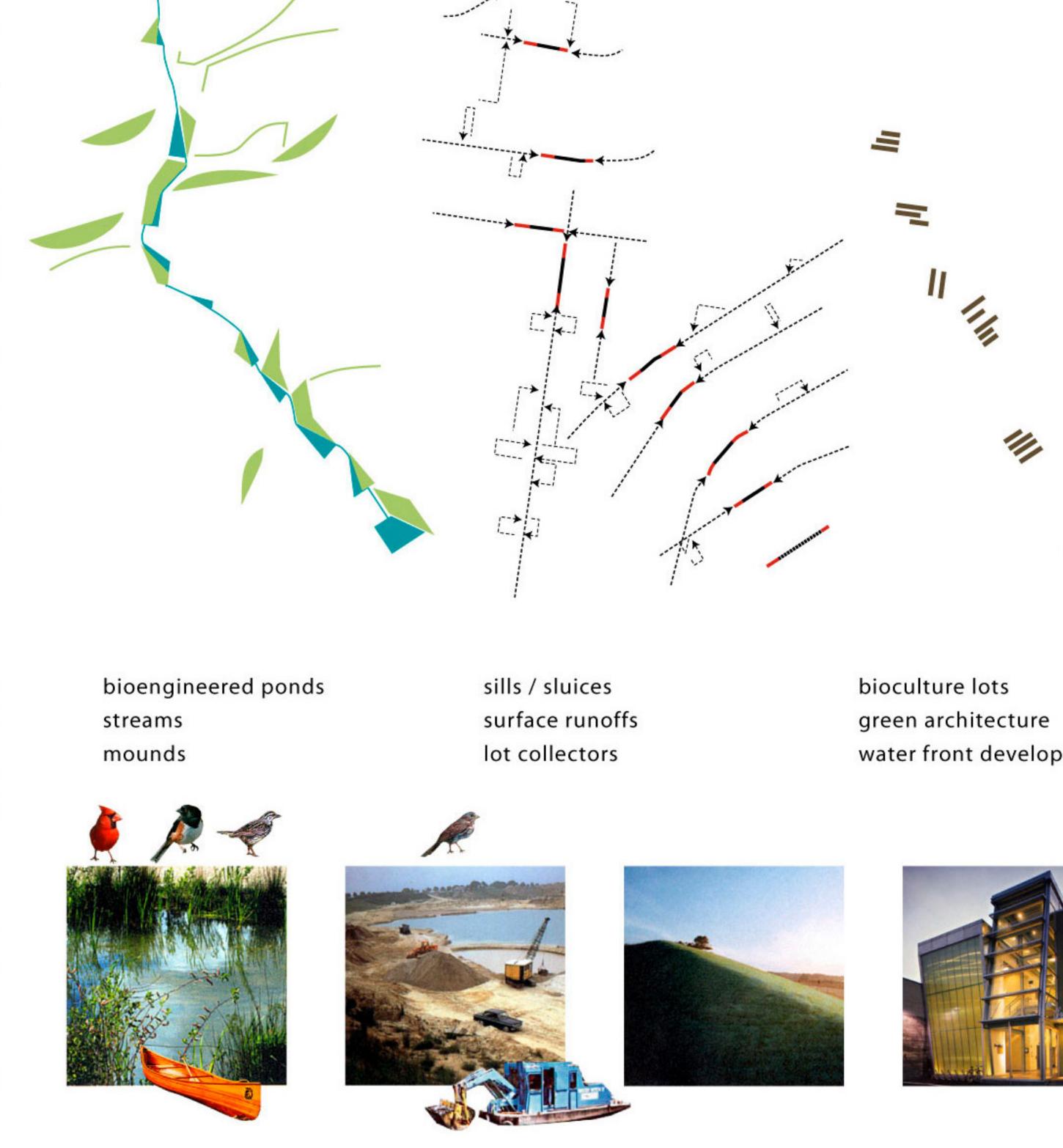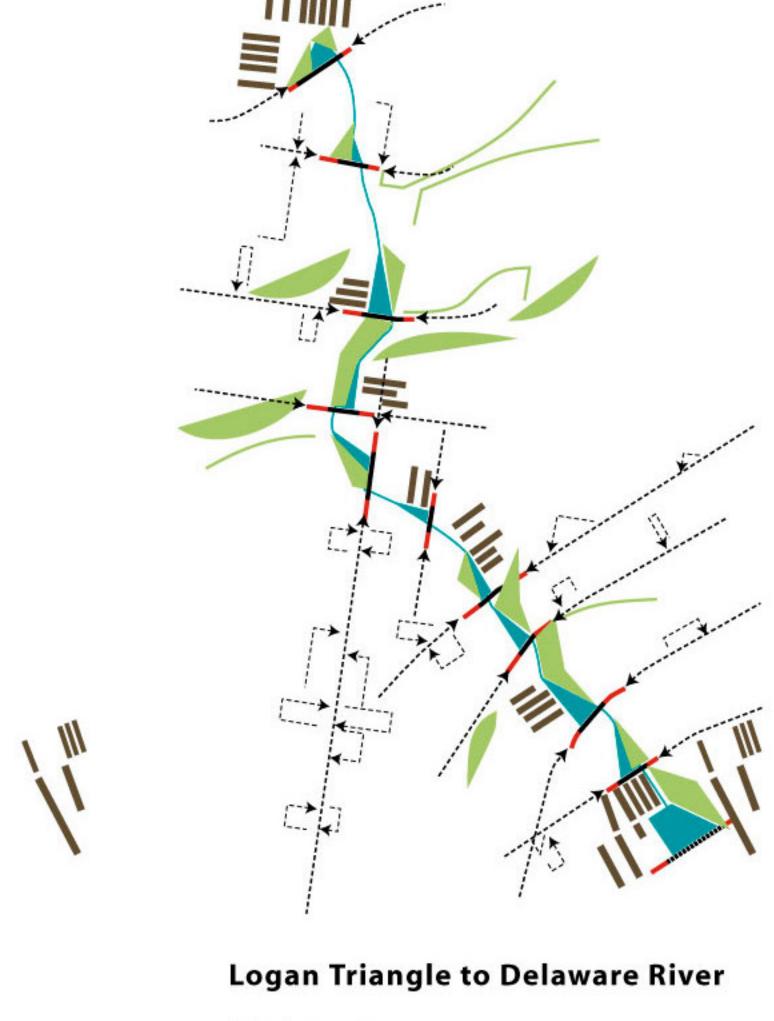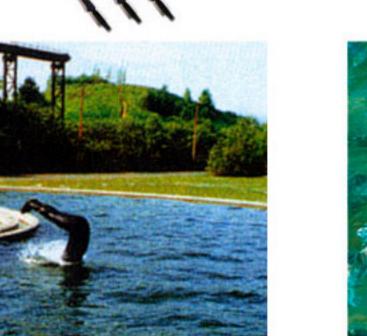
Philadelphia, 1794

creeks

LOGAN TRIANGLE

DELAWARE RIVER

Logan Triangle to Delaware River

bioengineered ponds
streams
mounds

sills / sluices
surface runoffs
lot collectors

bioculture lots
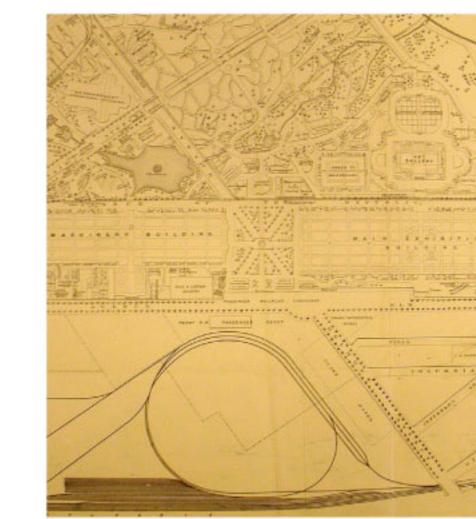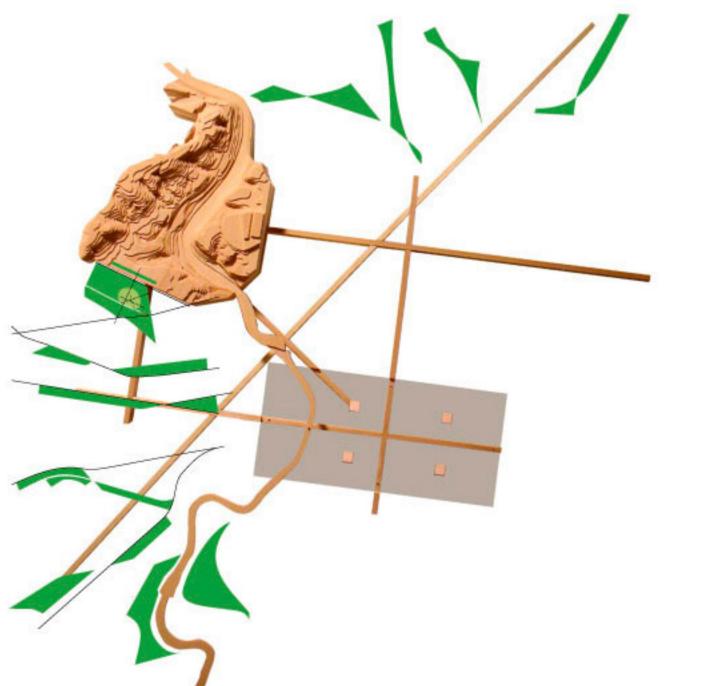green architecture
water front developments

biotic way
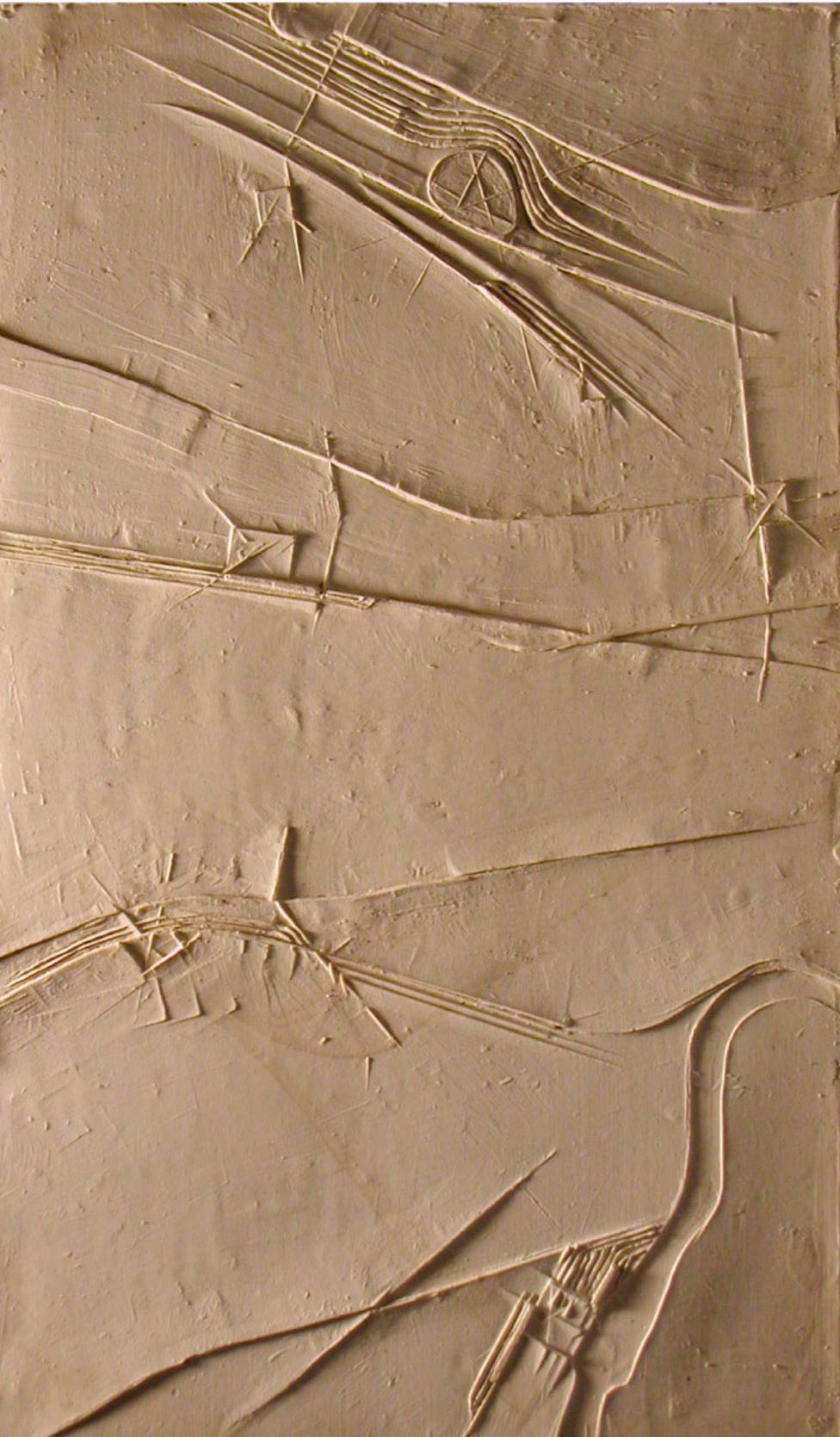reduced train (Conrail) track
remediating grounds

Squares and parks of Philadelphia have served the city in times of both, planned and unforeseen events with fairs, markets, hospitals, housing, etc. In such times these grounds have transformed and rebuilt communities. They have the capacity to nurture innovation, competition and cooperation.
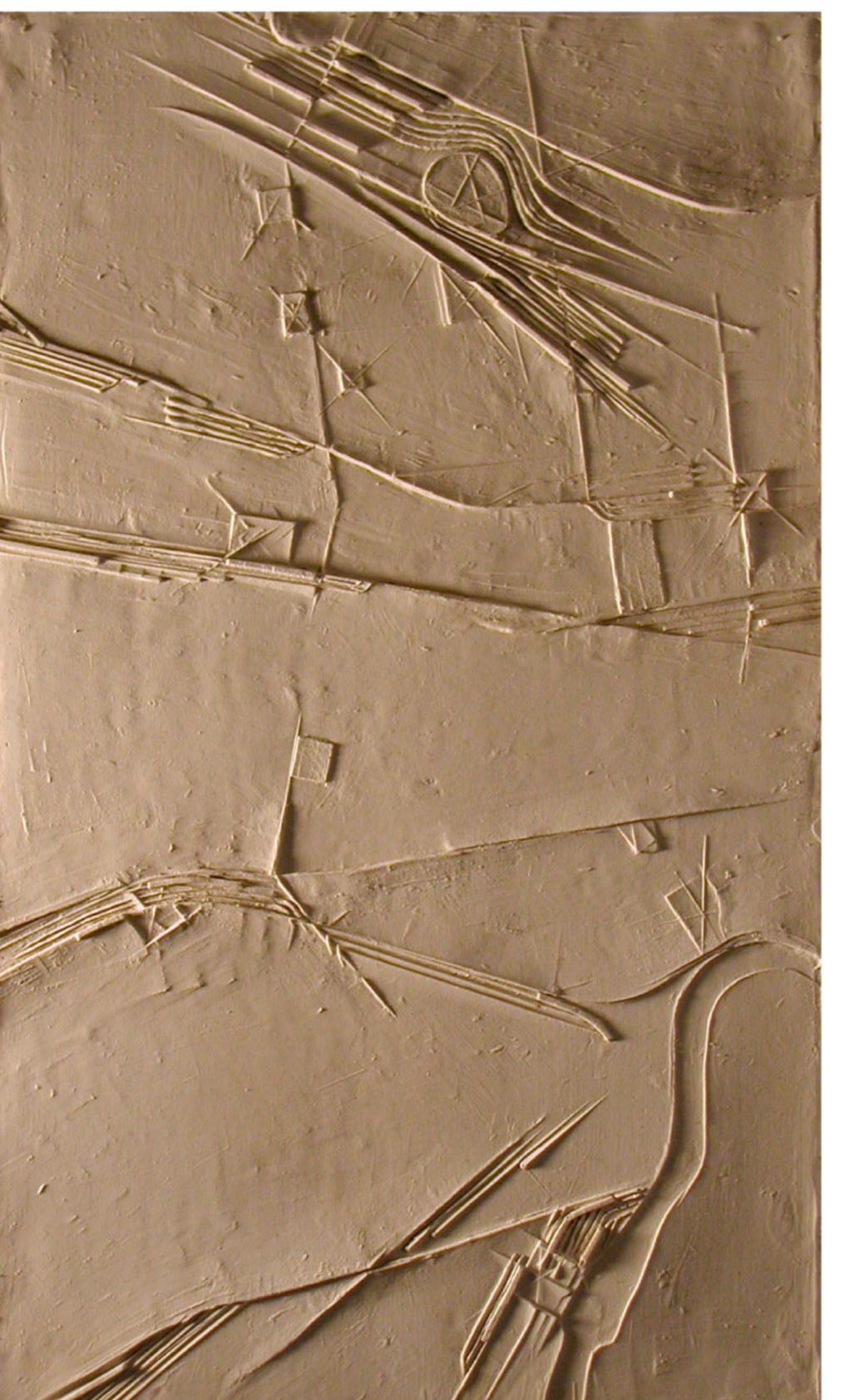
We propose to gather railroad adjacencies and vacant tracts to accommodate this need for a commons. In the meantime these grounds will provide for industrial fairs, experimental cultivation, community gardens and markets. They will serve in a partnership between the biotech enterprise and community.
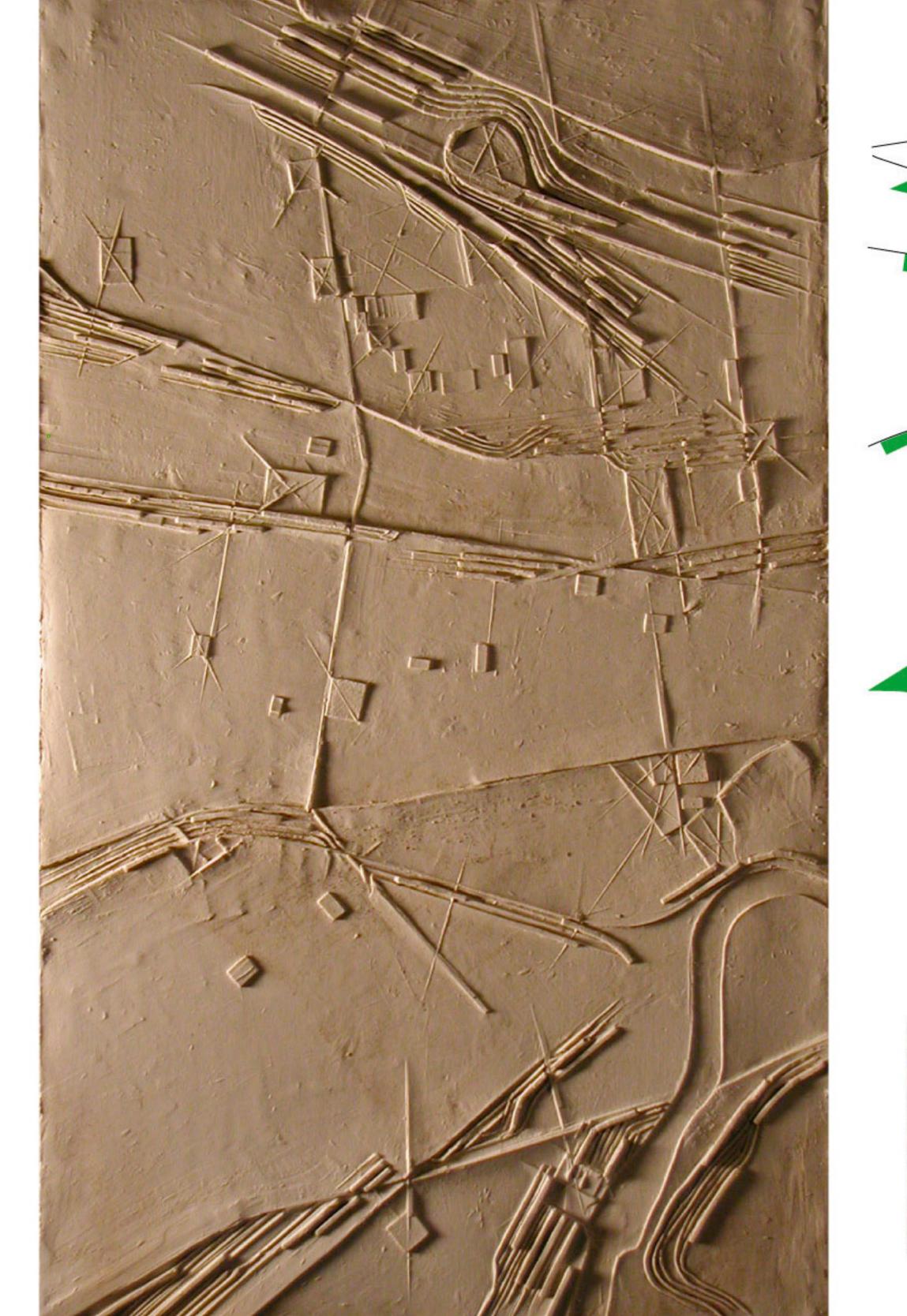
Centennial Exhibition, Fairmount Park, 1876

grounds

FAIRMOUNT PARK

BARTRAM'S GARDEN

Bartram's Garden to Fairmount Park

fair grounds
experimental fields
botanical gardens

commons
community gardens
parks / playgrounds

plant depots
greenhouses
biotech enterprises

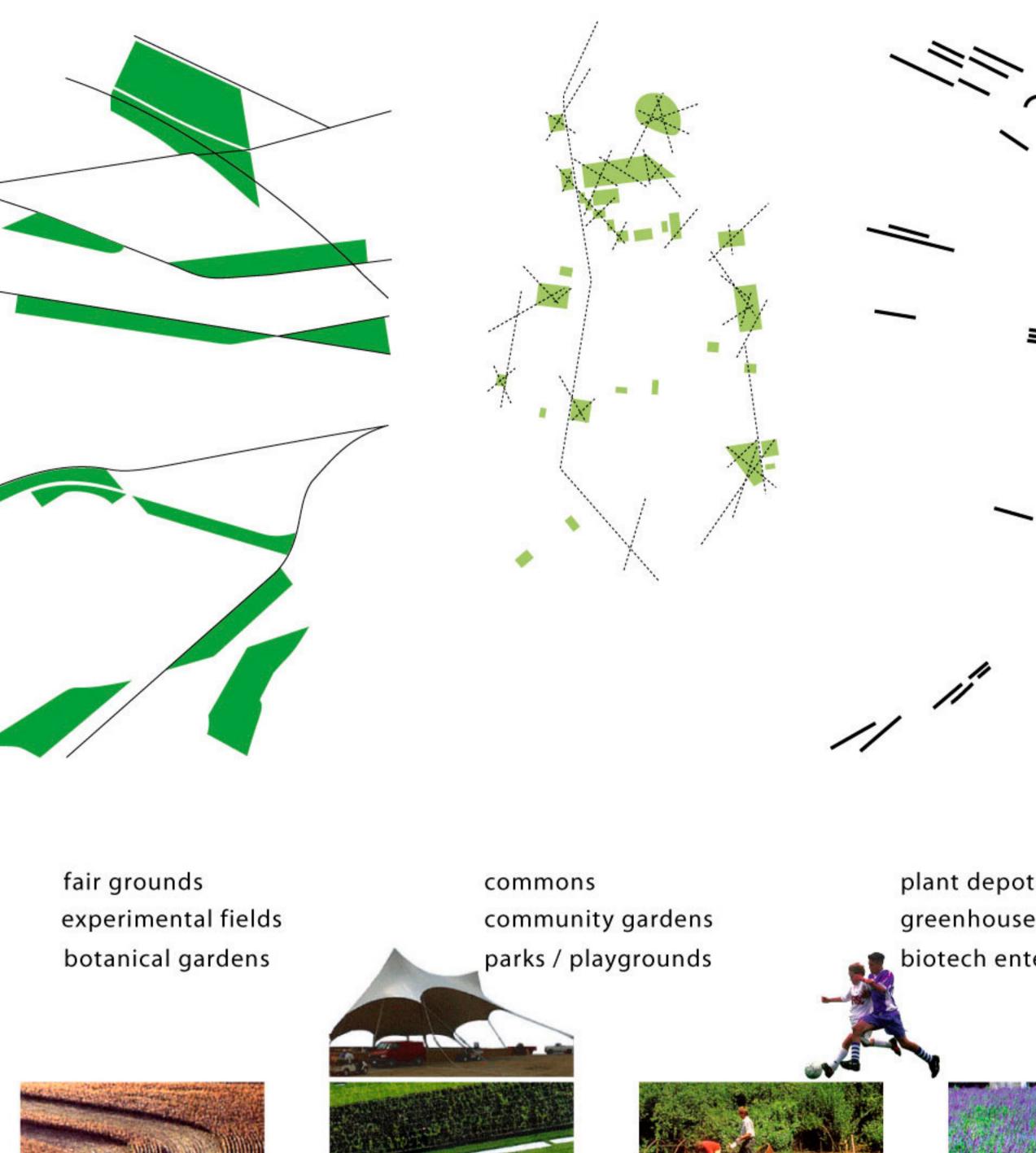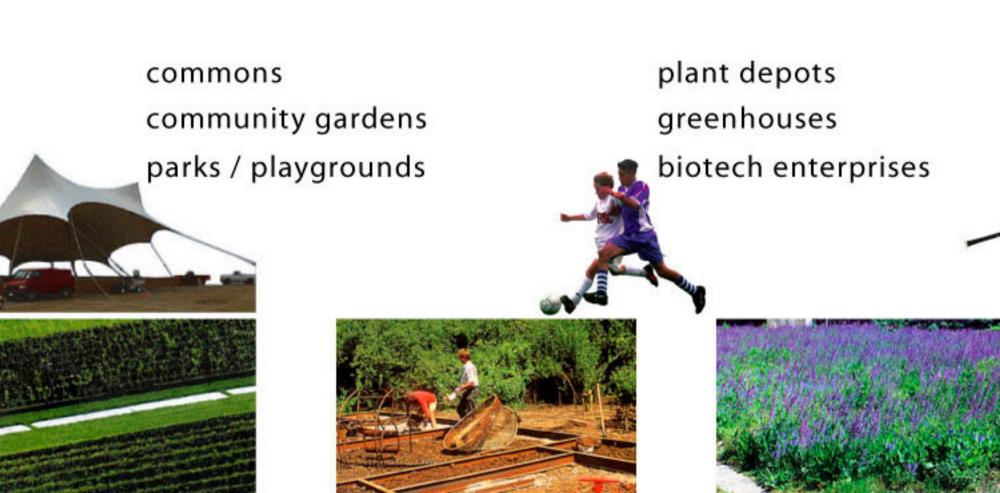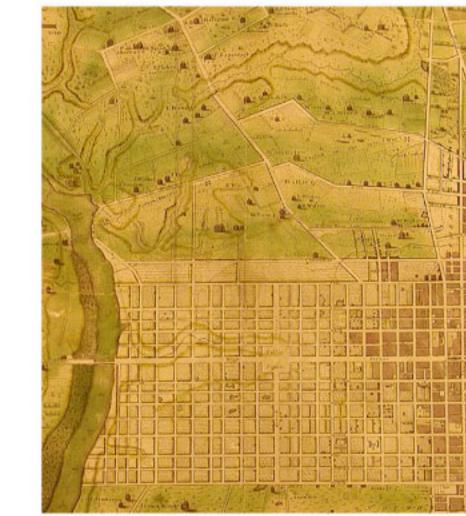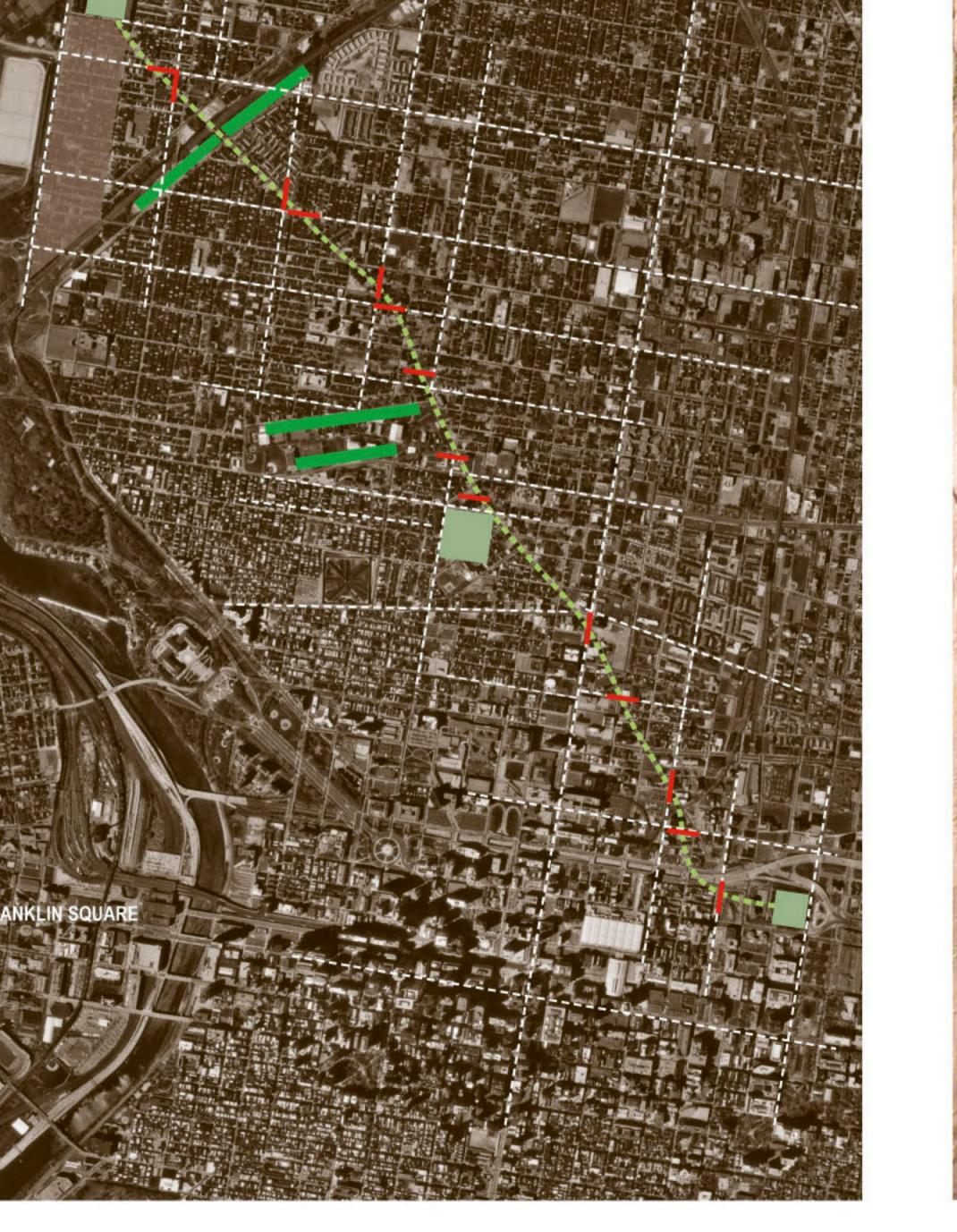cultivated tracts
markets
community grounds

Philadelphia, 1796

Trails that appropriated the commons for temporal occupancy were characteristic of the Native American terrain. These thoroughfares asserted themselves within the settler's grid but were narrowed to streets to provide frontage for properties and vectors for traffic.

We propose to re-engineer these trails as biotic and pedestrian corridors and to exploit their intersection with streets by making them zones of mixed use that enjoy traffic and pedestrian access, increased permeability, high-tech and agrarian productions.

trails

FAIRMOUNT PARK

FRANKLIN SQUARE

Franklin Square to Fairmount Park

streets crossings	long lots	biotech enclaves	bio-tourist corridor
squares	experimental cultivations	mixed development	pedestrian thoroughfare
pedestrian trail	productive grounds	permeable parking lots	tech park/farms