

## LONDON'S GARDEN SQUARES

Bedford Square, Bloomsbury Estate, 1775

The Bedford Estate was developed in 1775 by John Bedford, a wealthy merchant and politician. It was the first garden square in London, and it set a precedent for the development of other garden squares in the city. The estate was designed as a self-contained community, with a central square, a church, and a school. The square was surrounded by a row of houses, and the houses were designed to be uniform in style and height. The estate was a success, and it became a model for other garden squares in London and elsewhere.



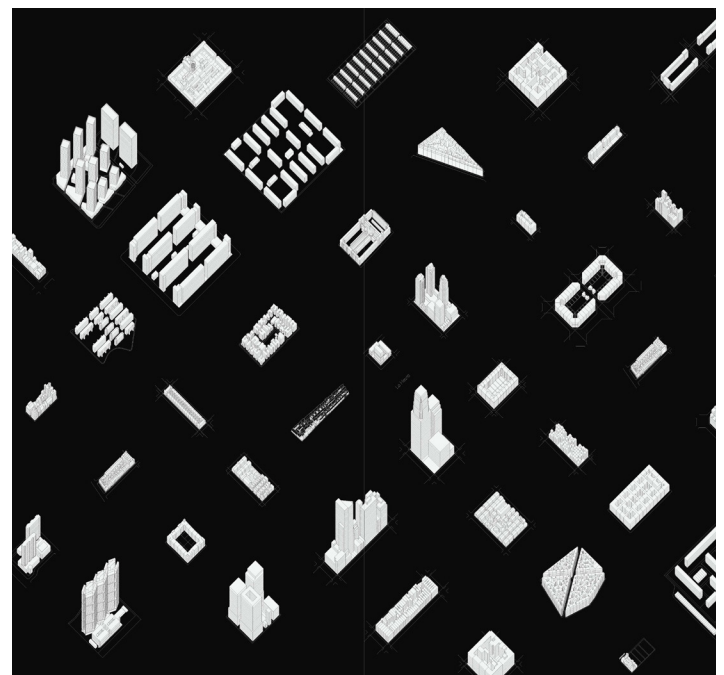
Bedford Square, Bloomsbury Estate, 1775



## Urban Grid: Open Form for City Design

by Joan Busquets and Dingliang Yang

*Urban Grid: Open Form for City Design* is the result of a five-year design research project undertaken by professor Joan Busquets and Dingliang Yang at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. The research that is the foundation for this publication emphasizes the value of open forms for city design, a publication that specifically insists that the grid has the unique capacity to absorb and channel urban transformation flexibly and productively. *Urban Grid* analyzes cities and urban projects that utilize the grid as the main structural device for allowing rational development, and goes further to propose speculative design projects capable of suggesting new urban paradigms drawn from the grid as a design tool. Consisting of six major parts, it is divided into the following topics: 1) the atlas of grid cities, 2) grid projects through history, 3) the 20th-century dilemma, 4) the atlas of contemporary grid projects, 5) projective tools for the future, and 6) good-grid city as an open form coping with new urban issues.



### Contributors

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