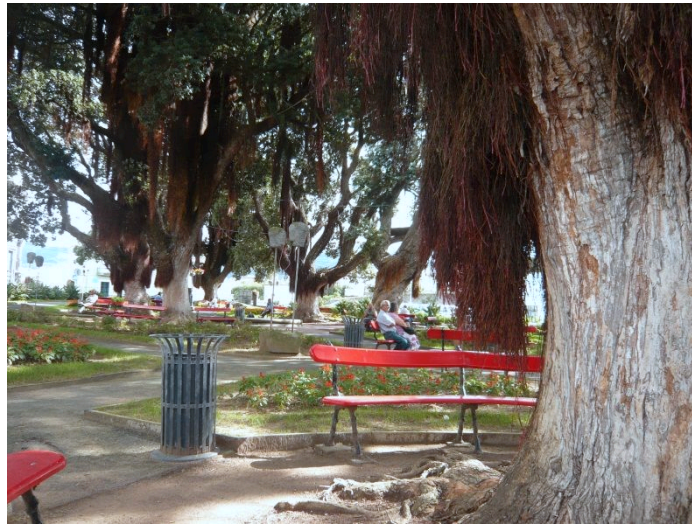


## ACCESSIBLE GREEN (60) <sup>1</sup>

The picture shows an arche-  
the pattern of ‘accessible  
Grande on Acores island Sao



typical example of  
green’ in Ribeira  
Miguel, Portugal.

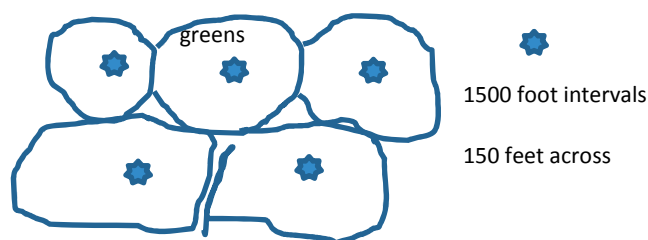
**Introductory paragraph**, which sets the context of the pattern . . . . at the heart of neigh-  
bourhoods, and near all work communities, there need to be small greens – IDENTIFIABLE  
NEIGHBOURHOOD (14).



**Essence of the problem:** People need green open places to go to; when they are close they use  
them. But if the greens are more than three minutes away, the distance overwhelms the need.

**Empirical background of the pattern:** Parks are meant to satisfy these needs. But parks, as they are  
usually understood, are rather large and widely spread through the city. Very few people live within  
three minutes of a park. This problem can only be solved if hundreds of small parks – or greens – are  
scattered widely, and so profusely, that every house and every workplace in the city is within three  
minutes walk of the nearest one. Therefore:

**Solution:** Build one open public green within three minutes’ walk – about 750 feet – of every house  
and workplace. This means the greens need to be uniformly scattered at 1500-foot intervals,  
through-out the city. Make the greens at least 150 feet across, and 60,000 square feet in area.



**Paragraph** which ties the pattern to all those smaller patterns in the language, which are needed to  
complete this pattern, to embellish it, to fill it in.

Pay special attention to old trees, look after them – TREE PLACES (171); shape the green so that it  
forms one or more positive room-lime spaces and surround it with tress, or walls, or buildings, but  
not roads or cars – POSITVE OUTDOOR SPACE (106), GARDEN WALL (173); and perhaps set aside  
some part of the green for special community functions – HOLY GROUND (66), GRAVE SITES (70),  
LOCAL SPORTS (72), ANIMALS (74), SLEEPING IN PUBLIC (94) . . . .

<sup>1</sup> ALEXANDER, Christopher et al. (1977): A Pattern Language. N.Y.: Oxford University Press. p.304