

ACCESSIBLE GREEN (60)¹

The picture shows an archetypal pattern of 'accessible green' in Ribeira Grande on Acores island Sao



typical example of 'green' in Ribeira Grande, Portugal.

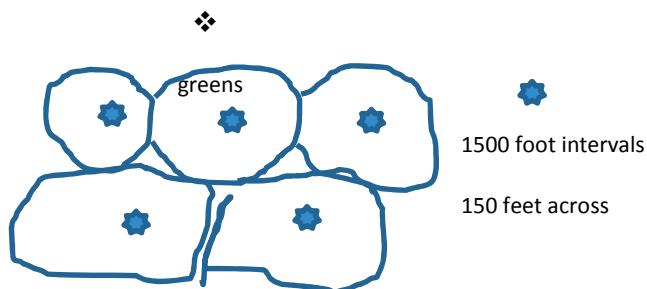
Introductory paragraph, which sets the context of the pattern at the heart of neighbourhoods, and near all work communities, there need to be small greens – IDENTIFIABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD (14).



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-like spaces and surround it with trees, or walls, or buildings, but not roads or cars – POSITIVE 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)

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