

Figure 8.15 Amsterdam South**Figure 8.16** The Stock Exchange, Amsterdam**Figure 8.17** Berlage's first plan for Amsterdam South (Giedion, 1954)

8.15a



8.15b

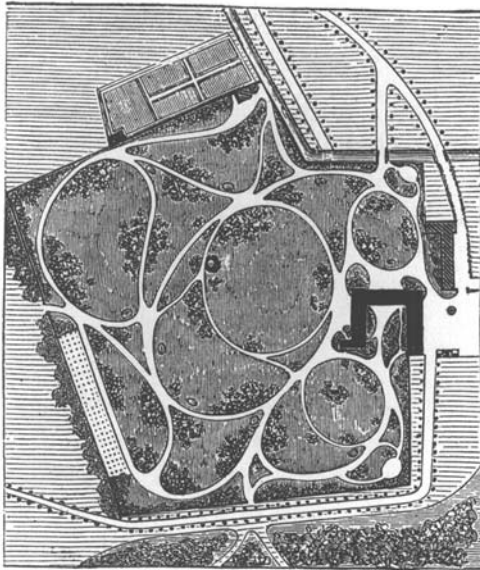


8.16



8.17

The second scheme for Amsterdam South by Berlage was made in 1915. The plan, this time, provided a framework of streets only (Figure 8.19). The most prominent feature of the scheme is the junction of three streets to form a 'Y' which is approached from the Amstel River. The streets are wide and airy with tasteful landscaping: behind the trees which line the roads are the continuous four-storey façades typical of the expressionist architecture of the Amsterdam School. Between the roads are street blocks of four-storey development surrounding in places spacious lawns with shrubberies. Though not as innovative as his first scheme of 1902, the parts of his adopted plan which were completed are civilized and urbane. Giedion, the apologist for the modern movement in architecture, is rather dismissive of Berlage's efforts: 'The example (Amsterdam South) may



8.18

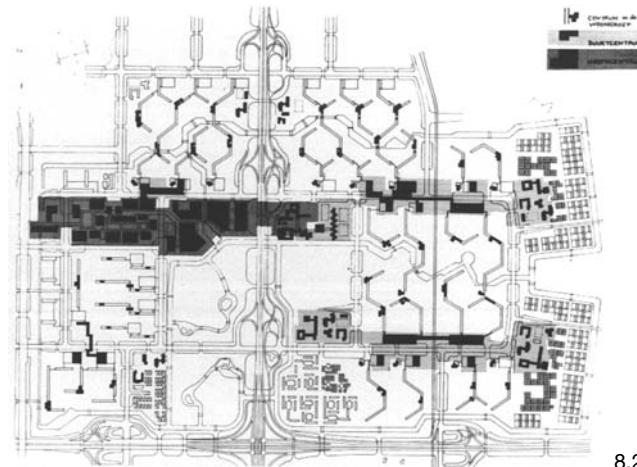
serve to show that in 1900 even the most progressive minds were affected by a tendency toward an artificial monumentality – an artificial or pseudo monumentality because it was used to hide the uncertainty and perplexity with which the organization of a town was approached, even when *carte blanche* had been given to the planner' (Giedion, 1954). Where quarters followed the precepts of the modern movement in architecture as at Bijlmermeer in Amsterdam, built in the late 1960s and early 1970s, they compare unfavourably with the delightful work of Berlage and his expressionist architectural collaborators (Figures 8.20 and 8.21).

VIENNA: OTTO WAGNER

Otto Wagner (1841–1918) prepared a planning scheme for a quarter in Vienna in



8.19



8.20

1910. Like his contemporary, Berlage, he did not pursue a garden city approach to planning the quarter, preferring the traditional urban form of the continental city which has as its basic module the street block of four, five or six storeys with central light well. Wagner's layout is rigidly formal, a dull rectangular grid with long axial streets (Figure 8.22). While Wagner's approach to urban design is pedantically formal, he was among the first to see that the needs of the

Figure 8.18 French nineteenth-century garden (Giedion, 1954)

Figure 8.19 Berlage's second plan for Amsterdam South (Public Works Department, Amsterdam, 1975)

Figure 8.20 Bijlmermeer (Public Works Department, Amsterdam, 1975)