URBAN PLANNING

Portfolio 2023

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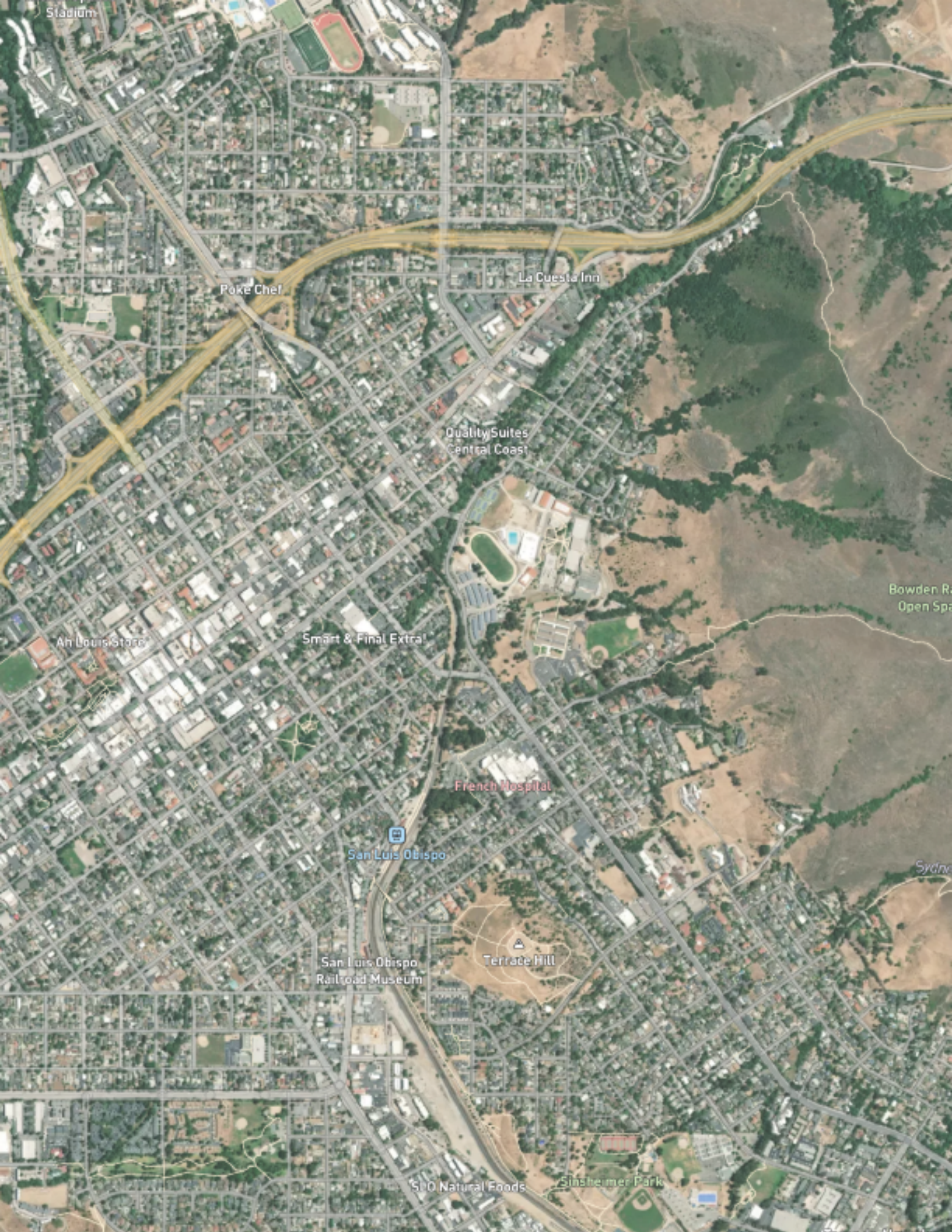
Understanding the 5 ELEMENTS OF Kevin Lynch.

**PATH** **NODE** **LANDMARK** **EDGE** **DISTRICT**
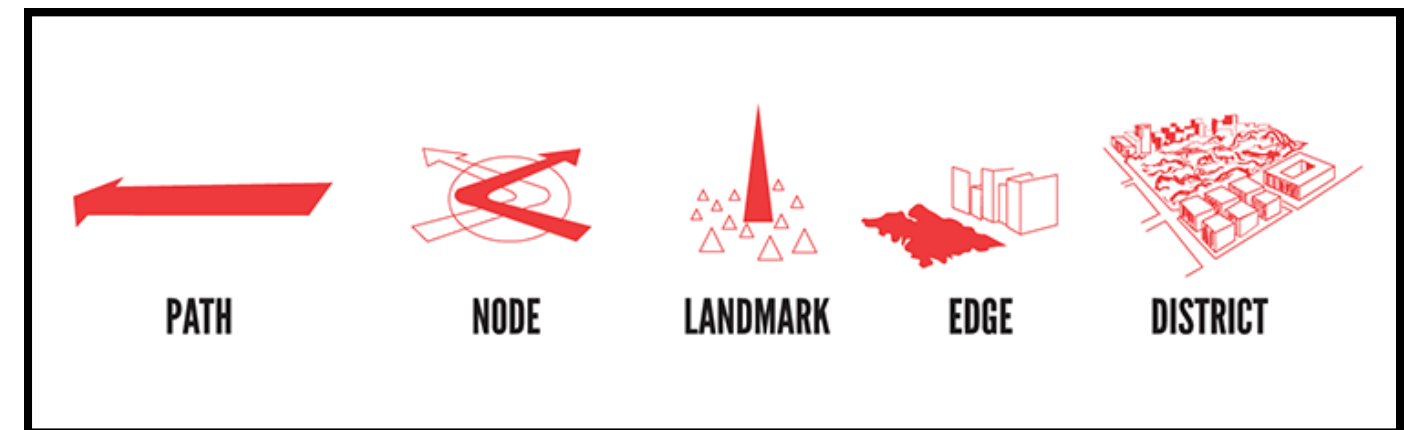
At the moment of exploring a city, According to Kevin Lynch, we usually create mental maps in our heads that help us locate ourselves, guide us, and take decisions when we circulate the city.

Lynch explains in his book "The Image of the City", Chapter 3, that we usually create mental maps which are focused on these 5 elements:

- Paths: Channels of movement.
- Edges: Boundaries between two phases.
- Districts: Areas that share the same characteristics.
- Nodes: Primary junction places that orient people (focus points).
- Landmarks: External points of reference, could recognize without being inside the space.

City of San Luis Obispo
Zoning Map
March 2022
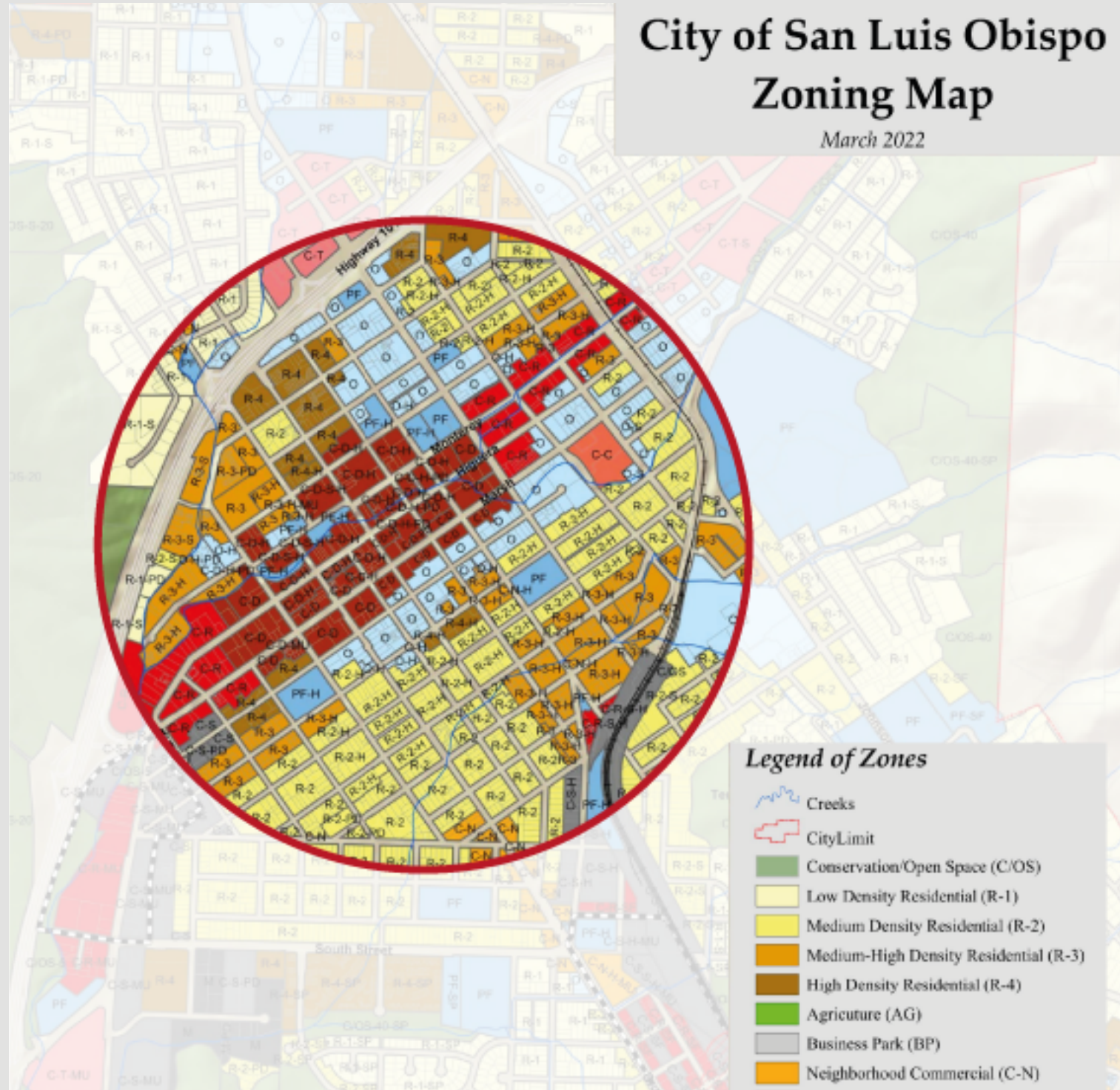
Legend of Zones

- ∿ Creeks
- ⬡ CityLimit
- Conservation/Open Space (C/OS)
- Low Density Residential (R-1)
- Medium Density Residential (R-2)
- Medium-High Density Residential (R-3)
- High Density Residential (R-4)
- Agriculture (AG)
- Business Park (BP)
- Neighborhood Commercial (C-N)
- Tourist Commercial (C-T)
- Community Commercial (C-C)
- Retail Commercial (C-R)
- Downtown Commercial (C-D)
- Service Commercial (C-S)
- Manufacturing (M)
- Office (O)
- Public Facility (PF)

SITE ANALYSIS

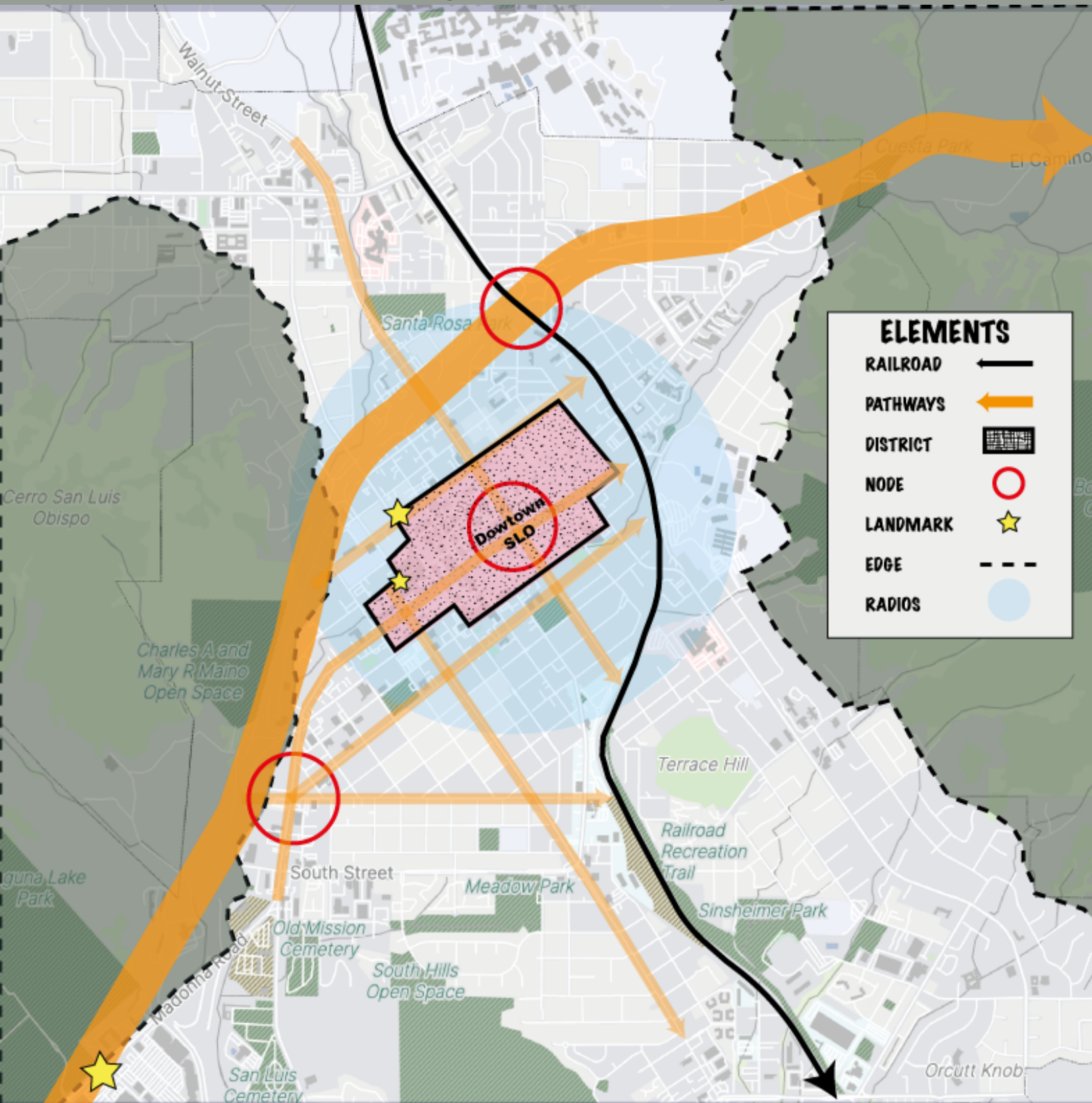| zoning Map | Google Earth | Blocks | Grids |

WHAT IS SITE ANALYSIS?

Architecture site analysis is the process of researching and analyzing a site's social, historical, climatic, geographical, legal, and infrastructural characteristics, synthesizing these analyses into visual information — usually in the form of site analysis diagrams.

The examination of these characteristics in conjunction with your established project goals is the foundation for making informed decisions throughout the design process, commonly influencing a project's programmatic realities as well as structural and potentially aesthetic choices such as shape, form, and material.

Site analysis diagrams are the graphic translation of critical observations and analyses as they relate to the material conditions of a site.

Common themes appearing in site analysis diagrams include sun and shade paths, movement and circulation patterns, land use, and public space vs. private space.
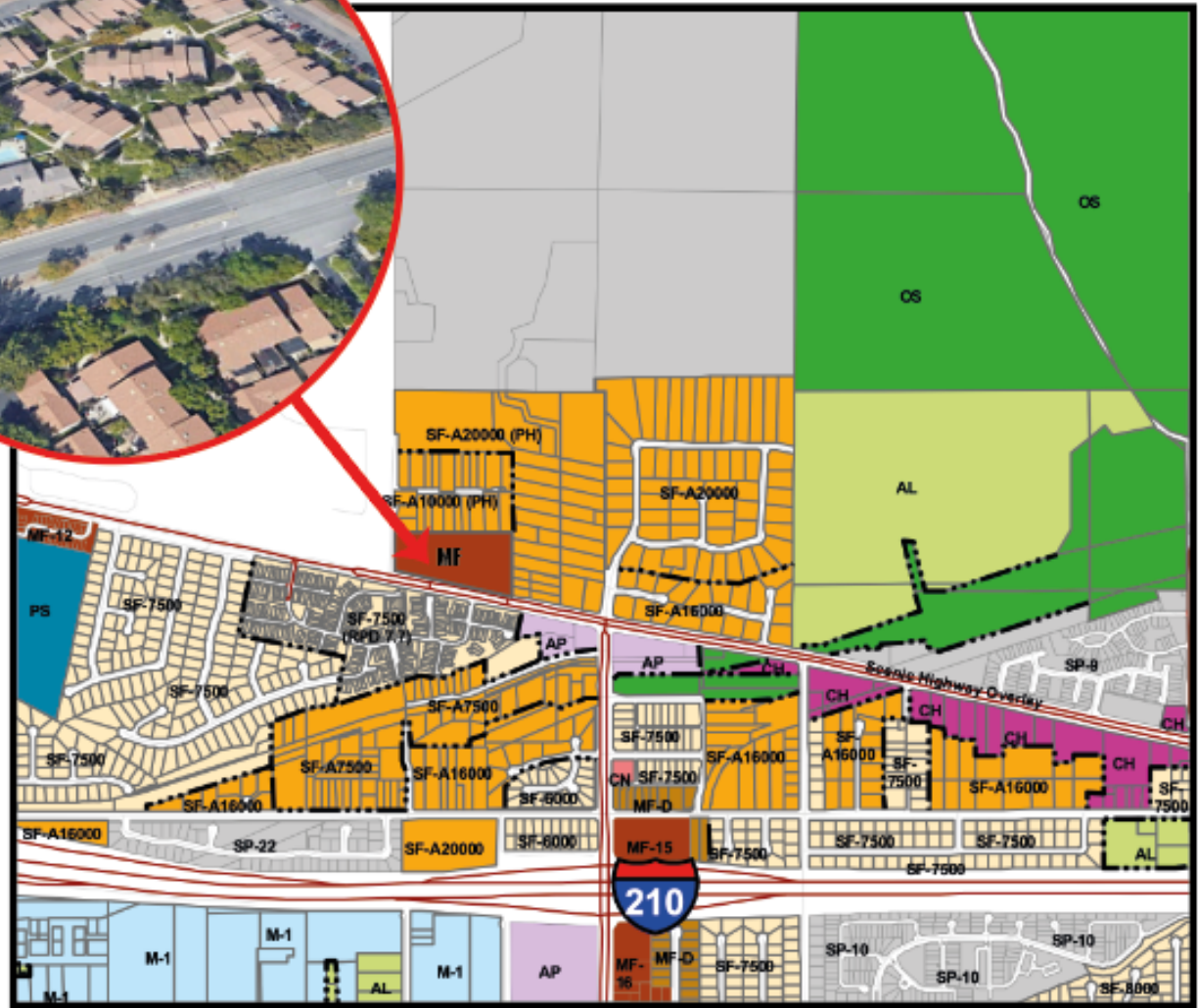
Diagram Drawing

ELEMENTS

RAILROAD	← (black arrow)
PATHWAYS	← (orange arrow)
DISTRICT	(grid pattern)
NODE	○ (red circle)
LANDMARK	★ (yellow star)
EDGE	- - - (dashed line)
RADIOS	● (blue circle)

summary

Understanding and incorporating the five elements of Kevin Lynch - paths, edges, districts, nodes, and landmarks - in urban planning is crucial for several reasons:

1. Legibility: The elements help create a city that is easy to navigate and understand. Well-defined paths, clear boundaries (edges), recognizable landmarks, and organized districts contribute to a legible urban environment, enabling residents and visitors to move around with ease and confidence.

2. Identity and Sense of Place: The elements contribute to the unique identity and character of a city. Landmarks and districts create a sense of place and establish a distinct cultural or architectural identity. This enhances the city's image and fosters pride among residents, while also attracting tourists and investment.

3. Orientation and Wayfinding: Clear nodes and well-connected paths facilitate orientation and wayfinding within a city. Nodes serve as reference points, while paths provide intuitive routes. This reduces confusion and helps people navigate efficiently, promoting a positive experience for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike.

4. Safety and Security: Well-designed paths and edges contribute to the safety and security of urban spaces. Clearly defined paths with adequate lighting and appropriate edge treatments can enhance visibility and discourage crime. Nodes can be designed to accommodate surveillance and provide spaces for social interaction, fostering a sense of safety and community.

5. Social Interaction and Vitality: Nodes and districts play a crucial role in promoting social interaction and vibrancy within a city. Nodes often act as gathering places and focal points for community activities, while districts provide spaces for specific functions like commerce, recreation, or residential life. These elements contribute to a sense of vitality and social cohesion in urban areas.

6. Economic Benefits: Cities that effectively incorporate these elements often experience economic benefits. Well-designed landmarks, districts, and nodes can attract tourism, stimulate local businesses, and enhance property values. A city's unique identity and legibility can contribute to its competitiveness in attracting investments, talent, and economic development.

In summary, understanding and incorporating the five elements of Kevin Lynch in urban planning is important for creating a legible, vibrant, and livable city. These elements contribute to the city's identity, navigation, safety, social interaction, and economic vitality, ultimately enhancing the overall quality of life for residents and visitors.

ZONING MAP

- SINGLE FAMILY DOWNTOWN RESIDENTIAL (SF-DR)
- SINGLE FAMILY (SF)
- SINGLE FAMILY HILLSIDE (SF-H)
- SINGLE FAMILY AGRICULTURE (SF-A)
- MOBILE HOME PARK (MH-P)
- MULTIPLE FAMILY (MF)
- MULTIPLE FAMILY DUPLEX (MF-D)
- COMMERCIAL NEIGHBORHOOD (CN)
- COMMERCIAL HIGHWAY (CH)
- ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL (AP)
- CREATIVE GROWTH (CG)
- LIGHT MANUFACTURING (M-1)
- LIGHT AGRICULTURE (AL)
- PUBLIC/SEMI-PUBLIC (PS)
- OPEN SPACE (OS)
- WATERSHED (W)
- SPECIFIC PLAN (SP)

Setback Map

Dimensions
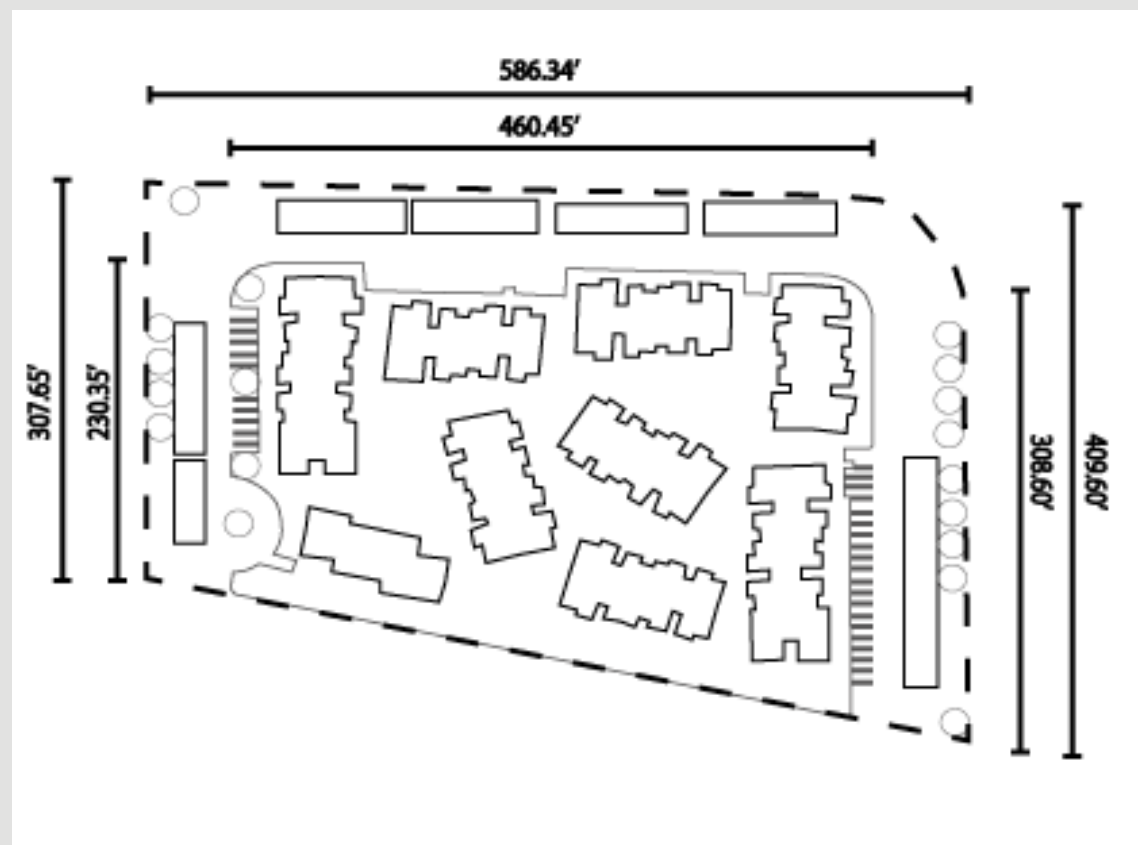
Setbacks and zoning Maps

Setbacks and zoning maps are essential components of urban planning that help regulate and guide the development of cities and towns. Let's break down each concept and understand its significance:

1. Setbacks: Setbacks refer to the minimum required distance between a building or structure and the property line or adjacent buildings. These regulations are typically defined by local government authorities, such as zoning ordinances or building codes. Setbacks serve several purposes:

a. Safety and Fire Protection: Setbacks ensure that buildings are situated at a safe distance from each other, reducing the risk of fire spreading from one structure to another. They also provide adequate space for emergency access and firefighting.

b. Sunlight and Ventilation: Setbacks help maintain adequate access to natural light and ventilation for buildings. They prevent overshadowing and allow for air circulation, enhancing the quality of life for residents.

c. Aesthetics and Streetscape: Setbacks contribute to the visual appeal of streets and neighborhoods by creating a sense of openness and space. They can also accommodate landscaping and setback requirements for street furniture, such as benches or pedestrian walkways.

d. Privacy and Noise Reduction: Setbacks can create distance between buildings, providing privacy for residents and reducing noise transmission between properties.

Overall, setbacks and zoning maps are tools that support urban planning efforts by ensuring orderly development, protecting public safety and welfare, promoting efficient land use, and maintaining the overall character and livability of cities and towns.

Learning how to Draw