

Tall Tales

*or*

Three Short Stories

*and*

An Afterword

What is special about the  
Cambridge skyline?









5 x 16 storeys





5 x 16 storeys





What is the Cambridge skyline?





# East



# East central



# South central





What *is* the Cambridge skyline, and could tall buildings contribute to good urban design?



What is tall for Cambridge ?....

Why build tall in Cambridge?....















# 45m

or 15 storey residential



# 48m

*or 16 storey residential*





# 65m

*or* 22 storey residential





# 25m

8-9 storey  
residential



# 36m

*or 12 storey residential*





An aerial photograph of a city area. In the center-left, there is a large, multi-story residential building complex. To its right, a tall, narrow chimney stands out. The surrounding area includes various other buildings, parking lots with cars, and green spaces with trees.

# 42m

14 storey residential

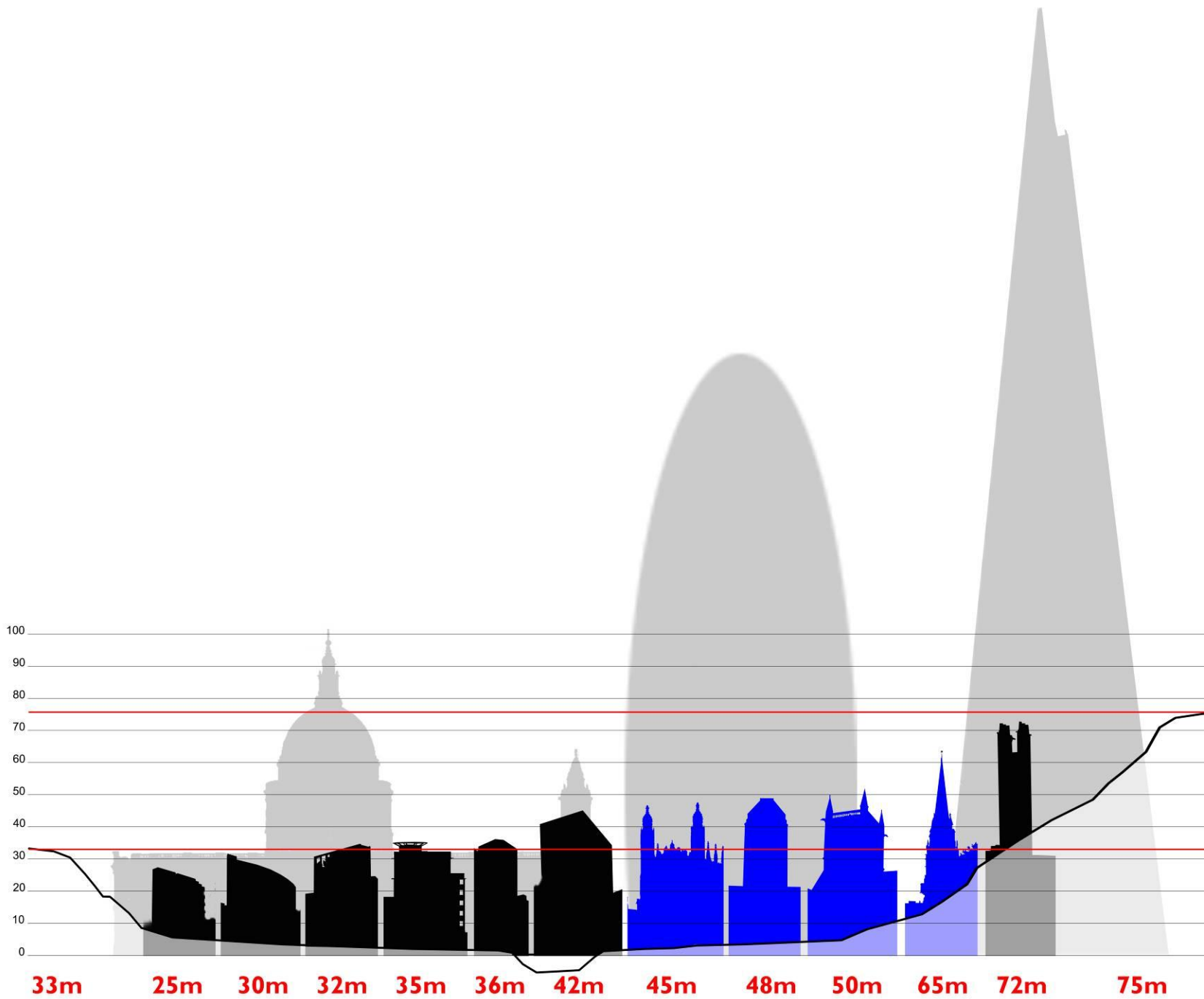
# 71m

or 24 storey  
residential





# Cambridge 2009



Why build tall in Cambridge?....





density



(R.I.P.)



vitality





sustainability





regeneration



landmark



# 35m

**10-12 storey  
residential**

**Completed 2003**





# 50m

17 storey  
residential

*What If.....*

elegance



Perhaps size isn't the key issue,  
it should be what you build, why  
you build and with what quality?

Is tall appropriate for Cambridge and  
where should tall buildings be located?

**4 ‘what ifs’**



1

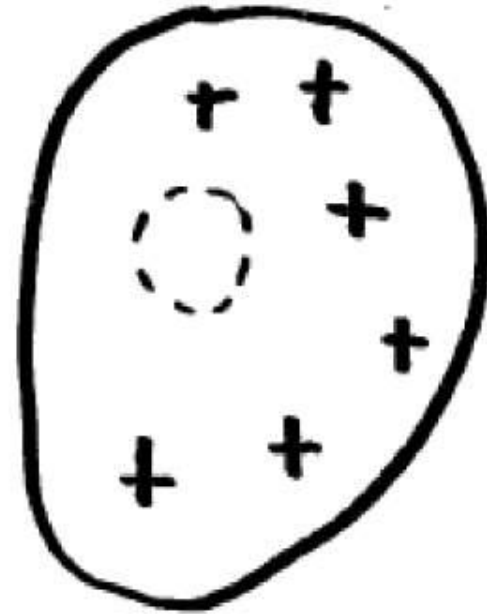
à la la défense





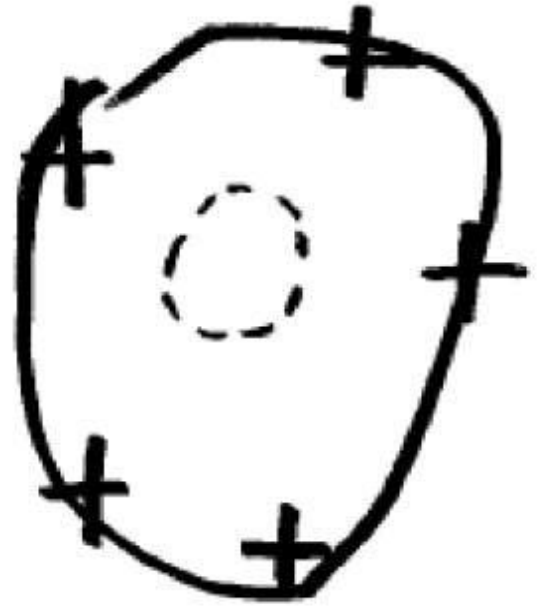
# 2

This is a local landmark  
for local people









**3**

Gatehouse towers





4

# Big buildings for big spaces











...one of these, none of these,  
or a little bit of each?

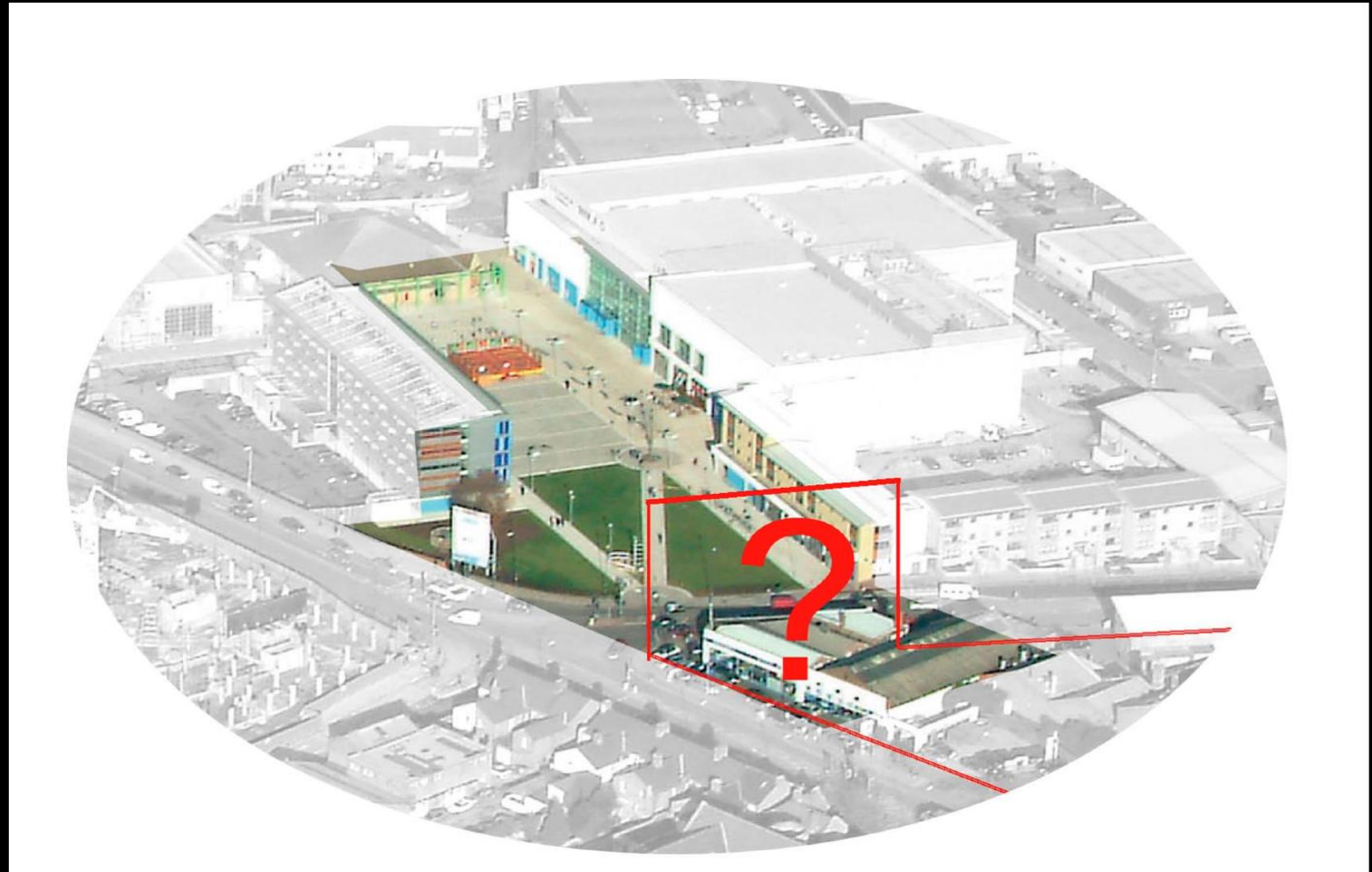
Discuss...

# 50 years ago



## The city, the chapel and the fen

# Today



## Cambridge Leisure Square



# Living Screens



Completing the Square

# Living Screens



Marking a gateway



# Assessing impact

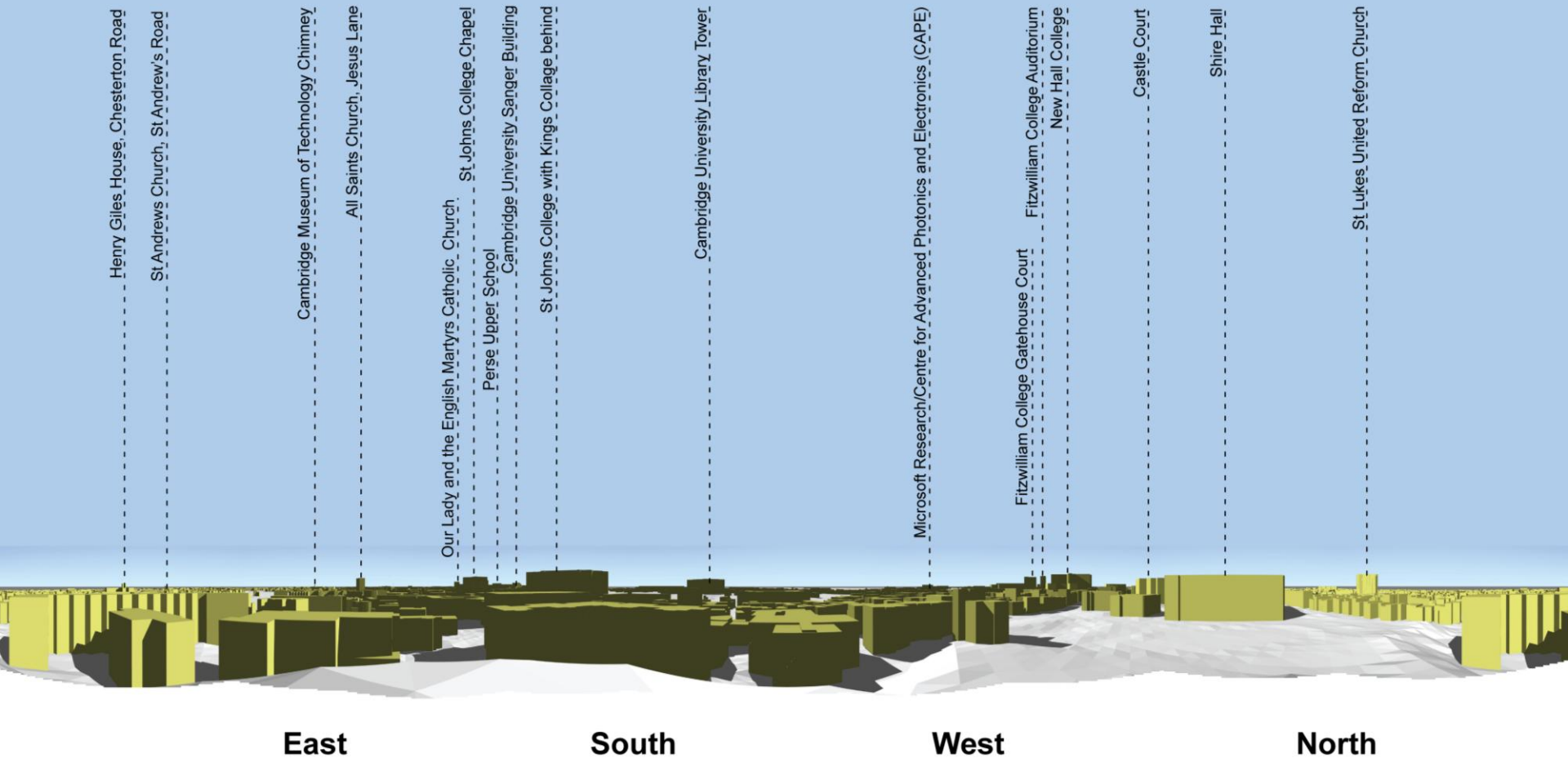


City computer model



# Assessing impact

Panoramic views of the Cambridge Building Heights Model (Lidar Region) as taken from Castle Mound



## Castle Hill panorama

# Two cities

Oxford seen from afar as a cluster of towers, spires and domes



Cambridge seen from within the  
as a sequence of spaces

