The design implications of Haussmannization.

Haussmannization is the term used to describe the constructional changes Paris underwent due to Georges-Eugène Haussmann. Haussmann decided that it would be better if Paris’ city format had more structure and cleanliness. He took a map and connected lines to a center point, and his plan was to tear down everything in the way of these lines and create roads. Then he planned to create a sewage system that would help to eliminate disease and infection. The problem with this was that Haussmann’s lines overlapped on most of the slums in Paris. However, his plan would help Paris become more efficient and useful.

Form or Function.
Haussmann most likely intended to head towards advancing the form of Paris. He went with a simple design that included destroying historical sites and homes. However, he wanted to advance the function of Paris slightly, also. Widening the roads and creating a sewage system was a great benefit for Paris’ citizens, but the fact that the citizens’ homes, traditions, and historical buildings were being torn to pieces meant they could hardly even call Paris home.

Before and After.
Before Haussmannization, Paris was extremely cramped with traffic, infected with disease, and unsanitary. They were also more vulnerable to attacks and it was harder to protect the citizens or even guide the troops in such a cramped space. After Haussmannization, sewage systems allowed for citizens to have clean drinking water and less disease in the city. The city did receive better air ventilation, high tourism, greener parks and areas, and a more formal look. But just when you think this movement caused many great things it also took away many great things. As mentioned earlier, Haussmann’s “straight lines” in the city’s map overlapped with a lot of homes and historical buildings. This means that an extreme number of citizens were forced to leave their homes and move towards the city outskirts. Most of these citizens were lower-class and lived in the slums. Once they were pushed out of their homes they were okay with this change because they thought they would come back to something better, but they resulted in stuck in slums worse than before.

Conclusion
Haussmann’s design was for the better of Paris formally and functionally, but it caused a lot of emotional devastation. The lower class lost out on homes and stability. Everyone lost traditions and historical places. However everyone gained sanitation, better protection, economical benefits, more space, and better traveling. Although we might never know his intentions, Paris is known all over the world as the one of the most beautiful places to be and visit.

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Bibliography
