Haussmannization
Haussman unquestionably left his mark on Paris. His design principles increased the function, but destroyed numerous traditions and evicted the poor from the city in the process.

Objectives
Improving the street system was one of Haussman’s primary focuses. Although he attempted to improve both the form and function, much controversy arose.

Geometric
Haussmann’s new road system featured straight, wide roads. His style was more geometric than the original organic layout. The new straight lines contrasted the haphazard layout that existed before. Haussman’s streets provided more direct routes than the previous winding, narrow roads did. The roads also improved traffic flow and allowed for speedy passage of troops. Additionally, Haussmann wanted all main roads to pass major buildings and monuments. In the process of executing his plan he destroyed numerous neighborhoods and historic buildings in his way. This created much controversy and disappointment among citizens, but it allowed beautiful, modern buildings to be easily viewed.

Modern
The wide street system built by Haussmann allowed the sewage system to be built underground. This made Paris more clean and beautiful. Haussmann’s ideas were sleek and modern compared to the traditional systems that previously existed. He also created more green space by creating parks within the city.

The above photo displays a before and after view of a street Haussmann improved. It is now more wide and direct than it was before.

Above is a photo of Bois de Boulogne, a park created by Haussmann.
Social Impact
Changes in design can cause substantial social impact which became evident throughout Haussmannization.

Imposing
Haussmann was unwilling to compromise his ideas. His plans evicted poor citizens from the city when he destroyed their neighborhoods. The photo to the right displays the destruction and devastation that occurred while Haussmann executed his plans. He was forceful which caused people to dislike him and the way he fulfilled his plans. Instead of gradually introducing his ideas and letting them evolve, he executed them with force. Additionally, many small businesses were destroyed and traditions were broke.

Conclusion
Haussmann was able to modernize Paris, improve the cleanliness, and reveal its beauty. He used sleek lines and organized the layout by working from the heart of the city to the outside. Haussmann made Paris better regarded as a city, although he was often called an “artist of destruction.” Though his plans were far from perfect, I believe he improved both the form and function of the city. Overall the streets were more effective and prettier since the sewer system was moved underground. This led to a city with cleaner drinking water and less disease outbreaks. His proto-modern style utilizing geometric designs was visually pleasing and eventually increased the functionality of Paris.

References