Less Reality, More Neon: Designing Forever Drive

Dave Ferner
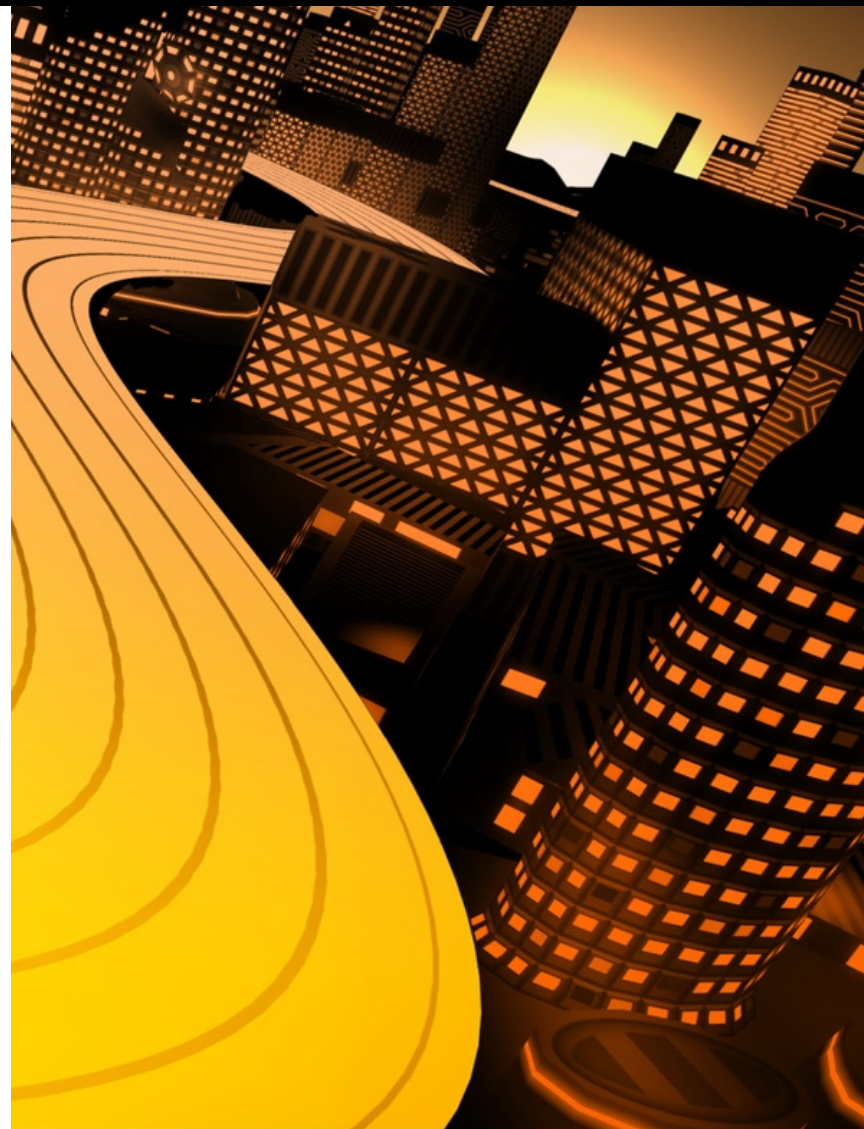Art Director, Supermono Studios

Less Reality, More Neon
Designing Forever Drive

1.
Who are Supermono?

The Forever Drive Team

- Alex Dowdeswell (Game Coding)
- Tak Fung (Game/Graphics Coding)
- Shu Yan Chan (Network Coding)
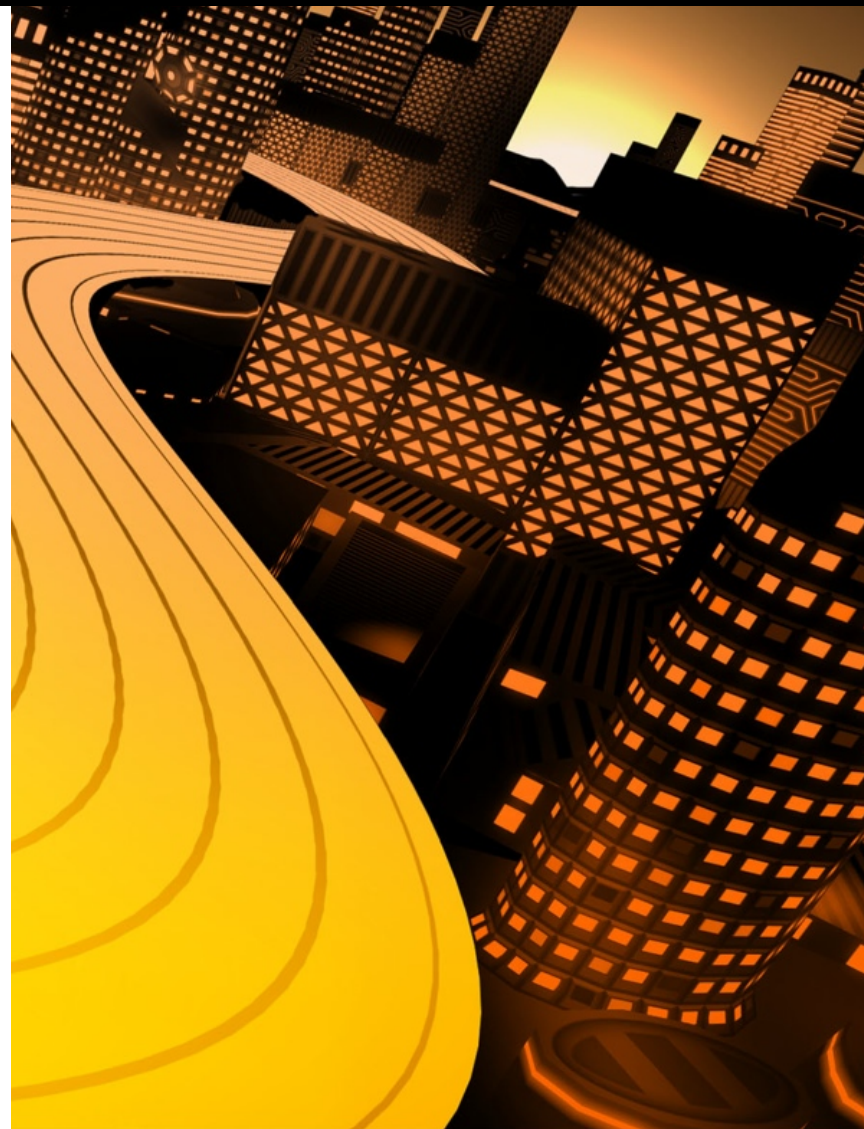- Dave Ferner (Art)

Additional Forever Drive Staff

- Ed Lim (additional car modelling)
- Yingshun Wong (additional car textures)
- Matthias Kispert (sound/music)
- Ian Hannent (music)
- Adam Ferner (text descriptions)
- Lots of testers

Less Reality, More Neon
Designing Forever Drive

2.
WTF is Forever Drive?

The Idea

- It's a racing game
- You can build your own track
- Everybody's tracks connect to form one long one
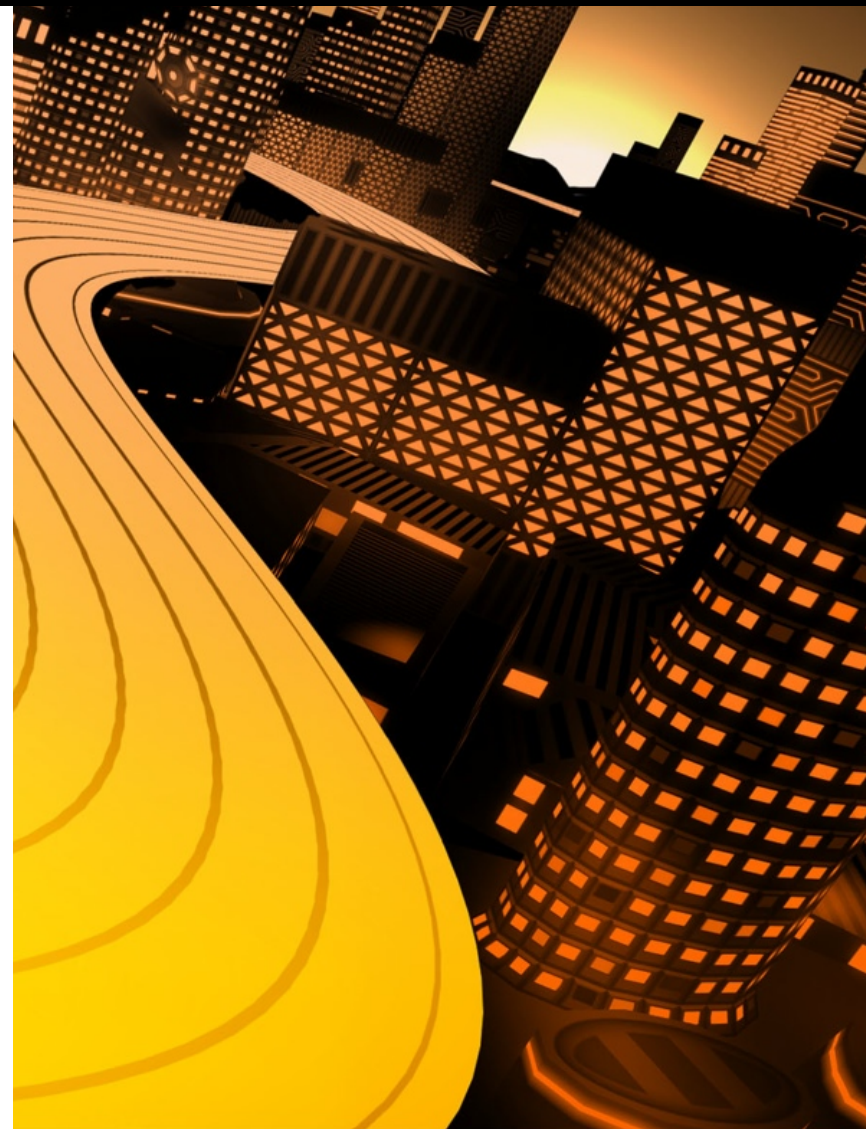- You can drive forever along that track

Design Goals

- Needs to be appealing
- Needs to be doable with available resources
- Needs to run on an iPhone
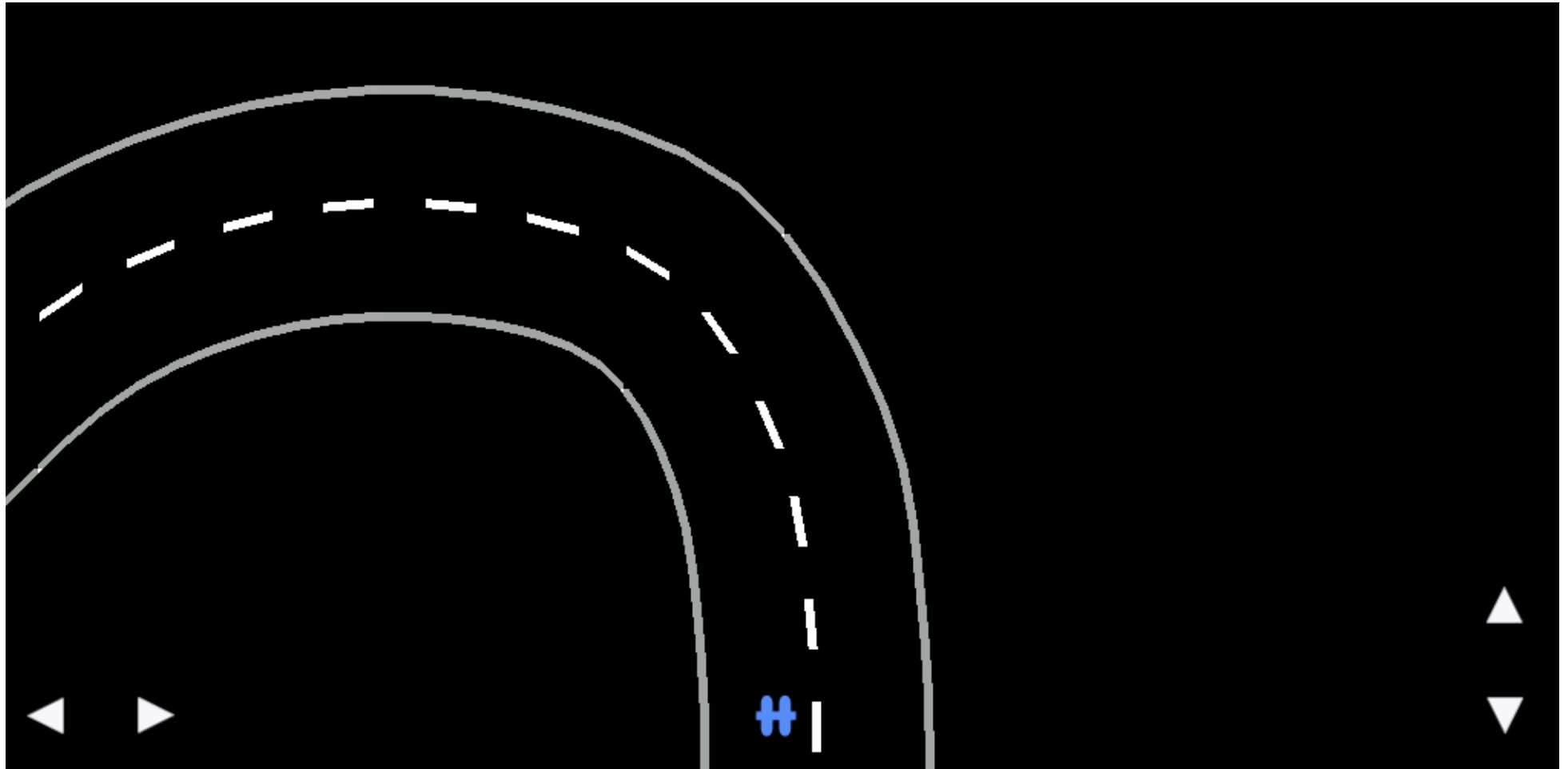- One more…

Less Reality, More Neon
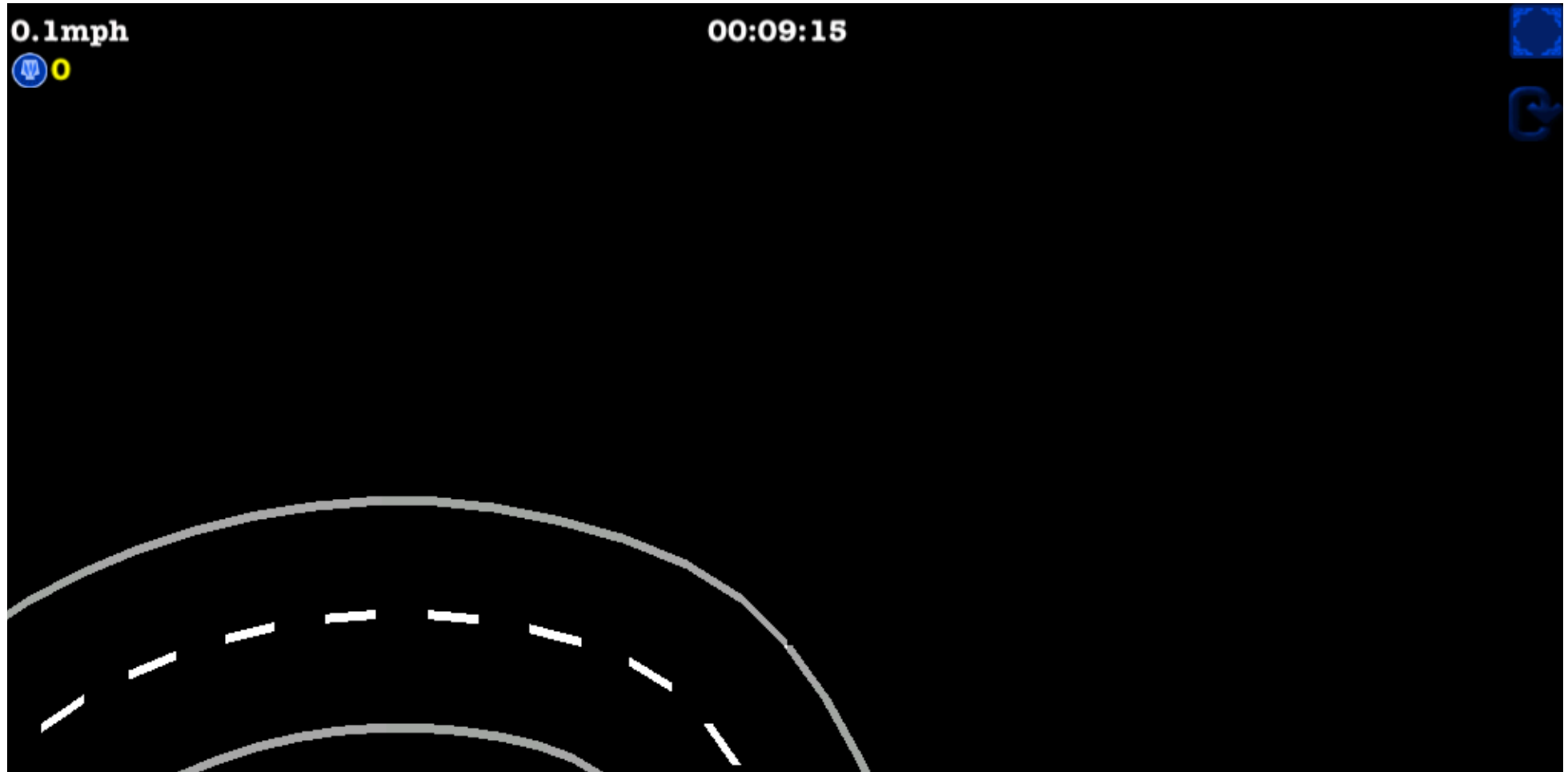Designing Forever Drive

3.
Forever Drive, Version Zero

Early test version of "Drive Forever"...
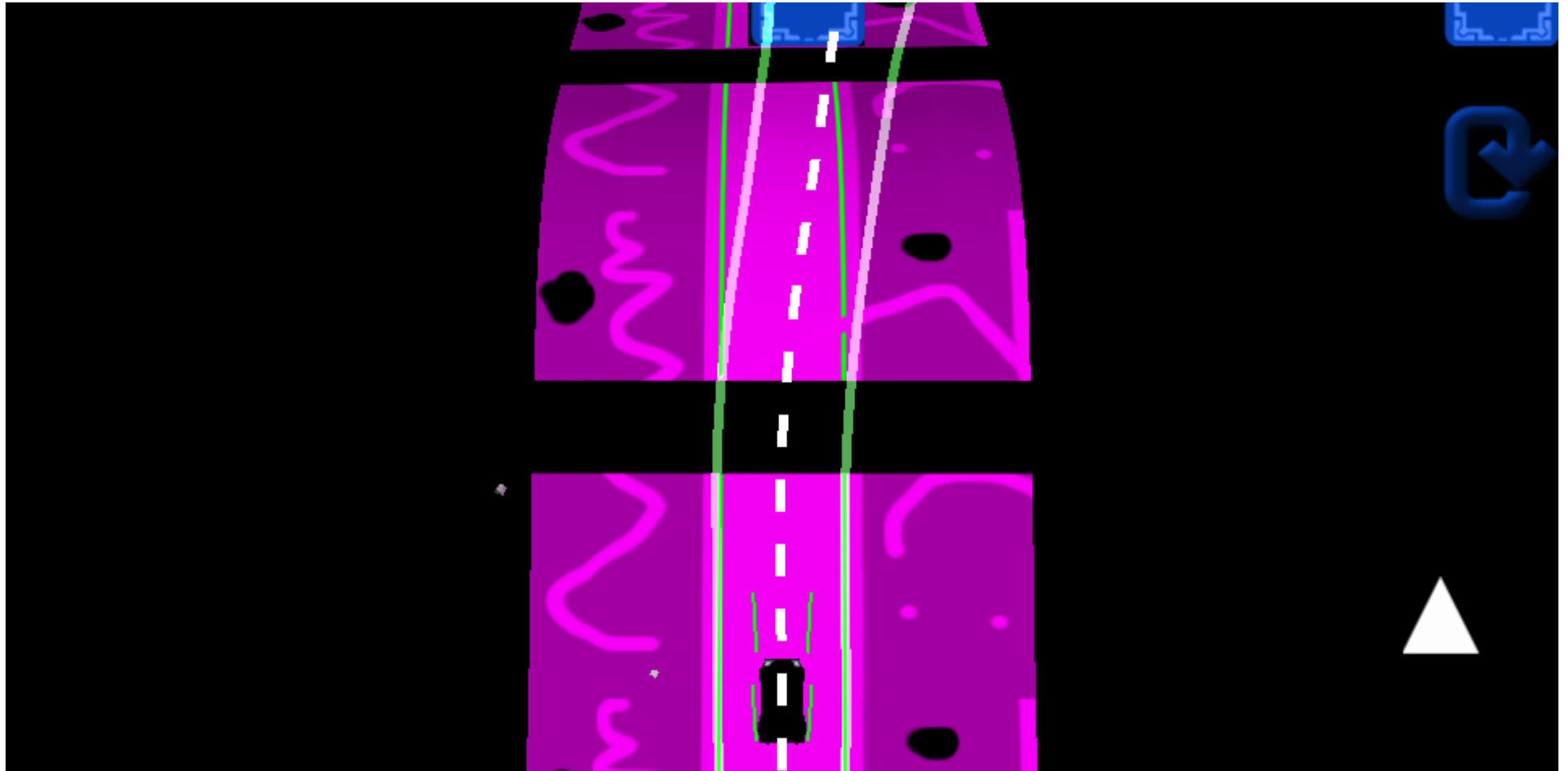
Early test version of "Drive Forever"...

Early test version of "Drive Forever"...

Early test version of "Drive Forever"...

Early test version of map editor. Programmer art FTW!
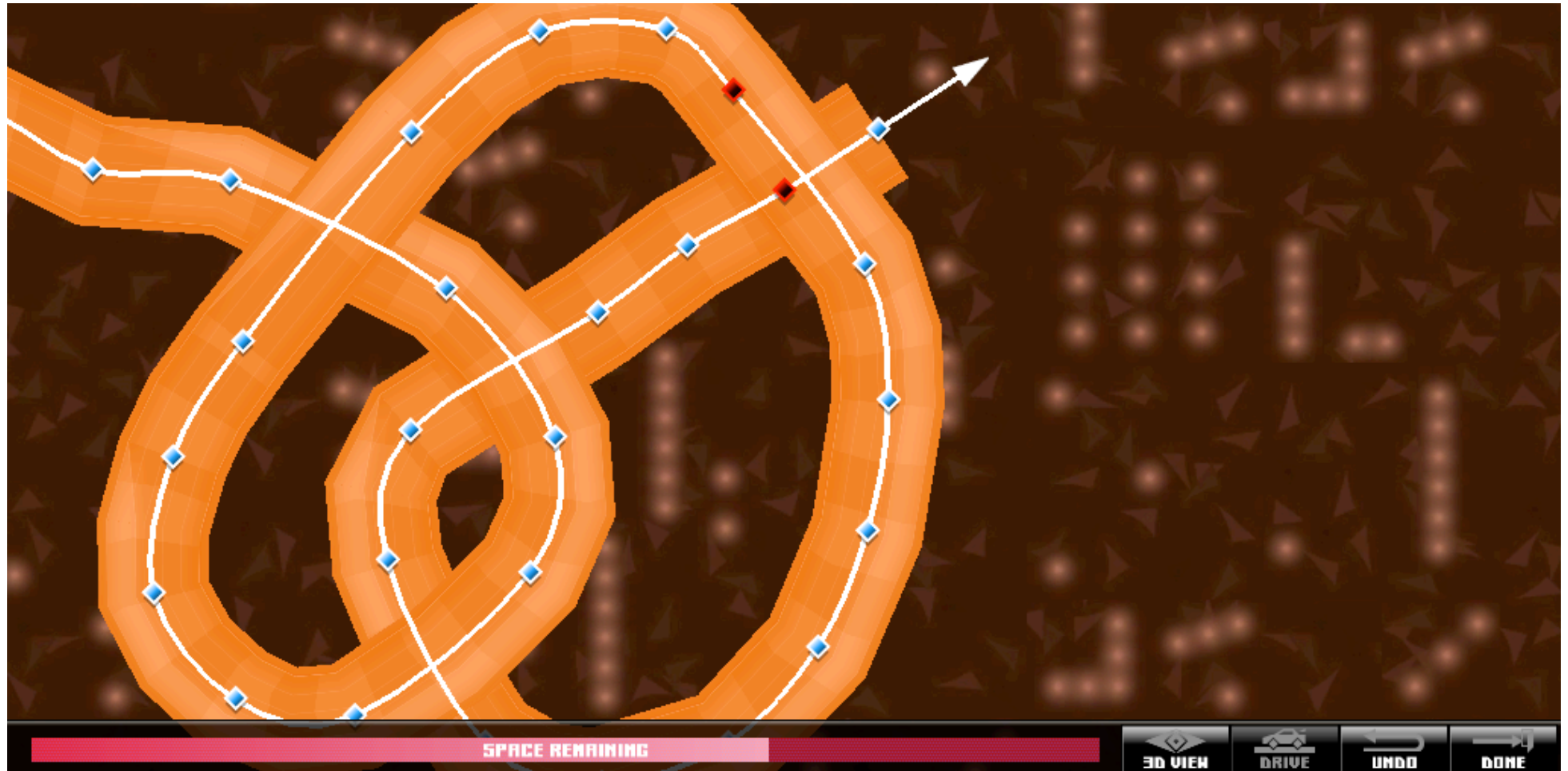
Map editors: a world of pain
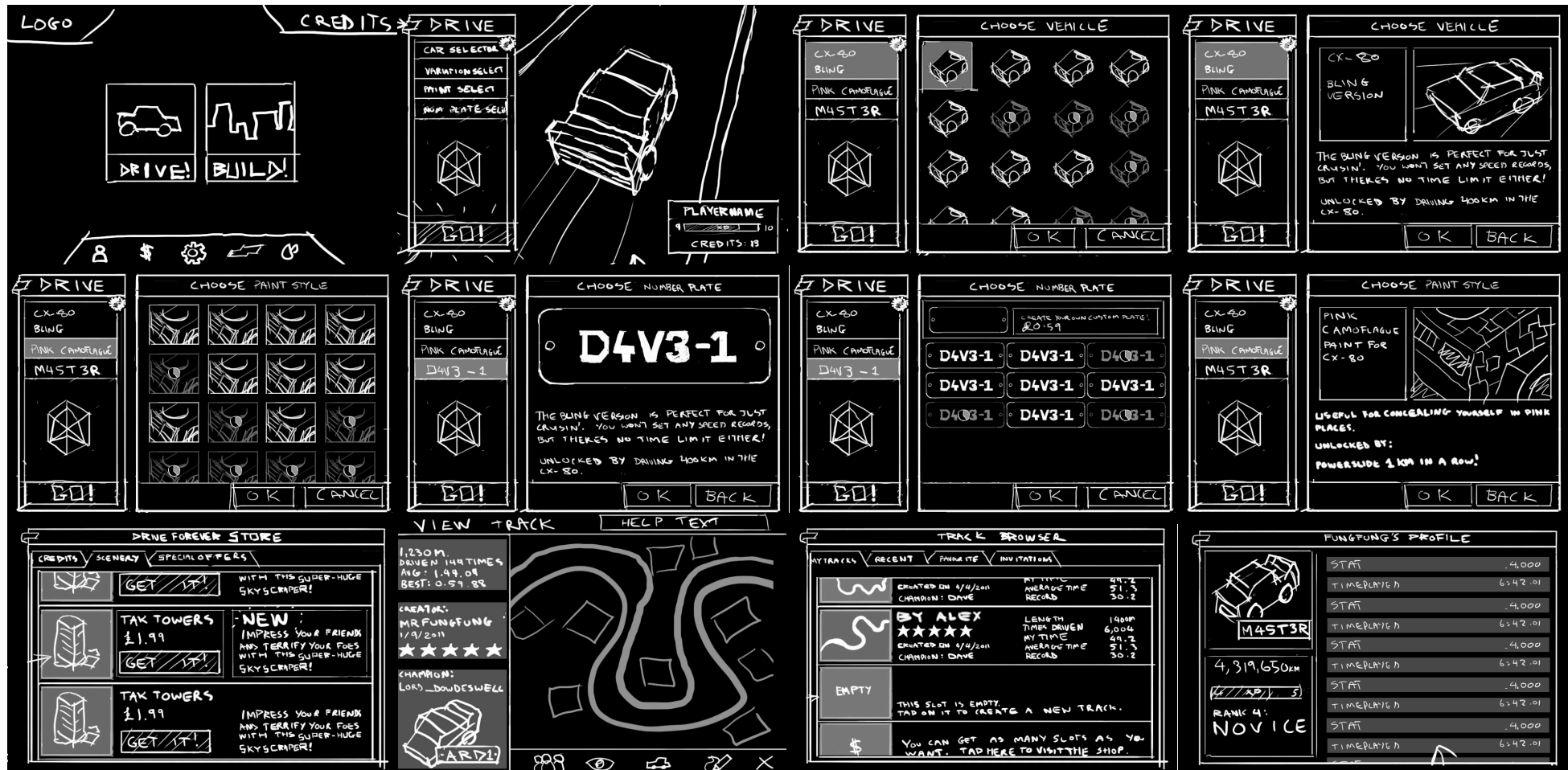
UI design - everybody's favourite part of making a game...
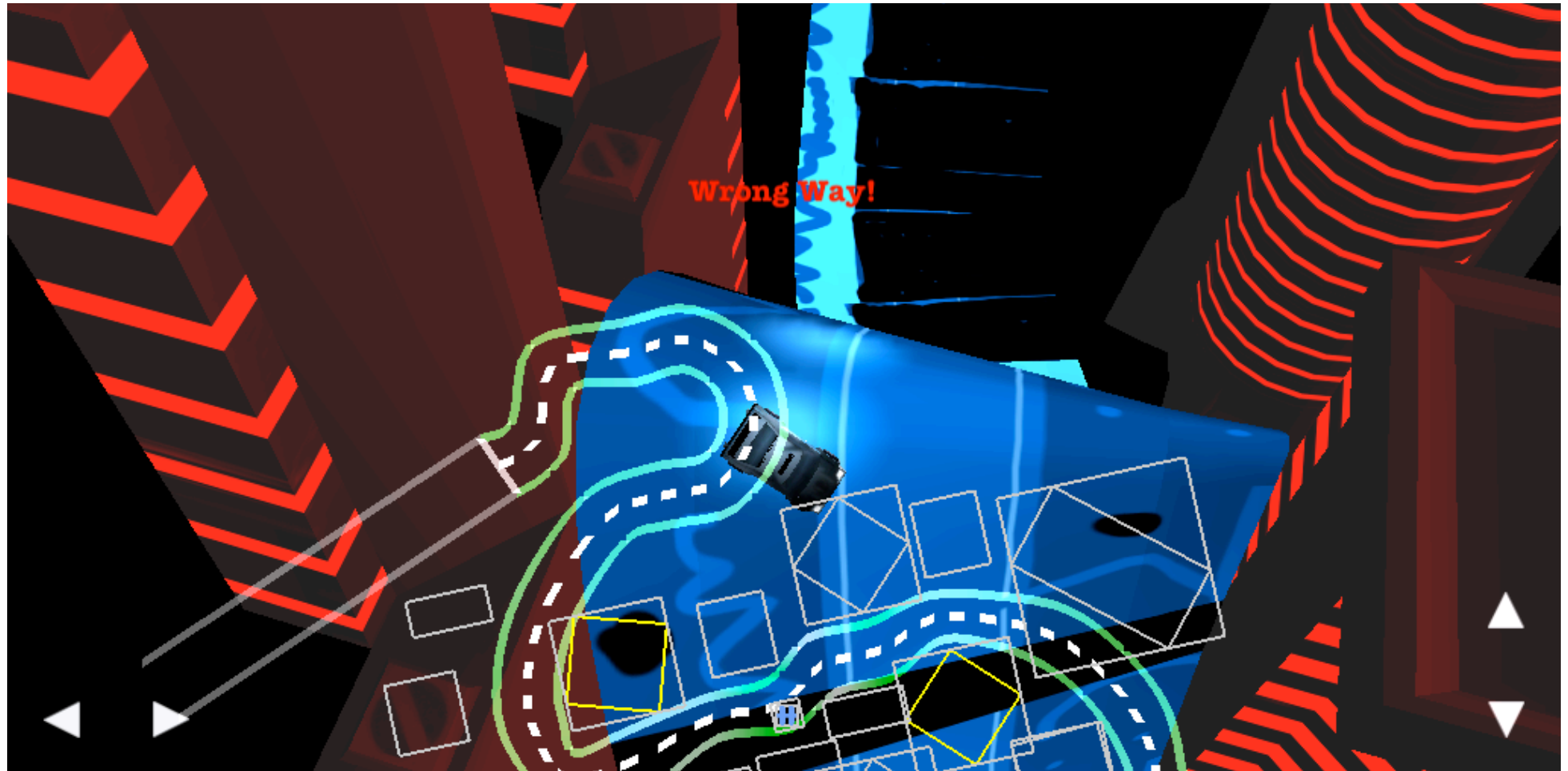
Looks done. Ship it!

Less Reality, More Neon
Designing Forever Drive

4.
Forever Drive, Version 0.1

Original design document!
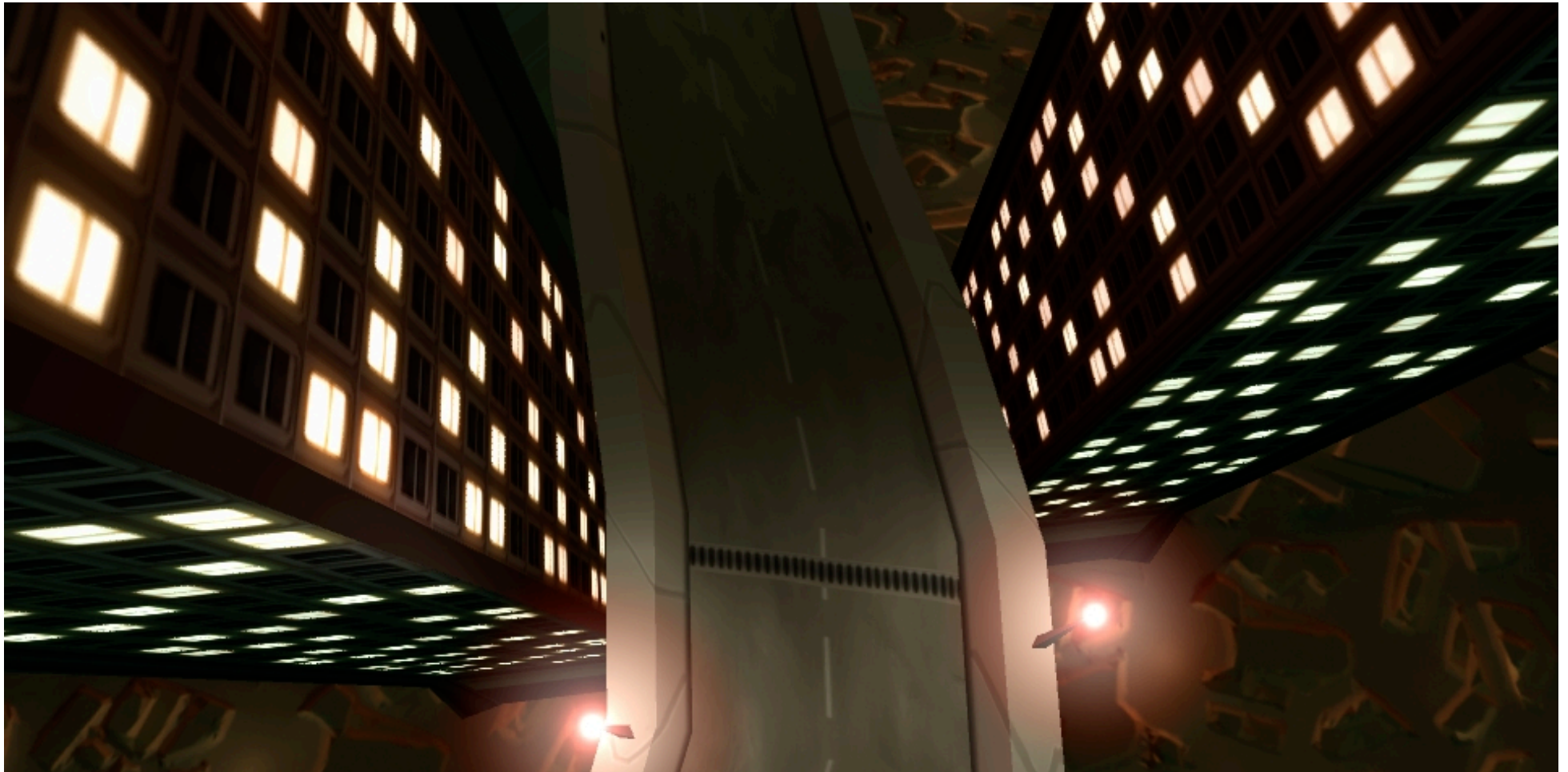
Forever Drive v0.1
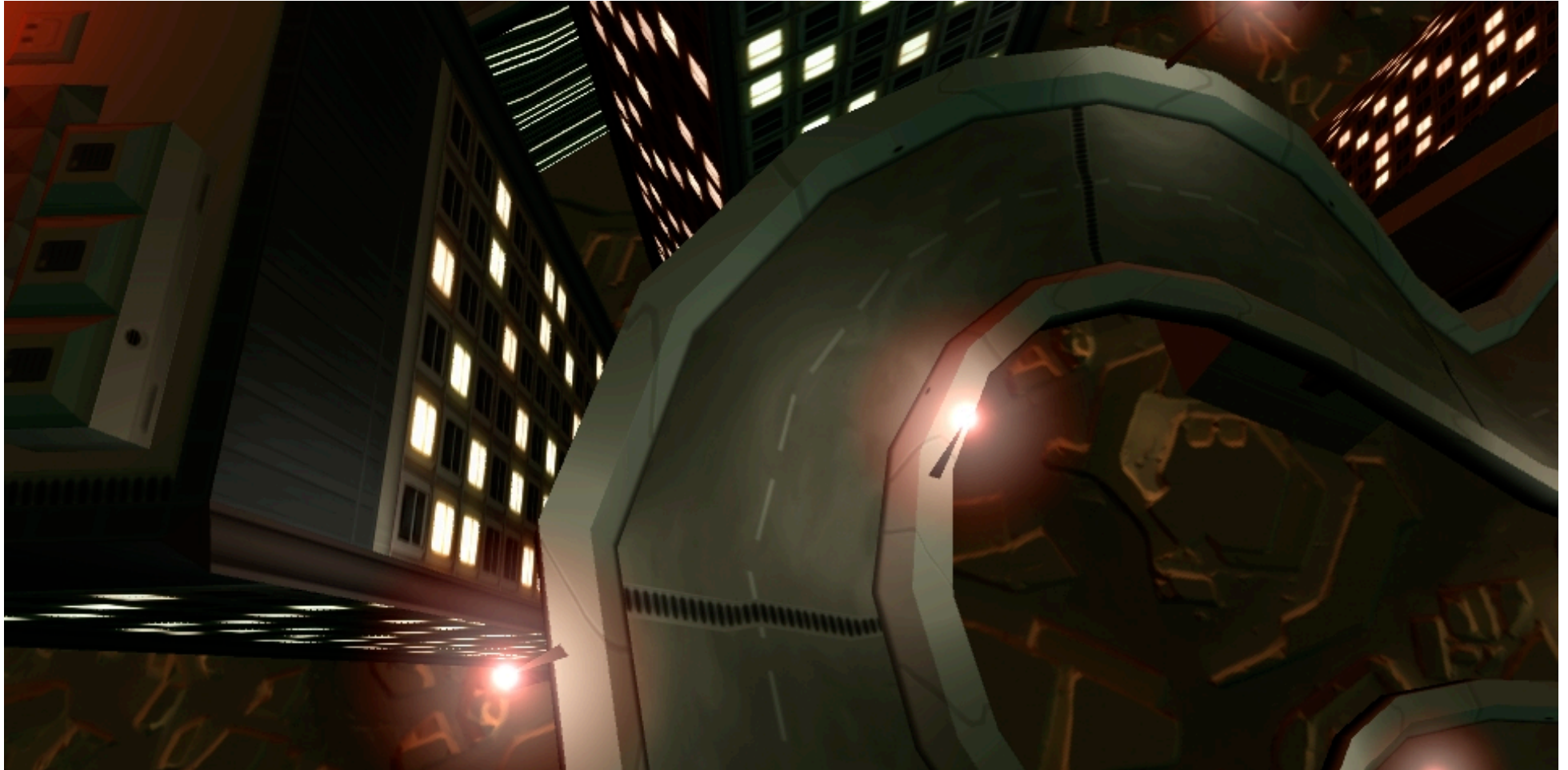
Forever Drive v0.1
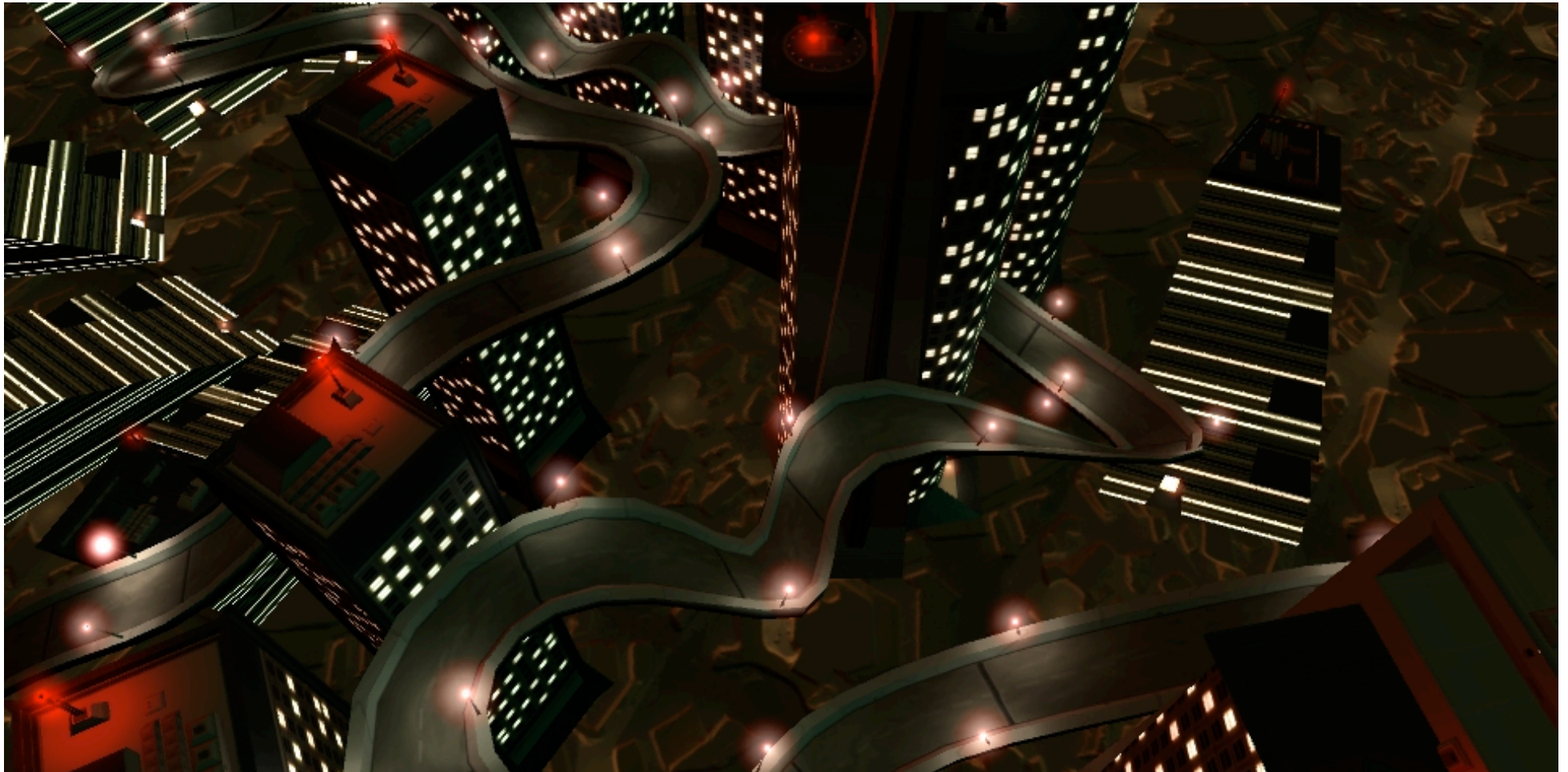
Forever Drive v0.1
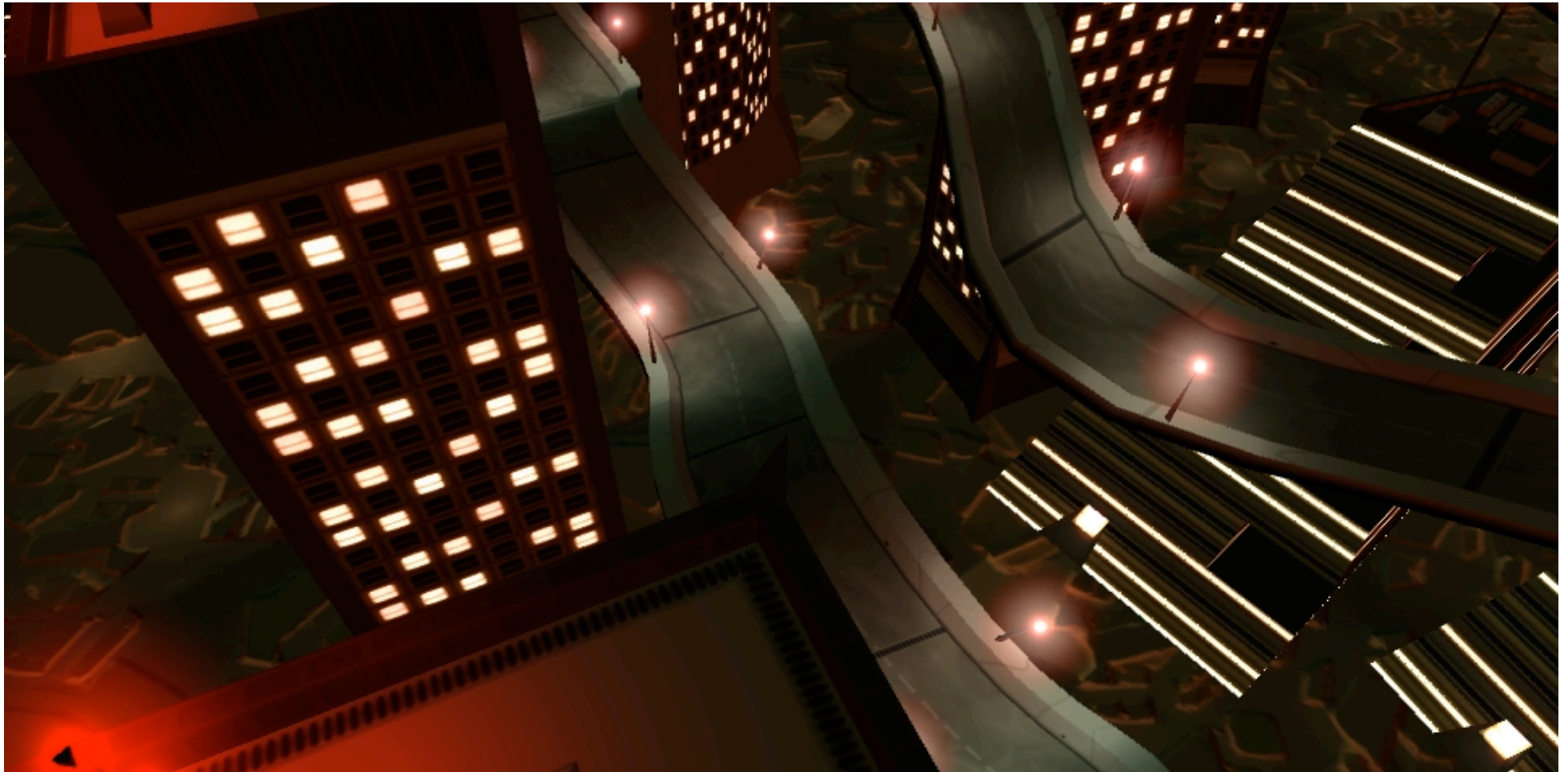
Forever Drive v0.1

Forever Drive v0.1

The problem…doesn't really stand out, does it?

Design Goals

- Needs to be appealing
- Needs to be doable with available resources
- Needs to run on an iPhone
- One more…

Design Goals

- Needs to be appealing
- Needs to be doable with available resources
- Needs to run on an iPhone
- **Needs to look distinctive**

Keeping it real

employing one of the many styles found in his series CAGES. 4. **MARC HEMPEL**'s GREGORY. 5. **MARK BEYER**. 6. **LARRY MARDER**'s Beanish from TALES OF THE BEANWORLD. "Resembling" nothing ever seen (hence all the way to the r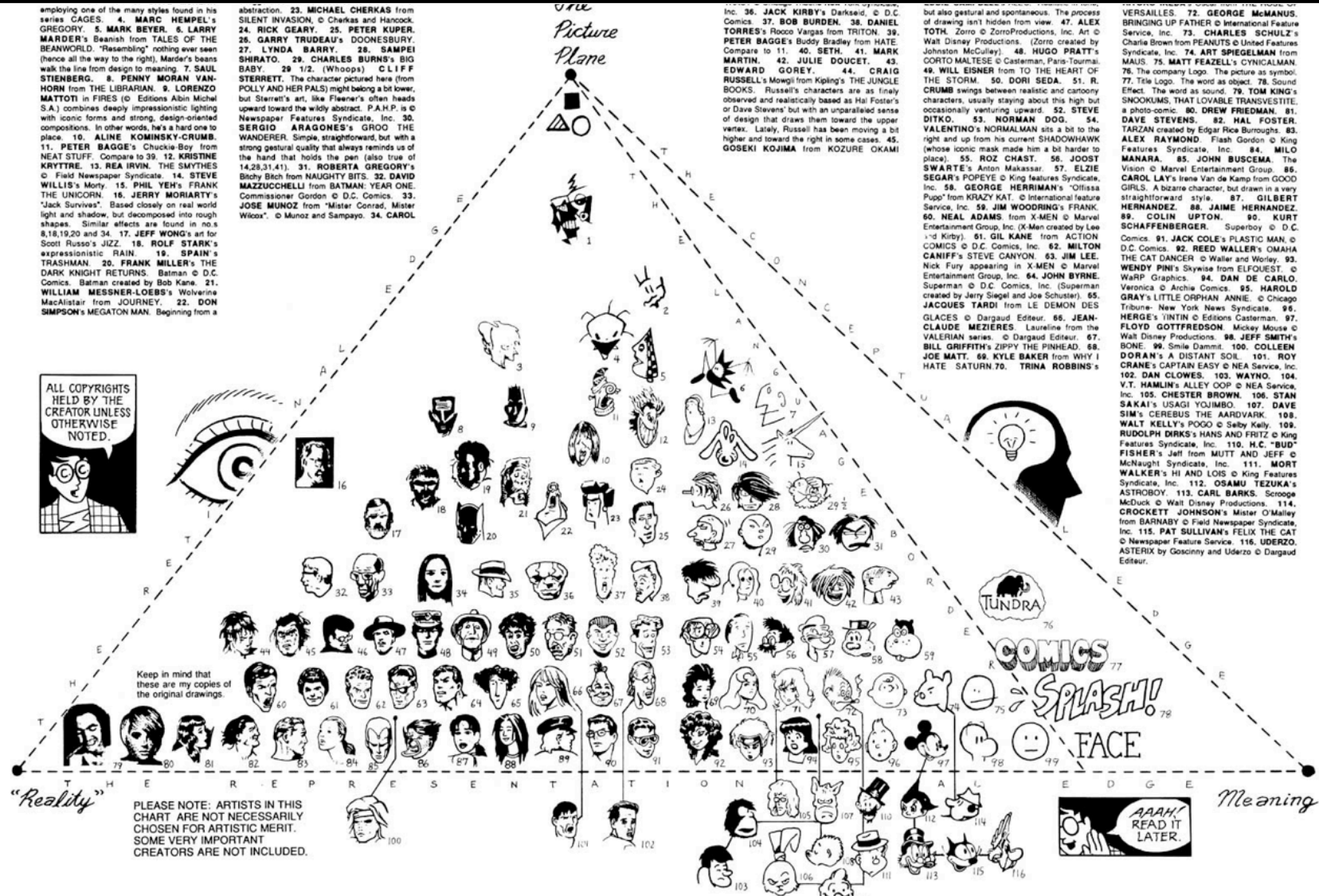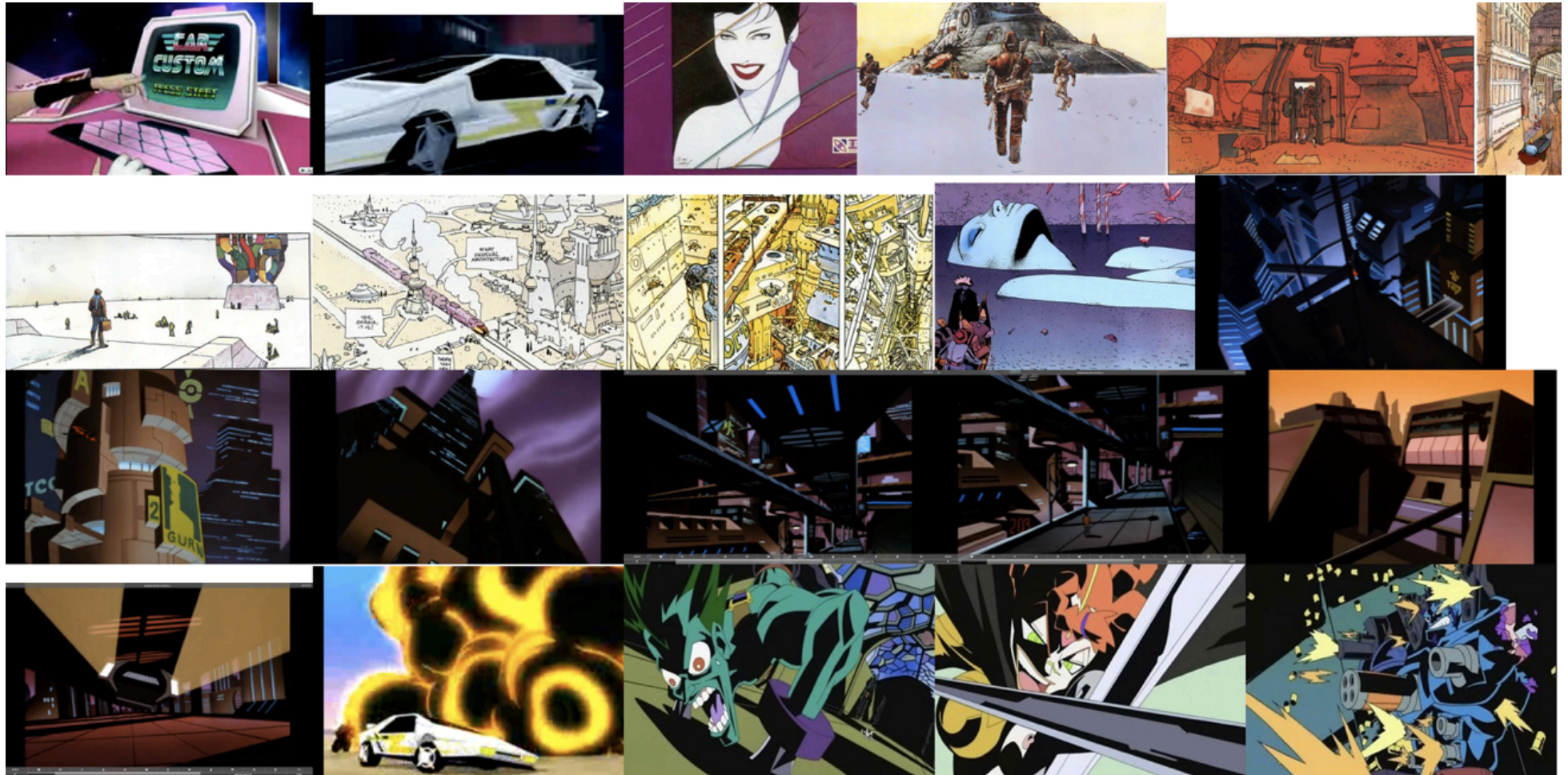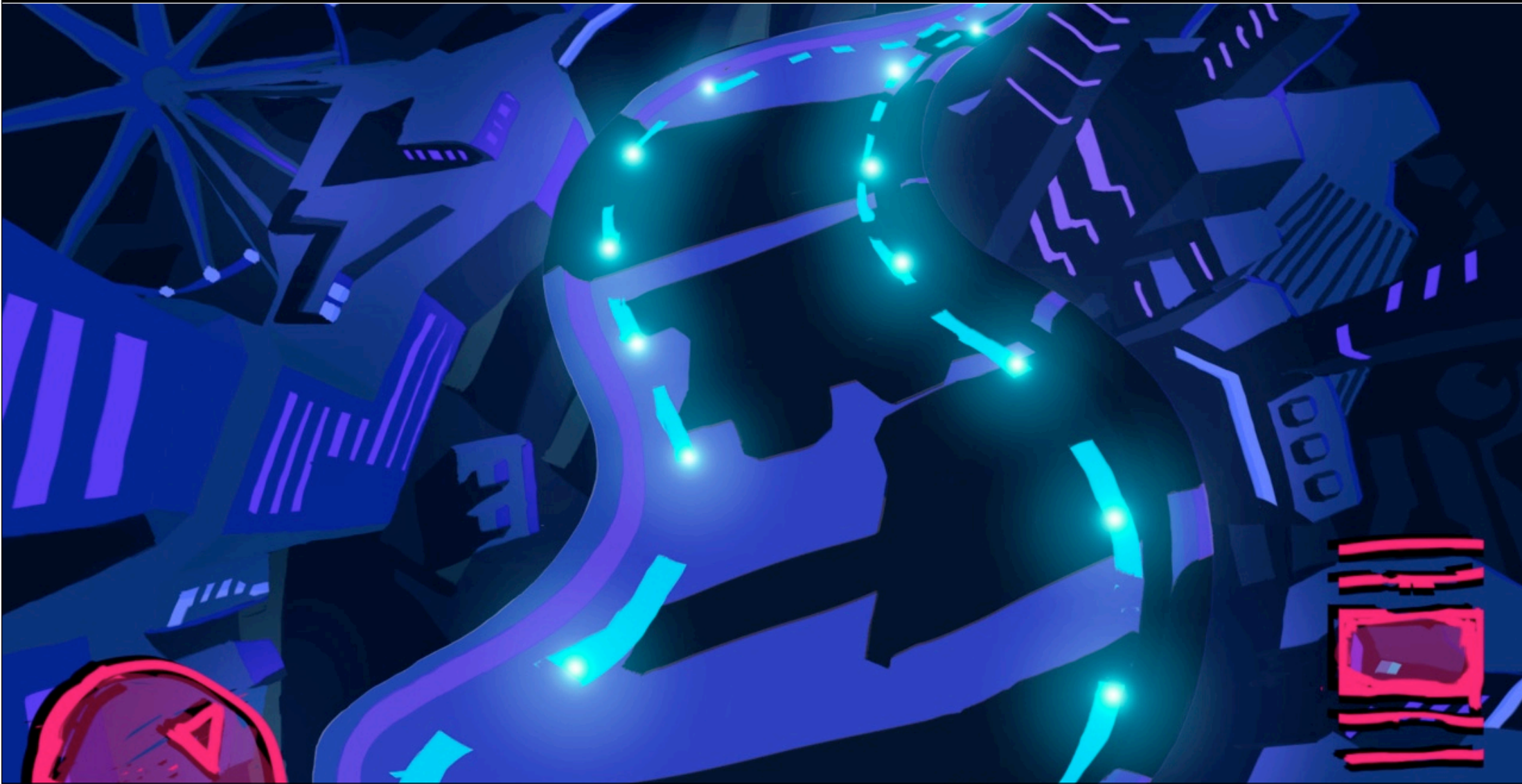ight), Marder's beans walk the line from design to meaning. 7. **SAUL STIENBERG**. 8. **PENNY MORAN VAN-HORN** from THE LIBRARIAN. 9. **LORENZO MATTOTI** in FIRES (© Editions Albin Michel S.A.) combines deeply impressionistic lighting with iconic forms and strong, design-oriented compositions. In other words, he's a hard one to place. 10. **ALINE KOMINSKY-CRUMB**. 11. **PETER BAGGE**'s Chuckie-Boy from NEAT STUFF. Compare to 29. 12. **KRISTINE KRYTTRE**. 13. **REA IRVIN**. THE SMYTHES © Field Newspaper Syndicate. 14. **STEVE WILLIS**'s Morty. 15. **PHIL YEH**'s FRANK THE UNICORN. 16. **JERRY MORIARTY**'s "Jack Survives". Based closely on real world light and shadow, but decomposed into rough shapes. Similar effects are found in no.s 8,18,19,20 and 34. 17. **JEFF WONG**'s art for Scott Russo's JIZZ. 18. **ROLF STARK**'s expressionistic RAIN. 19. **SPAIN**'s TRASHMAN. 20. **FRANK MILLER**'s THE DARK KNIGHT RETURNS. Batman © D.C. Comics. Batman created by Bob Kane. 21. **WILLIAM MESSNER-LOEBS**'s Wolverine MacAlistair from JOURNEY. 22. **DON SIMPSON**'s MEGATON MAN. Beginning from a abstraction. 23. **MICHAEL CHERKAS** from SILENT INVASION, © Cherkas and Hancock. 24. **RICK GEARY**. 25. **PETER KUPER**. 26. **GARRY TRUDEAU**'s DOONESBURY. 27. **LYNDA BARRY**. 28. **SAMPEI SHIRATO**. 29. **CHARLES BURNS**'s BIG BABY. 29 1/2. (Whoops) **CLIFF STERRETT**. The character pictured here (from POLLY AND HER PALS) might belong a bit lower, but Sterrett's art, like Fleener's often heads upward toward the wildly abstract. P.A.H.P. is © Newspaper Features Syndicate, Inc. 30. **SERGIO ARAGONES**'s GROO THE WANDERER. Simple, straightforward, but with a strong gestural quality that always reminds us of the hand that holds the pen (also true of 14,28,31,41). 31. **ROBERTA GREGORY**'s Bitchy Bitch from NAUGHTY BITS. 32. **DAVID MAZZUCCHELLI** from BATMAN: YEAR ONE. Commissioner Gordon © D.C. Comics. 33. **JOSE MUNOZ** from "Mister Conrad, Mister Wilcox". © Munoz and Sampayo. 34. **CAROL**

The Picture Plane

...© Chicago Tribune-New York Syndicate, Inc. 36. **JACK KIRBY**'s Darkseid, © D.C. Comics. 37. **BOB BURDEN**. 38. **DANIEL TORRES**'s Rocco Vargas from TRITON. 39. **PETER BAGGE**'s Buddy Bradley from HATE. Compare to 11. 40. **SETH**. 41. **MARK MARTIN**. 42. **JULIE DOUCET**. 43. **EDWARD GOREY**. 44. **CRAIG RUSSELL**'s Mowgli from Kipling's THE JUNGLE BOOKS. Russell's characters are as finely observed and realistically based as Hal Foster's or Dave Stevens' but with an unparalleled sense of design that draws them toward the upper vertex. Lately, Russell has been moving a bit higher and toward the right in some cases. 45. **GOSEKI KOJIMA** from KOZURE OKAMI

...but also gestural and spontaneous. The process of drawing isn't hidden from view. 47. **ALEX TOTH**. Zorro © ZorroProductions, Inc. Art © Walt Disney Productions. (Zorro created by Johnston McCulley). 48. **HUGO PRATT**'s CORTO MALTESE © Casterman, Paris-Tourmai. 49. **WILL EISNER** from TO THE HEART OF THE STORM. 50. **DORI SEDA**. 51. **R. CRUMB** swings between realistic and cartoony characters, usually staying about this high but occasionally venturing upward. 52. **STEVE DITKO**. 53. **NORMAN DOG**. 54. **VALENTINO**'s NORMALMAN sits a bit to the right and up from his current SHADOWHAWK (whose iconic mask made him a bit harder to place). 55. **ROZ CHAST**. 56. **JOOST SWARTE**'s Anton Makassar. 57. **ELZIE SEGAR**'s POPEYE © King features Syndicate, Inc. 58. **GEORGE HERRIMAN**'s "Offissa Pupp" from KRAZY KAT. © International feature Service, Inc. 59. **JIM WOODRING**'s FRANK. 60. **NEAL ADAMS**. from X-MEN © Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. (X-Men created by Lee and Kirby). 61. **GIL KANE** from ACTION COMICS © D.C. Comics, Inc. 62. **MILTON CANIFF**'s STEVE CANYON. 63. **JIM LEE**. Nick Fury appearing in X-MEN © Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. 64. **JOHN BYRNE**. Superman © D.C. Comics. Inc. (Superman created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Schuster). 65. **JACQUES TARDI** from LE DEMON DES GLACES © Dargaud Editeur. 66. **JEAN-CLAUDE MEZIERES**. Laureline from the VALERIAN series. © Dargaud Editeur. 67. **BILL GRIFFITH**'s ZIPPY THE PINHEAD. 68. **JOE MATT**. 69. **KYLE BAKER** from WHY I HATE SATURN. 70. **TRINA ROBBINS**'s

...© King Features Syndicate, Inc. 72. **GEORGE McMANUS**. BRINGING UP FATHER © International Feature Service, Inc. 73. **CHARLES SCHULZ**'s Charlie Brown from PEANUTS © United Features Syndicate, Inc. 74. **ART SPIEGELMAN** from MAUS. 75. **MATT FEAZELL**'s CYNICALMAN. 76. The company Logo. The picture as symbol. 77. Title Logo. The word as object. 78. Sound Effect. The word as sound. 79. **TOM KING**'s SNOOKUMS, THAT LOVABLE TRANSVESTITE. a photo-comic. 80. **DREW FRIEDMAN**. 81. **DAVE STEVENS**. 82. **HAL FOSTER**. TARZAN created by Edgar Rice Burroughs. 83. **ALEX RAYMOND**. Flash Gordon © King Features Syndicate, Inc. 84. **MILO MANARA**. 85. **JOHN BUSCEMA**. The Vision © Marvel Entertainment Group. 86. **CAROL LAY**'s Irene Van de Kamp from GOOD GIRLS. A bizarre character, but drawn in a very straightforward style. 87. **GILBERT HERNANDEZ**. 88. **JAIME HERNANDEZ**. 89. **COLIN UPTON**. 90. **KURT SCHAFFENBERGER**. Superboy © D.C. Comics. 91. **JACK COLE**'s PLASTIC MAN. © D.C. Comics. 92. **REED WALLER**'s OMAHA THE CAT DANCER © Waller and Worley. 93. **WENDY PINI**'s Skywise from ELFQUEST. © WaRP Graphics. 94. **DAN DE CARLO**. Veronica © Archie Comics. 95. **HAROLD GRAY**'s LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE. © Chicago Tribune- New York News Syndicate. 96. **HERGE**'s TINTIN © Editions Casterman. 97. **FLOYD GOTTFREDSON**. Mickey Mouse © Walt Disney Productions. 98. **JEFF SMITH**'s BONE. 99. Smile Dammit. 100. **COLLEEN DORAN**'s A DISTANT SOIL. 101. **ROY CRANE**'s CAPTAIN EASY © NEA Service, Inc. 102. **DAN CLOWES**. 103. **WAYNO**. 104. **V.T. HAMLIN**'s ALLEY OOP © NEA Service, Inc. 105. **CHESTER BROWN**. 106. **STAN SAKAI**'s USAGI YOJIMBO. 107. **DAVE SIM**'s CEREBUS THE AARDVARK. 108. **WALT KELLY**'s POGO © Selby Kelly. 109. **RUDOLPH DIRKS**'s HANS AND FRITZ © King Features Syndicate, Inc. 110. **H.C. "BUD" FISHER**'s Jeff from MUTT AND JEFF © McNaught Syndicate, Inc. 111. **MORT WALKER**'s HI AND LOIS © King Features Syndicate, Inc. 112. **OSAMU TEZUKA**'s ASTROBOY. 113. **CARL BARKS**. Scrooge McDuck © Walt Disney Productions. 114. **CROCKETT JOHNSON**'s Mister O'Malley from BARNABY © Field Newspaper Syndicate, Inc. 115. **PAT SULLIVAN**'s FELIX THE CAT © Newspaper Feature Service. 116. **UDERZO**. ASTERIX by Goscinny and Uderzo © Dargaud Editeur.

ALL COPYRIGHTS HELD BY THE CREATOR UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Keep in mind that these are my copies of the original drawings.

PLEASE NOTE: ARTISTS IN THIS CHART ARE NOT NECESSARILY CHOSEN FOR ARTISTIC MERIT. SOME VERY IMPORTANT CREATORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

"Reality"   *Meaning*

AAAH! READ IT LATER.

What if it was more like...?
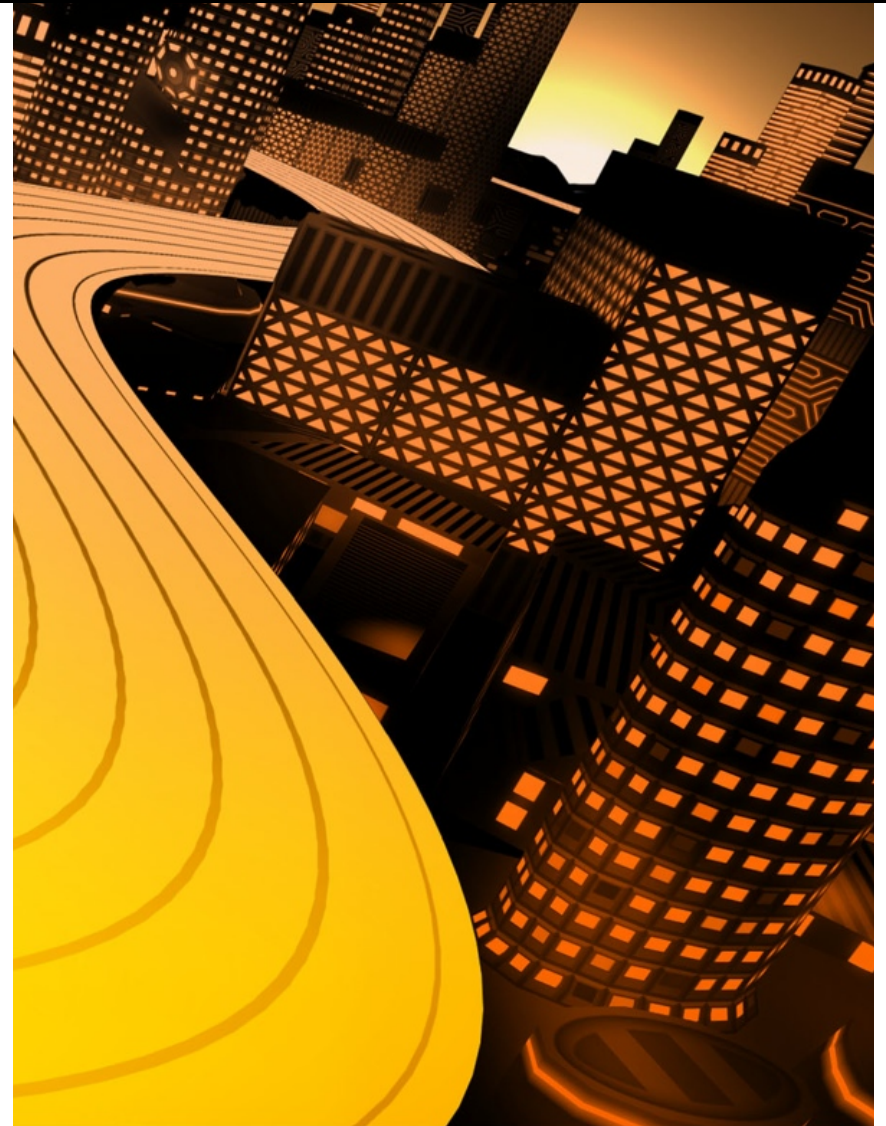
Less Reality, More Neon
Designing Forever Drive

5.
Ok, let's just make it then!

Less Reality, More Neon
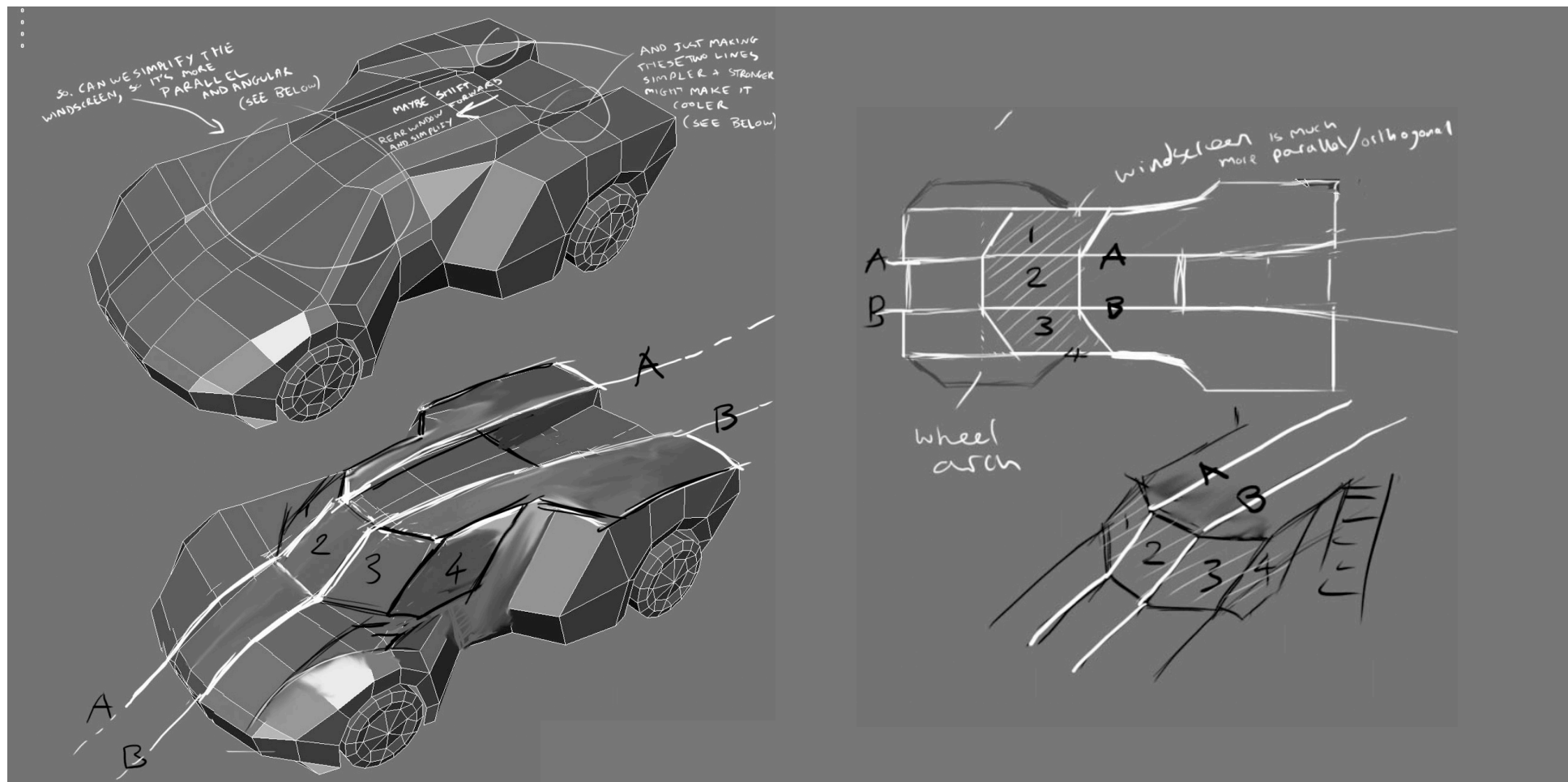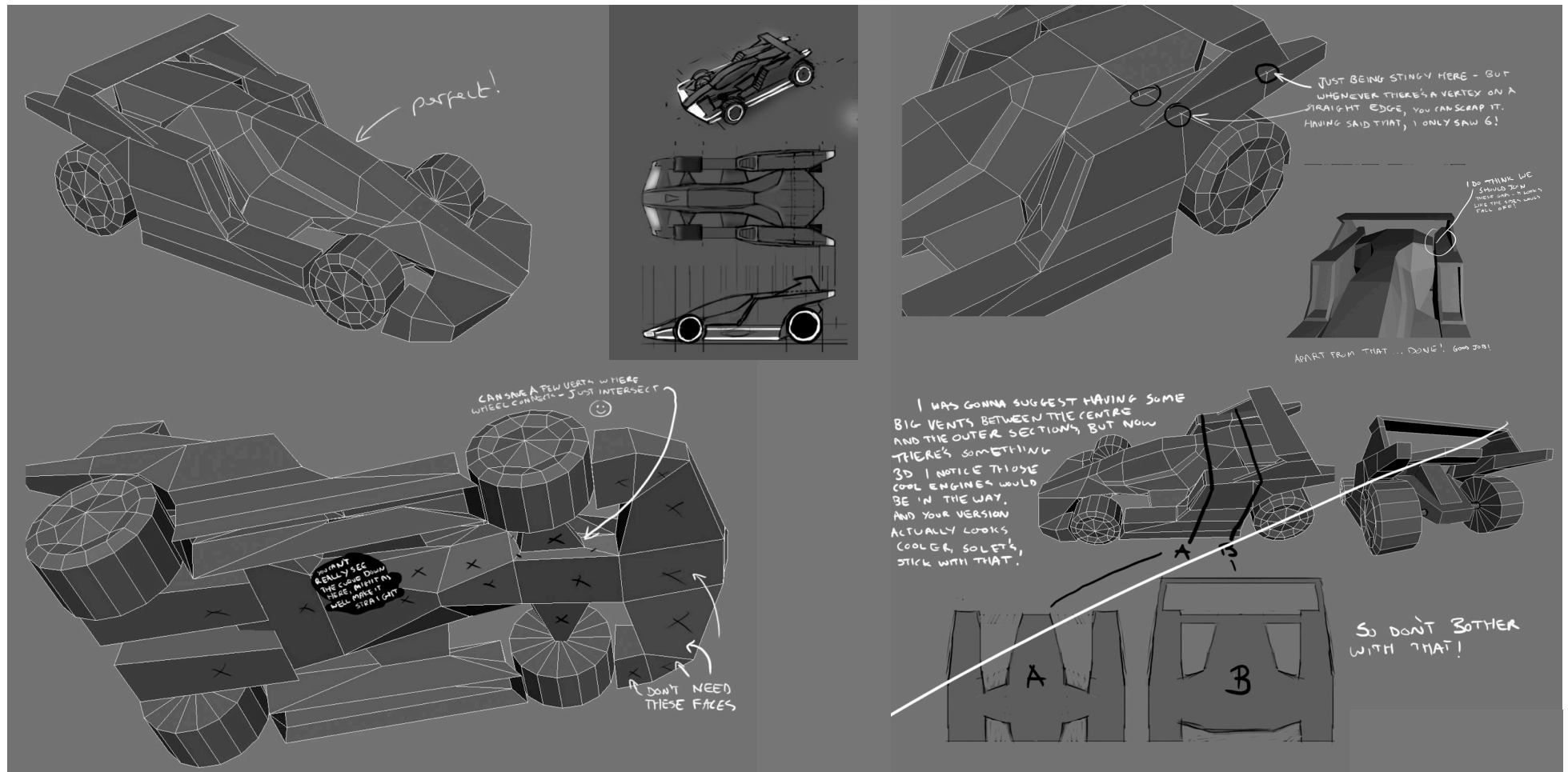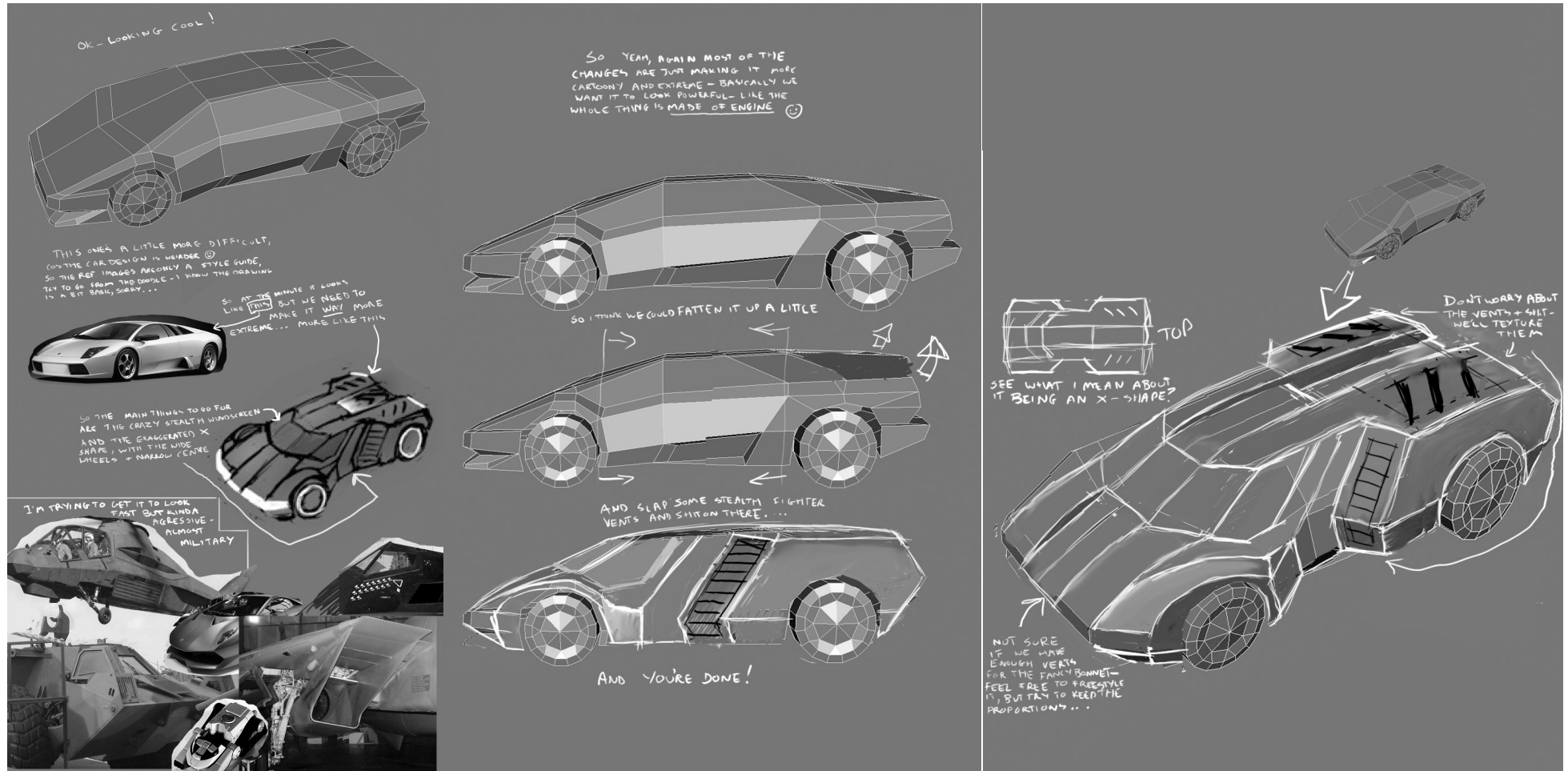Designing Forever Drive

5a.
Car design is hard

Car design is...surprisingly hard

More like..this?
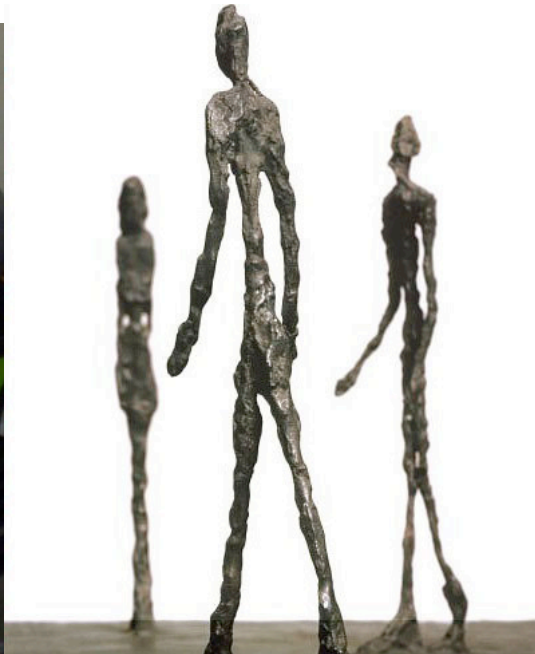
More like..this?

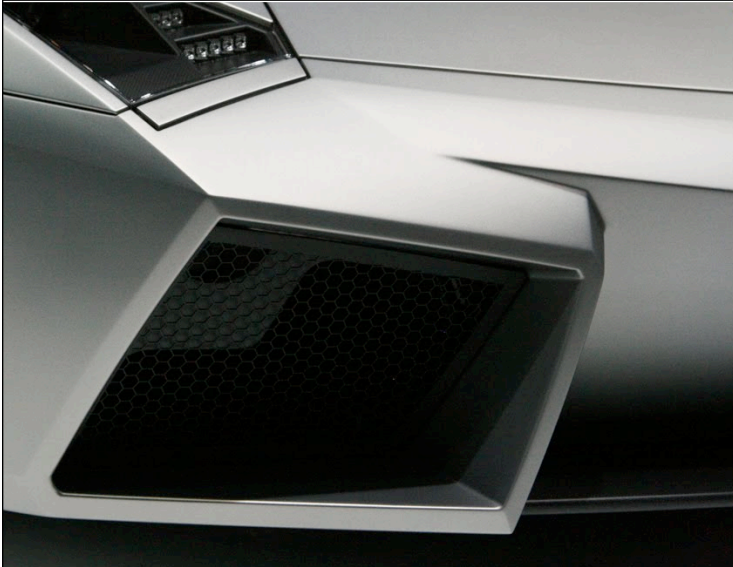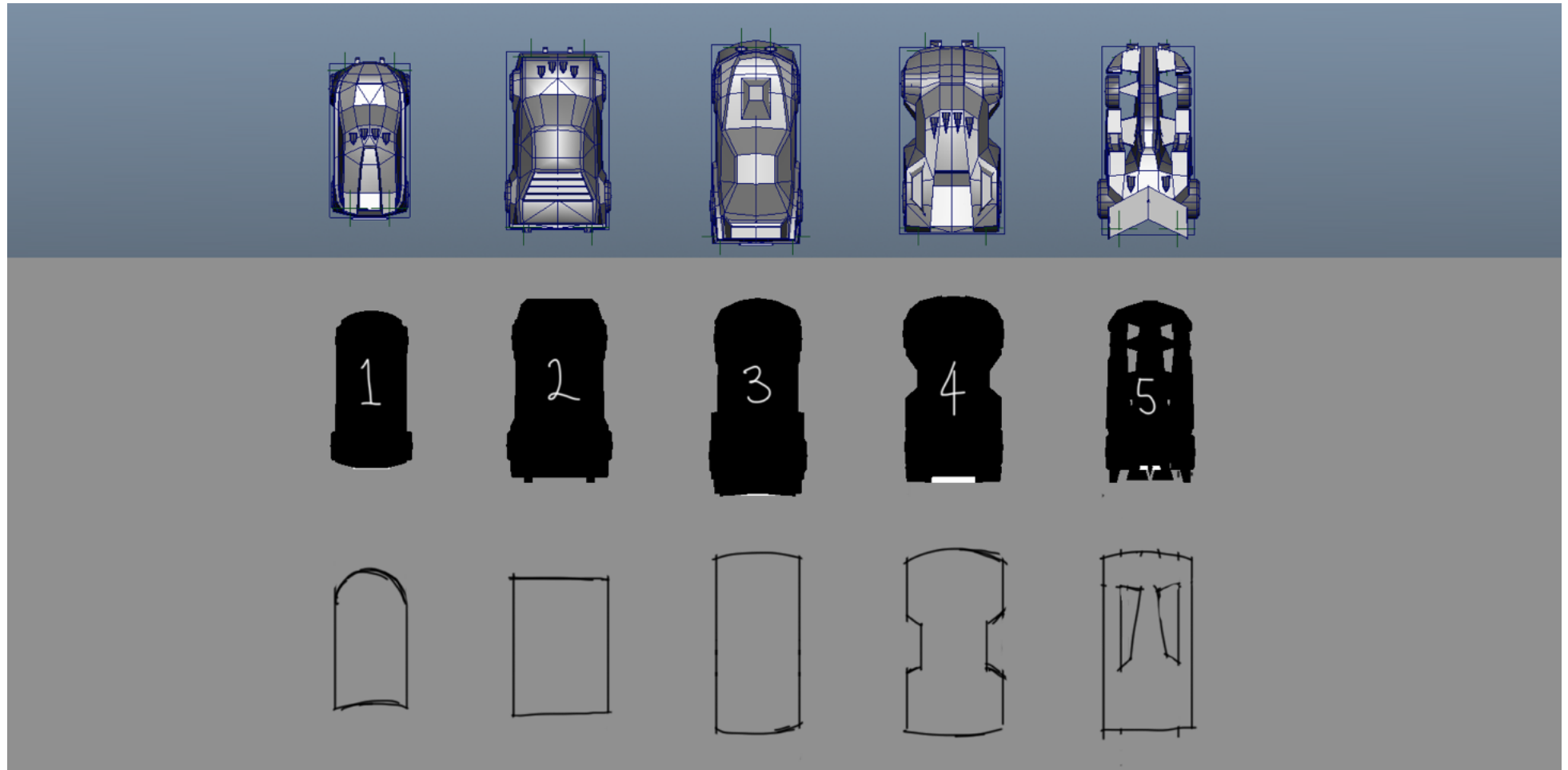More like..this?
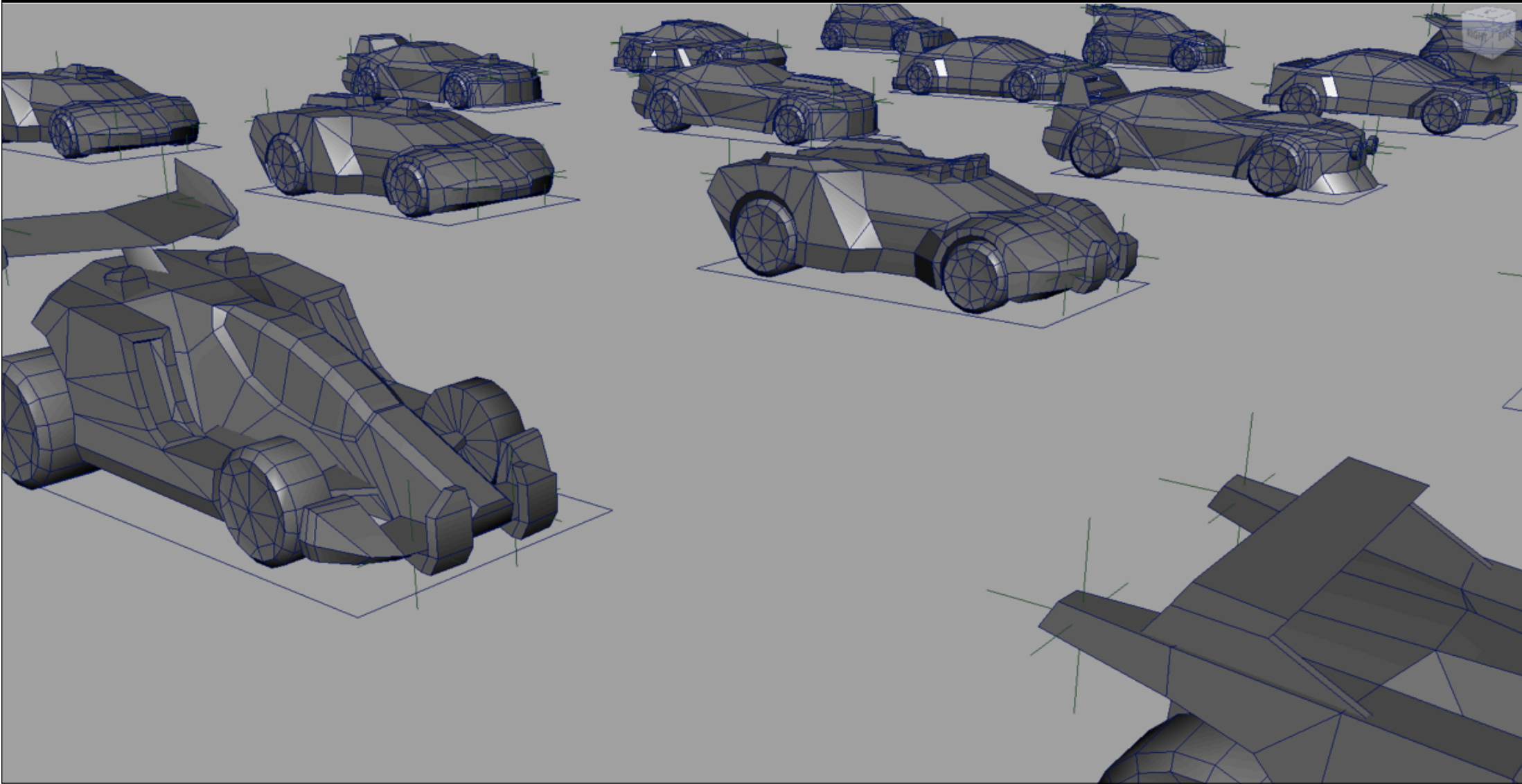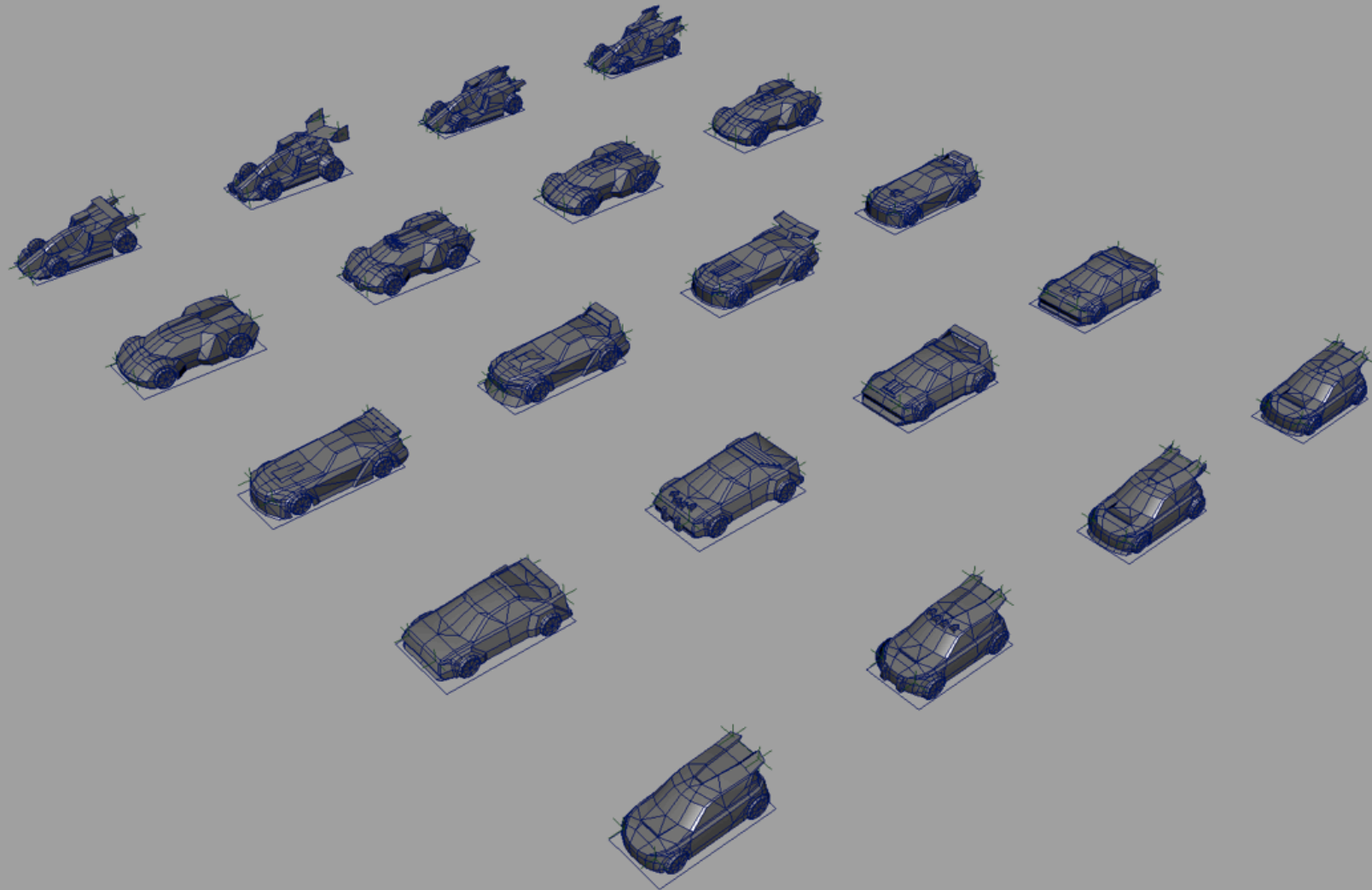
Reality

Alberto
Giacometti

Lucian
Freud

Michael
Bay

Silhouettes are important when the car is tiny!
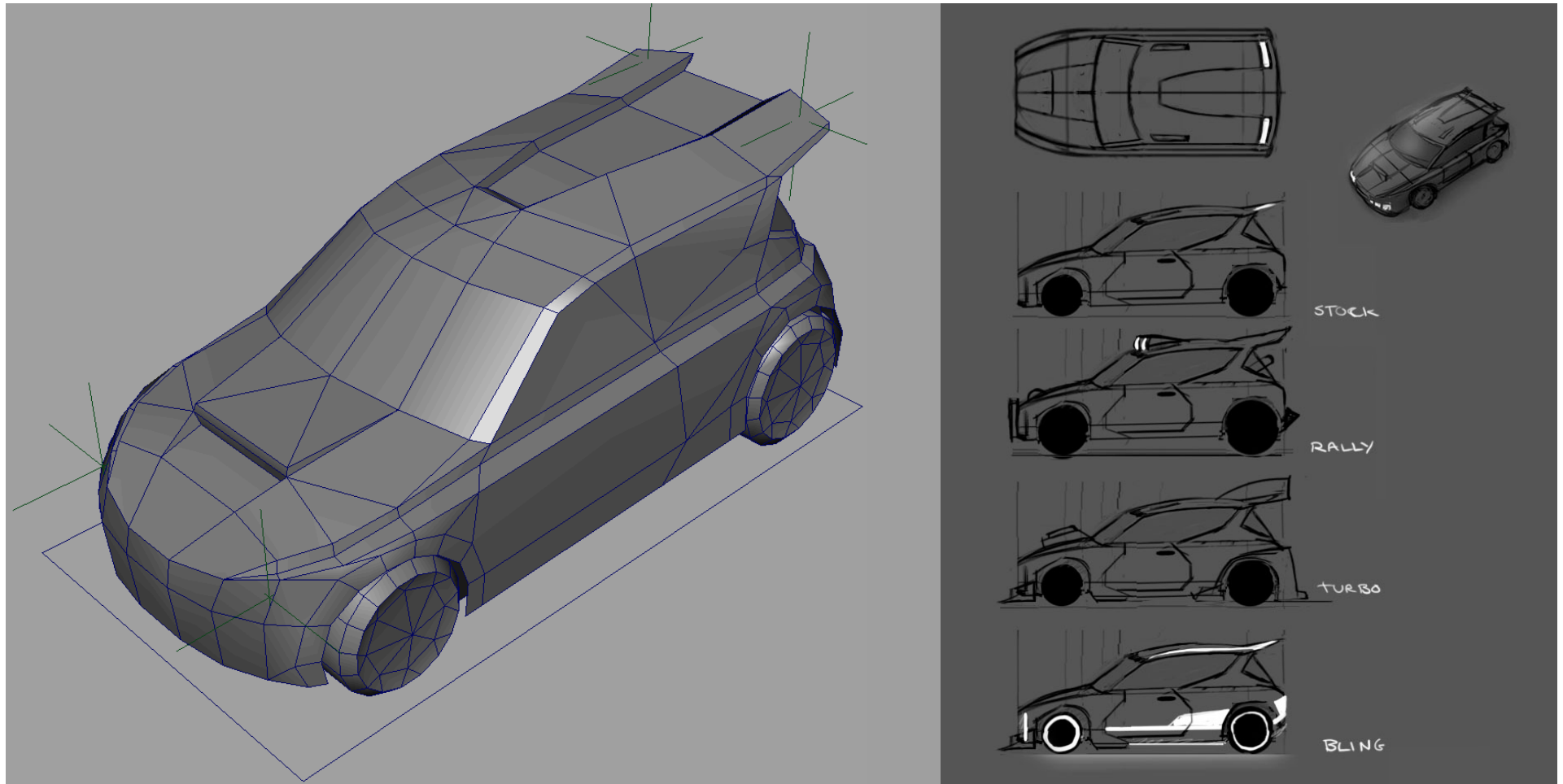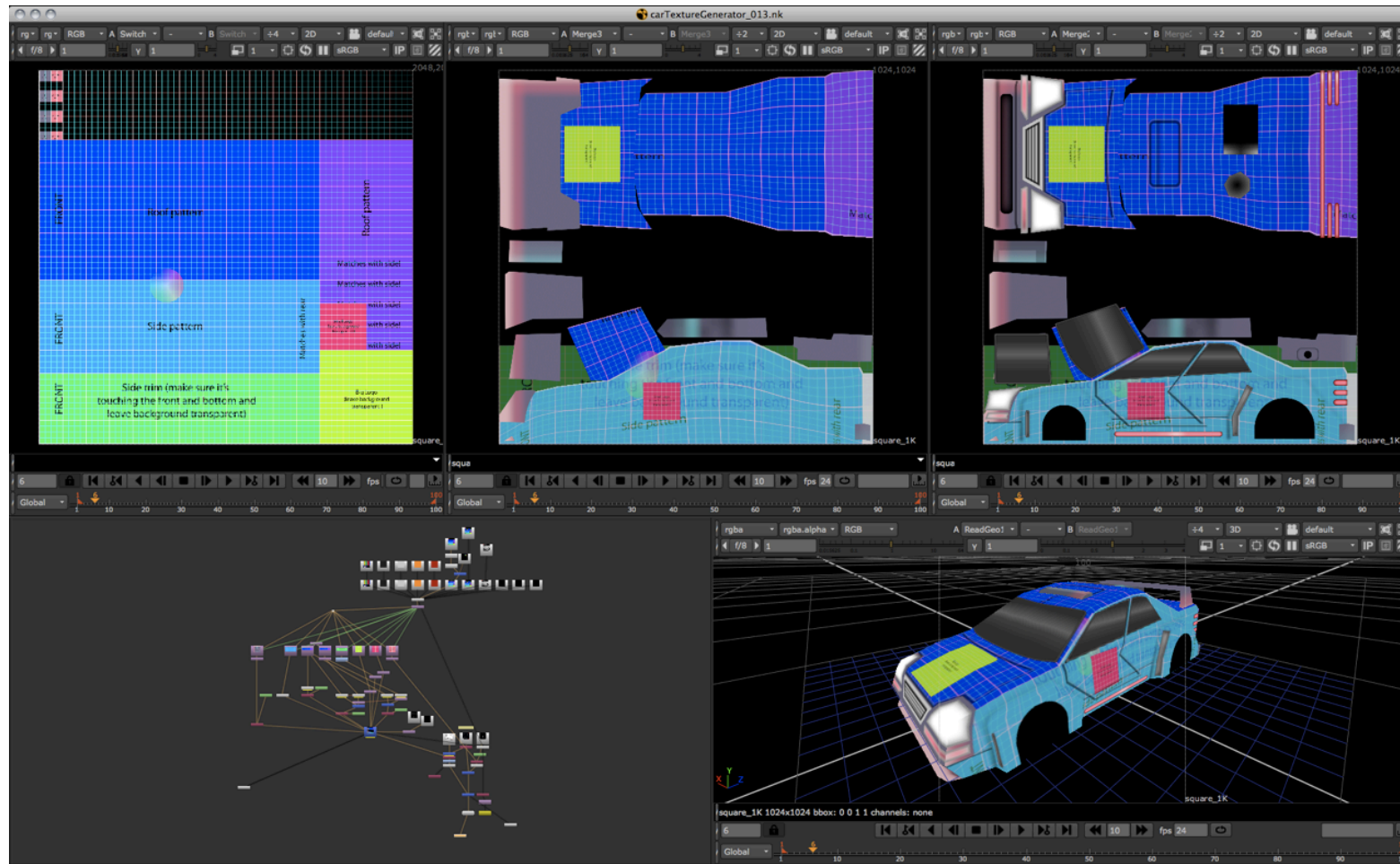
Variations on a theme...
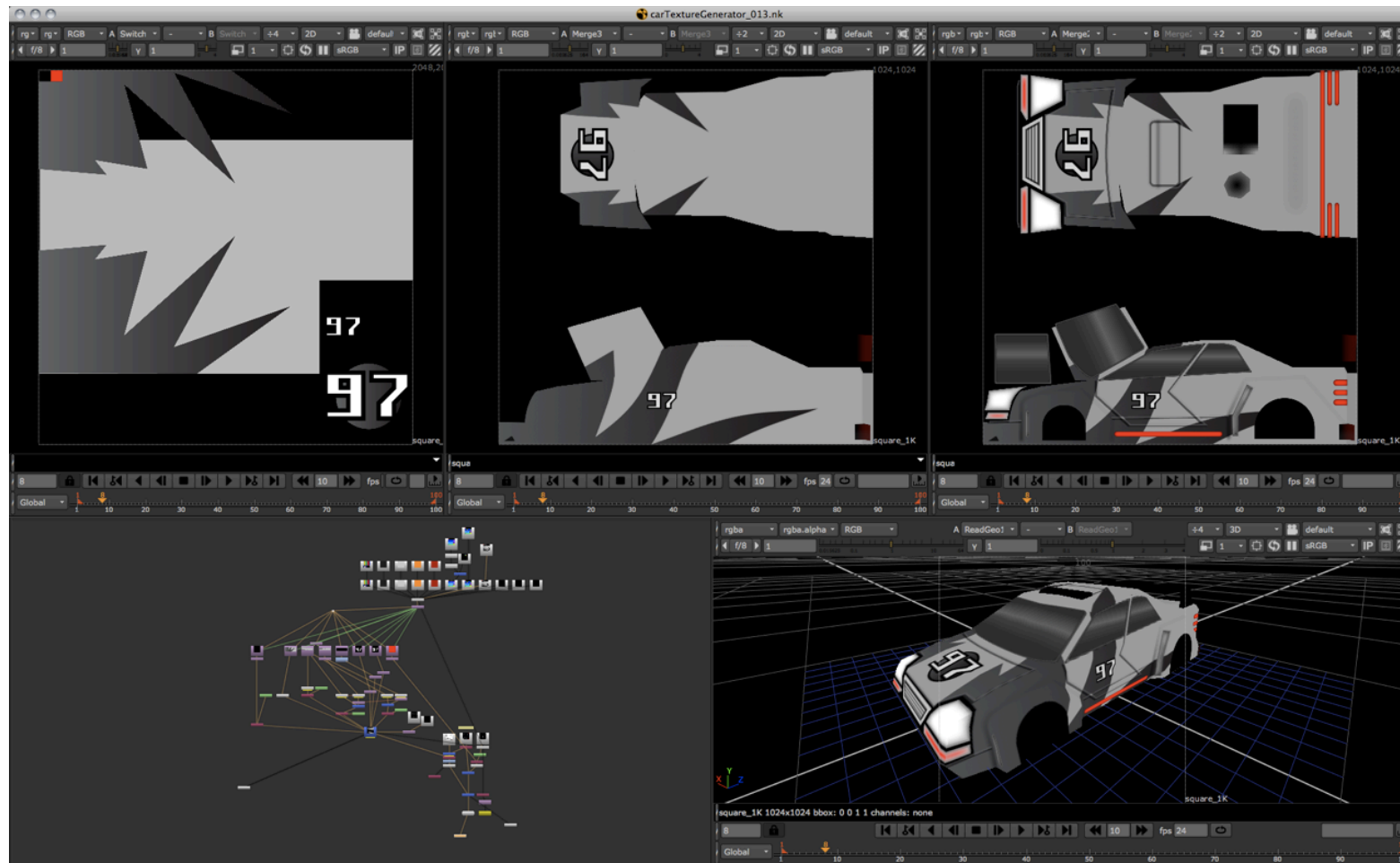
Less Reality, More Neon
Designing Forever Drive

5b.
Pretty colours
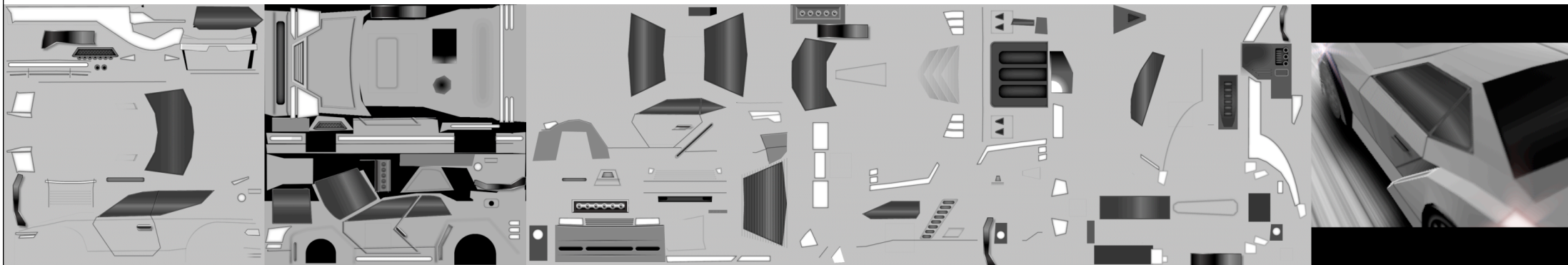
Texture pages for cars 1-5, and thumbnail

Efficient pipeline AKA "cheating"

Efficient pipeline AKA "cheating"
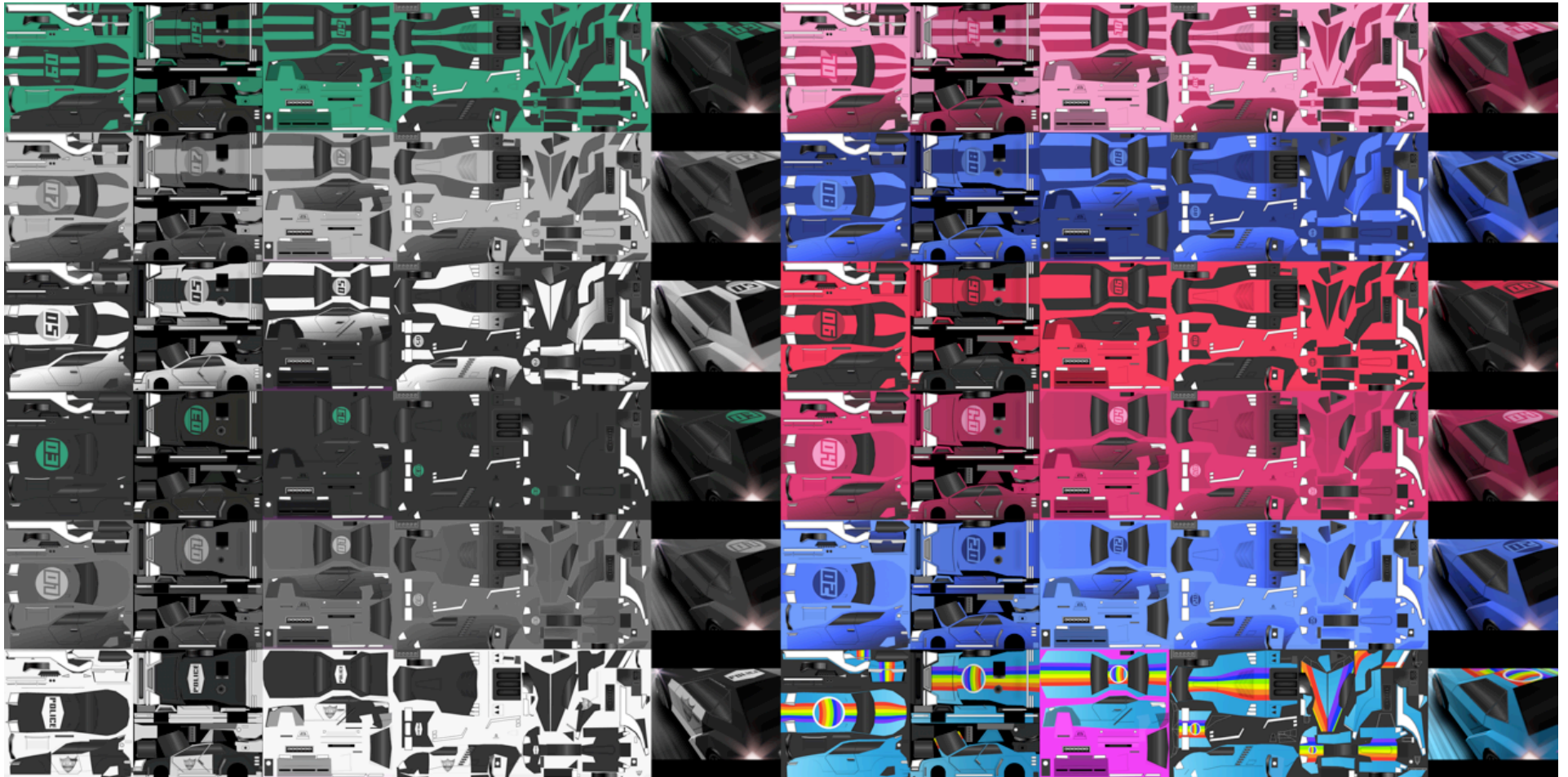
So many colours!
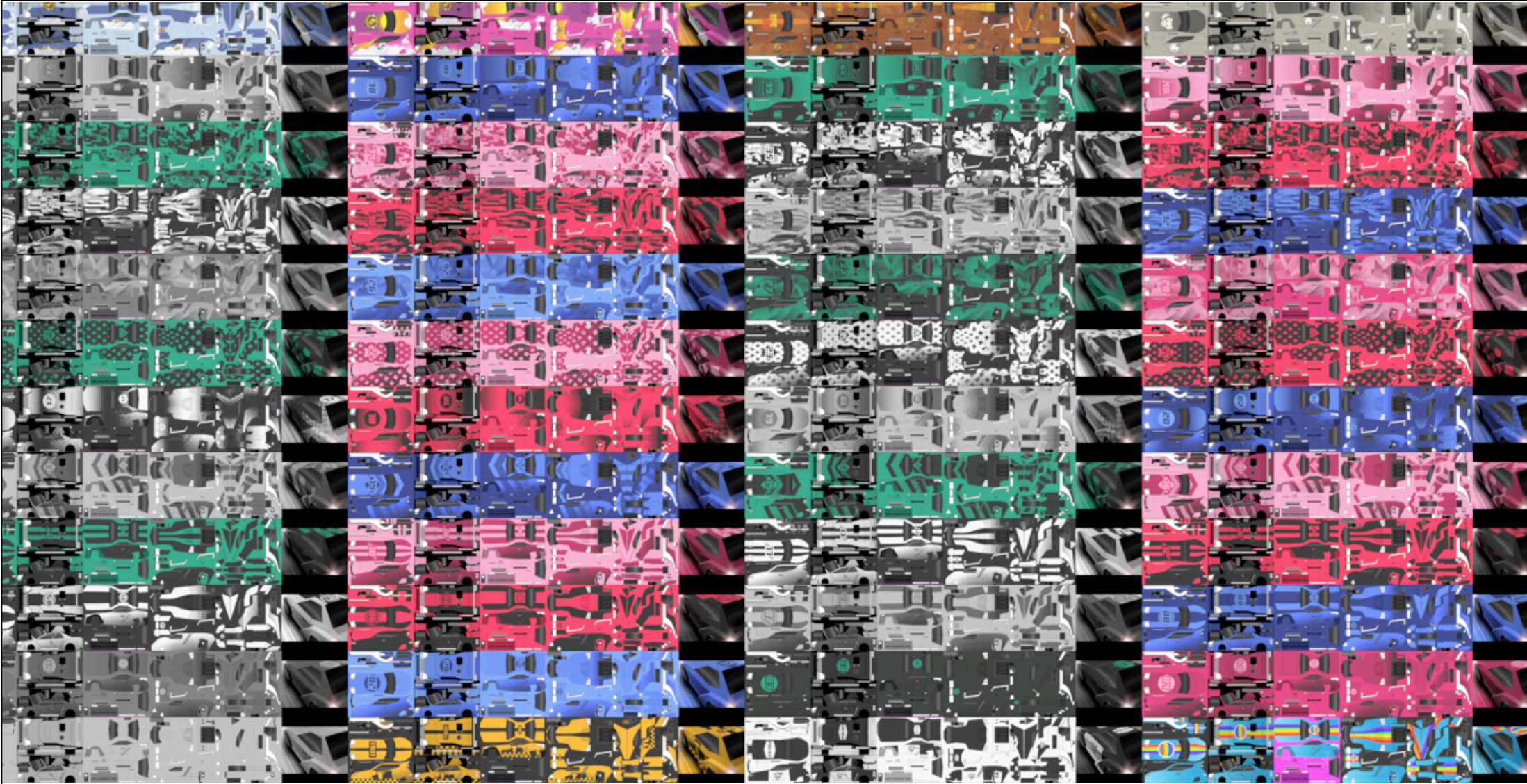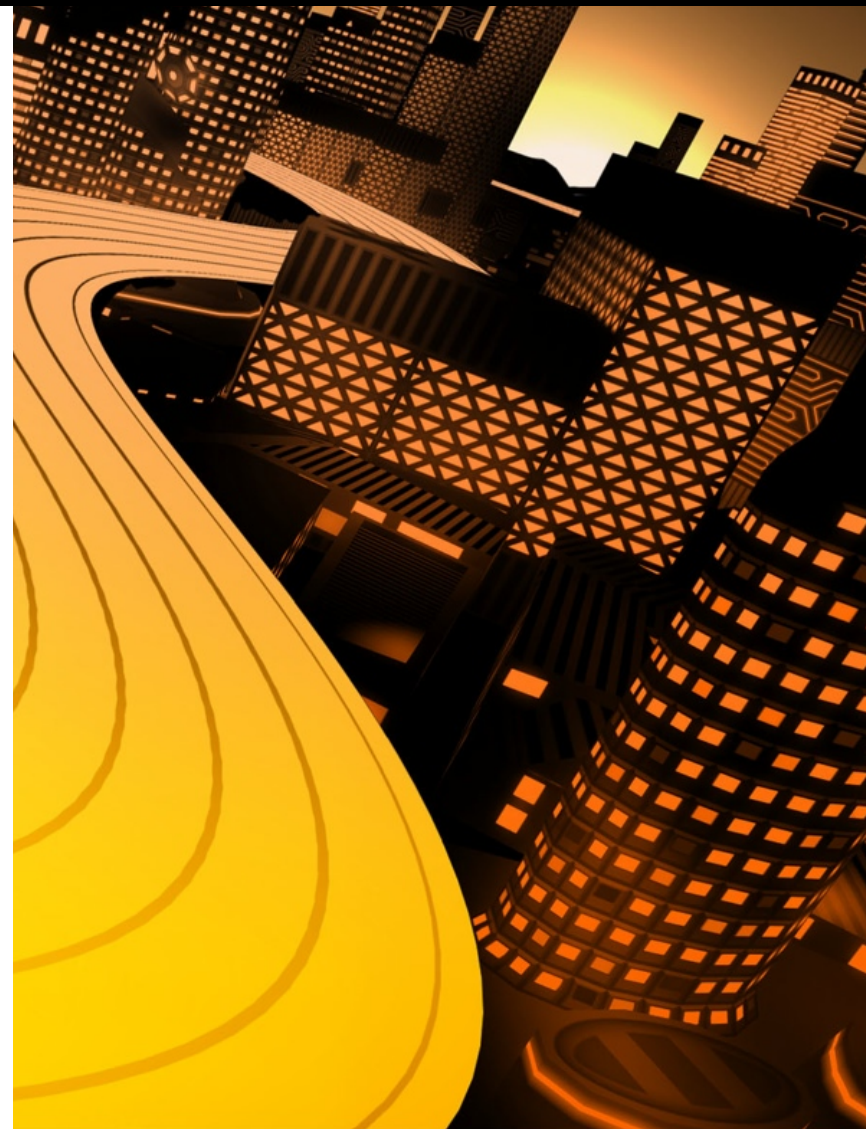
Less Reality, More Neon
Designing Forever Drive

5c.
The world
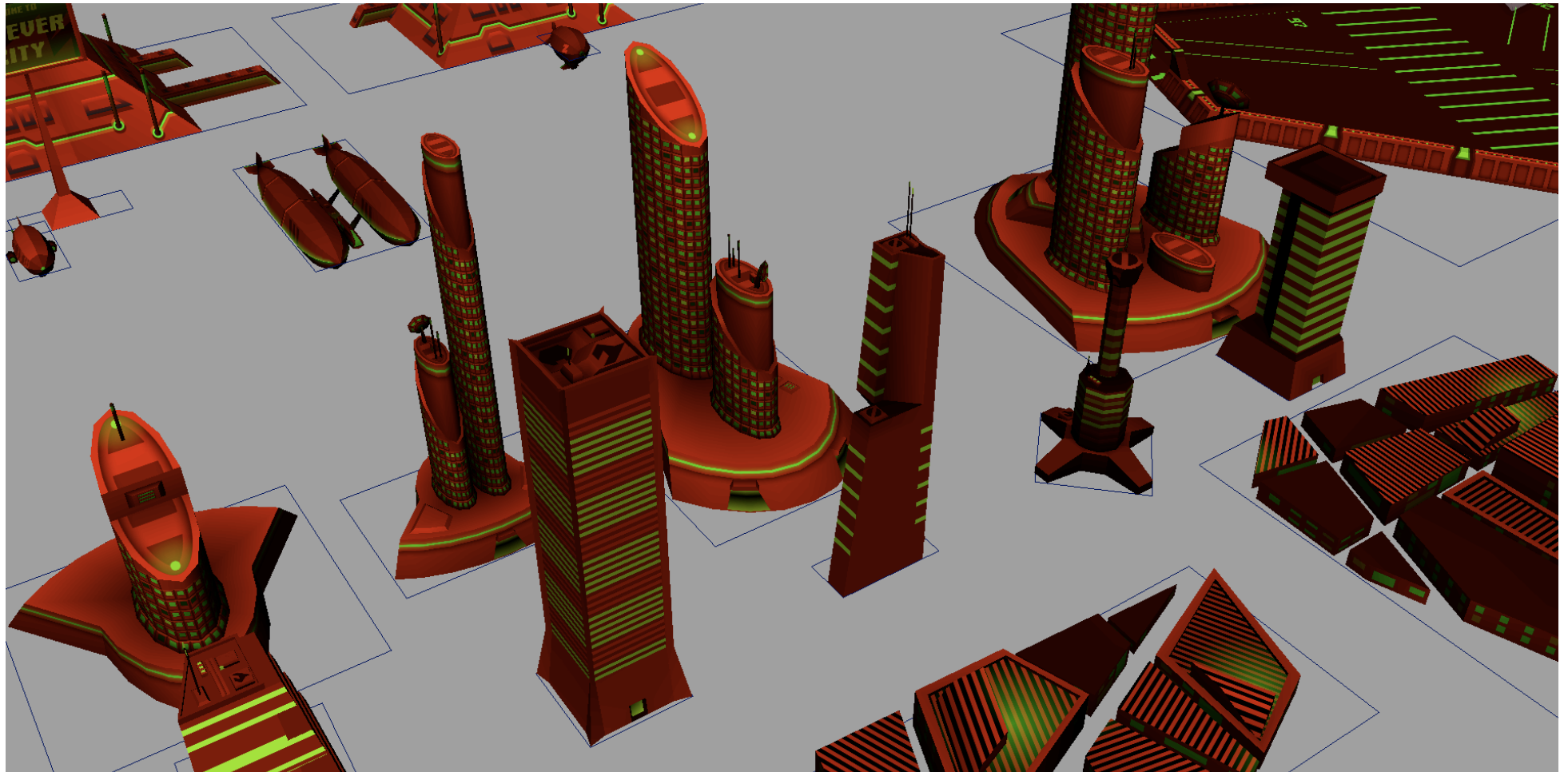
Forever Drive - scenery assets
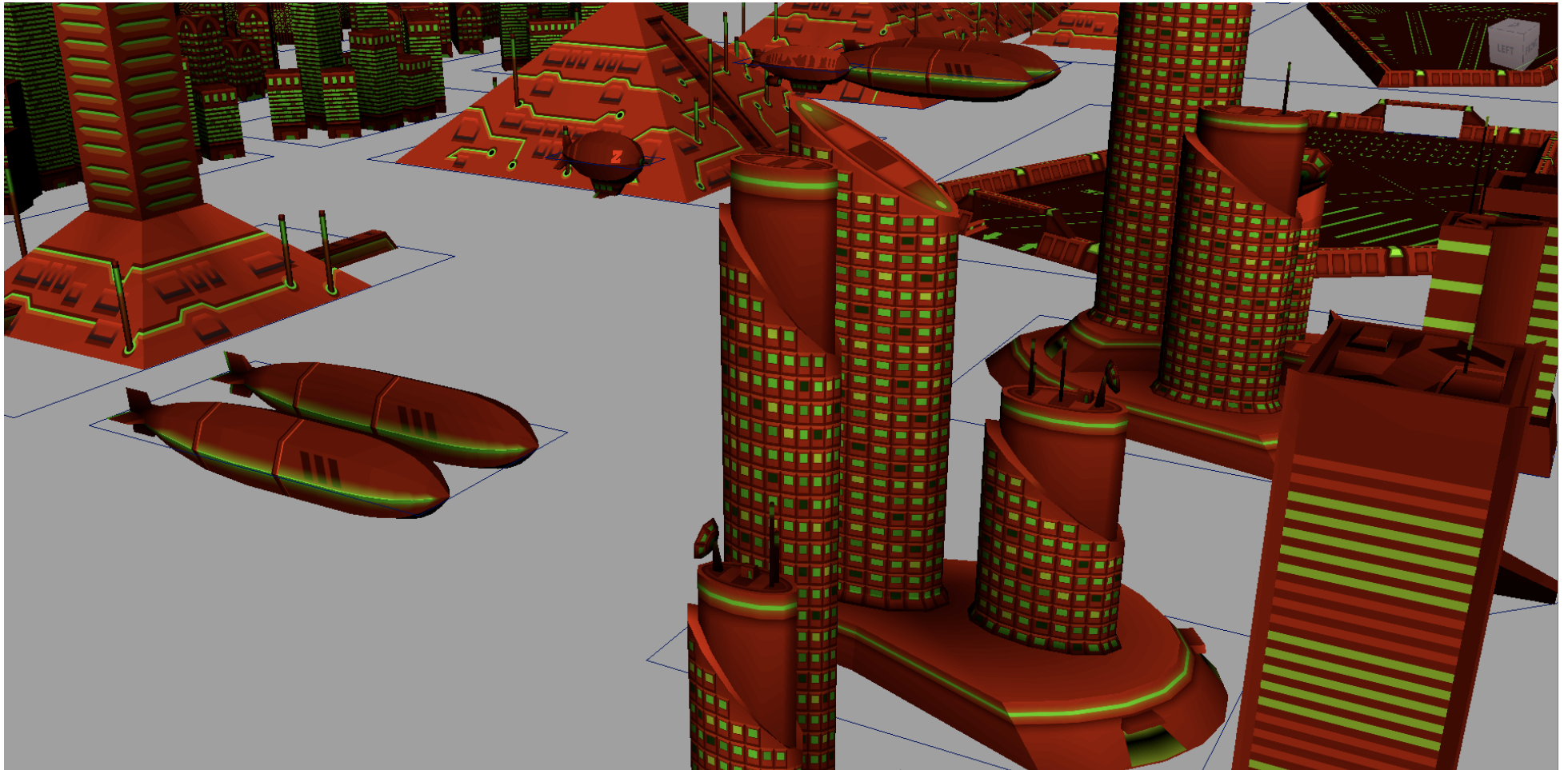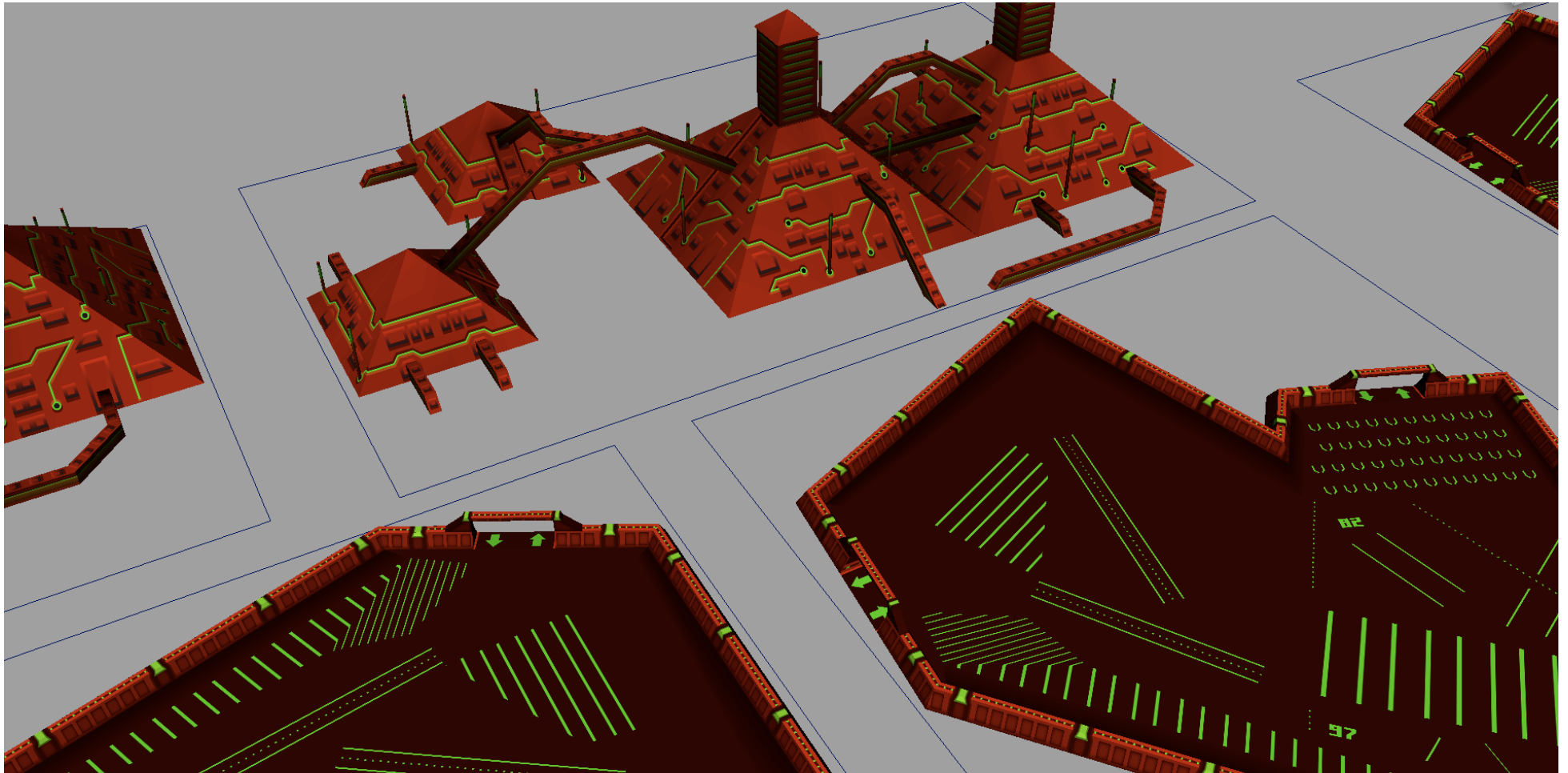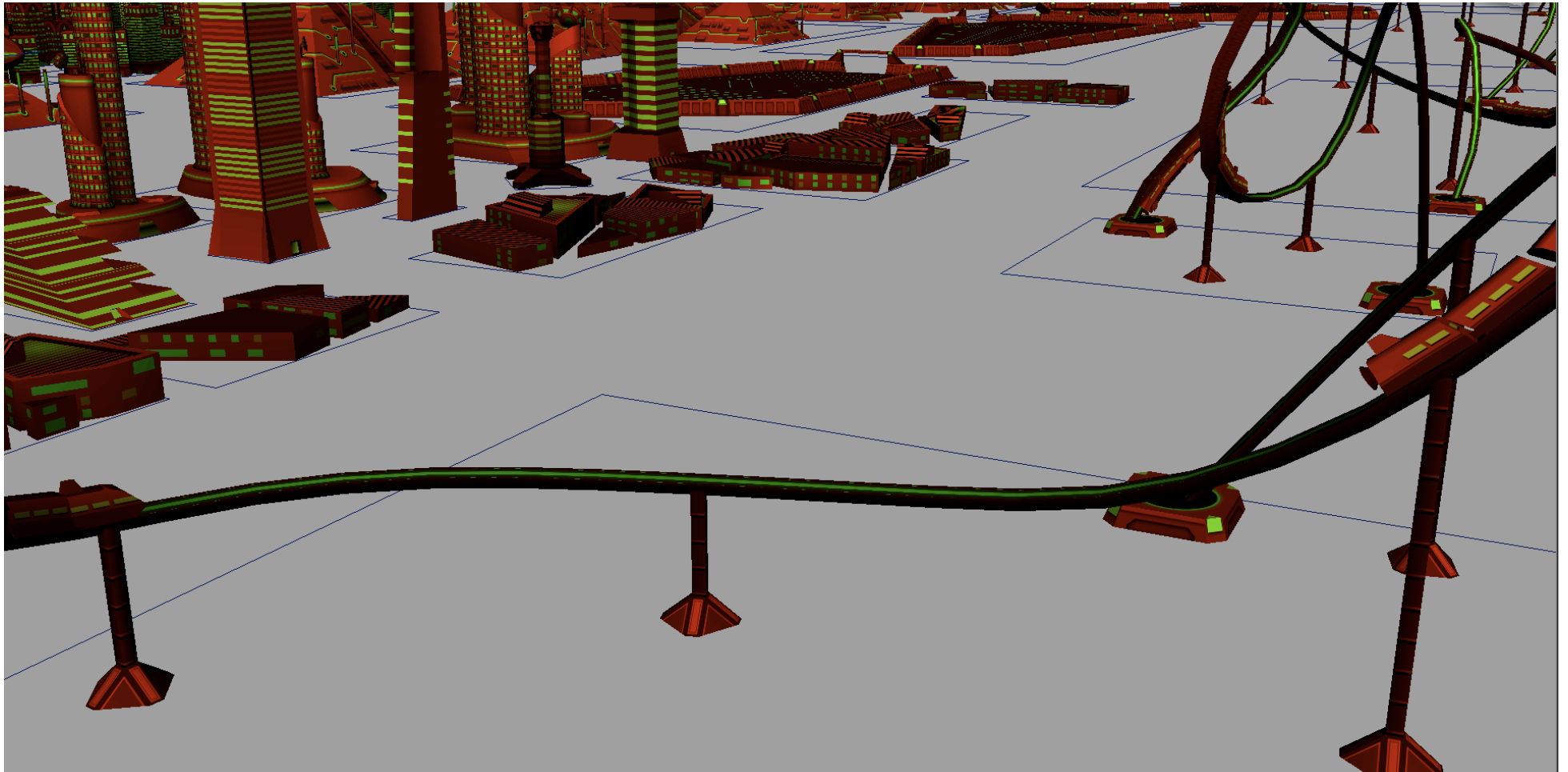
Forever Drive - scenery assets
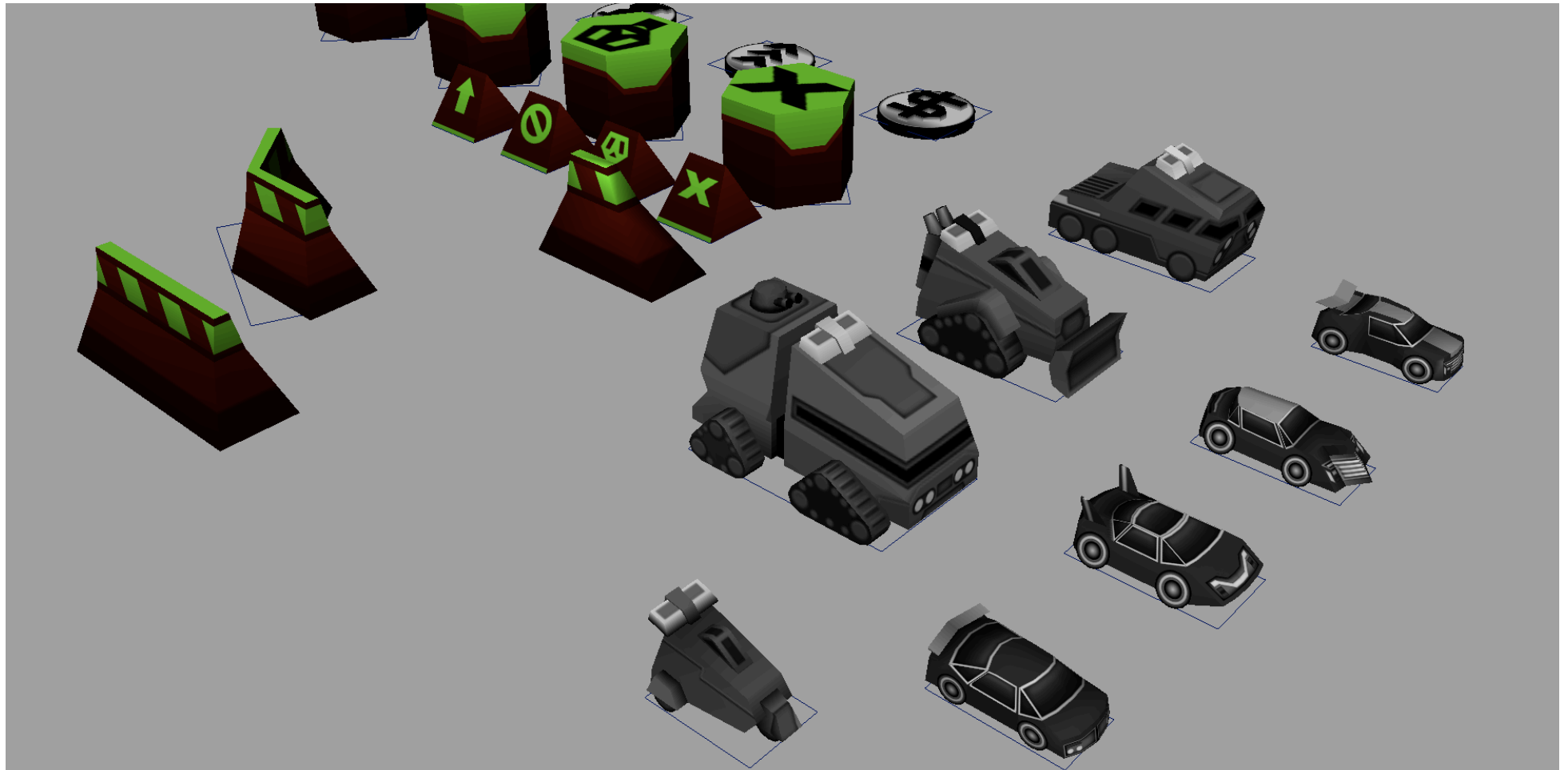
Forever Drive - scenery assets
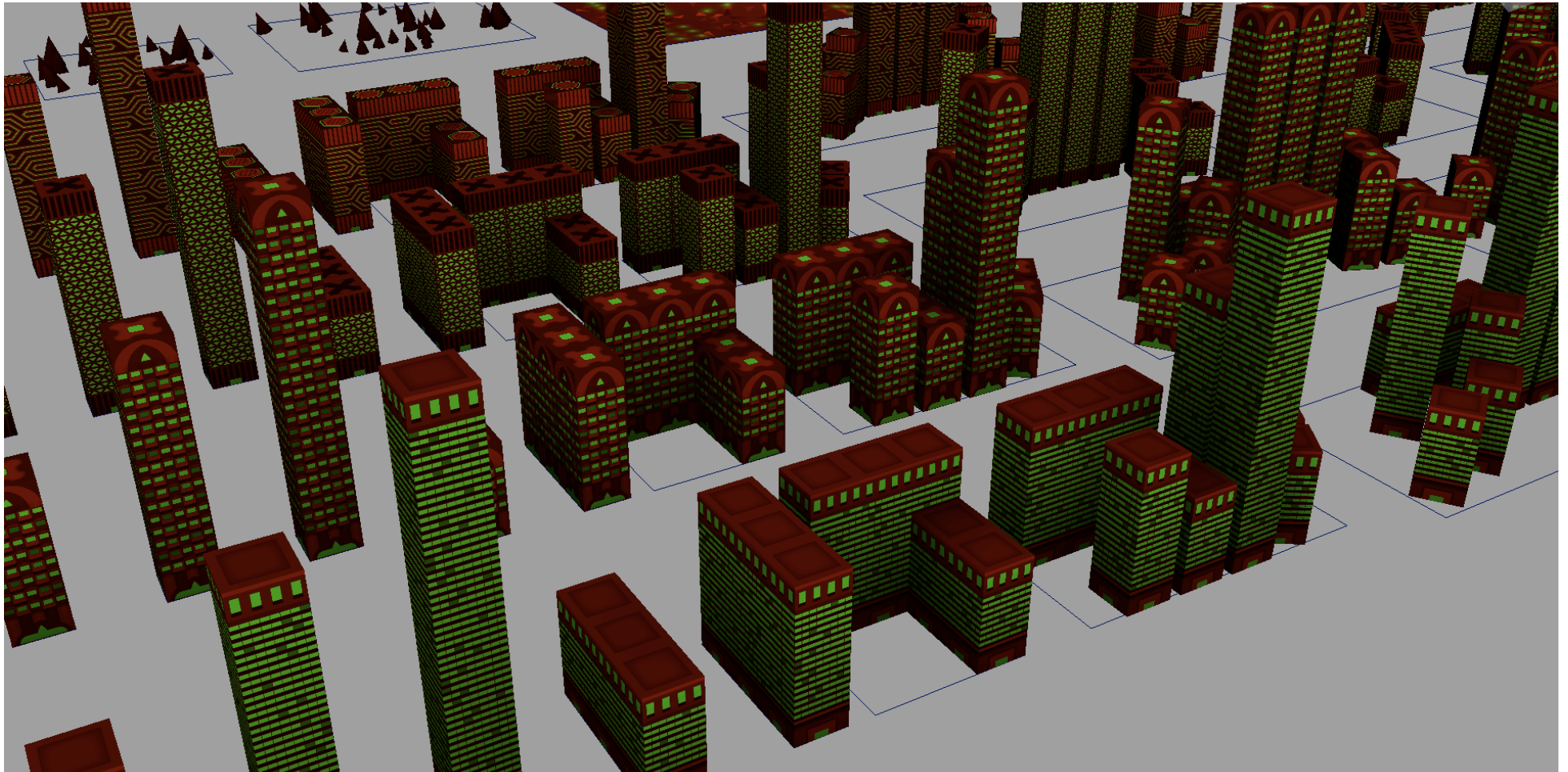
Forever Drive - scenery assets
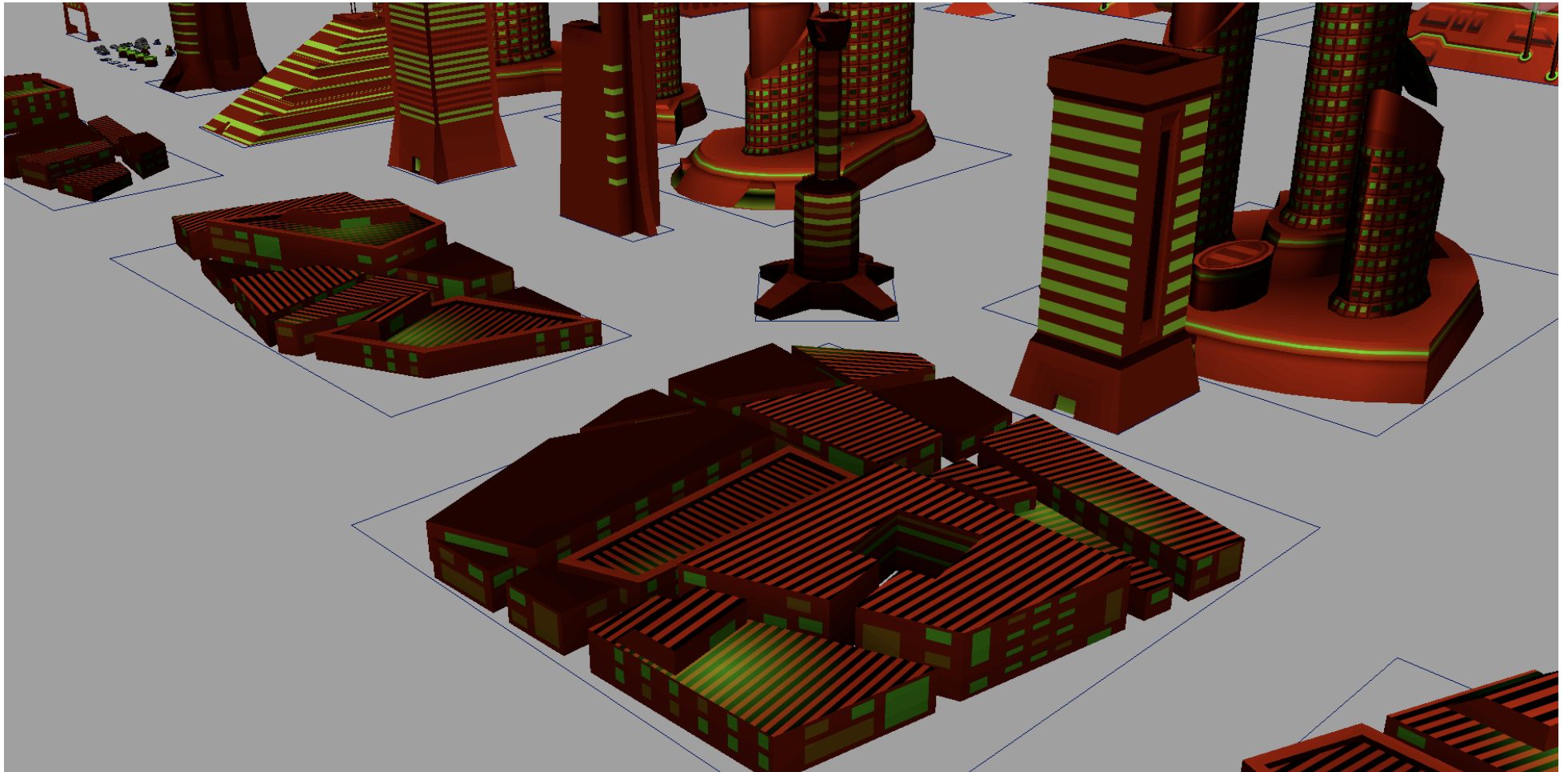
Forever Drive - scenery assets
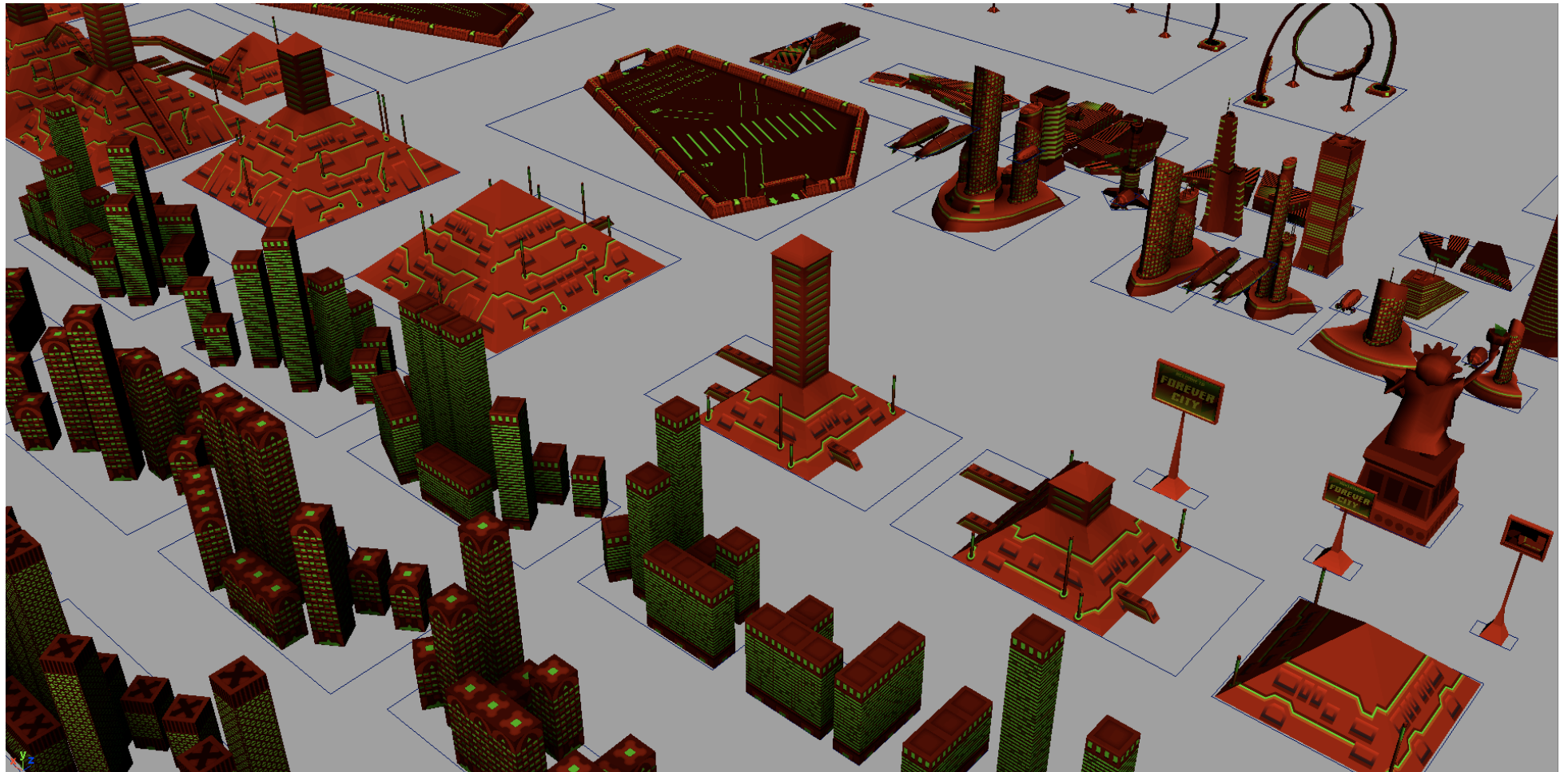
Forever Drive - scenery assets

Forever Drive - scenery assets

Forever Drive - scenery assets
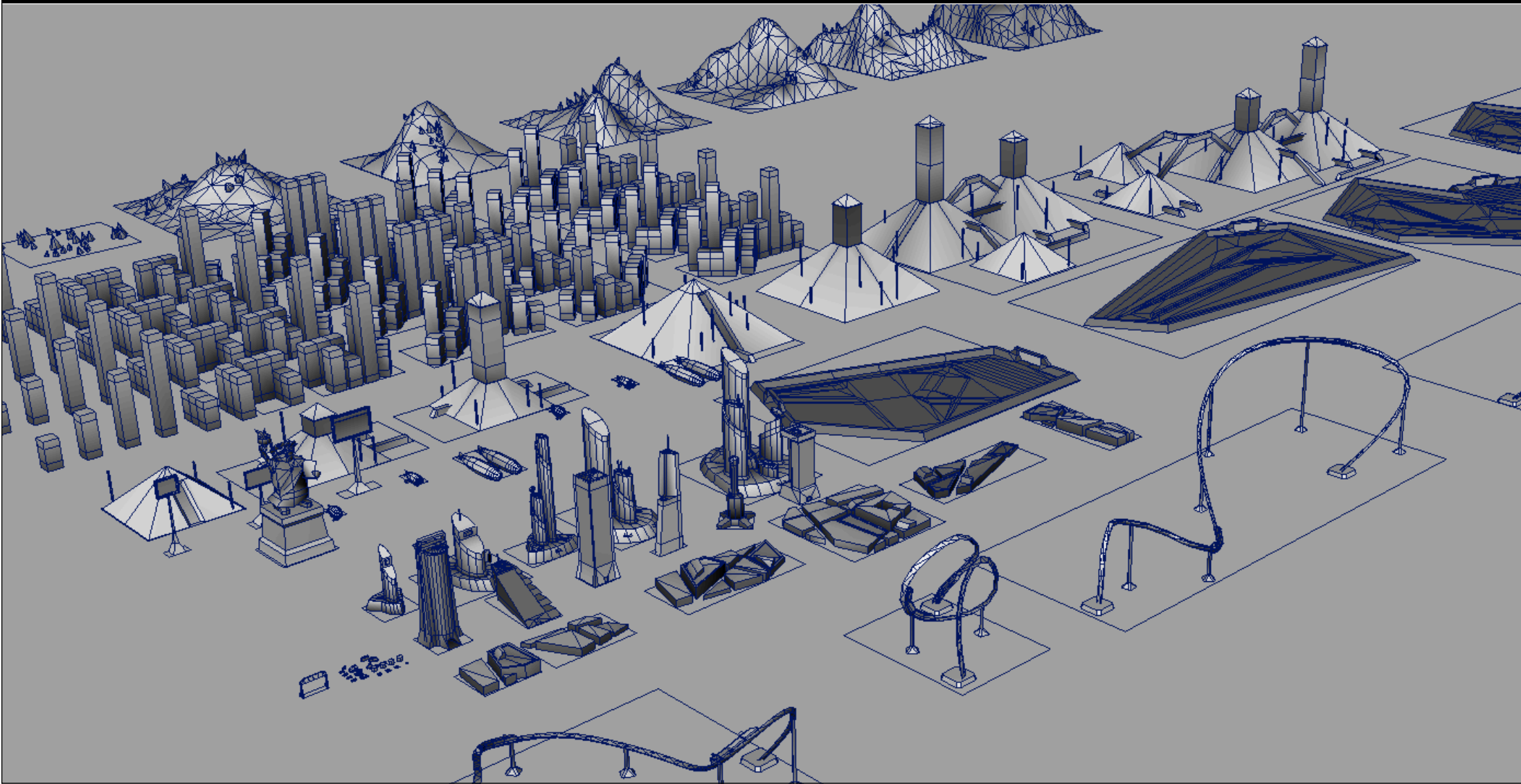
Less Reality, More Neon
Designing Forever Drive

6.
Done!
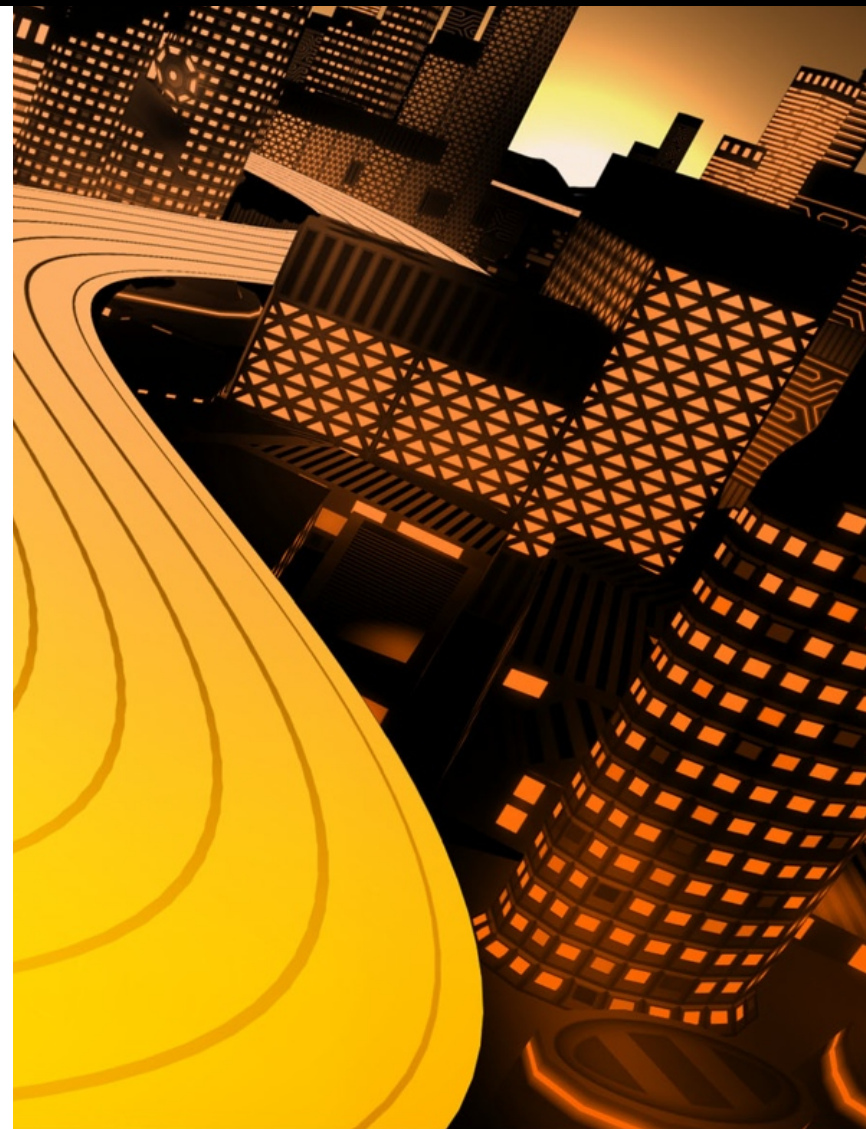
iPad screenshots
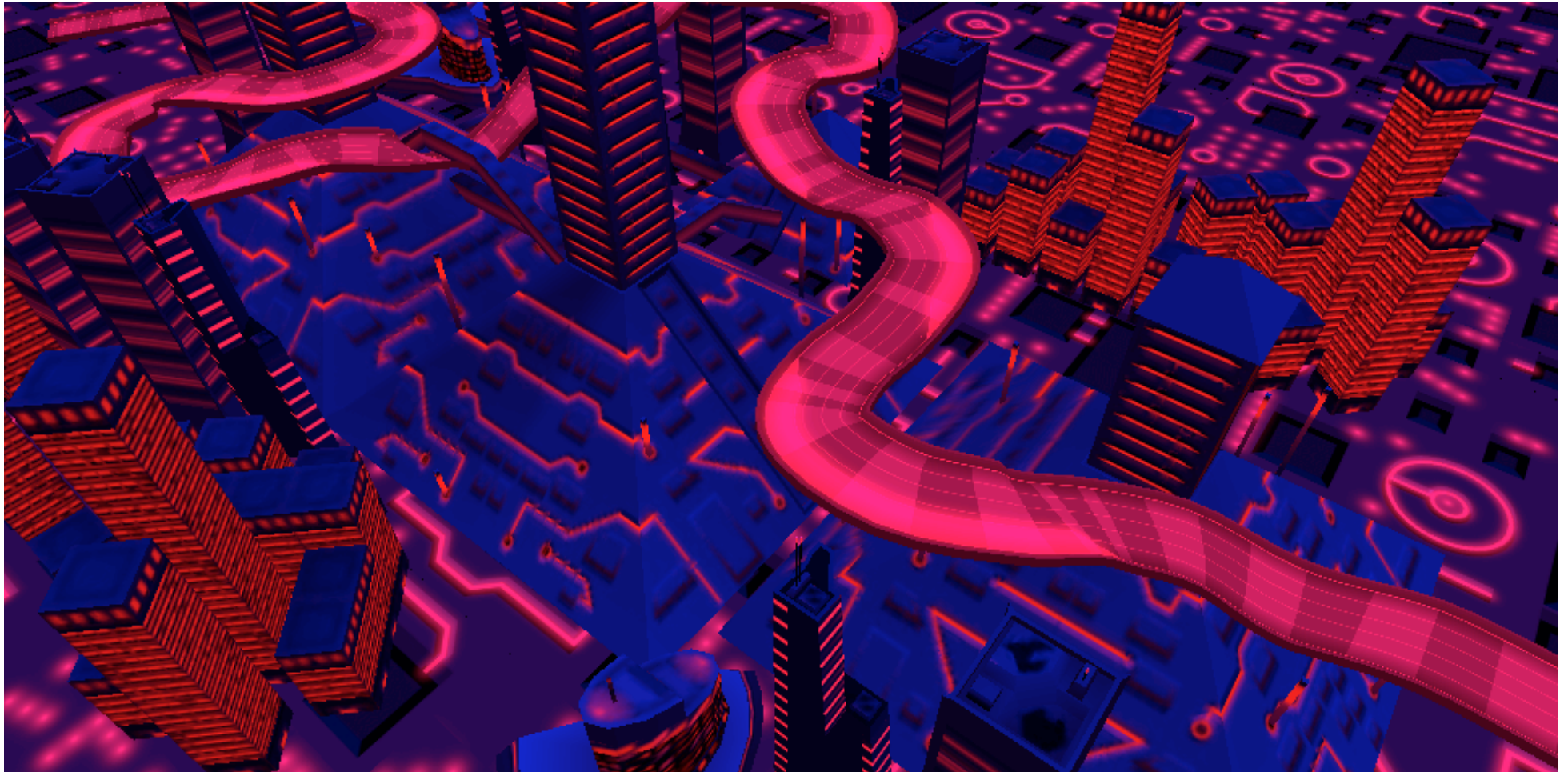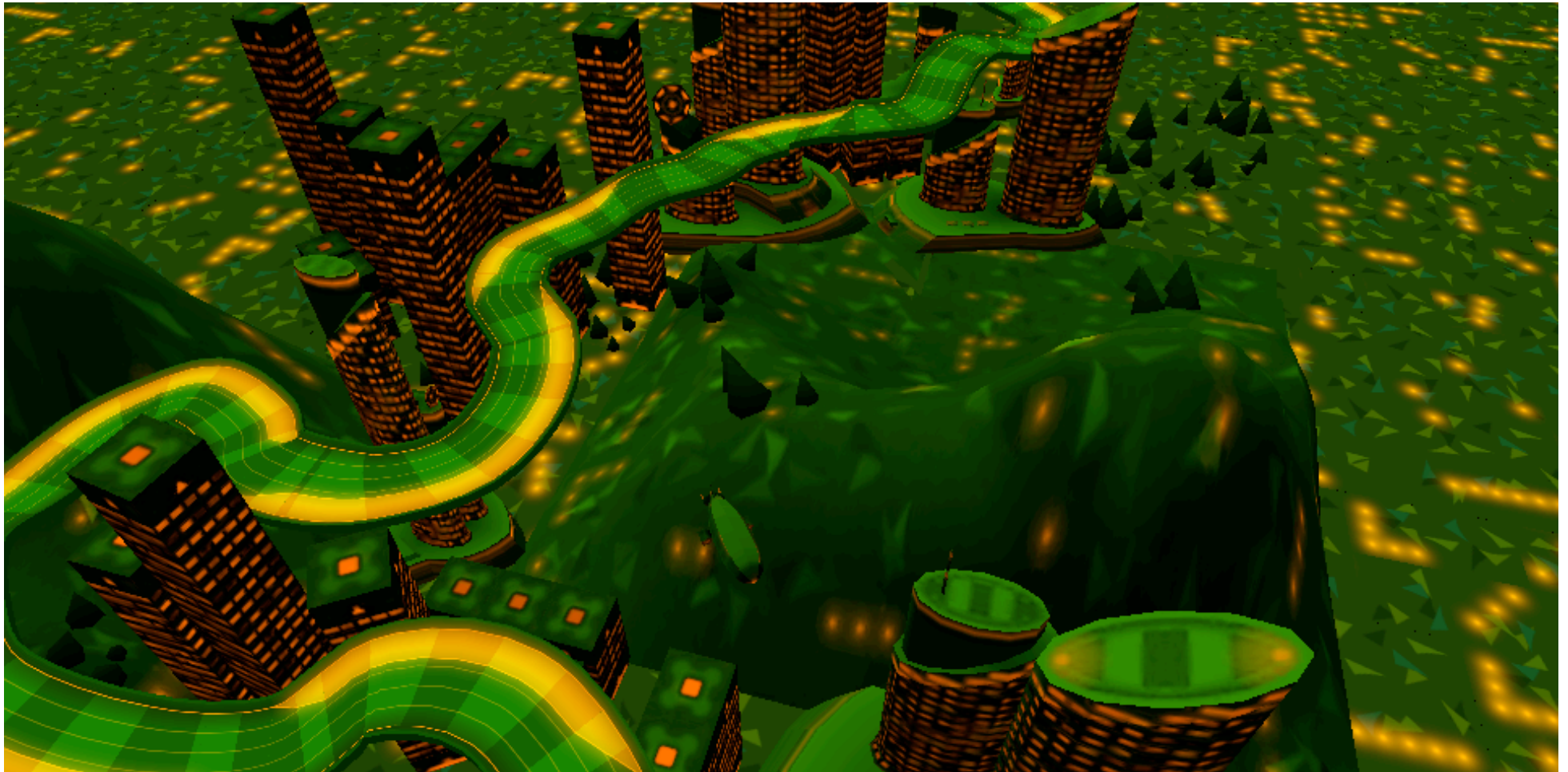
iPad screenshots

iPad screenshots

Here's one we made earlier...

The end result...
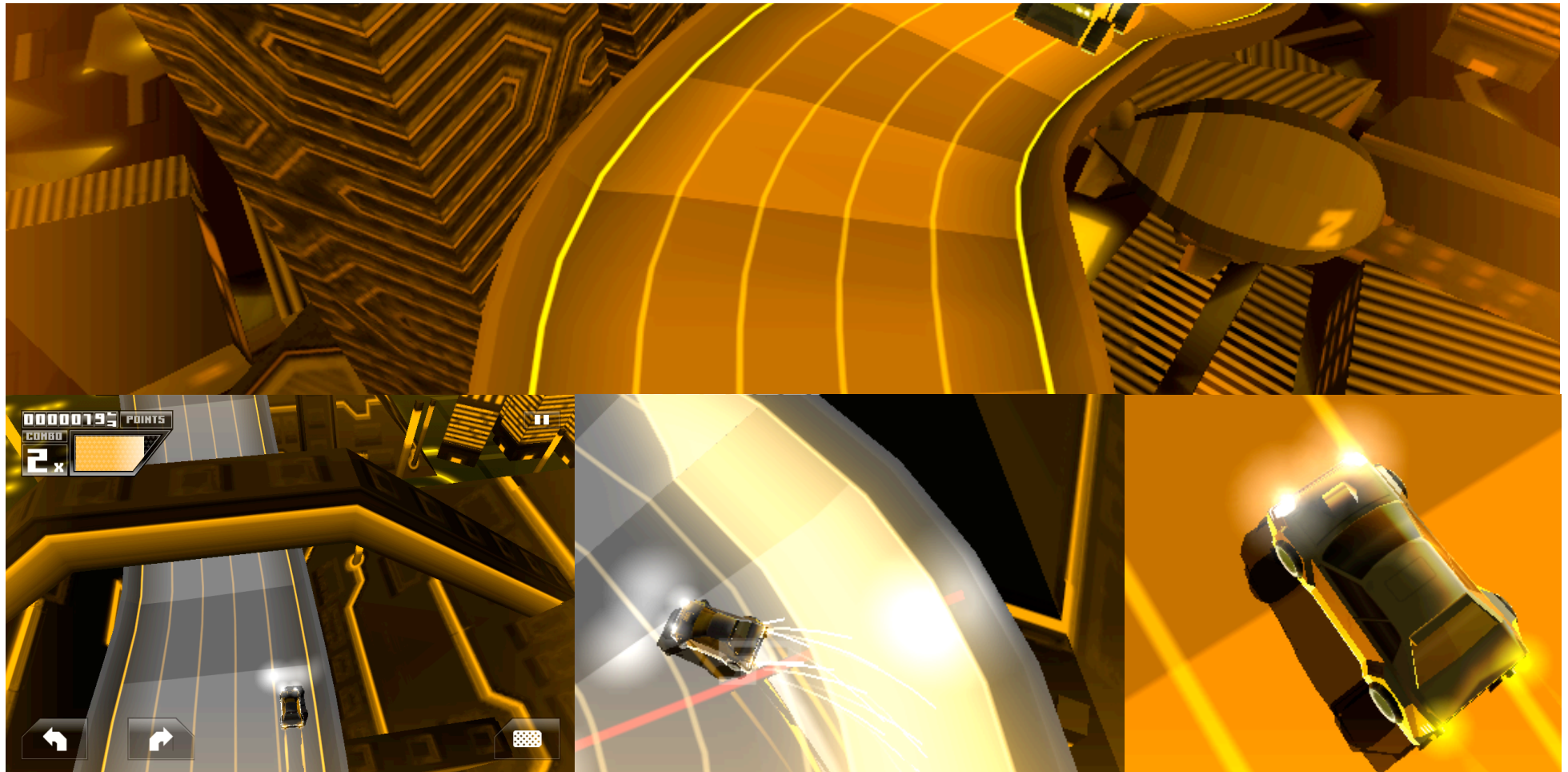
Here's one we made earlier...
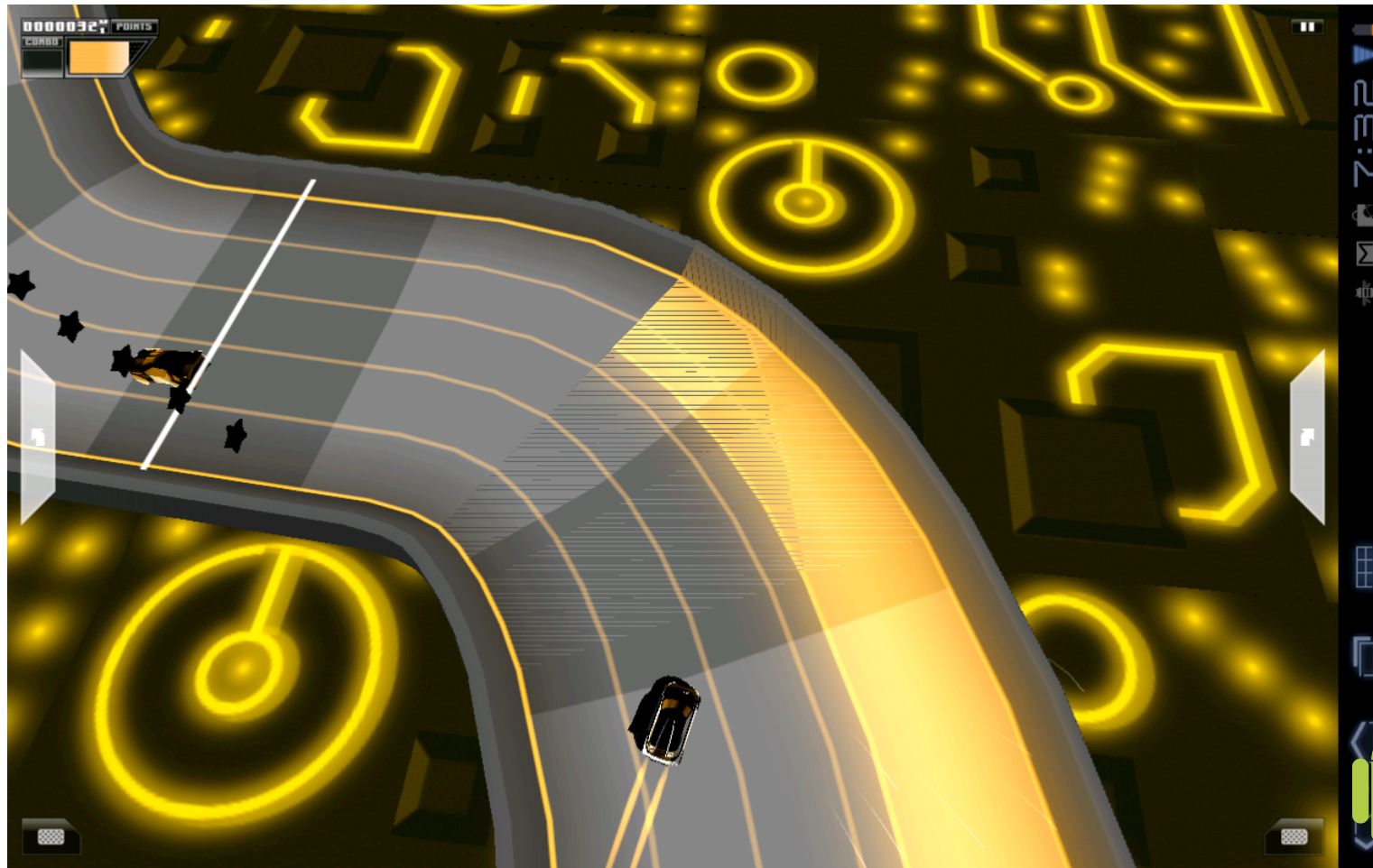
Work-in-progress...a little something for you Android kids :-)

Less Reality, More Neon
Designing Forever Drive

7.
So...what did we learn?

So...what did we learn?

Mugara cave painting, Bulgaria

Unknown - Old St Paul's Cathedral, 1614

Canaletto - "Il canal Grande verso Rialto", 1723

Now what?
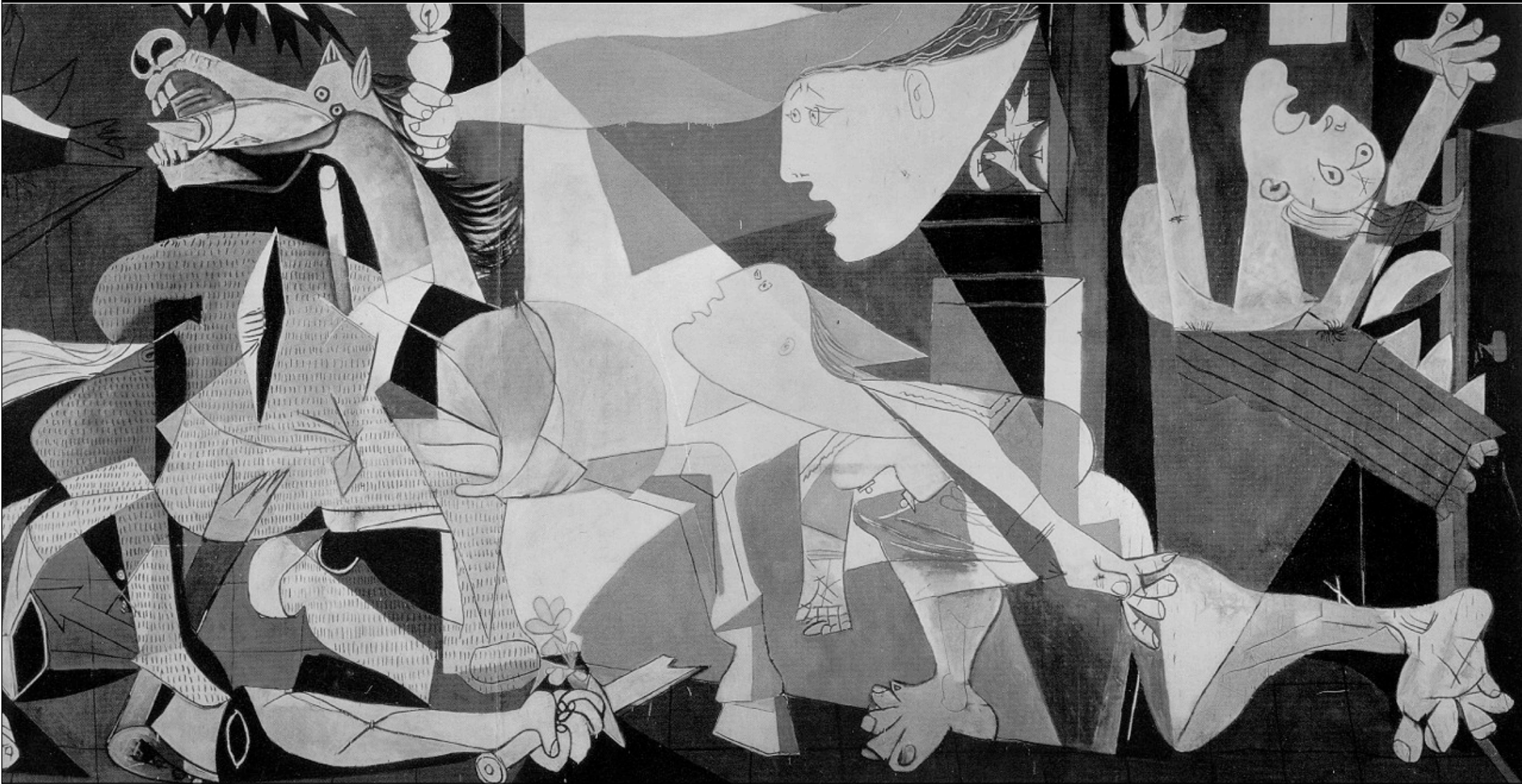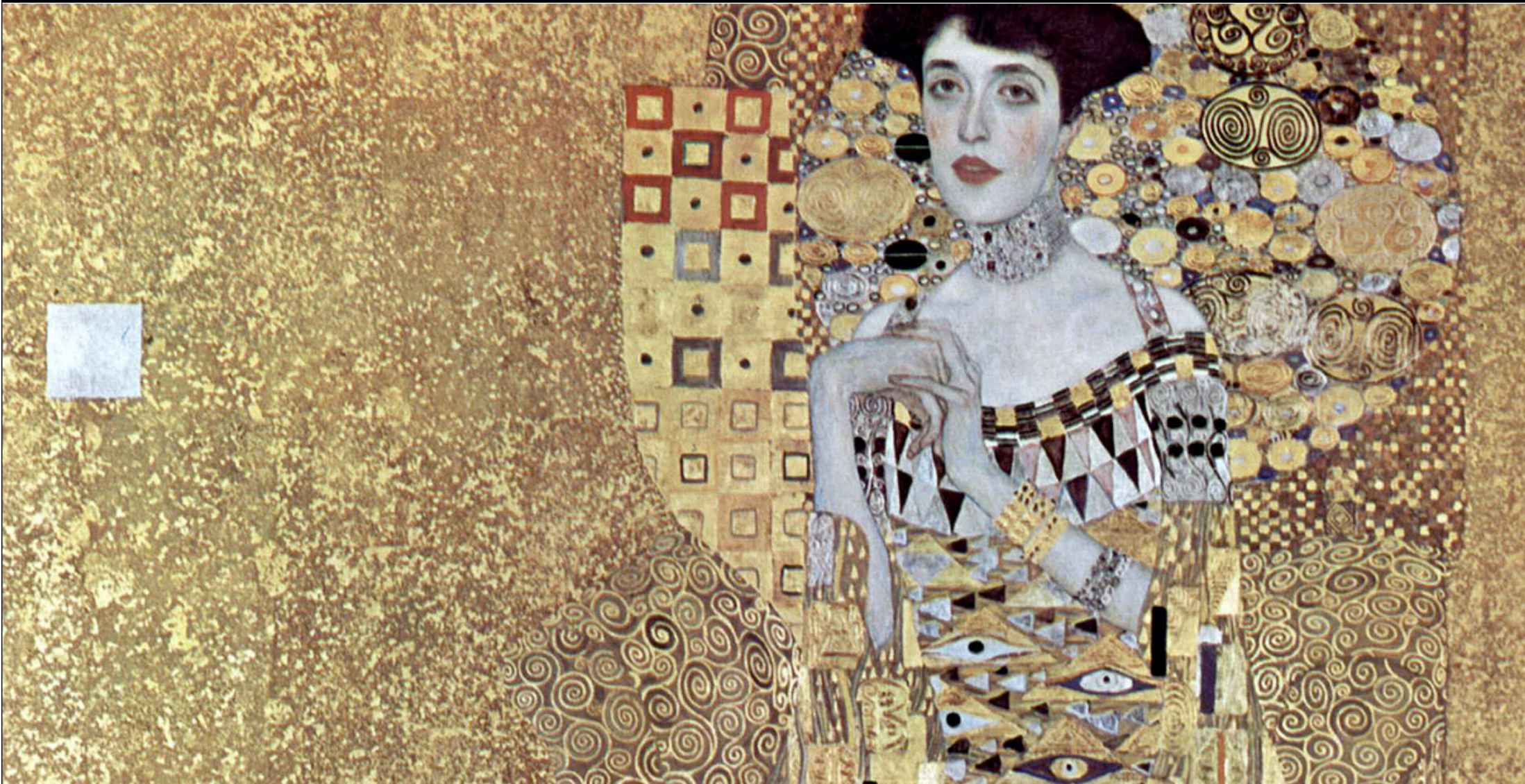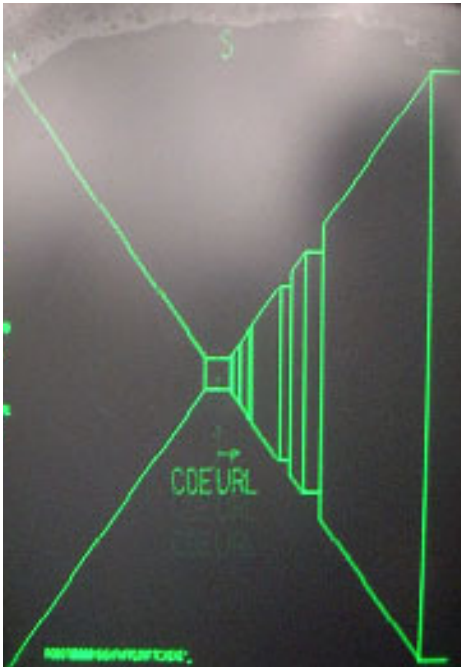
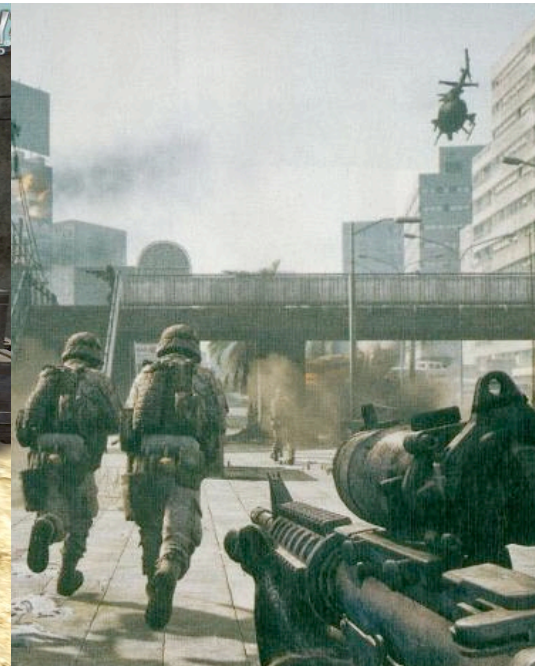1972   1991   2005   2011

?

2012

RATING   PERFECT
HI SCORE   2,344
CHAMPION   Ferminator

FINISH!

Thanks!

www.supermono-studios.com
mail@supermono-studios.com