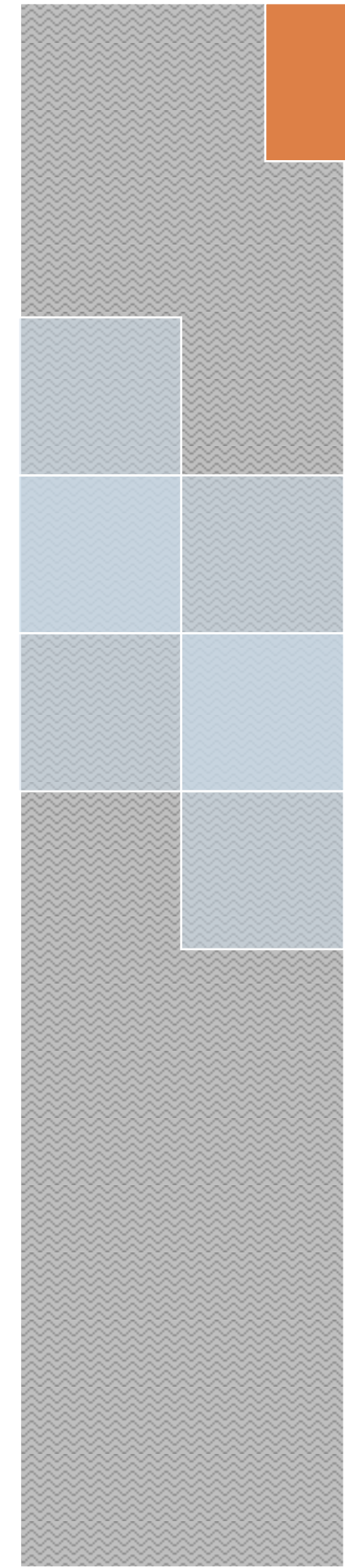




EVOLUTION OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

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EUROPEAN MEDIEVIAL

INTRODUCTION

The time span between falls of the Roman Empire till the start of renaissance is termed as DARK AGES as no great construction or development was carried out during this period.

Economy was rooted in agriculture and the feudal system was the new order. Merchants & craftsmen formed guilds to strengthen their social & economic position. Wars among the rival feudal lords were frequent.



PLANNING

1. Early medieval town was dominated by church or monastery & castle of lords.
2. For protective measures, towns were sited in irregular terrain, occupying hill tops or islands. Towns assumed informal & irregular character.
3. Church plaza became a market place.
4. Roads generally radiated from church plaza & market plaza to gates with secondary lateral roadways connecting them.
5. Castle was surrounded by wall & moat as protective elements.
Irregular pattern in planning was devised to confuse enemies; as enemies unfamiliar with town.

Open spaces, streets, plazas developed as an integral part of site.
Streets were used for pedestrian while wheels were restricted to main roads.

CITIES IN TWELTH & THIRTEENTH CENTURY

The city of Middle Ages grew within the confines of the walls. While the population was small, there was space in the town, but when it increased the buildings were packed more closely and the open spaces filled.

Result was intolerable congestion, lack of hygiene and pestilence.



CITY OF NAARDEN

1. CARCASSONNE

Carcassonne is a fortified French town in the Aude department, of which it is the prefecture, in the former province of Languedoc. It is separated into the fortified Cite de Carcassonne and the more expansive lower city, the ville basse.

Carcassonne became strategically identified when Romans fortified the hilltop around 100 BC and eventually made it the colonia of Julia Carsaco, later Carcasum. The main part of the lower courses of the northern ramparts dates from Gallo-Roman times. In 462 the Romans officially ceded Septimania to the Visigothic king Theodoric II who had held Carcassonne since 453; he built more fortifications at Carcassonne, which was a frontier post on the northern marches: traces of them still stand. Theodoric is thought to have begun the predecessor of the basilica that is now dedicated to Saint Nazaire. In 508 the Visigoths successfully foiled attacks by the Frankish king Clovis. Saracens from Barcelona took Carcassonne in 725, but King Pepin the Short drove them away in 759-60; though he took most of the south of France, he was unable to penetrate the impregnable fortress of Carcassonne.

The city contains market square, castle & church of St.Nazzair. Irregular pattern for streets is seen.

2. NOERDLINGEN

It shows the radial & lateral pattern of irregular road ways with the church plaza as the principal focal point of the town.

RENAISSANCE

INTRODUCTION

The Renaissance was a cultural movement that spanned roughly the 14th to the 17th century, beginning in Florence in the Late Middle Ages and later spreading to the rest of Europe. The term is also used more loosely to refer to the historic era, but since the changes of the Renaissance were not uniform across Europe, this is a general use of the term. As a cultural movement, it encompassed a resurgence of learning based on classical sources, the development of linear perspective in painting, and gradual but widespread educational reform. Traditionally, this intellectual transformation has resulted in the Renaissance being viewed as a bridge between the Middle Ages and the Modern era. Although the Renaissance saw revolutions in many intellectual pursuits, as well as social and political upheaval, it is perhaps best known for its artistic developments and the contributions of such polymaths as Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, who inspired the term "Renaissance man".



RENAISSANCE

- ❖ A new style of fortification with earth works bastions and artillery resistant wall developed.
- ❖ Vast open spaces were left at the centre of towns for community activities.
- ❖ Great emphasis on elevation treatment of building roads can be seen.
- ❖ Trades brought the concentration of the people to towns situated of the main cross roads.
- ❖ Owners of the lands shifted to the merchants and the power of the feudal lords diminished.
- ❖ Printing press was invented and ways were devised to improve the simple hand machines.
- ❖ Gun powder was invented in the 15th c; and new techniques of warfare were introduced, which change the war strategies and old fortifications were found inadequate.
- ❖ The contrast between the rich merchants and the poor increased and hence, the insecurity of life of the poor also increased.
- ❖ As a result religion again became very important and the display and exhibitionism were manifested in the construction of formal and monumental buildings drawing upon the classical heritage of Rome.

Mainly two types of manifestation are noticed in this period:

- New towns were found in which the central and the most dominating buildings were those of the nobles, ie, the courts of the kings.

For example: Versailles in France, Canberra in Australia and Washington D.C. in U.S.A. major parts of London in U.K. was designed by Christopher wren.

- In the old medieval towns that existed, development was done in the designing of the public congregation places like squares, piazzas (plazas).

For example:

The piazza of St. Marks, Vience.

Piazza of St. Peters.

Piazza Del Popolo, Rome.

Place des Victores, Paris.

THE BAROQUE CITY

INTRODUCTION

The axial system planning which was introduced by Lorenzo Bernini during the renaissance period was developed during this time.

King Louis XIV ordered to remove his palace from the congested Paris to the open hunting ground of Versailles and ordered to have the avenues to radiate out this magnificent palace.

After Napoleon III rose to power in 1853, the cities were congested with slums and the condition of Paris was deteriorating.

Mechanical traffic was to be introduced on the roads and it was urgent necessity to check the haphazard growth of Paris.

George Eugène Haussmann came up with novel plan of having straight avenues, joining the important places; boulevards were made and some form of building bye-laws like height restrictions were introduced.

The main feature of baroque planning was as follows:

- Avenues
- Fountains
- Axis and
- Geometry

Example: the Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna where the sides of the trees were also chopped off along the road to achieve the 'axis' of the design.

VERSAILLES IN FRANCE

- St. Louis XII ordered Le Norte to design the gardens of Versailles.
- The spaces created were of unparalleled proportion and a scale of incomprehensible size.
- All roads lead to the centre of town i.e., towards the palace, plazas were open and less confined of the countryside.
- Design shifted from wall in architectural forms to an emphasized by colonnades and entrance lined by avenues.
- Star shaped fortification and a central core is ideal city.
- Renaissance designers froze the streets which radiated from the centre.
- Such design emerged around the middle of the 15th. C; from the imagination of Albert.

CONCLUSION

Thus we see that in the Medieval period, the main emphasis were given to the '**mass**' of the buildings, in the Renaissance period the importance was given to the '**space**' and in the Baroque period, the importance was laid upon both '**mass**' and '**space**'.

NEW COMMUNITIES MOVEMENTS, Including Proposals of Le Corbusier & Frank Wright

PROPOSALS OF LE-CORBUSIER

City planning, he believed must take its place as one of the applied sciences, the province of specially trained theorists and technicians. In the machine age, however, a rigorous theory was necessary if the city was ever to display the harmony that is the basis of efficiency and beauty.

The fearful symmetry of the contemporary city symbolized the victory of reason over chance, of planning over anarchic individualism, of social order over discord. In the contemporary city everything is classified by function. Industry, housing and offices each occupy a separate sector.

There are no more “corridor streets”, as he called them- no more narrow roadways filled with traffic, completely lined with five-or ten-storey buildings. Instead the streets are elevators, rising straight up instead of spreading over a whole district. One skyscraper might have more usable space than a neighborhood, but it occupies a little more ground than an older building.

Le-corbusier's design has the 'city in the park and not the park in the city.' 60 story office buildings accommodating 1200 people per acre and covering only 5 percent of the ground area were grouped in the heart of the city. Surrounding the skyscrapers was the apartment district, 8 storey buildings arranged in zigzag rows with broad open spaces about them, the density of the population 120 persons per

acre. Lying about the outskirts were the garden cities of single houses. The city was designed for a population of 3,000,000.

The building height permits a very high density while leaving at least 85% of the ground free for parks, gardens, tennis courts and other recreational facilities. the structure of the apartment blocks are made of separate 2 storey mass produced houses which are then mounted in the reinforced concrete frame of the partment block and hence gives the residents the spaciousness, privacy and absolute silence of a separate dwelling with convenience of an apartment. Each unit has a large terrace; the top storey of the partment block has a gymnasium for indoor sports, the roof boasts a 300 yard track.

Le Corbusier's conceptions of individual and community life in the modern world had the intense purity as the monastic ideals. Organization is the sign of a harmonious society where men labor together to create works of logic, clarity and power. The greatest of these works is the city.

Le Corbusier followed this conception with his ville radieuse, the radiant city, one of continuous rows of tall buildings woven in zigzag from across landscaped space.

PROPOSALS OF FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

Frank Lloyd Wright was interested in city and community planning throughout his career. He believed that there was a time when centralization was necessary, but with electrification, mechanical mobilization and organized architecture.

Broad acres was to accommodate at least one acre per individual and hence the density of about 500 persons per square mile. In this landscape, each entity was enveloped in some kind of green space. Entities include factories, skyscrapers, schools, places of worship and places of recreation.

The area was fed by superhighways which feed into progressively smaller roadways. Wright despised the city's 'wires on poles' and proposed the placing of utility lines underground. Other aesthetic contributions included no open drainage along roadways, large-scale landscaping over the entire city and all terminal buildings and warehouses were restricted to ports of entry or under tracks.

Highways would be built with the terrain at safe grades; road construction would be done by the regional governing agency but supervised by architects. Professional offices were expected to be located in close relation to home or be minor feature of the landscape. Financial services, public services and other commercial enterprises would operate close to county seats or public functions.

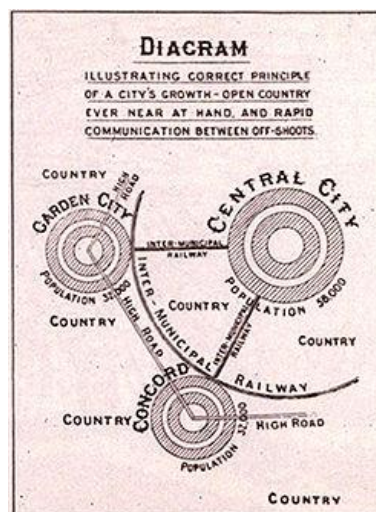
In Wright's model, there was a close-knit relationship between home, work and recreation, the spatial order emphasized 'economies of scope' rather than 'economies of scale', each region was uniquely identified, no greater emphasis was placed on the design architecture than the design of infrastructure, and development was done with consideration to nature.

GARDEN CITY MOVEMENT AND THE PROPOSALS OF EBENEZER HOWARD

INTRODUCTION

The Garden city movement is an approach to urban planning that was founded in 1898 by Sir Ebenezer Howard in the United Kingdom. Garden cities were intended to be planned, self-contained, communities surrounded by greenbelts, containing carefully balanced areas of residences, industry, and agriculture.

Inspired by the Utopian novel Looking Backward, Howard published his book To-morrow: a Peaceful Path to Real Reform in 1898 (which was reissued in 1902 as Garden Cities of To-morrow). His idealized garden city would house 32,000 people on a site of 6,000 acres (24,000,000 m²), planned on a concentric pattern with open spaces, public parks and six radial boulevards, 120 ft (37 m) wide, extending from the centre. The garden city would be self-sufficient and when it reached full population, a further garden city would be developed nearby. Howard envisaged a cluster of several garden cities as satellites of a central city of 50,000 people, linked by road and rail.



CONTEMPORARY INTERPRETATIONS

Central to the enduring power of garden city thought are its 'timeless ideals' such as integrating town and country, human scale settlement, and community empowerment. The case for new communities in the desired mix of urban development strategies is compelling. Pacione (2004) draws up the following list in the British context:

- Accommodates development pressures from decentralisation & counterurbanisation
- Channels decentralising populations into planned locations
- Meets an identified shortfall in housing land and dwellings
- Reduces pressures for piecemeal development and over-development of existing settlements
- Provides cost-effective investment in infrastructure and other facilities
- Provides a more economical use of land and other resources
- Minimises the environmental impacts of urban growth
- Provides opportunities for balanced housing and employment growth
- Ensures continuity of supply of development land facilitating competitive house prices
- Provides a high quality of design and layout
- Provides opportunities for creating socially mixed communities
- Avoids town cramming and loss of urban green space

CONCLUSION

Does the garden city have a role in future urban development? There are massive constraints and challenges:

- Urban growth far outstripping urban changes wrought by the industrial revolution.
- Urbanisation of the countryside via extended metropolitan region, challenging the very notion of regional design (Hack 2000).
- The emergence of the international Chinese city (Gaubatz 1999, Lin 2004).
- Concerns about the availability of building land (China News 2006).
- Generic difficulties in balancing objectives in arriving at feasible sustainable forms (Campbell 1996).

CONCEPT OF NEIGHBOURHOOD UNIT

INTRODUCTION

The neighborhood unit was designed to create a semi-public space within newly industrialising American cities that offered limited opportunities of incoming workers and workers' children to integrate and foster a community spirit in an alienated urban environment.

Opposed to an increasing distances between places of residency and places of work it was focused on a walker metrics, i. e. the city layout where key points are not located further than within an average walking distance.

The local school or a church were considered to be central nodes of the unit. The number of children at school or members of the congregation thus determined limits of the neighborhood district, ranging from 5000 to 10 000 respecting a number of expected density of population.

Desired proximity of local shops was about a quarter of mile within the district, the distance of the school from the borders of the district was half a mile max.

SOCIOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

The concept of the neighborhood unit historically corresponds to activities of American wave of school of urban studies and ecology called Chicago school, operating mostly in the 1920s and 1930's. It is closely linked to activities of Jane Jacobs, American urbanist and humanist in the field of migrant integration and child labor force.

The schema of neighborhood unit further refers to Charles Horton Cooley's theory of primary groups and to the concept of neighborhood as a type of a residential community.

The concept of the neighborhood unit should have enhanced the feeling of identification with the environment for the incomers, support their spatial integration, foster social cohesion and avoid social pathology, taking the form of alienation and civic indifference.

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