

History of Urban Design

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(A concise, chronological overview with key concepts, movements, and examples)

1. Foundations (Pre-Industrial Era)

Period	Core Ideas	Representative Examples
Ancient Cities (c. 3000 BC – 500 BC)	- Grid-based planning for defense & administration	• Harappa (Indus Valley) – orthogonal street grid, sophisticated drainage
	- Central public spaces (agoras, forums)	• Greek polis – Hippodamian grid (e.g., Miletus)
Medieval Towns (5th – 15th c.)	- Integration of water management	• Roman camps – castrum plan (rectangular, cardo & decumanus)
	- Organic, irregular street patterns	• Carcassonne , France – concentric walls
Renaissance & Baroque (15th – 18th c.)	- Fortified walls, narrow lanes for defense	• Venice – canal network, dense block pattern
	- Market squares as social/economic hubs	• Palazzo Farnese (Rome) – axial vistas
	- Re-introduction of symmetry, perspective, and monumental axes	• Versailles (France) – radiating avenues, grand boulevards
	- Planned avenues and plazas to showcase power	• Pienza , Italy – ideal “town of the Renaissance”
	- Integration of architecture and landscape	

2. The Industrial Revolution (Late 18th – 19th c.)

Issue	Design Response	Notable Projects
Rapid population growth & factory districts	Zoning by function (separation of industry, housing, commerce)	• Manchester , UK – early “industrial city” layout

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Poor sanitation & overcrowding	Public health reforms (sewers, clean water)	• London's Metropolitan Board of Works (1855) – sewers, street widening
Transportation needs	Railway stations & grids to connect suburbs	• Paris (Baron Haussmann) – wide boulevards, uniform façades, integrated rail lines

Key figure: **Sir Ebenezer Howard** – later coined “Garden City” as a reaction to industrial urban chaos.

3. Garden City & Early 20th-Century Movements

Movement	Principles	Representative Works
Garden City (1898)	- Self-contained towns (~30 km²) - Balanced land use (housing, industry, agriculture) - Greenbelt surrounding the city - Monumental civic centers	• Letchworth & Welwyn Garden City (UK)
City Beautiful (1890s–1910s, US)	- Classical architecture, formal boulevards - Emphasis on beauty to promote moral order	• Chicago Loop (1909 Plan) • Washington, D.C. (McMillan Plan)
Modernism / CIAM (1928–1950)	- Functional zoning (Living, Working, Recreation, Transportation) - High-rise towers with open green spaces (“towers in the park”) - Rejection of historic ornament	• Le Corbusier – <i>Radiant City</i> concept • **AI