

History of Urban Planning

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(A concise, structured overview for quick study)

1. Foundations & Early Examples (Pre-Industrial Era)

Period	Region / City	Key Features	Significance
Ancient Mesopotamia (c. 3000-BCE)	Uruk, Babylon	Grid-like streets, defensive walls, early zoning of residential vs. administrative areas	First known attempts to impose order on rapidly growing settlements.
Indus Valley (c. 2500-BCE)	Mohenjo-daro, Harappa	Precise street grids, standardized brick sizes, sophisticated drainage	Demonstrates early public works planning and sanitation awareness.
Ancient Egypt (c. 2000-BCE)	Thebes, Memphis	Planned temple complexes, axial processional routes	Emphasis on monumental architecture and symbolic order.
Classical Greece (c. 5th-c.4th BCE)	Athens, Miletus	Hippodamian grid (orthogonal street plan), public squares (agora)	First formalized “grid plan” – basis for many later cities.
Roman Empire (c. 1st-c.5th CE)	Rome, Pompeii, Timgad	Cardo-Decumanus grid, forums, aqueducts, sewage, zoning for baths, markets, housing	Integrated infrastructure, legal codes, and land-use hierarchy.
Islamic Cities (7th–14th c.)	Baghdad, Córdoba, Marrakech	Organic street patterns, central mosque, caravanserai, water-management (qanats)	Blend of functional, religious, and climatic considerations.
Medieval Europe (5th–15th c.)	Paris, London, Venice	Unplanned growth, fortified walls, market squares, guild districts	Growth driven by trade, defense, and social hierarchy rather than formal plans.

2. The Birth of Modern Urban Planning (19th Century)

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Movement / Figure	Core Idea	Representative Projects	Impact
Industrial Revolution	Rapid urbanization ? overcrowding, disease	London's Metropolitan Board of Works (1855)	Prompted need for sanitation, housing reform.
Haussmann's Paris (1853-1870)	Wide boulevards, uniform façades, public parks	Reconstruction of Paris under Baron Haussmann	Set precedent for top-down, aesthetic-driven redesign.
Garden City (Ebenezer Howard, 1898)	Self-contained towns surrounded by green belts; separation of work, housing, recreation	Letchworth (1903), Welwyn Garden City (1920)	Influenced suburban development and zoning concepts.
City Beautiful (Charles Mulford Robinson, 1901; Daniel Burnham, 1909)	Monumental civic centers, axial boulevards, beautification	Chicago's 1909 Plan, Washington D.C. "McMillan Plan"	Emphasized grandeur, civic pride, and coordinated public spaces.
Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)	Integration of rail lines with dense, mixed-use neighborhoods	Early European tram suburbs (e.g., Vienna's "Ringstraße" area)	Early recognition of transport's role in shaping urban form.

3. Mid-20th Century Paradigms

Era Dominant Theory Key Proponents Main Projects / Policies