FROM GARDEN CITIES TO CITY GARDENS
External and internal landscapes.

Prof. Zeev Druckman, Prof. Michael Turner
Department of Architecture
Bezalel, Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem.

April 2005

_____

Abstract

Ideal Societies, their growth and change.
      Ebenezer Howard – satellites of 30,000
      Lewis Mumford – cities of 500,000
The Garden City Movement
The Garden Suburb Manifesto
      Low densities as a reaction to urbanism.
City centre pressure
The city expanded – Synoecism and Dioecism

Jerusalem
      Rehavia
      Givat Ram
The Kibbutz and Moshav
Nahalal
      The possible growth of ideal (yet closed) societies.
Tel Aviv
      The garden city form of Patrick Geddes
      The shikun – Yad Eliyahu

The authenticity of the design and the resulting pattern needs to allow for growth and change. The World Heritage Vienna memorandum proposes the comprehension of the evolving city.

In Israel there were three personalities that were associated with these movements - Geddes, Kaufman and Mendelsohn.

The planning gave the grid and structure, the architecture developed on this structure as the body over the bones.

Street form and the buildings in the park
Buildings and the centre.

Synoecism – seeking to join dispersed rural settlements into an urban entity; cf the Greek pattern of urban settlement.
A duality of residence emerged, most city dwellers considered their roots to be planted in the countryside origins. Nevertheless the city and country was a single unit – the city-state, including the city and its region.
This is a two stage settlement history, while the implantation of political power in the city is dissociation with its hinterland through demographic expansion or other political statement thus spreading culture outward as opposed to the inward collection of the rural institutions and way-of-life.

Dioecism – A Roman form whereby the city as the source of civilization power and culture; the periodic dispersion of an initially urban population into the countryside. The building of villas was not a modern suburbia but the creation of independent and self-containing country estates. As in suburbia, the 'inevitable chaos of the crowded city was left behind, and nature was made to conform to human design in the countryside, but these were wealthy magnates as a symbol of middle-upper class status; an urban extension. The Romans sought refuge in the city extending its walls and abandoning any extensions threatened by insecurity.

James Vance, The Continuing City, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1990

Possible hypotheses could be

that the growth of cities is dependent on the development of internal changes allowing areas redefine their identity;

that the rejuvenation of city centres is in inverse proportion to the potential for development of the centre periphery;

that the design of lower density perifiral areas to urban centres can be beneficial if seen as a long term process of change;

In the case of garden suburbs, their rejuvenation as conservation or controlled change;
In the case of garden cities, their integration in the urban fabric and institutional structure requires the rethinking of
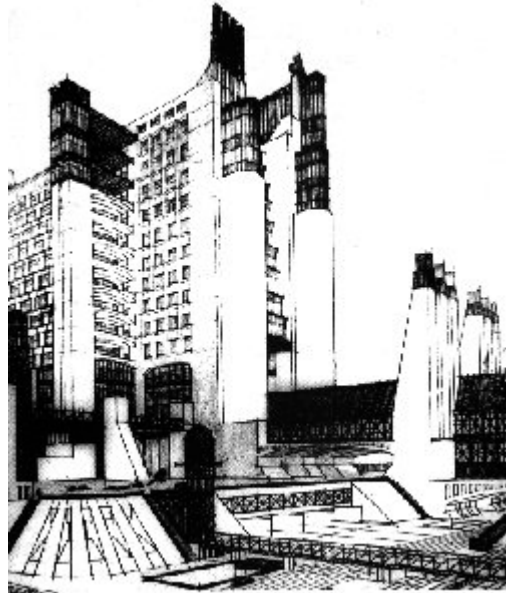
From the Vienna Memorandum

GOALS

1. Whereas this subject is not new, the expanding notion of cultural heritage over the last decade in particular, which includes a broader interpretation leading to recognition of human coexistence with the land and human beings in society, requires new approaches to and methodologies for urban conservation and development in a territorial context. The international charters and recommendations have not yet fully integrated this evolution.

2. The Vienna Memorandum focuses on the impact of contemporary development on the overall urban landscape of heritage significance, whereby the notion of historic urban landscape goes beyond traditional terms of "historic centres", "ensembles" or "surroundings", often used in charters and protection laws, to include the broader territorial and landscape context.

3. The historic urban landscape acquires its exceptional and universal significance from a gradual evolutionary, as well as planned territorial development over a relevant period of time through processes of urbanization, incorporating environmental and topographic conditions and expressing economic and social-cultural values pertaining to societies. As such, protection and conservation of the historic urban landscape comprises the individual monuments to be found in protection registers, as well as ensembles and their significant connections, physical, functional and visual, material and associative, with the historic typologies and morphologies.

PRINCIPLES and AIMS

4. Continuous changes in functional use, social structure, political context and economic development that manifest themselves in the form of structural interventions in the inherited historic urban landscape require forward-looking action on the part of decision-makers, and a dialogue with the other actors and stakeholders involved, such as investors, developers, property owners, architects, conservationists, and the public at large.

5. The central challenge in the realization of contemporary architecture in the historic urban landscape lies in reacting to development dynamics to facilitate socio-economic changes and growth on the one hand, while simultaneously respecting the inherited townscape and its landscape setting on the other. Living historic cities, especially World Heritage cities, demand a policy of city planning and management that takes conservation as one point of departure. In this process, the historic city's authenticity and integrity, which are determined by various factors, must not be compromised.

6. The future of our inherited urban landscape calls for mutual understanding between policy makers, urban planners, city developers, architects, conservationists, property owners, investors and concerned citizens, working together in respect to preserve the urban heritage through considering the modernization and development of society in a cultural-historically sensitive manner, strengthening identity and social cohesion.

7. A central concern of structural interventions and contemporary architecture is to enhance quality of life by improving living, working and recreational conditions and adapting uses without compromising existing values derived from the character and significance of the historic urban fabric and form. This means not only improving the technical standards, but also a rehabilitation and contemporary development of the historic environment based upon a proper inventory and assessment of ecological, aesthetic and socio-cultural characteristics and their associative values, as well as adding high-quality cultural expressions in view of continuity of culture.

The Garden City Movement

In 1898 Sir Ebenezer Howard, who had been thinking about a quality of life better than that possible in overcrowded and dirty industrial towns, published his book *Garden Cities of Tomorrow*. In it he described his vision of an ideal township, an independent garden city in the country, for about 32000 people, consisting of rural housing estates, sufficient arable land, shopping facilities, cultural institutions and a Crystal Palace.

above: Howard, 'Rurisville', schematic garden city from his *Tommorrow*

Howard actively promoted his plans, and organized the financing of the projects. In 1903 work started on the execution of plans by Barry Parker and Raymond Unwin for the first garden city, Letchworth near London. Further towns followed throughout the world. Although the majority of garden cities grew into viable units, they remained isolated and ineffective to alleviate the results of population explosion.

Otto Wagner, who believed in the large town as appropriate form of settlement for the twentieth century, turned against the garden city ideology. He demanded communal property for the expanded areas of the conurbation and flexible planning in line with the varying requirements of the population. In his plans for the development of Vienna's District XXII (1911), he outlined a Classicist monumental project that was to combine a variety of types in a large "town within a town" for a population of 150000.

The Early Rationalists saw alternative solution to the problems of city planning. The Futurist Marinetti said "We state that the beauty of the world has been enriched by a new form of beauty, that of speed". Speed, the essences of the Futurist movement. Among its member, included architects, and the most important figure in this group being Antonio Sant'Elia.　In 1913, Sant' Elia started work on his large project for the Citta Nuova. It comprised perspective drawing and sketched visions of a metropolis of the future. With terraced skyscrapers, the internal structures of which were exposed, and elevator shafts separated from the main structural body. Grandiose traffic routes with intersections at various levels; slim steel or concrete bridges connecting the various shafts, high-rise apartment buildings, and roadways; as well as bold,

monumental, obliquely supported structures that gave no indication of their function. These were new and revolutionary form of architecture. They were attempted to break with the past and progress to an entirely new form of architecture, and they revealed the force and magnificence of Sant' Elia's dreams.

above: Sant'Elia, *casa a gradinata* for the Citta Nuova, 1914.

Tony Garnier, French architect and socialist, Tony Garnier, designed his project for a Cite Industrielle during 1899 and 1904. For a population of 35000 he planned a housing estate, a housing centre, industrial buildings, a railways station and all necessary public buildings, but no barracks, police stations, prisons, or churches, since these would no longer be required by the new society. Garnier created a revolutionary concept of a city that contained all the essential elements of rational urban planning. Garnier's project for a 'Cite Industrielle', first exhibited in 1904. A project that demonstrated his belief that the cities of the future would have to be based on industry.

Garnier's industrial city of 35000 in habitants was not only a regional centre of medium size, sensitively related to its environment, but also an urban organization that anticipated in its separate zoning the principles of the CIAM Athens Charter of 1933. It was a socialist city, without walls or private property, without church or barracks, without police station or law courts. A city where the entire unbuilt surface was public parkland.

City planning was the main concern of architectural Rationalism.
In 1922 Le Corbusier designed plans for a Ville Contemporaine, a contemporary city for a population of three million. He based his ideas on the concept of Tony Garnier's Cite Industrielle and on
the aesthetics of Antonio Sant' Elia's Citta Nuova. However, he aimed not for an industrial city but a complex metropolis with numerous and varied functions, as a diagrammatic solution to the traffic and housing problem through a ruthlessly geometrically organized separation of functions. Ville Contemporaine already contains all the essential elements of Le Corbusier's urban theories: orthogonal

geometric grid skyscrapers in the form of single or multiple slabs, apartments with direct insulation and ventilation, generous green spaces between the individual high-rise buildings and separation of access for vehicles and for pedestrian.

The plan stressed on the vertical rather than the horizontal development of buildings. For example, in Paris city centre, the Plan Voisin project (1925), proposing the replacement of the historic urban structure by 18 super-skyscrapers. Further urban projects followed, for example, the Ville Radieuse project dating from 1930-36. This was a transformation from the 'hierarchic' Ville Contemporaine of 1922 to the 'classless' Ville Radieuse of 1930, which showed the zoning in parallel bands, each band assigned for different use.