

# Urban Design History

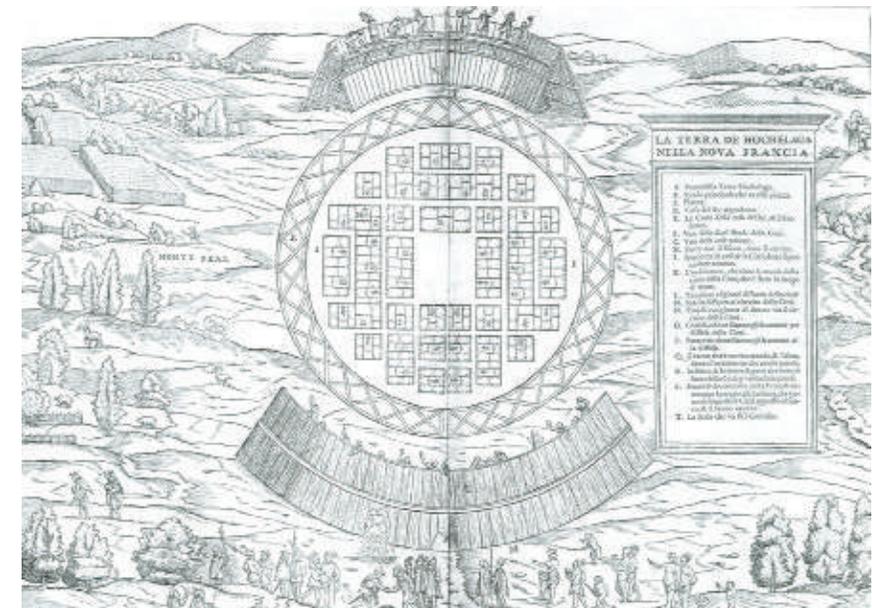
Grigor Doytchinov

Renaissance | Counter-Reformation

Institute of Urbanism

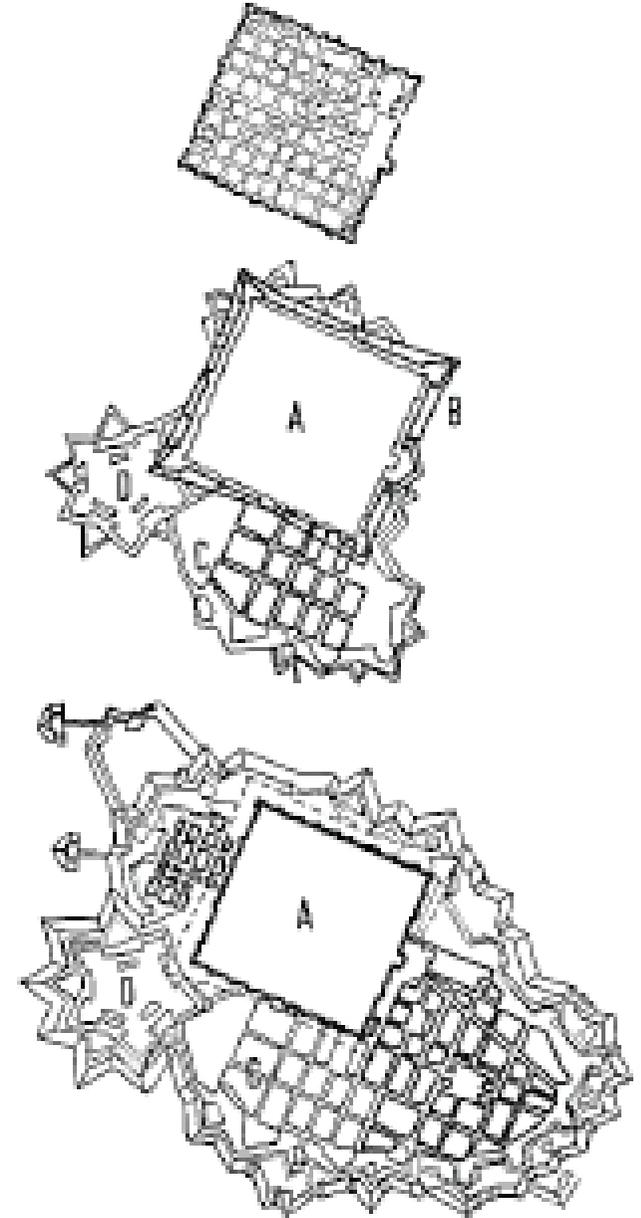
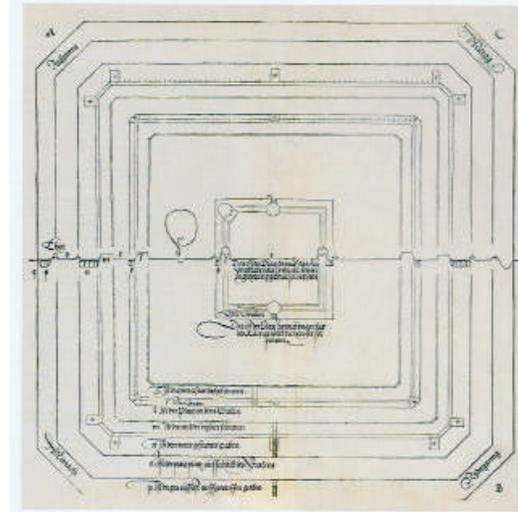
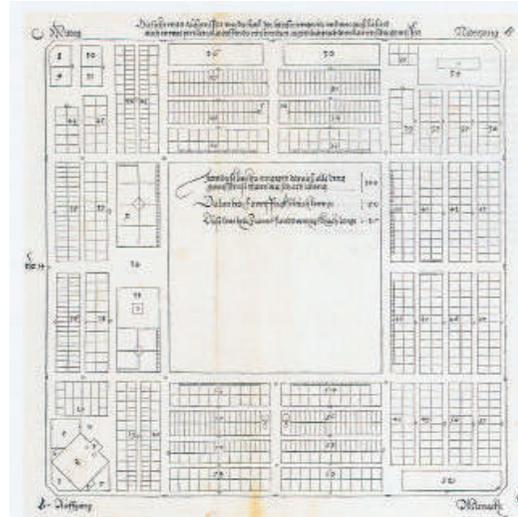
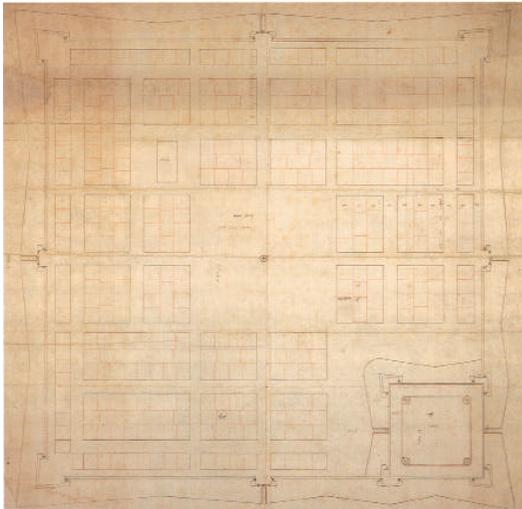
## Areas of urban design in the Renaissance period

- fortification systems
- regeneration of parts of cities by the creation of new public spaces and related streets
- restructuring of existing cities by the construction of new main streets which extended to the city's limits and continued as regional routes; these new streets frequently generated further growth
- addition of extensive new districts, usually for residential purposes
- in some cases, completely new towns were designed



Components of urban design in the Renaissance period

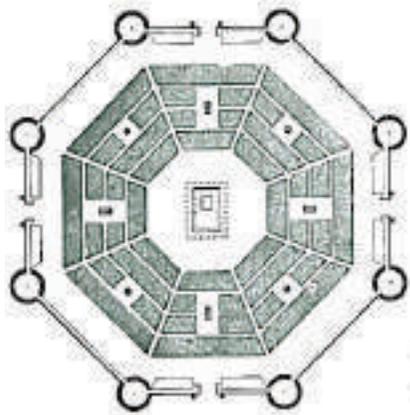
- the straight main street
- the grid-iron district (history's oldest urban form regulator)
- enclosed space (squares)



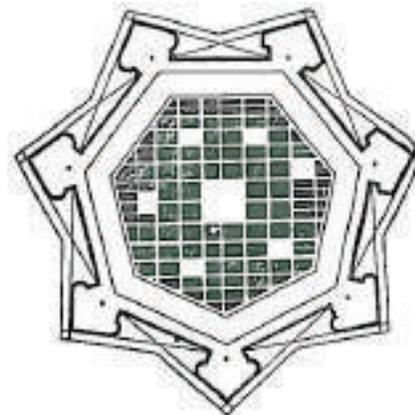
Turin

Ideal cities of the Renaissance

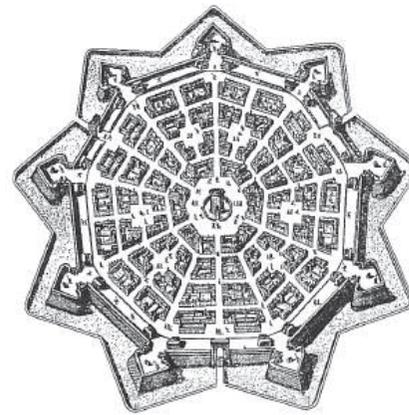
- Vitruvius
- Alberti
- Filarete – “Trattato dell’Architettura”
- Leonardo
- Cataneo – 8 books “L’Architettura”
- Scamozzi – Palma Nuova (“L’idea dell’Architettura Universale”)
- Lorini



Vitruvius



Cataneo

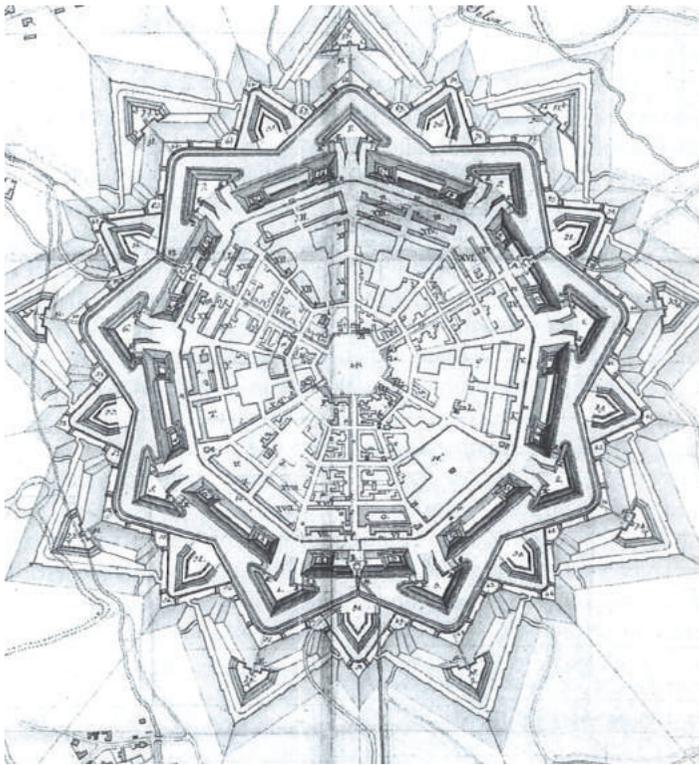


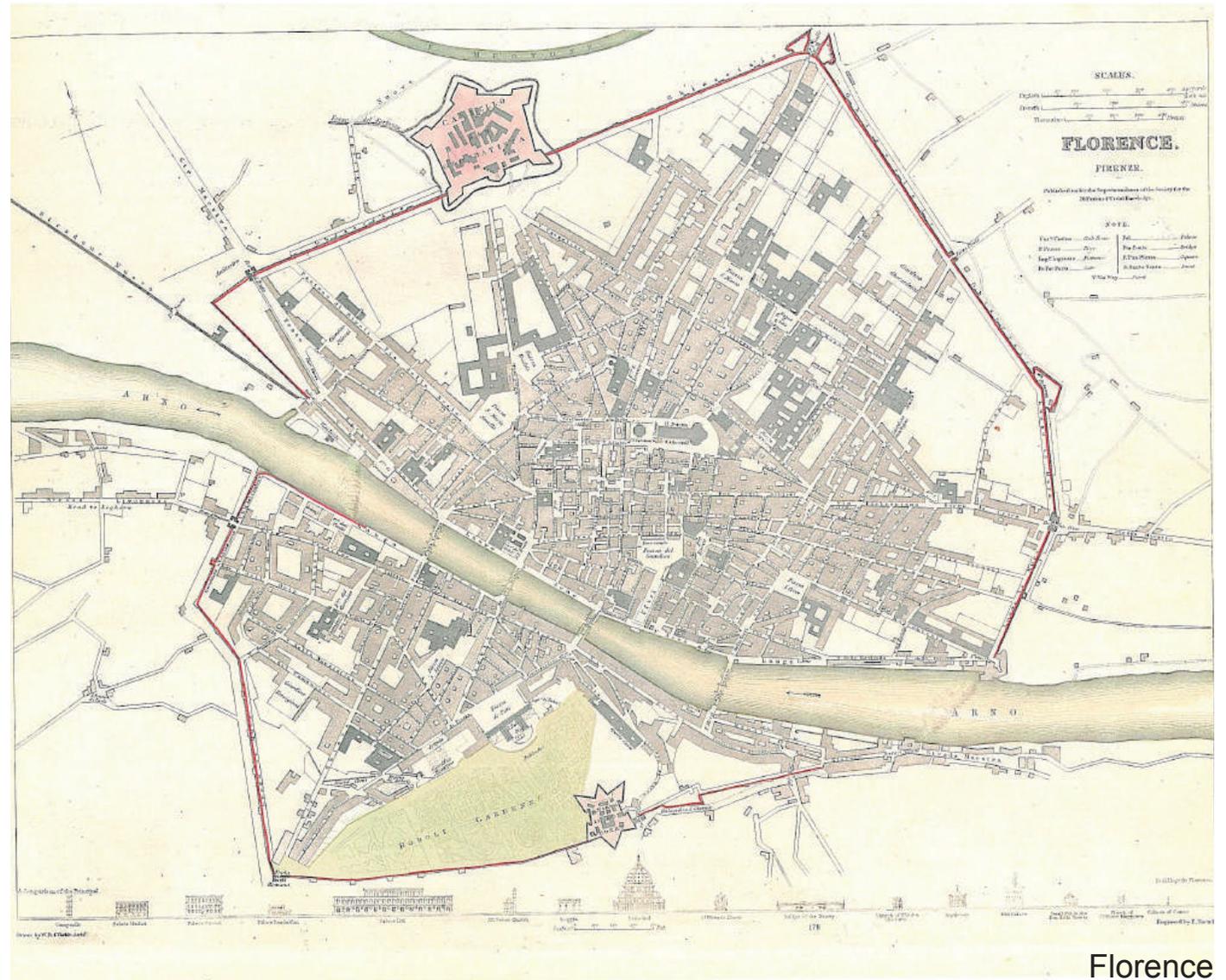
Scamozzi



Lorini

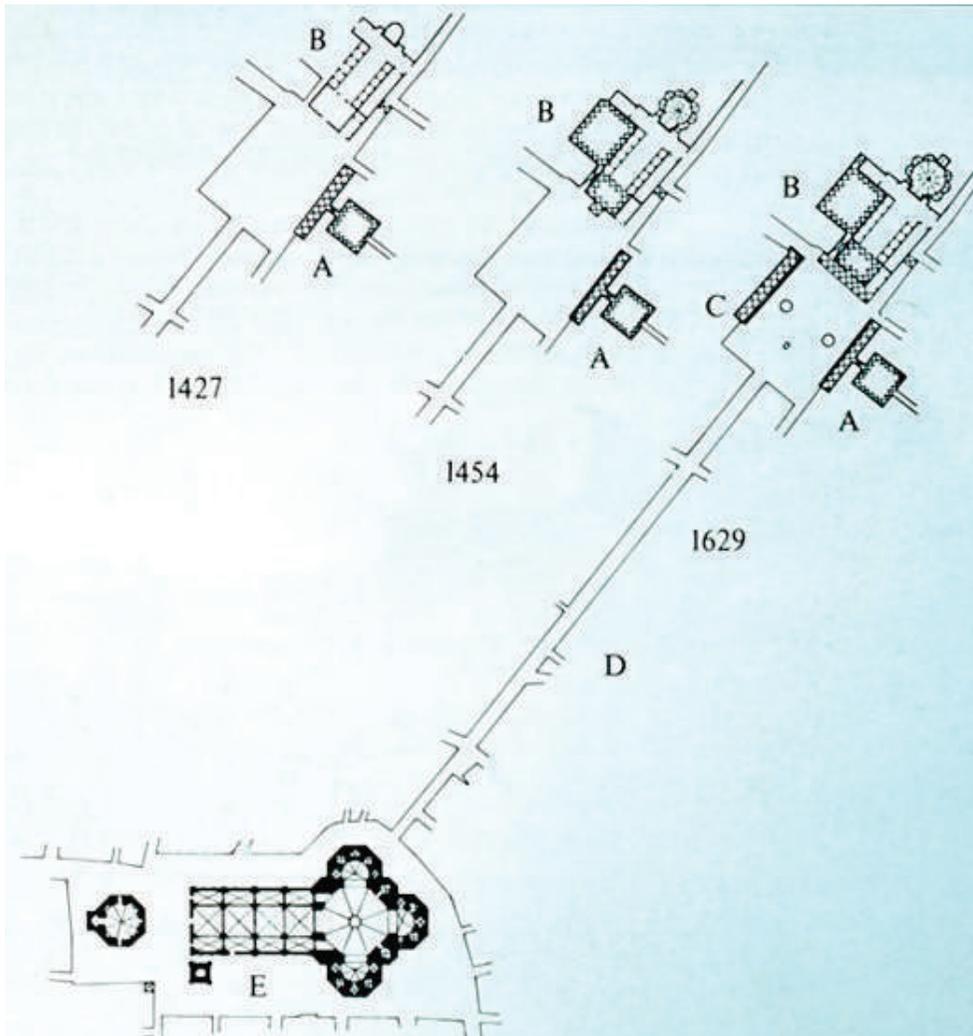
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Ideal Cities of the Renaissance - Palmanova





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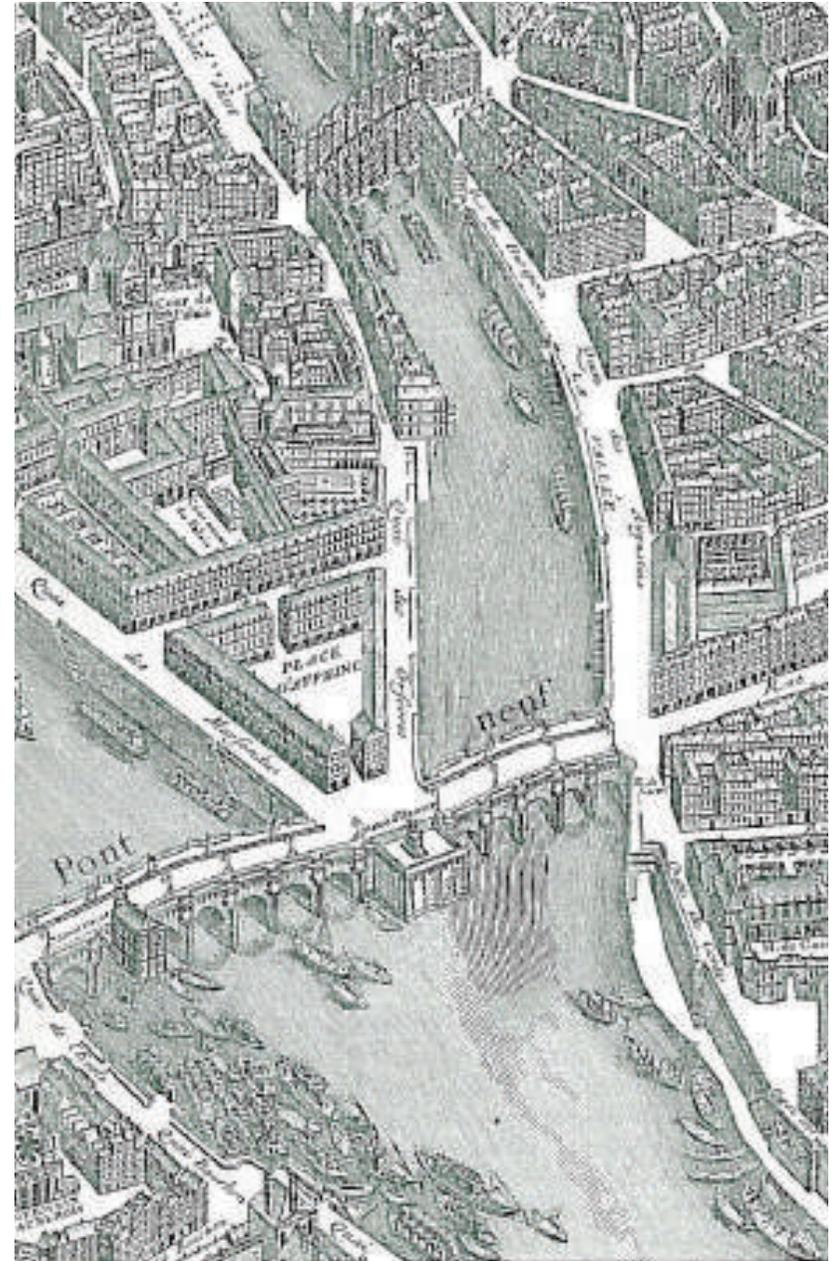
Italian Renaissance - Firenze, Piazza della Santissima Annuziata  
Giovanni Caccini, Filippo Brunelleschi, Antonio di Sangallo, 16<sup>th</sup> century



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French Renaissance

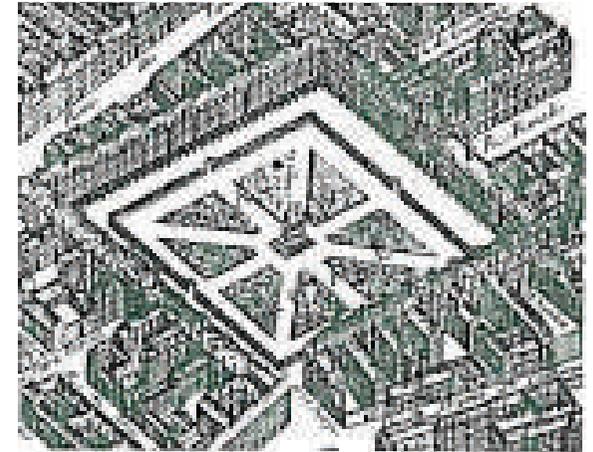
In the 16th century Paris is the capital of an effectively united nation and the location of its splendid royal court

- Place d'Auphine and Pont Neuf (1578)
- Place Royale (1605)
- Palais de Tuileries (1563)

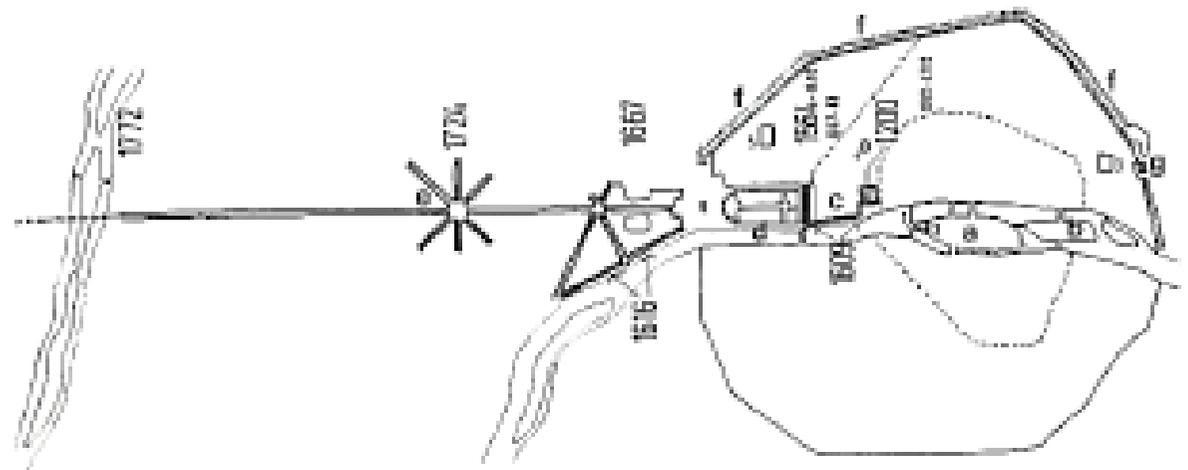


Paris in the 16th century:

- Place Royale (1605)
  - prototype of a residential square
  - bringing the aristocracy under the control of the king
- the construction of the Palais de Tuileries (1563) and its Italian Renaissance Garden by Catharina de Medici (arch. Philippe Delorme) set the course for a westward development



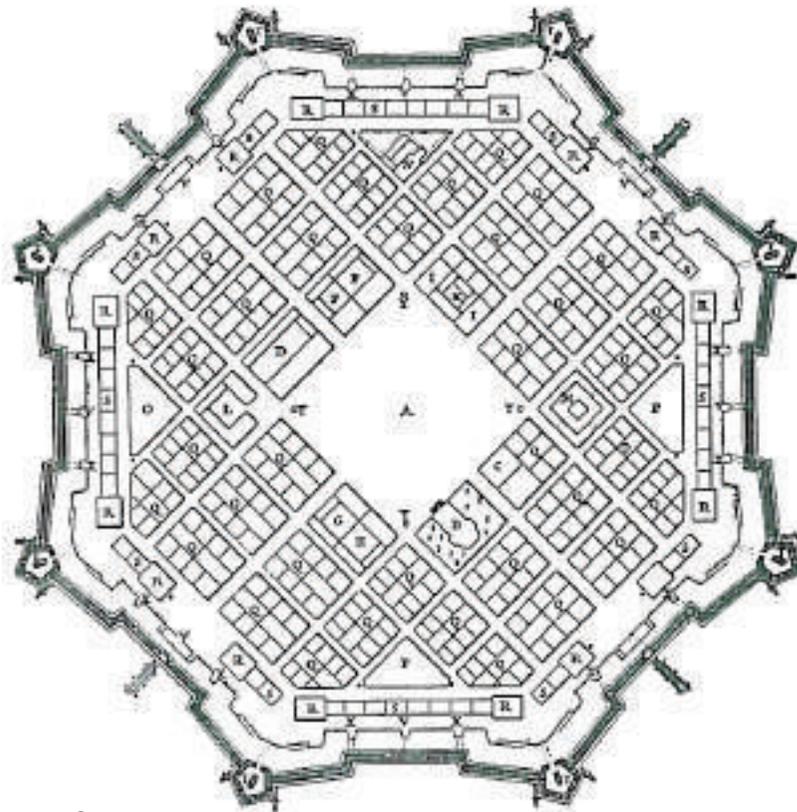
Place Royale



Expansion of Paris

New Renaissance towns in France

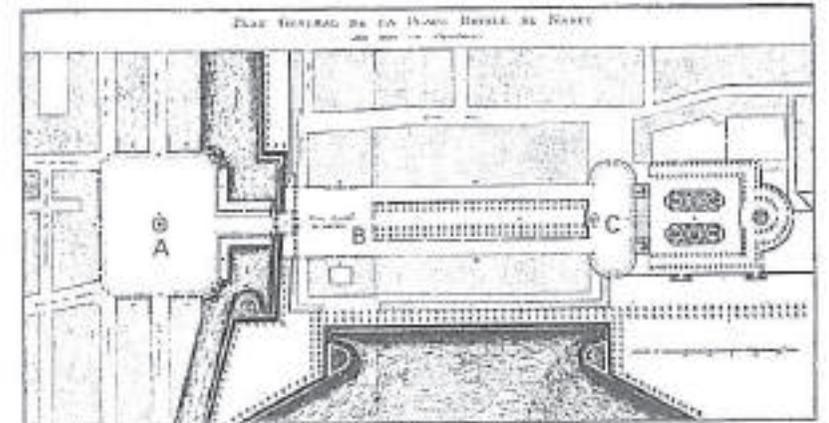
- Neuf-Brisach
- Nancy – medieval nucleus and Ville-Neuve



Neuf-Brisach



Nancy



Nancy

## Counter Reformation

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The art-historical movement (1550-1780) dominating during the political periods of the Counter Reformation and the Absolutism, characterised by hierarchy of ideological meanings and representative patterns

Counter Reformation period

- the reaction of the Catholic Church on the Reformation initiated by Martin Luther in the beginning of the 16th century (Protestantism)
- it is in general a reaction on the humanistic ideas of the Renaissance
- the Catholic Church dominates life
- the ideological attempts of the Counter Reformation are realised with the means of the representative urban patterns
- goal: the urban design is defined by the central role of the church

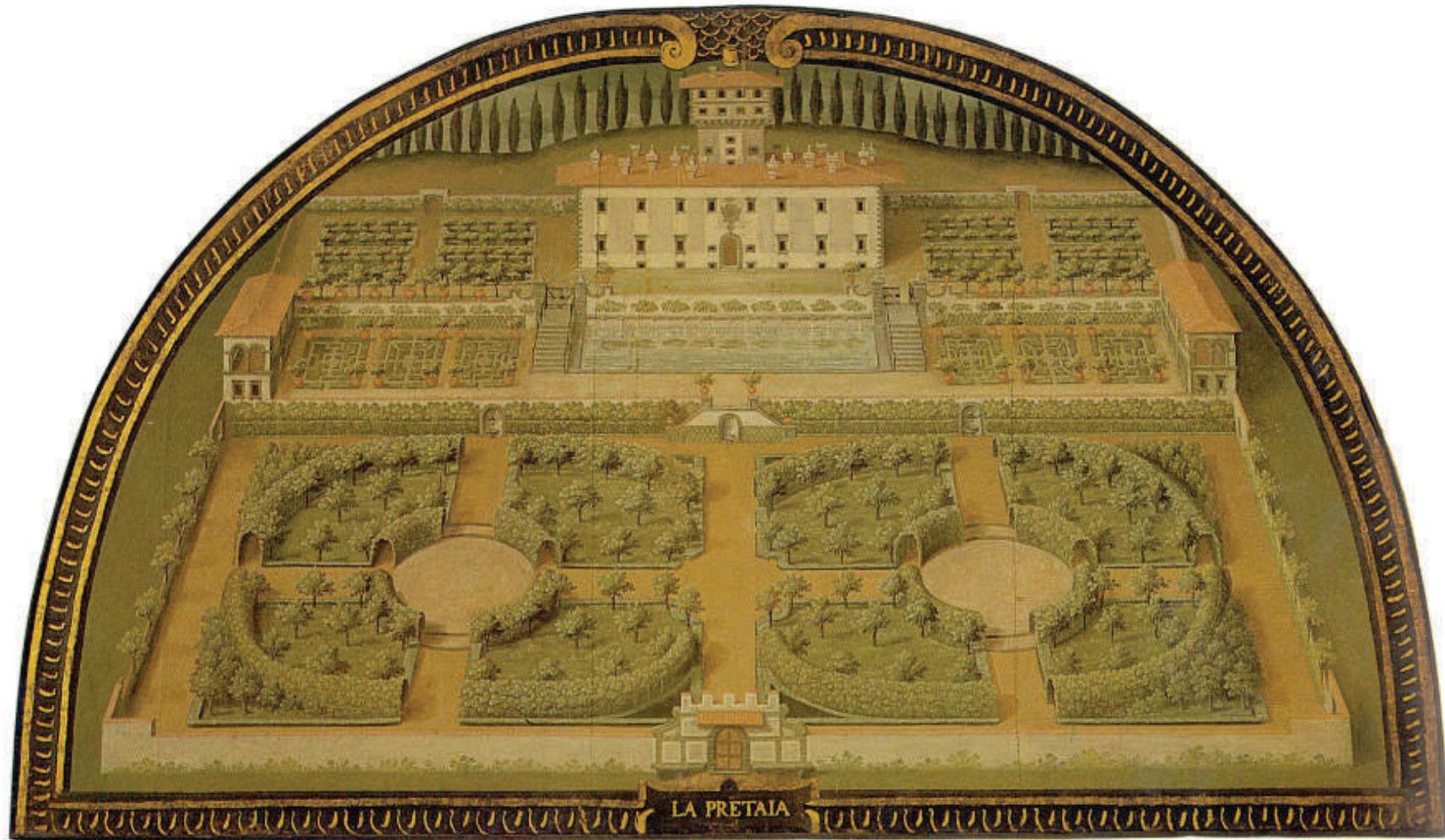
## Development tendencies from the Renaissance to the Baroque

- the bourgeois culture of the Renaissance creates a geometric urban shape and expresses the idea of an unified urban form
- the elements of the urban shape are equal parts of one wholeness (primus inter pares)
- the autonomy of the Renaissance City declines in the period of the Counter-Reformation due to the power of the Church
- in the Baroque period the upper classes create urban ensembles to demonstrate their high-ranking social status and stress their uniqueness
- the Baroque urban design ideas are enforced by the restriction of the individual artistic freedom
- Baroque urbanism is an expression of spectacle and ceremony (the city as a synthesis of the arts)

## Renaissance versus Baroque

- The principals of Renaissance urban planning, architectural design and aesthetic theory are directed by identical ideas:
  - discipline and order, in contrast to the relative irregularity of medieval space
  - compositional balance
  - emphasis was placed on the horizontal instead of the vertical
  - permanence
- Baroque urban design is the result of the centralised church and autocratic power
  - hierarchy of meanings
  - definite sense of spatial direction

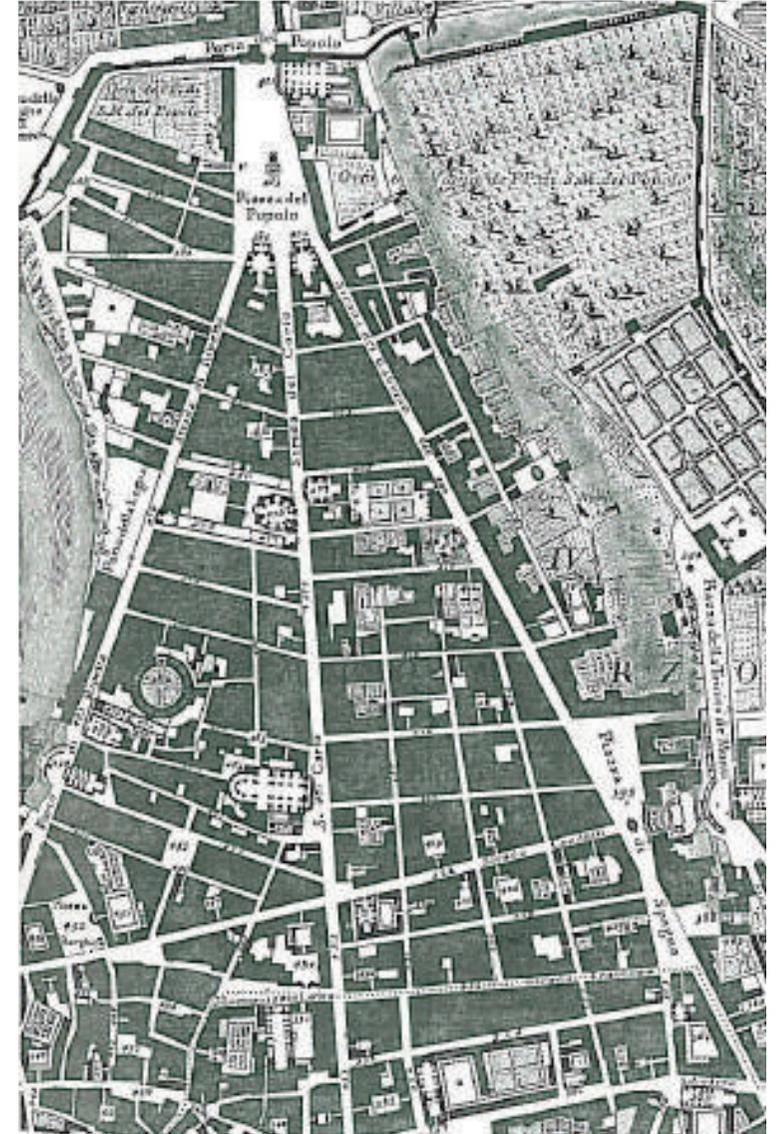




- Piazza del Popolo (1589)
- Scala di Spagna/Piazza di Spagna (1721-1725), Sixtus V, Fontana
- The Capitol Piazza, Michelangelo (1537)
- Piazza Navonna



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## Baroque in Rome

Piazza del Popolo  
Giuseppe Valadier, around 1800



## Baroque in Rome

Piazza San Pietro  
Gian Lorenzo Bernini, 1667



## Baroque in Rome

Piazza Navona  
Girolamo Rainaldi, Francesco  
Borromini, around 1650



## Baroque in Rome

Scala di Spagna  
Fountain by Pietro Bernini, 1629



## Baroque in Rome

Capitolo  
Michelangelo, 16<sup>th</sup> century

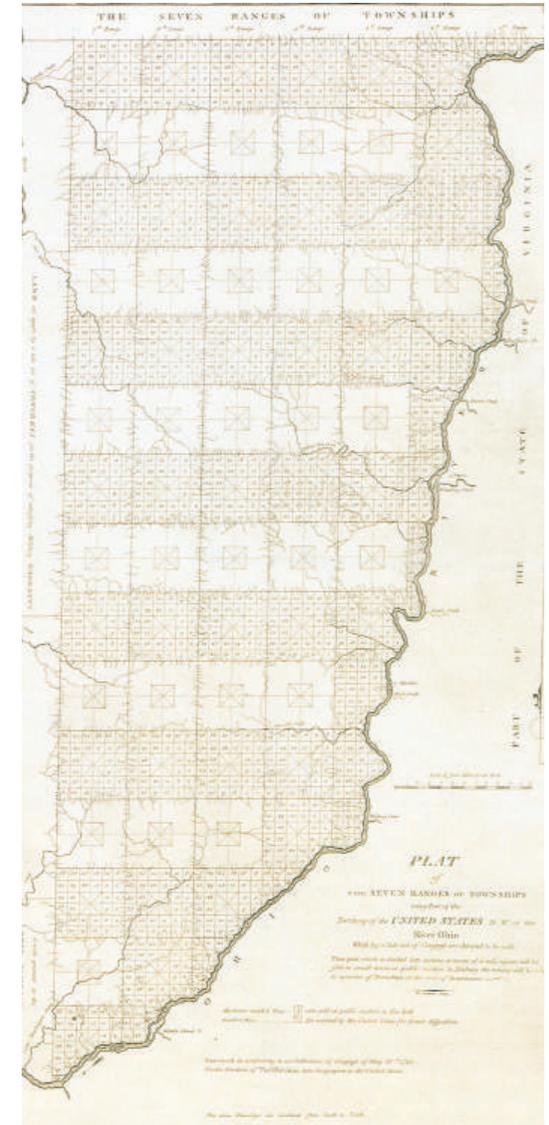
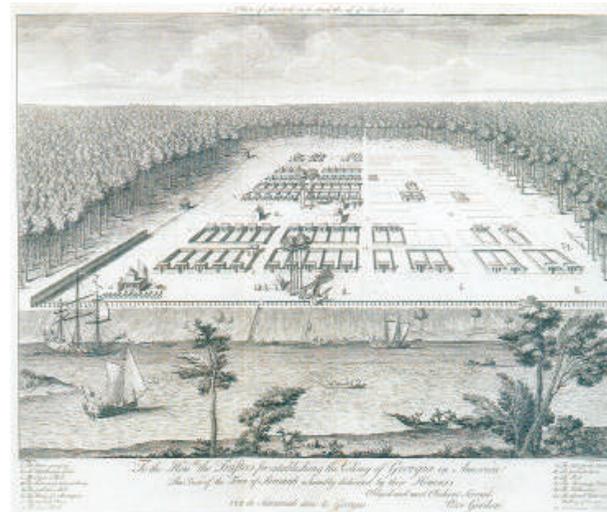


## Urban Design History | Renaissance\_Counter-Reformation Colonial cities in America

Since the 16th century colonial cities in America were based on the “Leyes de las Indias” of the Spanish king Philipp II

Grid-cities according to the unified patterns of the Renaissance:

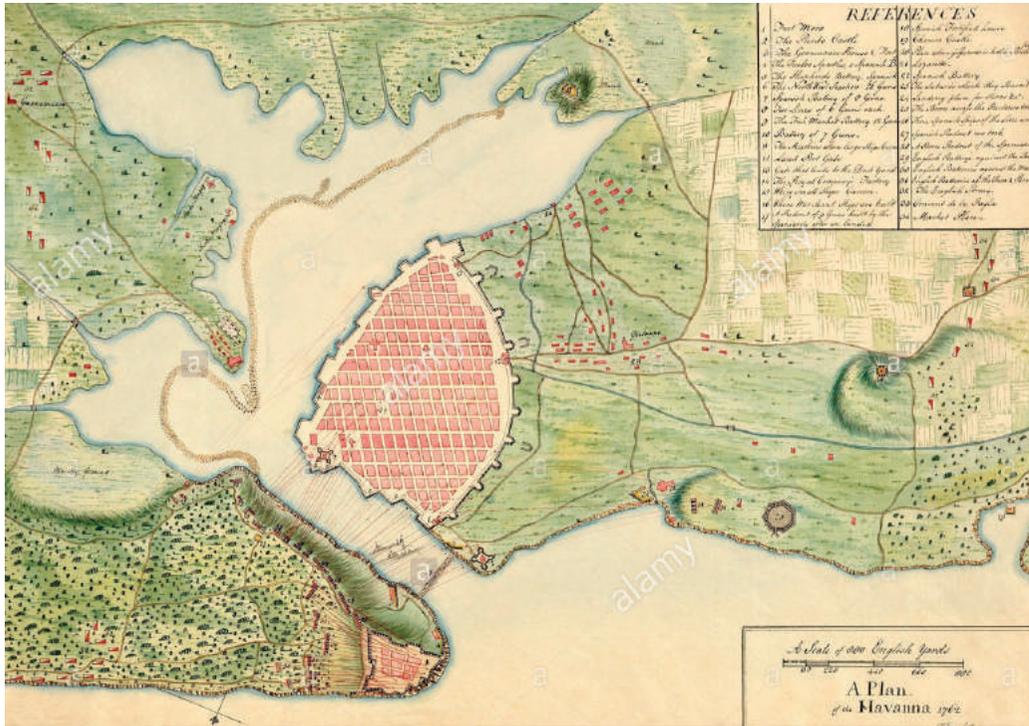
- the planning instrument is an orthogonal network of streets with relatively square housing blocks; public spaces are formed by reducing or leaving out blocks
- the grid can be extended unlimitedly; the transition from city to nature is not expressed as clearly as in Europe
- the grid makes it impossible to adapt the city's shape to the landscape; therefore the city's shape lacks character in comparison with European cities



Savannah

## The planned Colonial City

The rectangular street pattern,  
Habana 1519



## The basic elements of the Colonial City

### The Public Place



The basic elements of the Colonial City

The representative Paseo

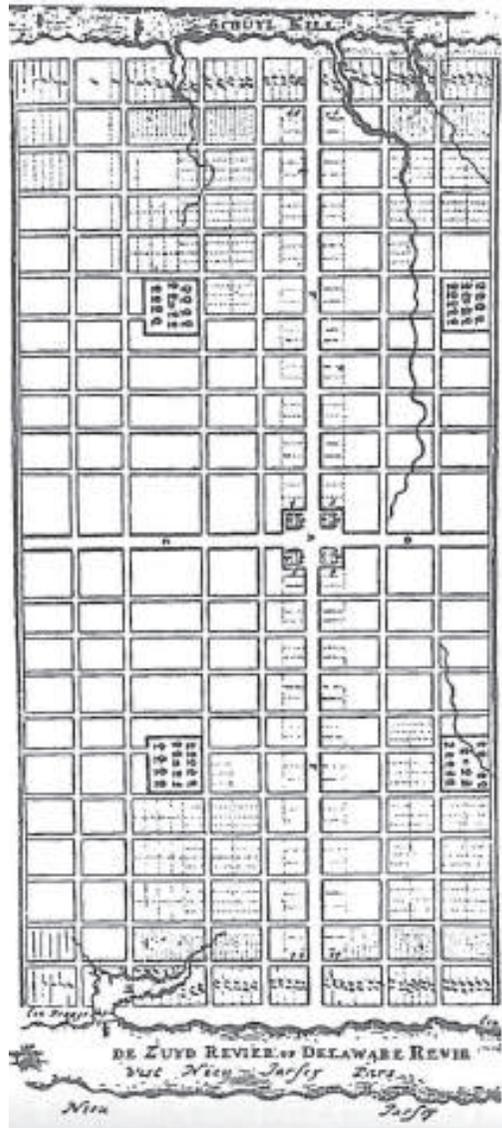


The basic elements of the Colonial City

The City Garden

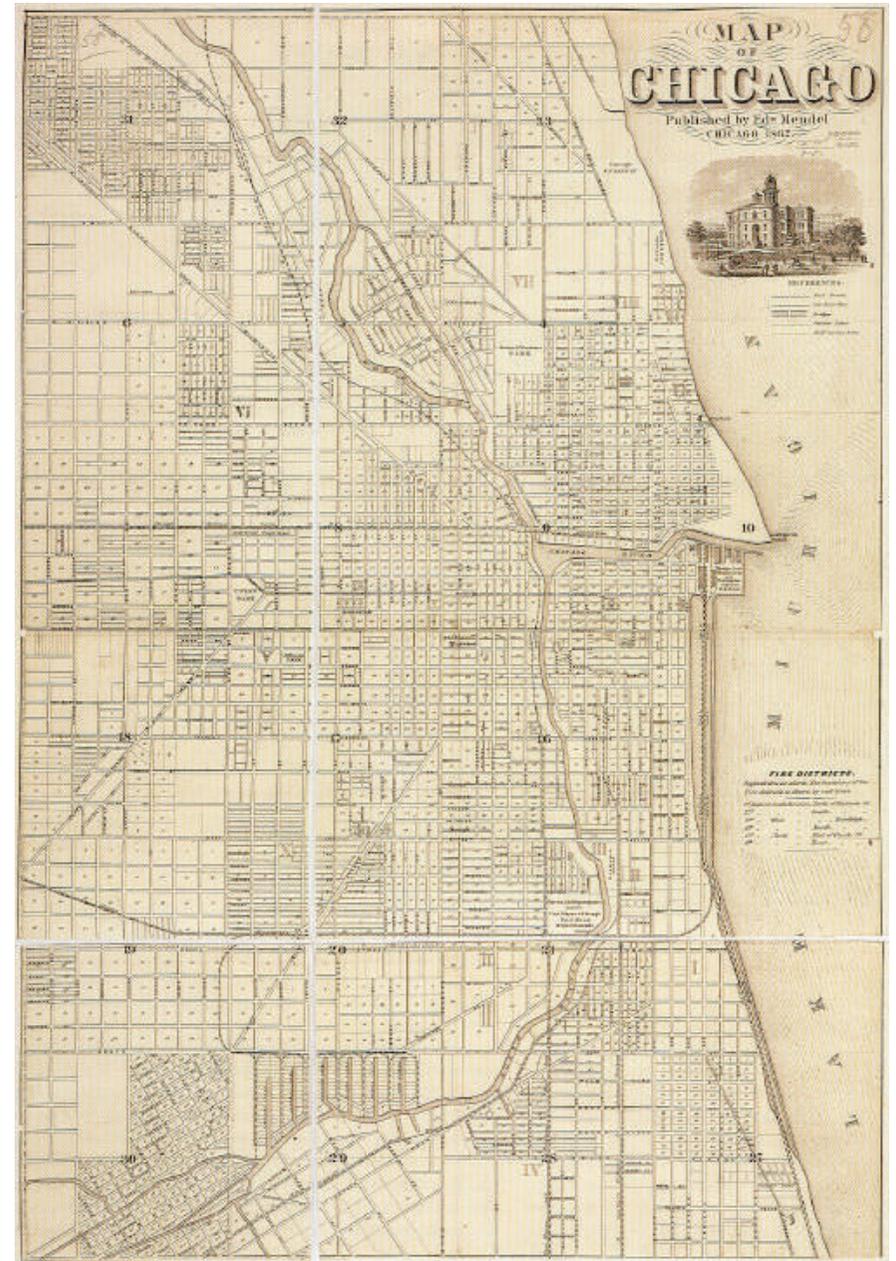
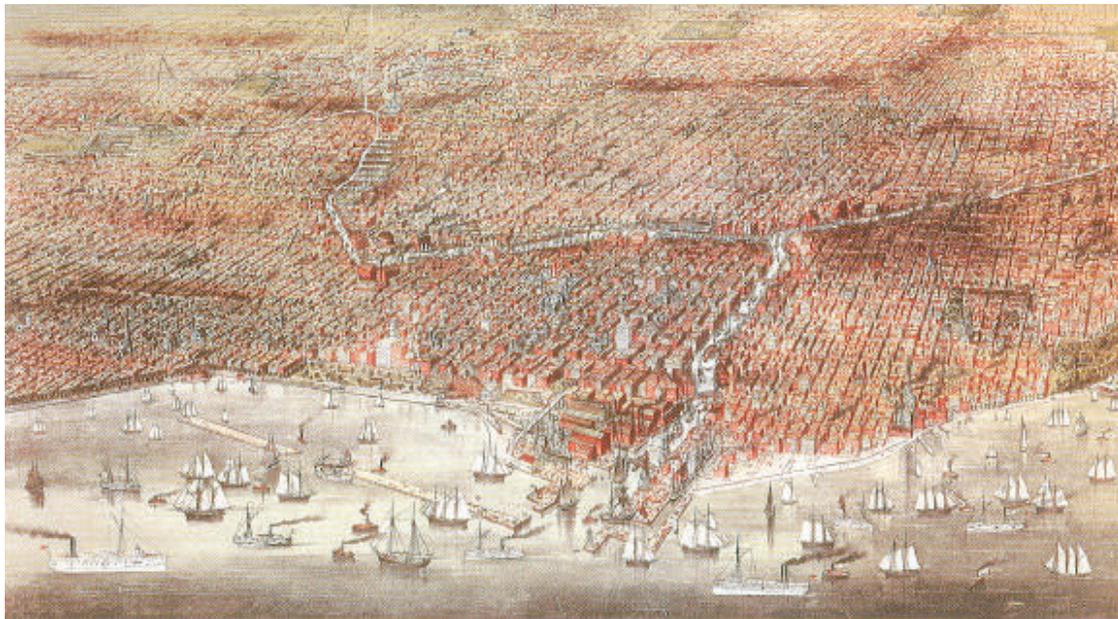


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Colonial cities in America – Philadelphia





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Colonial cities in America – Chicago





## Late Renaissance - Amsterdam

Amsterdam extension plan –  
a precursor of modernity

The Golden Age of the city was 1585-1672 when it developed to the world's most important financial centre and trade metropolis. The planned urban extension took place in 1613 and 1663, following the principles of the Renaissance.

The repetition of uniform rows of houses of similar shape represented the upcoming bourgeois civilisation.

The establishing of monofunctional quarters for trade and economy was a precursor of the capitalist city development.