

FAQ's

1. Discuss the contribution of Ebenezer Howard towards city planning

He goes right into giving precise prescriptions for the new city, down to acreage and expenses.

6000 acres of cheap rural land are to be purchased, 1000 of which are reserved for the city. A 32,000 person population cap is set, after which a new city will have to be colonized.

Howard wants to make it as little like the overcrowded London of his day as possible, so public parks and private lawns are everywhere.

The roads are incredibly wide, ranging from 120 to 420 feet for the Grand Avenue, and they are radial rather than linear. Commercial, industrial, residential, and public uses are clearly differentiated from each other spatially. The overall goal for Howard is to combine the traditional countryside with the traditional town. For too long residents have had to make the unfulfilling choice between living in a culturally isolated rural area or giving up nature to live in a city, but "human society and the beauty of nature are meant to be enjoyed together." The financial linchpin of the plan is the fact that all of the land is purchased up front, so that the increase in property values generated by the growth will be captured by the community itself. He also assumes that if everything is planned rationally from the beginning, the costly process of retrofitting old infrastructure for new technology can be avoided. He did have a good grasp on the problems associated with his rapidly industrializing England, which, by the way, seems to me a similar phenomenon to what is now occurring in the developing world.

Howard identified real social inequities arising from industrialization and he believed these could best be addressed at the local level, what he dubs a "pro-municipal" scope. Furthermore, his advocacy for rational planning over the chaotic growth of piecemeal evolution

has some merit in a rapidly modernizing context.

2. Give examples of cities where the Garden City Concept has been applied?

- Letchworth, UK
- Vallingby, Stockholm, Sweden
- Milton Keynes, UK
- Enskede, Sweden
- Welwyn, UK

3. Discuss the contribution of Lewis Mumford towards city planning.

Mumford's plan for urban design:

1. Densities must be kept low.
2. The size of cities must be limited.
3. People must live in natural, open, green environments.
4. Most interaction must be kept on a primary level to assure mental health and the quality of social relationships.
5. The family, as the most important primary group, is the focus of redevelopment.
6. Neighborhoods are the main units of redevelopment and settlement.
7. Education, both formal and informal, is stressed.
8. Vehicular and pedestrian traffic are separated.
9. Mumford's new cities are complete communities.

Mumford characterized his orientation toward the study of humanity as "organic humanism".

- The term is an important one because it sets limits on human possibilities, limits that are aligned with the nature of the human body.
- Mumford never forgot the importance of air quality, of food availability, of the quality of water, or the comfort of spaces, because all these things had to be respected if people were to thrive
- Technology and progress could never become a runaway train in his reasoning, so long as organic

humanism was there to act as a brake.

- Mumford believed that what defined humanity, what set human beings apart from other animals, was not primarily our use of tools (technology) but our use of language (symbols)

4. Define the term bio technics.

Mumford did not believe it was necessary for bioviability to collapse as technics advanced, however, because he held it was possible to create technologies that functioned in an ecologically responsible manner, and he called that sort of technology biotechnics