

— Arts and Science —

Modernity of Place and Space

Hiroyuki Suzuki

April 9, 2008

Formation of the Modern City

Grid Plans:

Priene and Miletos (ancient cities)

New York (early modern/modern city): Presence of Broadway

Genealogy of the Ideal City

Rome as the axis (north-south axis: Cardo; east-west axis: Decumanus)

Palma Nova: Planned by V. Scamozzi, 1593 Fortress-like design

Karlsruhe: “Fan City” Location by polar coordinates

Grand projects of Paris: G.E. Haussmann (1809-1891)

Population of Paris: 550,000 (1801), 1.05 million (1851), 2.71 million (1900)

Paris became easier to defend against rioting, more attractive and agreeable to the eye, more convenient for traffic.

Other improvements: removal of slums, improved sanitation, cleaner air, more sunlight, large streets (boulevards) through which soldiers could move.

Center of Paris: Monuments, religious institutions, railway, commercial buildings (department stores), Bois de Boulogne (west of central Paris), Bois de Vincennes (eastern Paris). Paris Opera House for citizens: construction of plaza (1858), competition for design (1860), completion of construction (1875)

Baroque city: Laid out on an axis, centers of focus, diversity

Grand project of Vienna: Ringstrasse — Removal of the city wall, construction of large street, construction of commemorative buildings

London projects: John Nash (1752-1835) — Regent Street, Regent’s Park

Formation of the Modern Age

Industrial Revolution — 1770s: Productivity, mechanization, industrialization, urbanization

French Revolution — 1789: Abolition of monarchy system, class system, confiscation of land, urban redevelopment

Declaration of American Independence — 1776: Relativization of Europe

From Edo to Tokyo

Samurai family places, temples and shrines, merchant areas

Unification of land: land tax, police judicial power, emergence of space

Modernization by reconsideration of place and location

Spirit of Place (*genius loci*)

Great figures animating the spirit of a place: In Chinese thought, the power of place determines what kind of people will emerge from that place.

The spirit of a place and the souls of the departed may dwell in that place.

Genius loci refers to the special characteristics possessed by remnants and places left on the land from the past. The power to discover genius loci must be developed and accumulated through our historical research and architectural planning methods.