

# GLOSSARY

## **settlement**

A settled place of abode (Webster 1913); any place where people establish a community (Oxford English Dictionary [OED]).

## **hamlet**

A small collection of houses in the country (Noah Webster 1828); a settlement generally smaller than a village and, in Britain, without a church (OED).

## **village**

A small assemblage of houses and associated buildings established in one place, larger than a hamlet and smaller than a town, inhabited chiefly by farmers and other rural people. In England, a village is distinguished from a town by the want of a market, but in the United States, any small assemblage of houses in the country is a village (Webster 1828); more recently, a small municipality with limited corporate powers. *Village* also describes a self-contained district or community within a city or town regarded as having features characteristic of village life (OED).

## **town**

Generally, any indefinite collection of houses larger than a village and smaller than a city. Originally, a town was a fortified collection of houses enclosed with walls, hedges, or pickets. In England, *town* came to mean any number of houses with a regular market that were not incorporated as a city or the see of a bishop (Webster 1828). More recently, a town is considered a densely populated built-up area with a name, defined boundaries, and a local government, especially as contrasted with the country or suburbs (OED).

## **city**

In a general sense, a large town with many houses and inhabitants. More specifically, it is a collective body of inhabitants, incorporated and governed by particular

officers such as a mayor and councilmembers. In Great Britain, a city is typically created by charter and usually contains a cathedral (Webster 1828). In North America, it is a municipal center incorporated by a province or state (OED).

## **collective body**

The terms *settlement*, *hamlet*, *village*, *town*, and *city* may also refer to their collective body of citizens or inhabitants.

## **classic, classical, Classical**

### **classic**

Commonly and conventionally refers to the best or most representative examples of things judged over time as outstanding of their kind, of the highest quality, remarkably and instructively typical, and not greatly subject to changes in fashion: e.g., a classic novel, a classic car, a classic navy blazer; *Hamlet* as the classic example of a tragedy (OED).

### **classical**

A holistic method of designing the built environment for human use and a pleasing experience by means of traditional architectural styles that emerged worldwide from the same principles and for the same purposes.

### **Classical**

A historical period(s) and the Greek and Roman architectural styles, the Classical Orders.

## **classic planning and urbanism**

Prior to the appearance of professional urban planning and urban design, cities, towns, and their parts were composed through classic planning and urbanism. Classic plans and their parts are still used in planning

and urbanism to explain and exemplify fundamental concepts such as the block, the street, the plaza, and the neighborhood.

### **classicist**

One who applies the classic method.

### **Romantic**

Relating to the Romantic Era, an artistic, literary, musical, and intellectual movement that occurred in Europe from the latter eighteenth century until World War I.

### **modern, Modernism, Modernist**

The term *modern* pertains to the present or recent times as opposed to the remote past (OED). *Modernism* pertains to the ideology of the so-called *Modernist* style.

### **polis, urbs, civis, municipium, civitas**

#### **polis**

*Polis* (πόλις) literally means “city” in Greek. It can also mean citizenship and a body of citizens. Many modern European languages contain derivatives of the word *polis*, such as the English *policy*, *polity*, *police*, and *politics*, a usage indicative of the influence of the Greek world view.

#### **-polis**

Numerous words end in *-polis*: A metropolis is the mother city of a colony, the see of a metropolitan archbishop, and, more commonly today, a major urban population center. A megalopolis merges in a conurbation of several cities and their suburbs. A cosmopolis is a large urban center with a population from many different cultural backgrounds. *Technopolis* may refer to a city with technological industry. An acropolis (*high city*) is the upper part of a polis, often a citadel and/or the site of a major temple or temples. A necropolis (*city of the dead*) is a cemetery.

The basic urban design indicators of a polis include its acropolis and its agora, the social hub and marketplace on and around a large, centrally located open space. A polis typically had temples, altars, and sacred precincts, one or more of which were dedicated to the

city’s patron deity. A polis also had gymnasia, theaters, and sometimes walls to protect from invaders. Polises often minted coins and established colonies.

#### **urbs**

In Latin, *urbs* (plural *urbes*) was the physical (walled) city and came to refer specifically to Rome and its inhabitants. From it derived such words as *urban* and *urbane*.

#### **civis, civitas**

A Latin resident was a *civis*. The plural, *cives*, was a public entity: the social body of citizens, synonymously a *res publica*, bound together in a contract allocating to them the responsibilities and rights of citizenship. The Latin term *civitas* (plural *civitates* or *civitatium*) abstractly means the condition or privileges of a (Roman) citizen, citizenship, and the freedom of a city. Concretely, it refers to the citizens united in a community, the body politic, or the state consisting of one or more cities and their territories.

Urbanistically, *civitas* refers to the city itself, typically a regional market town with a basilica and a forum administered by a town council. Its purpose was primarily economic, to produce raw materials and collect taxes. New Romanized urban settlements were considered *civitates*. Some *civitates* groups survived beyond the fall of the Roman Empire, particularly in Britain and northern Spain. The words *city*, *citizen*, *citizenship*, *civic*, *civil*, *civilian*, and *civilization* derive from this common root.

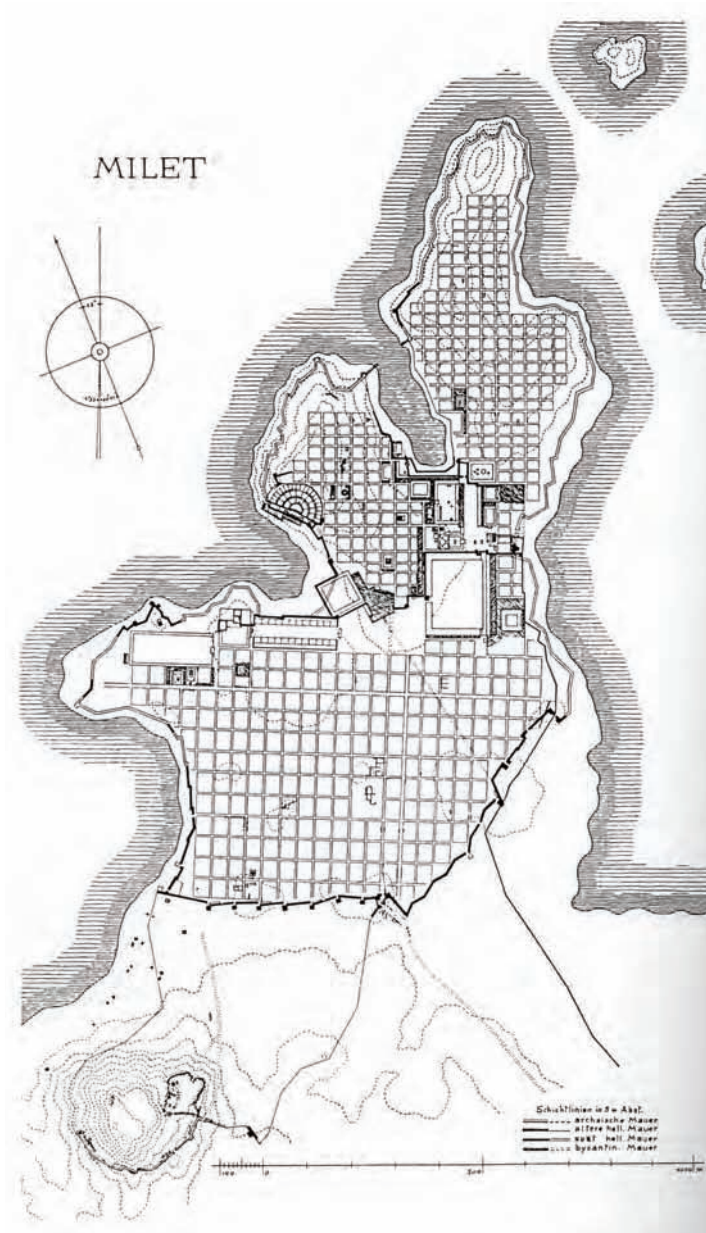
#### **municipium**

In Latin, a nonsovereign community, free town, or city whose citizens had the privileges of Roman citizens but were governed by their own laws. The term originates in (1) *munus-* (plural *munia*), meaning civic service, work, duty, obligation, or task, which included paying for public spectacles or gladiatorial entertainment and other gifts undertaken by duty holders or town citizens for the community’s benefit as regulated by custom or law; and (2) *-cipere*, from *capere*, to assume, take, grasp. Thus, *municipalis* pertains to a free city in which citizens with privileges hold civic offices. From *municipium* came the words *municipality*, a self-governing town or district, and *municipal*.

### Hippodamian grid

The Hippodamian grid, or the orthogonal urban grid, is named for the first recorded Western town planner, Hippodamus of Miletus (498–408 BC), a Greek philosopher, architect, urban planner, physician, mathematician, and meteorologist whom Aristotle identified as “the father of

city planning.” But like so many things Greek, the Hippodamian grid had Egyptian antecedents. Hippodamus laid out the port of Athens, Piraeus, in 451 BCE and Rhodes in 408 BCE. Hippodamian principles were employed in many cities, including Halicarnassus, Alexandria, Antioch, and—notably—cities in the Americas.



The Hippodamian plan of Miletus (c. 479–408 BCE) includes the civic functions of the agora, theater, stoa, gymnasium, and boule (council).