

# Cities and Urban Spaces | Urban Planning and the Instruments of Planning | Studying sites

Studying the site of a proposed construction is an important element of building design # studying the built environment, therefore, provides information about the social, economic and cultural life of past societies.

The process of planning a building or an urban context begins with the study of every aspect of the site: its environment and climate, research into locally available materials, knowledge of the local cultural, economic and historical contexts, and surveys that detail the needs of the community, including individuals and public entities. This knowledge helps to inform the construction methods and features of the urban plan or design of a building. When studying the built environment, therefore, examination of the local context and the impact it had on the wider area are fundamental elements, because from this, information about the scientific and technical knowledge of a society and its cultural and social life become apparent. Different historical periods connect with different urban patterns and architecture. Knowledge about these can be gained from archaeological finds, plans and maps or other representations of a city and can either depict or help restore the image of urban space, a building or monument, or even an entire city.



**Working Number:** QT 001

**Name:** Al-Zubarah

**Holding Museum:** -

**Date:** 5th millennium BC; 18th century settlement; abandoned probably at the beginning of the 20th century

**Materials:**

**Curator** -

**Justification:** Visiting al-Zubarah is like travelling back in time. As if in an archaeological laboratory, one is able to walk through its historical past and examine what it was like to live there.



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**Name:** Carthage archaeological site

**Holding Museum:** -

**Date:** Ancient site

**Materials:** -

**Curator** The ruins of Carthage represent milestones in the history of humanity: of significant personalities, events and creative endeavours (Queen Dido, Aeneas, the Aeneid, Rome, Hannibal, Cato, Roman generals and emperors, Christian bishops, Arab caliphs, and Phoenician,

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**Working Number:** JO 005

**Name:** Umm al-Rasas

**Holding Museum:** -

**Date:** Roman-Present; identified in 1896 by J. Germer-Durand

**Materials:** -

**Curator Justification:** One of Jordan's most significant heritage sites, it demonstrates the coexistence of different cultures and societies in one urban space.

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**Working Number:** UA 003

**Name:** View Looking across the Hall of Columns, Karnak

**Holding Museum:** Sharjah Art Museum / Sharjah Museums Authority

**Date:** Published 1849

**Materials:** Lithograph

**Curator Justification:** The lithograph, which illustrates a site of great archaeological significance, points to a scientific as well as an aesthetic interest in the ancient past. Besides its importance to archaeological studies, artworks such as this were used as reference by artists, designers and architects.

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**Working Number:** GR 013

**Name:** The Gate of the Roman

**Holding Museum:** Benaki Museum

**Date:** 1845

**Materials:** Tinted lithograph on paper

**Curator Justification:** Studies of different sites are valuable as documents of the urban assets of a city, immortalising it in visual documents at a specific point in time. This lithograph was made at a time when Athens was collating its urban assets. As the first king of Greece following independence from the Ottoman Empire, King Otto wanted to remodel the city and breathe new "new life" into it by recalling the city's classical past.

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**Working Number:** TR2 004

**Name:** The monuments in the Hippodrome surrounded by protective fences

**Holding Museum:** Ömer M. Koç Collection

**Date:** 1857

**Materials:** -

**Curator Justification:** The Hippodrome was one of the main centres of city life in this capital city of the ancient world, Byzantium (then Constantinople). Here, where magnificent works of ancient Egypt, Greek, and Rome are

found together, the intertwining layers of time and cultures up until the Ottoman era are revealed.



**Working Number:** LB 059

**Name:** Beaufort Castle

**Holding Museum:** -

**Date:** 12th century

**Materials:** -

**Curator Justification:** Every period has left its mark on this site, which has changed ownership many times over the centuries. The building can be read as an architectural-historical look into the past.



**Working Number:** FR 012

**Name:** Ruins of Troy: general excavation plan by Mr Schliemann

**Holding Museum:** National Library of France

**Date:** 1876

**Materials:** -

**Curator Justification:** Studying this plan of ancient Troy, based on the excavations by Heinrich Schliemann, it is possible to gain a picture of the urban structure of the ancient city.



**Working Number:** FR 013

**Name:** Archaeological and topographic map of the Carthaginian ruins

**Holding Museum:** National Library of France

**Date:** 1907

**Materials:** -

**Curator Justification:** Urban sites can be studied using maps that depict topographic features, or archaeological sites and their finds.



**Working Number:** TR2 007

**Name:** Dolmabahçe Palace Portal Under Construction

**Holding Museum:** Ömer M. Koç Collection

**Date:** 1853

**Materials:** -

**Curator Justification:** This photo is a rare representation of work-in-progress, showing the construction process of the Dolmabahçe Palace.



**Working Number:** TR2 023

**Name:** K#z Kulesi, Galata and F#nd#kl# Residential Areas

**Holding Museum:** Pera Museum

**Date:** Late 19th century

**Materials:** Albumen Paper

**Curator Justification:** This photo depicts the growth of settlements and the characteristics of the residential areas along the bank of the river. It provides details of the location and the connection between the watercourse and the mainland (the boat and the lighthouse) and also suggests the different building types that are on the banks of the river and the surrounding landscape.



**Working Number:** LB 063

**Name:** Sanayeh Garden

**Holding Museum:** -

**Date:** 1910s

**Materials:** -

**Curator Justification:** The creation of open, green public spaces such as parks and gardens is central to urban planning. The Sanayeh Garden, commissioned by Khalil Pasha and a manifestation of Ottoman power and planning, is one of the oldest public parks in Beirut.

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