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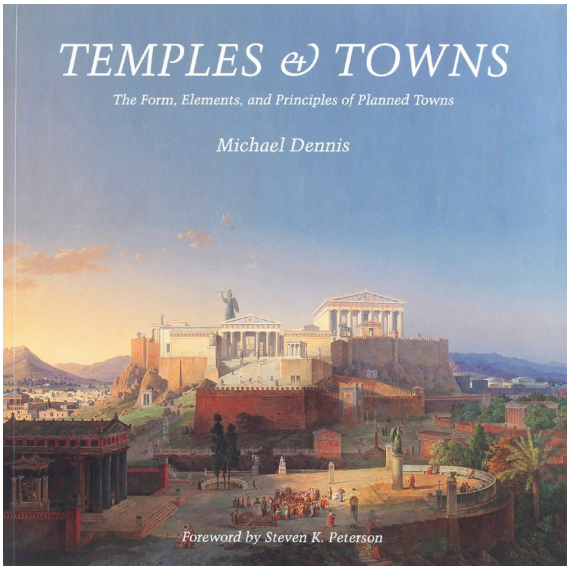

Temples and Towns

The Form, Elements, and Principles of Planned Towns

Michael Dennis

ISBN	9781957183022
Publisher	ORO Editions
Binding	Paperback / softback
Territory	World excluding USA, Canada, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Brunei, Philippines, Malaysia, and Australasia. India non-exclusive.
Size	266 mm x 266 mm
Pages	504 Pages
Illustrations	300 color
Price	£45.00

- This book has three aims: to trace the historic evolution of urban form, principles, and design; to serve as a compendium, or reference of city design; and as a polemic about the necessity for the recovery of the city and a contemporary urban architecture
- For the sixth time in five hundred million years of "Big History" of Planet Earth, there is an environmental crisis of epic proportions---the possibility of the extinction of life on earth
- On a per capita basis [cities] require less land, less auto travel, and less energy, and they emit less carbon … urbanism is the most cost-effective solution to climate change, more than most renewable technologies" (Peter Calthorpe)
- This book traces the evolution of urban form, and argues for a realignment of architecture, urbanism, ecology, and professional education

This book traces the historic evolution of urban form, principles, and design; it serves as a compendium, or reference, of city design; and is a polemic about the necessity for the recovery of the city and a contemporary urban architecture. It begins with the planned cities of Greece and the Roman Empire from about 500 BC, through the late-medieval Bastides, the Ideal Renaissance cities, and Baroque new towns, to the urban planning strategies of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It covers anti-urban modernist architecture and the resulting disintegration of the city. It concludes with late-twentieth-century efforts to recover the city, a contemporary urban architecture, and urbanism's potential contribution to the contemporary ecological crisis.

The book is project oriented and extensively illustrated. It may be read graphically, textually, or both. As such, it falls into the long tradition of illustrated treatises in which theory is embedded in the projects, with only occasional assistance or clarification from the text. Architecture and urban design are physical arts, not verbal arts, and they are best understood from graphic representations.

Michael Dennis is an architect, author, and educator. He is Professor of Architecture Emeritus at MIT. He was the Thomas Jefferson Professor of Architecture at the University of Virginia, and the recipient of the CNU Athena Medal for contributions to urbanism.

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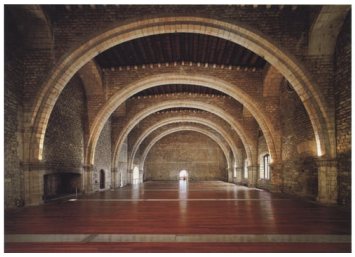

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