

URBAN PLANNING OF GREEK CITIES IN 19TH CENTURY AND TRANSFORMATION OF THEIR MEDIEVAL URBAN FABRIC. QUESTIONS ON COEXISTENCE OF DIFFERENT PERIODS OF CITIES

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Upon the liberation of the Hellenic nation, a primary goal was to create a new, independent and modern state with a new administrative and financial organization, following western European standards.

Within this context, priority was given to the reconstruction of cities where the initial street-planning design concerning main cities had undergone serious destruction during the liberation fight - this project was undertaken during the government of Kapodistrias (1826-1831) by military engineers, forming a commissioned state technical service for the execution of public works.

Urban planning activities were intensified during the reign of Otto (1833-1862), when the Government prioritized the reconstruction of old historic cities having a commercial or strategic role, while during the reign of George 1st (1863-1914), the country's urban reformation was completed through the expansion of the national territory and the completion of the legislation on urban planning.

In the Peloponnese, which was one of the first regions to have been liberated, the first urban planning designs for important cities like Patra, Aigion, Nauplion, Argos, Tripoli, were elaborated during 1828–1829. These were the historic cities that survived and had maintained, to a larger or lesser degree, elements of their long history. In 1832, when Athens was proclaimed the capital of the Hellenic state, architects Kleanthis and Schaubert were assigned with redesigning the city in its pre-revolutionary state.

This paper will delve into the impact that the redesigning of the aforementioned cities had on their contemporary form and the degree in which their historic phases were preserved diachronically. Moreover, we will examine the coexistence and expression of different eras in the contemporary urban tissue and will develop questions concerning the promotion of the archaeological wealth and its incorporation in urban modern living.