

Garden city

Urban Planning



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Garden city, the ideal of a planned residential community, as devised by the English town planner Ebenezer Howard (*q.v.*) and promoted by him in *Tomorrow: A Peaceful Path to Social Reform* (1898). Howard's plan for garden cities was a response to the need for improvement in the quality of urban life, which had become marred by overcrowding and congestion due to uncontrolled growth since the Industrial Revolution.

Howard's solution to the related problems of rural depopulation and the runaway growth of great towns and cities was the creation of a series of small, planned cities that would combine the amenities of urban life with the ready access to nature typical of rural environments. The main features of Howard's scheme were: (1) the purchase of a large area of agricultural land within a ring fence; (2) the planning of a compact town surrounded by a wide rural belt; (3) the accommodation of residents, industry, and agriculture within the town; (4) the limitation of the extent of the town and

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prevention of encroachment upon the rural belt; and (5) the natural rise in land values to be used for the town's own general welfare.