

Folding points: A century of Yerevan

Case study: Yerevan started from 1910-2010...

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LEGEND

- Master Plan of 1906-1911
- Master Plan of 1925
- Topography of 2001
- ⊕ Folding Points

Yerevan's First Modern Master Plan dates back to 1906-1911 (Architect M. Mehrabyan); second and the main Master Plan was designed by Aleksandr Tamanayan in 1925 (for 150'000 inhabitants). He took the idea of Garden city, which was in fashion at the beginning of the century and adapted it under his drawing. His idea of building a modern capital for the Republic of Armenia would result in a change of the urban structure that the city had before. Only few streets and direction were to be preserved. However, his plan only partly became a reality. In the mid of the twentieth century his fellow colleagues changed his design. Nowadays, rapidly growing Yerevan changes its urban structure by using few ideas of A. Tamanyan's Master Plan and putting those ideas under the Local Developments.

In this poster we tried to overlap the old first and second Master Plans with the Topography of early 2000's and discover those architectural points that are preserved from the beginning of twentieth century. These points are the Folding point; based on which we can unfold the urban layers.

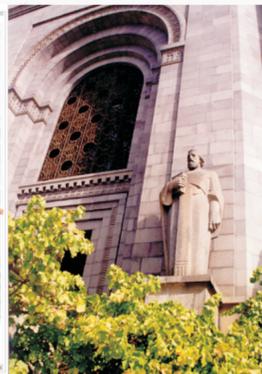
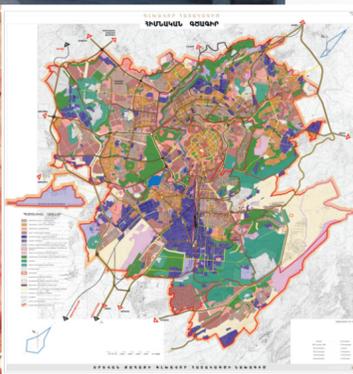
Historical background

Yerevan is the capital and largest city of Armenia and one of the world's oldest continuously-inhabited cities. It is situated on the Hrazdan River, and is the administrative, cultural, and industrial center of the country. It has been the capital of Armenia since 1918 and the twelfth in the history of Armenia.

The history of Yerevan dates back to the 8th century BC, with the founding of the fortress of Erebuni in 782 BC by king Argishti I at the western extremity of the Ararat plain. After World War I, Yerevan became the capital of the Democratic Republic of Armenia as thousands of survivors of the Armenian Genocide settled in the area. The city expanded rapidly during the 20th century when Armenia became one of the fifteen republics in the Soviet Union. In fifty years, Yerevan was transformed from a town of a few thousand residents during the first republic to the principal cultural, artistic and industrial center as well as becoming the seat of the political institutions of the country. With the growth of the economy of the country, Yerevan has been undergoing a major transformation as construction sites have appeared all over the city since the early 2000s. Today, the appearance of new buildings, roads, restaurants, boutiques, quarters etc. have started to erase the traces of 70 years of Soviet dominance.

In 2007, the population of Yerevan was estimated to be 1,107,800 people with the agglomeration around the city regrouping 1,245,700 people, more than 33% of the population of Armenia.

Source of Historical background was:
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yerevan>



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Acknowledgement: The Master Plan of Aleksandr Tamanayan was re-drafted by Zaruhi Amiraghyan, the existing Topography was prepared by "YerevanProject" CJSC. Photo credits: Alexandra Avakian, MVRDV Website, Lola Dolukhanyan, Copyright 2010 Sarhat Petrossian, Sarhat and Partners, www.sarhat.am