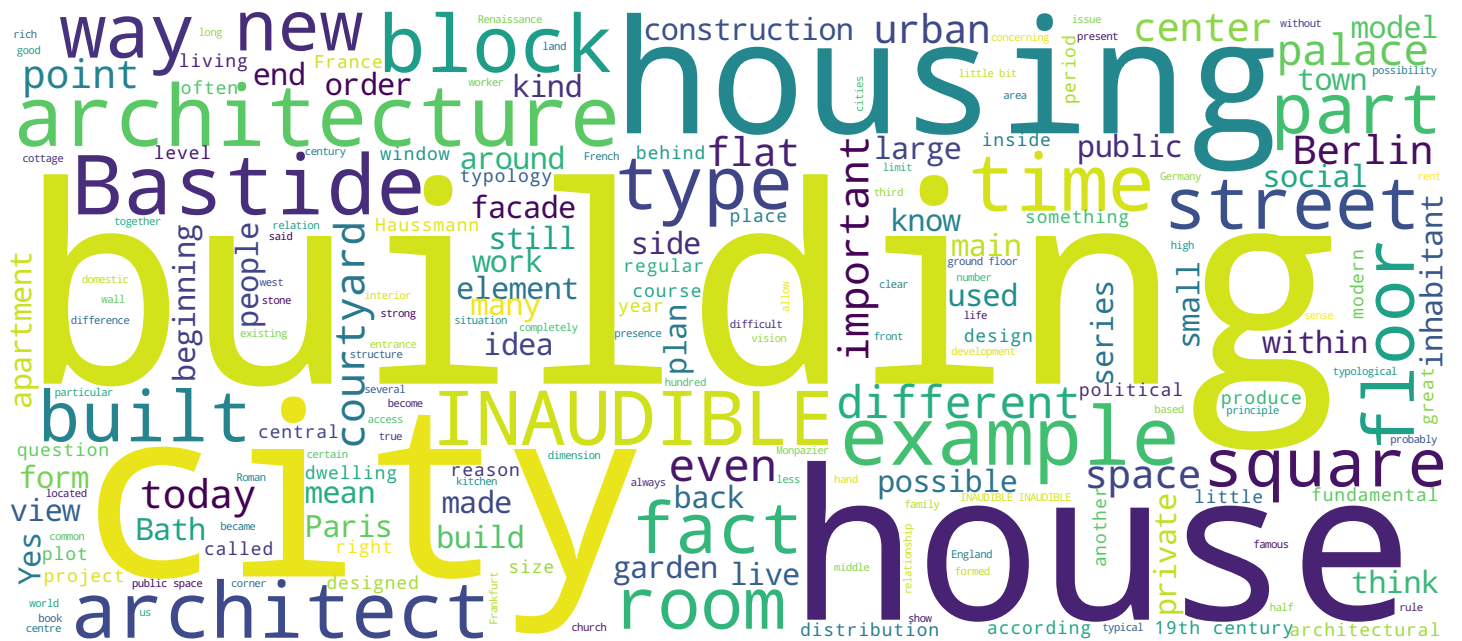


a Housing and Cities course video



EPFL





A. La tour de la ville. B. l'Eglise Cathédrale. F. Fleurbourg de Taille fer, minid. G. Ion de Paulme. K. Porte de Taillefer, de maison du fleur de la Noctie y voisinant. N. Porte du pont, & pont de Tour-nespiche. O. Porte de la Linoiane. R. Porte de l'aqueduc. V. Eglise S. Sille. X. La Claustr, place publique. * L'edifice. AA. L'île, quize.

Medieval architecture, an expression covering a very broad period from the end of the Roman Empire in the fifth century to around the 15th century at the beginning of the Renaissance. Even if some main characteristics are common to many european cultures, medieval cities have quite different features depending on national history and geography.

Notes

Summary





We have decided to focus on particular examples of medieval towns which demonstrate an extraordinary richness and structural logic: The so-called Bastides. Bastides is the french name given to a series of Fondation medieval cities realized in the southern part of France, starting from the end of 13th century. They are based on a regular grid. And it is important to underline that they contrast a little bit of the current idea about medieval architecture which is in the common opinion considered quite chaotic and without any kind of order. On the other hand the Bastides are really very regular and they are based on a very simple grid. The defining blocks. And the within this blocks there was a possibility of building any kind of architecture. As you can see here we are in Monpazier. The best known example of Bastides. The plan of the city is so strong that it allows to build the new houses like the neoclassical one that you see behind my back always considering the main rule of the city. The Bastides are towns founded in the Middle Ages in the south and west of France. They were founded during the short period between twelve hundred and thirteen hundred on the rich and fertile territories of Aquitaine and INAUDIBLE.

Notes

Summary



5. Les habitants seront jugés à Montgeard.

Sur la requête ou plainte de quelqu'un, aucun habitant de cette ville ne sera appelé ou cité par nos gens hors du territoire de la ville à propos de faits accomplis dans la ville, dans son territoire ou dans ses dépendances, et à propos de biens situés dans cette ville et son territoire, excepté pour notre fait ou sur notre plainte.

6. Domages causés de jour dans les Jardins.

Si un homme ou une femme pénètre le jour dans les jardins, les vignes ou les prés d'un autre, sans la demande ou l'accord de celui-ci il payera 12 deniers toulousains aux consuls de cette ville, s'il a de quoi payer, autrement il sera puni au jugement du bayle et des consuls.

7. Domages causés par le bétail.

Pour tout gros bétail qui sera trouvé chez autrui il sera payé 2 deniers tournois aux consuls ; pour un porc ou une truie, s'ils ont pénétré, 1 denier tournois ; pour une brebis, une chèvre, un bouc ou tout autre petit bétail, le maître de la bête payera une obole de tournois ; néanmoins le possesseur de la bête ou de la volaille sera tenu de réparer le dommage à la connaissance du bayle et des consuls de cette ville.

8. Affectation des amendes.

Mais les deniers provenant des amendes de cette sorte que les consuls recevront, ils les emploieront au profit de la ville comme à la réparation des ponts, des chemins ou des routes, et autres usages et nécessités de cette ville, selon ce qui leur paraîtra le mieux convenir.

9. Défense d'entrer dans les prés.

Cependant pour l'entrée dans les prés, ni peines, ni amendes ne seront infligées, à moins que cela n'ait été défendu par le bayle et les consuls de cette ville, et publiquement proclamé de notre part et de celle d'Hugues Peitavi, coseigneur du lieu, de nos successeurs et des siens, selon la coutume en usage dans les autres localités voisines. Les étrangers ou les gens de passage

In the middle of the 13th century and on the brink of the Hundred Year War, a movement to transform society developed in France. Subjects acquired their freedom and a present bourgeoisie which was not tied to the feudal system emerged. In this context almost 250 Bastides were built within a century under the auspices of Abbots or noblemen who established agreements on the communal exploitation of the ground and the equal distribution of costs and revenue. The ambition was to populate and cultivate the region. Around one third of the Bastides also played a military role. Both French and English founders were present in the region and used the Bastides to defend themselves against each other. Despite this defensive task, the Bastides also had an important economic role. Located at distances of between 15 to 30 kilometers equal to a day's walk, they formed a commercial network which was part of the Territory's defensive strategy. In order to attract new inhabitants to the Bastides, the founders established individual founding charters defining the rights and obligations for new settlers. INAUDIBLE charter of Customs says: "whoever would like to come to this town to live here and to build a house here would be free like the other inhabitants. He can do this without prejudice from others. He will not pay some taxes, tide, nor embellish nor guess.

Notes

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2m 40s



His daughter is free to marry and he can promote his son to the levels of the clergy." The founding charters imposed deadlines for the construction of the first houses forcing a rapid establishment of the Bastides. Therefore social and economic prosperity was also quickly established. Even if the typical plan of a Bastide is very regular, this type of city was capable to adapt itself to very difficult and very different ground of the situation. So within the almost 300 Bastides realized in this part of France, you can also find the longer structure, in some cases circular structure, but what is fundamental is the fact that the relationship between the blocks, the grid and the central piazza remains always the same. Apart from economic and defensive reasons the choice of locality was often based on access to resources such as rivers or on existing hamlets. Even though there is no typical plan each Bastide was developed according to a similar recognizable and quite rational organizing pattern.

Notes

Summary





This often began with the crossing of two perpendicular directions initiating a grid recalling the roman Cardo and the commands. Subdivision then followed into a series of adjoining plots perpendicular to the streets called I-Hall. The I-Hall ranged from a hundred to three hundred square meters which enabled both the rapid possession of the territory and an equal distribution of building plots. The Bastides are comparable lots of different sizes and types. Most of them were built on a grid allowing the town to grow with the arrival of new inhabitants but without a defined perimeter.

Notes

Summary

5m 48s





Successful Bastides expanded while others remained a constant size. Others due to their defensive role were built within a defensive wall limiting their growth. Around 1350, with the beginning of the Hundred Year War undefended Bastides asked either the King of France or England for permission to build a defensive wall. Hence finally most Bastides were walled. Outside the Bastides larger parcels for crops were organised such as Curzer large vegetable gardens of 600 to 700 square meters and arpents, acres of cultivable land. Each Bastide was organized around a square at the intersection of the main access marking the entrance to the town. Square is where commercial transactions or markets took place. Therefore it contributed to their economic force. Normally ranging from between 40 by 40 meters to 70 by 70 meters. The dimensions of the square were not determined by the size of the Bastide, but by its economic role. The square and the streets determined the ordering system for the plot layout and were part of the first works. The town square is mostly regular, generally bordered by four blocks one on each side and four streets. The surrounding houses were often built with arcades forming covered commercial streets.

Notes

Summary

6m 33s





plan of Villereal
redrawn from the land register

Due to these porticoes the only access to the square for carts was at the corners. A particular aspect in Monpazier is the possibility of getting the center of the square diagonally. It was probably due to the fact of providing free access to the very center of the square and to the markethall without disturbing other commercial activities taking place under the arcades and probably that's the reason why Viollet-le-Duc decided to dedicate a special drawing to this angle which produces a very strange architectural solution. I have to say that even if I don't like so much that the walls are dynamic, this way of getting the center of the square diagonally is closer to our modern contemporary sensibility than what we are expected to see in a medieval city. In several Bastides a wooden building was built in the center of the square. Sometimes housing a communal hall on the first floor. This was a symbol of wealth but also a meeting place for the inhabitants. The concept of the town's communal space represents a break from the medieval structure where the town was organized around a castle and Abbey or a church. In the Bastide, The church was an important building but didn't occupy a central position on the square.

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Summary



8m 10s



It was generally placed at one of its adjacent angles not far from the center and visible from the square but not defining it. Two types of streets, all lanes, organized the rational network around the square. The first type the car lanes, Carrera, are between six to ten meters wide. The size very comfortable for the time anticipating future traffic requirements and therefore confirming the modernity of the Bastide. The lanes define the limit of the blocks called Moulon. In the case of Monpazier, The moulon is formed by two rows of a joining back to back houses and closed at the corners. The width of the block is two times the plot length, which recurs as a rectangular proportion of the blocks themselves. The centre of the block is traversed by alleys, the Carreru, which marked the limit of the back to back gardens. They collect grey water and serve the houses from behind. Used only by the inhabitants of the block, they mark a threshold defining the block; a piece of city within the city. Over time, the structure of the Bastide has proved to be highly adaptive, even if some of the original buildings no longer exist. The street layout and the division of the plots remain. the Bastides are a model of a simple urban structure which enables a variety of interpretations and size, and space, and which has endured and adapted with time.

Notes

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9m 52s

