Subject: Professional Practice - I
Topic: Ancient Roman Town Planning
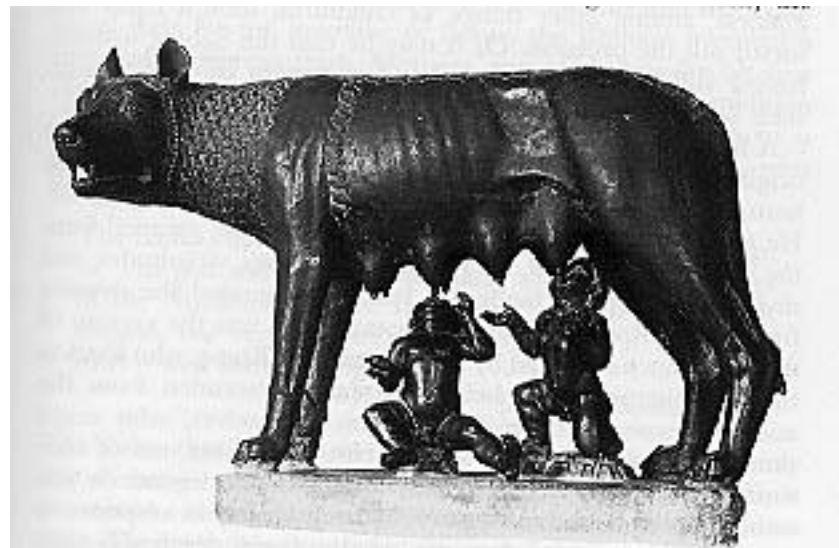Presented by: Fazlur Rahman

ROMAN CIVILIZATION

FOUNDING - OF – ROME

❑Romans – Indo-European immigrants to Italy.

❑This civilization flourised from 6th B.C. to 5 A.D.

❑Started as a small settlement on the **Palatine Hill**

❑**Aeneas** – Trojan hero of Virgil

❑**Romulus** – Founding king
  Rhea Silvia, Faustulus
  Brothers raised by she-wolf
  Romulus Murders Remus
  Sabines & Latins
  Rape of the Sabine Women
  Romulus founds institutions of Rome
  Deified as Quirinus

❑Legendary founding in 753 BC.

❑Four legendary non-Etruscan Latin kings

TOWNS IN ROME BRITAIN :-

❑ The Romans built Britain's first towns. They built towns all over Britain as centers to administer the people they had conquered.

❑Within 17 years of the invasion, they had several major towns in place. connected by the famous ROMAN ROADS.

Towns soon became important places for meetings and trade.

What were Roman towns like ?

❑ The Roman towns were full of fine buildings and temples.

❑ The Romans liked everything to be organized and orderly. Streets were laid out in neat, straight lines, like on a chess-board. In the middle there was a large square, called the **forum**. It was used as a market place and for meetings. It had shops and offices on three sides and government offices on the other side.

❑Many towns had running water and sewers. Aqueducts were bridges for bringing water to the towns.

❑ Roman aqueducts were built in all parts of the ROMAN EMPIRE from Germany to Africa, and especially in the city of Rome, where they totaled over 415 km. The aqueducts supplied water to large cities across the empire, and set a standard of engineering that was not surpassed for more than a thousand years.
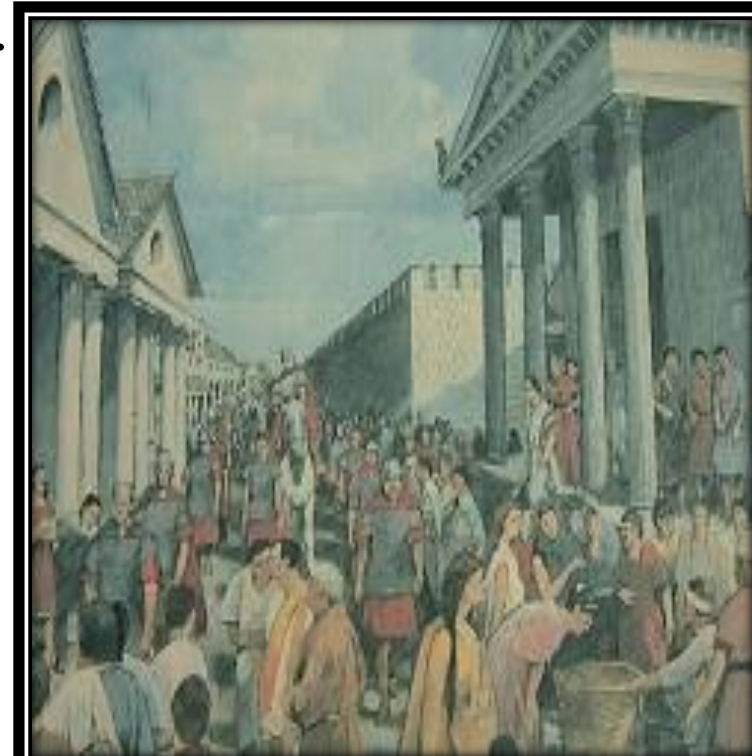
❑Only the rich had water piped to their houses; everyone else used water from public fountains. The only toilets were public lavatories, which were built around the town and connected to underground sewers.

❑ Most towns would also have shops as well as the forum. At one end of the forum was a large building called the **basilica**. There were temples too where the Roman gods were worshipped. Some towns had public baths, an open-air theatre and huge monumental arches.

❑The Romans Founded their town mainly on three occasions:

1. When the towns become colonial center.
2. When it was made a local capital.
3. When it become a imperial residence.

What was the general layout of a Roman town?

❑Throughout their empire the Romans built towns in exactly the same style.

❑They were designed in the form of a grid, with streets built at right angles to each other and parallel with one of the two main roads.

❑ The streets of Roman towns were between five and eight metres wide. Their width depended upon their importance.

❑Each town had two main roads. One heading North-South and the other East-West. At the point where these roads met was the town centre, where the administrative centre and the forum were found.

❑The central part of the town contained the main businesses, with the homes and dwellings of the citizens further towards the edges of the town.
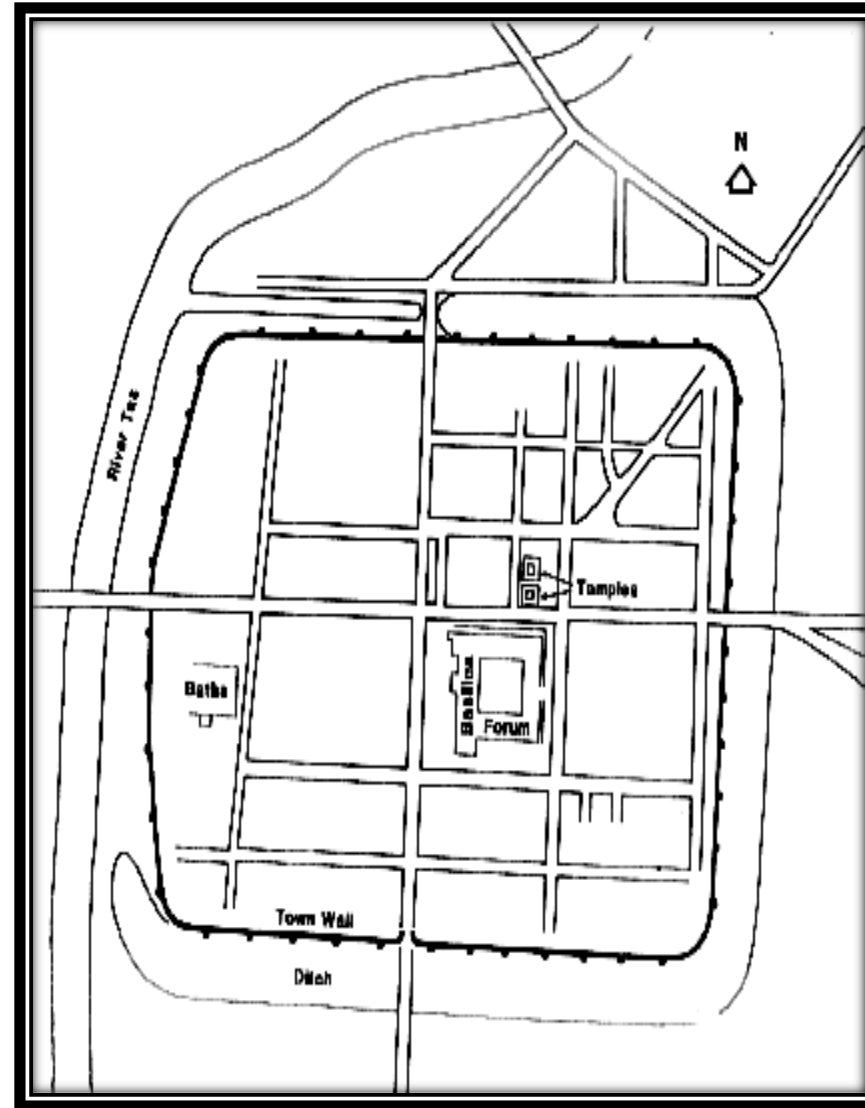
(a)To religious auspices include –

❑ To establish a city wall first. There were different religious activities within and outside the city wall.
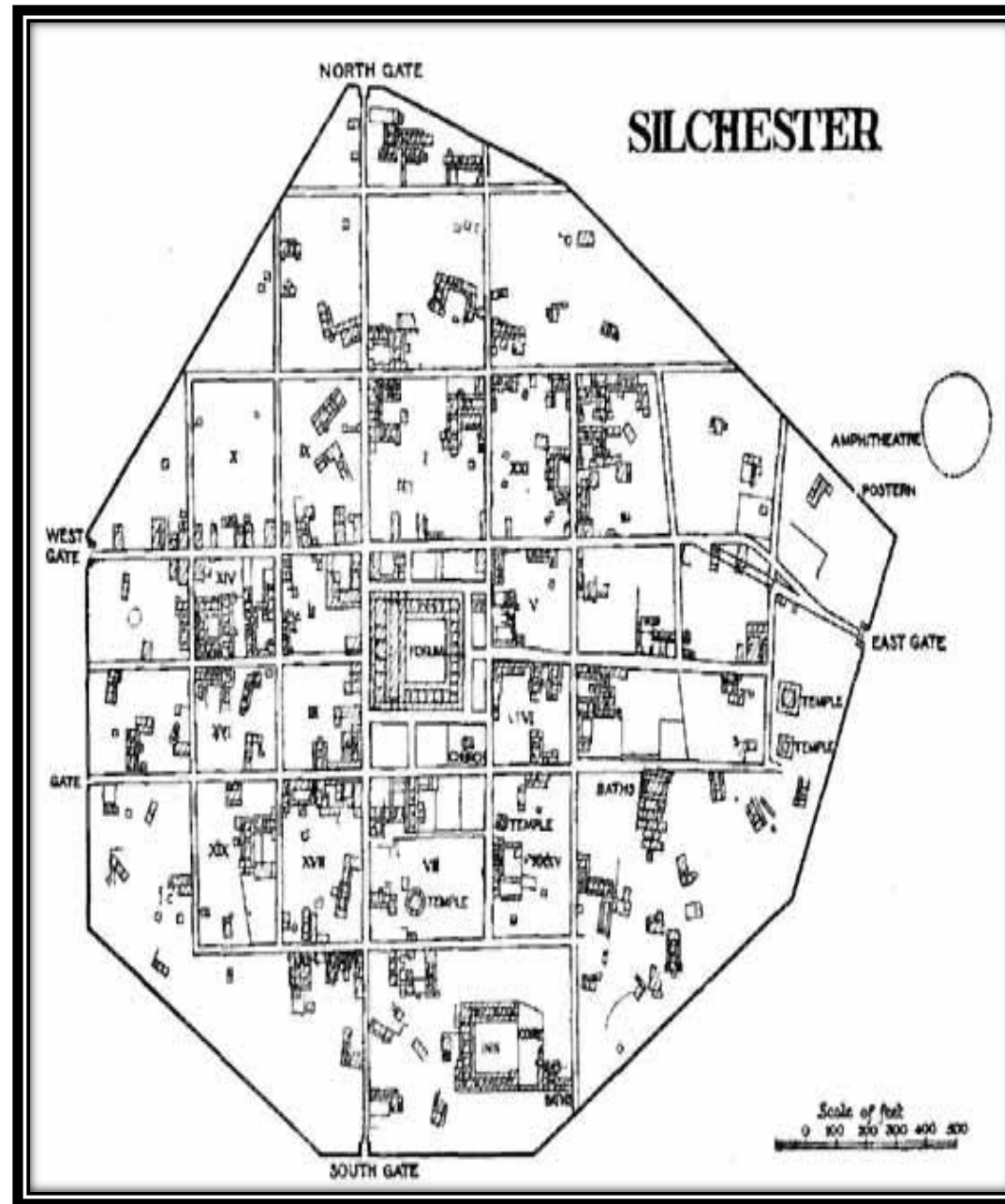
Next of importance were the two cross roads : DECUMANUS – Running east west and CARDO running north south. This system of road layout is know as CARDO MAXIMUS. The system of road layout is know as CENTURATIO SYSTEM. FORUM was to developed at the crossing of the main roads .

The rest of the town was developed into square or rectangular plots of one side equaling 120'

The defense requirement includes :
- ☐ A defense wall.
- ☐ Straight roads to avoid curvature in street which enabled to perform military.
- ☐ Long distance visibility for policing required the roads to be absolutely straight.
- ☐ The roads were at least 2.40m wide.

The technical consideration :

- ☐ Setback of 2'6" (0.76m) from the boundaries of each buildings
- ☐ Drainage and water supply were elaborated prescribed .
- ☐ All construction within the town was to be in concrete and stone. In specific cases they faced with bricks

The roman town were mainly divided into 3 categories :

- ❑ Collonia : When were high ranking cities having all benefits,where there was hierarchy of plot for having various social status .

- ❑ OPPIDIA – Towns which were conquered from others.
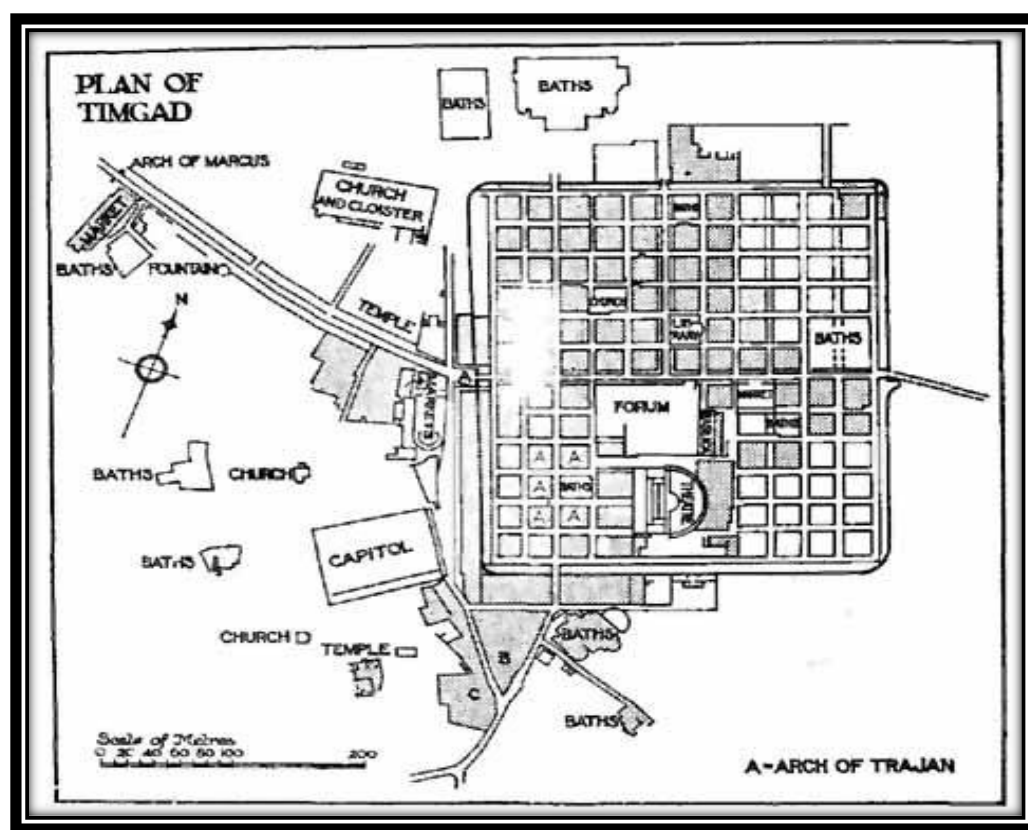
- ❑ CASTRUM – Military camp Town.

What were Roman buildings made of?

Buildings were made of stone and brick. They were so well built that we have been able to excavate many Roman buildings and even towns.
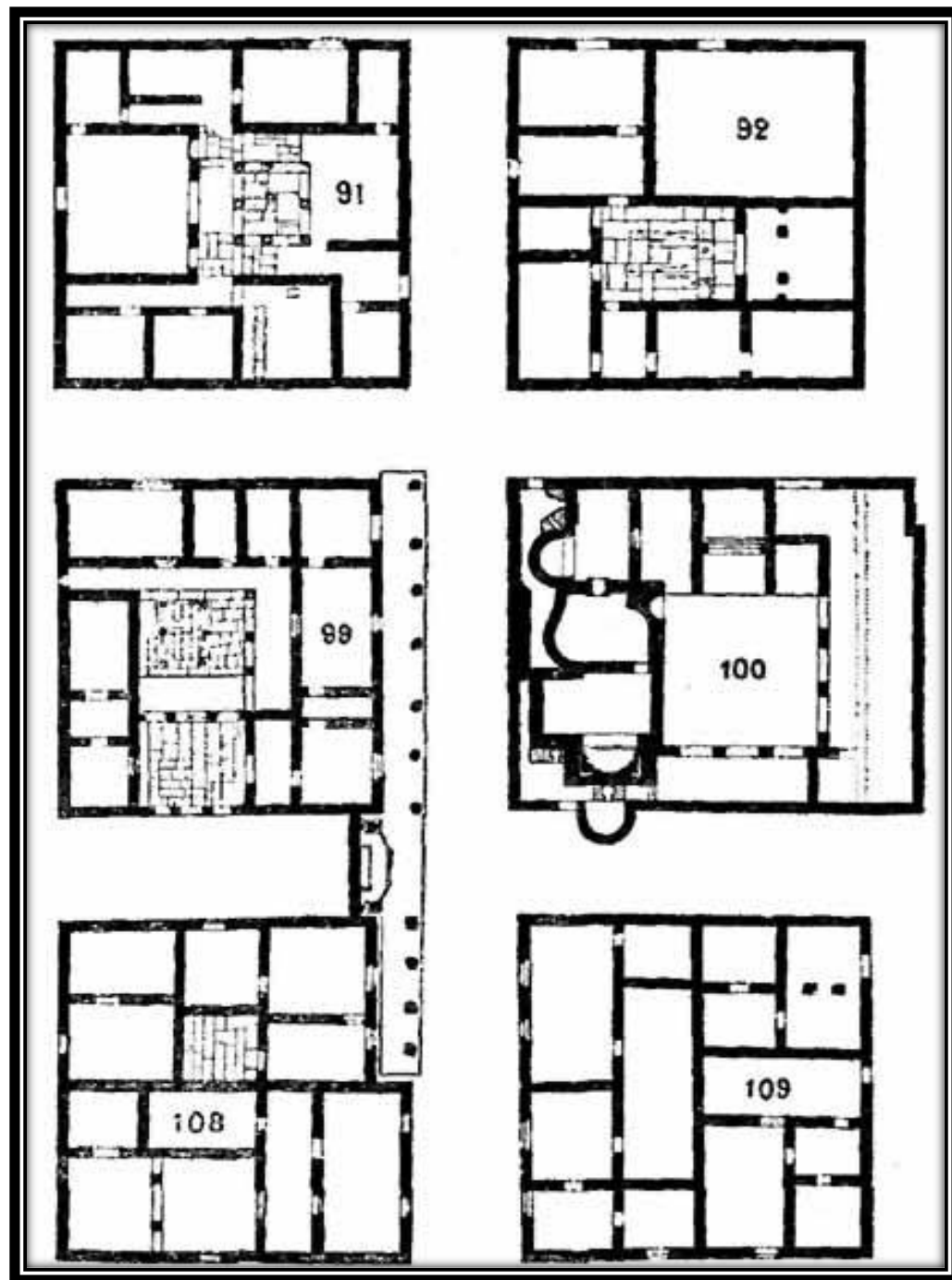
EXAMPLES - TIMAGD CITY

1. IT is lay on the northern skirts of Mount Aurès, halfway between Constantine and Biskra and about a hundred miles from the Mediterranean coast.

2. It was entered by four principal gates, three of which can still be traced quite clearly, and which stood in the middle of their respective sides; the position of the south gate is doubtful

3. . The interior of the town was divided by streets into a chess-board pattern of small square house-blocks; from north to south there were twelve such blocks and from east to west eleven—not twelve, as is often stated.

4. The possible total of 132 'insulae' was, however, diminished by the space needed for public buildings, though it is not easy to tell how great this space was in the original town. Ultimately, as the excavations show, eight 'insulae' were taken up by the Forum, four by the Theatre, three by the various Baths, one by a Market, one by a Public Library, and one by a Christian church. But some of these edifices were certainly not established till long after A.D. 100 and the others, which must have existed from the first, were soon extended and enlarged

PLAN OF TIMGAD

❑ Here seven blocks for public purposes in the original town, but this seems too little. The blocks themselves measured on the average a square of 70 Roman feet (23 x 23 yards), and may have contained one, two, three, or even four houses apiece, but they have undergone so many changes that their original arrangements are not at all clear. The streets which divided these blocks were 15 to 16 ft. wide; the two main streets, which ran to the principal gates, were further widened by colonnades and paved with superior flagging. All the streets had well-built sewers beneath them.
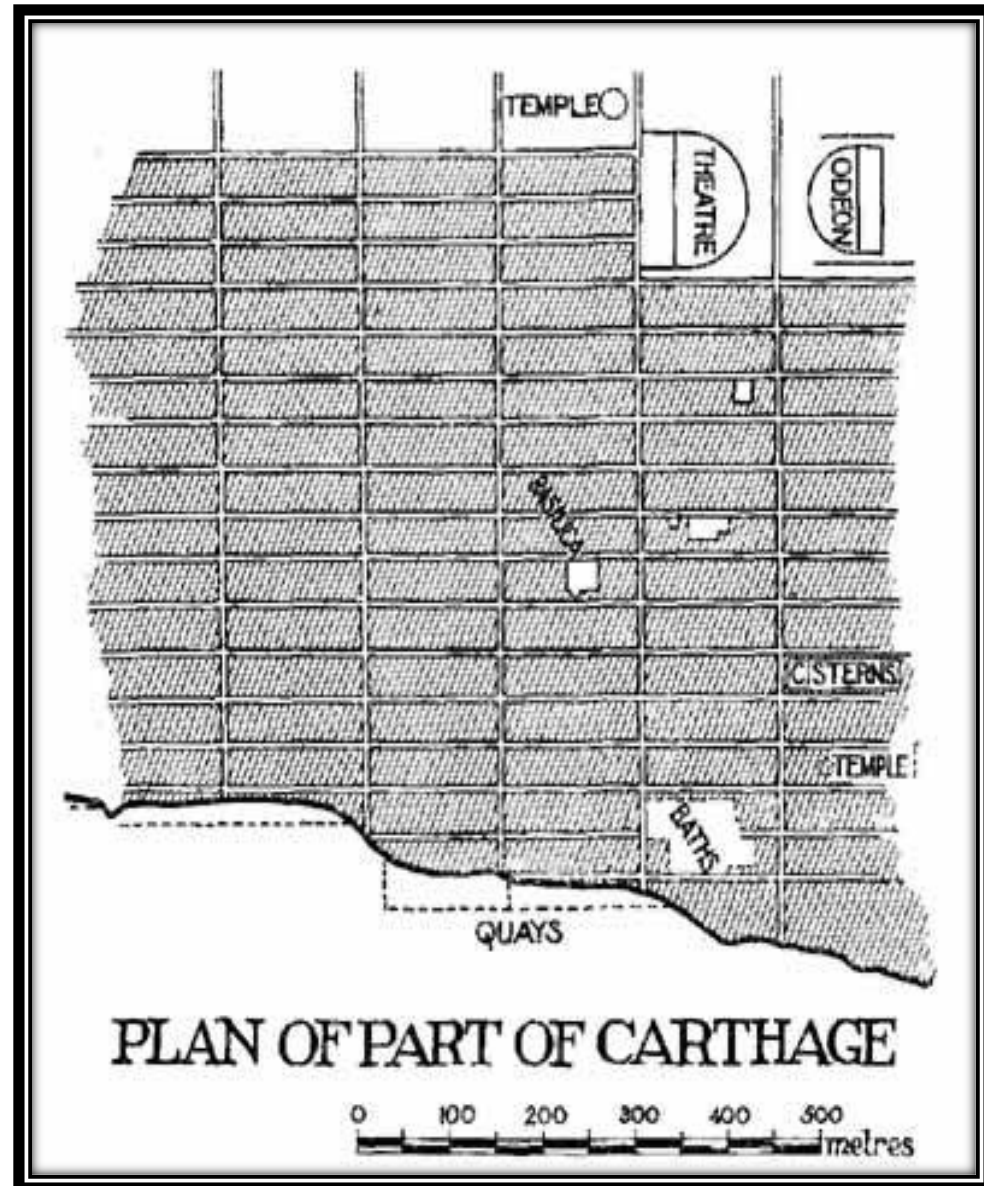
❑Timgad was plainly small

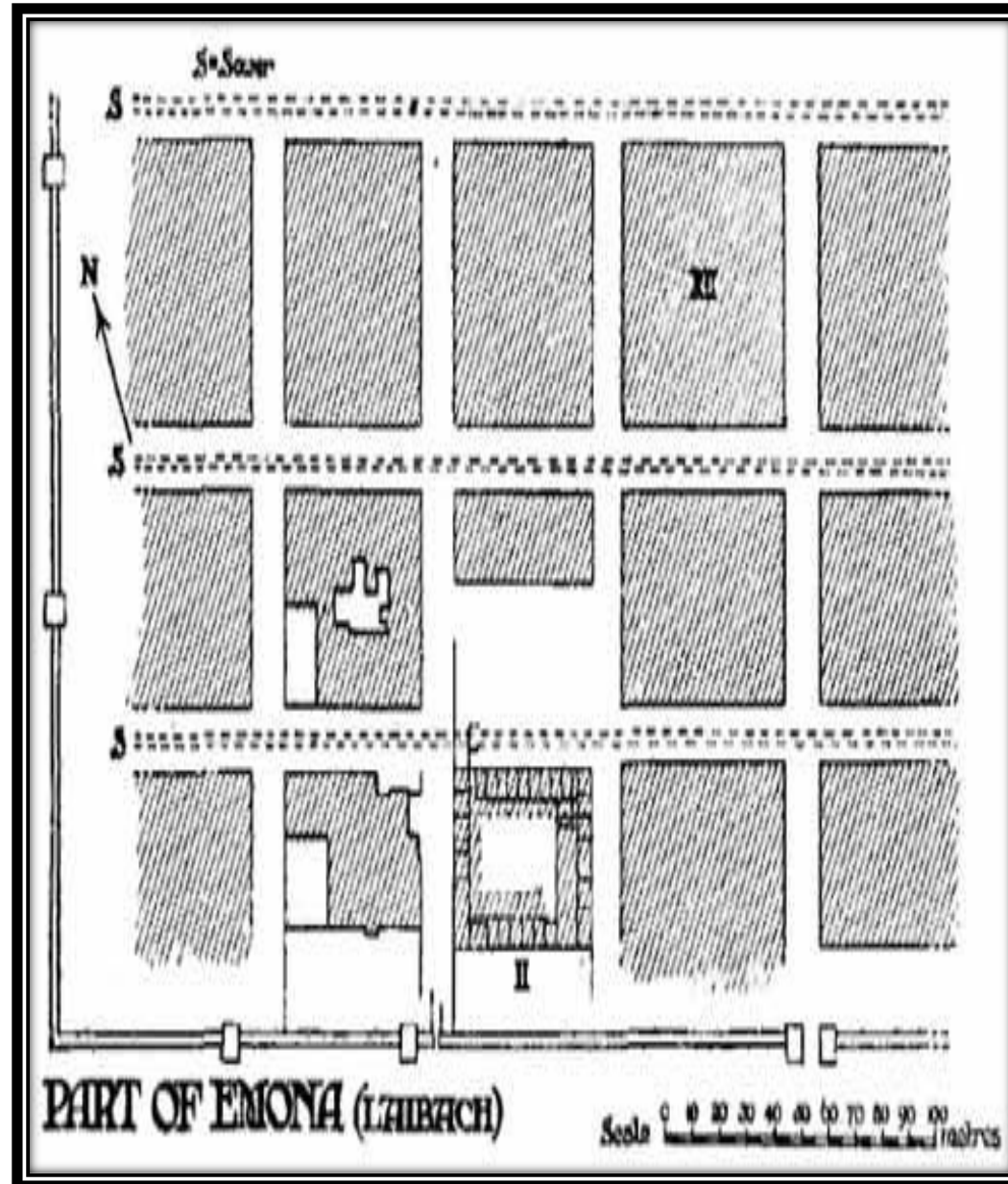❑The town-planning of Timgad was designed on other than purely architectural or municipal principles.

CARTHAGE

☐ Carthage, first founded AS ROMAN COLONIA then reestablised by with the same rank by Julius Caesar

☐, it comprised a large number of streets—perhaps as many as forty—running parallel to the coast, a smaller number running at right angles to these down the hillside towards the shore, and many oblong 'insulae', measuring each about 130 x 500 ft.,

☐ The whole town stretched for some two miles parallel to the shore and for about a mile inland, and covered perhaps 1,200 acres.
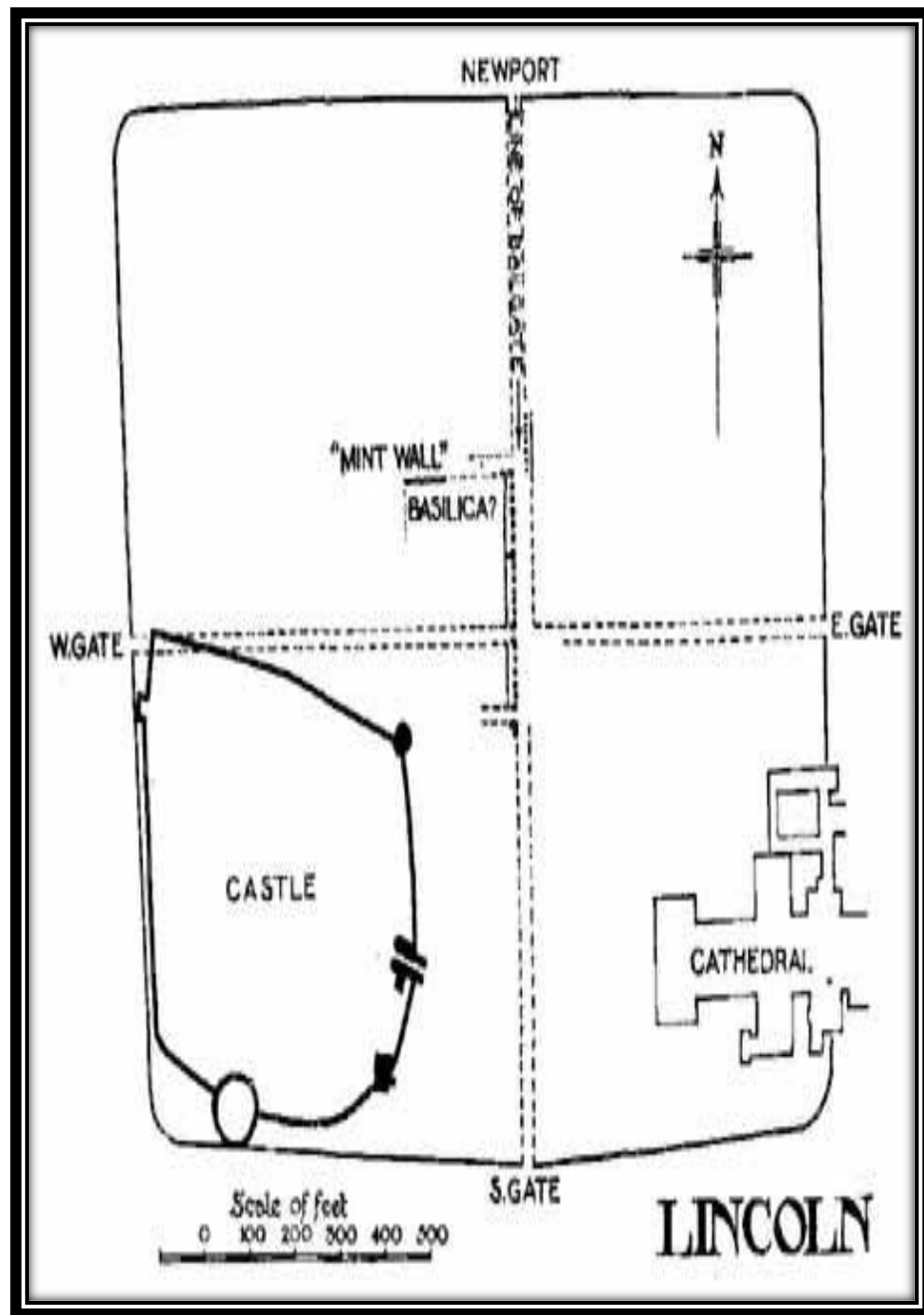

PLAN OF PART OF CARTHAGE

0   100   200   300   400   500 metres

EMONA :-

1. The colony was in outline a rectangle of nearly 55 acres (480 x 560 yds.), and was divided up into forty-eight blocks by five streets which ran north and south and seven which crossed them at right angles; of these forty-eight blocks some must, of course, have been taken up by public buildings.
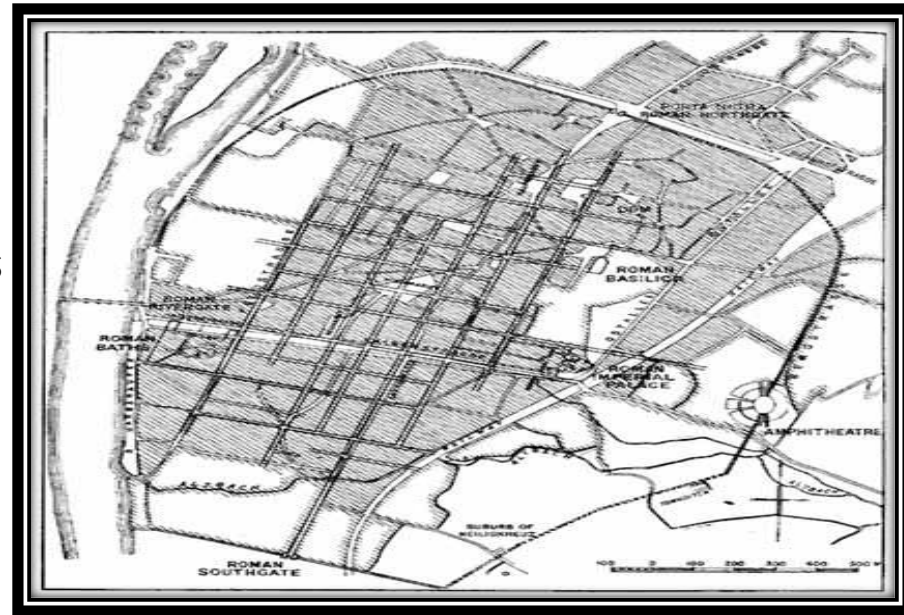

PART OF EMONA (LAIBACH)

They varied in size: the largest as yet planned (II in fig. 25) measured 170 x 195 ft., or ¾ acre; two others measured 163 x 170 ft.; while one block, which contained one large house not unlike the Silchester 'inn', was 112 x 168 ft. (Plan, II), and the block next it was a trifle smaller. None of the dimensions show any trace of the normal 120 or 240 ft. (p. 79). The streets were very broad (37-40 ft.); one, which may be the 'cardo maximus', measured as much as 47 ft. across.

NEWPORT

N

"MINT WALL"

BASILICA?

W.GATE   E.GATE

CASTLE

CATHEDRAL

S.GATE

Scale of feet
0   100 200 300 400 500

LINCOLN

TRIER:

These points yielded a regular plan of streets crossing at right angles, which in many of its features much resembles that of Autun. Thirteen streets were traced running east and west, and eight (Dr. Graven says seven but his plan shows eight) running north and south. The east and west streets, with two exceptions, lay some 320 ft. from one another. The north and south streets varied, some observing that distance, others being no more than 260 ft. apart. As a result, the rectangular house-blocks varied also in size. The largest seem to be those which fronted a street that crossed the town from east to west, from the Imperial Palace to the Baths and the West Gate, and corresponds roughly with the present Kaiserstrasse.

This may well have been the *decumanus*, the main east and west street of the 'colonia', and hence the house-blocks fronting it may have been unusually large (p. 77). One of them, near the Neumarkt, reached the awkward size of nearly 3½ acres (320 x 460 ft.). Others elsewhere were smaller, many measuring 320 x 320 ft., and others again 320 x 245 ft., rather less than 2 acres. In general, the 'insulae' on the east and west sides of the town were larger than those in the centre. The whole has a resemblance to Autun, and is more irregular than writers on Trier are ready to allow.[107]