ROME

Spanning the entire history of the city of Rome from an Iron Age village to a modern metropolis, this is the first book to take the long view of the Eternal City as an urban organism. Three thousand years old and counting, Rome has thrived almost from the start on self-reference, supplementing the everyday concerns of urban management and planning by projecting its own past onto the city of the moment.

This is a study of the urban processes by which Rome’s people and leaders, both as custodians of its illustrious past and as agents of its expansive power, have shaped and conditioned its urban fabric by manipulating geography and organizing space; planning infrastructure; designing and presiding over mythmaking, ritual, and stagecraft; controlling resident and transient populations; and exploiting Rome’s standing as a seat of global power and a religious capital.

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Spiro Kostof (1936–1991) was Professor of architecture at the University of California at Berkeley and one of the foremost architectural and urban historians of the twentieth century. His books include A History of Architecture: Settings and Rituals (1985), The City Shaped: Urban Patterns and Meanings through History (1991), and The City Assembled: Elements of Urban Form through History (1992). His previously unpublished Mathews Lectures at Columbia University, delivered in 1976, form the foundation of the middle section of this book.
Column of Trajan and monument of Vittorio Emanuele II during demolition of medieval palaces for construction of Via dell’Impero, 1931. Archivio Storico Fotografico ATAC 4955.
ROME

AN URBAN HISTORY FROM ANTIQUITY TO THE PRESENT

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In memory of
Terry Rossi Kirk
(1961–2009)
Nunc quoque Dardaniam fama est consurgere Romam,
Appenninigenae quae proxima Thybridis undis
mole sub ingenti rerum fundamina ponit:
haec igitur formam crescendo mutat et olim
inmensi caput orbis erit!

Even now, rumor says, Trojan Rome is rising –
Who, by the waters of Apennine-born Tiber,
Beneath her mighty hills, lays the foundations of things:
For her aspect changes as she grows. One day
She shall be the head of the wide world!
– Ovid, *Metamorphoses*
CONTENTS

List of Illustrations  ix
Acknowledgments  xv

INTRODUCTION  1

1. A BEND IN THE RIVER  4
2. A STORYBOOK BEGINNING  10
3. IDEOLOGICAL CROSSFIRE  19
4. BIG MEN ON THE CAMPUS  32
5. RES PUBLICA RESTITUTA  43
6. MEMORIALS IN MOTION: SPECTACLE IN THE CITY  52
7. THE CONCRETE STYLE  60
8. REMAKING ROME’S PUBLIC CORE: I  72
9. REMAKING ROME’S PUBLIC CORE: II  82
10. CRISIS AND CONTINUITY  93
11. RUS IN URBE: A GARDEN CITY  103
12. ADMINISTRATION, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD  114
13. MAPPING, ZONING, AND SEQUESTRATION  122
14. TETRARCHIC AND CONSTANTINIAN ROME  132
15. TROPHIES AND TITULI: CHRISTIAN INFRASTRUCTURE BEFORE CONSTANTINE  142
## CONTENTS

16. WALLS MAKE CHRISTIANS: FROM FOURTH TO FIFTH CENTURY  
17. A TALE OF TWO ROMES  
18. THE ROME OF GOTHS AND BYZANTINES  
19. CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS  
20. FROM DOMUS LATERANI TO ROMANUM PALATIUM  
21. THE LEONINE CITY: ST. PETER’S AND THE BORGO  
22. VIA PAPALIS, THE CHRISTIAN DECUMANUS  
23. THE URBAN THEATERS OF IMPERIUM AND SPQR  
24. HOUSING DAILY LIFE  
25. CHAOS IN THE FORTIFIED CITY  
26. THE TIBER RIVER  
27. HUMANIST ROME, ABSOLUTIST ROME (1420–1527)  
28. PLANNING COUNTER REFORMATION ROME  
29. PROCESSIONS AND POPULATIONS  
30. MAGNIFICENT PALACES AND RHETORICAL CHURCHES  
31. NEOCLASSICAL ROME  
32. PICTURING ROME  
33. REVOLUTION AND RISORGIMENTO  
34. ITALIAN NATIONALISM AND ROMANITÀ  
35. A CITY TURNED INSIDE OUT  

Glossary of Persons, Places, and Terms  
Works Cited  
Index
ILLUSTRATIONS

All photographs are by Rabun Taylor unless otherwise noted in the captions.

1. Topography of early Rome  page 5
2. G. B. Lusieri, view of Tiber valley from Montemario  7
3. G. B. Piranesi, view of ancient Tiber embankment with mouth of Cloaca Maxima  8
4. Model of Sepulcretum as excavated by G. Boni  12
5. Map of early Rome  13
6. Map of southern Forum and northeast slope of the Palatine in Archaic period  14
7. Archaic altar and markers on south side of Comitium excavated by G. Boni  15
8. Reconstruction of archaic temple of S. Omobono in its second phase, ca. 530 B.C.E.  15
9. Model of archaic Rome. Reconstructed elevation drawing of Capitolium  16
10. Servian Wall  18
11. Forum in fourth century B.C.E.  20
12. Map plotting temples with known locations dedicated during the republic  21
13. Temples at Largo Argentina  22
14. Church of S. Nicola in Carcere  23
15. G. B. Piranesi, Milvian Bridge  24
16. Satellite view of Forum Boarium area  25
17. Remains of Basilica Aemilia  26
18. Model of ancient Rome with so-called Porticus Aemilia. Actual remains of same building  27
19. Tabularium  28
20. View of Forum from Tabularium  29
22. Plan of Forum ca. 10 B.C.E.  33
23. Forum of Caesar  34
24. Map illustrating urban interventions in Augustan Rome  36
25. Ground elevations of Campus Martius before permanent development in antiquity  37
26. Theater of Marcellus and the superimposed Palazzo Orsini  38
ILLUSTRATIONS

27. Model of ancient Rome with Mausoleum. Reconstruction of Mausoleum by G. Gatti
28. Course of Aqua Virgo
29. Reconstructed view of Forum of Augustus
30. Aerial view of Forum of Augustus
31. Rear firewall of Forum of Augustus
32. G. B. Piranesi, Pons Cestius
33. Map representing extent of a flood reaching 20 m.a.s.l. in Augustan Rome
34. Map of Via della Lungaretta and environs
35. Arch of Titus along Sacra Via
36. Triumphal Route
37. G. B. Piranesi, Arch of Titus
38. Porta Maggiore during installation of tram tracks in 1956
39. Map showing extent of fire of 64 C.E. by region
40. Nero’s Domus Aurea, octagonal hall
41. Plan of Baths of Nero after Palladio’s drawing
42. Actual-state model of insula on west slope of Capitoline Hill
43. Plan of insulae found east of Piazza Colonna
44. Development of Vatican district in imperial period
45. Aerial view of Colosseum
46. Model of ancient Rome with Baths of Titus and Colosseum
47. Reconstruction of Templum Pacis with central garden
48. Plan of first three imperial fora
49. Templum Pacis, reconstruction of hall with marble plan
50. E. Dupérac, Forum Transitorium with remains of Temple of Minerva
51. Plan of the five imperial fora
52. Column of Trajan and slope of Quirinal Hill
53. Reconstructed view of Forum of Trajan
54. Fragments of Severan marble plan showing Basilica Ulpia with [Atrium] Libertatis
55. Map showing hypothetical extent of fire of 80 C.E.
56. Aerial view of Palatine Hill and Circus Maximus
57. Model of ancient Rome with Campus Martius
58. Markets of Trajan
59. Great hall of Markets of Trajan
60. Pantheon
61. Analytical cutaway view of Pantheon by G. Chédanne, 1891
62. Map of central Campus Martius in second quarter of the second century C.E.
63. Model of ancient Rome with Serapeum on Quirinal
64. Temple of Venus and Roma
65. Mausoleum of Hadrian (Castel Sant’Angelo)
66. Piazza Colonna, ca. 1960
67. Map showing hypothetical extent of fires of the 180s and 192
68. Reconstruction of late-imperial Atrium Vestae
ILLUSTRATIONS

69. Reconstruction of Septizodium 98
70. Baths of Caracalla 99
71. South sector of Aurelian Wall 100
72. Sectors of Aurelian Wall along Via di Porta Labicana 101
73. Porta Appia, original and late-antique phases 101
74. Fragments from Severan marble plan showing Porticus Octaviae and Porticus Philippi 104
75. Diagram of known pits highlighting possible grove in Comitium 105
76. Reconstructed view of Theater of Pompey from portico gardens 106
77. Fragments of Severan marble plan showing Porticus Liviae 107
78. Reconstructed view of garden in Sanctuary of Elagabalus 108
79. Fragments of Severan marble plan showing Aqueductium (left) and Adonea (right) 109
80. Map of horti of Rome 110
81. Model of ancient Rome with Pincian Hill and Campus Martius 111
82. Plan representing known ancient remains associated with Horti Lamiani 112
83. “Temple tombs” of cemetery under St. Peter’s in plan and restored elevation 118
84. G. B. Piranesi, columbarium of household of Livia 119
85. Plan of Catacomb of Domitilla on Via Ardeatina 120
86. Wall from Severan phase of Templum Pacis 123
87. Schematic map representing an aqueduct and its fronting properties 123
88. Map of imperial riverfront with superimposed fragments of severan marble plan 129
89. Engraving and photo of Trajanic wharf at Emporium during excavations 130
90. Satellite view of Monte Testaccio and its surrounding district 130
91. Map with major monuments of the Tetrarchic and Constantinian periods 133
92. Reconstruction of Forum adorned with Tetrarchic columns 133
93. Cutaway reconstruction of Baths of Diocletian, after E. Paulin. Photo of frigidarium 134
94. Aerial view of Baths of Diocletian and Piazza della Repubblica 134
95. Basilica of Maxentius 136
96. Model of ancient Rome 137
97. Arch of Constantine 138
98. Plan of St. Peter’s and known extent of its underlying cemetery 140
99. Map with fourth-century titular churches 143
100. Plan of S. Callisto Cemetery 146
101. Map with Christian and Jewish cemeteries before the fourth century 147
102. Section view of a sector of the Catacomb of S. Agnese fuori le Mura with locali 148
103. Section and plan of an entrance to the catacomb at SS. Marcellino e Pietro 148
104. Map with early Christian churches 153
ILLUSTRATIONS

105. G. Vasi, SS. Nereo ed Achilleo 155
106. SS. Giovanni e Paolo, portico 156
107. Remains of basilica subteglata of S. Agnese 157
108. Apse mosaic of S. Pudenziana 159
109. H. Schedel, view of Vatican and Trastevere 161
110. Tenth- to eleventh-century interventions in ruins of Theater of Balbus 163
111. I. Silvestre, S. Lorenzo fuori le Mura 165
112. Workshop of D. Ghirlandaio, Tiber Island mills 167
113. H. Cock, view of Ponte Fabricio and Tiber Island 167
114. S. Sabina apse 172
115. G. ter Borch the Elder, view of Via Panisperna and S. Maria Maggiore 173
116. G. A. Dosio, 1561 map of Rome, detail with churches on Caelian and Esquiline 174
117. Map with stational, Greek, and Goth churches 175
118. E. Dupérac, view of SS. Cosma e Damiano in Forum 176
119. J. Brueghel the Elder (attributed), view with S. Maria in Cosmedin, round temple, and Temple of Portunus. Present-day view of S. Maria in Cosmedin 178
120. Map with monasteries founded before tenth century 179
121. M. van Heemskerck, Pantheon 181
122. Diaconia of Sant’Angelo in Pescheria with lousma 182
123. Map with medieval charitable institutions 183
124. S. Maria in Cosmedin, interior 185
125. Hypothetical plan of Lateran Borgo in 1300 189
126. Hypothetical reconstruction of the Lateran Borgo in 1300 189
127. Map with Lateran Borgo showing ancient, medieval, and Renaissance remains 190
128. Lateran Baths with baptistery in background 192
129. M. van Heemskerck, Panorama of Lateran Borgo 195
130. Aerial view of Castel Sant’Angelo with Passetto di Borgo 197
131. Map with Vatican Borgo showing ancient, medieval, and Renaissance remains 198
132. H. Schedel, view of Vatican Borgo, detail 199
133. T. Alfarani, plan of Old St. Peter’s with New St. Peter’s overlay 200
134. Map with schola locations and Leonine Walls 201
135. Routes of Via Papalis 206
136. G. A. Dosio, Arco di Portogallo 208
137. Hypothetical reconstruction of Einsiedeln Itinerary map 210
138. B. Bandinelli (attributed), triumphal arch for papal procession of Clement VII 211
139. E. Dupérac, Arch of Janus in Velabrum 217
140. G. ter Borch the Elder, fortified Arch of Constantine 217
141. E. Dupérac, Arch of Septimius Severus and Church of S. Adriano 219
142. E. Dupérac, Trajan’s Column 220
143. M. van Heemskerck, view of Roman Forum 221
144. Map with major late-medieval family compounds and fortifications 223
ILLUSTRATIONS

145. E. Dupérac, ruins of Theater of Marcellus 224
146. Colosseum. Anonymous, Speculum Romanae magnificientiae 225
147. Reconstruction of Fora of Trajan, Augustus, and Nerva in tenth century 227
148. Reconstruction of Forum of Nerva in tenth century 228
149. Reconstruction of medieval Crypta Balbi workshops 230
150. View of Torre delle Milizie from Aventine. Codex Escorialensis 234
151. Frieze representing pilgrims traveling to Rome, Fidenza Cathedral 236
152. Aracoeli steps and church of S. Maria 237
153. S. Benedetto in Piscinula, cosmatesque paving 238
154. Reliefs representing Pope Gregory XI entering Rome 239
155. Workshop of D. Ghirlandaio, Ripa Grande 240
156. L. Bufalini, map of Rome 242
157. L. Cruyl, view of Tiber 243
158. E. Dupérac, map of Rome, detail, Testaccio district and Tiber 243
159. E. Dupérac, view of Marmorata 244
160. A. Chiesa and B. Gambarini, map of Tiber 246
161. G. ter Borch the Elder, Ponte Rotto 247
162. A. Specchi, view of Ripetta 248
163. Tiber embankment in late nineteenth century 249
164. Workshop of D. Ghirlandaio, Ponte Sant’Angelo 253
165. Detail of Figure 156 255
166. A. Specchi, Palazzo della Cancelleria 256
167. Palazzo Farnese 257
168. Map with Renaissance palaces 258
169. P. Letarouilly, Palazzo Massimo alle Colonne 259
170. Proposed Acqua Vergine fountains, 1571 262
171. G. B. Falda, Villa Montalto 263
172. G. F. Bordini, conceptual diagram of Sixtus V’s new road system 265
173. G. B. Falda, Trevi Fountain and Church of SS. Vincenzo ed Anastasio 266
174. G. B. Falda, plan of Rome, 1676 267
175. Panoramic view of Piazza di S. Pietro, ca. 1909 268
176. Spanish Steps 269
177. G. Frezza, Posesso of Innocent XII 272
178. E. Dupérac, Festival at Testaccio 273
179. A. Brambilla, Castel Sant’Angelo with fireworks 274
180. C. N. Cochin, fireworks preparation in Piazza Navona 275
181. E. Dupérac, view of Michelangelo’s piazza on the Capitoline 276
182. Detail of Figure 174 showing Jewish Ghetto 278
183. E. Dupérac, map of Rome, detail with Borgo, Ponte Sant’Angelo, and Piazza Ponte 282
184. G. Vasi, S. Giacomo in Scossacavalli 282
185. G. B. Cavalleri, atrium of St. Peter’s during Jubilee of 1575 284
186. Church of Il Gesù 285
187. G. B. Piranesi, S. Carlo alle Quattro Fontane 286
188. G. B. Piranesi, Via del Corso 287
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Illustration Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>189</td>
<td>S. Agnese in Piazza Navona</td>
<td>289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>190</td>
<td>Map with Renaissance and Baroque palaces</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>191</td>
<td>Trevi Fountain</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>192</td>
<td>Detail of Figure 160 with schematic cross section of Pons Neronianus</td>
<td>295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>193</td>
<td>B. Bernardini, plans of Rione Parione and Rione Pigna</td>
<td>296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>194</td>
<td>G. B. Nolli, large map of Rome, 1748</td>
<td>297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>195</td>
<td>Obelisk, Piazza Montecitorio</td>
<td>298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>196</td>
<td>G. B. Piranesi, view of Campo Vaccino</td>
<td>299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>197</td>
<td>L.-J. Arnout, bird’s-eye view of Rome, detail with Piazza del Popolo</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>198</td>
<td>M. van Heemskerck, Vatican Palace</td>
<td>304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>199</td>
<td>G. P. Panini, <em>Modern Rome</em></td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>G. B. Falda, Villa d’Este, Quirinal</td>
<td>306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>201</td>
<td>A. Specchi, <em>cordonata</em> of Capitoline</td>
<td>308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>202</td>
<td>G. Vasi, Church of S. Maria at Trevi and Trevi Fountain</td>
<td>309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>203</td>
<td>G. B. Piranesi, Piazza del Popolo</td>
<td>309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>204</td>
<td>Tenements, via Marmorelle 19</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>205</td>
<td>Public works projects under Pius IX: Trastevere asylum and gasworks in Circum Maximus</td>
<td>314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>206</td>
<td>Piazza Vittorio Emanuele, view of garden</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>207</td>
<td>Master plan, Comune di Roma, 1883</td>
<td>317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>208</td>
<td>Barbari map, detail, Quirinal with Ministry of Justice, train station, and Esedra, 1900</td>
<td>318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>209</td>
<td>Via Nazionale</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>210</td>
<td>Detail of Figure 207, via del Corso Vittorio Emanuele II</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>211</td>
<td><em>Baracca</em> settlement adjoining Acqua Felice</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>212</td>
<td>Aerial view of monument to Vittorio Emanuele II</td>
<td>325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>213</td>
<td>Sanjust master plan, 1908</td>
<td>326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>214</td>
<td>Traffic congestion in Piazza della Rotonda, 1929</td>
<td>327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>215</td>
<td>Aerial view of Garbatella, 1920s</td>
<td>328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>216</td>
<td>Mausoleum of Augustus before 1940</td>
<td>331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>217</td>
<td>Markets of Trajan before intervention of 1911</td>
<td>331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>218</td>
<td>View down Via dell’ Impero, 1930s</td>
<td>332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>219</td>
<td>View from St. Peter’s dome</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>220</td>
<td>Via Rua in Jewish Ghetto before its demolition in 1880s</td>
<td>334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>221</td>
<td>Model of EUR ’42 complex</td>
<td>337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>222</td>
<td>Olympic complex, Campo Flaminio, and Foro Musolini, aerial view</td>
<td>338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>223</td>
<td>Città Universitaria, 1938</td>
<td>339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>224</td>
<td>Aerial of Tuscolano Don Bosco</td>
<td>341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>225</td>
<td>Aerial of Borgata Gordiani</td>
<td>342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>226</td>
<td>Campo Flaminio, Olympic Village, and Parco della Musica</td>
<td>342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>227</td>
<td>Funeral of Pius XII viewed from Colosseum</td>
<td>343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>228</td>
<td>Kristin Jones and Daniel K. Brown, <em>Luminaria</em>.</td>
<td>346</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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