

# **URBAN AND RURAL WAYS OF LIFE**

# ***URBANIZATION***

- It is the process by which large numbers of people become permanently concentrated in relatively small areas, forming cities.

# What is a 'city'?

- Recommendations by the United Nations: all places with more than 20,000 inhabitants living close together are urban.
- The USA: places with more than 2500 inhabitants .
- are considered as urban.
- France: agglomerations of 2000 people living
- in contiguous housing.
- The Netherlands: municipalities with 2000 inhabitants.
- Portugal: agglomeration with at least 10,000 inhabitants.

# Preconditions of urbanization

- Improvement in
  - agriculture;
  - transportation.

# Main engines of urbanization

Creation of new jobs in the process of industrialization, development of commerce and administration.

Better than in rural areas public services.

Relatively developed retail market.

# What is attractive in cities?

- Samuel Johnson (1777):

“When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life; for there is in London all that life can afford.”

# Minuses of Urban Life

- Bad ecology.
- Expensive housing.
- High density of population.
- Big distance between home, work and public institutions.

# URBAN HOUSING

1. Apartment houses.
2. Townhouses.
3. Family houses.



# Family houses



# Dynamics of Urbanization

The share of the world's population living in cities of 20,000 or more:

- 1800 - less than 3 percent;
- 1900 – 13 percent;
- 1950 – 29 percent;
- 2005 – 49 percent;
- 2030 – 60 percent (project).
- the end of the 20th century - nearly 50 percent.



# RURAL LIFE



# Rural areas

- **Rural** areas (also referred to as "the country", **countryside**) are settled places outside towns and cities. Inhabitants live in villages, hamlets, on farms and in and in other isolated houses.

# Economic basis of rural areas

- agriculture;
- logging;
- mining;
- petroleum and gas exploration;
- tourism.

# Specific of Life in Rural Areas

- Limited services (especially public services.
- Utilities like water, sewerage, street lighting, and public waste are generally present in the larger settlements (but depend on the state).
- Public transportation is usually limited or absent and many people use their own vehicles.
- Low density of population.
- Relatively large private yards, gardens, etc.
- Relatively good ecological environment.

- ***INTEGRATION OF URBAN  
AND RURAL WAYS OF LIFE***

# New forms of urbanization

- Traditional urbanization is a concentration of human activities and settlements around the downtown area.
- Suburbanization is the shift of the residential area outward.



# Transformation of distances

Distance is measured by accessibility.

- 1. Physical distance (miles, km).
- 2. Time.
- 3. Money and other market resources.
- 4. Energy.

# Travel distances

- Walking (10–30 km/day).
- Horse travelling (up to 40 km/day ).
- Sailing and boats (of 70–80 km/day).
- Early trains (to 40 to 50 km/day ).
- Trains after Second World War (more than 100 km).
- Cars (since the 1960).

# pattern of movement

- The daily 'go and back'.
- 'Zig-zag'.

# Suburban Crises

Factors of evolution:

- 1. The 'filling' of the urban fringe with private houses and gardens, gradually reduced the freedom of movement the typical rural scenery was lost.
- 2. The small traditional villages and towns were not always able to provide the growing need for social and cultural commodities.
- 3. The lack of an aesthetic and 'walkable' environment decreases even more the living quality of the aging urban fringe.
- 4. Many new industries and commerce's moved out of the city center towards more easily accessible urban fringe zones.

# New Urbanism

- New Urbanism was a movement which started in the 1980s.
- It believes in shifting design focus from the car-centric development of suburbia and the business park, to concentrated pedestrian, walk able, mixed-use communities.

# New points of concentration outside the downtown

- networked, poly-centric form of concentration;
- exurbia;
- edge city;
- network city;
- postmodern city.

# URBANIZATION OF THE COUNTRYSIDE



# Concentric models of urbanization

- 1. The urban core: the completely built up area .
- 2. The inner urban fringe with a dense housing pattern and absorbing older villages.
- 3. The outer urban fringe characterized by a complex mosaic of land use of very different nature: residential, agriculture, recreation, industry and commerce and that could be named a **rurban** landscape.
- 4. The rural commuting zone with important functional changes due to demographic transition , emergence of exurbs (urban shadow zone or the rural hinterland).
- 5. The depopulating countryside with relicts of old landscapes.



# The outer urban fringe





# urban shadow zone

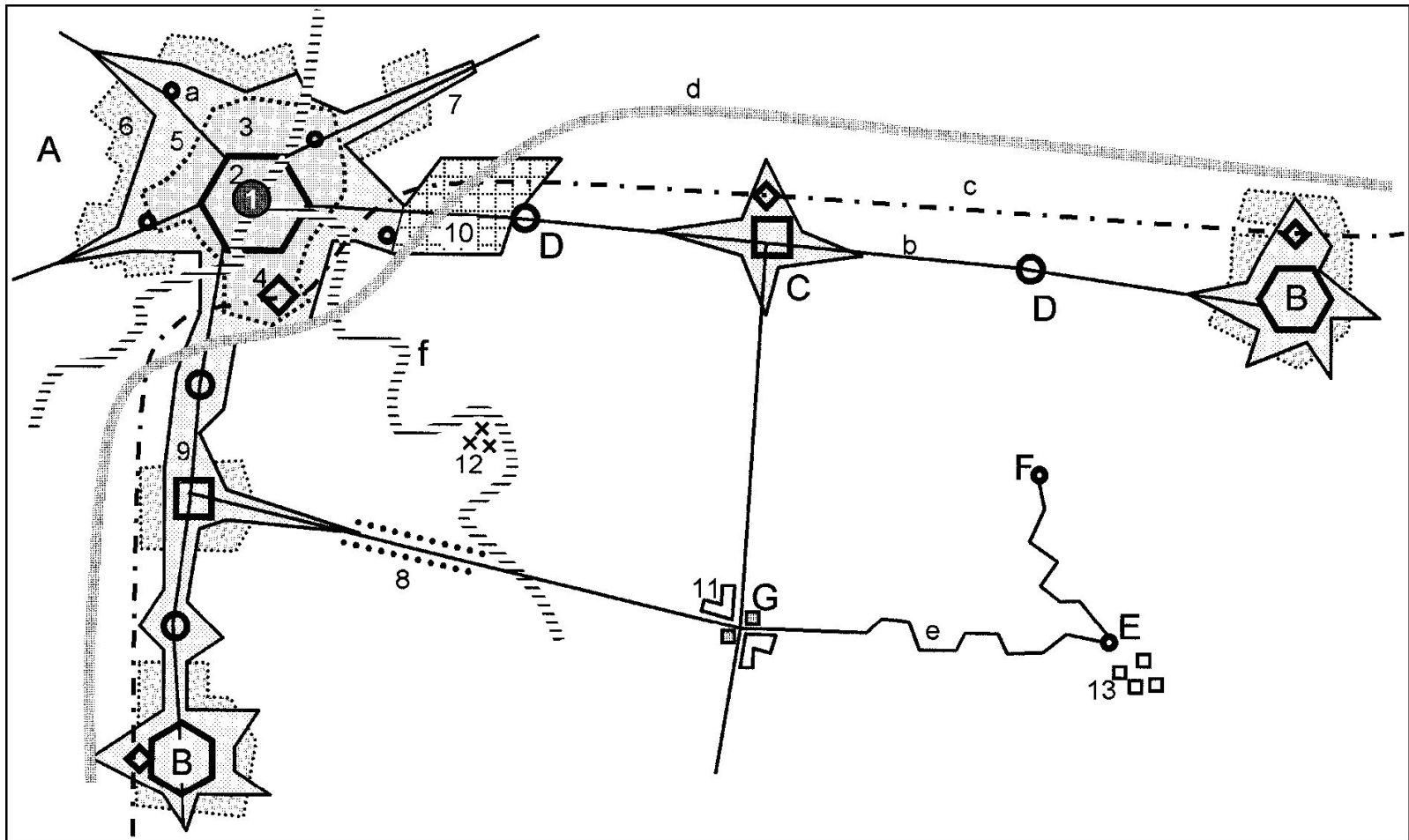








# A multiple star-shaped or 'sparkling' spatial



# SUMMER HOUSES, DACHAS











# Rural desert

- Vast areas of the rural Europe show an impressive decrease of population and desert-like densities are reached.
- The local population in these areas can not support the maintenance of the landscape. Land becomes abandoned and the 'forest repulsesman'.



# Rural desert



# Transformation of Rural Housing