

Gaspare Beretta, XVII century
 It's the most ancient representation of the city of Sabbioneta. In this drawing, not only the fortification implant is represented, but also its urban settlement and the principal buildings. It is attributed to Gaspare Beretta, an engineer from Milan. The fortified city is surrounded by a moat. There is a crescent-shaped ravelin in front of Porta Vittoria, while beyond the Imperial Gate the second ravelin is only dashed. Numerous counterguards appear along the external defensive structures, mostly matched.

1774 - Land use
 Source: muragorte.it

- built areas
- mulberries
- pasture



early 1900 - Land use
 Source: muragorte.it

- built areas
- mulberries
- pasture
- copse
- wooded lawn
- lawn
- vegetable garden
- orchard
- vineyard
- arable land
- wooded arable land



THE TERRITORY OF SABBIONETA IN HISTORY

Sabbioneta represents, in relation to Mantua, the implementation of the Renaissance urban principles based on the search for symmetry and rigor, through the construction of a new city, which is the result of a precise and complete design.

Sabbioneta, as the name itself suggests, was born on a land formed by the alluvial deposits from the Oglio and Po rivers. Later, in the XI century, the Benedictine monks started a reclamation process. On the dry sand Vespasiano Gonzaga, who was also a military architect, decided to build his ideal city.

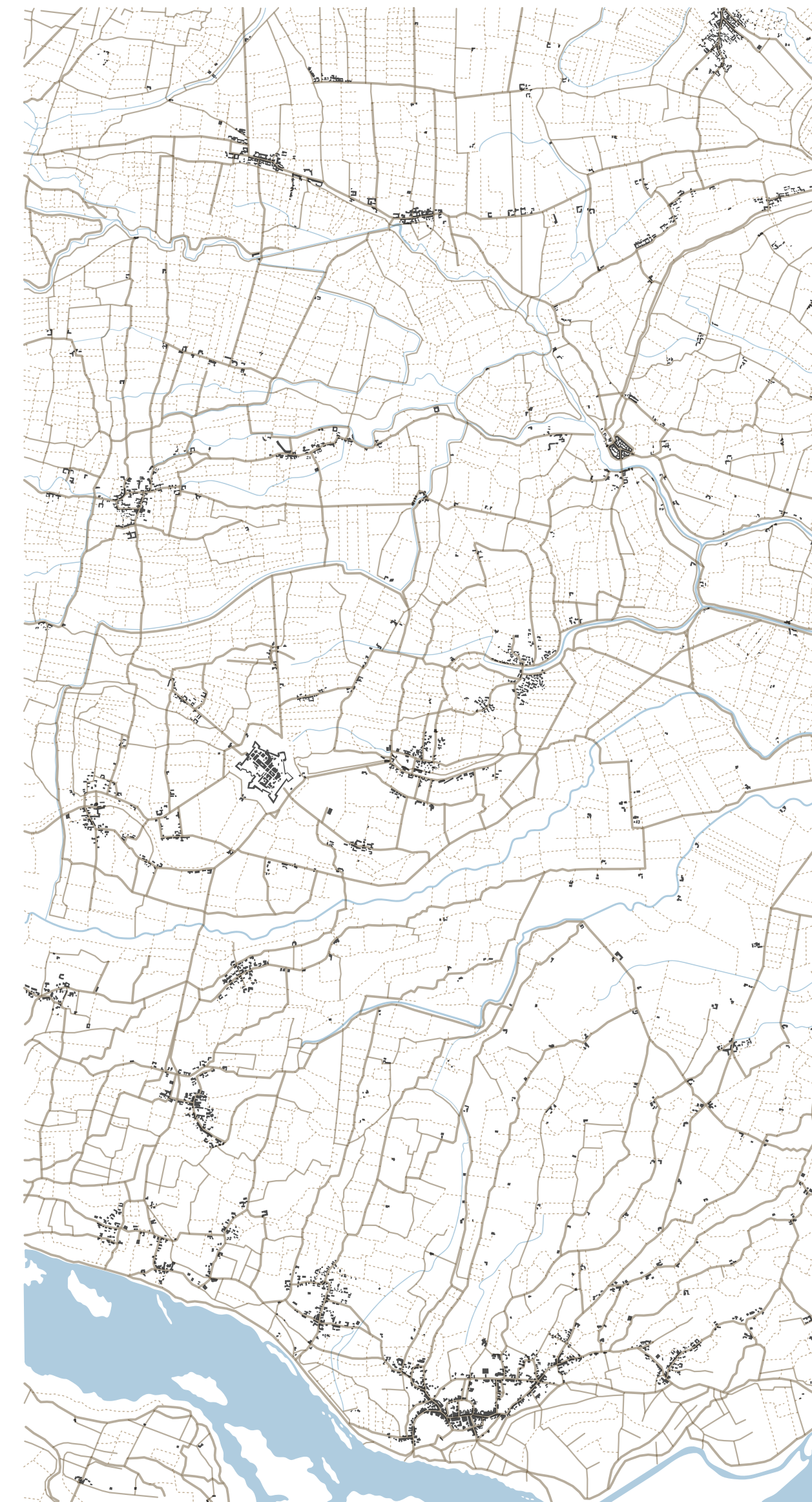
Recovering the principles of classical art, Vespasiano defined a layout similar to the Roman castra with 36 quadrangular blocks divided by orthogonal streets. The city walls have the shape of an irregular hexagon with six wedge-shaped bastions grafted at the corners and two monumental gates for access. In order to disorient the invaders, the main road axis is broken near the doors. The synthesis between aesthetics and defense needs is here perfectly accomplished.



G. B. Sesti, 1707
 The incision was published in 1707 in the Atlas made by Lieutenant General Giovanni Bassista Sesti, a collection of the fortified garrisons of the state of Milan. The walls are surrounded by a large moat which also includes the castle and the two ravelins in front of the doors.

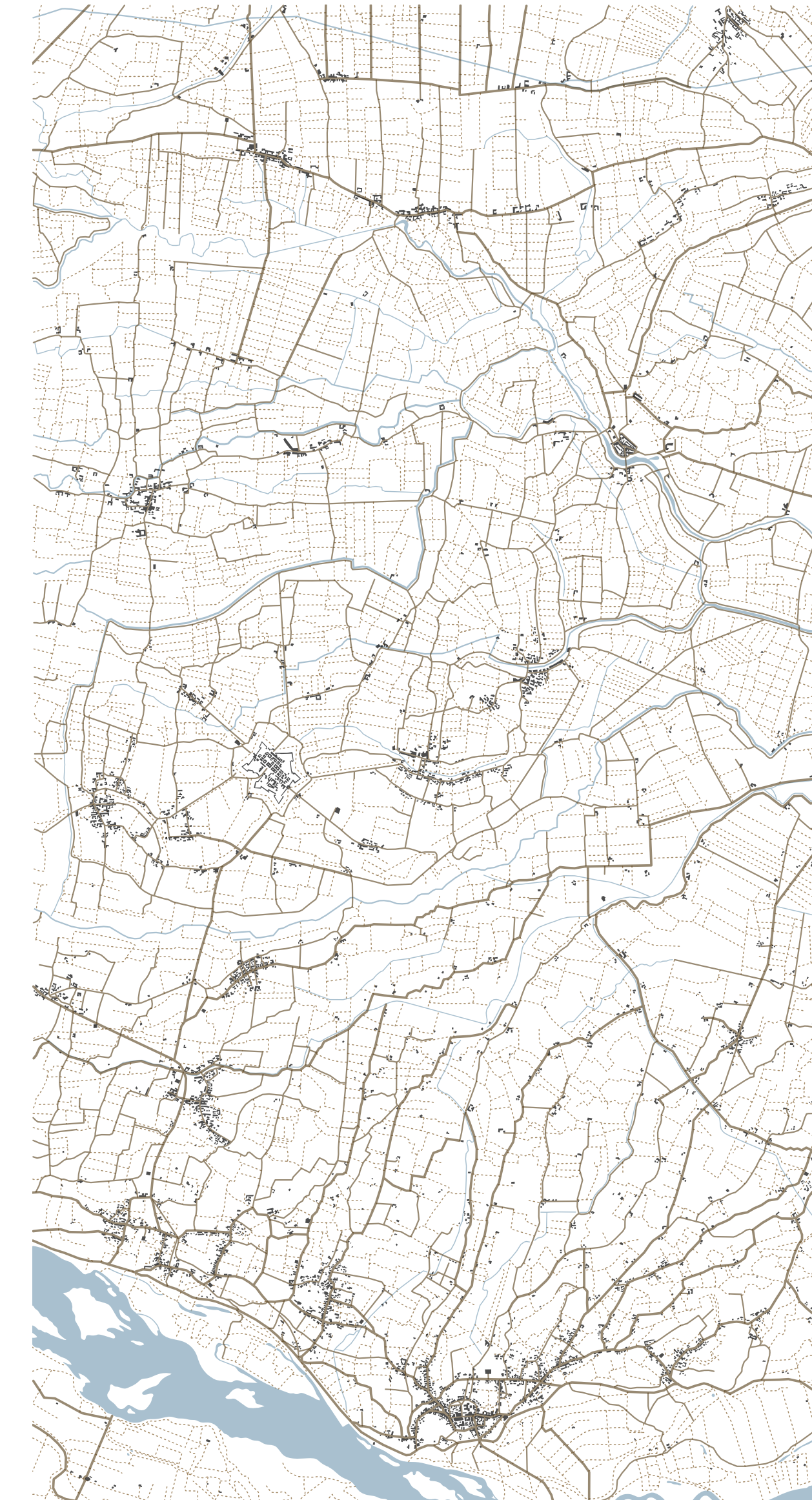
Features of the rural landscape
 Source: IGM 1885

- built areas
- waters
- primary roads
- secondary roads
- country routes



Features of the rural landscape
 Source: IGM 1952

- built areas
- waters
- primary roads
- secondary roads
- country routes



IGM 1885
 During the Lombardo-Veneto Kingdom, the particle census instrument was kept for the regulation and control of land properties. Those are hardly ever run directly by their owners, as they prefer to entrust the work to the farmers and their families. This tendency encourages the development of the large estates fragmented into small parts. The maps were joined to the estimo registers, which contained the informations on property changes and land use.

Features of the rural landscape
 Source: IGM 1885



Features of the rural landscape
 Source: IGM 1952



IGM 1935
 The end of the XIX century was characterized by many drainage operations run by private and public associations. The drainage process consists in a series of operations aimed to make the land suitable for agriculture and urban settlements. Moreover, the introduction of agricultural machines made possible the fast drainage of large portions of land. Also, the development of the irrigation system is enhanced: men can finally affirm their control over natural forces.



- 1 - The city of Sabbioneta, upper view
- 2 - The walls of the city: a corner bastion and Porta della Vittoria
- 3 - Sabbioneta, Palazzo Ducale
- 4 - Interiors of the Teatro all'Antica, realized by architect Vincenzo Scamozzi



POLITECNICO DI MILANO
 Polo Territoriale di Mantova
 MoS in Architectural Design and History
 The rural landscape around Sabbioneta (MN), UNESCO heritage. Management and enhancement proposals.

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