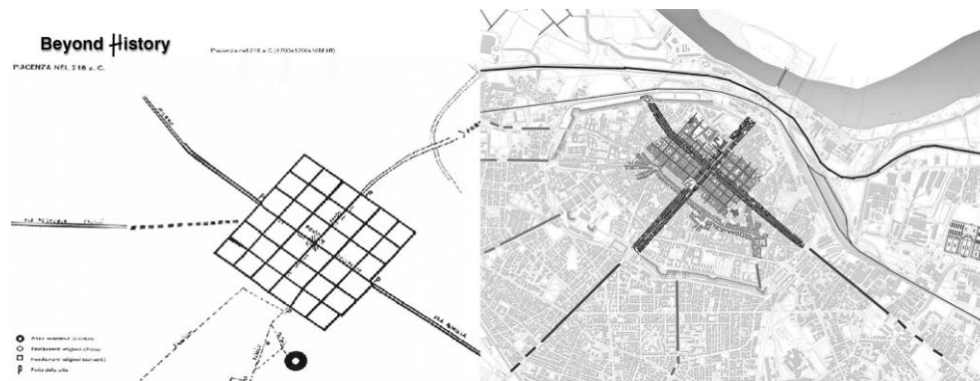


- **Piacenza History**
- **Main historical elements of Piacenza**
 - **Palazzo Farnese**
 - **Sansisto Basilica**
 - **Wall**
- **City Expansion**
- **Other walled cities**
- **Concept**

Piacenza History

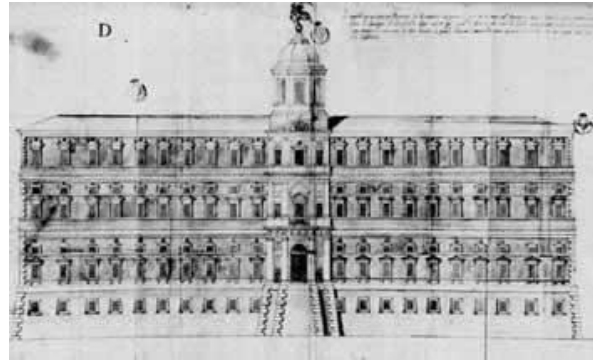
The city of Piacenza was founded in 218 before Christ and it was the first roman colony in the northern part of Italy. Therefore it is easy to find out roman urban concept, constituted by cardo and decumano and by the square pattern of the street intersections.



Main historical elements of Piacenza

Palazzo Farnese

Palazzo Farnese it is one of that most important building of Piacenza in which gives identity to all surrounding landscape. Because of its dimensions, it might be seen as far as motorways and bridge over river Po, linking Piacenza to Lombardia. The construction of the building begun in 1568 by demand of Ottavia Farnese and it was meant to hold the family residence. the rectangular plan is circa 111 meters by 88 meters. The main façade modeled on the ancient triumphal arch and with a large tower, and a theater in the large inner courtyard. The expenditure of such a large palace plus the political machinations of the Piacentine nobility may have caused Ottavio not to complete the building and instead move his court from Piacenza to Parma. It has been considered as one of the most important elements through project design and its aim is joining the new and old architectural elements of Piacenza which have been located in a neighbor.



Basilica Sansisto

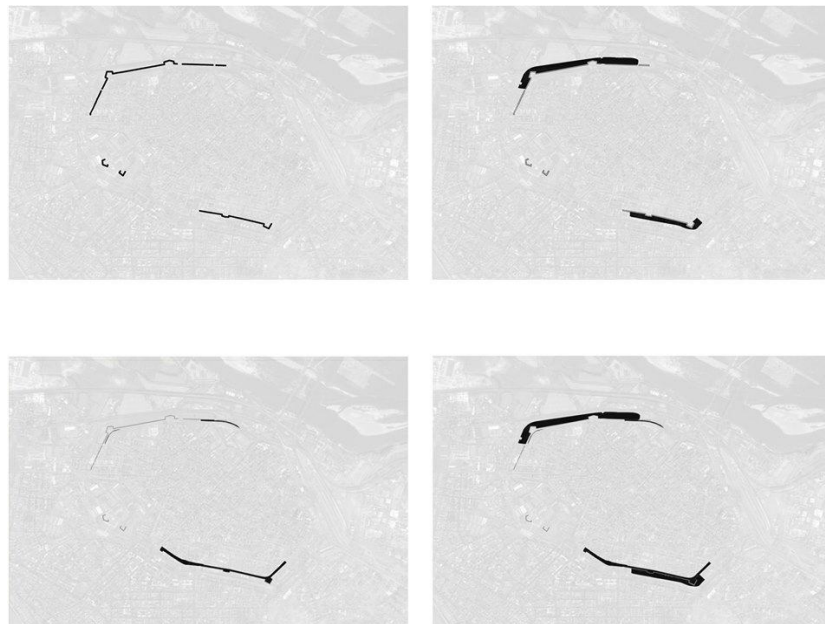
Basilica di san sisto san sisto church is a rinascimental church, built in the sixteenth century on the ruins of an ancient roman temple, dated back to 874. Today most of its structures belongs to the abbey belongs and regimento genio pontieri; these are then military zones into which access is denied to civilians. only the church itself and a small portion of the building hosting the residence of the monaci benedettini and are opened to the public.



Wall

The visible walls and their characteristic bastion, today, were required by Pope Clemente VII de' Medici. Indeed, after his demand, in the year 1525 the operations of fortification and technological restoration of the medieval walls is done and It has been considered inadequate to defend the city. Origin of the element wall in the symbolic view the represents physical and spiritual protection. In order to fully realize the relationships engaged between the city of Piacenza and its surrounding walls, I believe that understanding the true meaning of the wall as an archetype and in what way the now leading perception of wall differs from the original one, is fundamental.

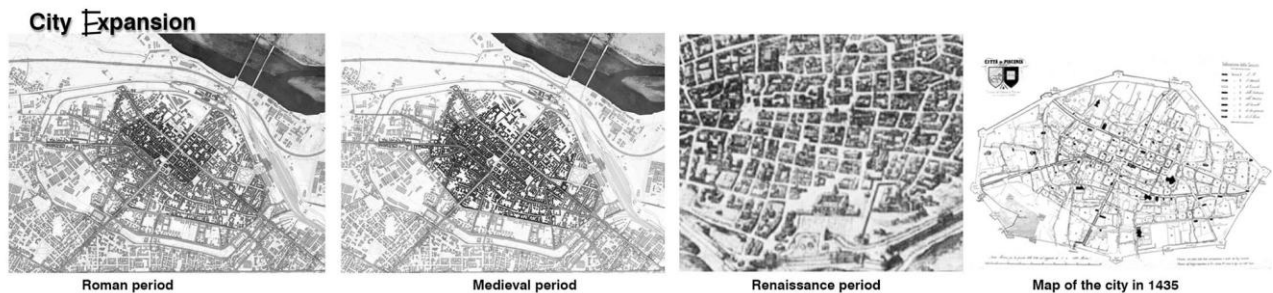
The definition of wall says as follows "wall structure consists of several overlapped vertical stones and laterizzi bricks which holds together by lime or cement and other agglomerated. It may be a constitutive element of buildings such as exterior facade, interior walls or complex of inner walls. It also may act as a supporting element or as a fence boundary.



City Expansion

Roman Period

The structure of the roman city is characterized by a very regular grid subdivision, blocks almost square, symmetrically arranged. This shape of urban design was originally a square corresponding to the north to via Benedettine, to the east with via Dogana, to the west via Cavalletto and via Sopramuro to the south. Later this wall limit was extended until via S. Eufemia and via San Sisto.



P.R.G. - a city planning instrument

In 1935 Piacenza saw its first Piano Regolatore Generale. This plan introduces the zoning as functional and rational reasons. Fundamental elements of this PRG designed by Ing. Cella, were the great military and industrial sectors and the construction of new squares were in ancient times were located the trade barriers. Another element was the construction of popular and residential neighborhoods for the factory workers .In 1955 the municipality gives to Dodi the charge to design a new PRG. In this new plan were greatly increased the prevision for residential and industrial settlements and the road is seen as an element of organization and definition of space, while the suburbs continued to expand in a discontinuous way and without a precise design The 1998 P.R.G., by Federico Oliva and Giuseppe Campos Venuti, set predictions related to a subsequent increase in population and economy. These goals are aimed at a reorganization and transformation of the city through the equalization approach. It wants to guarantee the integration between urban planning and ecology, in order to build a “sustainable city”, so

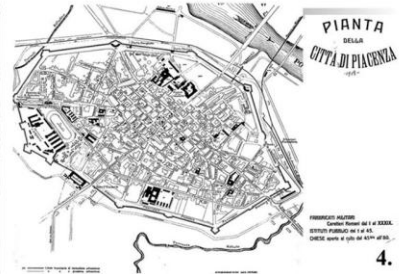
the process of urban transformation meets the needs of the present time without compromising those of future generations, containing the expansion in order to reduce the use of agricultural soil.



17th century



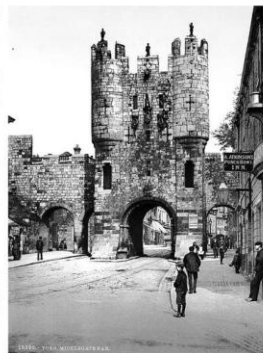
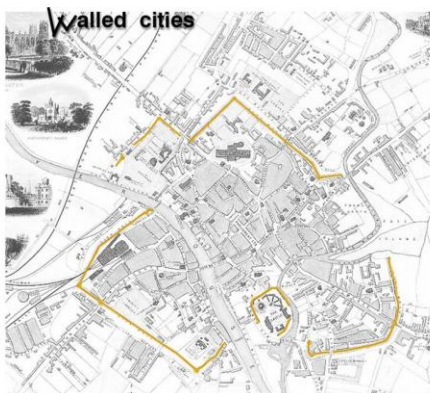
Map of the city in 1821



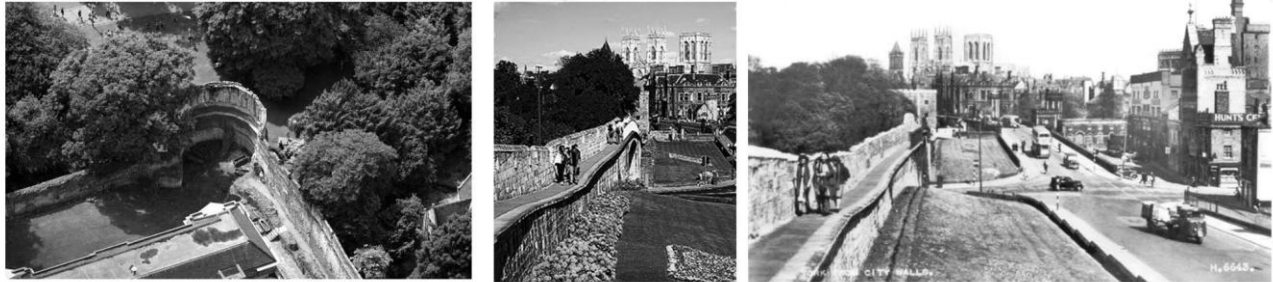
Map of the city in 1905

Walled cities

York is most recognized for are the City Walls guarding the perimeter of the once much smaller city. Stretching 2.75 miles (including the gaps) the wall encircles an area of 263 acres, that's over 130 football pitches. Retaining all four bar (gates) into the City the York Walls are the most complete example of Medieval walls in England. This map located near Fisher gate Bar shows the original Roman walls, where Multi angular Tower was the most westerly point and the later extended walls covering a much larger city.



The original walls were built around 71 AD, when the Romans erected a fort (castra) occupying about 50 acres or 21.5 hectares near the banks of the River Ouse. The rectangle of walls was built as part of the fort's defenses.



Concept

In the course of the years up to now, wall has become useless because of the lack of wars between neighboring cities. Because of that many cities got rid of the ancient defensive apparatus, and by doing that created free space to hold new construction. Obviously Piacenza, as much as many other Italian towns, also doesn't work alive through it. The question asked after reading Piacenza city was: how to restore an ancient element which is no use today according to its original design? First of all it must be underlined that the ancient boundary walls do not represent a physical limit any more nowadays. Piacenza and the southern stretch of walls do clearly demonstrate that. The urban area has spreader beyond the original ring of walls and there are no traces left of limit to the inhabitants of Piacenza. Furthermore it must be considered the architectural relationship which always had with walls. In the history of architecture the wall has always been interpretive as element to celebrate and exalt because of its physical and aesthetic purpose, and to cross and minimize. The pillar, the column and the window are existed to avoid the oppression of the walls.



The other feature has been gotten from historical wall was its continuity. The property which always flows to support the roman concept idea and also to support its culture, identity and architectural treasures. Since it sounds impossible to ignore this basic ability, the new project tries to continue wall target as a new "inhabited wall" while on the other hand, drives into entering the other main historical landmarks. As Aldo Rossi is written in his book, what makes a city more alive and remember able is not just related to the architectural masses, it's also related to the memories. Forgetting about such places like Palazzo Farnese and Roman wall of Piacenza takes into account a great oppression as an architect duty.

