

A GENERALIZED MODEL OF LAND USE AREAS IN THE LARGE SOUTHEAST ASIAN CITY

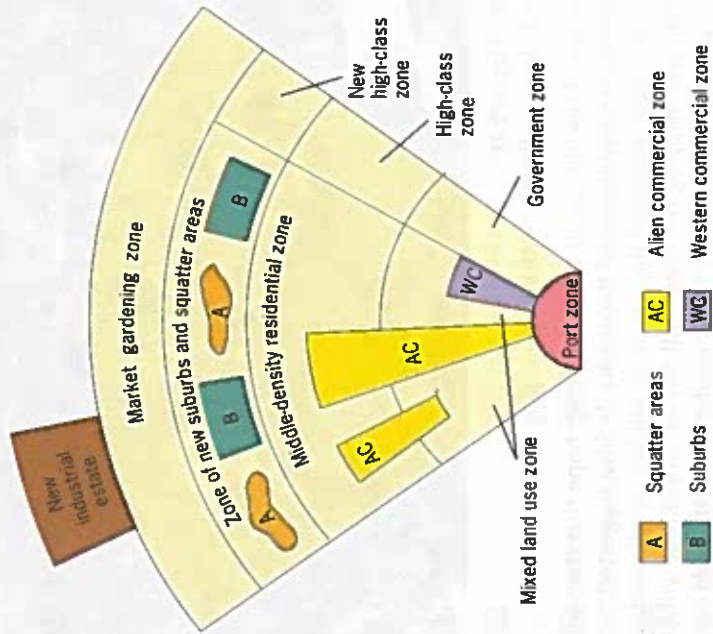


Figure 9.28

Model of the Large Southeast Asian City. A model of land use in the medium-sized Southeast Asian city includes sectors and zones within each sector. *Adapted with permission from: T. G. McGee, *The Southeast Asian City*, London: Bell, 1967, p. 128.*

In 1967, urban geographer T. G. McGee studied the medium-sized cities of Southeast Asia and found that they exhibit similar land-use patterns, creating a model referred to as the **McGee model** (Fig. 9.28). The focal point of the city is the old colonial port zone combined with the largely commercial district that surrounds it. McGee found no formal central business district; rather, he found the elements of the CBD present as separate clusters surrounding the old colonial port zone: the government zone; the Western commercial zone (practically a CBD by itself); the alien commercial zone, dominated by Chinese merchants whose residences are attached to their places of business; and the mixed land-use zone that contains miscellaneous economic activities, including light industry. The other nonresidential areas are the market-gardening zone at the outskirts of the urban area and, still farther from the city, a recently built industrial park or “estate.”

The residential zones in McGee’s model are similar to those in the Griffin-Ford model of the Latin American city. Other similarities between the McGee and Griffin-Ford model are the hybrid structure of sectors and zones, an elite residential sector that includes new suburbs, an

inner-city zone of middle-income housing, and peripheral low-income squatter settlements. One main difference is that the McGee model includes middle-income housing in a suburban zone, reflecting the larger middle class in these cities of the global semiperiphery and the small middle class in Latin American cities.

Regardless of the region or city, we recognize that models do not explain how or why cities are organized the way they are. A model of a city shows us an end product, whether planned or not and suggests the forces that created that end product.



Employing the concepts defined in this section of the chapter, draw a model of the city with which you are most familiar. Label each section of the city accordingly. After reading through the models described in this section, determine which model best corresponds to the model you drew and hypothesize as to why it is so.

HOW DO PEOPLE MAKE CITIES?

People and institutions make places, and the city is no exception to this rule. The roles individual people, governments, corporations, developers, financial lenders, and realtors play in making places varies across the world. For example, in some parts of the world, governments pass strict laws on urban structures and enforce them, and in other parts of the world governments either do not pass laws or do not enforce them.

Powerful social and cultural preferences shape the character of particular parts of the city and influence who lives where. Wander through the residential neighborhoods of any city, keep your eyes open, and study the cultural landscape. You will find yourself surrounded by landscape indicators of social and cultural preferences. You can see differences in the existence of single-family or multifamily homes, in particular styles of construction and building materials, in the distance between houses, in the nature and style of vegetation around houses, in the distance between the houses and the streets, and even in the amount of space devoted to automobile movement and storage.

Comparing and contrasting the urban cultural landscapes of two cities helps us understand the different social and cultural forces at play. Compare Figure 9.29 with Figure 9.30. Analyze each picture and guess which city is located in a wealthy country in the world and which is located in a poor country. What factors can



Figure 9.29

Luanda, Angola. The city’s landscape reflects a clear dichotomy between the “haves” and “have-nots.” © Sarah Errington/Hutchinson Picture Library.

you consider? You may look at the presence or absence of high-rise buildings, the aesthetics of the buildings, the transportation, and the distance between houses, and after doing so, you may guess that Figure 9.29 is in the wealthy country. Look again. This time, look for whether the cars are operable, the presence of telephone and electrical wires, and the building materials. Figure 9.29

is actually in a poorer country; it is the city of Luanda, Angola, in Sub-Saharan Africa. Figure 9.30 is part of a suburb of Tokyo, Japan. Japanese houses in this middle-class neighborhood are on top of each other because the city is so densely populated that land is at a premium. In Luanda, the high rises are part of the central business district, and they and the houses immediately surrounding

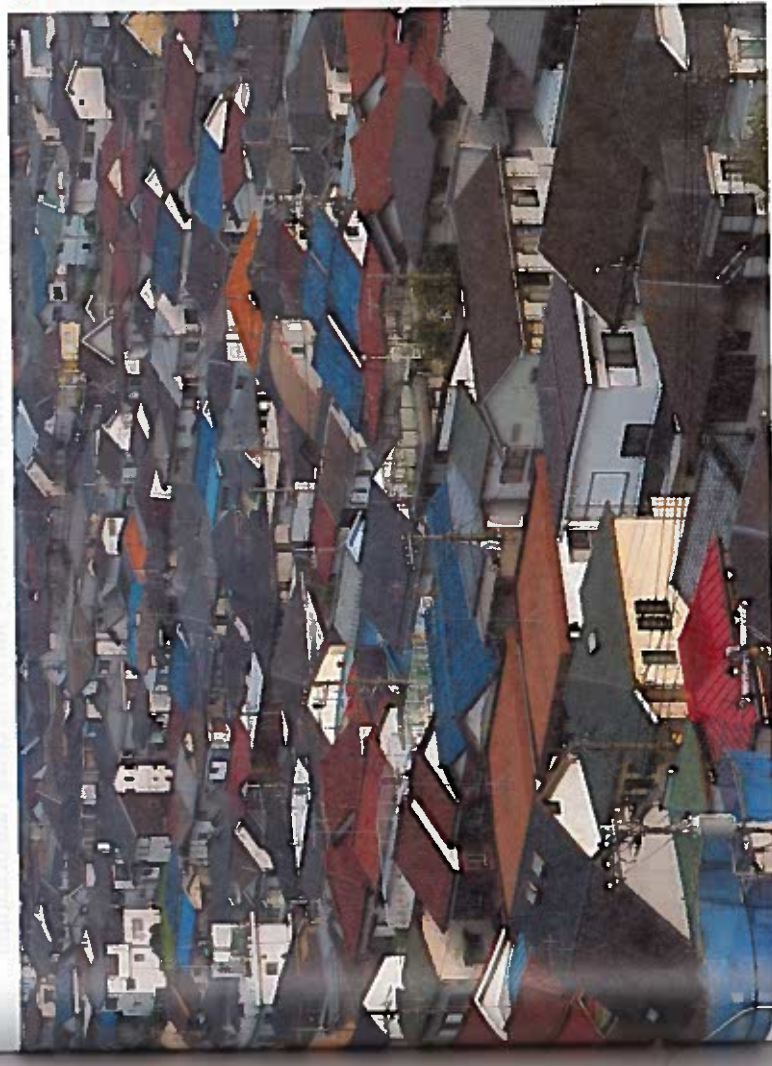


Figure 9.30

Tokyo, Japan. The city’s landscape reflects the presence of a large middle class in a densely populated city. © iStockphoto.