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Bullrings -- Villa D&iacute;az Ordaz, Oaxaca \* Tlanalapa, Hidalgo \* Tepeapulco, Hidalgo -- Open Space Ensembles -- Tlaxiaco, Oaxaca \* Tlacolula, Oaxaca \* Otumba de Gomez Far&iacute;as, State of Mexico \* Tlacoahuaya, Oaxaca \* Tepeaca, Puebla \* ETLA, Oaxaca -- Bishop Quiroga's Utopias in Michoacan -- Tzintzuntzan, Michoacan \* Patzcuaro, Michoacan \* Santa Fe de la Laguna, Michoacan \* Erongar&iacute;cuaro, Michoacan \* Angahuan, Michoacan -- Visible Overlays and Deliberate Alignments -- Mitla, Oaxaca \* Hacienda Xaaga, Oaxaca \* Teposcolula, Oaxaca \* Coixtlahuaca, Oaxaca \* Epazoyucan, Hidalgo -- The Yucatan Experience -- Yothol&iacute;n, Yucatan \* Tibolon, Yucatan \* Izamal, Yucatan -- Chapter Four. Origins and Evolution -- Epilogue: Plazas in the Twenty-first Century -- The San Miguel Example -- Qualities of Successful Plazas -- Sprawl and the American Myth -- Appendix. Measured Drawings: Plans of Towns -- Notes -- Glossary -- Bibliography -- Index.

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## Sommario/riassunto

"Spanning several thousand years of history, this book explores how sacred open space in Mesoamerican communities evolved into the familiar plaza at the heart of most Mexican towns and cities. Reveals that while the Spanish sought to eradicate Mesoamerican culture by building over their cities, they actually preserved the form and usage of the Mesoamerican plaza because Spanish cities were also laid out with a central open space. The authors show how, even today, the Mexican plaza has elements that can be traced back to ancient Mesoamerican culture and, as the site of the church or cathedral, remains a sacred, as well as secular, space"--

"The plaza has been a defining feature of Mexican urban architecture and culture for at least 4,000 years. Ancient Mesoamericans conducted most of their communal life in outdoor public spaces, and today the plaza is still the public living room in every Mexican neighborhood, town, and city--the place where friends meet, news is shared, and personal and communal rituals and celebrations happen. The site of a community's most important architecture--church, government buildings, and marketplace--the plaza is both sacred and secular space and thus the very heart of the community.. This extensively illustrated book traces the evolution of the Mexican plaza from Mesoamerican sacred space to modern public gathering place. The authors led teams of volunteers who measured and documented nearly one hundred traditional Mexican town centers. The resulting plans reveal the layers of Mesoamerican and European history that underlie the contemporary plaza. The authors describe how Mesoamericans designed their ceremonial centers as embodiments of creation myths--the plaza as the primordial sea from which the earth emerged. They discuss how Europeans, even though they sought to eradicate native culture, actually preserved it as they overlaid the Mesoamerican sacred plaza with the Renaissance urban concept of an orthogonal grid with a central open space. The authors also show how the plaza's historic, architectural, social, and economic qualities can contribute to mainstream urban design and architecture today."--

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