Magic, Myth, and Nature

Megalithic Passage Tomb at Newgrange was built about 3200 BC
Basic Chronology

► Prehistory

- Paleolithic – Old Stone Age (20,000-3300BC)
- Mesolithic – Middle Stone Age (8000-4000BC)
- Neolithic - New Stone Age (4000-3300BC)
- Bronze Age (3300-1600BC)
- Ancient Times (4000BC – AD 476)
Thematic Overview
1.1. Diagram of *axis mundi*
Caves and Circles
Hopewell in Ohio

Newark Earthworks Newark
OH_100 BCE
Ancient Times
Chronology and Context

- **Ancient Times (4000BC-AD 476)**
  - **Egypt: 4000-500BC**
    - Environment: protected and controlled desert situation - annual flooding of the Nile
    - Culture: strong central govt, slave labor and family system, strong sense of afterlife
    - Design expressions:
      - Zigguarts
      - Pyramids
      - Axial funerary or mortuary temples reflecting processionals, enclosed walls, aligned to sun
      - Formal residential estates
  - **Mesopotamian (3500-538 BC) Sumerian, Assyrian, Neo-Babylonian**
    - Fertile crescent, more temperate than Egypt
    - Urbanized populations
    - Design expressions
      - Hunting parks
      - Paradise and garden of Eden
      - Hanging Gardens of Babylon
      - Walled Cities
      - Interior courtyards in private residences
  - **Persia (539-331BC)**
    - Environment - Egypt to Indu R.; desert conditions with scattered fertile river valleys
    - Culture - synthesis of Assyrian, Egyptian, and Ionian Greek, Alexander the Great in 331 BC ended this empire
    - Design expressions - paradise gardens
      - Geometric plans
      - Biaxially divided plans (four quarters of the universe)
      - Enclosed in walls
      - Water in reflecting pools, cascades, small fountains
      - Lush shade plants, scented plants, symbolism of plants used
      - Origin of Moorish style
Architectural Mountains and the Earth’s first Cities: Landscape as urban power in early ancient civilization

Narra
Ziggurat UR 2100 BCE
Pyramids of Giza _2600 BCE

Galagantha temple _India_ _8thc BCE

Mandala forms of Hindu temple
Cities, Parks and Gardens
Babylonians also used strong axial composition such as the Ishtar gate and processional way leading to the Temple of Marduk.
Sumerian cities

Temples, parks, walls & gates and canals

Cuneiform Map of Nippur, Iraq_1500BCE
Ninevah-Assyrian palace_668
BCE
Hanging Gardens of Babylon
Ramses II
Deir el-Bahri
Karnak
Luxor Avenue of Sphinxes
Irrigating and harvest in Egyptian vegetable garden
Date garden,
Sinai peninsula
Garden planted with fig, olive trees and flowering plants containing a pavilion with steps leading down to the water, being irrigated by a row of shadufs
Four workers transporting trees
Obelisks

Obelisks erected for Ramses II
Greece

The Athenian Empire at its height (about 450 B.C.)

Scale 1:600,000
Mt Ida, Crete - Zeus' cave
Crete-Minoan

Earth goddess Potnia

Labyrinth – Knossos, Crete
Mycenae - Greece

Lions Gate
Mycenae_1300BCE
Cosmology in landscapes of the Americas: Spirits of Earth and Sky

View of the pyramid of the Moon along the Avenue of the Dead with pyramids in middle distance

Teotihuacan Mexico _150BCE
Chronology – Southern Amer-Indians

► ca. 40,000–15,000 B.C
People migrate to North America from Asia at irregular intervals by way of the Bering Land Bridge.

► 10,000–8000 B.C.
Paleo-Indian-period Native Americans are nomadic and hunt large animals for food. **8000–1000 B.C.**
Archaic-period Native Americans move from big-game hunting to small-game hunting, fishing, and collecting wild plants. changing climate in North America.

► ca. 1200 B.C.
Southeastern Indians begin growing squash gourds.

► 1000 B.C.–A.D. 1550
Woodland-culture Native Americans settle in permanent locations, usually beside streams. **ca. 200 B.C.**
Southeastern Indians begin growing corn.

► A.D. 700–1550
Mississippian-culture Native Americans create large political units called chiefdoms,

► A.D. 1492
Introduction:

- Today the date and origin of settlement is very much in question
  - the Siberian Land Bridge of 15,000 years ago
  - the continuous ice sheets of 40,000 years earlier
The European settlers did not find a virgin land. They in fact made their way along already settled areas. Forests were managed, fields were cleared, even villages were established along navigable streams and at crossroads.
Watson Brake
3000BCE
Monroe, LA
Mesa Verde Cliff palace 5th century
Pueblo Bonito
Chaco Canyon Arizona 86 CE

Bonito to Casa
Rinconada axial link
Inca shrines
Inka Stone – Quenco, Peru
Nazca lines and Effigy earthworks
Great Bear Mound - Marquette, Iowa_350 CE
Conclusion: Vernacular, Pre-historical & Cultural Landscapes

- The natural order: First nature, then the agrarian landscape of fields and pastures, then the third landscape of enclosed human habitation.

- The design sense: The importance in large spaces is their emptiness.

- The basic priority: First fertility and the continuance of life.
To understand its history

- Recapture an understanding of how people used land, first capture as closely as possible the spirit of that age, sensing something about how a person of that age would have experienced it and thought about it. How did they evaluate it? What were the contemporary affairs and how did they influence the character of the work?

  - This evaluation of conditions affect the actual form, how it arose out of its cultural context
  - Usually it is far easier to see how the actual form of an historic work was affected by the physical conditions that surrounded it (shade and water, vertical plains in a hilly terrain)
  - This spirit of the interrelationship of place and people, of causative factors and resultant form, can be of use in the present.