

**THE HYPOSTYLE SYSTEM AND HYPODYNAMIC ORDER**

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## THE HYPOSTYLE SYSTEM AND HYPODYNAMIC ORDER

Is it possible to make a diagonal hypostyle space, a space established by well-ordered vertical and diagonal elements? Does a diagonal hypostyle space make any sense? *A priori* it would seem not. I have always defended that reason is the architect's first and foremost instrument and that ideas come before forms. But sometimes it can happen the other way around.

I was with the project for the Salinas de Janubio in Lanzarote. A beautiful place on top of a hill with a steep slope. The slope was so steep that for that solution, I thought it was convenient that the building should be cantilevered. For this purpose I articulated a structure with triangulated beams of meters<sup>3</sup> of edge and with their diagonal bars at 45°. I decided to propose what I called "inhabiting the structure", influenced in some way by Sota's Maravillas gymnasium. The resulting space had not only equidistant verticals but also diagonals. And with such dimensions that the habitability of this space was perfectly possible. In addition, something happened that was already exciting in the large-scale models we made: when we walked through that space, the coincidence of lines, verticals with verticals, and diagonals with diagonals, periodically occurred, which gave that space a very special movement. In short, a diagonal hypostyle space was produced. Very logical, very new, very beautiful.

For reasons that are not relevant, we have not yet been allowed to build it. But it was useful, *a posteriori*, to discover the effectiveness of this simple mechanism of the diagonal hypostyle space, and to reflect on it.

I myself have used the hypostyle mechanism a few times. The square of the Cathedral of Almeria, where the palm trees follow the order of the columns of the interior or the BIT Center of Inca Mallorca, where the equidistant quadrangular grid is used to plant columns or orange trees. In both cases the results were very satisfactory.

Of course, the classic mechanism of the hypostyle hall has been used numerous times in the history of architecture with proven effectiveness. The Mosque of Cordoba is a clear example. We will talk about it on another occasion.

MANHATTAN, BARCELONA, PARIS.

A hypodamic layout, or checkerboard layout, is the type of urban planning that organizes a city by designing its streets at right angles, creating square or rectangular blocks (blocks). The name Hippodamus comes from the name of the Greek architect Hippodamus of Miletus, considered one of the fathers of urban planning, whose plans were characterized by a design of rectilinear streets that intersected at right angles. An urban plan called orthogonal, equirectangular, grid or checkerboard plan is used. Cities

with this type of urban planning have a perfectly distinguishable urban morphology in their street layout.

This type of planning has the advantage that its parceling is easier due to the regularity of the shape of its blocks. Perhaps Manhattan is the clearest example of what we are talking about. Despite this apparent simplicity, this type of plan has some disadvantages, as it prolongs the length of the routes. To avoid this, it can be supplemented with diagonal streets. To increase visibility at the intersections of narrow streets, buildings can be designed with chamfers. The Cerdá plan in Barcelona is a good example of this. Although it is not a suitable layout in cities with steep topography, however, the steep slope of San Francisco's streets is a drawback that is precisely one of the charms of this city.

There are examples of orthogonal plans in Ancient Egypt, Babylon and America. In the Ancient Age the Hellenistic cities and those that arose from a Roman camp stand out; in the Middle Ages the French bastides and the new Aragonese cities following the ideas of Eiximenés; in the Modern Age the Spanish colonial cities; and in the Modern Age, the Haussmann Plan in Paris or the Cerdá in Barcelona.