



Keizer Trajanus en zijn bouwprogramma in Rome

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Keizer Trajanus revolutionair bouwheer te Rome

Het stedenbouwkundige landschap vormt het decor voor ons dagelijks leven. Al in de oudheid beïnvloedden bouwheren door middel van hun projecten ons bestaan. In het oude centrum van Rome heeft keizer Trajanus een grootschalig bouwprogramma gerealiseerd dat vergaande gevolgen had voor de geografische structuur van de stad en de invulling van de publieke

ruimte. Hij bundelde vele functies, waaronder politieke, sociale, economische en administratieve, in het hart van de stad. Dit had een enorme impact op het publiek: er ontstonden nieuwe activiteiten en looproutes, meer werkgelegenheid en een unieke omgeving om zich mee te identificeren. Dit alles was mogelijk door het voeren van een evenwichtig financieel beleid en niet, zoals altijd verondersteld is, door de buit van zijn oorlogen tegen de Daciërs. Trajanus' bouwprogramma

is eeuwenlang in gebruik gebleven, in een veranderende context, en delen ervan zijn in latere tijden nagebootst (bijvoorbeeld Parijs). Daaruit blijkt de kracht van zijn stedenbouwkundige landschap.

The emperor Trajan and his building programme in Rome The preconditions and significance of the urban landscape of Rome as it was designed in the reign of the emperor Trajan (98-117) for the city and its inhabitants

The organisation and realisation of public space in Rome was one of the important duties of the Roman emperor. This research, in which use is made of modern concepts of urban planning and development, leads to the conclusion that the preconditions and significance of Trajan's urban landscape lie in a combination of factors. Trajan ensured stability and succeeded in presenting a convincing picture of himself as a military leader and did so in a straightforward image aimed at various levels of the population. The large-scale building programme was possible due to a balanced financial policy. The costs were always spread over the various budgets, depending on the military and political situation. The booty from Dacia was not, as has always been thought, a necessary precondition for this building programme. Even though Trajan targeted only one of the central districts of the city, his intervention there was far-reaching. He altered the geographical

structure, greatly changed the occupation of public space in the centre of Rome and extended the functions and activities of the areas concerned. This distinguishes Trajan from his predecessors and successors whose interventions in these matters were only partial. Moreover, in the imagery of the buildings he made himself the centre of his building programme. With the realisation of a large-scale utilitarian programme, which was judged positively in the writings of antiquity, residents and visitors could participate in an historic environment while going about their day-to-day activities. The building programme created jobs for thousands of people and altered the traffic routes within the city. The utility value was to be seen chiefly in the diversity. The new arrangement of functions gave the economy and administration of the city an enormous boost. Moreover, Trajan's building programme offered a unique architectural experience. The part of the city in which Trajan's building was concentrated, which could be seen as the political heart of the city, was made more attractive to a broader public and was thus more urban than before. It became an integral part of the city and served for centuries in a continually changing social context. The thesis concludes with an epilogue entitled 'A modern parallel: Napoleon III, builder of Paris'. The epilogue demonstrates in a nutshell the sort of material dealt with in this thesis and which factors and preconditions play a role in the forming and perception of the urban landscape. It is a timeless subject.