

The Gentling Model of the Templo Mayor

1991 - 1995

Make 5 slides of each view

The Main Buildings of the Templo Mayor Precinct
of Tenochtitlan, The Gentling Model

Most or all of the buildings of the sacred square of Tenochtitlan listed by Fray Bernardino de Sahagun in the Florentine Codex can be found in the Gentling model created for the forthcoming book "The One Reed Year". Several of the place names he gave us probably overlap one another as the same location is listed under different names. We have enclosed the northern plaza of Coatlan (10) indicated by the discovery of the stairs and rampart in the 1978 - 1982 excavations and by the stairs aligned with this rampart discovered in 1901 and which still lie under the early 19th century house of the Marques de Apartado at the corner of Argentina and Donceles Streets.

Also, in the Gentling model (1991 - 1995), all the great festivals listed by Fray Bernadino de Sahagun and Fray Diego Duran can be mapped and followed as the ceremonies move among the temples. There exist two other models of the Templo Mayor Precinct, the early 1960's model by Ignacio Marquina at the Museo Nacional de Antropologia y Historia and the early 1980's model at the Templo Mayor Museum which is a strange combination of Marquina's model and structures that have been archaeologically investigated and mapped by Costanza Vega Sosa in her book "El Recinto Sagrado de Mexico - Tenohtitlan" 1977. Neither of the Marquina nor Templo Mayor models are laid out to accommodate the ancient festivals.

First, I shall offer our map with our designations for the structures, and then I will list the buildings as given by Sahagun in Anderson and Dibble's translation of the Florentine Codex.

1. Temple of Huitzilopochtli. The Coatepetl or "Serpent Mountain."
2. Temple of Tlaloc. Also Temple of Epcoatl and Tonacatepetl, "Mountain of our Sustenance."
3. Temple of Tezcatlipoca - Omacatl.
4. Temple of the Knights of the Sun, Nahui Ollin.
5. Temple of Quetzalcoatl - Ehecatl.
6. Temple of the Cinteteo. Cincalco "House of Corn" home of the Cihuateteo at Aticpac.
7. Temple of Xochipilli - Macuilxochitl, patrnon of the palace folk and of ballcourts.

8. The Hueyztompantli or Great Skull Rack.
9. The Teotlachco or "Ballcourt of the Gods", also the north-south Spirit Road.
10. The Coatlan enclosure, Tzonmolco and Tlalxico.
11. Temple of Xipe Totec.
12. Quetzalcoatl Calmecac (Monastery)
13. The Tezcatlachco, "The Ballcourt of Mirrors".
14. Pochtlan, the Temple of Yacatecuhtli and the monastery of the merchants and merchant priests.
15. Temple of Xiuhtecuhtli and perhaps of Xochiquetzal. This temple was also called Xochicalpan.
16. Quahcalli, "Wood House" or perhaps Coacalli "Serpent House or House of Coatlan " the prison temple of the captive gods.
17. Temple of Cihuacoatl, and of Chantico. Also called Tlillan Temple.
18. Fasting palace of Moctecuhzoma II. It was known as the Teccizcalli.
19. One of the buildings of the Tlillan Calmecac and the Ichpocacalli or "nunnery" for young women.
20. Tlalxico, Temple of Mictlantecuhtli.
21. Mixcoateopan Tzonpantli (skull rack).
22. Tochpan, Temple of the pulque Gods - Ome Tochtli and the Centzon Totochtin, the " Four Hundred Rabbits of Drunkenness.
23. Teotlalpan, The cactus garden, model of the Mexico's ancestral desert homeland.
24. Mixcoateopan, The Temple of Mixcoatl.
25. Huitznahuac Gate or Eastern Gate near the Huitznahuac Calmecac.
26. Cuauhquiahuac Gate or Southern Gate. The Eagle Gate. Also the Tlacoachcalco (armory) Cuauhquiahuac where Macuiltotec (Tezcatlipoca as presiding deity of the five ages or epochs)

was honored.

27. Tezcacoaquiahuac Gate or Western Gate. The Gate of the Serpent of Mirrors. A mirrored serpent might describe the channel of water which entered the religious enclosure here via the aqueduct. Here was also located a Tlacoachcalco or armory.

28. Acatliacapan Gate or Northern Gate which lies beyond the Acatliacapan Hueycaipulli the complex of buildings and monasteries around and including Coatlan.

29. Huitznahuac Calmecac, monastery of the priests of Huitzilopochtli.

30. Temple of Tlamantzinatl, the young Texcatlipoca, Telpochtli.

31. Telpochcalli, the school of Aztec Boys till about the age of fifteen.

33. Euacalco and Yopicalco, lodging for visiting rulers, perhaps a protected area for invited enemy guests.

34. Calmecacs, lodging for the priests and visiting dignitaries.

35. Mexico Calmecac, Poyauhtla.

36. Tlacoachcalco, House of eagles.

37. Tlacoachcalco, House of Jaguars.

38. Tlacateopan, House of Jaguars and perhaps a Tlacoachcalco.

39. Tlilapan, a pond where the priests of Tlillan and Mixcoateopan bathed.

40. Tozpalatl, a spring-fed pond of yellow water where the common people often drank after feast dedicated to Huitzilopochtli were celebrated.