

as "infallible flower."
Models

We now know that the City plan of Tenochtitlan ^{was} divided into five districts - the four City wards surrounding a large Central Ceremonial Center of the Templo Mayor - was a deliberate model of the Aztec Cosmos.

The Temple pyramid was clearly a ^{man-made} model of a sacred mountain. Even mountains themselves were chosen and even landscaped to resemble the ^{important} ancestral mountain near Aztlán where the Aztec originated. The hill of the Star near Culhuacan and the hill of Teocapiztlan where the famous gardens (as well as) Nezahualcoyotl were located and finally the hill of Chapultepec west of Tenochtitlan were models of ancestral mountains. Both the Citlaltepetl of Culhuacan and the Teocapiztlan hill were deliberately landscaped to the shape of a pyramid cap shape illustrated by the glyphs for ancestral mountains. We know that in the Ceremonial precinct of Tenochtitlan there was a sacred garden filled with cactuses and roses called the Tzotlalpam which was a deliberate model of the ancient Mount Humboldt of the Early Aztecs.

In most of the sacred precincts the Aztec created impressive displays of human skulls called Tzompantlis. Tenochtitlan had seven of these skull displays in its central religious precinct. The Aztec regarded merely as war trophies, these displays were something

Tzotlalpam
ceremonial
models of mountains
Temple precinct
but was
model of world
and axis mundi
with four directions
Culhuacan mountain
Teocapiztlan
Tzompantlis
a model of the
world by way

8500
'15

for more sand. Thousands of skulls were impaled
on poles and raised high above finger
platforms not just a victory trophy but
to honor the dead. For the Aztecs there was
a model of the starry heavens and the
skulls of dead warriors represented stars.
Then huge skull racks when seen at
night reflecting the light of stone fires
must surely looked like stars, especially
the Milky Way.