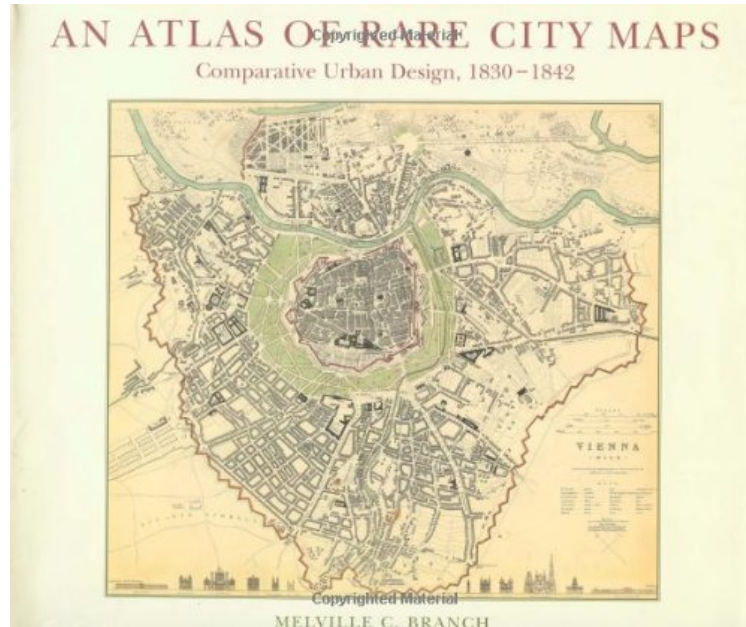


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## Atlas of Rare City Maps: Comparative Urban Design, 1830-1842

Melville C Branch

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The map-plans in this collection of forty cities in Europe, Russia, the United States, and Asia were first published in the mid- nineteenth century by England's Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge. These maps were all commissioned and drawn within a period of thirteen years, presenting a unique opportunity to compare urban development among 40 cities in 19 countries at one moment in time. An exquisite feast for the eye, the hand-colored, hand-lettered steel engravings are artistic masterpieces in themselves, representative of an era of exceptional artisanal skill. They are reproduced here in fine detail in an oversized format. The Atlas of Rare City Maps includes both well-

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.com For the visual historians among us, *An Atlas of Rare City Maps* is a cartographic feast. It presents 40 map plans of cities in Europe, Russia, the United States, and Asia--all published in the 19th century by England's Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, and all commissioned and drawn within a period of 13 years. See Munich, Calcutta, Dublin, and Warsaw, Madrid, Moscow, and New York as they once were, and relish the hand-colored, hand-lettered steel engravings. The maps are artistic gems, representative of an era of skill, and reproduced in fine detail. From *Library Journal* Princeton Architectural, dist. by Chronicle. 1997. 102p. illus. maps. LC Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *The New Yorker* "Melville C. Branch's 'An Atlas of Rare City Maps,' which offers city plans, commissioned by England's Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, of forty nineteenth century metropolises. In these hand colored engravings, which the Society described as 'of unexampled cheapness, yet finished in the best manner,' historically battered cities like Warsaw and Calcutta have never looked better."