



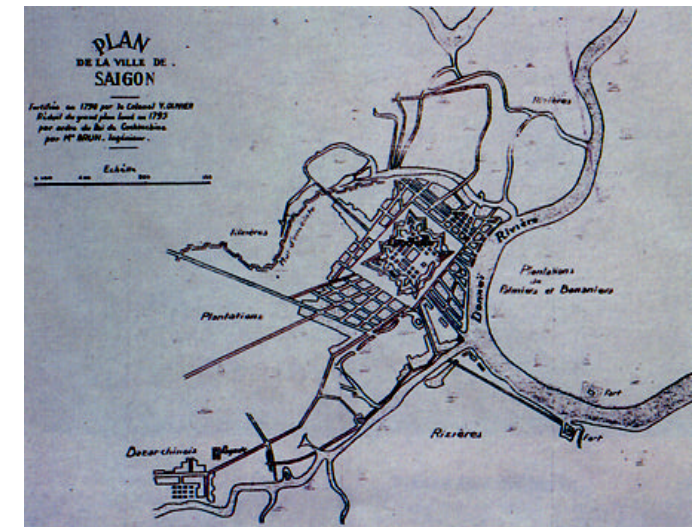
Top: Ariel photo of Vietnam Bottom: Governor Palace



History

Past December of 1997, Vietnam celebrated its three-hundredth anniversary. However, Vietnam has thousand years of history. Early Viet people settled further north of today Vietnam called Ha Noi.

For Thousand of year, Viet people was controlled by the Chinese: Therefore, the Chinese culture is deeply rooted in Viet people. Later in 1698, the northern Lord ordered Nguyen Huu Can to have an expedition through the South. He discovered that there were already ten thousand households settled in this area. Later, he declared this territory as Saigon. The map below is a diagram of Eight Divine Signs Citadel, which was shaped like a lotus blossom with eight gates. This diagram was a landmark of early french influence.



Plan of Saigon

Today, the two cities still presents the dominance of French influences, such as the tree-lined streets of HCMC, Opera House, Cho Ben Thanh, and Governor Palace liked the picture on the left.

With the reunification of the South and the North Vietnam in 1975-1998, most of the influence has come from the Soviet Union and many of the Architects practicing here today were trained in a system somewhere between the Beaux Arts and Soviet Schools.