

The area that is now the city of Specularum evolved over a period of some 3,500 years. Following is an outline of how the site grew.

The Taymoran Age

Around BC2500, the site had marked differences to its modern-day geography. There was no natural harbour, a much wider river with no islands river and only one large hillock.

A Fomorian homestead was built on the hill overlooking river banks. However, in BC2250 Sheyallia elves and Taymoran humans fought a campaign against the Giant-kin taking over the homestead and turning it into a river fort.

Four hundred years later Formorian slaves are put to work transforming the wooden fort into a stone fortress.

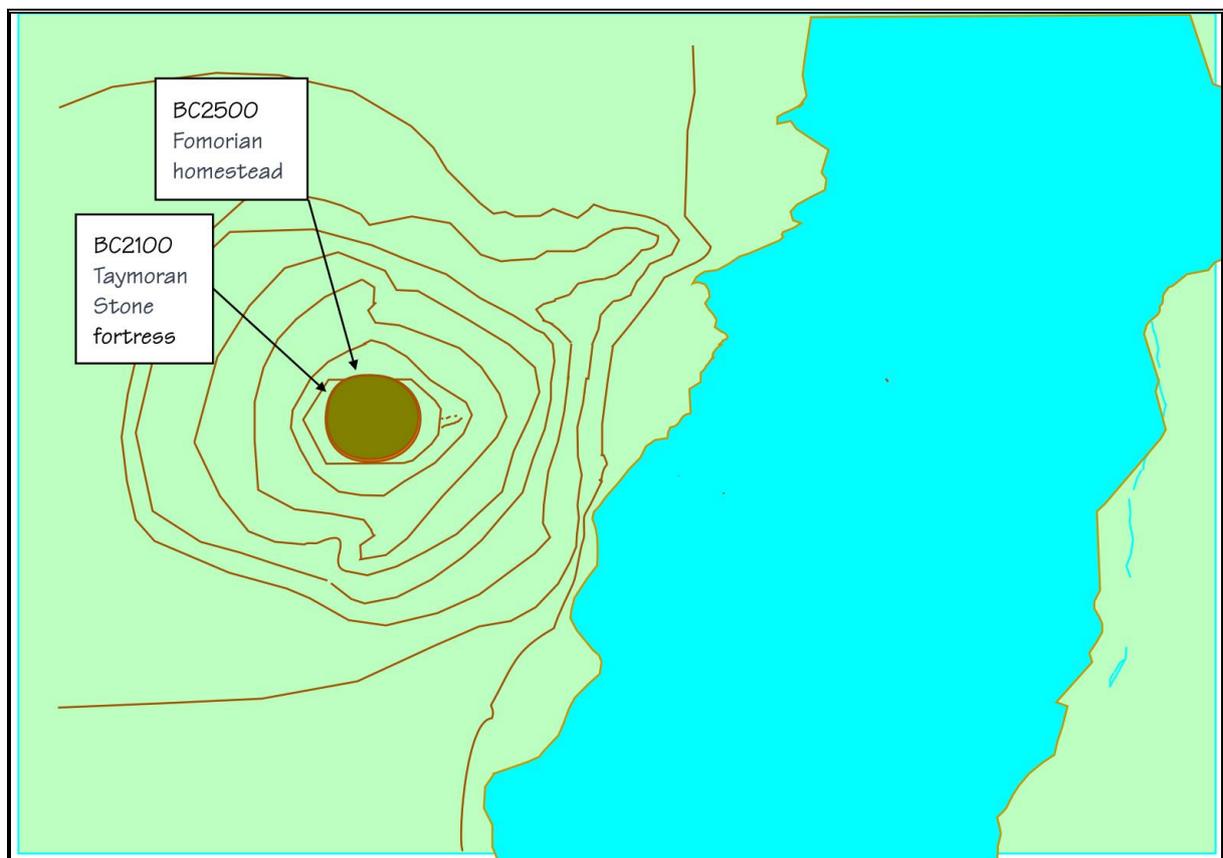


Figure 1: Taymoran Age settlement

The Taymoran cataclysm of BC1750 brings changes to the region as the seismic effects of the earthquakes that destroy Taymora reach the area. The Formorian-built fortress falls, smaller hillocks appear as the land rises and falls narrowing the river, forming islands , and a natural harbour (later known as Mirror Bay) is created.

The Traldar Age

Around BC1500 the Nithian-led Traldar use the remains of the Fomorian-built fortress to construct a massive tomb after the death of Khimn, their first prince. Additionally, a fortified village, Os-Khimn, is constructed on what will be the site of the modern Church District of Specularum.

A hundred years later, the Traldar revert to the stone age following the destruction of the Nithian aristocracy through harshwinters, plagues and monster attacks. Hutaakans arrive and take over the village, with a Hutaakan priest settling in the fortified area,. On the Hill, the tomb of Khim has fallen into disrepair and only its top half emerges from the hillock.

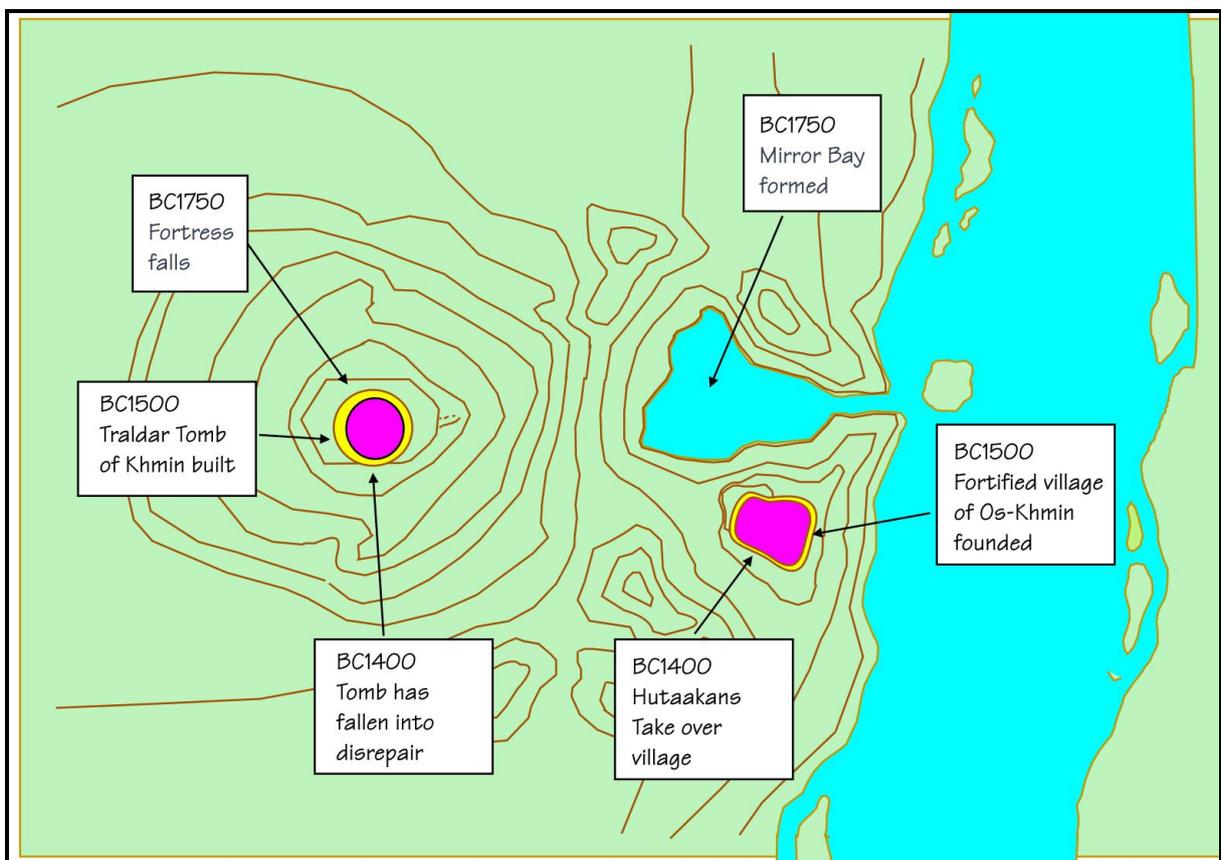


Figure 2 Early Traldar Age

Within 300 years the village of Mailenev (as it is now known) is a firmly established walled town, ruled by a dynasty of Traldar kings under the supervision of Hutaakan priests.

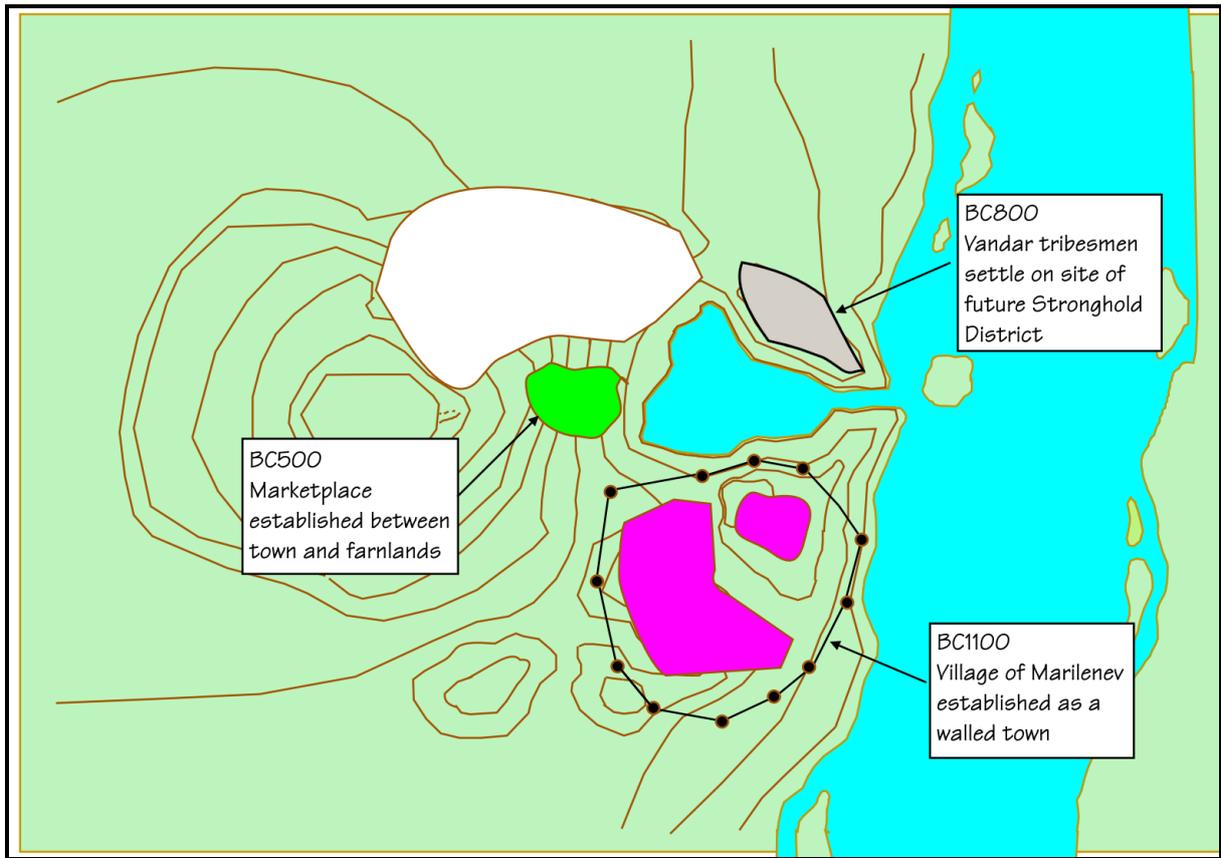


Figure 3: The Dark Age

The Dark Age

At the beginning of the 8th century BC, Vandar tribesmen reach the Marilenev area and settle in the area that will become the modern day Stronghold District. With the repopulation of the area following losses 200 years before, Marilenev thrives as an area of trade with other settlements upriver and along the coast. A regular trade market takes place in an area to the west of the bay, between the town and its farmlands.

The Banate of Marileenev

In the first century AC, Marilenev's population continues to grow and prospers as the major trade centre of Traladara. The Ivanovich dynasty founds the Banate of Marilenev. Over time the Banate builds a palace on the Hill, demolishing what remains above ground of the former Nithian tomb. During the next 200 years the walled boundaries of Marilenev are extended gradually encompassing a larger area.

In the year AC400, a Thyatian missionary cleric reaches Marilenev and other settlements in Traladara. A first Thyatian shrine is established in what will become the Church District of

modern Specularum. Within a few years, the Great Church of Traladara is built in Marilenev to serve its growing populace.

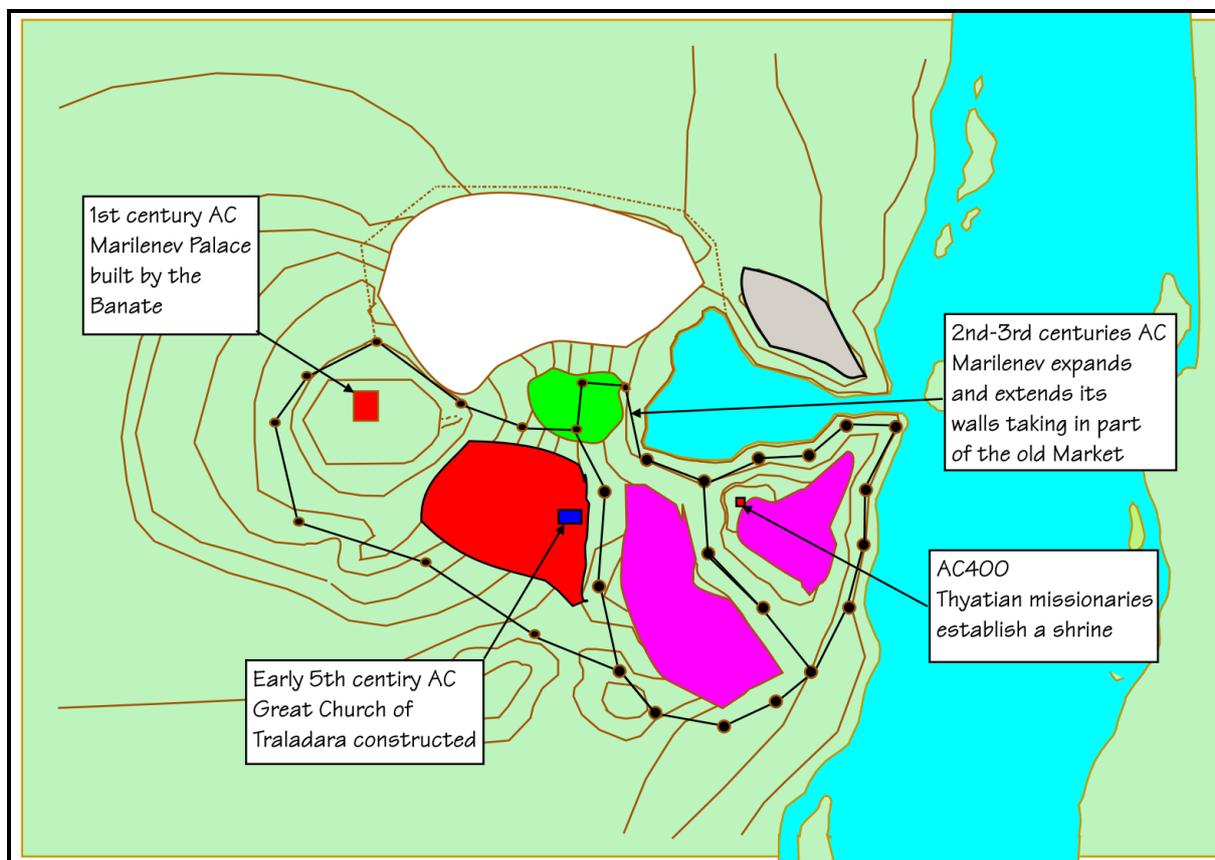


Figure 4 1st century AC to early 5th century

The Traladaran Wars and the Duchy of Marilenev to Free Cuty

Over the next 500 years Marilenev remains central in the rise and fall of the fortunes of Traladara. It sees the rise and fall of the Traladaran League, four local wars, and the arrival of vampirism and lycanthropy to the area. The Banate becomes the Duchy of Marilenev following a modernization effort that adopts Thyatian customs. Marilenev's economy is strengthened with the chartering of many merchant Guilds within the town which aid in regulating trade.

The end of the 6th century AC sees *The Great Drought*, a lengthy period of successive droughts affecting the farmers of the town's North End. The final collapse of the Traladaran League results in the loss of much of the Duchy's political power, and this leads to the rise of the trade guilds led by the Radu family in overthrowing the current Duke and establishing the City-State of Marilenev, an oligarchic republic in AC612.

To combat the impact of further droughts, Petros Radu has an irrigation channel dug in AC613 to ensure water is available to the local farmers.

SPECULARUM Growth of a City

The Stronghold District is fortified by Ilija Radu in AC675. He campaigns to have modern fortifications extended to the whole town, and this project is financed by the Town Council in AC681.

By the start of the 8th century a large part of the eastern half of North End has transformed from farmland to an area supporting the maritime industry that is key to the city-state's sea-borne trade. Fifty years later a large part of the rural population has settled within Marilenev's walls.

Marilenev's continued prominence encourages traders and other visitors from beyond Traladara to come to the city. Initially temporary camps are set up outside the northern wall. In AC802 Dwarves build the first permanent blocks in what will soon become known as *The Foreign Quarter*.

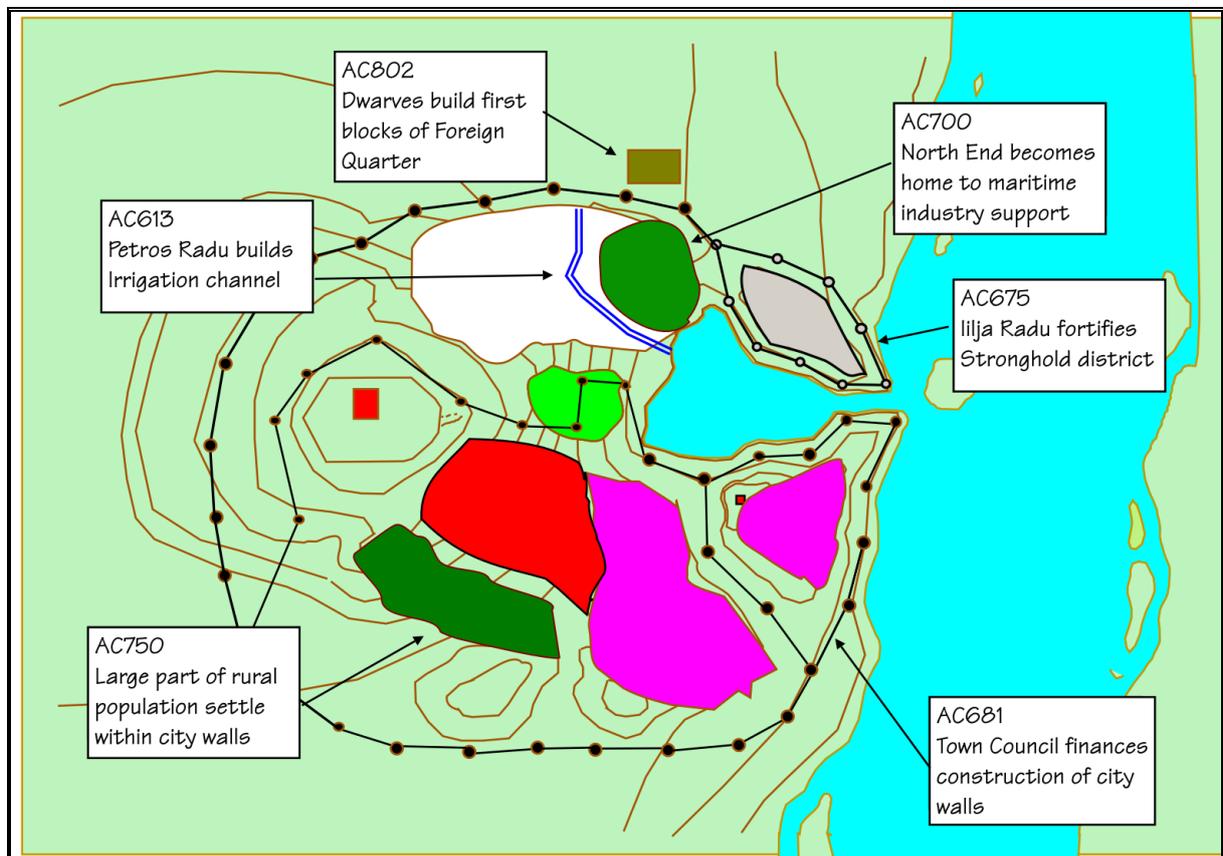


Figure 5: City-State of Marilenev

Thyatian Occupation

In AC900 Gabrionius IV, Emperor of Thyatis, sends his legions into Traladara and installs a Governor in Marilenev, which is renamed Specularum. The successive Thyatian governors embark on a building programme as the urban areas expand and the population rises. A new stronghold for the Governor is built on the summit of the Hill surrounding the remains of the old Marilenev ducal

palace. The harbour defences are maximised with the construction of the Sea Gate at its mouth. In AC929, with much of the former farmland area reduced in the North End, Petros Radu's irrigation channel is filled in. Arriving Thyatian aristocracy build their new residences on the west side of the Hill beneath the new seat of power. Outside the wall, the Foreign Quarter expands, and a free trade encampment is also initiated.

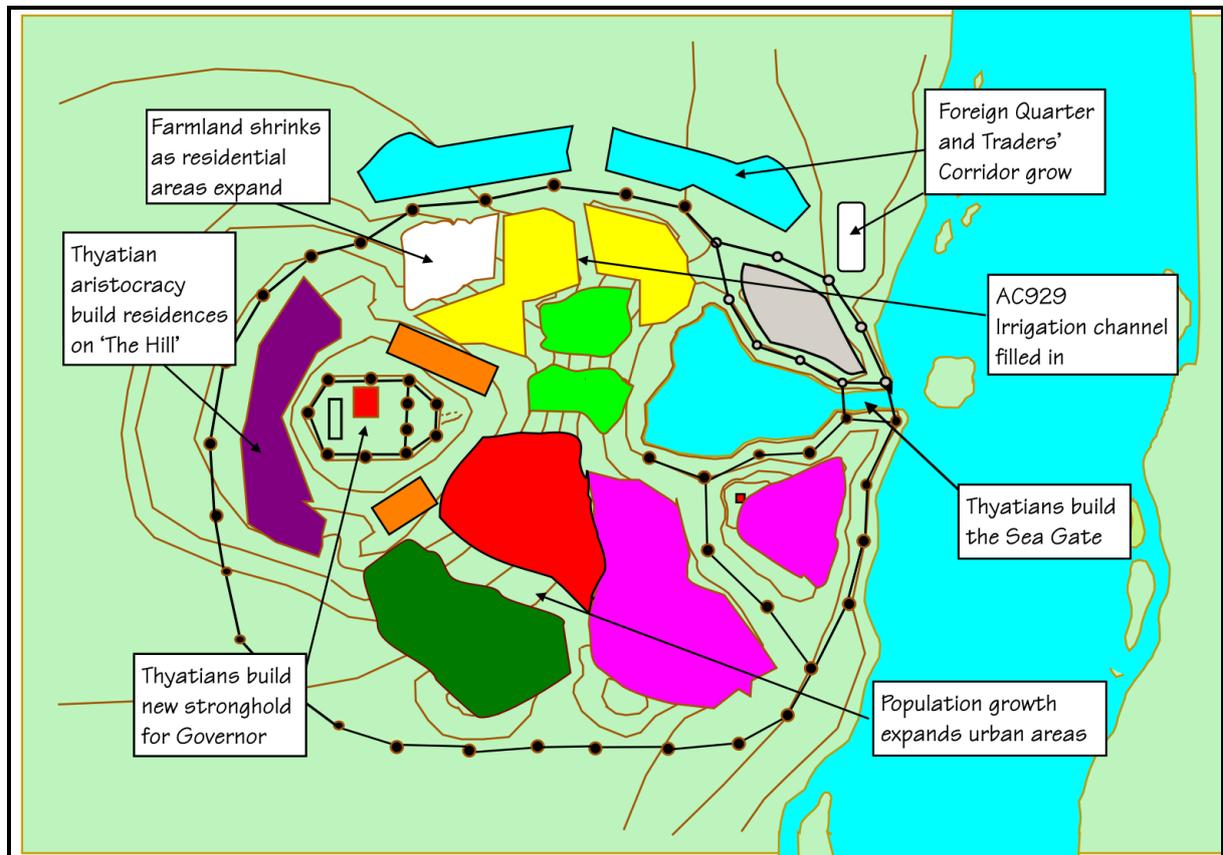


Figure 6: Thyatian Occupation

The Grand Duchy of Karameikos

In AC970, having traded his family lands to Emperor Thincol in exchange for independent leadership of Traladara, Stefan Karameikos III arrives in Specularum with his followers. After a short-lived rebellion by the Traladaran power faction, the new Grand Duke establishes his rule. One outcome of the rebellion is the separation of the area known as *The Nest* from the Old Quarter, the former heart of old Marilenev. Stefan commences the building of roads across the Duchy and installing a military presence. In AC972, the Hightower, a combination lighthouse and guard station is constructed, as well as the Great Church of Karameikos (which is completed in time for the wedding of Duke Stefan to Lady Olivia Prothemian).

Stefan's building projects include the construction of a new outer defensive wall which serves to provide a level of protection for the Foreign Quarter, gaining positive response

SPECULARUM Growth of a City

from those non-natives. The new wall also allows the construction of a South End “extension” residential area to provide more homes for the growing number of inhabitants.

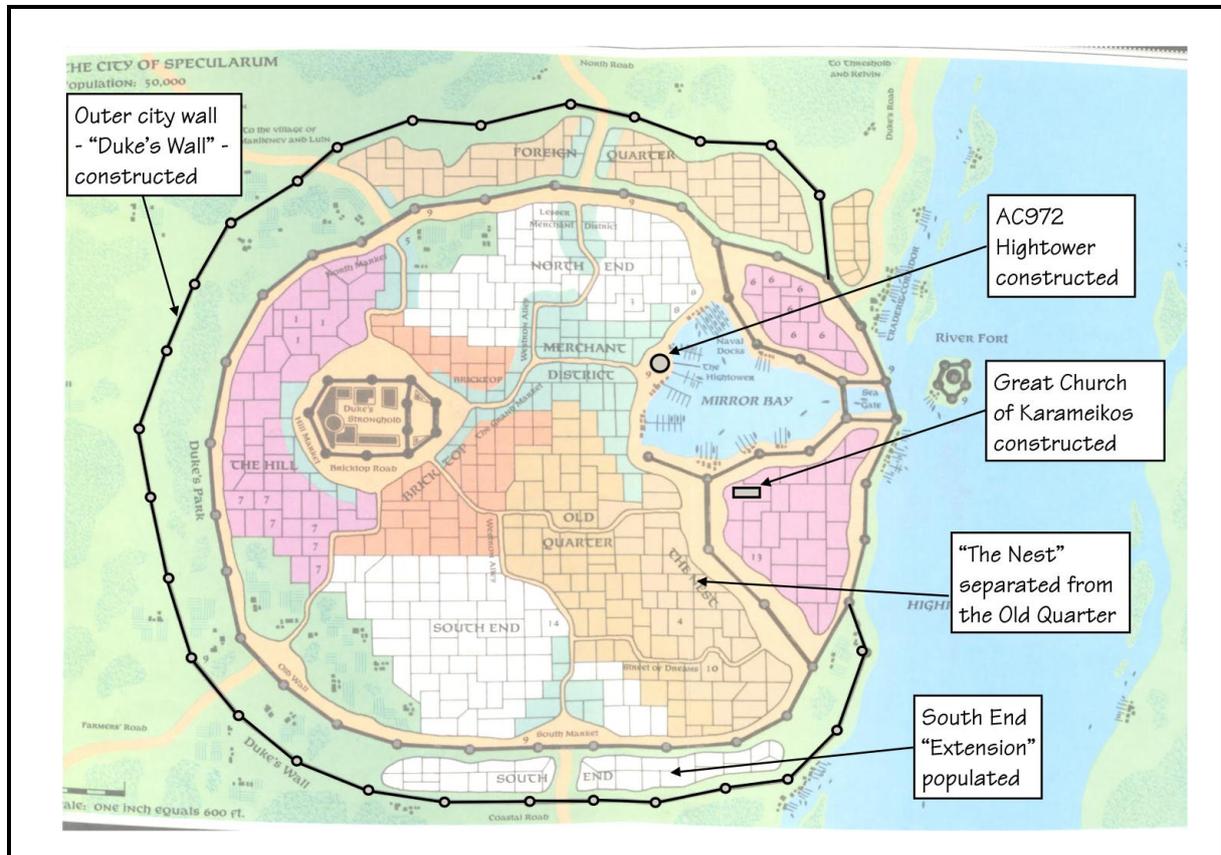


Figure 7: Specularum AC1000

Adapted from "A History of Specularum" by Giampaolo Agosta [agathokles]