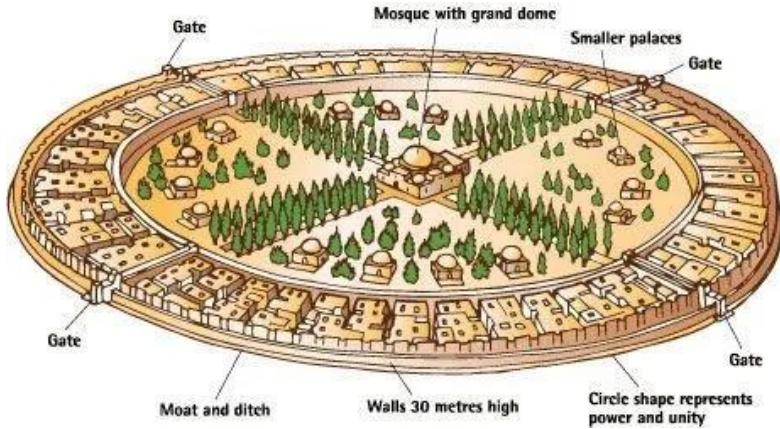


Baghdad



After the fall of the Umayyads, the need for a new capital was crucial to signal the new era of the Abbasid Caliphate. Thus, Caliph al-Mansūr founded it in 762 CE. Numerous reasons as to why he chose it to be the Capital were its near proximity to Persia, where the Abbasids derive their power, as well as the need for water and commerce. Making Baghdad the perfect city, as it resides between the Tigris and Euphrates. It is the centre of a fruitful country, fertile and desirable. He changed its name to Madinat-as-Salām, the city of peace. And it was the official name for the capital of the Caliphate.

The Round City :



One of the most defining aspects of Baghdad, the city of Mansûr, was its circular design. It was the first capital in Islamic history to have such a feature. The Golden Gate Palace took place in its center, and beside it was the Great Mosque. It was connected to four gates, and they were placed by a great gatehouse. It had roads connecting to Basrah, Syria, Kufa, and Wasit. This system of circular walls and gates was introduced and built by Mansûr; it was an innovation to cement the notion that the Caliphate should reside in the center to govern the city.



Expansion of the city and everyday life :

Soon, the city expanded beyond circular walls as it now includes suburbs, streets, markets, and neighborhoods. This growth was occupied by a population growth, as scientists, scholars, and skilled individuals arrived in the city. And now Baghdad has prominent districts like Karkh

and Rusafa. Those districts like Karkh and all the way in line with the Kufa road, commercial transactions and markets developed as spices, books, textiles, and metals were being sold. It became the place for traders, poets, and scholars. A hub for knowledge and multicultural. Several other aspects contributed to how Baghdad became an important city, speaking in terms of knowledge and intellectual development. The translation movement and how scientists started to translate different languages and bring diverse sources of knowledge. Like mathematics, astronomy, and medicine. Another factor that put Baghdad on the map, alongside its diverse population and wealth, was the establishment of the House of Wisdom, the home and institute of advanced education and scholarship during the Abbasid era.**