Mapping Croatian Culture in the City of Pula

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The author has begun a 9 month research project, funded by the US Fulbright Program, with the goal of mapping the development and expansion of the city of Pula from its ancient Roman origins to its present day configuration. The project seeks to reveal the impact of cultural diversity on the architecture and urban evolution, as well as on the image of the city in the maps of the city. Croatia, as a result of its geographical location, has an incredible mix of cultures that have influenced its development, and Istria in particular has become an extremely diverse region. Pula is the region’s most important city with pre-historical roots and a significant Roman settlement during the ancient period. As a port city, Pula continued to play a prominent role throughout its history, especially during the 19th c. when it became the primary naval base for the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Because of this importance it was continually developed as well as recorded in maps. These many factors led to the decision of choosing Pula as the city in which to conduct a cartographic, cultural, and urban development research project. The study considers the context for growth and decline in Pula by noting the cultural shifts and their impact on the architecture, urban development, and the maps made during those time periods.

Keywords: City of Pula, urban development, Roman colony, architecture

Comment [F1]: This sentence is too large. It would be better to divide it into two or three sentences.