Heather D. Baker. *A waste of space? Unbuilt land in Babylonian cities of the first millennium BC*

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- 1 As is well-known, what characterized the layout of Babylonian cities was the presence of large unoccupied areas within the urban grid of streets of public buildings and dwellings. These unbuilt areas have received little attention in studies devoted to urbanism in the ancient Near East. This article tries to fill this blank by reviewing the textual and archeological evidence about the function of these areas during the first millennium BC. Cuneiform texts, in particular, are analyzed to sketch a typology of unbuilt lots of land and establish ownership. The index of occupational density deduced from them is used to establish hypothetical demographic trends in these settlements.

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