Definition

The Concentric Zone Model (also known as Burgess Model) is one of the earliest and simplest theoretical models to explain urban social structures.
Design

This model (which was created in 1925 by an Ernest Burgess) is a series of equidistant circles radiating outward from one central zone, with each circle representing a different social or business zone. It can be observed that quality of living increases as distance away from CBD increases, as housing and transportation costs increase with distance.
Zone 6

This zone is the CBD (Central Business District) which is the typically at the center of a city and has a large concentration of business and commerce. This is also usually accompanied by high property values.
Zone 5

This is the Factory Zone. This zone is characterized by a ring of factories and less “high class” businesses surrounding the CBD.
Zone 4

This is the Transitional Zone. It is an area where the land use is changing, hence the name. It contains industry and working-class housing.
Zone 3

This is the Working-Class Zone. It is also known as the inner-suburbs, but is today known as the inner-city. This zone is mainly residential and is at an advantage because it is located near the major zones of employment while keeping housing costs low.
Zone 2

This is the Residential Zone. Here we see housing and transportation cost rising as the location becomes farther and farther away from the CBD. The overall quality of living rises here.
Zone 1

This is the Commuter Zone. This zone is mainly occupied by high-class residents in expensive, rural, suburban homes. These residents live this far not only to get away from the lower-class, run-down, inner-city areas, but also because they can afford the expensive daily commutes to the inner city where they are employed.