By Tim Friend

Maya lived as urban farmhands
Middle class thrived in huge planned city in Belize

A hundreds-of-years-old archaeological mystery has been solved after years of study of the ancient townsite in western Belize that is one of the largest cities of the Maya civilization and that boasts a striking resemblance to the modern designs of Washington, D.C., and Paris.

The discovery of this new city, called Caracol, is the result of a detailed study of the remains of a city that the archaeologists say was built by the Maya, as early as 300 B.C.

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Urban planning: A Maya metropolis buried for centuries in the ruins of Belize appears to have been designed similarly to modern urban centers in Washington, D.C., and Paris, where streets radiate from a central power core.

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During the summer, I would stay with my aunt and uncle in their house near the village. They would take me on trips to see the Make's and their way of life.

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