Isn’t the design of the suburb based on the Union Jack or the Rising Sun from the diggers’ hats?

No

The design of the radial formal entranceway to the suburb, Piccadilly Circus, was set out in a paper given at the Second Town Planning and Housing Conference (1918) as:

1. Main entrance or circus, adjacent to tram line, enabling pedestrian and vehicular traffic concentrated at this point to enter or leave the suburb without interference one with another, and around which are grouped certain commercial buildings, offices, shops &c., adjoining the principal shopping centre itself.

Christine Garnaut’s book *Colonel Light Gardens: model garden suburb* identifies the source of the design as being the application of Raymond Unwin’s diagram ‘The Garden City Principle applied to Suburbs’ (1912)(top right). Christine also states the design was recommended in Unwin’s Town Planning in Practice (1909) and it had been used in Hampstead Garden Suburb (1907). Other design elements used by Reade elsewhere in his model garden suburb are also identified in Christine’s book.

The formal radial entrance design was a well established garden suburb planning element unrelated to either the Union Jack or the ‘rising sun’ on the World War I diggers’ hats.

Philip Knight
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