Urban Renewal

What is this?

These are insanely great TrueType versions of the long-forgotten city-named fonts of Mac OS Classic, not seen since System 7.1. These TrueType versions are kare-fully constructed to be as faithful to the original designs as possible, while breaking free of the bitmap grid in subtle ways.

Athene is a TrueType version of Athens.

Liverpool is a TrueType version of London.

Los Altos is a TrueType version of Los Angeles.

Sanfrisco is a TrueType version of San Francisco.

Valencia is a TrueType version of Venice.

Torrance is a TrueType version of Toronto, last seen in System 4!

Parc Place is a TrueType version of a font called Cream, Creamy, or Palo Alto, last seen in early versions of Smalltalk and on Macintosh prototypes!

How faithful are these to the original?

See for yourself. Compare these snapshots of the original bitmap fonts with the corresponding Urban Renewal fonts at the same point size:

Athens 18 at the perfect, original size.

Athene 18 at the perfect, original size.

Cream 12 at the perfect, original size.

Parc Place 12 at the perfect, original size.

London 18 at the perfect, original size.

Liverpool 18 at the perfect, original size.

Los Angeles 12 at the perfect, original size.

Los Altos 12 at the perfect, original size.

Los Angeles 24 at the perfect, original size.

Los Altos 24 at the perfect, original size.

San Francisco 18 at the perfect, original Size.

Sanfrisco 18 at the perfect, original Size.

Toronto 9 at the perfect, original size.

Torrance 9 at the perfect, original size.

Toronto 12 at the perfect, original size.

Torrance 12 at the perfect, original size.

Toronto 14 at the perfect, original size.

Torrance 14 at the perfect, original size.

Toronto 18 at the perfect, original size.

Torrance 18 at the perfect, original size.

Toronto 24 at the perfect, original size.

Torrance 24 at the perfect, original size.

Venice 14 at the perfect, original size.

Valencia 14 at the perfect, original size.

Why not use the original city names?

The original city names are trademarks of Apple, Inc., so I have to use different names.

Will you create a TrueType version of Cairo, Mobile, or Taliesin?

No. I consider those fonts to be technically artwork, which is copyrighted, as opposed to typography, which is not. I would do so only with permission in the form of a written letter from Susan Kare herself.

That being said, there does exist a TrueType version of Cairo out there somewhere.

Will you create a TrueType version of Chicago, Geneva, New York, or Monaco?

No. There are already great TrueType versions of those fonts, created by the fine folks at Bigelow & Holmes, creators of the Lucida family of fonts. TrueType fonts are technically computer software, which is copyrighted. If I did attempt to create knockoffs of those fonts, the temptation to just copy and paste the outlines would be far too great, and there is no way I could top the existing designs.

The official TrueType versions of the four basic Macintosh fonts may be difficult to find, but not impossible. Every Mac OS X installation still comes with Geneva and Monaco, found in /System/Library/Fonts/ as dfont files. All four can be found in any installation of System 7 or Mac OS 8 or 9. Of course, versions from Mac OS 9 are preferred over versions from Mac OS 8.5, which are preferred over versions from Mac OS 8, which are preferred over versions from System 7. System 7.5.3 can be downloaded from Apple's web site. These can be converted to ttf files by just copying the contents of the sfnt resource into a ttf file.

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This is Athene, more commonly known in the Macintosh nostalgia crowd as Athens, except we can't use the Apple name because it is trademarked.

A call out to the quintessential pixel artist, Susan Kare. Designer of the original Macintosh icons and screen fonts. You go girl!

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This is Parc Place, more commonly known in the Xerox nostalgia crowd as Cream, except we can't use the Xerox name because it is trademarked.

"Just because you broke into Xerox's house before I did and took the TV doesn't mean I can't go in later and take the stereo." — Bill Gates to Steve Jobs

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This is Valencia, more commonly known in the Macintosh nostalgia crowd as Venice, except we can't use the Apple name because it is trademarked.

Mad props to my main man Bill Atkinson! Inventor of QuickDraw, MacPaint, HyperCard, and of course a font called Venice.

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