



BOOK NOTES

The rules that shape urban form edited by *Donald Elliott, Matthew Goebel and Chad Meadows*, American Planning Association, Chicago, USA, 2012, 124 pp. ISBN 978-1-611-90009-5. This practical report considers six ways in which 'form-based' zoning tools have been adopted by cities and the results that followed. There are case studies of the advantages, disadvantages and consequences of form-based zoning regulations in Austin, Texas; Mooresville, North Carolina; Denver, Colorado; Arlington, Virginia; Livermore, California; and Miami, Florida. Interviews with planners in each place give perspectives on choosing, implementing and evaluating form controls. The report also considers the planning challenges of housing affordability, carbon emissions, ageing populations and preservation, and offers guidance to planners.

Planning Chicago edited by *D. Bradford Hunt and Jon DeVries*, American Planning Association, Chicago, USA, 2013, 336 pp. ISBN 978-1-611-90080-4. Hunt and DeVries tell the stories of the planners, politicians, and everyday people who shaped contemporary Chicago, starting in 1958, early in the Richard J. Daley era. Over the ensuing decades, planning did much to develop the Loop, protect Chicago's famous lakefront, and encourage industrial growth and neighbourhood development. But planning also failed some of Chicago's communities and did too little for others. This book explores a city no longer defined by its past and its myths but by the nature of its emerging post-industrial future. It looks beyond Burnham's giant shadow to see the sprawl and scramble of the city of today.

Spatial planning and sustainable development: approaches for achieving sustainable urban form in Asian cities edited by *Mitsuhiko Kawakami, Zhen-jiang Shen, Jen-te Pai, Xiao-lu Gao and Ming Zhang*, Springer, New York, USA, 2013, 250 pp. ISBN 978-9-

400-75921-3. This book attempts to provide insights into the achievement of sustainable urban form, focusing on planning experiences in cities and metropolitan areas in Asian countries. It investigates the impact of planning policy from multidisciplinary viewpoints, considering land-use patterns, housing development, transportation, green design, and agricultural and ecological systems.

Banaras: urban forms and cultural histories by *Michael Dodson*, Routledge India, New Delhi, India, 2012, 251 pp. ISBN 978-0-415-69377-6. This account of the recent history of the north Indian city of Banaras supplements traditional accounts, which have focused upon the city's religious imagery. It brings together essays on the diverse urban identities that developed during and after the British colonial period, drawing on fields such as archaeology, literature, history and architecture. While British rule transformed the city in many respects, the essays also emphasize the importance of Indian agency. The ambiguity of modernization schemes in the city and the religious elements are explored. The introduction attempts to resituate Banaras in a wider tradition of urban studies in South Asia.

The planning games: lessons from great cities by *Alexander Garvin*, W. W. Norton, London, UK, 2013, 224 pp. ISBN 978-0-393-73344-0. This thorough overview of how planning works is illustrated with 200 colour photographs, diagrams and maps. It presents the public realm approach to planning – an approach that emphasizes the importance of public investments in streets, squares, parks, infrastructure and public buildings. These are key elements in any community and are the way to influence the future. Planning is considered at every level, explaining the activities that go into successfully transforming a community as exemplified by four cities: Paris (Baron Georges-Eugène Haussmann), New York (Robert Moses),

Chicago (Daniel Burnham), and Philadelphia (Edmund Bacon).

Re-imagining the city: a new conceptualisation of the urban logic of the 'Islamic City' by *Somaiyeh Falahat*, Springer, Wiesbaden, Germany, 2014, 224 pp. ISBN 978-3-658-04595-1. Falahat investigates the spatial and morphological logic of pre-modern Middle Eastern and North African cities. Her argument is that the form and structure of the city has deep roots in the thought-structure of its people. To know such places properly, one has to refer to this life-world and use it as a structure to observe the city. The aim of this approach is to open new understanding of the city by grasping indigenous concepts and structures. A new method of analysis is discussed using the historic city of Isfahan, Iran as a case study. It is suggested that an indigenous term, *Hezar-Too*, can help to explain the complexity of the city, which is labyrinthine and maze-like. Looking at the city from this new point of view can help to reveal its real character.

Cities by design: the social life of urban form by *Fran Tonkiss*, Polity, Cambridge, UK, 2014, 224 pp. ISBN 978-0-745-64898-9. Who makes our cities and what part do everyday users have in their design? This book examines the close relationship between the social and physical shaping of urban environments. As cities take a growing share of the world's population, urban forms and urban experience are crucial for understanding social injustice, economic inequality and environmental challenges. Current processes of urbanization too often contribute to intensifying these problems: but cities are central to their solution. Focusing on a range of different types of cities, major aspects of contemporary urbanization are highlighted: urban growth, density and sustainability, inequality, segregation and diversity; informality, environment and infrastructure.

Landscape urbanism and its discontents: dissimulating the sustainable city edited by *Andrés Duany* and *Emily Talen*, New Society Publishers, Gabriola Island, Canada, 2013, 336 pp. ISBN 978-0-865-71740-4. One of the most

pressing problems facing urban theorists today is determining how to resolve the tension between the built and natural environments, and in the process create truly sustainable cities. This collection of essays explores the debate over urban reform, now polarized around the two competing paradigms of Landscape Urbanism and New Urbanism. Landscape Urbanism is conceived as a more ecologically based approach, while New Urbanism is more concerned with built form. Influential urban theorists such as Andrés Duany and James Howard Kunstler delve into the impact of the tension between the two perspectives. They examine smart growth; neighbourhood design; sustainable development; and the creation of cities that are in balance with nature. There is significant overlap between Landscape Urbanism and New Urbanism, but the former has assumed prominence amongst most critical theorists, whereas the latter's proponents are more practically oriented. The analysis and potential reconciliation of these two sets of ideas are offered by this book.

Space-time design of the public city edited by *Dietrich Henckel*, *Susanne Thomaier*, *Benjamin Könecke*, *Roberto Zedda* and *Stefano Stabilini*, Springer, New York, USA, 2013, 245 pp. ISBN 978-9-400-76424-8. Time has become an increasingly important topic in urban studies and urban planning. The spatial-temporal interplay is not only of relevance for the theory of urban development and urban politics, but also for urban planning and governance. The space-time approach focuses on human beings and their various habits and routines in the city. Understanding and taking those habits into account in urban planning and public policies offers a way to improve the quality of life in our cities. In the last 2 decades the body of practical and theoretical work on urban space-time topics has grown substantially. This book offers an overview of the theoretical reasoning, the development of new analytical tools, and practical experience of the space-time design of public cities in major European countries. The contributions are by academics and practitioners from various fields.

Rural migrants in urban China: enclaves and transient urbanism edited by *Fulong Wu*, *Fangzhu Zhang* and *Chris Webster*, Routledge, London, UK, 2013, 316 pp. ISBN 978-1-610-

91194-8. After millions of migrants moved from China's countryside into its sprawling cities a unique kind of 'informal' urban enclave was born – 'villages in the city'. Like the shanties and favelas before them elsewhere, there has been huge pressure to redevelop them. Unlike in most developing countries, however, these are not squatter settlements but owner-occupied settlements developed semi-formally by ex-farmers turned small-developers and landlords who rent very high-density accommodation to rural migrants, who may outnumber their landlord villagers. A strong state, combined with well-organized landlords collectively represented through joint-stock companies, has meant that it has been relatively easy to enlarge the city through demolition of these migrant enclaves. The lives of the displaced migrants then enter a transient phase from an informal to a formal urbanity. This book looks at migrants and their enclave 'villages in the city' and reveals their characteristics and the changes in their livelihoods and living places.

Paradise planned: the garden suburb and the modern city edited by *Robert A. M. Stern, David Fishman* and *Jacob Tilove*, The Monacelli Press, New York, USA, 2013, 1072 pp. ISBN 978-1-580-93326-1. This is a history of the development of the garden suburb, a phenomenon that originated in England in the late-eighteenth century, was quickly adopted in the United States and northern Europe, and gradually proliferated throughout the world. Today, the principles of the garden-city movement are once again in evidence, as retrofitting the suburbs has become a central issue in planning. Strategies are emerging that reflect the goals of garden suburbs in creating metropolitan communities that embrace both the intensity of the city and the tranquillity of nature. *Paradise Planned* is a comprehensive, encyclopedic record of the garden-city movement.

Architecture and urban form in Kuala Lumpur: race and Chinese spaces in the postcolonial city by *Yat Ming Loo*, Ashgate, Farnham, UK, 2013, 221 pp. ISBN 978-1-409-44597-5. Kuala Lumpur, the capital city of Malaysia, is a former colony of the British Empire which today prides itself in being a multicultural society par excellence. Engaging with complex colonial and postcolonial aspects of the city from

the British colonial era in the 1880s to the modernization period in the 1990s, this book shows how Kuala Lumpur's urban landscape is overwritten by a racial agenda through the promotion of Malaysian Architecture. It demonstrates how the 'Malayanization' and 'Islamization' of the urban landscape – the core of Malaysia's decolonization projects – has marginalized the Chinese urban spaces that were once at the heart of Kuala Lumpur. It draws on a wide range of Chinese community archives, interviews and other resources, and includes original case studies. Arguably it is the first academic book to examine the relationship of Malaysia's large Chinese minority to the politics of architecture and urbanism in Kuala Lumpur.

Urban design for an urban century: shaping more livable, equitable, and resilient cities by *Lance Jay Brown* and *David Dixon*, Wiley, New York, USA, 2014, 304 pp. ISBN 978-1-118-45363-6. This book offers a comprehensive introduction to urban design. It provides a historical overview, basic principles, and practical design concepts and strategies. The demographic, environmental, economic and social issues that influence the decision-making and implementation processes of urban design are discussed. This second edition of *Urban design for an urban century* has been fully revised to include wide coverage of sustainability issues. It integrates new case studies into the discussion of core concepts.

Urban form through residents' practices by *Fortunatus Bahendwa*, Scholar's Press, Saarbrücken, Germany, 2013, 280 pp. ISBN 978-3-639-70075-6. The persistent informal practices of ordinary urban residents in most developing countries are becoming crucial in shaping the cities of today. This study attempts to grasp inherent useful attributes in such practices. Dar es Salaam city is used as a case to demonstrate, explore and explain those informal urban practices of residents that influence urban form. The ingenuity of informal actors in the production of relevant urban goods and services is examined. The underlying weaknesses of informal processes are identified. The need for professional understanding that urban form production strategies can fairly be built on both conventional and unconventional wisdom is emphasized.