



## BOOK NOTES

**Taming the disorderly city: the spatial landscape of Johannesburg after Apartheid** by *Martin J. Murray*, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY, USA, 2008, 261 pp. ISBN 978-0801474378. In this spatial analysis of the changing social landscapes of Johannesburg, Murray frames his arguments within a context he describes as 'the untamed city of fragments'. It is this social fragmentation that shapes the eight chapters of this book, which begins with a discussion of social justice and the challenges faced by migrants to the city. As he explains, 'Johannesburg after apartheid has metamorphosed into a city where socio-spatial stratification, racial inequality, and marginalization have become entrenched features of the urban landscape ... [it is] almost entirely constructed around a forbidding architecture of enclosure' (p. 16). The remainder of the book explains the processes which have shaped Johannesburg's recent urban growth and development and the landscapes and urban forms that result. The second chapter, 'Ruin and regeneration intertwined', outlines the decline of Johannesburg's inner-city neighbourhoods and its once iconographic monuments. Efforts to renew, revitalize and rebuild are outlined in the third chapter, 'The fixed and flexible city'. The remaining chapters address the city's changing spatial and social form, providing contrasts between the city's fringe areas ('Disposable people at the peri-urban fringe') and the central city ('The spatial dynamics of real estate capitalism', 'The struggle for survival in the inner city', and 'Revitalization and displacement in the inner city'). The final chapter, 'The banality of indifferent urbanism', summarizes the author's critique of the reshaping of Johannesburg under a neo-liberal regime.

**Cities in Modernity: representations and productions of metropolitan space, 1840-1930**, by *Richard Dennis*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, 452 pp. ISBN 978-0521464703. This well-illustrated volume uses London, New York, and Toronto to illustrate the onset of 'modernity' and the transformation of urban space. Throughout the book Dennis emphasizes the changing ways in which cities were represented to the public and in

professional communities – from newspaper and magazine articles to insurance atlases. Forty-eight photographs are drawn from a wide range of contemporary source materials. Nineteen maps prepared specifically for this volume illustrate themes in the text. The first two chapters ('Building bridges' and 'The idea of progress') provide an economic, political and social context for the onset of modernity in the late-nineteenth century. These are followed by two chapters devoted to representations of cities ('Surveying the city' and 'Writing and picturing the city'). The remaining chapters save the last are devoted to specific elements of urban form, from streets and public space to housing and commercial development ('Improving streets', 'Public spaces – practised places', 'Building suburbia', 'Consuming suburbia', 'Mansion flats and model dwellings', 'Geographies of downtown: office spaces', and 'Geographies of downtown: the place of shopping'). The final chapter, 'Networked cities', is devoted to the emerging systems of cities in the early-twentieth century. *Cities in Modernity* translates the vast theoretical exploration of modernity which has taken place over the past decades to the daily life and spaces of nineteenth and early-twentieth century cities.

**The parking garage: design and evolution of a modern urban form** by *Shannon Sanders McDonald*, Urban Land Institute, Washington, DC, USA, 2007, 312 pp. ISBN 978-0874209983. This is a historical survey of the design and evolution of the parking garage as an element of modern urban form. The book is richly illustrated with more than 350 photographs, most of which are in colour. Not only do the ten chapters provide a rich documentation of the development of parking garages, but the book also offers a sound typological framework for analyzing garages within their broader context. Topics addressed range from the engineering and materials associated with garages to their place in urban planning and sustainable development practices. The Urban Land Institute, which published this book, is currently making McDonald's 'Database and timeline of important structures, concepts, and events in the history of the parking garage' freely

available (with updates) on its website at [www.uli.org/parkinggarage](http://www.uli.org/parkinggarage). McDonald currently has about 1 000 entries in this resource, which is in Microsoft Excel format. Although the majority of the entries are from the United States, there are also some entries from Europe.

**The architecture of parking**, by *Simon Henley*, Thames and Hudson, London, UK, 2007, 256 pp. ISBN 978-0500342374. At the same time that McDonald's *The parking garage* was published, Simon Henley, a British architect, published this volume. Although it provides some opening historical context, its primary focus is on parking garages as a contemporary architectural form. Detailed plans and case studies of notable parking structures are presented from around the world, many designed by well-known architects such as Rem Koolhaas and Frank Gehry. While McDonald emphasizes the role of the parking structure in everyday urban form, Henley celebrates it as an opportunity for architects to meet the challenge of merging function with form. This book contains some 300 illustrations, including photographs, drawings and plans, approximately half of which are in colour.

**The evolving Arab city** edited by *Yasser Elsheshtawy*, Routledge, London, UK, 2008, 314 pp. ISBN 978-0-415-41156-1. Subtitled 'Tradition, modernity and urban development', this book explores these issues within two introductory chapters, three chapters on 'The struggling Arab city' – Amman, Beirut and Rabat, and five chapters on 'The emerging Arab city' covering Riyadh, Kuwait, Manama, Doha and Abu Dhabi.

Elsheshtawy begins his introductory chapter by discussing the 'sense of doom' in the Arab urban world - the bombing of Beirut, 'the dismantling of Baghdad' and widespread poverty. This is contrasted with some fast-developing countries and cities, where Arab traditions have been affected by the interplay with global capitalism and this has particularly resulted in the adoption (or imposition?) of western urban and architectural forms and planning models. The 'virus' of building new

islands is critically mentioned: 'artificial neo-Islamic symbols of power should not deflect our attention from the intimate scale of our old markets' (p. 21). The remaining city- and country-specific chapters are detailed and well illustrated, providing much information about contemporary development in terms of politics and social movements as well as the resulting built forms.

**Designing Australia's cities: culture, commerce and the City Beautiful** by *Robert Freestone*, Routledge, London, UK, 2007, 336 pp. ISBN 978-0-415-42422-6. This is a clear account by an eminent planning historian of the dominant concepts, influences and resulting urban landscapes of the City Beautiful movement in Australian urban design. Not only did this movement influence the design and layout of streets (including 'parkways'), public spaces, civic centres and even university campuses, but its impact on the Federal capital was significant. With the resurgence of urban design and a broader 'city beautiful' movement, for example in the United States, Freestone clearly demonstrates in his final chapter ('New themes, old traditions') that this is of enduring and widespread relevance.

**Planning the megacity: Jakarta in the twentieth century** by *Chris Silver*, Routledge, London, UK, 2007, 272 pp. ISBN 978-0-415-70164-8. This book explores the tremendous transformation of Jakarta from a colonial capital with a population of about 150 000 in 1900 to a megacity of around 13 million inhabitants a century later. Silver charts the colonial era, the expansion in the post-war period, the influence of the Suharto regime on the planning and development process, and the more participatory planning processes spurred by the economic crisis and political changes of late 1990. The links between what is actually built, and the influence of structural factors such as politics, personality and economy, are clear. However, as Jakarta has a very large proportion of 'informal' housing, the true impact of 'planning' is questionable.