



BOOK NOTES

Remote sensing of urban and suburban areas by *Tarek Rashid and Carsten Jürgens*, Springer, New York, USA, 2010, 352 pp. ISBN 978-1-4020-4371-0. The principal aim of this book is to bridge the gap between remote sensing and urban studies through a better understanding of the science that underlies both fields. It comprises seventeen chapters written by experts in their fields. The topics covered include: theoretical and practical issues in contemporary urban studies and remote sensing; the spectral, spatial and temporal requirements of remotely sensed data in relation to various urban phenomena; methods and techniques for analyzing and integrating remotely sensed data and image processing with geographical information systems to address urban problems; and examples of applications of remote sensing to tackle urban problems.

The evolution of urban form: typology for planners and architects by *Brenda Case Scheer*, APA Planners Press, Chicago, USA, 2011, 1447 pp. ISBN 978-1932364-87-3. Most of the built environment is constructed by following a few physical building patterns that occur repeatedly: they are types. Planners, consciously and unconsciously, refer to building types as they work through urban design problems and regulation. Brenda Scheer's book is the first comprehensive guide to form-based typology and a basic guide for planners and designers concerned with the physical configuration of the city. It provides understanding of how the physical environment is created, changed, and transformed through ordinary processes over time. Suitable for professional planners, urban designers, and students, it includes practical examples of how typology is used.

World regions in global context: people, places, and environments by *Sallie Marston, Paul L. Knox, Diana Liverman and Vincent Del Casino*, Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, USA, 4th edn, 2010, 480 pp. ISBN

978-0321-6518-53. The latest edition of this book retains its emphasis on current concerns, including models of interdependent development, and spatial and social inequality. The authors maintain that regions are the outcomes of a set of world-spanning systems: each regional chapter stresses the global systems of connection that drive unique regional processes, thus making regions different. They argue that studying regions provides understanding of the fundamental processes that drive change.

Cities, politics and power by *Simon Parker*, Routledge, New York, USA, 2010, 212 pp. ISBN 978-0-415-36580-2. Increasingly attention has turned to the function of the city not only as a centre of urban governance but as a major economic, social, cultural and strategic force in its own right. Making extensive use of comparative and historical case studies, this book combines a concern with how cities are organized and run with a broader focus on cities and urban regions as sites and agents of power. Part 1 outlines the argument and organization of the text. Part 2 charts the development of the urban polity and considers the ways in which coercion and force continue to be used to segregate, oppress and annihilate urban populations. Part 3 examines the key collective actors and processes that compete for and organize political power within cities. Part 4 explores the ways in which 'the political' is constituted by urban inhabitants, and how social identity, information and communication networks, and the natural and built environment all comprise intersecting fields of urban power. The conclusion calls for a broader theoretical and thematic approach to the study of urban politics.

English garden cities: an introduction by *Mervyn Miller*, English Heritage, Swindon, UK, 2010, 116 pp. ISBN 978-1-84802-0205-11. The Garden City Movement provided a radical new model for the design and layout of housing at the end of the nineteenth century and set standards

for the twentieth century that were of international significance. Written by a leading authority in the field, this book tells the story of a major development in England's urban and planning history and provides a timely survey of the achievements of the Garden City Movement and the challenge of change.

Megacities: urban form, governance and sustainability edited by *André Sorensen* and *Junichiro Okata*, Springer, Dordrecht, The Netherlands, 2011, 418 pp. ISBN 978-4-431-99266-0. For the first time in history, more than half of the world's population is urban. A fundamental aspect of this transformation has been the emergence of giant cities, or megacities, that present major new challenges. Through fifteen case studies, this book examines the major challenges facing megacities today. The studies relate particularly to sustainability, land development, urban governance, and urban form. A range of questions are addressed. What are the most pressing problems of sustainability and urban form in each megacity? How are problems of sustainability understood and framed by policy makers? Is urban form considered a significant component of sustainability in public debates and public policy? Who are the key actors framing urban sustainability challenges and shaping urban change? How are unsustainability and risk imagined, and how are those concerns reflected in policy approaches? What has been achieved so far, and what challenges remain?

Historic Pensacola by *John Clune* and *Margo Stringfield*, University Press of Florida, Gainesville, USA, 2009, 185 pp. ISBN 978-0813-0325-66. Pensacola was one of the earliest European settlement attempts in America. This book is the perfect introduction for residents and visitors alike, and arrived just in time for the city's year-long 450th-anniversary celebration in 2009. With full-colour images throughout, Clune and Stringfield synthesize history and archaeology in this engaging and informative chronicle. Their accessible narrative summarizes the founding, development, and setbacks of Pensacola through the first 3 centuries of its history. Using a wide range of historical and archaeological records, an exploration is provided of the daily lives of the people who endured hardship, disease, and

hurricanes to settle the Gulf Coast frontier. The result is a highly readable account of a city with a rich and fascinating past.

Making the metropolitan landscape: standing firm on middle ground by *Jacqueline Tatom* and *Jennifer Stauber*, Routledge, Abingdon, UK, 2009, 256 pp. ISBN 978-0415-7741-16. The American urban landscape is an extremely complex terrain borne from a history of collective and individual experiences. These created environments, which all may be called metropolitan landscapes, constantly challenge students and professionals alike in the fields of architecture, design and planning to consider new ways of making lively public places. This book brings together varied voices in urban design theory and practice to explore new ways of understanding place and our position in it.

Expansive discourses: urban sprawl in Calgary, 1945-78 by *Maxwell Foran*, AU Press, Edmonton, Canada, 2009, 276 pp. ISBN 978-1897-4251-38. This ground-breaking study of urban sprawl in Calgary examines the city's development after the Second World War. The interactions of land developers and the local government influenced how the pattern developed: developers met market demands and optimized profits by building houses as efficiently as possible, while the city had to consider wider planning constraints and infrastructure costs. Foran examines the complexity of the debates from a historical perspective – why each party acted as it did, and where each can be criticized.

Re-shaping cities: how global mobility transforms architecture and urban form by *Michael Guggenheim* and *Ola Söderström*, Routledge, New York, USA, 2009, 256 pp. ISBN 978-0415-4929-11. This original collection examines how architectural ideas, social models and building forms circulate around the world and become mediated and adapted to local conditions. It shows how such forms as skyscrapers, mosques or living history museums are imported, adapted and contested in different societies and how urban landscapes are reshaped by the global circulation of models drawn from

elsewhere. Written by scholars from different disciplinary backgrounds – architecture, anthropology, geography, linguistics, science studies and sociology – the book draws its inspiration from a series of different approaches and offers both original theoretical reflection and carefully crafted case studies.

The making of Hong Kong: from vertical to volumetric by *Barrie Shelton, Justyna Karakiewicz, and Thomas Kvan*, Routledge, New York, USA, 2009, 280 pp. ISBN 978-0415-4870-16. Part of the Planning, History and Environment series, this book investigates what the history of Hong Kong's urban development has to teach other cities as they face environmental challenges, social and demographic change, and the need for new models of dense urbanism. The authors describe how the high-rise intensity of Hong Kong came about, how the many towers are in practice vertical culs-de-sac, and how the city might become truly 'volumetric' with mixed activities through multiple levels and 3D movement networks incorporating 'town cubes' rather than town squares.

The making of the American landscape edited by *Michael P. Conzen*, Routledge, New York, USA, 2nd edn, 2010, 546 pp. ISBN 978-0415-9500-77. This is the only compact yet comprehensive survey of environmental and cultural forces that have shaped the visual character and geographical diversity of the settled American landscape. It examines the large-scale historical influences that have moulded the varied human adaptation of the continent's physical topography to its needs over more than 500 years. A synoptic view of myriad historical processes working together or in conflict are presented and illustrated through their survival in, or disappearance from, the landscapes of today.

Roman urban street networks: streets and the organization of space in four cities by *Alain Kaiser*, Routledge, Abingdon, UK, 2011, 268 pp. ISBN 978-0415-8865-74. This is the first volume to sift through the ancient literature to determine how authors used the Latin vocabulary for streets, and what that tells us about how the

Romans perceived their streets. It provides a method for describing the role of a street within the broader urban transportation network in such a way that individual streets and street networks can be compared. It addresses one of the central problems in current scholarship on Roman urbanism: Kaiser suggests that streets provided the organizing principle for ancient Roman cities and he offers a new way of describing and comparing Roman street networks. This book expands the discussion of approaches to and understandings of Roman streetscapes and urbanism.

The new Asian city: three dimensional fictions of space and urban form by *Jini Kim Watson*, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, USA, 2011, 312 pp. ISBN 978-0816-6757-39. Drawing on a wide range of literary, filmic, and political works, and juxtaposing close readings of the built environment, Watson demonstrates how processes of migration and construction in the hypergrowth urban landscapes of the Pacific Rim crystallize the psychic and political dramas of their colonized past and globalized present. Examining how newly constructed spaces – including expressways, high-rises, factory zones, department stores, and government buildings – have figured within fictional and political texts reveals how massive transformations of citizenries and cities have been rationalized, perceived, and fictionalized. By embracing the post-war growth-at-any-cost imperative, nationalist enterprises have been buttressed along neo-colonial lines. *The new Asian city* demonstrates how reading cultural production in conjunction with built environments can enrich our knowledge of the consequences of rapid economic and urban development.

Planning cultures in Europe edited by *Joerg Knieling and Frank Othengrafen*, Ashgate, Burlington, USA, 2009, 374 pp. ISBN 978-0754-6756-55. Bringing together an interdisciplinary team from across the EU, this book connects elements of cultural and planning theories to explain differences and peculiarities among EU member states. A 'culturized planning model' is introduced to consider how culture affects planning practices not only on an explicit 'surface' but also at a 'hidden' implicit level. The model consists of three analytical dimensions: 'planning artifacts', 'planning environment' and 'societal environment'.

These dimensions are used to compare planning cultures of different European countries. This sheds light not only on the organizational and institutional structure of planning, but also on the influence of deeper cultural values and layers on planning and implementation processes.

Rethinking the city by *Vincent Kaufmann*, Routledge, New York, USA, 2011, 288 pp. ISBN 978-0415-6811-79. Especially since the Second World War, people have been moving faster and going farther – a fact that has profoundly changed ways of experiencing both the world and ourselves. Kaufmann assesses the urban implications of this ‘mobility turn’. He explores this phenomenon from the point of view of the mobility capacities of its players – their *motility*. The motility of individuals, goods, and information is regarded as the organizing principle of contemporary urban change. The consequences for urban governance are examined by exploring the channels through which individual and collective motility can be regulated.

Megacities: our global urban future edited by *Frauke Krass*, Springer, New York, USA, 2011, 250 pp. ISBN 978-9048-1341-68. It has been estimated that by 2015 the world will have up to 60 urban areas with more than 5 million inhabitants. This book shows how geographers and earth scientists are contributing to a better understanding of megacities. The contributors analyse the impact of socio-economic and political activities on environmental change and vice versa, and identify solutions to the worst problems. They propose ways of improving the management of megacities and achieving a greater degree of sustainability in their development. The goals, of wise use of human and natural resources, risk reduction (both social and environmental) and quality-of-life enhancement, may be agreed upon, but the means of achieving these ends are varied. The book covers an array of topics, from health management in Indian megacities, to planning in New York, to transport solutions for the chronically traffic-choked Bangkok. Authors cover the impact

of climate change on megacities, as well as less tangible issues such as socio-political fragmentation in the urban areas of Rio de Janeiro.

Understanding cities: method in urban design by *Alexander Cuthbert*, Routledge, New York, USA, 2011, 352 pp. ISBN 978-0415-6082-44. *Understanding cities* develops the link between urban design theory and praxis and opens the gateway to a new and unified field of urban design. Using spatial political economy as his most important reference point, Cuthbert challenges mainstream urban design and provides an alternative and viable comprehensive framework for a new synthesis. He rejects the idea of yet another theory in urban design, and chooses instead to construct the intellectual scaffolding for what he terms ‘The new urban design’. He builds on both Michel de Certeau’s concept of heterology – ‘thinking about thinking’ - and on the framework of his previous books *Designing cities* and *The form of cities*. Existing and new knowledge are integrated across the three volumes, of which *Understanding cities* is the culminating text.

Retrofitting suburbia: urban design solutions for redesigning suburbs by *Ellen Dunham-Jones* and *June Williamson*, Wiley, New York, USA, 2011, 304 pp. ISBN 978-0470-9343-26. Updated with a new introduction by the authors and a foreword by Richard Florida, this book is a guide for urban designers, planners, architects, developers, environmentalists and community leaders. It illustrates how existing suburban developments can be redesigned to provide more urban and more sustainable places. While there has been considerable attention by practitioners and academics to development in urban cores and new neighbourhoods on the periphery of cities, there has been little attention to the redesign and redevelopment of existing suburbs. The authors, both architects, show how development in existing suburbs can absorb new growth and evolve in relation to changed demographic, technological, and economic conditions.