

argument for the emergence of systematic planning theory' (Maiershofer, 1999). It has now been reprinted in paperback form, making it more affordable and accessible to both scholars and students interested in the design of urban environments and the evolution of urban planning in Europe. With a foreword by renowned urbanist Sir Peter Hall, the republication in 2010 must be appreciated for its rich account of city planning within Europe's most politically significant settlements during a time of great social, environmental, economic and cultural change; a time noted as the continent's 'first golden age of planning' (p. vii). Incorporating topics such as political power and governance, public health, finance, legal structures, transport technologies and demographic growth – subjects that will already be familiar to those interested in Europe's urban past – *Planning Europe's capital cities* provides an analytical approach to urban places during the nineteenth century, when the arranging of towns and cities was thought to be a technical issue 'in which the functional coincided with the beautiful' (p. 330).

Hall investigates both celebrated cities such as Berlin, London, Paris and Vienna, and lesser-researched settlements, including Budapest, Christiania (Oslo), Copenhagen and Stockholm. He sheds light on the greatest planners of the nineteenth century such as Georges Haussmann in Paris and John Nash in London, and lesser known or lesser respected individuals who contributed to Europe's urban development, for example James Holbrecht and his 1862 plan for Berlin (p. 195) and Ildefons Cerdá whose extension scheme for Barcelona is described as 'one of the most remarkable urban development projects of the nineteenth century' (p. 133).

Hall offers a breadth of exploration rarely evident in books investigating the European city of the nineteenth century, providing both a truly comparative and continental-wide review. Despite the coverage of individual cities varying in depth and length, with chapters ranging from eight to twenty-nine pages in length, what Hall dexterously manages to reveal is the similarity of challenges faced within Europe's cities even if the responses, that is the public plans created and implemented, had a character that depended upon local or national circumstances. The planning practices that were developed in the nineteenth century radically transformed Europe's capitals. City walls, for instance, a prominent earlier feature, were in numerous places removed (p. 45) so as to allow settlements to spill out in a controlled manner onto

hitherto greenfield sites and ameliorate the effects of confined urban living (pp. 335-43). However, as Hall demonstrates, earlier traditions associated with arranging urban environments were maintained within many cities after 1800, including the tradition of allowing urban growth to take place bit by bit (p. 124). He reaches such conclusions based on exhaustive use of source materials. Furthermore by utilizing a variety of primary and secondary sources he is able to deduce that prominent late-nineteenth century theorists such as Sitte, Stübben and Unwin, individuals who had a massive impact on formative modern planning, sought to systematize many of the nineteenth-century capital city planning experiences so that they could create new social structures (p. 362).

For scholars seeking to inform their students of the nature of nineteenth-century urban plans and the ordering of nationally and internationally significant settlements, Hall's work has great merit. It is easy to read, and incorporates a large number of illustrations. For teaching students when and why planning emerged, what it sought to solve, what ideas it sought to express, what similarities or differences European plans had, how they compared to earlier urban design schemes and how they affected the subsequent evolution of planning, there are few better starting points.

References

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Multiple city: urban concepts 1908/2008, edited by *Sophie Wolfrum, Winfried Nerdinger and Susanne Schaubeck*, Jovis, Berlin, Germany, 2008, 344 pp. ISBN 978-3868-59001-2.

During the first decade of the new millennium, richly illustrated voluminous books on newly

emerging urban conditions became increasingly popular. Trendsetters included Rem Koolhaas and the Harvard Project on the City with books such as *Mutations* and *Great leap forward*. *Multiple city: urban concepts 1908/2008* accompanied an exhibition of the same name at the Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich, Germany. The book and exhibition were jointly produced by Sophie Wolfrum and Winfried Nerdinger in collaboration with Susanne Schaubeck of the Technical University in Munich. The book is concerned with not only urban conditions but various urban concepts utilized by architects and planners. This approach was selected so as to honour Theodor Fischer (1862-1938), an influential urban planner, teacher and architect. Fischer was responsible for, among other things, Munich's late-nineteenth century city extensions.

The book is organized in 16 chapters, each devoted to a specific urban concept. Every chapter includes two or three texts by the editors and invited authors. Among them are renowned authors such as Iain Borden, Ole Bouman, Ricky Burdett, Christoph Luchsinger, Neville Mars and Alex Wall, who collectively introduce urban concepts in a chronological order, although some of the concepts discussed are shown to have a lengthy influence. 'Urban models and dogmas, occasionally postulated apodictically and irreconcilably, usually disintegrate in time, to be replaced by new perceptions and requirements or by new ideologies. But they leave behind their traces, for they can in many respects become routine, sedimenting so-to-speak in continued effective layers' (p. 7). Between each of the chapters are blocks of images. These consist of specifically commissioned photographs of urban landscapes and a selection of sketches, perspectives and plans, such as Lucio Costa's competition design for Brasilia, the plan of Rome by Muratori, Bollati, Bollati and Marinucci, and Rem Koolhaas's plan for the IBA Berlin.

The publication of *Multiple city* occurred in the midst of a global financial crisis. In this context the two texts that comprise the last chapter, 'Mythos metropolis / mythos megacity', are especially pertinent. Based on the results of the 'Endless city'

study by the London School of Economics and Deutsche Bank's Alfred Herrhausen Society, Ricky Burdett concludes that 'cities are not just concentrations of problems – which they are – but they are also where problems can be solved' (p. 322). Ole Bouman presents a much darker picture when analyzing Dubai's development. He concludes that 'in an oasis surrounded by the battles for Kashmir, earthquake rubble in Pakistan, confrontational politics in Iran, civil war in Iraq, conflict between Israel and Palestine, genocide and famine in East Africa, and chilling destruction of the tsunami, Muslims, Jews, Christians, Buddhists, and especially many agnostics have come together to celebrate the epitome of human wealth. If one thing is obvious, it is that this celebration is oblivious to the looming misfortune and disaster' (pp. 315-6).

Confronted with crisis, the question remains whether and how architects, urban designers and planners can help to improve the situation. This question is partly addressed by Christoph Luchsinger's text 'Two kinds of cities'. He refers to Leonardo Benevolo who once remarked that modern town planning only took shape when a regulating intervention in cities could no more be prevented.

With its concise overviews and insights *Multiple city* is commendable to anybody interested in the histories of cities and their current transformations. The fact that not all contributions are presented in German and English is slightly confusing despite the generally clear structure. It leaves some worthy contributions inaccessible to a broader international readership. Furthermore, similar publications might want to expand the focus of urban concepts developed outside the Western world. Despite these limitations, this book offers a wide range of informative insights. Together with the further readings provided for each chapter, it will act as a welcome tool for teachers and students.

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