

Urban Design Futures. Edited by Malcolm Moor and Jon Rowland. Oxon: Routledge, 2006. 198 pages. £30.00 (Paperback).

Urban Design Futures aims to draw together a collection of essays from an internationally renowned spread of authors to review progress and explore emerging ideas, mostly in the western global sphere. It speculates on the future of urban development and the central role played by urban design as a discipline, a think-tank or a conductor driving force. The book is directed towards urban design scholars, students and practitioners and should be accessible to a wider audience in the built environment and urban studies disciplines. These contemporary key texts will enable the reader to form a deeper and more informed understanding of urban design, how the design of cities comes about and where it is leading towards.

The book commences with a prologue by Bernard O'Donoghue on the layers of human occupation in city planning, the same layers that are the object of study of urban design. This is followed by an enthusiastic preface by Sir Terry Farrell. The lengthy introduction of the editor, Malcolm Moor, then sets the scene as to where urban design is at the moment and how it arrived there and it signposts the four themes that structure each contribution.

In Part I, six contributors overview the key objectives that urban design addresses and the role and territories of the urban designer. Alex Krieger gives a number of definitions of urban design and sets out its ten spheres of action providing a useful historical insight into the origins and early development of the concept and its practice. Tony Lloyd-Jones then questions the application of universal urban design principles outside the European and north-American framework where these are recognised as objectives of 'mainstream urban design' (pp. 30); the developing world context highlights that the global stamp more than often does not meet local aspirations. Harriet Tregoning, in chapter 3, discusses the conflicting American movement to preserve green space and the rationale of sprawl and smart growth development. Paul Murrain's 'Civitas' is an edited version of the published introduction to the Civitas Catalogue and theorises on the meanings of 'public realm', 'public life' and 'tradition'. In chapter 5 John Punter builds on the recent experience of US and European cities to advocate effective mechanisms for design control. Concluding Part I, David Rudlin reflects on the basic principles that have been guiding his practice URBED and on the instruments to keep urban design away from becoming boring and predictable.

Part II: Connecting Social Spaces: Creating the Public Realm sets out directives for the successful creation of exciting, yet safe, public realm. And who better to position the argument than Jan Gehl with 'Life, Spaces, Buildings - And in Said Order, Please'. The links between space and human activity are unfolded in Tim Stonor's report of the space syntax tool in securing safe urbanism, and Adriaan Geuze's evidence of how the street is an effective regulator of human activity. In chapter 10, Alex Lui provides the only Far-East best practice in this collection of essays, with the conservation success story of Lan Kwai Fong in the free economy city of Hong Kong. In Chapter 11 Ken Worpole reviews and reinforces the social

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dimension of urban design. Mardie Townsend explains the persistent conceptualisation of space through male-oriented domination and makes the plea to put women's views on the design and planning agenda. In Chapters 13 and 14 Alain Cousseran and Lucien Kroll return to the Modern Movement and Modern Architecture, once again, to dissect its failures and hypocrisy as key to understanding public space and place.

Part III focuses on the big challenge of the sustainability agenda to shape the new urban future, and how evidence from new technology can definitely incorporate energy-efficient solutions and redefine perceptions of urban design. Bill Dunster illustrates how to reconcile density with amenity with the BedZED project in Sutton, as well as possible ZED solutions to be applied in compact inner city and industrial sites; Ken Yeang contributes with the green skyscraper and his vertical theory of urban design to inform the design of tall structures and intensive development.

Finally, in introducing Part IV, Richard Rees looks into retail as the prime human activity and the commercialisation of urban design. Thus, in *Networks Expand Choice: New Frameworks for Urbanism*, the economic forces that shape and rule the world are argued as the new urban dynamics. Andrew Cross then explores the realm where place is an experience defined by movement within the complex networks that link economic and industrial activity. In chapter 19, Jason Prior describes how the London Olympics masterplan is based on the dynamics of movement and flexible future compliance. In chapter 20, John Worthington examines the new typology of places resulting from the sprawling networked city and the establishment of information technology, while the closing essay, by Thom Mayne, describes the new concept of the tower adopted by Morphosis in the competition entry for Ground Zero, New York.

The editor, Jon Rowland, concludes this anthology of ideas by surveying the new background for an evolving urban design discipline. He provides a summary of key readings, and returns to the work of earlier scholars in order to establish the UK political urban design profile. Ultimately, rather than the themes emerging from the final review pointing the way towards a series of urban design paradigms for the twenty-first century, they call for further debate and exploration, and for a wider awareness of the surrounding built environment.

Elisabete Cidre
University College London