

Past Futures

Two Centuries Of Imagining Boston



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Charles A. Birnbaum, Julie K. Fix



Past Futures Two Centuries Of Imagining Boston:

Past Futures Alex Krieger, Lisa J. Green, 1985 Inventing the Charles River Karl Haglund, 2002-11-22 An illustrated account of the creation of the Charles River Basin focusing on the precarious balance between transportation planning and the stewardship of the public realm The Charles River Basin extending nine miles upstream from the harbor has been called Boston's Central Park Yet few realize that this apparently natural landscape is a totally fabricated public space Two hundred years ago the Charles was a tidal river edged by hundreds of acres of salt marshes and mudflats Inventing the Charles River describes how before the creation of the basin could begin the river first had to be imagined as a single public space The new esplanades along the river changed the way Bostonians perceived their city and the basin with its expansive views of Boston and Cambridge became an iconic image of the metropolis The book focuses on the precarious balance between transportation planning and stewardship of the public realm Long before the esplanades were realized great swaths of the river were given over to industrial enterprises and transportation millponds bridges landfills and a complex network of road and railway bridges In 1929 Boston's first major highway controversy erupted when a four lane road was proposed as part of a new esplanade At twenty year intervals three riverfront road disputes followed successively more complex and disputatious culminating in the lawsuits over Scheme Z the Big Dig's plan for eighteen lanes of highway ramps and bridges over the river More than four hundred photographs maps and drawings illustrate past and future visions for the Charles and document the river's place in Boston's history Pioneers of American Landscape Design II Charles A. Birnbaum, Julie K. Fix, 1995 The Urban Design Reader Michael Larice, Elizabeth Macdonald, 2013-05-07 The second edition of The Urban Design Reader draws together the very best of classic and contemporary writings to illuminate and expand the theory and practice of urban design Nearly 50 generous selections include seminal contributions from Howard Le Corbusier Lynch and Jacobs to more recent writings by Waldheim Koolhaas and Sorkin Following the widespread success of the first edition of The Urban Design Reader this updated edition continues to provide the most important historical material of the urban design field but also introduces new topics and selections that address the myriad challenges facing designers today The six part structure of the second edition guides the reader through the history theory and practice of urban design The reader is initially introduced to those classic writings that provide the historical precedents for city making into the twentieth century Part Two introduces the voices and ideas that were instrumental in establishing the foundations of the urban design field from the late 1950s up to the mid 1990s These authors present a critical reading of the design professions and offer an alternative urban design agenda focused on vital and lively places The authors in Part Three provide a range of urban design rationales and strategies for reinforcing local physical identity and the creation of memorable places These selections are largely describing the outcomes of mid century urban design and voicing concerns over the placeless quality of contemporary urbanism The fourth part of the Reader explores key issues in urban design and development Ideas about sprawl density community health public

space and everyday life are the primary focus here. Several new selections in this part of the book also highlight important international development trends in the Middle East and China. Part Five presents environmental challenges faced by the built environment professions today, including recent material on landscape urbanism, sustainability, and urban resiliency. The final part examines professional practice and current debates in the field where urban designers work: what they do, their roles, their fields of knowledge, and their educational development. The section concludes with several position pieces and debates on the future of urban design practice. This book provides an essential resource for students and practitioners of urban design, drawing together important but widely dispersed writings. Part and section introductions are provided to assist readers in understanding the context of the material, summary messages, impacts of the writing, and how they fit into the larger picture of the urban design field.

Urban Design for an Urban Century Lance Jay Brown, David Dixon, 2014-05-27

This book offers a comprehensive introduction to urban design from a historical overview and basic principles to practical design concepts and strategies. It discusses the demographic, environmental, economic, and social issues that influence the decision making and implementation processes of urban design. The Second Edition has been fully revised to include thorough coverage of sustainability issues and to integrate new case studies into the core concepts discussed.

The Hub Thomas H. O'Connor, 2001

Filled with local events as well as intriguing characters, this engaging account vividly captures the spirit and soul of Boston both yesterday and today.

BOOK JACKET

Sprawl And Suburbia William S. Saunders

Sprawl is the single most significant and urgent issue in American land use at the turn of the twenty-first century. Efforts to limit and reform sprawl through legislative Smart Growth initiatives have been enacted around the country, while the neotraditionalist New Urbanism has been embraced by many architects and urban planners. Yet most Americans persist in their desire to live farther and farther away from urban centers, moving to exurbs made up almost entirely of single-family residential houses and stand-alone shopping areas. *Sprawl and Suburbia* brings together some of the foremost thinkers in the field to present in depth diagnosis and critical analysis of the physical and social realities of exurban sprawl. Along with an introduction by Robert Fishman, these essays call for architects, urban planners, and landscape designers to work at mitigating the impact of sprawl on land and resources and improving the residential and commercial built environment as a whole. In place of vast residential exurbs, these writers offer visions of a fresh urbanism appealing and persuasive models of life at greater density with greater diversity and within genuine communities. With sprawl losing the support of suburban citizens themselves as economic, environmental, and social costs are being paid, *Sprawl and Suburbia* appears at a moment when design might achieve some critical influence over development if architects and planners accept the challenge.

Contributors: Mike Davis, Ellen Dunham Jones, Peter Hall, David Harvey, Jerold S. Kayden, Matthew J. Kiefer, Alex Krieger, Andrew Ross, James S. Russell, Mitchell Schwarzer, William S. Saunders.

William S. Saunders is editor of *Harvard Design Magazine* and assistant dean for external relations at the Harvard Design School. He is the author of *Modern Architecture Photographs* by Ezra Stoller. Robert Fishman is professor of

architecture and urban planning at the Taubman College of Architecture University of Michigan He is author of *Bourgeois Utopias: The Rise and Fall of Suburbia* and editor of *The American Planning Tradition: Culture and Policy* **In Our Own Backyard** National Research Council, Division on Engineering and Physical Sciences, Commission on Engineering and Technical Systems, Committee on Infrastructure, 1994-02-01 This volume takes a fresh look primarily from a technological perspective at the nation's infrastructure a collection of diverse modes that function as a system supporting a wide range of economic and social activities Within an infrastructure system operating and maintenance procedures management practices and development policies i e the software must work together with the facilities hardware This study has a strongly local perspective drawing valuable information from workshops held in Phoenix Cincinnati and Boston These workshops illustrated common elements of local experience that offer infrastructure practitioners policymakers and the public at large both understanding and guidance in the form of specific strategies that can lead toward win-win situations where parties with potentially opposing interests seek a way to resolve infrastructure issues so that all parties gain Local issues combined across many regions give infrastructure its strategic national significance The book recommends specific principles that should be applied in national policy to support effective local infrastructure development and management Preserving Historic New England James Michael Lindgren, 1995 Resisting not simply this avalanche of change but the amateurish romanticism of fellow antiquaries Appleton founded the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities in 1910 **Building A New Boston** Thomas H. O'Connor, 1995-08-10 Here is one of the great stories in American urban history told by a great historian In 1949 Boston was a hopeless backwater by 1970 a New Boston had been created Thomas O'Connor the dean of Boston historians brings to this tale of transformation rich learning intimate familiarity with his subject and a lucid sometimes witty pen Jack Beatty Senior Editor Atlantic Monthly

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Past Futures Two Centuries Of Imagining Boston Introduction

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