

narrative examples seem to suggest fundamental changes in how we think about plans, which leads to the question of using this book for graduate courses.

The authors suggest that the book should be used differently in a graduate course, as a framework for the recommended additional readings. I would go further. Undergraduate students often take an introductory course as the only planning course in a particular semester and then take two or three planning courses per semester over a 4 year period. Graduate students take four or five planning courses simultaneously each semester and all within 2 years. The scope of this book is too broad for any one graduate course. On the other hand, it would be a great book for graduate students to have read, ideally before they arrive at graduate school, but more likely early in their first semester as background for the whole range of courses. I teach planning theory and history to first semester graduate students, and a frequent reaction is: "We cannot really discuss whether these explanations makes sense because we do not know what the conventional ideas about planning are." Reading among the 478 pages of this book quickly would give a good sense of the field. Our students, for example, take courses in theory, law and implementation, physical planning, and economic analysis in their first semester. This book would be a useful contextual beginning across the curriculum because it ties plans to regulations and to investments in physical infrastructure.

Three aspects might require supplements, even for an introductory course. First, this book describes plans for Norman, Oklahoma; Pueblo, Colorado; Ames, Iowa; and Mecklenberg County, North Carolina rather than about New York city, Los Angeles, or Chicago. Much of what is presented applies also to these latter places, but the book tells most of its stories in terms of medium sized cities and development of land at the edge. Second, it is not about urban design or the creation of livable cities as three-dimensional places. This may be a disadvantage if most students in the class are studying architecture. Finally, the discussion of neighborhood planning is skeptical at best, with none of the passion of planners committed to organizing the unrepresented.

Community Planning: An Introduction to the Comprehensive Plan goes beyond its title to provide a readable, engaging introduction to the field. It will gain a major role in the introductory and comprehen-

sive planning in undergraduate courses and a secondary role in graduate curricula. Kelly and Becker show a commitment to the aspirations of comprehensive plans without being limited by rigid interpretations. They give the impression that making and using plans is challenging, engaging, and worthy of enthusiastic professionals.

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PII: S0169-2046(00)00066-9

Green Urbanism: Learning from European Cities
Timothy Beatley, Island Press, Washington, DC, 2000,
491 pp.

During the past decade, the sustainable development concept has risen to the central idea of a new planning formula. *Green Urbanism* by American professor, Timothy Beatley, provides a broad review of sustainable practice as applied in Western European cities. The author examined plans, reports, and other documents of 32 cities known for their environmental planning, with a strong local sustainable initiative, e.g. seven of them have received the European Sustainable City Award.

Beatley treats the concept of green urbanism as the next stage of so-called new urbanism "so enthusiastically endorsed by American architects and planners" (p. 5). New urbanism is not sufficient to address broad social and environmental issues. According to Beatley, it needs to be transformed into much more ecologically orientated green urbanism, that "accent the positive urbanism in shaping more sustainable places, communities and lifestyles" (p. 5). The primary goals of green urbanism are to reduce the ecological footprints of cities and to change the polarity between cities and nature. Green urbanism calls for circular metabolism for cities as well as for balancing ecocycles of cities to harmonised inputs and outputs of urban ecosystem. Beatley indicates its benefits include

healthier lives. He asks: what contemporary cities in the world are achieving those benefits? The book presents answers through European examples, where 62% of global total initiatives of local Agenda 21 have been initiated. His main goal was to identify most valuable sustainable practices that are transferable to other places.

Cities are examined on several levels from regional-scale policy to streetscape designs, from strategies to idea of green offices and ecobusinesses. The author reports and analyzes green urbanism local initiatives and national strategies. Part I of the book provides a brief introduction to the green urbanism concept and specific roles of urban sustainability in Europe. The subsequent parts cover different aspects of green urbanism. In Part II, strategies for sustainable land use are presented as compact urban forms with mixed use, e.g. in the plans of Helsinki and Stockholm. Some plans include a “strategy of urban form that allows large blocks of open space or green wedges to come very close to urban neighbourhood” (p. 35) such as those in Copenhagen and Amsterdam.

Part III is dedicated to sustainable transportation and mobility. Topics include public transport, such as trams and high speed-rails; more ‘ecological’ automobiles; car-free cities; and biking transport with an emphasis “building a bike-riding culture” (p. 183). The concept of urban ecosystems is presented in Part IV of the book. Ecological networks “at municipal level can consist of ecological waterways, tree corridors, and connections between parks and open space system” (p. 200). Next, recycling and renewable energy are described with attention given to the possible circular cycling of resources and emitting wastes of urban ecosystem. There are examples of organic buildings, ecobridges, and practices to improve local climate as well as conservation habitat systems as in Bologna (Italy). Part V focuses on economy policies that support sustainable business, green offices, and non-government initiatives. Indicators and targets of sustainability are also presented with examples of cities that have established sustainability indicators, such as Leicester (Great Britain).

In each chapter, different green urbanism aspects are summarised in context of American cities. Detailed descriptions of particular undertakings in Europe are shown there as inspirations — ‘Lessons for American Cities’.

In the last part of *Green Urbanism*, Beatley points out that “the ideas of green urbanism despite the optimistic examples raise serious challenges and dilemmas” (p. 407). Some innovations are too new to evaluate for effectiveness. Others indicate serious problems. In Holland, for example, the idea to create more compact neighbourhoods has resulted in loss of greenspace.

The width range of practices shows how complicated the concept of urban ecosystem sustainability is to understand. The book is recommended as a source of inspirations for teachers, researchers, local officials, and developers. The initiatives and practical innovations of Western European urban sustainability are essential lessons not only for Americans. These are lessons for all those, who seek to apply green urbanism or want to adopt the principles of urban sustainable development and to implement them in real undertakings.

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PII: S0169-2046(00)00074-8

Designing Sustainable Communities, Learning From Village Homes

Judy Corbett and Michael Corbett, Island Press, Washington, DC, 2000, 235 pp.

The good news is that there is a 25-year-old example of a sustainable American neighborhood.

The bad news is that there is only one.

Over a quarter century has passed since Judy and Michael Corbett set out to build a new kind of community. I want to call it a new *utopian* community, but anyplace that appreciates in value substantially faster than surrounding Davis, California developments of similar vintage sounds more like ‘investment grade’ than utopian to me. I want to call it a new *sustainable*