Dialogues in Urban & Regional Planning

Edited by Thomas L. Harper, Anthony Gar-On Yeh and Heloisa Costa
Dialogues in Urban and Regional Planning offers a selection of the best urban planning scholarship from the world’s planning school associations. The award-winning papers presented illustrate some of the concerns and the discourse of planning scholars and provide a glimpse of planning theory and practice around the world. All those with an interest in urban and regional planning will find this collection stimulating in opening avenues for research and debate.

Set in context by the editors’ introductory chapter, these essays focus on planning concerns within local contexts, but also reflect three international sets of issues: The first set of issues relating to the forces shaping cities and the urbanization process, and planning responses to them, are examined in the effects of social and economic forces in European cities; of natural environmental and institutional forces in Mexico; and of economic and institutional forces in Chinese cities. Planning responses are examined in different contexts: Chinese urban planning for rapid growth; a New Urbanist subdivision in Canada; and community development by faith-based organizations in South Africa. The second set of issues relate to evolving ideas and paradigms in urban and regional planning, and include the sharp contrast between social science-based “town planning” and architecture-based “urbanismo” over the past 50 years, the application of “North” planning theories in South Africa, and the lack of national-level “territorial planning” in Brazil. The third set of issues relate to planning theory, processes and practices, with studies of clashing planner roles in regional transportation planning in San Francisco, and performance-based planning in the United States, Australia, and New Zealand. Theoretical arguments are advanced in a transaction cost analysis of critical communicative planning and its relation to power, and in an argument for third party appeals in land-use planning.

This book is published in association with the Global Planning Education Association Network (GEAN), and the member planning schools associations, who have selected these papers based on regional competitions. These associations represent over 360 planning schools in nearly 50 countries around the globe.
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