The Vancouver Achievement, Urban Planning and Design

Comments
Professor Punter has crafted a book that effectively blends work at the visioning end of the spectrum with the details that make the planning process successful.

“Four themes are given particular attention. The first is the shift from modernist to postmodernist planning and design principles, and the emergence of much more place – and history-sensitive urban design, albeit at the expense of modernism’s more utopian and socially distributive goals. Second is the shift away from direct public intervention to shape the urban landscape (urban renewal) towards public regulation of private development (design review) in a bid to achieve some of the same, and some different, community goals. Third is a range of critiques of the regulatory process and the emergence of substantive principles with which to both evaluate practices and to construct systems capable of developing better design outcomes. Finally, there is a range of more socio-political critiques of planning and design practices that attempt to go behind the facades of the postmodern city to explore issues of social equity and the construction/deconstruction of community, which questions both the assumptions and outcomes of contemporary practice.” [p. xv-xv]

As this excerpt indicates, the author delves into the philosophy and theory of city planning, but he also transitions nicely to the practical aspects of implementing thoughtful policies and programs.

Notes on Punter, The Vancouver Achievement: Urban Planning and Design [13]

“I found this book quite valuable. It doesn't touch on transportation much at all, but it goes into graphic detail on other aspects of municipal politics, particularly development, zoning, participation, urban design, municipal finances, and social exclusion. I found it useful for understanding the viewpoints of other actors in the local political scene, and for a better idea of the (slow!) development process.”
Source: http://davidpritchard.org/sustrans/Pun03/
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