

## From the Planners' Bookshelf...

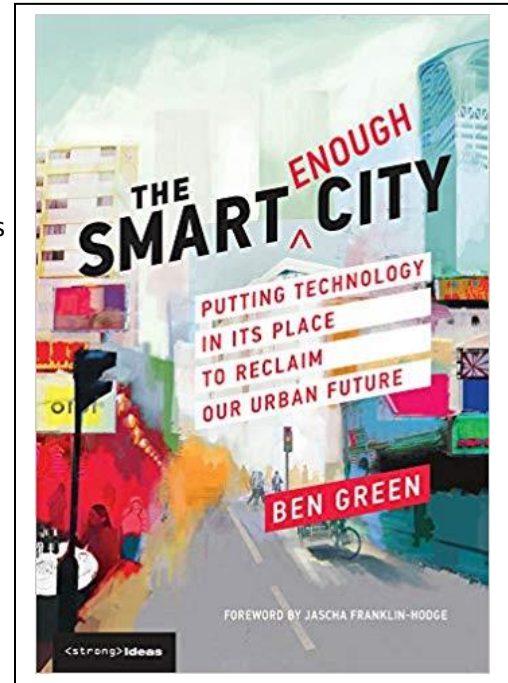
### The Smart Enough City: Putting Technology in Its Place to Reclaim Our Urban Future (Strong Ideas)

by [Ben Green](#) (Author), [Jascha Franklin-Hodge](#) (Foreword)  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2019.

#### Implications for Character Towns: Be Careful.

“Smart cities” as an idea is getting a lot of play. Programs, budgets, experiments and projects are emerging everywhere. Mr. Green advises caution. Know the difference between smart and wise; understand that data mining is “top of mind” for all the vendors; and recognize the inherent historical biases embedded in the algorithms.

Having advised caution, observe that every city is pursuing a “smart” future. Perspective is the necessary attitude as every city anticipates the new disruptors and is preparing for the knowable and unknowable events arriving at the city’s door step almost daily: AVs, EVs Uber, immigration, radical infestations and the immediacy of social media. Planning and preparations are essential. Cities cannot “wing” responses to major disruptors. The future of the city is up for grabs and a responsible and balanced implementation of technological enhancements are necessary; remembering that technology is the servant, not the master.



#### From Amazon:

“Smart cities, where technology is used to solve every problem, are hailed as futuristic urban utopias. We are promised that apps, algorithms, and artificial intelligence will relieve congestion, restore democracy, prevent crime, and improve public services. In *The Smart Enough City*, Ben Green warns against seeing the city only through the lens of technology; taking an exclusively technical view of urban life will lead to cities that appear smart but under the surface are rife with injustice and inequality. He proposes instead that cities strive to be “smart enough”: to embrace technology as a powerful tool when used in conjunction with other forms of social change—but not to value technology as an end in itself.”

“In a technology-centric smart city, self-driving cars have the run of downtown and force out pedestrians, civic engagement is limited to requesting services through an app, police use algorithms to justify and perpetuate racist practices, and governments and private companies surveil public space to control behavior.”

## From the Planners' Bookshelf...

"Green describes smart city efforts gone wrong but also smart enough alternatives, attainable with the help of technology but not reducible to technology: a livable city, a democratic city, a just city, a responsible city, and an innovative city. By recognizing the complexity of urban life rather than merely seeing the city as something to optimize, these Smart Enough Cities successfully incorporate technology into a holistic vision of justice and equity."

LINK: [https://www.amazon.com/dp/0262039672/ref=sspa\\_dk\\_detail\\_0?psc=1](https://www.amazon.com/dp/0262039672/ref=sspa_dk_detail_0?psc=1)



From **intelspace** comes the following table of contents and bio of the authors of ***The Smart Enough City***.

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Foreword by Jascha Franklin-Hodge

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### About the Author

Ben Green is an Affiliate and former Fellow at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University and a PhD candidate in Applied Mathematics at Harvard's John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. From 2016 to 2017 he was a Data Scientist in the City of Boston's Department of Innovation and Technology.

LINK: <https://www.urenio.org/>