

# Ekistics and Doxiadis.

## Following a Thread...

Here's a thought-journey for you. It starts with a headline to a NYT's article - "**When Architects Made Worlds**" by Michael Kimmelman, Feb. 19, 2022. The article mentions Doxiadis, a Greek architect/city planner from the 1960's with visionary ideas and an international practice.

I remember both the 1960's and Doxiadis as an "on the edge" international city designer with a great name. From the NYT's article I found their obituary from 1975; the next leg of the journey to *ekistics* was a short trip. Doxiadis' ideas were comprehensive, long-term, multi-tiered and anti-sprawl with a sustainability bent.

### Ekistics, the Science of Human Settlements

Articles From *Science*, v.170, no.3956,  
October 1970, p. 393-404.

*"Ekistics starts with the premise that human settlements are susceptible of systematic investigation".*

Constantinos A. Doxiadis

#### LINK:

[https://www.doxiadis.org/Downloads/ecistics\\_the\\_science\\_of\\_human\\_settlements.pdf](https://www.doxiadis.org/Downloads/ecistics_the_science_of_human_settlements.pdf)

## Ekistics.

The basic idea is to relate people to their settlements; regional, local and domicile; a passé movement, but still alive through The *Ekistics Journal* that provokes a thought process useful to city planners and urban designers. <https://www.ekisticsjournal.org/index.php/journal/about>.

Some of the ideas are in fact out-of-date, left behind by sustainable urbanism, however, the fundamental approach to relating the human experience to their habitations of all scales is still relevant. Doxiadis' book, *The Future of the City*, is hard to find but still available, if you search.

"We cannot acquire proper knowledge about our villages, towns and cities unless we manage to see the whole range of the man-made systems within which we live, from the most primitive to the most developed ones - that is, the whole range of human settlements. This is as necessary as an understanding of animals is to an understanding of mammals - perhaps even more so. Our subject, the whole range of human settlements, is a very complex system of five elements - nature, man, society, shells (that is, buildings), and networks. It is a system of natural, social, and man-made elements which can be seen in many ways - economic, social, political, technological, and cultural. For this reason only the widest possible view can help us to understand it."

## The Planning Process Prevails.

- "Ekistics, as practiced by its originator, involved three planning stages, starting with an inventory of census figures, maps, population patterns, geological and ecological studies and surveys of existing structures.
- "Analysis of the collected data represented the second step.
- "The final phase was synthesis, or the development of proposals that might range from sweeping recommendations on national conservation to specific design details for new housing."