



# INTERPLAN

Official Newsletter of the American Planning Association International Division

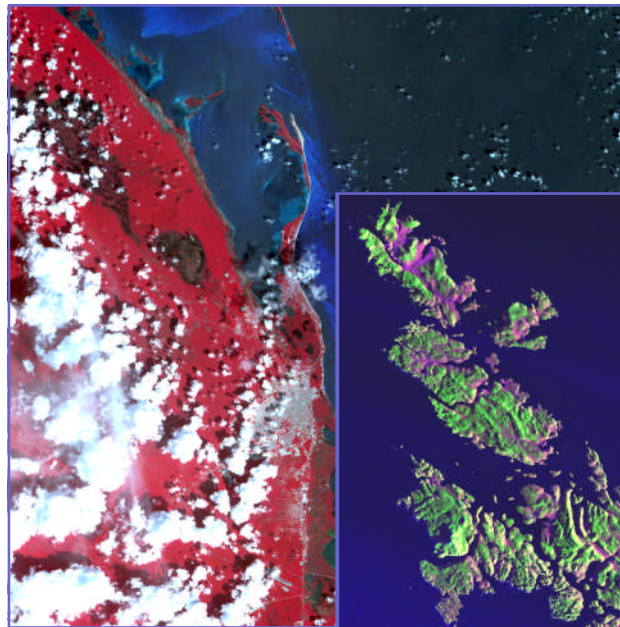
SUMMER 2008 N° 85

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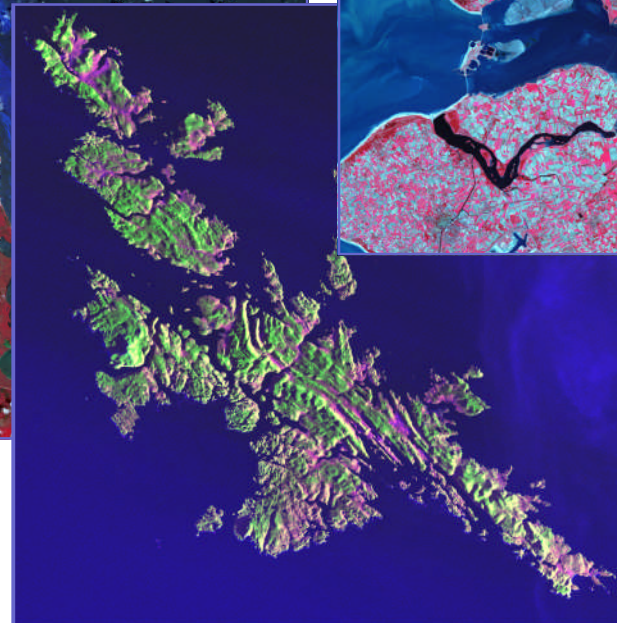
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## OUR EARTH AS ART



Cancun



Shetland Islands



The Netherlands



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INTERNATIONAL DIVISION

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## Message from the Chair

**D**ear fellow  
International  
Division  
Members:

Like you, I frequently  
am asked, "How does  
international planning  
differ from other kinds  
of planning?" My

answer is that while it's similar, of course it's  
very different. It's different precisely because it  
calls upon us to reconsider our conceptions of  
what community is—and what it means—  
without the limitations of geography.

It is this point exactly that distinguishes the  
International Division from others within the  
APA family. Moreover, in the interdependent  
21<sup>st</sup> century global community we live in, we  
can scarcely afford *not* to identify and model  
best practices that are successfully addressing  
complex issues such as global warming,  
affordable housing and food system planning,  
among many others. The benefits to these  
best practices can accrue both locally and  
globally. In short, we provide a unique lens to  
the practice of planning, and by doing so can  
positively enhance the quality of communities  
around the world.

This drive and commitment to creating quality  
communities in all places serves as the core  
emphasis of the knowledge-focused, skill-  
building programs and services that the  
International Division provides.

This quarter's issue of *Interplan* highlights  
several initiatives for 2008-2010 that are seek to  
accomplish this purpose, including our **new  
webinar offerings on international planning  
topics** (free to Division members) and **planning  
for our two by-right sessions at the 2009  
Minneapolis conference**. Your ideas for future  
topics for both of these efforts are greatly  
encouraged.

We are also launching an **APA-ID Exchange  
Program Task Force** (see page 13) and a  
**Strategic Planning Working Group**. Watch for  
additional details about the creation of a  
**Student Committee**, comprised of student  
members of the division that will advise the  
Division Leadership, and an **International  
Planning Liaison Committee**, which will serve as  
an interface between the International Division  
and other international planning organizations  
(e.g., ISOCARP, Royal Town Planning Institute,  
etc.) for the purpose of information-sharing  
and potential joint activities/programs.

Your participation is key to the success of these  
initiatives. Please contact us at  
[Info\\_International@planning.org](mailto:Info_International@planning.org) with your  
thoughts, ideas and feedback. We look  
forward to an exciting year of Division activities  
that both extend and enhance the knowledge  
and practice of international planning.

*Best regards,*

*Beth Offenbacker*

Chair, APA International Division  
2008-2010





INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF CITY  
AND REGIONAL PLANNERS

The International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) is a global association of experienced, professional planners. Founded in 1965 with a vision of bringing together recognized and highly qualified planners in an international network. ISOCARP is a non-governmental organization, recognized by the United Nations and the Council of Europe and with a consultative status with UNESCO. ISOCARP organizes Urban Planning Advisory Teams (UPATs) to assist communities with specific planning and urban design issues. The UPAT program focuses the expertise and experience of a select team of ISOCARP planners, architects and urban designers to provide guidance on challenging community projects. The time-frame is intense—less than a week to prepare community design recommendations. In addition to the team's skill, the UPAT provides new and innovative perspectives. ISOCARP is currently scheduling UPATs for Guadalajara, Mexico and Limmat Valley, Zurich.

[www.isocarp.org](http://www.isocarp.org)



## International Urban Planning Advisory Teams



### The Oregon Urbanization Spectrum

Report excerpts from  
*Ismael Fernandez, Pablo  
Vaggione, Jim Colman and  
Ric Stephens*

On invitation from the [Urban Land Institute Oregon/SW Washington District](#) and numerous supporting organizations, the ISOCARP Executive Committee (EXCO) was invited to visit several cities throughout Oregon for a combined Spring meeting and UPAT. This was the first U.S. ISOCARP EXCO visit, and the tour encompassed the spectrum of Pacific Northwest U.S. planning issues.

#### Program

The Team was composed of nine EXCO members and two additional UPAT members from ten countries [See UPAT page 4]. Prior to their visit, the host cities and organizations emailed background information on the issues to be studied. When the UPAT arrived, they were given a briefing by agency officials, then taken on a tour of the project area. Afterwards the teams broke into smaller groups to work with local representatives in a workshop or charrette. The collective information was

presented to the local government at a public meeting. A written report will be prepared to summarize the UPAT findings and recommendations.

#### A Great Place to Try Something New: Lincoln City

[www.historiccutler.org](http://www.historiccutler.org)

##### Coastal Community Revitalization

The UPAT participated in the Lincoln City Cutler Charrette which included professionals from the west coast. The charrette produced a series of illustrations, documents, video and posters outlining innovative approaches to revitalizing this coastal community. The design team recommendations included a wide variety of strategies including

- ❖ converting neighborhood streets into public spaces (such as the Dutch woonerfs)
- ❖ integrating local artists and artisans in creating an entry statement for the community and providing public art in open spaces
- ❖ consideration of a parallel road or loop from the highway to redirect/deemphasize traffic

#### Farming Heartland: Junction City

[www.ci.junction-city.or.us](http://www.ci.junction-city.or.us)

##### Rural Community Revitalization

Junction City is currently considering a "couplet" design to split the main thoroughfare. It is suggested that with careful

*(Continued on page 4)*



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APA Oregon Executive Director **Patricia Zepp**  
Alpha Community Development Pres **Jerry Palmer**  
Host & Van Driver **June Stephens**

(Continued from page 3)

design, the couplet can be made to serve both drivers and pedestrians, with positive spin-offs for both. Design could be based on the following principles, the aim being to signal to all drivers that the minute they enter the couplet they are 'guests' of Junction City who must recognize that while in town, pedestrians and cyclists have priority. Design principles might include

- ❖ roundabouts at both ends of the couplet (entry/exit points)
- ❖ mandated and policed speed limit in the downtown blocks between roundabouts of 10-15 mph
- ❖ sidewalk widening; variations in pavement materials, colors, textures
- ❖ change of pavement material to encourage slower vehicle movement – why not cobblestones ?
- ❖ distinctive lighting and street furniture
- ❖ generously sized dedicated and well marked crossings for pedestrians and disabled
- ❖ conveniently located cycle lanes and parking
- ❖ curbside parking lane.

Such a system could bring fewer accidents, less noise, less pollution, and greater pride in the downtown as a place for meeting, shopping, strolling. This result will in due course enhance the attractiveness of the town centre as a good place to invest and do business.

### 21st Century Comprehensive Planning: Damascus City

[www.ci.damascus.or.us](http://www.ci.damascus.or.us)

### New Community Planning

Local participants mentioned that population increase could range from 16,000 to 70,000 in less than ten years. The economic base that would support this growth was not particularly clear, other than the influence of Portland's growth on housing demands.

In view of this, the preparation of a strategic plan that would contemplate how to create and sustain a distinctive brand for Damascus was proposed. This plan would benefit from scenario planning, depicting pros and cons of possible population futures and its implication on the economic base, the environment, infrastructure, land use, urban services and civic amenities, and the overall character of Damascus. Key questions that this exercise should address include *What is the best future for Damascus in 2017? What is the right amount of people for it? What is the economic base that supports that figure?*

This framework should not mean that development must be avoided. What it would bring is a roadmap of conservation for development, intending to preserve without "freezing" opportunities for sustainable growth.

The community in Damascus is facing the rare opportunity to plan a city from scratch in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In its origin, the city of Damascus was named after a "new beginning", portraying the spirit of the pioneer. But what does the spirit of the pioneer mean in our century? It transcended in the charrette that building on strengths and capitalizing on this spirit is a distinctive element in the city's development strategy.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

### The New Look: Metro

[www.oregonmetro.gov](http://www.oregonmetro.gov)

#### Metropolitan Community Planning

The UPAT was asked to focus their discussion on Regional Transportation Infrastructure Funding. The following notes are from the initial Metro meeting:

- ❖ Singapore cited as a model for directing growth through investments in infrastructure.
- ❖ Coordination of infrastructure services, especially for maintenance, is a key to successful service provision. Vienna has consolidated service provision but not maintenance.
- ❖ Coordination to put infrastructure in place is a good goal, but it is problematic when services are provided by a variety of entities and funds are available at different times.
- ❖ Privatization of infrastructure is not always successful – examples of failure when basic services such as roads are privatized but do not bring in expected revenues (Australia freeways, UK/France Chunnel, Brit Rail).
- ❖ There are some good models of public/private partnerships in France and England for public planning and control of infrastructure, with a competitive concession for operations and maintenance. France has increased the efficiencies of its concessions so that the profit margin is low. In Japan, high-speed rail provides service of a similar distance from New York to Philadelphia in half the time, for half the cost, due to public-private partnerships and development concessions for Japanese rail operator. In London, the congestion charge is also a



Stone Cliff Inn, Oregon City, Oregon

winner for British Telecom who collects Short Message Service (SMS) fees when the charge is paid over a mobile phone.

- ❖ Madrid is home to many of the largest construction companies and the Urban Management Forum (Chaired by Pablo Vaggione) brings them together to increase support for infrastructure provision and leveraging private sector investment. This gives the construction companies the opportunity to see the benefits of diversifying to meet new infrastructure needs (ie new telecommunications equipment)
- ❖ Greece uses a formula for paying for infrastructure in new urban areas of 1/3 paid by local residents, 1/3 by providers, and 1/3 by the state.
- ❖ Opportunities to change behaviors by reducing or minimizing peak use of a variety of services. Singapore is so carefully metered that there is no rush hour congestion due to such high tolls on the roads at that time. Variable pricing can work for energy and water as well.
- ❖ Coordination can save money, increase efficiencies for example running fiber cables through sewer lines.



*These excerpts are from the Metro meetings and a comprehensive UPAT report currently in draft. For a complete document, please contact UPAT Coordinator Ric Stephens at [ricstephens@verizon.net](mailto:ricstephens@verizon.net).*





### Green Communities Exchange

The cost of the study tour is 1650€ / person (including all transfers in Germany, meals and full guided program, excluding international airfare, accommodation, and individual travel insurance). For further details and a full tour schedule please visit <http://web.me.com/ecoprojects/germantour2008/> or contact

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## Green Communities Exchange

### 2008 STUDY TOUR TO GERMANY

**Tools & Concepts for Sustainable Urban-Industrial Development**  
**September 21-27, 2008**

City and regional planners, economic development agencies and site managers around the world are facing similar issues when addressing climate change mitigation and sustainable development. Changing transportation patterns, housing requirements and industrial land use require different approaches to planning and technology integration. Green buildings, decentralized energy concepts, brown-field redevelopment, efficient public transport and Eco-City development are only some of the issues being addressed. The recent awareness about global warming has focused the discussion on energy and CO<sub>2</sub>, but solutions are broader and more interlinked than the recent discussion suggests.

#### The Exchange

Both in the US and Germany a number of communities, regions and agencies work on urban planning approaches and practical solutions to address these issues. Through their international exposure, the Devens Enterprise Commission, Massachusetts, and Ecoindustry Co., Germany, have initiated the Green Communities Exchange to enable a hands-on sharing of urban-industrial solutions between the US and Germany.

Initial exchange activities include a Webinar on September 11, (see *announcement*) and a study tour to Germany.

#### The Study Tour

The study tour will provide first-hand experience on some of Germany's most prominent urban green development cases in recent years. The study tour is

intended for city and regional planners and economic development officials dealing with industrial projects. The tour language will be English. A project brief of tour sites will be available.

The tour will start on Sept. 21 in Stuttgart and end Sept. 27 in Munich. For those interested a visit to the Oktoberfest can be arranged. All transfers will be by private van from Stuttgart Airport to Munich Airport.

The study tour includes visits to

**City of Freiburg**, Germany's solar city that has implemented several urban development projects with emphasis on green buildings and car-free transportation. Meet **Wulf Daseking**, the head city planner, who will introduce you to *Vauban* – city quarter on redeveloped military base, aiming for zero emission housing. Visit the *Solarfabrik* – a Zero Emission Factory, one of the motors of solar development in Freiburg.

**City of Munich**, *Messestadt Riem* – a redevelopment of the old Munich airport into suburb city with ecological features. Meet Theo Bauernschmidt and his colleagues who will show you how the new suburb has been planned and implemented. Visit an inner-city highway that has been tunnelled and transformed into a park, a linear Green Roof. Learn about 'Ecological Building Blocks' that encourage investors to think Green.

**Greater Stuttgart Region**, the heartland of German enterprises, is facing a number of land use issues, including urban sprawl. Learn about tools and policy of regional land management and brown-field redevelopment on former military bases, inner-city land recycling and small footprint design. Meet city and regional planners during a workshop for first-hand exchange of ideas.

**Schoenau**, a small town near Freiburg that has bought their energy system from the large suppliers and transformed it through its utility EWS to provide only renewable energy to the city and other customers nationwide. Learn about their policy approach how a change to renewables is possible.





### German Green Communities Organizers

Peter C. Lowitt *Proposer*

Andreas W. Koenig, *Moderation*

*[Photos on pages 6 & 7 courtesy of Andreas Koenig]*

### Presenters & Working Titles

**Theo Bauernschmidt**, Director of Planning, City Planning Office (East), Munich  
*Munich Riem: Development of a New City Quarter with Ecological Targets at the old Munich Airport*

**Wulf Daseking**, Director of Planning, City Planning Office, Freiburg  
*Sustainable City Planning in Freiburg*

**Dirk Vallée**, Director, Institute for Urban and Transport Planning, RWTH Aachen University (former Executive Technical Director, Stuttgart Region Association)  
*Regional Settlement Management as Chance for Sustainable Development*

## German Green Communities Webinar

For all International Division members in need of CM credits, you are welcome to participate in an International Division activity that has been submitted for 1.5 hours of CM credits (pending approval). This is a free online webinar, and participants will need internet and phone access to participate. A full description of the event is provided below. Interested members who would like to reserve a spot can email

[apa.international.division@gmail.com](mailto:apa.international.division@gmail.com). You will receive an email with login information and Web address once your registration is processed. For further questions, please contact Jennifer Venema, Vice-Chair for Special Projects, at [Jennifer.venema@gmail.com](mailto:Jennifer.venema@gmail.com).

**German Green Communities: Best Practices in Urban-Industrial Development**  
**Thursday September 11, 2008**  
**9 am Pacific/ 12 pm Eastern**

### Summary

Plagued with the challenges of urban sprawl, American planners are working to find viable alternatives to increased land consumption and the tools needed to capitalize on under-utilized brownfield sites.

The session provides planners with insights from German planning experts who provide policy tools and approaches that have succeeded in the implementation of sustainable community development and the conversion of urban-

industrial land. Session speakers will help participants to apply German best practice concepts in the United States. With highly regulated land use and environmental protection standards, and despite available urban and industrial brownfields, urban sprawl is a critical issue in Germany. Yet through economic restructuring of the Ruhr District (Europe's largest industrial area) and the redevelopment of industrial complexes in eastern Germany after unification, several approaches to sustainable land management have been developed and successfully implemented.

The Session will highlight policies implemented by the city of Freiburg, including the Solar City approach and the new suburb of Vauban. The lessons provided by the Messestadt Riem are also presented; a former airport site, it has been converted using an award-winning suburb concept, and maximization of sustainable private sector investment has been achieved through innovative planning tools. The Session will also delineate the experience of the cities in the pilot project for Eco-Industrial Parks in the state of North-Rhine Westphalia, including: Bottrop's engagement process that successfully assisted enterprises in redeveloping industrial parks using sustainability criteria, and the Metabolon project's conversion of a landfill into a commercial resource recovery park. Lastly, insights are provided by the Stuttgart Region Association about their use of a regional settlement policy as a strategy for sustainable development, including a report on their engagement of rural communities in sustainable land management and the difficulties of implementing smart-growth ideas in the existing administrative and political landscape.





eco-media city  
 airport city  
 megalopolis  
 elusive city  
 mega-city  
 ottopia  
 exurbia  
 surfurbia  
 autopia  
 centripetal city  
 monopolville  
 post suburbia  
 city X  
 nonplace urban  
 realm  
 futurama  
 automonument  
 middle landscape  
 foothills  
 outer city  
 urban palimpsest  
 post urbain  
 primate city  
 BANANA  
 central place  
 hinterland  
 incubator

Submitted by Ric Stephens

**P**arole is a dynamic dictionary of the contemporary city, or at least this was the intention when it was launched in June 2000 in occasion of the 7th International Exhibition of Architecture at the Biennale in Venice, Italy.

Since then **parole** has become a vast, loose, heterogeneous website, probably less easily defined with such a stringent term as "dictionary".

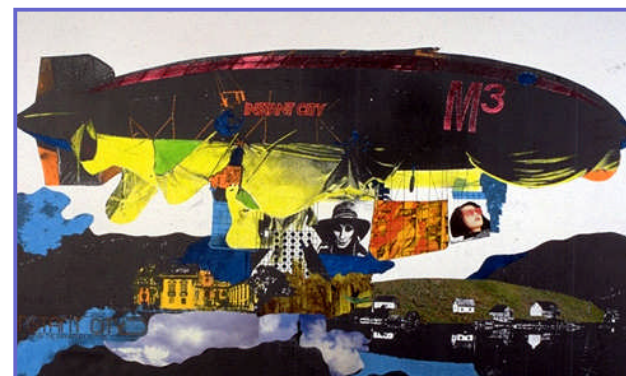
Currently about 900 words related to the transformation of the urban landscape are organized in a hypermedia database, along with more than 1000 links to & from the Internet.

Images, texts, quotations, comments, fragments of text, links to external websites, videos, sounds, webcams are some of the scattered elements which constitute its fragmented mosaic.

**parole** acts as an open platform for information, discussion, archive, gathering of data, it is a place where much of the material included is directly provided by its users. As in a type of "Borgesian" dream it establishes a permanently fluid and unstable mapping of the actual urban condition throughout the world, looking at the variations and alterations in language and in the discourse of several different disciplines. Neologisms, slang terms, theories, utopic projects, nicknames attributed

to specific sites, urbanism, architecture, anthropology, and contemporary art are some of the multiple material included in *parole*. As its nature is permanently unstable and deprived of any hierarchy, *parole* is subject to shifts and alterations towards directions which are actually unpredictable.

In occasion of its different presentations within



**Dirigible Instant City**

localized conditions, such as a museum or a gallery space, we have tried to accomplish a certain degree of interaction with the context, in order to allow the project to present a direct vision of the condition of the contemporary city in its permanent state of change.

<http://parole.aporee.org>



A project of gruppo A12 (Italy), Udo Noll (Germany) and Peter Scupelli (USA/Italy)





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## Mobility Nodes as Innovation Hubs

### 13th International Conference on Urban Planning and Regional Development in the Information Society

By *Manfred Schrenk* and *Christa Kranzl*

Last year is the first time half the world's population lived in cities. For the year 2025, it is estimated that 6 billion people



or 70 percent of the world's population will live in cities. In order to offer city dwellers across the globe the possibility to live together under humane and peaceful conditions and to support the individual development possibilities as well as the economy and the standard of living, future-oriented planning of transportation systems and infrastructure is needed.

To this end, both planning and city administration rely on the most modern technologies for "comprehensive and future-oriented city management" to overcome the

complexities.

Cities are the biggest and most complicated invented of mankind. They are important places for creativity and innovation as well as for tolerance and solidarity in the Information and Knowledge Society more than ever. The question of sustainability for our planet will be decided in the cities.



In places where many people come together, information and knowledge is exchanged and new ideas are created. Airports, train stations and freeway rest areas are not only transportation hubs, but rapidly develop as innovation hubs because:

- ❖ Many people with different needs and ideas interact and take new ideas into the world;
- ❖ The reliable functioning of such hubs has to be ensured so they can foster technical

*(Continued on page 10)*

CORP - Competence Center of Urban and Regional Planning, Association for Promotion and Research of Urban Planning and Regional Development in the Information Society.

CORP activities are not-for-profit and are aimed at studying, supporting, developing, promoting and consulting on spatially relevant issues related to the fields of urban planning and development, regional planning and politics, urban and environmental technologies, sustainable development and environmental protection, geo-information and geo-data infrastructures, cultural heritage, information society and knowledge society.

The association is a union of physical and legal persons from the areas of economics, science and government who are jointly interested in the interdisciplinary further development of knowledge and promotion thereof in the aforementioned fields. A central issue is the close interconnection of science and research with the economy and government whereby the independence of science and research stands at the forefront.

The association seeks close and comprehensive collaboration with similar organizations and institutions. It represents the discipline of spatial planning and all the previously stated fields in international conferences and professional organizations.

CORP conferences have been held annually since 1996 and are now among Europe's major congresses for presenting themes on Urban Development and Information Society.

[www.corp.at](http://www.corp.at)

(Continued from page 9)

- development
- ❖ Urban and transportation planning, architecture and real estate development face special challenges

Transportation hubs rapidly develop as business centers, "airport cities" are noteworthy examples of this development.

Since the critical infrastructure must function reliably even under peak loads and loads are always rising, the transportation hubs can be



construed as drivers of technical progress that is constantly on the search for better and more reliable solutions.

Transportation hubs also often go hand-in-hand with notable burdens for their neighbors and the surrounding environment whereby those who profit and those who bear the burden often are not the same group of people. One party is interested in a constant expansion of the transportation infrastructure and better access to appease their mobility needs and economic interests, the other sees increasing burdens on their residential areas

and places of work for which they are not getting any compensation. At the same time, it appears that every improvement to the higher level infrastructure only draws with it increased transit and additional burden for the entire network.

REAL CORP 2008 focused on the mobility hubs of the 21st Century.

- ❖ How can the role of transport hubs as innovation hubs be improved?
- ❖ Which technologies ensure the reliable functioning of the hubs and where is further



improvement needed?

- ❖ How can anticipatory planning ensure the sustainable development of those structures?
- ❖ How can unintentional spatial development be avoided?
- ❖ How can environmental issues be dealt with?

Proceedings and papers from past conferences are available at:

[www.corp.at](http://www.corp.at)





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**International Planning Organizations**

<http://www.trafford.com/05-0917>



# How do I work as a planner overseas?

By Ric Stephens

**H**ow do you work as a planner overseas? Here is a brief guide to helping you decide on a program that is best suited for you.

## Who would you like to work with/for?

- **Educational Institution** – Join a university, institute, or college that has overseas programs.
- **Exchange Programs** – Join an exchange program that matches planners between countries for extended periods. APA has organized exchange programs with the United Kingdom.
- **Grants** – Obtain a grant for an international project or program.
- **International Contacts** – Contract directly with an overseas organization to provide planning services.
- **NGO** – Join a non-governmental organization that sends staff overseas.
- **Private Sector** – Join a private firm that sends employees overseas. You will need to research companies that have overseas projects or offices.
- **Planning Organization** – Join an international or multi-national organization that has international programs/events. ISOCARP, IFHP and INTA are some examples.
- **Public Sector** – Join an agency that sends staff overseas. There are numerous agencies that have international staff: USAID, UNDP are some examples.
- **Independent Research** – Study a topic overseas and publish or present findings and recommendations.

## What kind of experience do you wish to have?

- Do you wish to have structured visit or full immersion?

- Are your interests cultural or natural?
- At what level do you wish to engage with international citizens?

## Where do you wish to work?

- Do you wish to work in a developing or developed country?
- Do you wish to work in natural or urban environment?
- Do you wish to work in a conflict or stable environment?

## When do you want to go and return?

- Select an approach that matches your commitment to stay in that country.
- Determine visa and work permit requirements.
- Balance overseas work with other commitments.

## How can you prepare?

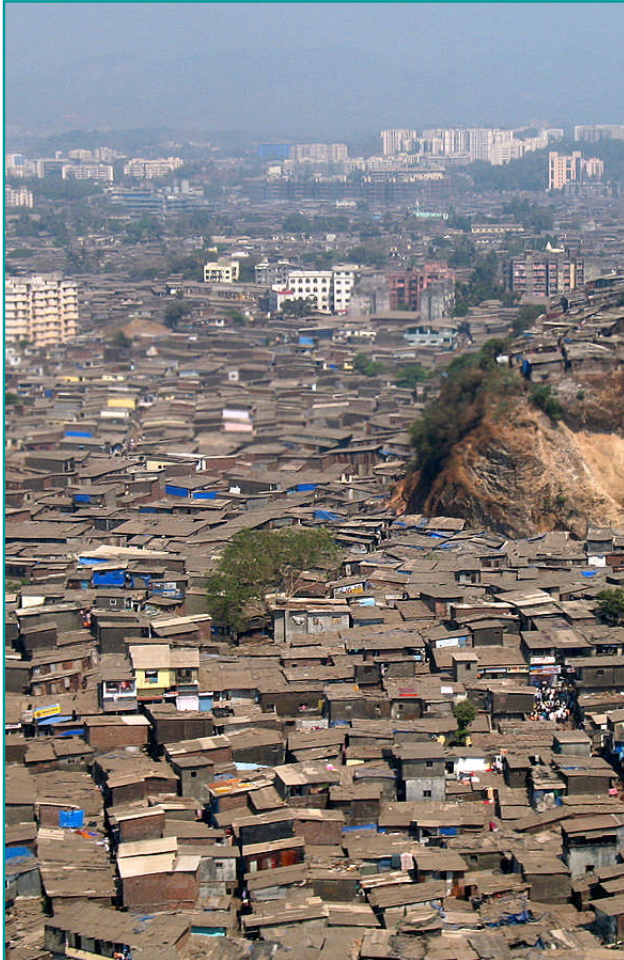
- Refine and develop **expertise/experience** relevant to the overseas project/program.
- **Learn** about the country/countries planning practices, culture and language.
- **Network** with your organization and overseas counterparts.

## Why do you want to go?

Your ability to make an international experience memorable and meaningful will be determined by how you answer these questions. If you are willing to invest the time, money and effort required, your experience can even be transforming.



**Please share your international planning experiences.** Ric Stephens is the co-editor for *INTERPLAN* and Principal for Stephens Planning & Design in Beaverton, Oregon.



**Mumbai, India**



## 2008 Grants Recipients Announced

**C**ongratulations to 2008 International Division grant recipients **Alexis Faraci**, **Michael Hooper** and **Michael Gove**. Each will receive \$500 in a Division grant to further their studies in international planning.

Alexis will conduct slum research in Mumbai, India. Michael Hooper is gathering social movement research in Dar Es Salaam and Michael Gove will focus on water resources research with UNESCO in Paris. Watch for upcoming reports from each on their activities in future issues of *INTERPLAN*.

**W**e annually award **THREE (3) US\$500** grants to undergraduate or graduate students pursuing a study abroad program, doing research, or participating in an international internship program approved by their School or Department. Our program is relatively flexible recognizing the varied needs that many students have for assistance. Applications are now being accepted for the 2009 funding round of this program.

Full grant details are on the APAID website at: [www.planning.org/international/grants.htm](http://www.planning.org/international/grants.htm)  
Please contact Chris Kemper for clarification or if you need additional information.

*Congratulations and our best wishes to you in your worthy endeavors.*



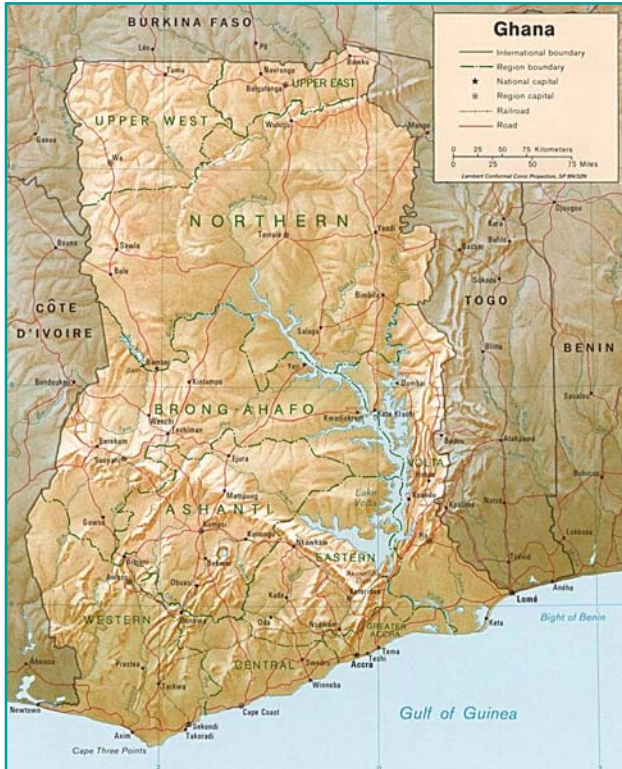
## APA-ID Exchange Program Task Force Launched

**A**PA's International Division announces the launching of the APA-ID Exchange Program Task Force. The task force will conduct a review during 2008-2009 of existing international professional exchange programs (including the International Division's exchange program) and the relationship with other APA related initiatives, such as the Global Planner's Network; consider existing and emerging needs and interests of division members as they relate to professional development in an international context, and provide recommendations regarding the future scope, funding needs and long-term goals of the division's professional exchange program.

Many thanks to Division members **Matt Flynn** and **Dale Medearis** for agreeing to co-chair this important effort. Stay tuned for updates on the task force's activities in upcoming issues of *INTERPLAN*.







**Ghana, Africa**  
(Map from Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations)



By Kojo Fordjour

It is a matter of priority for the government of Ghana to provide adequate support and collaborate with the bilateral and international organizations, private and non-profit organizations, KNUST and Ghana Institute of Planners (GIP) to restructure the planning system in Ghana. On Thursday, December 20, 2007, the President of Ghana inaugurated the Local Government, charged to develop appropriate and adequate capacity in the enforcement of local government by-laws; environmental management and waste management; land use planning; and revenue mobilization. The program will deploy or transfer 3,000 current civil service personnel to work in the Local Government Services. The local government system was established in the 1992 constitution of Ghana to decentralize government services and to involve residents in decision-making at the local level. This is the area where American Planning Association (APA) can play a major role as the world's most experienced educational organization in planning. APA recent experiences in China, Mexico and Central America demonstrate its global recognition and influence. APA will have no language barrier in Ghana because English is the official language, and there will be no need for translation.

GIP and other Ghanaian planning bodies participated, for the first time, in the celebration of the World Town Planning Day on November 8, 2007 by hosting planning conference and appearing on media talk

show to articulate the role of planning in Ghana's Vision 2015 to attain a middle class status. GIP has expressed interest in attending and participating in APA National and other conferences and training sessions in 2008.

APA sees it as both moral and practical to advance the cause of good planning and the interests of its membership. Recruiting American planning expertise and students to work in Ghana to develop the capacity of the Ghanaian planners, District, Municipal and local government officials; and KNUST students is proposed as the core of the APA Ghana Exchange program.

Key components of the program include:

### International Exchange and Study Tour

The study tour will take the APA and students to cities, countryside, tourist sites, planning and government offices and KNUST to observe, ask questions, and take good notes. It will be a very rewarding experience for the APA member. It is an opportunity to learn how and why things are done the way they are done in Ghana, and recommend solutions. It is an opportunity for the American planning students to identify thesis topics and student counterparts in Ghana to collaborate with. GIP, Ghanaian planners and local government officials and staff may be invited to participate in APA conferences where they may share their planning experience in Ghana and learn about planning in the USA.

(Continued on page 14)



**Ghana National Arms**  
[Coat of Arms courtesy Ghana People and Places]



(Continued from page 13)

## Training Courses

The Ejisu Visioning project is a good model to start with as a field based learning. Develop short sandwich courses and workshops jointly for planning professionals and metropolitan assemblies. APA, GIP and KNUST may establish a joint African Center for Planning and Community Development in Ghana to champion and promote good planning in Africa. A list of potential training topics is attached.

## Technical Assistance and promotion of American private sector planning and design firms

Bring more American planning consultants into contact with Ghanaian leaders and organizations. Also working side by side with the Ghanaian planners, APA will impact knowledge, skills and good planning practices to the GIP counterparts. The American planning consultants have great opportunity to be involved in the successful implementation of US government funded poverty reduction programs and community development projects in Ghana. Ghana has received over \$500 million to reduce poverty from US Millennium Challenge Account, and other community development initiatives from the American government.

## Mentorship

The GIP has struggled in the past ten years as an active professional organization. Therefore, it does not have much visibility in the national planning and community development arena. APA will mentor GIP to be effective planning organization by helping build its membership and develop educational programs for them. GIP members may job shadow APA members

in the USA by working with an American planning agency or consultant, by attending conferences, and professional development tours in both public and private sectors in the USA.

## Benefit to APA:

- ❖ Opportunities to apply knowledge and skills in Africa.
- ❖ Exposure to new perspectives and encouragement to rethink American planners' assumptions about planning practices.
- ❖ Experience daily lives of Ghanaians.
- ❖ Research and publication opportunities for American planners and universities.
- ❖ Professional development and rejuvenation
- ❖ Humanitarian reasons. To provide resources, knowledge, or training to areas of the world that is the least fortunate and desperate.
- ❖ Positive Image. It contributes to the positive image of APA and its prestige as a dynamic institution dedicated to excellence in urban and regional planning.
- ❖ Global Influence. APA will apply its experience and expertise to influence issues of greater impacts such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, poverty, cultural conservation, heritage, social equity and environmental protection.



*This report is provided to the APA-ID by grant recipient Kojo Fordjour fordjour@msn.com.*





**Terra Cotta Warriors, China**  
[Photo courtesy APA]



**Orvieto, Italy**  
[Photo courtesy Planning Commissioners Journal]



## APA China Tour

China's Ancient Capitals  
October 21–30, 2008

### Exclusive Access to Rarely Seen Sites

A rare look at ancient city plans at the National Library of China. A sneak-peek at new archeological findings at the tomb of the terra cotta warriors. A talk with the chief engineer of the national historic preservation organization. **APA's tour of China offers a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see China as only heads of state see it.**

- ❖ 10 days in China with guides who know planning
- ❖ Insiders explain the ins and outs of planning in China
- ❖ Discuss the latest trends and challenges with Chinese officials
- ❖ See China's ancient capitals from a planner's perspective
- ❖ Enjoy traditional Chinese meals and top-notch hotels
- ❖ Visit famous landmarks and lesser-known — but spectacular — attractions

Through its China Program, APA has been working for years to develop fruitful relationships among American planners, their Chinese counterparts, and Chinese decision makers in government and business. Those connections have helped us put together a tour like no other with access to exclusive sites and elite scholars and officials. Extend your stay and attend the Global Planners Network Congress in Zhenjiang and the World Urban Forum in Nanjing.

**Global Planners Network Congress**, Zhenjiang  
October 31–November 2, 2008  
**World Urban Forum**, Nanjing  
November 3–7, 2008



## Italian Placemaking Trip

May 31–June 6, 2009

The Planning Commissioners Journal is teaming up with Adventures in Italy for a Place Making trip to Orvieto, Italy, next Spring. Sitting 700 feet above the Umbrian valley, Orvieto is rich in Etruscan, medieval, and Renaissance history and architecture. The flat hilltop provides both easy walking and amazing vistas. Orvieto is renowned for both its wine and olive oil -- and it boasts what is arguably the best Gothic cathedral in Italy. Join the staff of the Planning Commissioners Journal as we:

- ❖ Discover how this small city applied urban planning principles to create its extraordinary public realm, while savoring Italian food, wine and culture.
- ❖ Gain the insiders perspective by meeting face-to-face with the people guiding Orvieto in maintaining and enhancing its superb people-friendly environment.
- ❖ Investigate CittaSlow, the international Slow Cities movement headquartered in Orvieto, which focuses on improving the quality of life through a local economy, excellence in the physical and natural environment, and by welcoming outsiders.
- ❖ Observe and document the qualities that make dynamic "people places."
- ❖ Relax at the end of each day, and enjoy conversations with fellow planners and their companions. We'll share insights and reflect on how each days' discoveries can be applied in our own communities.

Interested? Receive more information by calling our office: (802) 864-9083.





AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION  
INTERNATIONAL DIVISION  
**Membership Application**

☐ I would like to join the APA International Division

Name

Address

Telephone

Email

- ☐ APA Member \$25  
☐ Non-Member \$45  
☐ Student \$10

- ☐ Check enclosed payable to APA (US\$)  
☐ Charge my MasterCard/VISA

Signature

Card Number

Expiration Date

Mail to:

**International Division**  
American Planning Association  
122 S. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1600  
Chicago IL 60603 USA  
Tel +1 (312) 431-9100

## International Planning Events



2008 July 9-11  
**Royal Town Planning Institute  
2008 Planning Convention**  
"Changing Places: Changing  
World"  
**London, United Kingdom**  
[www.rtpi.org.uk](http://www.rtpi.org.uk)



2008 July 13-16  
**Canadian Institute of Planners  
2008 Annual Conference**  
"Planning by Design in  
Community: Making Great  
Places"  
**Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada**  
[www.cip-icu.ca](http://www.cip-icu.ca)



2008 September 19-23  
**44th International Planning  
Congress**  
"Urban Growth Without Sprawl: A  
Way Towards Sustainable  
Urbanization"  
**Dalian, China**  
Urban Planning Society of China  
International Society of City and  
Regional Planners (ISOCARP)  
[www.isocarp.org](http://www.isocarp.org)



2008 October 12-15  
**52nd IFHP World Congress**  
"Housing Beyond Its Walls:  
Planning for an Affordable and  
Sustainable Habitat"  
**San Juan, Puerto Rico**  
International Federation of  
Housing and Planning (IFHP)  
[www.ifhp.org](http://www.ifhp.org)



2008 October 27-30  
**ULI Fall Meeting and Urban  
Land Expo**  
**Miami, Florida USA**  
ULI—the Urban Land Institute  
[www.uli.org](http://www.uli.org)



2008 October 26-29  
**INTA 32 World Urban  
Development Congress**  
**Riga, Latvia**  
INTA—The International Urban  
Development Association  
[www.inta-aivn.org](http://www.inta-aivn.org)



2008 November 8  
**World Town Planning Day**  
[worldwide]  
[www.planning.org/  
worldtown/index.htm](http://www.planning.org/worldtown/index.htm)



2009 April 25-29  
**American Planning  
Association 2009 Annual  
Conference**  
**Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA**  
[www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org)



2009 September 5-9  
**53rd IFHP World Congress**  
"Urban Technology: Climate  
Change and Energy Efficiency"  
**Berlin, Germany**  
International Federation of  
Housing and Planning (IFHP)  
[www.ifhp.org](http://www.ifhp.org)