

INTERPLAN

GREEN COMMUNITIES EXCHANGE

Get Involved in a US-German Initiative to Share Best Planning Practices Across the Atlantic

By **Andreas Koenig**

When speaking to urban planners and economic development agencies on both sides of the Atlantic, it quickly becomes obvious that all are puzzled by the same question: how to solve the increasingly complex issues associated with urbanization, climate change, industrial restructuring and crumbling infrastructure. In short: how to find new, workable concepts and solutions to make cities and rural communities ready for the future.

The discussions are similar, albeit under different headings. Green Cities, Green Buildings and Smart Growth are the keywords in the US, whereas in Germany and other parts of Europe terms like

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Green Building: Garden City Margaretenhöhe in Essen, Germany



Minimizing the use of cars: green tramway in Freiburg, Germany



Best practice for Green City design: Rieselfeld Quarter in Freiburg, Germany

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sustainable urban development, ecological construction and Local Agenda 21 describe the search for urban innovation and sustainability.

Why an exchange?

Both in Germany and the US a number of communities, regions and agencies are working on similar approaches on reshaping the urban-industrial landscape. A number of implemented projects can be regarded as best practice, examples that could and should be replicated. Thus the idea was born to bring practitioners from Germany and the US together to share their experience on policy development and “how-to” solutions.

The German-US Green Communities Exchange for Best Practice in Urban-Industrial

Editors' Note

INTERPLAN Readers,

It's been tremendously rewarding for us to be the editors of InterPlan. But, this will be our last issue working on the newsletter. If you're interested in taking on this role, please e-mail interplannews@gmail.com and we can fill you in on details.

Also, don't forget to attend the APA National Conference in Las Vegas from April 27-May 1, 2008! For more information, check out: www.planning.org/nationalconference/.

The International Division has organized two sessions: “Lessons from Germany's Green Communities” (Apr. 29, 4:30 pm) and “Sweden's Approach to Eco-Municipalities” (May 1, 8:00 am). Plus, we'll have a division meeting, meet-and-greet and inaugurate the new International Division officers!

Tracy Sayegh and Michael Sabel

dustrial Development provides a platform for planners, policy makers and managers to share their experience and concerns on common ideas, approaches, concepts and tools of sustainable practice. The exchange highlights implemented projects from both countries that have been proven successful and have multiple lessons-learned. Through site visits and partner workshops participants will meet their counterparts at the city and regional level to share not only what has been built but how the projects were implemented within their administrative and social setting, and most of all, what barriers to development needed to be overcome.

Sharing Best Practice

Inner-city redevelopment, job security, green building concepts and high standard but affordable housing are some of the current issues, but they are hardly new. Back in the early 1900s, the Garden City Movement addressed most if not all of these issues in a comprehensive way. The Garden City Margaretenhöhe in Essen, one of the old industrial centers in Germany, was built between 1909 and 1920 as the first complete example of what we would today call a sustainable city. Sponsor and promoter of the concept

was Margarethe Krupp, wife of Friedrich Krupp, the steel magnate. This Garden City has survived a century of change and today is regarded as an example of high-quality urban planning in the center of Germany's largest industrial district.

A more recent and internationally well-known example for sustainable city planning is the city of Freiburg, nestled at the foot of the Black Forest mountains. Known for its comprehensive transport system and dubbed “Solar City” due to a concentration of solar projects, research and a zero emission solar factory, Freiburg also hosts two brownfield redevelopment sites that have been turned into very attractive housing and mixed commercial quarters. Vauban, one of the projects, was developed on a former military base and features a variety of zero emission housing and integrated transport development, a bounty of lessons for urban planners. Another recent project that integrated both technological and policy approaches is Munich – Riem, also called Trade Fair City as it hosts the new Munich trade fair complex. Riem is a completely new suburb that is being built on the redeveloped grounds of the former Munich airport.

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NOTES FROM ABROAD

UN-HABITAT: A Critically Important Organization (Even with its Problems)

By Jennifer Venema, Recipient
APA International Division Scholarship

During my time as a UN-HABITAT intern in Kenya, I asked my fellow interns about their experiences and impressions of the organization. Their answers were varied yet a significant number offered a common insight: while UN-HABITAT is a huge and sometimes inefficient organization, unable to implement its own proposals, in totality, it is the best the world has for the work it does.

UN-HABITAT is in a unique position. Though critics may charge it with uselessness and futility in that it offers knowledge and policy no one can actually implement, UN-HABITAT's mission is not solely implementation. Rather, the organization also strives to "promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all." As a massive global organization, UN-HABITAT is uniquely oriented to monitor and evaluate global trends, produce insights, and guide and instruct policy making. Its ability to implement its knowledge may be hampered by the practicalities of being huge bureaucracy, but it is singularly poised to initiate dia-

logue on issues of human settlements and cities that are of global concern.

In the context of the Millennium Development Goals, commitments made by all UN Member States, UN-HABITAT is mandated to achieve Target 11 of Goal 7 to improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020. UN-HABITAT is working towards this by monitoring trends, facilitating dialogue, financing projects and creating partnerships. It emphasizes the importance of partnerships and of empowering civil society and governments to play a positive role in issues pertaining to human settlements. It works to create resources that others can rely on and utilize to their benefit. In a sense, it creates knowledge and tools that are a collective good and of benefit to many, which very few, if any, are either motivated or equipped to produce independently. And while this alone is not sufficient to solve all the problems facing cities today, it is a critical start.

One unique value of UN-HABITAT is its neutrality. Poised as it is outside of the direct influence of any national government, UN-HABITAT it is better able to address issues that may otherwise be avoided due



to their political sensitivity. It can address issues of forced evictions and provide a forum through which to understand and criticize issues outside of the local and national context, which is especially useful if it is the local or national government that is violating a community's right to secure housing. It also works to empower local actors. For instance, the Urban Observatory global network was created by UN-HABITAT to help empower local and national actors to gather data to monitor urban trends. The Global Urban Observatory (GUO) of UN-HABITAT then assists with facilitation and technological assistance. By increasing the capacity to gather information about cities, these observatories will equip local decision-makers in their ability to plan for their cities.

I interned with, GUO, a division of the Monitoring and Research Division of UN-HABITAT, which is specifically entrusted with generating knowledge and monitoring trends to assist governments and civil society in creating better cities. I conducted research in several areas. The last stage of my internship involved research of intra-city inequalities. Many international financial institutions define poverty solely as a measure of income, but the GUO is attempting to depict that poverty needs to be defined as a much broader concept in

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At Left: Sewage flows directly into the river that runs through Mathare. At Right: View of Mathare, including MCEDO school. Trash-strewn hill in foreground is used by children to defecate (since they have little other option).



Clean Power: Geothermal Power for Munich-Riem, Germany

GREEN COMMUNITIES EXCHANGE

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A set of permitting tools called ecological building blocks and a wide application of geothermal energy, sustainable design features, along with an integrated urban concept make this development unique in Germany.

In the US, Devens in north central Massachusetts, a former army base that calls itself a Sustainable Community, is a partner in the exchange. By applying eco-industrial development principles and embedding sustainable development into its Reuse Plan, Devens has become a poster child for successful base redevelopment.

Another example for integrating different approaches literary under one roof is the Phillips Eco-Enterprise Center in Minneapolis, a showcase of green building technologies and sustainable design for a commercial building and the first of it's kind in the US. The center is only the visible part of a broader initiative by the city and the State of Minnesota to promote the efficient use of resources and create livable neighborhoods.

Aside from these highlights, an increasing number of cities and regions are sharing their project insights and are engaging in the initiative. Presently involved in preparing the exchange are Boston, Minneapolis, Pasadena, Northern Virginia/Arlington, Devens, State of Minnesota, Freiburg, Munich, Regional Association of Stuttgart, Bottrop/Ruhr District, and the State of Schleswig Holstein.

Who benefits and how?

The initiative is designed to bring together urban and regional planners, decision makers and economic development managers with common interests. The exchange of knowledge is facilitated through information visits and workshops in both countries, highlighting both planning procedures and technical solutions. Participants will learn from their peers how similar problems are approached in different regulatory and cultural settings. The best practice cases will be documented and available through EPA's SMARTe and similar planning-related web sites and APA publications.

A 10-day visit by American planners to Germany is planned for September 2008. A German delegation will participate in the International Divi-

sion-sponsored session "Lessons from Germany's Green Communities" scheduled for the APA National Conference this April in Las Vegas. Participating cities will cover their own travel and accommodation, while hosting cities will handle local transportation, workshops and related costs. The organizers are presently seeking additional funds for documentation and continuing program support.

Are you interested in sharing best planning practices with colleagues in Europe? Would YOU like to get involved in the program? For more details and a full program itinerary please contact:

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Lowitt@Massdevelopment.com or
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Andreas Koenig is an environmental planner living near Frankfurt, Germany. As a consultant for sustainable development in the urban-industrial sector, he works with international clients on eco-industrial park initiatives and technology transfer. He is the author of the Eco-Industrial Park Development Guideline for Local Government.

A Visioning Project in Ejisu, Ghana

By Kojo Fordjour

Between July 4 and 22, 2007, I traveled to the west African country of Ghana to organize a community development and visioning project for the town of Ejisu. The Ejisu Visioning Project was developed in partnership with the Planning and Land Economy Department at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). The Washington Chapter of the American Planning Association (WAPA) provided financial support for the project which offered planning students at the university a summer school option. The Ejisu Visioning Project was designed as a pilot project to serve as a basis for other communities to work with the university to develop their visions for future comprehensive land use and development plans.

Ejisu is the capital town of Ejisu-Juabeng District in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. The total land area of Ejisu-Juabeng District is approximately 1,000 (678 Km²) square miles with a population of approximately 130,000 people. Ejisu has several assets and locational advantages that provide a potential platform for developing a vibrant economy and creating an attractive, livable community. It has railway access and an inland port linking it to all parts of Ghana. Ejisu is also bisected by the main Accra–Kumasi Highway (N6). Due to the climate and abundant land, Ejisu-Juabeng District can support large scale agriculture. Ejisu, like many small towns and villages in Ghana, relies on tourism and farming to sustain its economy. There are dramatic disparities between metropolitan areas and the poor neighboring small towns and villages, like Ejisu, and the economic situation was a primary impetus for the visioning project.

The objectives of the project were to create civic engagement opportunities for practicing planners and citizens interested in equity in community development. It placed the students into direct contact with the problems of the poor communities and prepared the students to be committed public citizens and leaders who take active roles in building stronger livable commu-

nities and societies upon graduation. Ejisu residents were invited to a community meeting through public service announcements during community events such as church services, funerals, and market days. The first meeting with the community on July 8, 2007 attracted over 50 people including dignitaries from the community. I delivered an introductory presentation and key invited dignitaries, including the Ghanaian Minister of Foreign Affairs, made remarks in support of the project.

The KNUST students underwent intensive training and class exercises in vision development and meeting facilitation for two and half weeks to prepare them to facilitate the community visioning process. They also went on a field trip to assess current conditions of Ejisu and interviewed residents.

A second community meeting held on July 15, 2007 was a workshop with three focus groups of about fifteen community members each. The focus groups categories were Social Development, Economic Development, and Environmental Protection. The third and final community meeting took place on July 22, 2007 to present the final draft vision statement to the community at large. Representing the town leadership were Nana Osei Kofi, Paramount Chief of Ejisu; Mr. Asiedu, District Coordinating Director; and Mr. Osei Poku, District Director, Coordinating Council for Civil Society.

The participatory process led to this final Vision Statement:

The people of Ejisu are unified in working in collaboration with our leadership in chieftaincy and government as a model district capital. By so doing Ejisu will:

- Become a safe place to live at all times with high quality of life for its residents.
- Ensure a diversified economy that promotes investment; wealth creation; employment; and local revenue generation.
- Develop a comprehensive land use plan for sustainable development that creates a healthy and beautiful environment.

The Ejisu Visioning Process has given Ejisu residents a starting point. It is a way to empower residents to be involved in the planning of their communities. Projects that have been completed, initiated or planned include:

- Rehabilitation of Toilets by Ejisu Development Association based in the USA.
- Establishment of a Conservation Corps in Ghana.
- Student Exchange program between USA planning schools and KNUST.
- An Easter Convention fundraiser to be held in Ejisu, Ghana in March 2008.

Organizational and institutional support is needed to sustain the project. Future plans include securing funding to follow-up and replicate the effort in other communities; making the program a permanent part of university planning education; and developing a student exchange between Ghana and USA planning students.

Kwadwo (Kojo) Fordjour, AICP, is currently an environmental and permitting manager at Washington State Ferries, Washington Department of Transportation in Seattle. He came to the United States from Ghana in 1980. For additional information, a presentation to groups or a copy of the complete Ejisu Vision Plan, contact Kojo at (206) 234-1624 or e-mail at fordjourk@msn.com. Donations and financial support are needed for the next phase of the project and to sustain it.



Celebrating Cultural and Natural Features with Community Design: The Zuid Rijswijk Urban Task Force

By Marc Jacobs and Ric Stephens

ISOCARP URBAN TASK FORCE

The International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP www.isocarp.org) is a non-governmental organization, recognized by the United Nations and the Council of Europe and with a consultative status with UNESCO. The Urban Task Force (UTF) program focuses the expertise and experience of a select team of ISOCARP planners, architects and urban designers to provide guidance on challenging community-based projects. The timeframe is intense—less than a week to prepare community design recommendations. In addition to the team's skill, the UTF provides new and innovative perspectives. In June 2007, the City of Rijswijk, Netherlands sponsored an Urban Task Force to study and make recommendations for a unique and challenging project.

RIJSWIJK

Rijswijk is an historical, midsized city with a population of 47,000 within The Hague agglomeration. The City Council invited ISOCARP to send an Urban Task Force to study and prepare recommendations for a 240-hectare (600-acre) site known as Rijswijk Zuid (South Rijswijk). This area is part of a plan from the Dutch policy preventing urban areas from growing together in the 1970's. Between the urban areas of Rijswijk and Delft, there currently remains a buffer zone: Rijswijk Zuid. Nevertheless, instead of being an ecologic, or recreational area, like most other buffer zones, this area has grown into a regional spill-over area. At present the area includes a hazardous material research site (biological and chemical development, explosives and viral diseases), greenhouses, sewage facilities, community gardens, residential development and parkland (formerly a garbage dump).

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

Starting in the mid 1990's, the Dutch Government set new standards for safety, resulting in the necessary relocation of the hazmat research facility. Also, the green-

houses have become too small from an economic point of view. So, based on the already changing functions in the area, the City of Rijswijk began the planning process in 2007. Several primary questions are related to this site:

1. Program – What new functions should the area contain given its location and assets?
2. Integration – How should this area relate to the proposed adjacent motorway and neighboring City of Delft?
3. Urban Design – What form should the urban design take for this area? Typical polder morphology? 1950s modernism? 1990s Vinex? New trends?
4. Geopolitical – Who do we engage with for the planning process?

UTF PROGRAM

The City consultants (TRPC and TAUW) provided a comprehensive report on existing conditions prior to the UTF meeting in Rijswijk. When the team assembled in Rijswijk, they met with various city officials of Rijswijk, The Hague and the neighboring City of Delft to discuss project opportunities and constraints. An extensive site visit and trips to related projects provided a visual context. The UTF drafted three community design principles as a planning foundation:

- Preserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage.
- Support a sustainable, healthy, safe and vibrant community.
- Create a diverse, innovative and unique sense of place.

The UTF then divided into two groups to explore separate scenarios that addressed these principles from different approaches. The goal was to provide city officials with two differing perspectives that explore a wider range of options than a single plan. The historic Sion Monastery inspired one group; the other applied Mondriaan's artistic patterns based on the Dutch grid landscape. The "Sion Park" concept created a historic/urban design transect from the ancient monastery site to the contem-

Rijswijk Zuid

International Society of City and Regional Planners
Urban Task Force 3-8 June 2007



Project Coordinator: Marc Jacobs
Team Leader: Ric Stephens
Team Members: James Baker, David Brown, Patrick Kuyper, Alex Meeuwse, Richard Oudkerk, Wim Olt, Muel van der Sluis, Hilde van der Sluis, Guy de Waard

porary community/transit center with a series of parterres (formal gardens). The "Mondriaan Tapestry" concept created a network of streets and canals matching the historic 15th century pattern set by the monastery. A traditional boulevard connects the monastery site with the community/transit center. Both plans created balanced communities with residential, commercial, civic, and recreation uses. The UTF prepared programs for both concepts as well as a series of elevations and site plans to illustrate the various concepts, completing two distinct concept plans in a three-day charrette. After a team critique of the scenarios, the UTF gave a presentation to the Rijswijk Mayor, Aldermen and other city officials at City Hall. A follow-up presentation was given to representatives from The Hague and Delft. The discussions centered on inter-governmental collaboration, infrastructure concurrency, and sense of place.

The UTF has provided the city of Rijswijk with recommendations and design concepts. It now has become clear the effect of the UTF has gone beyond that to meaningfully contribute to the regional

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dialogue about this area. In the months prior to the UTF's involvement there were basically two ongoing discussions about this planning area. First is the regional discussion on finding space for industrial activities in the region, in opposition to the Rijswijk attempts to develop the area for residential purposes. Second, within the Rijswijk Planning Department, the main focus has been about the numerous limitations in the area: safety zones, air quality and pollution zones and so on. The UTF more or less created an important shift in this planning process. It started a discussion about residential quality, about community and identity, about quality of planning and good urban and residential design.

THE FUTURE

The City is currently evaluating the scenarios, and will consider adopting some aspects of them in the future community design of Rijswijk Zuid. The UTF provided the following benefits:

- Forum to explore new perspectives and innovative community design concepts.
- Specific recommendations for programming and urban design.
- Foundation to expand inter-governmental and public communication and collaboration

A detailed report was prepared and presented at the International Planning Congress this September in Antwerp, Belgium: <http://www.isocarp.org/pub/events/congress/2007/index.htm>.

Project Coordinator **Marc Jacobs** marc@trpc.nl is the Principal Consultant with TRPC, based in The Hague, Netherlands. *Urban Task Force Team Leader* **Ric Stephens** ric.stephens@alphacommunity.com is the Community Design Manager for Alpha Community Development located in Beaverton and Gresham, Oregon. The UTF included Jacob Babarinde (Canada), David Guggenheim (Israel), Aykut Karaman (Turkey), Alex Macgregor (Scotland), Rachid Ouazzani (Morocco), Nira Sidi (Israel), and Marjolein Simon (Netherlands). Gijs Wolf [Wurck] and Johan van Alphen [TAUW] provided technical assistance. Special thanks to Mayor Ineke Van der Wel-Markerink, City of Rijswijk Aldermen, ISOcARP UTF Director Ismael Fernandez, and ISOcARP Executive Director Judy van Hemert.

NEWS FROM THE NINTH ASIAN URBANIZATION CONFERENCE



By George Pomeroy

With academics and practitioners from over twenty countries attending, the Ninth Asian Urbanization Conference took place in Chuncheon, South Korea from August 18-23, 2007. The conference, hosted jointly by the Kangwon National University (KNU) and Gangwon Regional Development Institute (GRDI), was held on the KNU campus and featured participants from Canada, China, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, The Netherlands, Turkey, Vietnam, and the United States.

Conference sponsors included the Asian Urban Research Association (AURA), the Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers, The University of Akron and Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, as well as the host institutions. The keynote address, "Asia's Urban Future," was delivered by Ashok K. Dutt and Frank J. Costa, both emeritus faculty from the University of Akron. The conference included field trips to Seoul (visiting new towns, the Cheonggye River restoration project, and the Insadong District) and the DMZ Unification Observatory.

In total, over 80 papers were presented. Representative and illustrative paper titles included "Hierarchical Network Strategies: An Agenda for Reciprocal Rural-Urban Linkages" (Khalil Kalantari, Tehran University), "Exploring the Spatial Structure of Innovative Activities in Korea" (Junho Jung, Kangwon National University), and "Commissioned Mural Art in Post-Colonial Hong Kong from 1997 to 2006" (Kong Ho, University of Pittsburgh at Bradford).

Planning is well underway for the Tenth Asian Urbanization Conference (<http://www.hku.hk/asia2009/>) to be held in August 2009 at the University of Hong Kong. Local Organizers are Anthony Gar-On Yeh (hdxugoy@hkucc.hku.hk) and Roger C.K. Chan (hrcucck@hkucc.hku.hk) of The Centre of Urban Planning and Environmental Management. The umbrella organization for organizing and sponsoring the Asian Urbanization Conferences is the Asian Urban Research Association (AURA).

For more information, please contact **George Pomeroy**, *Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania* (gmpome@ship.edu) or visit AURA's website at <http://webspaces.ship.edu/aura>.

Notes from Abroad: UN-HABITAT



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order to be an accurate measure. To address poverty solely by focusing on economic development will neglect the vast inequities that plague life in cities. Poverty should also be understood as access to infrastructure and services, in addition to other measures, such as quality of life indicators.

If nations simply focus on reducing poverty, overall measures of wealth may increase while masking the vast inequalities and deprivations that exist within society. A common theme that has connected all of my work is the importance of policy. Even in cities that lack a special economic prominence, such as Curitiba, policy can be creatively used to attempt to provide adequate infrastructure to all. It can also be used to manage constant growth that occurs over decades, ensuring that citizens have a relatively high quality of life. It can be used to attract industry and encourage economic growth, and it can be used to attempt to address inequalities and provide shelter for all. In my internship, all the issues of urbanization I have been researching come down in one way or another to policy. It is critical tool in the development

of cities, and can bring positive change or seemingly irreversible decline.

Through my experience working at UN-HABITAT, my understanding of planning has been broadened, and I have been able to learn about its application and impacts around the world. I am gaining more in depth knowledge about aspects of urbanization and its global variations, stimulating my thinking about the field. In short, I am being equipped as a planner in an increasingly globalized and interdependent world.

Jennifer Venema is an undergraduate student studying City & Regional Planning and Political Science at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo. In addition to her busy life in academics, she works as the Student Business Manager at her school's newspaper, the Mustang Daily. She is also involved in activities of the City & Regional Planning Department and the Mortar Board Honor Society. She returned from Nairobi, Kenya in August 2007 after finishing her internship at the Global Urban Observatory of UN-HABITAT. You can reach Jennifer at leonardo@calpoly.edu.

EVENTS CALENDAR

March 10-14, 2008
UN-HABITAT: African Regional Seminar on Participatory Budgeting
Durban, South Africa
www.unhabitat.org

April 27-May 1, 2008
APA 100th National Planning Conference
Las Vegas, Nevada
www.planning.org/nationalconference

May 19-21, 2008
13th International Conference on Urban Planning and Regional Development in the Information Society
Vienna, Austria
www.corp.at

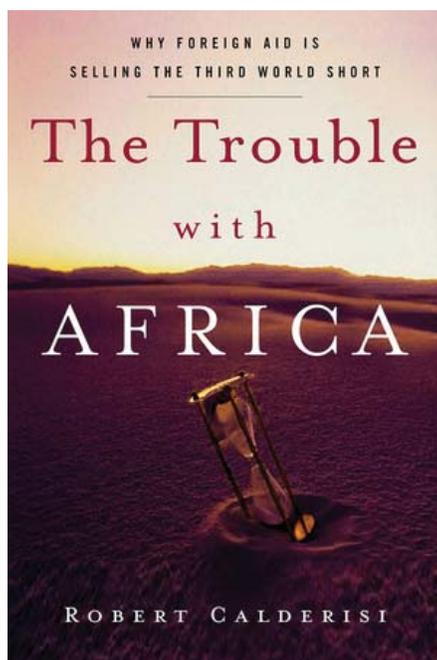
June 1-5, 2008
46th International Making Cities Livable Conference
"True Urbanism: Designing for Social & Physical Health"
plus an exhibit on "New Designs for Mixed-Use Urban Fabric"
Sante Fe, New Mexico
www.livablecities.org

July 10-13, 2008
13th International Planning History Conference
"Public Versus Private Planning: Themes, Trends, and Tensions"
Chicago, Illinois
www.dcp.ufl.edu/IPHS2008

BOOK REVIEW: “The Trouble with Africa: Why Foreign Aid Isn’t Working”

By Robert Calderisi

Review by Jeffery Crick



Robert Calderisi unleashes a warning on his readers at the beginning of his book *The Trouble with Africa: Why Foreign Aid Isn't Working*. He writes: “Some of the judgments in this book may seem severe, but none of them exceeds the restlessness and disbelief that many Africans have expressed to me over the years.” Calderisi sees numerous hurdles as afflicting African development and growth. As planners working in the U.S., some of these issues are familiar. We face political obstacles, funding issues, and many unforeseen troubles along the way. But, development and planning in Africa is further fraught with additional serious, seemingly insurmountable barriers. How do you plan for a community that is stricken with extreme poverty? What if that community is in a remote part of your nation and the government is riddled with corruption?

In Calderisi’s book—part memoir, part forthright analysis—he provides many insights from his years in Africa with the World Bank and the Canadian government. He also offers his views on how to alleviate the persistent problems the continent faces today.

The first part of *The Trouble with Africa* is simply a story narrative. Written jointly as a biography of his time there, Calderisi also provides real-life tales of some of the complications that are prevalent in the political and social realities of the continent. Through interesting, yet telling stories about his many exchanges, he begins to provide the reader with an anecdotal understanding of international development efforts in Africa.

Building upon this foundation, the second part reads like case studies of African nations that he became familiar with through his time at the World Bank. Here, Calderisi sharply shows the multitude of factors that can complicate many of the policies that the international community has attempted to stipulate during his years of service. Using examples such as African socialism in Tanzania and a decisive timeline of the once stable Ivory Coast (now Côte d’Ivoire), Calderisi shows the difficulties in administering foreign aid and the shortcomings of the policies designed to regulate it. However, he still finds hope in the desire, drive, and ingenuity of the people he’s come across in Africa to make their environments better.

Calderisi pulls no punches in the final and most striking part of his book where he provides his own answers to the culmination of problems he has presented. He pinpoints some deep, insightful recommendations, and some that strike as common sense. Prescribing some original concepts, and reintroducing others that have been considered fringe by the international aid community, Calderisi outlines both simple and complex measures that he believes will yield more effective results.

One of the shortcomings of Calderisi’s book is the brevity in his solutions. Outlined in short paragraphs, his recommendations for tackling important issues are light on strategies to implement them. Some of his suggested ‘fringe’ points seem rather straight-forward in their ability to be implemented; however, others seem disjointed in the applicability. Also

noticeably missing is a broader mention of pan-African bodies and their role in administering and addressing some of these development tribulations.

Calderisi writes in a manner that is biographical about his career, while at the same time lacing the history and events of Africa into the same narrative. His timely inclusion of stories and experiences provide the thoughtful insights that can only come from someone with the breadth of experience and lengthy career in development policy on the continent. The writing is crisp and neatly presents the author’s illustrations, helping create a book that both relays the history of development aid, while also highlighting some of the historical and modern problems that have plagued development and distribution.

This text is an excellent read for people trying to understand the highly complex dynamic of international aid programs in Africa. Also, many of the straightforward interventions he presents are refreshing solutions to problems that are constantly projected as too complex for simple solutions. Throughout the book there is a strong undercurrent of the difficulties Africa faces, but Calderisi poignantly reminds us all, “The difficulty of providing effective aid is not a reason for not trying.”

Jeff Crick is currently a City Planner with the City of Columbia, South Carolina. He graduated from the University of Kansas with a Masters Degree in Urban Planning this past May. Feel free to contact him at jscrick@gmail.com with any comments or questions.

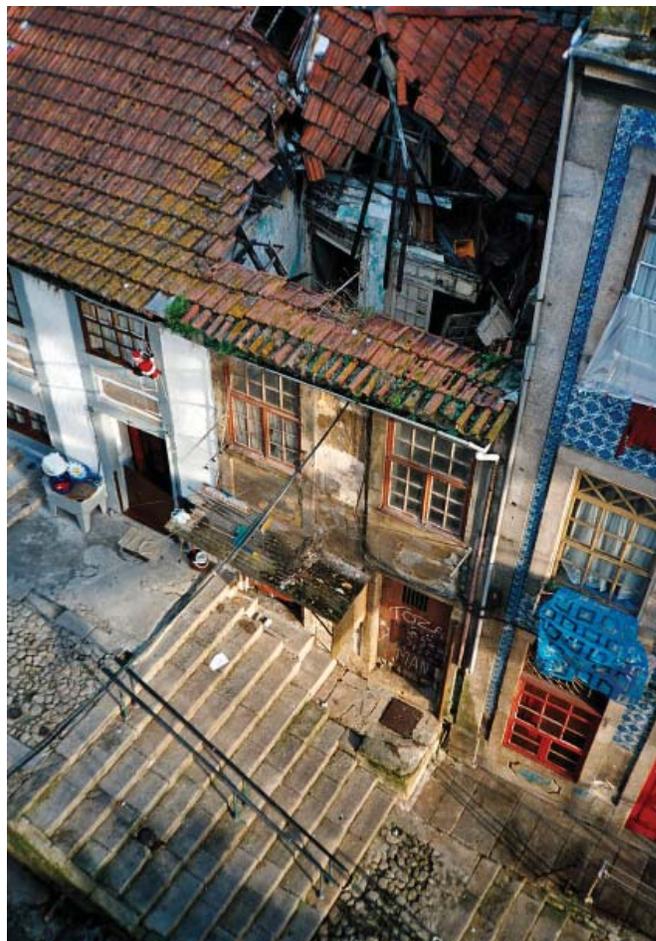


Photo Credit: Billy Pavone

PHOTO OP-ED

Porto, Portugal is a picturesque, sleepy town on the Douro River, just miles west of the Atlantic Ocean. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1996, it is best known as powerhouse of import and export for Portugal, and for the nearby wine country to the east. On a recent visit to the town, I was struck by the City's contrasts.

The City Center itself is clearly benefiting from European Union assistance; banners proclaim urban renewal projects throughout its historic core. It was hard to miss several restoration projects underway, with scaffolding blanketing key pieces of its patrimony. The historic center's streets were lit beautifully for the holidays, and the plazas were bustling with winter amusements and installations to capture the public imagination. I was assured that it was not always so, and that only recently Porto's Center was dark by early evening, with little nightlife to be found. There were traces of this side of Porto, too. Walking along the well-traveled, elegant Ponte D. Luís I Bridge, designed by a disciple of Eiffel, it was striking to look at the homes below to see signs of distress and economic hardship I have come to associate with the developing world. This just yards away from heavily visited tourist landmarks, with the recently constructed Porto Metro light rail whizzing by above--the very image of European prosperity and efficiency.

When I inquired about the neighborhood of a friend from Porto, he simply said "it's complicated." Indeed. Porto is, for the moment, a study in juxtaposition: it is at once tattered and romantic port town and a modern, bustling European center of trade. As more European cities become homogenous in their prosperity, I appreciated the chance to glimpse into the complexity of Porto's evolution as a city.

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