

# Planning History

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Planning History Group

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## Notes for Contributors

The prime aim of Planning History is to increase an awareness of developments and ideas in planning history in all parts of the world. In pursuit of this aim, contributions are invited from members and non-members alike for any section of the bulletin. Articles should not exceed 2000 words, and may well reflect work in progress.

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# Editorial

As the bulletin enters its tenth year - and with changes to the editorial team - it might be timely to take stock of how far it has come in this period, and to consider how best it can serve the interests of the Planning History Group in the future.

Compared with the pioneers who launched the first issue in 1979, we have the benefit of being able to draw on the product of nearly a decade of lively research and development that has added considerably to our store of knowledge and understanding. Planning history has gained in stature over this period, widening its circle of contributors and strengthening its international dimension. While the introduction of *Planning Perspectives* in 1986 has filled an important gap in terms of publishing in-depth articles and book reviews in this field, the bulletin retains a complementary role in keeping planning historians in touch with a whole range of new developments. Ours is a vibrant field of activity, and (as frontier historians will know) changes on the frontier constantly require new maps. Perhaps, then, it as a *map to aid the traveller and to chart new paths* that the bulletin can best continue to serve its readers.

Reflecting this approach, the reader will find a number of changes in the presentation of the bulletin - in its name (simplified now to *Planning History*), in the various sections, and in design and format. These are all changes designed to build on our experience with *PHB*, to continue to accommodate the catholic interests of planning historians, and to make use of new publishing technology. In drafting these proposals, the new editorial team is indebted for the enthusiastic support and advice of the PHG Executive.

What is unchanged is that *Planning History* remains a bulletin to carry news as well as short articles, an international notice-board to keep us all in touch. Like all new editors, I will always be keen to receive new material, from you and from other sources that you can help to identify.

At this juncture, our sincere thanks to the outgoing editor, Michael Hebbert, ever energetic and always receptive to new ideas, and to Daniel Schaffer (who is now busily engaged in editing his own journal). Robert Freestone stays on as Associate Editor for the Pacific, and Marc Weiss comes in as Associate Editor for the Americas.

I have inherited files which bear the names of successive past editors - Michael Naslas, John Sheail and Michael Hebbert. The publication of an index in this issue, revealing the wide coverage of the bulletin - is perhaps the best way to record our appreciation of how much each of them has done so far to promote the study of planning history.

Dennis Hardy



# Notices

## THIRD INTERNATIONAL PLANNING HISTORY CONFERENCE

### The History Of The International Exchange Of Planning Systems

Tokyo, Japan : 11-12 November 1988

## TOKYO INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

### The Centenary Of Modern Urban Planning And Its Future Perspectives Towards The 21st Century

Tokyo, Japan : 8-10 November 1988

The Third International Planning History Conference (co-sponsored by the City Planning Institute of Japan and the Planning History Group) is being held in association with the Tokyo Symposium. The timing of the two events is to mark the centenary of the enactment of Japan's first planning legislation, 'Tokyo Sikkaisei Jorei'.

The Conference follows in spirit the first and the second international planning history conferences (London, 1977; Brighton, 1980), but is the first one to be held outside the Western world. So the focus will be Japan and East Asia. There is agreement that during the past hundred years the modern Western planning system (i.e. legislation, administration, professionalism and planning concepts, ideologies and techniques) has been transferred to Japan and East Asia. Very little however, is known (especially in the West) about the actual encounter, influence, imitation, rejection or problems. Asian planning history will illustrate some points through which we might reconsider the historical nature and future perspective of modern Western urban planning. This may hopefully become a starting point for planning history to broaden its scope from the Western-centred one to a really broad "world history."

The official languages will be English and Japanese with simultaneous interpretation provided. The organisers expect about 15 to 20 arranged and openly invited papers and about 100 participants, hopefully one-third from abroad. The conference fee will be 2,000 yen (15 U.S. dollars) for participants from abroad and 7,000 yen for Japanese participants. Arrangements are being worked out to enable participation in both the Symposium and Conference.

Those who wish to contribute papers should apply to the address below with a proposal (400 English words or 1,200 Japanese letters) on receipt of this notice. The proposal may be accepted with or without conditions. Papers whose topic falls outside the Conference theme may not be accepted. The deadline for the final paper will be August 31, when a full paper (about 7,000 English words or about 20,000 Japanese letters) with a resumé (400 English words or 1,200 Japanese letters)

should be submitted. Japanese speakers must submit their final papers and resúmes in both English and Japanese. The proceedings with these papers and resumé will be distributed at the Conference. It is also planned to publish an English book by editing selected papers and other records of the Conference.

Accommodation will be reserved for the participants on request, and information will be available on post-Conference tours near Tokyo and to Kyoto and Nara. Those who wish to participate with/without papers or who are interested in the Conference should make contact with:

#### English speakers contact:

Gordon Cherry (Prof)  
Chairman Planning History Group  
Department of Geography  
University of Birmingham  
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United Kingdom  
Telephone: 021-414-5537 Ext. 3193  
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Telex: 3652560 BRIMOC

## COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE

### Heritage And Successful Town Regeneration

Halifax, England : 24-27 October 1988

This international conference is being arranged under the auspices of the Council of Europe's study programme on 'Integrated Conservation of the Historic Heritage', and in association with the Council's Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities. The joint organisers are the Council of Europe, the Department of the Environment and English Heritage.

The aim of the conference is to explore developments in the strategy of using heritage assets to revive towns as attractive places in which to work, live, visit and do business.

The emphasis will be practical - to study industrial and other towns in Britain, Europe and America which are successfully using this approach; to analyse the individual elements of a strategy; and to discuss the

practicalities of turning analysis into action. The programme will deal with towns of all sizes.

Contributors will include Lord Caithness (DOE Minister of State); Robert McNulty (President, Partners for Livable Places Institute, Washington); Sir Christopher Benson (Chief Executive, MEPC plc); Michael Parkinson (Director, Centre for Urban Studies, University of Liverpool); James Rae (Director of Planning, Glasgow); Patrick Nuttgens (former Professor of Architecture, York University).

More information may be obtained from:

Conference Secretariat  
Calderdale Inheritance Project  
4-8 Old Arcade  
Halifax  
West Yorkshire  
HX1 1TJ

## ENCYCLOPEDIA OF NEW YORK CITY

The Encyclopedia of New York City is looking for contributors. This comprehensive one-volume text will encompass the history of the city from its origins to the present day. The Editor-in-Chief is Kenneth T. Jackson of Columbia University, and the publisher is Yale University Press. Please indicate, as specifically as possible, all topics (people, places, events, institutions, periods, process) you are qualified to write about. Send your letter and vita, as soon as possible, to:

Deborah Gardner  
Managing Editor  
Encyclopedia Project  
New York Historical Society  
170 Central Park West  
New York, NY 10024.

## MEYERSON PROFESSORSHIP OF URBANISM

### University Of Pennsylvania

The University of Pennsylvania invites applications and nominations for the newly created Martin and Margy Meyerson Professorship of Urbanism. The chair, honoring both Pennsylvania's President Emeritus and University Professor and his wife, was established in order to attract to the University dynamic and original thinkers in the various aspects of urbanism.

Candidates should be scholars of recognised distinction who have cross-disciplinary interests. Their scholarly interests should lie in some combination of the social, economic, political, cultural or physical fields of urbanism. Although it is desirable that candidates be concerned with public and private policy, that is not a requirement. Similarly, it is desirable but not required that a candidate's interests extend to more than one region of the world. The initial holder of the chair will have his or her primary appointment in the Graduate School of Fine Arts.

Applications and nominations, including if possible a resumé and references, should be sent to:

Professor Stephen B. Burbank  
University of Pennsylvania Law School  
34th & Chestnut Streets  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6204

The University of Pennsylvania is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer. Women and minority candidates are encouraged to apply.

## OBITUARY : Ivan Boileau

Ivan Boileau, who died on Christmas Day 1986, was until January 1984 Professor and Head of Department of Town Planning at the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

Born in England, his planning career included a spell shortly after the Second World War in the London office of Lord Holford. This was followed by two posts with county planning departments, before entering the academic world as a lecturer at the University of Manchester. At the end of the 1950s he moved to the University of Sydney, and then, in 1969, to Auckland.

During his time at Auckland, Ivan Boileau was involved in many issues, both academic and professional. He was examiner for Masters and Doctoral theses for many Australian universities, and an honorary Visiting Fellow at the Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University. He was planning consultant to the Singapore Government as part of its UN programme for metropolitan planning and urban renewal, to the New Zealand Government for Rolleston New Town, and to the Auckland Regional Authority and the Auckland Harbour Board for the Waitemata Harbour Study and Plan.

He contributed to ANZAAS Conferences and was Section President (for Architecture and Planning) for the 1973 Perth Conference. In 1978 he was Session Chairman at the 4th Asian Pacific Social Development Seminar in Seoul, South Korea. He also served with the Technical Committee of the National Roads Board for Traffic and Safety, was a member of the Working Party on Urban Objectives for the Environmental Council and a member of the Working Party on Urban Expansion for the Physical Environment conference.

(Extract from full obituary in *Planning Quarterly*, New Zealand, March 1987).



# Articles

## Le Corbusier As Town Planner: Notes On New Sources From The Centenary Year

John R. Gold  
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Many of the omens identifiable in advance of the Le Corbusier centenary<sup>1</sup> suggested that little new scholarship would be forthcoming. Quite apart from the natural tendency of centenaries to degenerate into uncritical paeans to individual genius, Corb's work has considerable symbolic significance for current architectural debate. To the critics of modernism, Corb's visual designs, especially at the urban scale, have assumed symbolic properties out of all proportion to their actual significance - particularly for those who insist upon treating the *Ville Contemporaine/Ville Radieuse* as the prototype to which may be attributed all the ills of the modern city. With this in mind, it was certainly possible that the beleaguered architectural establishment might have taken the opportunity to re-open the whole debate on architectural vision, using a sympathetic exposition of Corb's work as a vehicle to mount an ideological counter-offensive against critics. The ensuing debate would have been as polarised as it would have been sterile.

In the event, these fears were not realised. For the most part, the issues explored in the material on Le Corbusier published or released during 1987 retained a low ideological profile. Although it was perhaps depressing to see the frequency with which a familiar coterie of architectural commentators appeared and reappeared as exhibition designers, catalogue writers, authors of articles and monographs, reviewers and, even, film-makers, various new dimensions of Corb's work have been unearthed, especially with regard to the post-1945 period. Indeed, at their best, they have added substantially to our knowledge of the architect's work in the context of his times.

This review takes the theme of Le Corbusier's ideas on town planning and examines the insights available from major sources published

during the centenary year which had come to hand by December 1987. It is divided into three sections, dealing respectively with exhibition catalogues, film, and books and collections.<sup>2</sup>

### 1. Exhibition Catalogues.

The major exhibitions held in Britain and France all produced substantial and informative catalogues. From the point of view of this review, the most useful, and accessible, volumes are those produced for the exhibitions at the Hayward Gallery, London (5th March - 7th June 1987) and the Pompidou Centre, Paris (6th October 1987 - 3rd January 1988).

Taking them in reverse order, the Pompidou Centre's exhibition was accompanied by an enormous catalogue, *Le Corbusier: une encyclopedie*.<sup>3</sup> Following the chronological approach of the exhibition itself, the catalogue supplies an integrating perspective of the flow of Corb's urban schemes alongside his other architectural and literary works, although curiously little new information is added about the content of those schemes. Rather more useful is the slimmer catalogue to the thematic Hayward Gallery exhibition, *Le Corbusier: Architect of the Century*.<sup>4</sup> Tim Benton's section on urbanism (pp.200-237) provides a fine visual compendium of Corb's urban-scale projects; Sunand Prasad et al's chapter on Chandigarh (pp.278-337) provides a wealth of empirical material although continues to underplay the role played by Matthew Novicki and, for that matter, Jane Drew and Maxwell Fry; and Judi Loach's brief account (pp.338-343) opens up a neglected aspect of Corb's post-war work by looking at the buildings and projects for Firminy (near St Etienne). From the current viewpoint, however, the highlight of the catalogue was Kenneth Frampton's essay 'The other Le Corbusier: primitive form and the linear city' (pp.29-34). Although popular opinion associates Corb with the green, vertical 'city of towers', he equally worked on linear city plans throughout the inter-war period. The article itself demonstrates a flux in the Modern Movement's thinking at the urban scale that has rarely been documented adequately elsewhere.

### 2. Film.

Videorecorders were probably working overtime in various West European nations in late 1987, with the television premiere of Jacques Bar-sac's two-part film on Le Corbusier<sup>5</sup>. Made with

the participation of a large number of French governmental and cultural agencies and, significantly, the Fondation Le Corbusier, the film is a predictable celebration and scarcely needed the gratuitous introductions to the British showings by Stephen Gardiner - the most ardent of Anglophone Corbusier-philis. Yet despite having to endure endless sequences of Corb lecturing wide-eyed interviewers on how the world had spurned his genius, the film contains some highly valuable footage. Part 1 (pre-war) has a remarkably high-quality sequence on the Voisin Plan, a superb set of urban images overlain with comments from Corb's own version of the so-called Athens Charter, and, the real highlight, clips from Laszlo Moholy-Nagy's film of the key pre-war CIAM Congress (IV, held in Athens and on the SS Patris). Part 2 (post-war)<sup>6</sup> is less focussed on the urban scale, but still contains useful material on the schemes for Saint-Dié and Marseilles.

### 3. Books and Collections.

No new source published during 1987 rivalled the scope and interpretative powers of William Curtis's fine text on Le Corbusier published in 1986;<sup>7</sup> indeed the best of 1987's crop were essentially re-issues of material. Pride of place in this list must go to the Architectural Press's handsome, and low priced, new editions of the three key books from Corb's *L'Esprit Nouveau* period of the early 1920s.<sup>8</sup> At the risk of uttering perhaps the oldest cliché in the reviewer's armoury, the issue of these volumes will make these writings accessible to a new generation of readers.

In the same vein of re-issued material, but of a somewhat different type, the attractively-packaged *Garland Essays*,<sup>9</sup> edited by Allen Brookes, bring together some of the best essays on Le Corbusier published in the last 5 years. The essays deal purely with architectural and town planning matters - with no attempt to present Corb's other personae as sculptor, painter or poet - and offer unusually coherent foci for an edited collection. It is instructive to compare three essays, each of which display a depth of understanding of the intellectual roots of modern architectural thought, but all of which approach the matter from a different perspective: Vincent Scully from a profound knowledge of classicism and the influence of classical forms; Manfredo Tafuri from the perspective of the material conditions of society; and Stanislaus Moos from a standpoint based on an understanding of cultural relations and flows. Together, these essays offer a neat cross-section of current architectural approaches towards Le Corbusier's urban projects. Turning to the other contents, Reyner Banham supplies an incisive essay on Corb and the architecture of mass housing - grounded in the wider context of town

planning movements, and Peter Serenyi and Charles Correa provide contrasting perspectives on Chandigarh. In an essay that contributes an effective epilogue, Norma Evenson reflects on the ambiguous and continuing legacy of Corb's urban conceptions, noting the power yet elusiveness of their visual imagery.

Some further indication of that imagery is to be found in a series of pictorial guidebooks and compendia which illustrate his major buildings and paper schemes, although none, it must be said, are particularly exciting. With regard to the former, a guide by Andrea Filippone,<sup>10</sup> which sounded promising, had still not come to hand by the time of writing this review, and the best of the remaining crop was Deborah Gans's *The Le Corbusier Guide*<sup>11</sup> with its illustrations of Chandigarh. With regard to compendia, little appeared that illustrated anything other than what was wholly familiar, although a useful inventory of Corb's urban schemes was supplied by Boesiger.<sup>12</sup>

Finally, various journals ran special issues during the year directed to a greater or lesser extent to the Corbusier centenary. *A3 Times*, for example, ran a fine issue on 'Modern Urban Living', which incorporated material on Corb's unités in an unusually subtle treatment of the subject of high-rise public housing.<sup>13</sup> Perhaps appropriately however, the most throughgoing treatment of Corb's career appeared in the *Architectural Review*, the journal that for so long was the warhorse of British architectural modernism. Entitled 'Corbusier 100', the January 1987 issue contains a set of articles nominally united by a collective focus on Corb's fluctuating use of history. Although many of the articles are devoted to building or even interior design, useful material is available from Caroline Constant's discussion of the relationship between Corb's ideal of nature and the unexecuted plans for the Governor's palace and gardens at Chandigarh, identifying a tension between his interpretation of nature as original condition and as emblem of rational order (pp.66-72). From the same collection, Loach (pp.73-77) supplies rare insights into ASCORAL, the research and development group concerned with the state of French housing that Le Corbusier founded during the war and which drifted on, in one form or another, until around 1960.

### 4. Conclusion.

Le Corbusier continues to receive an extraordinarily large proportion of the attentions of those interested in modern architecture - indeed one feels rather sorry for that other great pioneer of modernism, Erich Mendelsohn, whose centenary might well have received much more attention



had it not also have occurred in 1987. The personality of Corb, his manifest centrality to the development of the Modern Movement, and (realistically) the superb quality and availability of his archives have proved a natural attraction for researchers. Research has proceeded along the well-worn furrows of the *Ville Contemporaine* and *Ville Radieuse*, but, as the material considered here demonstrates, there are signs that the scope is being pushed outwards in two ways: first, by placing Le Corbusier's urban conceptions more firmly within the broader context of intellectual history; secondly, by advancing the temporal frame of research by focussing on those relatively neglected urban projects of the post-war period - Saint-Dié and Firminy, Nantes and Chandigarh, ASCORAL and post-war CIAM. It is always dangerous to guess the future course of historical research, but, in terms of Le Corbusier's work as a town planner, these are directions that I believe are likely to persist.

## NOTES

1. 'Le Corbusier', (pseud. Charles-Edouard Jeanneret), was born at La Chaux-de-Fonds (Switzerland) on 6th October 1887. He died at Cap-Martin, (France), on 27th August 1965.
2. It should be noted that I have not attempted to cover the large number of articles on Le Corbusier which were published during the year, except where these form part of larger edited collections.
3. Le Centre Georges Pompidou (1987) *Le Corbusier: une encyclopedie*, Paris: Pompidou Centre.
4. Raeburn, M. and Wilson, V., eds. (1987) *Le Corbusier: Architect of the Century*, London: Arts Council of Great Britain.
5. 'Le Corbusier' was produced for Ciné Service Techniques, with the participation of a large number of other networks including the British Channel 4. Although details as to showing rights are far from clear, inquiries about this film should be addressed to Channel 4.
6. Interestingly, Corb's war-time period in Vichy France is diplomatically omitted.
7. Curtis, W. (1986) *Le Corbusier: Ideas and Forms*, Oxford: Phaidon Press.
8. The three volumes are *Towards a New Architecture*, *The City of Tomorrow and The Decorative Art of Tomorrow*, all published (1987), London: Architectural Press. They are also available as a boxed set, priced at a very reasonable £29.50.

9. Brookes, H.A., ed. (1987) *Le Corbusier: the Garland Essays*, New York: Garland Publishing. Also available in paperback under the title *Le Corbusier*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. In passing, I can't resist responding to the slightly supercilious note in Brookes' Foreword (p.vii) that: 'the British annoy me with their false familiarity, their name dropping, by insisting on calling him "Corb"'. Having spent a year interviewing the major surviving British modern architects of the inter-war period - all of whom were truly familiar with Le Corbusier and had no reason to drop names, yet all of whom referred to him affectionately as 'Corb' - I see no problems in calling him 'Corb' here.

10. Filippone, A. (1987) *A Guide to the Built Works of Le Corbusier*, London: Architectural Press.

11. Gans, A. (1987) *The Le Corbusier Guide*, London: Architectural Press.

12. Boesiger, W., ed. (1987) *Le Corbusier*, Zurich: Verlag fur Architektur Artemis, especially pp.167-243. This volume is in German with French translations.

13. *A3 Times*, Issue 9, Winter 1987, (see particularly pp.10-13).

## Import Of Urban Planning Into Malaysia

Dr Goh Ban Lee  
Centre for Policy Research  
Universiti Sains Malaysia

### Introduction

Urban planning is recognised as an important activity in regulating the use and development of land in Malaysia. This is evidenced by the establishment of a fairly well structured planning machinery to carry out planning activities and the allocation of relatively large sums of funds to prepare urban development plans. It is also a statutory activity. This means not only that urban development plans are enforceable by laws, but also the form, content, scope and the methods of planning are circumscribed by statutes.

But urban planning in Malaysia is not an indigenous activity. It is largely an import from the West, particularly England. In other words, the assumptions, ideology, scope, form and content of urban planning in Malaysia are largely copied from England.

The objective of this paper is to provide readers with an understanding of historical factors which moulded urban planning in this country. Towards this end, this paper will focus on how and by whom urban planning was introduced into Malaysia and how it evolved in the early stages of its development here.

### Brief Notes on Malaysia

Malaysia is a federation of 13 states and two federal territories. Geographically, it is made up of two entities: Peninsular or West Malaysia comprising 11 states including the Capital City of Kuala Lumpur and East Malaysia comprising Sarawak, Sabah and the Federal Territory of Labuan. This paper, however, is limited to the development of urban planning in West Malaysia.

In the early 20th century, when urban planning was emerging as a recognisable and distinct professional practice in England, the various states which presently form West Malaysia were already under British influence. Penang and Malacca, then known as the Straits Settlements, were British Colonies directly administered by the Colonial Office. Perak, Selangor, Pahang and

Negri Sembilan, collectively known as the Federated Malay States (FMS) were British Protectorates, where all powers, except those related to religion and customs, were vested in the Federal Legislative Council and the British Residents of the respective states. Kelantan, Kedah, Trengganu and Johore were also British Protectorates, but were not part of the FMS. Nevertheless, in each of these states, there was a British Advisor to advise the Sultans on administrative and security matters. At that time Perlis was still under Siamese rule. The two Straits Settlements and the 9 Malay States formed the Federation of Malaya in 1948. In 1957, Malaya achieved independence. Malaysia was formed in 1963.

### Import of Urban Planning

When Malaya was under British rule, it was inevitable that what was practiced in England was brought into this country. In the case of urban planning, the Federal Legislative Council of the FMS was instrumental both in its importation and in shaping the initial development of planning practice.

As early as 1912, only about three years after the enactment of the Housing, Town Planning etc. Act in England, the question of having a Town Planning Enactment in the FMS was already voiced. For instance, when speaking on a debate on funds to build public facilities in the towns in the FMS, a Federal Councillor urged that Town Planning legislation be enacted "so that the town is laid out as it should be, and that certain areas are ear-marked for shop-houses, and so on" (W.F. Nutt, FMS Council Proceedings, 1912:96). By the following year, the Government had approved the appointment of a Town Planning Committee to supervise the development of Kuala Lumpur, the capital of the FMS. (Concannon, 1958:241).

The need for Town Planning legislation was again raised in the Federal Council of the FMS in 1915. According to the speaker:

"...the conditions of bad housing are so closely allied with crime, mortality and wretchedness. Experience in Municipal life at Home has taught what is needed, and certain main principles are admitted: the need of control over private ownership, the relation between over-crowding and crime, open-space and health, the disastrous consequences of neglect to lay out streets, and so on, beforehand. Surely, it would be unpardonable if, through lack of foresight, we allowed these experiences to be repeated in this country." (E. MacFadyen, FMS Council Proceedings, 1915:B65).

Having shown that there was a need for town planning, the speaker then rebuked the officials



for being so slow in getting things done. According to him:

"The Government is an all-powerful and benevolent one. Every Resident is a Socialist in his own State. I should like earnestly to recommend to the Government that time, when the stress of over-work in Government departments generally is relieved, might be utilised to elaborate the means by which proper control over the development of our towns before they become large towns could be introduced into the legislation of this country." (FMS Council Proceedings, 1915:B65).

The Chief Secretary to the Government replied that a "rough draft of a Bill dealing with Town Planning has been prepared by the Chairman of Kuala Lumpur Sanitary Board" (FMS Council Proceedings, 1915:B66). As it turned out, what the Chief Secretary meant was not a Town Planning Bill, but rather a Town Improvement Bill.

As the name suggests, the Town Improvement Bill was not legislation for town planning but one which would enable the Government to undertake urban development and redevelopment. As suggested by the Legal Adviser who moved the Bill in the Federal Council, the provisions in the Bill "include practically everything necessary to produce a local Utopia" (FMS Council Proceedings, 1917:B68). With only very little debate, the Bill was passed as the Town Improvement Enactment of 1917.

From the benefit of hindsight, apparently the members in the Federal Council did not fully appreciate the implications of the Town Improvement Enactment. There were neither planning tools nor funds available to implement projects to create the "local utopias" that the Enactment had promised. There was not even a planner in the country at that time. It was simply a Bill far ahead of its time. The lack of expertise was noted by the Councillor, A.N. Kenion, when debating the Bill. He urged the Government to recruit "some person from a Board at Home dealing with these matters to come out here and help us to work it" (FMS Council Proceedings, 1917:B69).

The case for a town planner was well received. However, instead of recruiting someone from Britain, the Government of the FMS approached the South Australian Government to request the service of the latter's town planner for a period of 12 months. His name was Charles Compton Reade.

Urban planning in Malaya officially began with the appointment of Charles Reade as the town planning adviser to the Government of the FMS

in February 1921. In Reade, Malaya could not have found a man more committed to urban planning, specifically planning in the tradition of the Garden Cities and Town Planning Association of England. From his own writings and those about him and his work, Reade was more than a practising town planner. He was a crusader of urban planning.

Born in New Zealand in 1880, Reade went to London in the early 1900s and was attracted to the town planning movement. He was soon appointed Assistant Secretary to the Garden City and Town Planning Association. Since he was then a journalist, he wrote a series of newspaper articles expounding the need for town planning in the British colonies. These articles were later published into a book entitled *The Revelation of Britain: A Book for Colonials* (1909). Later, he also wrote a paper expressing "not the slightest doubt that Australian towns and cities stand much in need of expert and up-to-date information on modern Town Planning in Europe today...." (Reade, 1912:10).

Between 1914 and 1920, Reade was in South Australia, both as an advocate of urban planning and a town planner. The life and work of Reade in South Australia has been well written (Tregenza, 1986; Hutchings, 1986, 1987; Sandercock, 1975; Cheeseman, 1986) and need not be repeated here. What is of interest here is to note that it was while working there that he was offered a secondment position in the FMS for 12 months. He was to be paid L2000 and all travelling and out-of-pocket expenses.

The timing of Reade's arrival in Malaya was not very auspicious as the country was beginning to experience an economic "slow-down". In 1922, barely time for Reade to finish his first contract, a Retrenchment Committee recommended that the post of the Government Town Planner be abolished. Instead of listening to the recommendation of the Committee, the Secretary of State for Colonies confirmed Reade's appointment and extended his service for another three years to 1925. Before the end of this term, the post of Town Planner was made into a permanent position and Reade was to serve in this country until 1930.

Among the first things he did in FMS was to make a survey of the conditions then. Part of what he saw was published as an article entitled "Town Planning in British Malaya" (Reade, 1921). According to him, the rapid growth of the Malayan towns had produced the "usual difficulties in the lack of a proper arterial road system, waste in residential areas, overbuilding in others, intermix-

ture of factories and commercial premises with shopping and residential districts, etc" (Reade, 1921:162). But he was also fascinated by the "wealth of tropical trees and delightful residential quarters" in some areas. According to him:

"Their informal growth and departure from rigid lines; and the symmetrical charm of their many curving streets winding along the contours of the hills and valleys, suggest possibilities in planning and effects which could never be achieved by purely geometric methods" (Reade, 1921:164).

In the paper, Reade also revealed his fascination with the Garden City concept of Ebenezer Howard:

"At this stage I am not disposed to say what line of policy will be shaped in the hope of seeing town planning and garden city principles applied in this young wonderland of the East, but I look forward to some permanent result of my visit..." (Reade, 1921:165).

There is no doubt that Reade did prepare some planning schemes for Malaysia. Unfortunately, none of the plans prepared by him could be found today. They were probably destroyed during the war. What was likely to be foremost in his mind at that time was the absence of town planning legislation. As his South Australian experience had shown, while it was relatively easy to prepare town schemes, it was another thing to get a draft planning bill accepted. According to Reade:

"... the difficulties to be faced, I find, are not merely the preparation of suitable plans and schemes within the means of the Government and Sanitary Boards, or the making of the preliminary civic surveys beforehand, but the inadequacy of existing powers and machinery when it comes to dealing with economic and administrative questions relating to resumptions, methods of rating and valuation of land, also exchanges and redistribution of ownerships, etc" (1921:162).

Unlike his experience in South Australia, however, Reade was very successful in getting legislation drafted by him accepted by the decision-makers in the FMS, at least in the initial period of his stay in Malaya. By 1922, only one year after his coming to Malaya, a Valuation and Land Bill which Reade helped draft was passed. In the same year, a draft of the Preliminary Town Planning and Development Bill was ready. Reade then wrote a long report on the benefits of town planning to accompany the Draft Bill. Here he was particularly keen to show that town planning could be beneficial not only to the

Government, but also to the landowners. For instance, according to Reade (1922):

"Where growing towns like Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh, etc are not given the protection of modern zoning practice, values and property in parts are expectedly depreciated by intrusion of unexpected elements (factories, timber yards, garages, etc) with loss and inconvenience to the owner (or charge) and the community". (p.C231).

Though written more than 60 years ago, the report by Reade still stands as the most eloquent and persuasive argument for urban planning in Malaysia. Thus, despite some opposition, support for the Bill was very strong. For instance, according to the Acting Chief Secretary to the Government:

"Anybody who has taken the trouble to study the work of Mr Reade since he has been in this country cannot fail to be impressed with the extremely valuable result that he has achieved, in the face of opposition that sometimes has not been altogether reasonable. I have lived long enough in this country, and particularly, long enough in Kuala Lumpur, to see the appalling waste of money and waste of efforts both public and private that we have suffered from, through lack of legislation and coordinated efforts in the direction of economic and sound town planning (FMS Council Proceedings, 1923:B115)".

### Town Planning Enactment of 1923

The Bill was passed as the Town Planning Enactment of 1923. It was a very comprehensive urban planning Act, incorporating provisions for planning, development control and powers to implement town improvement schemes. It also had provisions to regulate buildings, including the extension of houses, and the acquisition, sale and leasing of land. Most significantly, it gave the town planner tremendous power in deciding the future use and development of land. Through the use of zoning, the General Town Plan provided for in the Enactment could contain almost anything the planner wanted. Furthermore, it also provided for the establishment of a Town Planning Committee, in which the town planner was to be an ex-officio member, as the authority in all town planning matters.

Although Reade's initiation into urban planning was obviously influenced by the Garden Cities and Town Planning Association of England, he did not copy wholesale the English town planning legislation. The 1923 Enactment was a piece of legislation which combined planning ideas of England, America and other European countries. More specifically, the use of zoning to regulate



and control the use and development of land was characteristically European and American, not English.

Soon after getting the Town Planning Enactment passed in the Federal Council, Reade set about educating the public about town planning. He made full use of the Malayan Agri-Horticultural Show in 1926 to organise a Town Planning exhibition showing what town planning had done to the towns in Malaya and what could still be done. He also displayed the history of town planning from Ancient China and Greece to contemporary planning in Japan, United States of America and Australia, with special emphasis on Garden City concepts as implemented in England. A similar exhibition was held in Ipoh, the capital of Perak, in 1927.

Although Reade was confident about the progress of town planning in Malaya (see *JTPI*, 1926: p.1-2), his impulsive personality and disdain for politicians (see Tregenza, 1986) earned him several enemies in high places. Ironically, among his enemies was A.N. Kenion, who had earlier been among the first Federal Legislative Councillors to call for the recruitment of a qualified town planner in the Federated Malay States.

Reade was accused of being dictatorial in his planning decisions. Another criticism against Reade was his inclination for wide roads in his layout schemes. The speaker was worried that the Government might not have the funds to build such wide roads (FMS Council Proceedings, 1924:B81).

As on previous occasions, Reade also had supporters. One such supporter was the British Resident of Selangor. According to him:

"I think experience has been that it is difficult to make main roads too wide. Everywhere roads have had to be widened, and land acquired for that purpose, and the mere fact that in Mr Reade's plan great width is allowed for town streets and roads, and more especially suburban roads, does not mean that Government is going to put up large sums of money to convert road reserves into main roads. I think no fault can be found with Mr Reade for keeping very wide reserves for future use." (FMS Council Proceedings, 1924:B83).

Despite the support by some prominent personalities, criticisms against Reade escalated. According to one critic:

"I see that the Government does not admit that Town Planning is a hopeless failure, but I am

rather inclined to think that every Government Official regards this to be the same. The position seems to be going from bad to worse." (FMS Council Proceedings, 1926:B107).

### Town Planning Enactment of 1927

The mounting criticisms of town planning then led to a review of the Town Planning Enactment of 1923 by a Select Committee of the Federal Legislative Council. As a result, the 1923 Enactment was replaced by the Town Planning Enactment of 1927 which was a very watered down version of the previous law. Basically it transformed town planning from a comprehensive exercise of land management and planning into an exercise of demarcation of communication lines and land-use zones and nothing more. The new Enactment, however, retained the use of zoning as the main tool for regulating urban development.

The 1927 Enactment also provided that the competent planning authority was the local authority, then known as Sanitary Board. The Board may appoint a Committee to oversee town planning matters. But unlike the previous Enactment, there was no provision to make the town planner a member of such a committee, although coopted members may be included. The Government Town Planner, who was a Federal Officer, was only to advise the Sanitary Board and to prepare planning schemes at the request of the Board. The power of the town planner in influencing the development of a town was drastically reduced, if not totally taken away. As part of the effort to bring planning activity closer to the planning areas, the planning department was decentralised in 1927. Offices were set up in Ipoh, Kuala Lumpur and Seremban, each under a Town Planning Superintendent. Indirectly, the post of the Government Town Planner was abolished.

Reade's work was not confined to the states in the FMS only. He was invited by the Governments of Kedah and Trengganu to help them formulate town planning legislation there. Reade's presence was also felt in Sabah, then known as North Borneo. In 1927 he was on loan to the then British North Borneo to assist in the development of the ports of Jesselton (Kota Kinabalu) and Sandakan.

It is uncertain whether Reade actually left Malaya in 1929 or 1930. When Reade officially terminated his service in Malaya, he was about 50 years old. So far, very little is known about the reason for his retirement. One likely reason could be that he had done what he set out to do: that is, the implantation of a town planning tradition into Malaya and the establishment of

machinery to carry out the act of preparing plans. The actual preparation of town plans could be left to others.

It was also possible that, given the abolition of the Government Town Planner's post in 1927, it meant that his position was reduced to just a Town Planning Superintendent in one of the states. There was to be no more of a prima-donna role for him. Being a town planning missionary, the restricted role of a Town Planning Superintendent acting only on the requests of the Sanitary Boards might just not be enough for him. Just as in South Australia, his pioneering spirit would again take him to newer pastures.

Reade was supposed to go to Northern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) as a Government Town Planner. But whether he actually went to that country or what he did there is not known. What is known is that in 1933 he was appointed a Town Planning Officer in South Africa. Unfortunately, very shortly after his arrival in that country, he was found dead in his hotel room (Cheeseman, 1986).

### Conclusion

Reade left a very strong imprint on the development of urban planning in Malaysia. He firmly established the urban planning tradition in this country. The planning machinery is now fairly well developed. From one urban planner in 1921, there are now about 217 planners working in the Federal Town and Country Planning Department, its regional offices, the State Town and Country Planning Departments and the various local authorities. This does not include about 200 more planners working in other public agencies and the private sector.

Equally significant, the planning system (including its assumptions, scope, form, content and methodology established by Reade) survived almost intact for more than half a century. The importance of the 1927 Town Planning Enactment cannot be overstated. It was incorporated as Part IX of the Sanitary Board Enactment in 1929. With only minor amendments, this was in turn incorporated as Part IX of the Town Board Enactment, popularly known as Cap 137, in the late 1930s. Though originally enacted to cover only the FMS, Part IX of Cap 137 was later extended to cover the states of Penang, Malacca Kedah and Perlis. Kelantan, Johore and Trengganu had similar planning legislation. The only major changes in planning laws was the enactment on the Town and Country Planning Act in 1976, which introduced the structure planning system. Since it took several years for the planners to begin preparing development plans following the structure planning system, it is no exaggeration to main-

tain that Reade largely dictated urban planning in Malaysia for almost its entire history.

Reade, of course, did not get all that he wanted. His original Town Planning Enactment (1923) was seriously mutilated by the 1927 amendment. The powerful role he envisaged for the planners was drastically reduced. Reade's vision of an omnipresent technocratic planner doing his work in a rational and professional manner for the good of all remained just a dream.

The "battle" between Reade and the politicians in the FMS (and also in South Australia) is indicative of the dilemmas faced by planners. The expertise of planners is not appreciated by all sections of the community. To be effective, planners have to be backed by statutes. But this also places the planners at the mercy of the politicians who enact the laws. Unless the planners 'play footsies' with the 'powers-that-be', the power-base of the planners can be withdrawn or restricted. If nothing else, the early history of urban planning in Malaysia shows that planners are not altogether free to do as their professional idealisms dictate. Their role is circumscribed by the demands of the wider socio-economic relationships of the society. Successful planners, besides being knowledgeable in planning matters, are those who can best manoeuvre along the narrow cleavages in the social structure.

### NOTE

One copy of Reade's plan of the Pudu area of Kuala Lumpur was sent to his successor in South Australia and has been reproduced as part of the South Australian Town Planner's Report of 1920-21. But this is insufficient to provide a good commentary of Reade's planning concepts in this country.

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# Research in progress

## Planning For Leisure 1918 - 1939

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Recent research on leisure and planning in inter-war Britain has focused on such issues as plotland development, the origins of the holiday camp and the spread of the bungalow (1). Research is lacking, therefore, on the established holiday centres of this time - the seaside resorts. Yet the interwar years form a significant chapter in seaside resort development and events at this time provide us with a fascinating insight into early planning regulation by local government.

In 1937 it was estimated that 15 million people were taking a holiday away from home, most visiting a seaside resort. In response to this burgeoning tourist industry seaside resorts were investing vast sums of money in improving their leisure and entertainment facilities. Hastings Corporation, for example, spent over £4 million on "Improvements" between the wars and Walvin has calculated that for 1933 resort investment, as a whole, stood at between £200 and £300 million (2). This vast amount of mainly public expenditure did not go unnoticed. Schemes for improvement had to undergo the scrutiny of rate-payers in the resorts as well as politicians and professionals seeking to ensure that all new development was planned and regulated. It was commonly felt that society was entering a new, mass leisure age and concern was expressed in intellectual and political circles that the provision of leisure facilities and opportunities needed to be regulated to ensure their proper use. Seaside resorts as *specialised* leisure environments visited by millions every year could play an important educative role in this respect. They were prime show places where progressive, planned leisure development could be shown to the people and advertised to the world. But although these views were expressed by planners, politicians and architects, practical responsibility for development lay in the hands of the local state.

I have devoted a substantial part of my doctoral research to this central question of planning and local government at the seaside between the wars: paying particular attention to the Sussex resorts of Bexhill, Hastings and Eastbourne to examine how far they fulfilled their role as providers of planned leisure environments. I have identified three main areas in which the resort municipalities used planning regulation, by implementing both statutory planning legislation and more informal means, to create a carefully controlled leisure environment; landscape conservation, residential development and leisure building. In the remainder of this paper I want to briefly introduce these three themes and draw some tentative conclusions about their wider significance in planning history.

### Landscape Conservation

Between the wars the increasing use of the coast for recreative and residential purposes and the resultant despoliation of coastline by unregulated development was the source of widespread concern. The resorts, in particular, were at the frontline of disapproval on both economic and aesthetic grounds and some were successful in halting such development. Eastbourne Corporation, for example, used the opportunities provided by Private Bill legislation to safeguard the unique downland setting of their resort. The Eastbourne Corporation Act 1926 enabled the Corporation to secure about 4000 acres of downland for £87,510 (3). This action ensured that the South Downs remained open to public access and prevented building development spreading over this most attractive landscape. But resorts did not have to rely on private legislation. Bexhill-on-Sea, for example, successfully utilized existing statutory planning legislation to prevent development at Norman's Bay, a marshy stretch of coastal land to the west of the town. The land at Norman's Bay was restricted under the local Town Planning Scheme against all residential development. But throughout the 1930s there were various attempts by local landowners to develop the site. An initial proposal was made to lay out the area as a high class residential resort, an idea which was rejected by the council on the grounds that the land was unsuitable for permanent residential development. The landowners then proposed to develop the land as a semi-permanent caravan and camping site. Bexhill Corporation blocked this scheme, declaring that it would not only despoil the coastline but would



also be an exorbitant burden on the rates if water and other public services had to be supplied. The Corporation's decision was upheld by a Ministry of Health Inquiry when the landowners took the matter to appeal.

By the late 1930s coastal preservation had become an important arena for political debate and after the war central government institutions took more responsibility for landscape preservation (4). It is certain that action taken by the resorts in this earlier period in the field of landscape conservation paved the way for later developments.

### Residential Development

In the sphere of residential development and planning regulation resorts also had an important role to play. The experience of Bournemouth and Eastbourne had been cited by the Minister, John Burns, when he introduced the first general legislation on town planning in 1909. These towns were considered prime examples of all that was good in residential planning, with their emphasis on open spaces, tree-lined streets and avenues and low density housing. Such ideals were enshrined in planning legislation. Between the wars residential development continued apace but unlike inland towns resorts were particularly successful in regulating building development. The South Coast seaside resorts, in particular, relied upon pleasant and attractive residential environments as they became increasingly popular as retirement towns. Seaside municipalities reflected this desire for ordered development in their town planning schemes. Densities of 4 to 8 dwellings an acre predominate and appearances were strictly controlled and regulated by the use of architectural panels.

### Leisure Building

Two major competing architectural design and planning philosophies may be identified for the interwar period; Romantic Progressivism and International Modernism. The first an eclectic mix of building styles that proliferated in suburbia, typified by the "tudorbethan" and "by-pass variegated". The second movement was a new functionalist style imported from the continent. Modernism failed to catch on in British residential development until after 1945 but was particularly successful in this early period in the field of leisure building.

In 1936 the influential journal *Architectural Review* devoted the July issue to a discussion of "Leisure at the Seaside" (5). Within this issue it was forcefully argued that the new building techniques using concrete, steel and glass and a functional modern design best suited the requirements of

the new leisure age and that such a style would complement perfectly the seaside's primary virtues of light and air. It was also stressed that leisure building should be in the hands of the professionals - the architects. The articles were based on developments already taking place in the seaside resorts and special attention was focused on the De La Warr Pavilion at Bexhill. This building was commissioned by Bexhill Corporation and was designed by the architects Mendelsohn and Chermayeff. Not all resorts could afford to employ architects to design their leisure facilities and much leisure building, therefore, was left in the hands of Local Government Officials. This should not, however, detract from its significance.

One of the resorts with the most modernistic of seaside townscapes, Hastings, relied solely upon the skills of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, Sidney Little, to design and build its leisure and entertainment facilities. As I have argued elsewhere the transformation of Hastings between the wars from a declining, Victorian seaside town to a thriving modern leisure resort through the leisure building programme instigated by Sidney Little shows how resort development was carefully planned and regulated (6). Modernism was a design style and philosophy that embodied in concrete form the progressive ideals of seaside municipalities together with a paternalistic concern over society's leisure habits and was used by the resorts, therefore, to create, ordered, planned and rational leisure environments.

### Conclusion

Most critics are dismissive of interwar planning, despite the vast amount of time and energy expended by local authorities and the Ministry of Health in implementing the new legislation. To many, interwar planning was a failure in that it allowed the proliferation of sprawling, formless and characterless suburban estates which are both aesthetically and socially displeasing. I would argue that this limited view of planning may be challenged by an examination of seaside resort development between the wars. In interwar Britain there existed a strong desire to regulate and order society's leisure behaviour and this was achieved in the seaside resorts by the creation of planned, modern and rational leisure environments. Statutory Town Planning enabled resorts to play an important, early role in the preservation of the coastline and the overriding concern with aesthetic control that was enshrined in the early Acts was extremely important in towns whose main rationale was the creation and maintenance of a pleasant and attractive residential environment. But planning was not restricted to the implementation of statutory legislation,

and there is also a multitude of evidence of local government initiative in such matters.

### Footnotes

(1) D. Hardy and C. Ward *Arcadia for all: the legacy of a makeshift landscape* (London 1984). C. Ward and D. Hardy *Goodnight Campers* (London 1986). A.D. King *The Bungalow: the production of a global culture* (London 1984).

(2) J. Walvin *Beside the seaside: a social history of the popular seaside holiday*, (London 1978 p.117).

(3) J. Sheail "Changing perceptions of land-use controls in interwar Britain" in R. Kain (ed) *Planning for conservation*, (London 1984).

(4) For example the Coastal Survey undertaken by J.A. Steers in 1944.

(5) "Leisure at the seaside" *Architectural Review* 1936 v.80 July.

(6) S.J. Quested "Progress at Pelvis Bay: Leisure building at the seaside 1918-1939" in a forthcoming publication of papers presented at *The Geography of Interwar Britain: one day conference held at Loughborough University 31 October 1987* Department of Geography Publication, Loughborough University 1988.

## Wythenshawe Housing Estate : Concept To Development

Kevin Brady  
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In May 1987 I began an historical study of the development of the Wythenshawe Housing Estate, Greater Manchester, as the subject of my research towards an M.Phil at Salford University under the supervision of Dr Pat Garside.

Initially I had intended to look at a number of what I perceived to be key considerations. Firstly, to consider the reasoning behind the decision to purchase the land on behalf of Manchester Corporation, and then to assess just what it was that Manchester intended to develop; and perhaps to ask just what it was that Manchester thought it was doing in buying the land, incorporating it and later developing it as a major working class housing estate. In outlining at least the idealism of the city's intentions I then hoped to analyse opposition to the proposals, before going on to the developmental stage of the estate's history. I further intended to look at the impact of Wythenshawe on Manchester's inner city housing problems, including the displacement of Manchester residents to the estate from the older working class areas of the city.

Reference to the estate's history can be found in many publications, but often these are just in passing or used in the context of illustration of a particular hypothesis. Whilst researching for a paper when studying under Dr Garside in 1984, I felt increasingly that many of these references, whilst accurate in content, left a considerable number of questions unanswered and unresolved. My instincts as a Mancunian provoked, I felt sufficiently motivated to question further the basic concepts, ideals, and, perhaps, direction of thought underlying this quite huge project undertaken by Manchester Corporation in the interwar period.

Since May last I find I have become increasingly embroiled in an analysis and investigation of the years 1920-31, the years which saw the original ideas for the estate voiced, the purchase of the



land, Manchester's attempts at incorporation and eventual success in so doing, and the struggle between the city and Cheshire County Council and Bucklow R.D.C. over incorporation and development of the estate. In coming months I intend to focus further on these years in particular areas of investigation.

There are apparent contradictory views expressed by key figures supporting the Manchester proposals on the Manchester urban political scene in the early years of the twenties. There is some evidence of those who saw Wythenshawe developing along garden city lines, independent of Manchester in many respects, whilst others advocated a garden suburb. Professor Abercrombie was commissioned in December 1919 to produce a report on the suitability of the estate as a possible housing development, and his report when forwarded to the council in March 1920 favoured a satellite garden suburb.

"But in a commercial, rather than industrial city like Manchester, it is difficult to see how a satellite garden city as compared with a satellite garden suburb could be created at Manchester's instigation."

The City Surveyor submitted his own report alongside Abercrombie's, yet clung to the garden city model:

"... one of the finest Garden Cities in the United Kingdom, affording a residential district for the working-classes of Manchester".

Ernest Simon, perhaps the key figure in the whole grand plan, talked of a satellite garden town where:

"the satellite garden town is deliberately planned by a municipality to cover a large district including not only houses and parks but also a factory area, so as to preserve permanently all the amenities; the population working partly in the area and partly in the mother city". (p.36 *The Rebuilding of Manchester*, Simon and Inman).

Further ambiguity exists over the intentions of the planners concerning those who were to live there. The City Surveyor suggested accommodating the working classes alone, and yet there is considerable evidence of Manchester being warned time and again between 1920 and 1926 not to restrict the occupiers to one class and to plan for a social mix.

Opposition to the proposals from within and without the Manchester Council needs further investigation, particularly to assess the nature of

any organised opposition, perhaps in the form of ratepayers' associations, both in the urban and rural setting. Research so far indicates a rural opposition at county and local level. Cheshire County Council, in opposition to the 1927 Manchester Corporation Bill, expressed a fear of Manchester's expansion across the 'natural boundary' between Lancashire and Cheshire, the River Mersey, and contended that Manchester's real objective was purely to extend the city (and outside its own county at that).

Other facets of opposition centred on the availability of suitable land within the city boundaries and the unnatural displacement of urban working people to a rural setting, whose work would remain largely in close proximity to the city centre.

I intend to concentrate further on these areas, before looking at the development itself later in the year.

I would welcome any comments, advice, suggestions, etc. concerning this study, and any communications can be made to me c/o Dr Pat Garside, Department of Civil Engineering, Environmental Sciences Division, University of Salford, The Crescent, Salford, Lancs.

# Reports

## The Rebuilding Of Europe's Bombed Cities After 1945

### Anthony Sutcliffe

The Rockefeller Foundation hosted a conference on post-1945 urban reconstruction at its Bellagio Centre on 1-5 June 1987. The organiser was Dr Jeffry Diefendorf of the Department of History, University of New Hampshire, a specialist in West German reconstruction legislation. His programme brought together representatives of the various national groups now engaged in research into the reconstruction experience across Europe. Although it was intended to emphasise national rather than local comparisons, the peculiarities of individual cities occasionally emerged, and the overall impression was one of diversity. The differences between Eastern and Western Europe were especially marked. However, the following themes tended to recur, whatever the context: the influence of pre-war practice and ideology, especially when, as in Belgium, an important reconstruction programme had been carried out after World War I; continuity from modernisation plans drawn up in the later 1930s, as at Hamburg and Coventry; the mentality of those engaged in reconstruction both at the time and in retrospect; the role of Communist ideology in reconstruction (an exceptionally complex issue); modernism versus restoration; the role of ordinary people in determining reconstruction policy; and, of course, international movements of ideas.

The scene was set by Pieter Uyttenhove (Académie de l'Architecture, Paris), in a paper comparing reconstruction in Belgium after each World War. The main impact of destruction had come early in the First World War, and the reconstruction plans had been drawn up mainly by exiles in close contact with international currents, particularly in England. The building and planning style was however traditional, with pastiche architecture and Sittesque streets and spaces striving to recreate and even improve upon a past which had been mutilated during the nineteenth century. So tenacious was this precedent that it influenced Belgian reconstruction even after the Second World War. The neighbouring Dutch experience provided a strong contrast. Dr. J.E.

Bosma (Institute for Art History, University of Groningen) described the reconstruction of Middleburg on traditional lines, while Ed Taverne (Institute for Art History, Groningen) offered a detailed paper on the radical replanning of the Lijnbaan at Rotterdam. He presented the Lijnbaan as a suburban shopping centre, transported into the middle of the city, very much on the American lines proposed by Victor Gruen. In Rotterdam the bombing was seen as achieving what would in any case have occurred in the course of time. In this and other respects strong parallels were established with the replanning of Coventry described by Dr Anthony Mason (Centre for Social History, University of Warwick). Here, work on a city centre plan had begun before the war and the post-1945 reconstruction was rational and functional, rather than aggressively modernistic. As a centre of the motor industry, Coventry planned more boldly than most for the motor vehicle, and the result still stands as one of the more successful achievements of post-war reconstruction. Mason stressed however that technical decisions were underpinned by the Labour council's determination that planning should help create a better society.

Britain, of course, offered a clear national framework for local replanning, its origins dating back to 1941 or even to the Barlow Report of 1940. Papers by Professor Gordon Cherry (Department of Geography, University of Birmingham) and Dr Emmanuel Marmaras (Department of Economic and Social History, University of Sheffield) reviewed these structures, showing how the war and the new welfarist ideologies made it possible to remedy some of the defects in the national planning system before the end of the war. Thus the war had more influence on slum clearance and city-centre renewal from the mid-1950s than it did on the reconstruction of bomb damage which, in the British case, was limited in extent in comparison with Germany.

A framework for reconstruction was curiously lacking in Eastern Europe. In a unique account of the rebuilding of Dresden, Professor Jürgen Paul (Kunsthistorisches Institut, University of Tübingen) identified a number of gaps, contradictions and, above all, surprising interventions of the national authorities which produced - at any rate in the eyes of the conference - a very fragmentary and even unsatisfactory result. It might of course be objected that socialist urban planning is seek-



ing distinctive goals to which a partially rebuilt baroque gem would not have conformed. In this case, however, the rebuilding of Warsaw, stone by stone, on pre-war lines becomes a problem. In his informed account, based largely on his own reminiscences, Stanislaw Jankowski (former Chief of Master Plan Development, Warsaw) attributed the decision to rebuild the old city to the will of the people as conveyed immediately after the liberation to the planners themselves. However, this explanation did not convince everyone. In a broader paper drawing on experience in both wars, Professor Teresa Zarebska (Faculty of Architecture, Warsaw Technical University) traced the growth of reconstruction concepts for the rebuilding of Poland. Erzsébet Harrach (Budapest City Archives) showed how Budapest, with more limited damage, also adopted a reconstruction strategy based on restoration, but her paper was mainly concerned with artistic and historical aspects. It was left to Professor Klaus von Beyme (Institut für politische Wissenschaft, University of Heidelberg) to describe the political and legal context of reconstruction in the DDR. Though less heavily bombed, housing conditions in eastern Germany were worse than in the west, while economic conditions were very difficult until some time after the war. However, a national set of urban planning principles was gradually drawn up, eschewing a slavish conformity to the Soviet model but intended as a conscious alternative to western principles. In a city-by-city review, Von Beyme found nevertheless that the on-the-ground achievement was not entirely satisfactory, especially in visual terms. The Dresden phenomenon thus appeared to be more widely spread, with political intervention apparently responsible for many of the incongruities.

That the West German experience was represented principally by Hamburg was a product largely of the great volume of research conducted there in recent years. Dr Karl Friedhelm Fischer (Städtebaugeschichte, TU Hamburg-Harburg) presented the replanning of Hamburg, the 'English city' of earlier days, as an international process. This had begun even during the war when the city planning director, Konstanty Gutschow, had kept in touch with British reconstruction planning. After the war, Walter Gropius agreed to act as a consultant. Long-range contacts thus helped Hamburg to avoid some of the parochialism which afflicted the planning of Cologne and other German cities. Fischer's paper was complemented by Niels Gutschow (Institute for East Asian Studies, University of Kiel) who, as son of the wartime planner, made use of his father's papers in his analysis of the planner's reactions to the 1943 raid. This brought out more clearly than the

other papers the devastating impact of death and destruction on the planners themselves. In the Hamburg case they assumed that the city was dead and aspects of Gutschow's 1944 rebuilding plan reflected a profound pessimism about the future. This plan, however, played little part in post-1945 decisions, when NS-party member Gutschow was in disgrace.

Most of the urban planners of Nazi Germany were, however, able to continue their activities after 1945. To some extent they had to retrain and rethink but Nazi planning had not diverged sufficiently from international practice to require major adjustments. For instance, Gutschow's assistant, Hillebrecht, went on to a very successful career as chief planner at Hanover. Werner Durth (Lehrstuhl Umweltgestaltung, University of Mainz) concentrated on the ways in which architects approached reconstruction, but his emphasis on continuity was applicable to planning in general. Finally, Dr Hartmut Frank (Hochschule für bildende Künste, Hamburg) presented the early results of a Franco-German research project on German planning in occupied Lorraine between 1940 and 1944. Lorraine had been allotted a semi-Germanic status within the new empire, but time was too short to achieve anything of note.

Some of the most innovative contributions were provided by French scholars. Danièle Voldman (Institut d'Histoire du Temps Présent, Paris) described her use of oral history to identify a corps of planners stretching through from before the war, to Vichy, and ultimately to the Fourth Republic. The continuity of personnel produced a strong continuity of planning through these years, together with a sense of professional identity which was not weakened, for the most part, by changes of regime. The resulting planning and design, as described by Rémi Baudouin (Institut d'Urbanisme, Paris), was generally cautious and conservative, with modernist figures such as Le Corbusier exercising little influence. What emerged was a French national style of planning, impervious to changes of regime and, to some extent, to international influences. However, the quality of the French achievement in harmonising old and new emerged very strongly.

Further diversity was added by discussions of reconstruction in areas more peripheral to the main centres of damage. Emmanuel Marmaras presented a note on reconstruction in Greece, which was too fragmentary to require major institutional reform. In Italy, as described by Professor Fabrizio Brunetti (Faculty of Architecture, University of Florence), significant damage occurred in seaports, industrial cities, and com-

munication centres. A degree of legislative change ensued, but Brunetti concentrated on the debate on modes of rebuilding in the architectural press. Finally, in a fascinating paper, Erik Lorange (Oslo School of Architecture) examined the unique problems faced by Norway, especially in the reconstruction of small northern towns which had been completely obliterated in 1940. The very survival of some of these places was uncertain, and they were rebuilt using modest resources and small-scale plans. British influence was however prominent in the urban theories and methods used by the planners.

It is expected that the conference will lead to the publication of a selection of the papers under the editorship of Jeffry Diefendorf.

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## Women In Planning History: Theories And Applications

### Alison Ravetz

Around twenty people from London, Oxford, Bristol and northern cities, attended a seminar (12th April 1988) in the dignified surroundings of The King's Manor, York, by courtesy of the Institute for Advanced Architectural Studies. In their several ways the six papers given explored the mechanisms by which residential planning and housing fail to reflect the needs and aspirations of women, in a male oriented society.

The morning's contributions opened with a two part presentation by Ian Bentley and Helen Teague (Oxford Polytechnic) on "Gender Bias in Planning Ideology". Taking as an axiom that women's relation to built environment is conditioned by their role as individualised providers of unpaid labour, they contrasted the 'traditional' street layout of neighbourhoods with the maze-like and introverted layout of postwar council estates. The latter, as they illustrated from Helen's personal journey through the Mozart and Marquess Road estates in London, appears menacing to a woman. The contrasting designs of the two periods, based on entirely different planning ideologies, led them to a paradox. The environ-

ment that was more relaxed and enabling for women was the product of a period when they were more constrained by conventions, law and employment, while in the later period the reverse seems to be the case: greater freedom and economic independence are counterbalanced by a more repressive environment. They consequently find it significant that there is now a movement back to a residential vernacular, when the recently won sexual, domestic and economic freedoms of women are under threat.

Patricia Roberts (Polytechnic of the South Bank), in a study of the "Image of Women in Postwar Plans for London", looked first at the Abercrombie Plan. Like others of this period it aimed explicitly to promote a humane and livable environment for all, but a detailed study of his proposals for Shoreditch with a view to women's actual daily routines (taking kids to nursery in one direction, going to part-time job in another, and shopping in yet another) only shows how partial this really was.

In successive decades, despite changing planning orientations, the same gender blindness is seen. A genuine shift of outlook, based on consultation with women's groups, did not occur until the abortive 1983 draft alterations to the GLDP by the GLC. Now the only hopeful signs for women would appear to be in a changing climate of thought within the planning profession itself.

In "Inside Pram Town: the Impact of New Town Design on Women's Lives in the Early Fifties" Judy Attfield (Brighton Polytechnic) spoke of the experience by women of a deliberately non-Modernist New Town design. The only space where women had any control was the interior of the home, and in its early years the Development Corporation refused applications from firms who relied on women's labour. Women's attitudes were naturally influenced by what they had left behind. They did not regret the shared rooms, but they did miss Mum, and did indeed suffer from New Town blues. Perhaps in compensation, they threw themselves into polishing and putting up resplendent lines of whites. As far as possible, they chose cosiness rather than functionality, and when they did start to earn money of their own they spent it on furnishing the home. The speaker pleaded for a sensitive appreciation of the significance of their housework, all too often branded non-functional and obsessive, in creating the sort of environment that women identified with and felt proud of.

The afternoon's three contributions each took different aspects of women's relationship to environment, and each in its own way sketched a



highly interesting and neglected episode in the subject. Richard Turkington (Liverpool Polytechnic) presented his ongoing study of "The Housewife's Choice: the Postwar Prefab Bungalow and its Appeal to Women". This resurrected a sociological study of the 'portals' and other pre-fabs by the Council of Scientific Management in the Home, connected with the Women's Group on Public Welfare which is known for its report, 'Our Towns: a Close-up'. The study, published in *The Sociological Review* 1951, looked at these supposedly temporary dwellings with a view to meal preparation, house cleaning, laundry and child care. The investigators found that the bungalows had a strong appeal to their 400 informants. Richard Turkington's re-survey of a large Wolverhampton estate uses some of the original questions and also compares the 'then and now' attitudes of original tenants still in occupation. It reveals that the tenants who arrived 40 years ago can still find nothing really to dislike about their homes. Cohorts who arrived in the 1960s and 1980s are a bit more critical of some of the old-fashioned features, but nevertheless find a high degree of contentment in the compact, detached dwellings in small, friendly enclaves. Thus housing managers find a house type that was purely opportunistic provides qualities of security and individuality than would enable it to be let over and over again.

Tanis Hinchcliffe (London) discussed a different aspect of women's relationship to housing in "Women Property Owners" - studies of ownership of houses by women in Islington between the wars, and on the St John's North Oxford estate from the 1860s onwards. The latter study has only just begun, but the provisional findings are that house ownership as an investment was related to the life cycles of middle-class families and was common up to 1918. In general, ownership by women was likely to be near where they themselves lived, while men might own anywhere, but there was also a pattern of investment by, or for, middle-class women in spa towns and seaside resorts.

Financial and other changes in the early 1900s made this kind of property ownership much less profitable; but whereas men would tend to get out of the market, women typically would retain what became more and more an obsolete and unrewarding investment.

The last contribution, Lynn Pearson's preview of her forthcoming book on *Women and Cooperative Housekeeping: the Architectural and Social History of Cooperative Living* (Macmillan) proved a surprising and entertaining end to a valuable day. The history of this minority movement can be traced

back to 1834 in England, but its peak was in the late 19th and early 20th century, when it coincided with the Garden City movement. Fifteen actual developments were completed between 1874 and 1935, and ten of them are still in use as housing, the last cooperative function disappearing as late as 1976. The last big cooperative scheme was begun at Bournville in 1924. Our previous ignorance of the subject must be partly due to the fact that information is not to be found in architectural journals, but in women's and housing journals - for instance, *Ideal Home* 1921.

Cooperative housekeeping is to be distinguished from communal living, and also, of course, from today's housing coops, which offer shared tenure but not shared living. Its best documented examples are the blocks of family apartments or single women's rooms built in college-like quadrangles in the Garden Cities and Hampstead Garden Suburb. A good few blocks of 'chambers' for single women were put up in London, where they are still to be identified by their handsome name plaques. One amazing example in Finchley looks like (and is now) a street of conventional middle-class houses, but they were built without kitchens and relied upon a central block for catering. These were the creation of Alice Melvin, an indefatigable woman who was also responsible, among other schemes, for a Melvin Park and a Melvin Hall. Despite such a colourful history, however, the author of the study concludes that the contribution of cooperative housing to the main stream of housing has been negligible.

So many issues and aspects were raised throughout the day that the time available for discussion could not in any way do them justice. The seminar did not answer, but it did revolve around some of the 'key questions' posed by Patricia Roberts: was there ever, in fact, a body of theory representing women's aspirations and standards which could have been heeded by the environmental professionals, and if they had, would our environment now be different? The discussion frequently worked round to the conclusion that social status and individualised consumption were the dominant influences, and that women tacitly, if not explicitly, concurred with this. The cooperative housing movement may have been the nearest that any body of women came to working out a philosophy, and even that was not the exclusive preserve of women. More commonly, women availed themselves of the environment provided for them, expressing positive satisfaction when it best suited their purposes, as in the case of the pre-fabs. Their indifferent success as landlords might be taken as evidence that their interest in environment was instrumental for personal ends,

rather than commercial. It was strongly conditioned by their role in the family and the location of that role in the domestic interior. Here, though it was not passive, it was subtle and easily overlooked or dismissed by insensitive observers, who might even include other women, who had themselves escaped the constraints of home. Other than these two kinds of response, a compelling point was made by Clara Greed (Bristol Polytechnic) from a growing suspicion gained through her research into the history of women surveyors. This was that history is probably littered with vast numbers of small and forgotten examples of women's work and interest in the planning of the built environment. At any rate the point seemed to be confirmed by the example of Patricia Roberts' aunt, who had a copy of the Abercrombie Plan tucked into her bookshelf, and so lit a spark of curiosity in her niece.

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Department of Social Studies  
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# Sources

## Patrick Geddes Centre For Planning Studies

In June 1985 the Patrick Geddes Centre for Planning Studies was opened by the Principal of the University of Edinburgh in the presence of a distinguished audience. The Centre is housed in the Edinburgh Room of the Outlook Tower, Castlehill, Edinburgh, thanks to a valuable contribution made by the University in terms of rehabilitation and refurbishing.

Through the generosity of Mr Ian Barr, Chairman of the Scottish Postal Board, a grant was awarded to Professor Percy Johnson-Marshall, Director of the Centre. Mrs Sofia G. Leonard has been appointed as Senior Research Fellow and work is proceeding successfully.

This may be recorded as a successful start of a programme to bring together at the Outlook Tower as many of Patrick Geddes' documents as possible, and to develop a Centre for Planning Studies which will evolve in the spirit of his work in the world today.

Already housed in the Outlook Tower is not only a considerable number of documents pertaining to Geddes, but a large collection from the Library of the former Association for Planning and Regional Reconstruction which acted during and after the Second World War very much as a follow-on of Geddes' teaching.

A third collection of more recent plans relating to Scotland is also included in the archive, and all three collections are being sorted, classified, and stored in a form where they may be used by scholars, not only in Scotland, but internationally, since Geddes had such a broad international influence.

In developing the Centre in the spirit of Geddes, it is proposed not only to mount exhibitions, but also to use the worldwide network of former planning students of the Department of Urban Design and Regional Planning in over sixty countries, to assist and progress the ideas of planning for human welfare.

### 1. The role of the Centre in Edinburgh

- To create an archive of the work of Patrick Geddes, one of Edinburgh's great citizens.

- To prepare exhibitions, first of Geddes' own work, and later to prepare contemporary exhibitions to help planning in Edinburgh, Scotland, and internationally.
- To act as a Centre and focus of planning and environmental ideas in Edinburgh, using the Outlook Tower and the Old Town wherever possible.
- To cooperate with the new Edinburgh Conservation and Renewal Committee as closely as possible.
- To promote symposia, public lectures, seminars and Summer Schools at the Outlook Tower.
- To organise a Society of Friends of Patrick Geddes to stimulate financial and moral support to the Centre's activities (including to restore some of the original functions of the Outlook Association).
- To publish:  
Books and works of Patrick Geddes now out of print; the results of research done in connection with the Patrick Geddes Centre for Planning Studies.  
The results of international research in the field of Urban Design and Regional Planning in connection with international Institutions associated with the Patrick Geddes Centre.

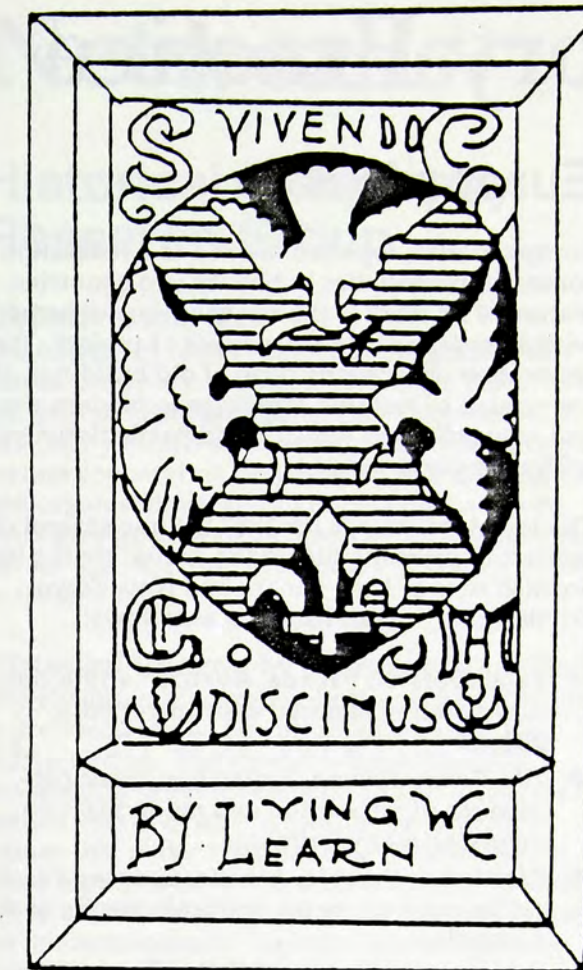
### 2. The role of the Centre internationally

- To act as a Centre and Headquarters for Planners from other countries.
- To act as a liaison for the former students of the Department of Urban Design and Regional Planning who are now working in over 60 countries.
- To develop joint research links with Institutions from other countries.

## THE CENTRE'S PROJECTS

### The Archive Project

The Centre holds within its premises a quantity of archive material relating to the life and work of Patrick Geddes. Geddes, generally regarded as the father of modern British Planning, lived and worked for many years in Edinburgh and was a prolific documenter of his theories and of his practice. At present, a great deal of the material is inaccessible to potential users because it is as yet unorganised. It is proposed to remedy this



situation by organising it for use, by coordinating it with other collections of Geddes material in other parts of the UK and the world, and by making its existence and availability widely known.

### The Conservation Project

This project refers in particular to Patrick Geddes' Cities and Town Planning Exhibition and First Survey of Edinburgh which forms an important part of the Archives of the Centre. The aim is, in the first instance, to preserve the items in the collection from further deterioration for the benefit of present and future generations of researchers. The second (although no less important) aim, is to restore those items which have suffered from bad storage, handling and packing in the past and to make them ready for exhibition.

### The Exhibition Project

It is envisaged that, once restored, Geddes' famous Cities and Town Planning Exhibition will be shown to the public at the Edinburgh Festival 1988. The Centre also aims to organise a smaller but permanent exhibition to acquaint the Edinburgh visitor and citizen alike with some of the ideas and work of Sir Patrick Geddes which, even now, are a source of inspiration for the revitalisation of the city he loved and knew so well. The permanent exhibition should provide a focal and starting point for the Patrick Geddes Heritage Trail which is lacking at present.

### The International Understanding Project

The Centre aims to promote a world-wide exchange of plans and interpretative information concerning human settlements and Ecology.

Sofia Leonard  
Patrick Geddes Centre for Planning Studies  
University of Edinburgh



# Planning History Practice

## Harlow's 40th Anniversary

As a pioneering generation of new towns makes its own history, it is encouraging to find a recognition of this in different ways. Elsewhere in this issue is an advertisement for the series of new town histories published by 'Publications for Companies'. In contrast, a variety of events in Harlow in 1987, sponsored by the local authority, aroused a wider community interest in what was the fortieth anniversary of the town designed by Sir Frederick Gibberd.

Recalling the language and spirit of postwar optimism that surrounded the whole programme, one of the pioneers looked back on Harlow "as a beacon... the start of a brave new world, a town fit for heroes. At least, that's what we set out to achieve when we turned the first turf."

Oral history projects formed an interesting part of the anniversary events. So, too, was a display of photographs of the late Sir Frederick's town plans, the originals being held by Lady Gibberd.

## Europa Nostra

Europa Nostra, founded in 1963, is a federation of conservation societies in twenty two countries. A feature of its work is the annual award scheme, with awards made to three types of project - the restoration or reconstruction of old buildings, the conversion of restored buildings to modern use, and new buildings which blend particularly well with their surroundings.

The top eight awards for 1987 include several of interest to planning historians, including the two Scottish sites of New Lanark and New Town, Edinburgh. The full listing is as follows:

- **Palais Ferstel, Vienna, Austria** : a 19th century building restored and converted to offices.
- **Old Town, Rauma, Finland** : a major programme of restoration and modernisation involving many buildings.
- **Erectheion Temple, Athens, Greece** : a restoration programme on this Ionic temple of the Acropolis.
- **Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland** : reconstruction of the 18th century dining hall destroyed by fire.
- **Monastery of Santa Maria la Real, Aguilar de Campóo, Spain** : restoration and conversion to use as an education centre.
- **Cultural Warehouse, Sundsvall, Sweden** : the reconstruction of four warehouses and their conversion into a cultural centre.
- **The New Town, Edinburgh, Scotland** : large-scale conservation work in the 18th century New Town.
- **New Lanark, Scotland** : revitalisation of the late 18th/early 19th century model industrial village.

To celebrate 1987 as the European Year of the Environment a second category of awards was made for architectural conservation projects affecting whole cities, towns and villages, with New Town and New Lanark emerging as winners there too.

# Networks

## Historical Geography Research Group

### Objectives and aims

The objectives of the Historical Geography Research Group are to initiate and foster research in the field of Historical Geography; to promote discussion by means of meetings and conferences; to further cooperation between cognate disciplines and organisations; and to effect publication of monographs, collected papers and discussion materials. Membership is open to all who subscribe to these aims.

### Historical Geography Research Paper Series

The Historical Geography Research Paper Series is produced by the Historical Geography Research Group. The Research Paper Series is designed to provide scholars with an outlet for extended essays of an interpretive or conceptual nature that make a substantive contribution to some aspect of the subject; critical reviews of the literature on a major problem; and commentaries on relevant sources. Eighteen issues have been published 1979-1987. Two or three numbers are produced annually. These can be purchased at a special annual subscription rate through membership of the Historical Geography Research Group (see below). Back numbers are available. Publication details and orders should be addressed to Dr Charles Withers, Hon. Editor HGRG, Department of Geography, The College of St Paul and St Mary, Cheltenham, Glos GL50 2RH, UK.

Contributions are invited for the Series. Papers should not normally exceed 20,000 words in length, inclusive of notes, tables and diagrams, and should be in English. Intending contributors should, in the first instance, send an outline of their proposed paper to one of the Co-Editors of the Series. Those in North America should contact Professor Aidan McQuillan, Department of Geography, University of Toronto, 100 St George Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 1A1. Those in the UK and the rest of Europe should contact Dr Charles Withers (as above). Those elsewhere may contact either Professor McQuillan or Dr Withers.

For membership details please contact:

Dr Richard Dennis  
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## National Historic Communal Societies Association

The National Historic Communal Societies Association grew out of meetings at New Harmony, Indiana, and Shakertown at Pleasant Hill, Kentucky, in 1974 and 1975. Our annual conferences are conducted at an historic communal site each October, and our Pacific Coast Chapter meets each May. Our purpose is to encourage the restoration, preservation and public interpretation of the communitarian heritage and the study of international communities, past and present. Through a Centre for Communal Studies, a scholarly journal and a newsletter, we facilitate communications and cooperation among academicians, preservationists, and communitarians.

The Centre for Communal Studies at the University of Southern Indiana is our administrative office, clearinghouse for information, and archival research facility. We have publications, manuscripts, recordings and photographs of seventy historic communal groups and from two hundred and seventy communities established since 1965. Inquiries and materials for deposit should be directed to N.H.C.S.A. executive director, Dr Donald E. Pitzer, at the above address, or call (812) 464-1719.

Manuscripts on all aspects of communitarianism are solicited for our interdisciplinary journal, *Communal Societies*. Submit two copies prepared according to *A Manual of Style* to Dr Michael Barkun, Editor, *Communal Societies*, Department of Political Science, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY 13244-1090. Send books for review to Dr James H. Sweetland, School of Library and Information Science, University of Wisconsin, Box 424, Milwaukee, WI 53201. Items for the newsletter go



to Dr Susan Matarese, Department of Political Science, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292, (502) 588-6831.

You are invited to our fifteenth annual Historic Communal Societies Conference at the eighteenth century Moravian settlements of Old Salem and Bethabara in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, October 6-8, 1988. If you wish to organise or chair a session, give a formal paper or make a presentation about your community or research, contact Dr Thomas J. Hauptert, The Moravian Archives, 4 East Bank Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101-5307, (919) 722-1742.

For details of our Pacific Coast Chapter write to Dr J. Gordon Melton, Jr., Box 90709, Santa Barbara, CA 93190, (805) 961-8133.

The N.H.C.S.A. will co-sponsor an International Communal Societies Conference at Robert Owen's restored New Lanark, Scotland, July 18-21, 1988. A three-day guided tour of the Findhorn community will follow. For details write Lorna Davidson, New Lanark Conservation Trust, New Lanark Mills, Lanark, ML11 9DB, Scotland, UK.

For membership details please contact:

Professor D.E. Pitzer  
Centre for Communal Studies  
University of Southern Indiana  
Evansville, Indiana 47712 USA  
812 464-1719

# Publications

## Planning History Microfilm Series British Planning History 1900-1952

Altair Publishing, in conjunction with the British Planning History Group, is pleased to announce the release in Spring 1988 of the first set of reels in a series of 35mm microfilms which will trace the development of British planning for the first half of the twentieth century.

Overall the project will include the archival and printed material of key planning organisations and associations and papers of individual planners as well as official documentation. Scholarly introductions, in the form of printed booklets, will be supplied with all microfilms.

The publications to start the series will comprise the archival and printed material from the Town and Country Planning Association, the National Housing and Town Planning Council and the Royal Town Planning Institute. These reels will include the following journals:

From the Town and Country Planning Association - *Garden City* 1904-08, *Garden Cities and Town Planning* 1908-1910, and *Garden Cities and Town Planning* (New series) 1911-32.

From the Royal Town Planning Institute - *Papers and Transactions* 1914-24 and *Journal of the Town Planning Institute* 1924/25-1951/52.

From the National Housing and Town Planning Council - *Housing and Town Planning Bulletin* 1940-48, and *Housing and Town Planning Review*, 1948-52.

For details of archival material from these organisations or other enquiries about the project, please contact:

Altair Publishing 21 Scott Green Drive Gildersome West Yorkshire LS27 7BZ England  
Telephone (0532) 536615 Telex 8950511 ONEONE  
G Ref 20625001

## Abstracts

Arthur, Eric (1984, 1986, third edition, revised by Stephen, A. Otto): *Toronto, No Mean City*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. 315pp. cloth ISBN 0-8020-5668-7, \$40.00; paper ISBN 0-8020-6587-2, \$18.95

This revised edition of a book long popular in Toronto examines the architecture of that city through to 1900. The Otto version is technically a better book and embraces scholarly improvements. Evenso, recording and celebrating the city's architectural history takes precedence over critical inquiry in this volume.

Breheny, Michael J., and McQuaid, Ronald (eds) (1987) *The Development of High Technology Industries: An International Survey*. London: Croom Helm 363pp. ISBN 0-7099-3942-6, £35.00.

Developing new high technology industries is seen by many countries as the best hope for future economic growth. The volume seeks to explain the reasons for the regional concentrations that have emerged, and the likely consequences. Case studies are made of the electronics and information technology production industries, with chapters focussed on the experience of the United States and Canada, the United Kingdom and France, Japan and Australia.

Buttenwieser, Ann L. (1987) *Manhattan Water-Bound: Planning and Developing Manhattan's Waterfront from the Seventeenth Century to the Present*. New York: New York University Press. 242pp. ISBN 0-8147-1093-X, \$35.00.

This volume offers the complete story of Manhattan's waterfront development in four historical phases - the 1660s to the mid-1800s, 1880-1920s, the 1930s and 1940s, and the current phase since the end of World War II. Her account shows that specific technologies, market forces and political coalitions in different periods shaped water-front development. Yet the important features remained constant over the 300 years covered by this volume. Private interests generally define the appropriate uses and structures while the public sector is slow to act in initiating or facilitating development. The volume addresses an import-



ant topic for planning and adds missing pieces to the fascinating puzzle of planning history in New York City.

**Chisholm, Michael and Kivell, Philip** (1987) *Inner City Waste Land: An Assessment of Government and Market Failure in Land Development*. Institute of Economic Affairs, London, Hobart Paper 108. 88pp. ISBN 0-255-36202-1, £3.50

Identifies the major market imperfections that cause over 200,000 hectares of land to remain vacant in England, much of it in urban areas. To create the appropriate market context for this land to be released at realistic prices and developed, the authors set out a series of measures which, taken together, would provide a sensible framework whereby the kind of crisis which currently afflicts urban areas might be at least mitigated.

**Fitzgerald, Alan** (1987) *Canberra in Two Centuries: A Pictorial History*. Clareville Press, Canberra, A.C.T. (Available for \$29.50 plus postage from National Capital Development Commission, Northbourne Avenue, Canberra, ACT, 2600, Australia).

A photo rather than a scholarly history, journalist Fitzgerald's book provides nonetheless a useful reference for urban, planning and social historians. In 1908 fledgeling Federal Parliament of Australia decreed that the Limestone Plains district of NSW should be transformed into a model capital city for the Commonwealth. Until then the area was known primarily as good grazing country. Critics of modern-day, Canberra - now a sprawling metropolis of 250,000 - still refer to 'the good sheep station spoiled'. This book is especially valuable for its images of pre-planner's Canberra but there are also interesting sections on Walter Burley Griffin, the brilliant if eccentric American who won the Government's design competition in 1912 and its physical development both before and after the Second World War.

**Hennock, E.P.** (1987) *British Social Reform and German Precedents. The Case of Social Insurance 1880-1914*. Oxford: Clarendon Press 243pp. ISBN 0-19-820127-3, £25.00.

In this study of innovation and resistance to innovation from abroad, the author examines British policy on compensation for industrial accidents, old age pensions and national insurance, and in a wide ranging introduction compares this with de-

velopments in such other spheres as technical education and town planning in which German precedents had also challenged accepted ways.

**Hewison, Robert** (1987) *The Heritage Industry. Britain in a Climate of Decline*. London: Methuen 160pp. Paperback. ISBN 0-413-16110-2, £6.95.

Described by the publisher as a witty polemic, the author sets out to protect the present and the future of life in Britain from their most dangerous enemy, a creeping takeover by the past, or rather the kind of past promoted by the Heritage Industry, a movement dedicated to turning the British Isles into one vast open-air museum.

**Howells, Jeremy** (1988) *Economic, Technological and Locational Trends in European Services*. Aldershot: Avebury 225pp. ISBN 0-556-05646-1, £25.00.

Discusses the key conceptual problems associated with the definition and classification of service activities, the reasons for service sector growth, and the importance of the information economy in Europe.

**Howells, Jeremy and Green, Anne** (1988) *Technological Innovation, Structural Change and Location in UK Services*. Aldershot: Avebury 252pp. ISBN 0-566-05660-7, £25.00

Recent growth in the number of people employed in services and of the importance of service activities is related to a number of major developments, in particular the increasing demand for 'producers' and 'intermediate' services.

**Knox, Paul L.** (ed) (1988) *The Design Professions and the Built Environment*. London: Croom Helm 313pp. ISBN 0-7099-3122-0, £30.00.

Illustrates how the outlook of architects and planners affects their work. Having investigated the work patterns, career paths, and forms for which they operate, the author considers their approach to design and the factors which influence this. The place of the design professions in the political decision-making process is explored insofar as it affects urban questions.

**Larsen, Lawrence H.** (1985) *The Rise of the Urban South*. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky. 220pp. ISBN 0-8131-1538-8, \$22.00

This volume seeks to provide an overview of city building in the South in the 19th century, with particular emphasis on the Gilded Age. The author contends that cities in the South differed only in degree from those elsewhere in America. Although uneven in its treatment of key issues in southern urbanisation, the notes and essay on sources are useful.

**Lawless, Richard** (ed) (1987) *The Middle Eastern Village. Changing Economic and Social Relations*. London: Croom Helm 304pp. ISBN 0-7099-1695-7, £25.00.

The ten contributions assess the impact on rural life and environment of such factors as the mass exodus of labour to urban centres, emigration, immigration, environmental change and the changing role of women in rural communities. State-sponsored agrarian policies have weakened the power of traditional landed interests and, together with labour migration, have provoked new tensions and inequalities in rural society.

**Lawrence, Roderick J.** (1986) : *Le Seuil Franchi ... logement populaire et vie quotidienne en Suisse romande, 1860-1960*. Geneva: Georg Editeur. Swiss Francs 70, plus 7.30 postage and packing. (Obtainable from George Editur S.A., 6 Corraterie, CH 1211, Geneve 11, Switzerland).

This book represents a study of the development of urban residential buildings, between 1860 and 1960, in "Swiss romande", that is, the French-speaking Cantons of Switzerland. A general overview of the history of urban, popular housing types is complemented by studies of the development of residential building and daily life in Geneva, Fribourg and Le Locle, three towns with different local histories. A triple approach has been used to examine the design, construction and use of urban dwelling units in terms of historical, social and economic, technical and legal parameters.

**Lawrence, Roderick J.** (1987) *Housing, Dwelling and Homes. Design Theory, Research and Practice*. Chichester: John Wiley 319pp. ISBN 0-471-91408-8, £34.00.

In offering a critical review of recent housing research and policy, and of architectural theory and practice, the author distinguishes between housing, dwelling processes and homes, which can only be understood within an historical perspec-

tive in terms of a range of architectural, cultural, social and psychological variables.

**Melvin, Patricia Mooney** (1987) *The Organic City: Urban Definition and Neighbourhood Organisation, 1880-1920*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky. 227pp. ISBN 0-8131-1585-X, \$25.00

The book attempts to utilize the social unity theory developed by Walter Phillips, and applied in Cincinnati in 1917, to document changing presumptions about the nature of urbanism. The three year experiment, which was America's "best attempt at neighbourhood organisation during the first two decades of the twentieth century", proved to be a failure. This volume explores in great detail the basis of Phillips' theory and the reasons for its failure.

**Power, Anne** (1987) : *Property Before People. The Management of Twentieth Century Council Housing*. Allen and Unwin, London. 268pp. ISBN 0-04-350070-6, hardback £30.00, paperback £9.95.

Those responsible for public housing in Britain have tended to concentrate their energies on buildings rather than management, on property rather than people. The author examines attempts by successive individuals and government to overcome slum conditions and homelessness, to reform landlord-tenant relations, and to provide sound modern dwellings with full amenities for those who need them. In doing so, an indication is given of how the present 'state of crisis' has developed, and the range of solutions to rented public housing problems based on experience and research in twenty local authorities.

**Ryan, Patricia** (1987) : *Urban Development Law and Policy*. Sydney: The Law Book Company (\$59.50 softcover available from The Law Book Co. Ltd., 44-50 Waterloo Road, North Ryde, NSW 2113, Australia).

A wide-ranging text on Australian statutory and policy planning issues with some explicitly historical interest. Includes a table of legislative history of Australian environmental planning and management. There is 'a simple comfort', contends the author in 'just knowing what has happened or not happened previously, quite independent of the whys and wherefores if they are indeed ever fully discoverable or comprehensible in a different time and place'. The table further illustrates the 'enormity of the task of coordination



even in a legislative managerial sense, both within the States and territories and across Australia'.

**Smith, Neil and Williams, Peter (eds) (1986) :** *Gentrification of the City*. Winchester, Massachusetts: Allen and Unwin 257pp. Cloth ISBN 0-04-301201-9, \$29.95; paper ISBN 0-04-301202-7, \$13.95.

This well-crafted compilation of essays explores the controversial issue of gentrification from three vantage points - a theoretical perspective, a cross-national perspective, and critical perspective. The editors contend in their concluding essay that to justify state intervention to support gentrification in terms of broader community interest in 'revitalisation' is not valid, since the benefits accrue mainly to the middle class while many in the community suffer. The accompanying essays tend to bolster this view based upon research in various urban settings.

**Weiner, Edward (1987) *Urban Transportation Planning in the United States: An Historical Overview***. Praeger Publishers, New York. 122pp. ISBN 0-275-92493-9 hardcover \$30.95, paperback \$9.95.

This volume gives a fairly comprehensive summary of the major events in urban transportation planning from the 1950s through the early 1980s, but in a condensed form. It will be useful as a reference for those who want to check facts and dates but is not suitable as a text.

**Whitehand, J.W.R. (1987) *The Changing Face of Cities. A Study of Development Cycles and Urban Form***. Oxford: Basil Blackwell 189pp. ISBN 0-631-154589-0, £25.00.

Principally concerned with the development of urban landscapes, especially over long periods of time, the main theme of the volume is the cyclical character of the process of development and redevelopment. The interplay of innovation, constructional activity and accessibility, when taken together, provides the basis for a theoretical schema to which a wide variety of aspects of the physical form of cities is related.

**Wyatt, Ivor (1987) : *Ours in Trust: A Personal History of The National Trust of Australia (NSW)***. Sydney: Willow Bond Press (Available for \$20.00 paperback from The National Trust of Australia (NSW), Observatory Hill, Sydney, NSW, Australia).

The National Trust movement in Australia was launched at a public meeting in Sydney's Royal Empire Society Hall on 5 November 1947. The organisation was modelled upon the National Trust in the UK and a leading figure in the early days, Mrs Annie Wyatt, had written away for information as early as 1935. The natural environment was an important early focus - Mrs Wyatt was also the leading light of a Tree Lovers' Civic League in Sydney. The demolition of historic colonial buildings in the central city was another catalyst to the formation of the Trust. By 1955 membership was well over 500 and the first sister organisation was founded in South Australia. In 1988 membership in NSW alone stands at over 30,000 and the Trust has established a solid and occasionally very influential professional competence in all aspects of the conservation of the built and natural environments. This valuable memoir charts the quantitative growth and qualitative change in the Trust in NSW over the past forty years.

**Ziegler, Charles E. (1987) : *Environmental Policy in the USSR***. London: Frances Pinter (Publishers) 195pp. ISBN 0-86187-901-5, £22.50.

Having outlined the way in which environmental issues are perceived in the USSR, the author describes how environmental protection became a Soviet concern, how the law functions primarily as a means of political socialisation, and how central planning and State ownership affects the administration of environmental programmes and pollution controls. Haphazard and inefficient, the State corporatist bureaucracy has been no more successful in securing environmental protection than Western democracies.

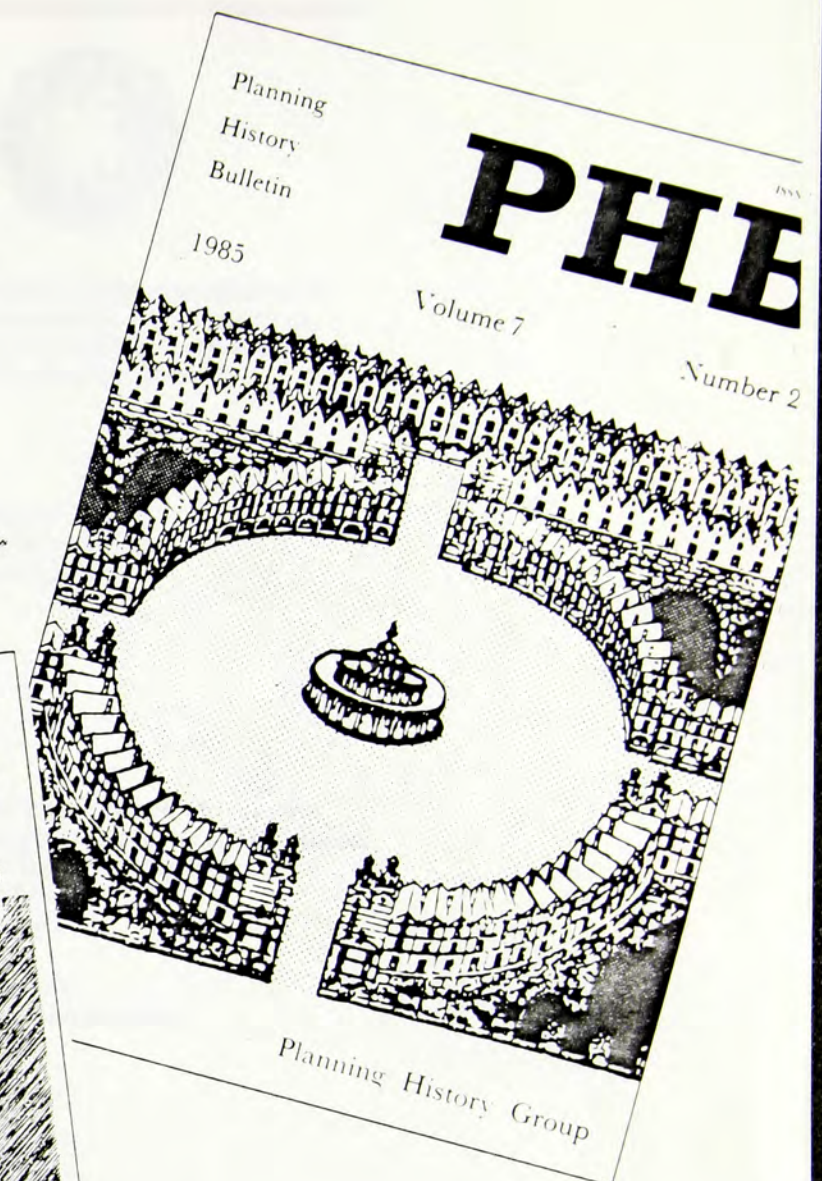
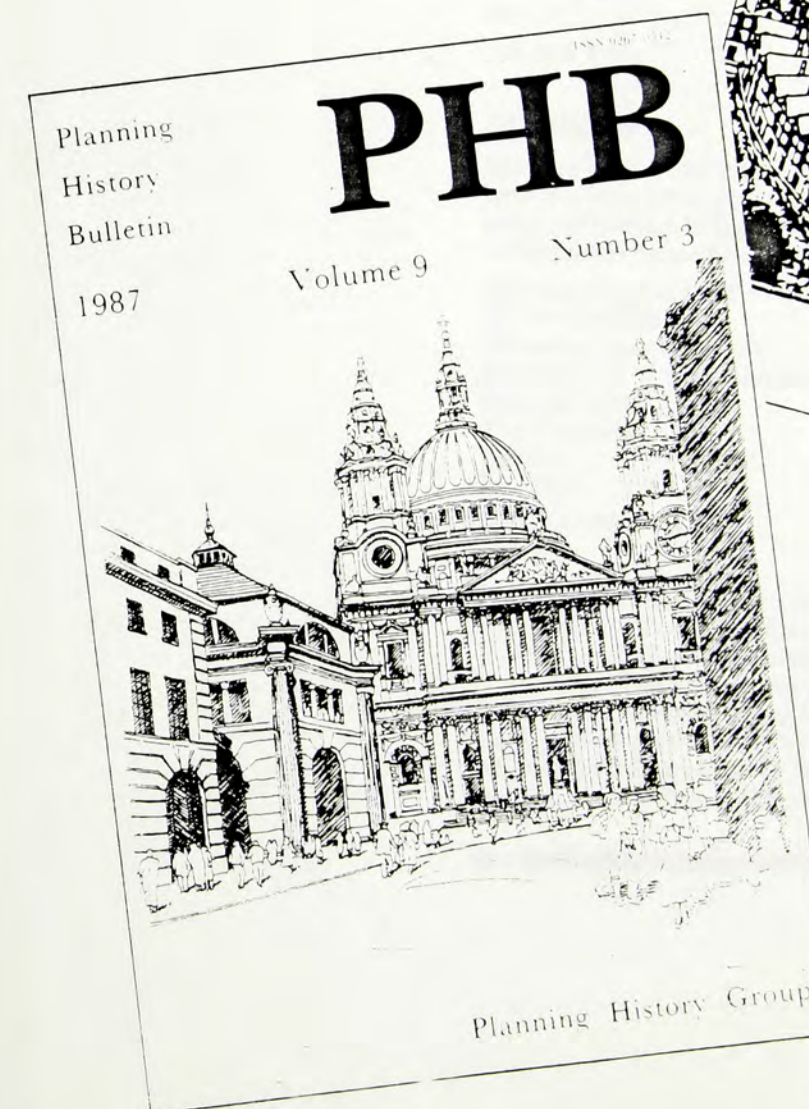
With acknowledgements to John Sheail and Robert Freestone for abstracts received.

# PHG

## Back Issues

Back issues of the bulletin are available from Vol. 1, No. 1, price £10.00 per volume or £4.00 per issue (inland and overseas mailing included - other rates available on request). Please contact the Treasurer in the first instance:

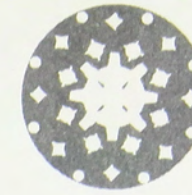
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## Planning History Group

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The Planning History Group, inaugurated in 1974, is an international body. Its members, drawn from many disciplines, have a working interest in history, planning and the environment.

### *Chairman*

Professor G.E. Cherry  
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### *Membership*

Membership of the group is open to all who have an interest in planning history. The annual subscription is £10 (currency equivalents available on request).

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Professor Gordon Cherry is Joint Editor with Professor Anthony Sutcliffe of an international journal concerned with history, planning and the environment: **Planning Perspectives**. There is a link between **Planning History** and **Planning Perspectives** and members of the Planning History Group are able to subscribe to the new journal at very favourable discount rates.

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