





Preface

Dialogues in Urban and Regional Planning began as a conversation among leaders of ten planning school associations in Shanghai in 2001. The hope was to improve access to 'foreign' scholarship for urban planners working in each of the world's nations and languages and, as a result, to promote better integration, cross-fertilization and criticism. Papers were nominated by each of the nine member associations of the Global Planning Education Association Network (GPEAN) and then chosen by an international editorial board. This is the inaugural English-language volume in what will be a biennial series available in print and electronic editions. Translations to additional languages will be made available as funding permits through the GPEAN website.

Urban planning scholarship has been constrained by limited communication across national and language boundaries. Legal, institutional and cultural considerations have often been assumed as givens in planning scholarship because the degree of variation among them may be quite limited within individual nations. Efforts to promote international exchange in planning scholarship, accelerated in the past decade, and highlighted by the first World Planning Schools Congress held in Shanghai in 2001, suggest that the potential value of comparative work is quite high. At the same time, language and library budgets limit access to planning scholarship worldwide. The *Dialogues* book series seeks to offer a sampling of the best urban planning scholarship from each of the world's planning scholarship communities to scholars in the other communities. While a small sample of papers can only do so much, we believe the current level of access is such that a book series featuring some of the best scholarship from each community will be powerful in suggesting models and in leading scholars to new resources.

Submissions were chosen by each planning school association through editorial committees. Specific methods of choice varied by association, with some selecting the best papers in certain journals, and others reviewing open suggestions from their member faculty. The International Editorial Board then reviewed all association-submitted papers and selected those to be included in this book. The objective was to select examples of the best urban and regional planning scholarship including work from each of the world's regions. You won't find national or regional consensus views of planning issues here. Rather, the papers



presented illustrate the concerns and the discourse of planning scholarship communities around the world. They provide a peek into the theories and methods of use by planning academics around the world, and they are suggestive of sources that may lead to further useful exploration.

Each biennial volume will be published in English and marketed worldwide in print and electronic editions by Routledge. Then, with support of national and multi-lateral organizations, translations of the papers will be made available in other languages through GPEAN's web facility (www.gpean.org). The expectation is for broad coverage in university libraries worldwide, purchase by individual planning scholars, as well as use as a text in doctoral coursework.

The nine member associations of GPEAN are: the Association of African Planning Schools (AAPS), the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) in USA, the Association of Canadian University Planning Programs (ACUPP), the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP), the Association of Latin-American Schools of Urban Planning (ALEUP), the National Association of Urban and Regional Postgraduate and Research Programs (ANPUR) in Brazil, the Australia and New Zealand Association of Planning Schools (ANZAPS), the Association for the Development of Planning Education and Research (APERAU), and the Asian Planning Schools Association (APSA).

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