

policymakers at many levels. A careful reading will inform the direction the policy should take if a redevelopment project is to be successful.

Although it is mostly descriptive and geared toward city and regional planning policy issues, especially legal and institutional factors, the compilation of such information in one volume can be invaluable to practitioners in a number of different fields. For example, those in the legal profession, who study environmental laws, could benefit especially from the survey of state policies in Leigh's chapter. Community action groups with vested interests in the redevelopment of brownfields can find information in the book that would help identify which political strategies are successful in bringing about change.

Academic researchers will also find very helpful information. For example, although the book is clearly not meant to focus on economics, as a practitioner of hedonic pricing I was struck by the applicability of much of the material to empirical modeling. The book clearly defines a number of different types of vacant urban land, which might not normally be considered carefully in the context of empirical hedonic models. It is well known that hedonic models suffer bias from the existence of unobservable characteristics, and a careful examination of the different types of vacant land in real estate markets may help inform such models. From the typology developed in Pagano and Bowman's first chapter, it is clear that a small, oddly shaped vacant lot in a poor residential neighborhood will probably have a different impact on surrounding property values than a large, polluted lot in a predominantly industrial neighborhood. Such factors have been considered somewhat in the hedonic literature, but this book provides a much clearer picture of how different types of vacant land should be identified in order to capture their full range of impacts on the hedonic.

In addition to providing information on different kinds of vacant land at the micro level, the book provides a huge amount of background material that can be used to help frame research questions or to create context for research papers. Researchers in any environmental or urban area would find it a useful volume to keep on hand as a reference tool. The wide range of research cited would provide a good starting point for literature review. Overall, the *Recycling the City* fills a niche by combining and distilling findings from a broad range of research projects that can be used by a wide variety of individuals.

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Dialogues in Urban and Regional Planning 1, edited by Bruce Stiftel and Vanessa Watson. 2005. Published in association with the Global Planning Education Association Network. New York: Routledge. 355 + xv. 0-415-34693-2, \$130.

Dialogues in Urban and Regional Planning brings together in one volume a sample of planning scholarship from multiple countries or world regions. Each of nine planning school associations around the world, all members of the Global Planning Education Association Network (GPEAN), nominated at least one paper for inclusion and an international advisory board selected the final set. The papers were of relatively recent vintage at the time of selection (mostly 2002) and nearly all had been published elsewhere. In many cases, they were the winners of conference or journal

best paper competitions. The current volume is the first installment in a planned biennial series, and translations of the papers in different languages will eventually be released on the GPEAN website, funding permitting.

Collections of previously published articles are often of tenuous worth. After all, the work has already appeared in print and therefore is presumably accessible to a wide audience. The best add value by assembling the most influential or representative existing contributions on selected topics or themes, often accompanied by an original introductory piece that provides a roadmap and assessment of the given area of scholarship. The reader enjoys the convenience of a single source for a set of related papers and gains the insights of the book's editors, who are able to provide additional understanding of a topic through the process of inclusion, exclusion, categorization, synopsis, and critique.

Dialogues, on the other hand, is something different. The collection does not address systematically any particular topics or themes. Indeed, the editors are explicit that the goal is simply to assemble an international sample of highly regarded planning scholarship to "provide a peek into the theories and methods of use by planning academics around the world" (p. xiv) and thereby encourage cross-fertilization of ideas and the diffusion of alternative approaches, concepts, and methodologies. The motivation is that planning scholars from different parts of the world have limited access to each other's work and that this volume will help redress the problem.

Realistically, it is hard to see how. Ten of the 12 papers appear in their original language (English). Only two are translated into English, one from Spanish and one from Portuguese. Seven of the 12 appeared originally in very mainstream journals, including *Journal of the American Planning Association*, *European Planning Studies*, *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, *Landscape Research*, and *Town Planning Review*. Two more appeared initially in two reasonably accessible journals—at least to the majority of English-speaking scholars—*Planning Theory* and *Planning Theory and Practice*. Only one paper, aside from the introductory chapter, has not been published in another venue.

The result is that scholars working in English do not gain appreciable access to previously inaccessible non-English work, and vice versa. Although it is true that the principal journals represented are not always available to researchers outside North America and Europe, this book is nevertheless likely to be of limited practical utility, its commendable intentions notwithstanding. A researcher based in Latin America, Asia, or Africa might find one or two papers of some direct relevance to his or her work, not a very efficient way to follow the literature. Paradoxically, academic libraries in North America and Europe will probably be the chief buyers of *Dialogues*, and most of them have already paid dearly for its contents through their journal subscriptions.

That is not to say there are not some fine examples of planning scholarship here. A piece entitled "Designing Whole Landscapes" by Paul Dolman, Andrew Lovett, Tim O'Riordan, and Dick Cobb addresses simultaneously two essential concerns in planning research and practice: the use of technology to provide a vision of alternative future states in the built environment and the adjudication of public and private interests. They investigate whether geographic information systems and three-dimensional (3D) landscape visualization tools can be used to facilitate a constructive dialogue with farmer-landowners about alternative landscape designs that are intended to enhance ecological diversity and sustainability. They are careful in their methods and circumspect in interpreting their results; this is not starry-eyed techno-planning. They find that while 3D visualization software requires further maturation, it can be useful in

showing otherwise skeptical landowners what might be gained via careful and holistic land design and management strategies.

A majority of the contributions address planning process concerns, although not equally convincingly. Scott Bollens's "Urban Planning and Intergroup Conflict: Confronting a Fractured Public Interest" is an especially informative analysis of planning approaches in three cities of extraordinary racial and ethnic conflict: Belfast, Jerusalem, and Johannesburg. Bollens uses data from extensive field research to document how each city's planners view their responsibilities and cope with highly fractured and emotional ethnic interests, a practical concern for planners in increasingly multicultural cities elsewhere. Papers by Karen Umemoto ("Walking in Another's Shoes: Epistemological Challenges in Participatory Planning") and Tazim Jamal, Stanley Stein, and Thomas Harper ("Beyond Labels: Pragmatic Planning in Multistakeholder Tourism-Environmental Conflicts") describe how differences in language and frames of reference can perpetuate and even exacerbate conflicts among different interest groups, not to mention lead astray planners' own interpretations of community concerns. In Umemoto's case, the sources of differences in understanding are ethnic and cultural. In Jamal et al.'s, it is the philosophical assumptions that underlie the use of labels (e.g., "environmentalist" and "developer") that are often used reflexively by planners to categorize multiple interest groups. Planners may identify and invite various such interests or stakeholders to a planning process in an effort to be as inclusive as possible, the mantra of participatory planning. However, through the very use of labels and categories, they may inadvertently preempt the emergence of shared or cross-stakeholder interests in the planning process itself.

Other especially useful papers in the book include a piece by Leonie Sandercock on the role of storytelling in shaping public debates and one by Jiantao Zhang on planners' attempts to balance conservation and development interests in rapidly growing Shanghai. The editors provide a handy short history of the formation of planning school associations around the world in their introductory chapter.

Taken as whole, the papers offer a broad sense of the issues, concepts, and approaches that are major concerns of planning scholars today. One has to be careful about saying that, because the book does not necessarily offer a representative sample either of the bulk of work in the field or of the scholarship that is most significantly influencing day-to-day planning practice. Nevertheless, notable in the repeated attention they receive are the issues of race and ethnicity, equity, power, conflict, negotiation, public participation in collective and bureaucratic decision making, and communication. Research methodologies lean toward ethnography and case studies. Conspicuously absent are the analyses of emerging urban or regional trends; empirical tests of social, economic, or spatial phenomena; applications of policy analysis or evaluation; exercises in economic, land use, or transportation modeling; the development of planning techniques or methods other than process concerns (excepting the piece by Dolman et al.); discussions of physical land and urban design (again excepting Dolman et al.); and the use of quasi-experimental research methodology.

As the previous paragraph shows, *Dialogues* does offer some insight into the overall thrust of planning scholarship, one formed from more than just North American and European contributions. That is certainly one of the book's intentions. However, very few scholars (other than book reviewers!) will use the volume in a manner that will reveal that thrust, namely reading it from cover to cover. The next installment of *Dialogues* would better achieve the stated aims of the project's originators if it explored a specific theme and included additional translated works. Clearly,

the intended release of other translations of the papers on the GPEAN website is also essential to the project.

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Global America, 1915–2000, by Donald W. Meinig. 2004. *The Shaping of America: A Geographical Perspective on 500 Years of History*, Vol. 4. New Haven: Yale University Press. 467 + xvi. ISBN 0-300-10432-4, \$45.

Meinig presents the concluding volume in his four-volume set: *The Shaping of America: A Geographical Perspective on 500 Years of History*. The first volume, dealing with 1492–1800, was published in 1986, and others in 1993 (covering 1800–1867) and in 1998 (1850–1918). Although a geographer by academic discipline, Meinig's works draw heavily upon history and economics in describing the nature of particular changes in the United States and analyzing their causes and consequences. The work is clearly that of a geographer, as the volume includes over 75 original maps, with 18 illustrations, and none of the figures and tables that scholars in the other disciplines use. And, as historical geography, the coverage and analysis seeming somewhat selective, with numerous important insights, based on Meinig's lifetime of study and a bibliography of over 850 books.

The book is divided into three sections. The first is on the impact of technology on movements and communications. The first chapter deals with "The Automotive Revolution," the great impact of the automobile and related technical and organizational innovations on the enhanced ability to travel rapidly as well as with greater flexibility. Meinig describes the development of highway systems, but, curiously, gives limited attention to social problems and corruption they sometimes gave rise to. No index mentions of Robert Moses or of Boston's "Big Dig" are found, possibly explained by the primary focus on the impact of the interstate highway system. After automobiles (plus trucks and busses), there is separate attention to electrification, and also to air service, railroads, and waterways (rivers and canals). The discussions relate private and government actions in these developments and point to the very significant government role in making the transport methods available to a broad spectrum of the population. Among the methods of communication described are radio broadcasts, telephones, television, and, more recently, computers and the Internet. Given that most of these innovations were not broadly accessible at the start of the 20th century, the importance of detailing their role is said to direct "attention to America's rapid adoption of these transforming technologies" (p. 107).

The second section of the book deals with population changes and movements, discussing both internal migration, including urbanization, and immigration. To Meinig, immigration has been "one of the defining features of Global America" (p. 396), even with changing levels and differing sources of migrants. There are interesting discussions of black migration, of Alaskan and Hawaiian settlements, and of economic and political change in Puerto Rico. Eleven pages are devoted to Native-Americans and national policy