

EDITORIAL NOTE:

Critical Planning Volume 20

THE EDITORS

Milestone anniversaries represent opportunities both to reflect on the past and to look toward the future. In selecting our theme for the twentieth volume of *Critical Planning*, we emphasized the latter approach: we sought out perspectives on the future of urban planning. The articles, essays, and interviews selected for inclusion in this volume discuss a wide variety of forces that will shape not only the cities of the future, but the planners who seek to guide them.

Technology has changed and will continue to change the ways that planners and citizens alike may interact with the urban environment. Chirag Rabari, winner of this year's Edward W. Soja Prize for *Critical*

Thinking in Urban and Regional Research, discusses how the availability of vast quantities of detailed data on every aspect of urban life may influence the perspectives and the work of future planners, for better or for worse (page 27). Hee Sun Choi describes how networked technology and Internet connectivity have the potential to change the nature of public space (page 45), while Anna Ponting problematizes the smart city concept and its overdependence on technological solutions and the corporations that produce them (page 69). This warning to planners against placing too much faith in the promises of technology is echoed in Bhuvanewari Raman's and Eric Denis's essay on recent initiatives to digitize paper

maps in Chennai, India (page 91).

A second theme that must be considered with respect to the future of cities is the rapid urbanization and globalization that are changing the landscape of the developing world. Joshua Bolchover (page 97), Aparna Parikh (page 119), and Thomas Oomen and Radhika Singh (page 133) describe how urbanization and globalization have affected the lives of specific groups of people in China and India. Sonja Schillings and Boris Vormann (page 145) describe how, even in New York City, frontier discourse has served to create and reinforce social inequality.

Environmental degradation may prove to be the force that has the greatest impact on the future development of cities. Laura Benjamin (page 167) discusses specific policies in Los Angeles that could facilitate or discourage the adoption of technologies that would reduce dependence on non-renewable energy sources by institutions such as UCLA. Lukas Pauer (page 177) draws our attention to Singapore's unsustainable use of another limited resource: the sand used to create land on which the city itself is built. These articles argue for a greater emphasis on sustainability in urban planning. Nevertheless, as Alessandro Busà points out (page 193) efforts to create more sustainable cities must not come at the expense of other equally important goals such as social justice and equity.

As Christina Gray points out in her review of a recent exhibit at the Getty Research Institute (page 219), Los Angeles has a long history of interest in the future. This is a part of the history of Critical Planning as well.

We open this issue with an essay by Ute Lehrer, one of the founding editors of Critical Planning, in which she discusses the early vision she and her colleagues had for the future of the journal that they created (page 15). This is followed with an excerpt from an essay John Friedmann wrote for that first volume (page 23), in which he describes his hopes for the future of the planning discipline and the role that the UCLA planning program should play in training planners who are prepared to realize that future. We conclude this volume with interviews from four current faculty members of the architecture and urban planning departments at UCLA (pages 223-238), in which they discuss some of their own thoughts on how planning practice continues to evolve and how the urban planners and designers of the future must be prepared for work within this changing context.

Now, with the publication of Volume 20, we express our hope that we have made progress towards the vision of those who came before us and laid a foundation for those who will come after us. We would like to thank all of those who made this volume possible, including all the authors who submitted manuscripts, UCLA faculty

and staff who offered support and guidance; donors to the University, Luskin School of Public Affairs, and the Department of Urban Planning; and the students who donated their time and talents to make Volume 20 possible.

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