INTERPLAN

American Planning Association
International Division
Making Great Communities Happen

Newsletter, September 2019

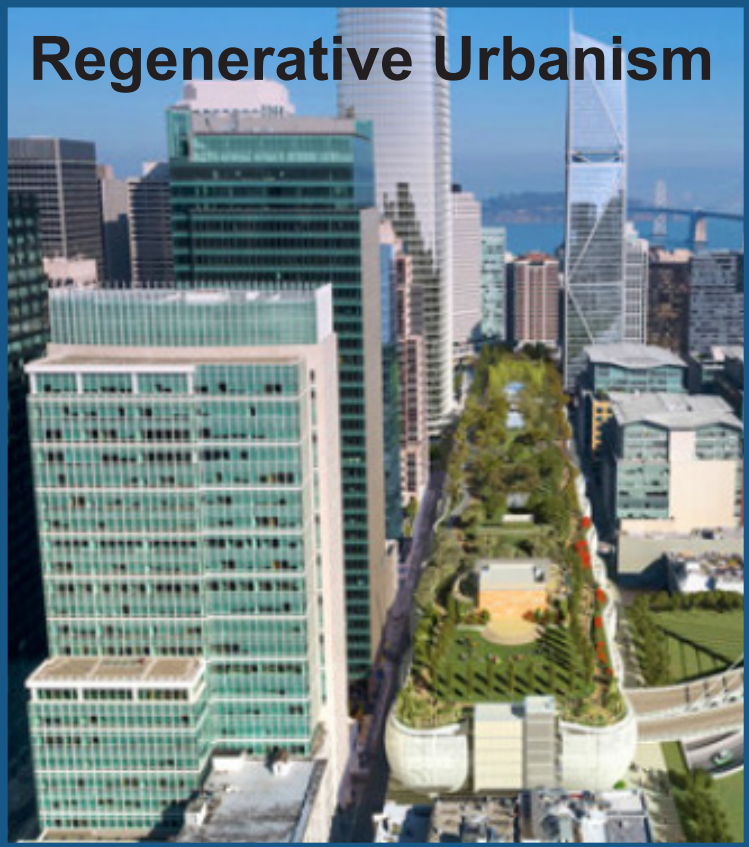
A Publication of the International Division of the American Planning Association

State-Paved Paths to Inclusion?

Above and Beyond the Buildings

Rebuild Rebuilding Tohoku

Regenerative Urbanism



INTERPLAN

A PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DIVISION
OF THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION

Special thanks to Troy Planning + Design for providing sponsorship
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American Planning Association
International Division

Creating Great Communities for All

As I write my first column as Chair of the APA International Division, I have been thinking back to when I started in the Division, in the Spring of 2012. I had returned from 9 months in the DR Congo just a few months earlier and took the first job I was offered when I got back to New Jersey. I had still never worked as a planner (and wouldn't for several years), but I wanted to keep a foot in the profession that I had my degree in, so I paid my way to my first National Planning Conference. I happened to notice the business meeting for the International Division on the schedule, and I attended without any idea of what to expect.

Amid all the chaos of a large conference, I had found my place. I was immediately welcomed to the group, and people genuinely wanted to hear about my experiences abroad. At the dinner later that night, I found people who had international careers mixed with people who had only left the States a couple of times. The one commonality was a shared curiosity about the world, a desire to learn from each other about what was happening beyond our borders.

At the following National Planning Conference, I ascended to the position of Vice-Chair for Communications by auspiciously raising my hand when they asked if anyone was interested. I have been in the leadership ever since.

As Chair, my first responsibility is to ensure that everyone in the Division feels just as welcome as I felt when I showed up for that first meeting. It should be a place for people to feed their curiosity, share about their experiences, and have their ideas heard. If you have an idea for something you would like to do within the Division, then by all means let us know. We will try to make as many of those ideas happen as possible.

In taking this role, I am following in the footsteps of giants. Laura Buhl was Chair when I first started. She was the one who more than anyone made this the inviting place where I could find my way and contribute. She also led the Division out of a period of extreme financial difficulty, repaired our books, and helped make the World Town Planning Day online conference a truly global event. Laura was followed by Tim Van Epp. Tim elevated the profile of the Division, set up research partnerships, relaunched the International Planner Exchange, and represented us at Habitat III. Under Tim's leadership, the International Division won Division Council Awards for Overall Performance, twice, including this past year.

It is a lot to live up to, and I can only do it in my own way. I do have my

Michael Kolber, *AICP, is a planner for the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, where he focuses on coastal resilience planning and state plan endorsement. He served overseas as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Burkina Faso and as a Monitoring Specialist for the International Rescue Committee in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and domestically for the NJ Department of Community Affairs, the United Way of Greater Union County, and the Manhattan Borough President's Office. Michael has an M.S. in Urban Planning from Columbia University. He currently serves as Chair of the American Planning Association International Division.*

own pet projects, as well as some new goals for the Division. I have started a working group to advocate for the role of planners in humanitarian assistance. I would like to expand our network of Regional Coordinators so that we can better connect to our membership across the country. I would also like to see the Division begin to develop a real policy for advocacy. Finally, I have set a goal of having 25 session proposals submitted for the International Track of the NPC addressed every year to ensure the track remains viable.

I am incredibly lucky to be able to work with the best set of Vice-Chairs I have ever seen. Jing Zhang as Vice-Chair for Communications has released our Special Report on China, an in-depth piece of work featuring interviews with a variety of thought leaders, headlined by Peter Calthorpe. Jing is planning on making this a series, with more countries highlighted in the coming years. Tippe Morlan as Vice-Chair for Special projects has helped to expand our contributions to the International Track of the National Planning Conference and organized a new webinar series that will be kicking off in the coming months. Jessica Schmidt, our Vice-Chair At Large, has overseen an expanded the Student Travel Grant Program as well as our growing roster of Regional Coordinators. Troy Hayes has stepped beyond his role as Treasurer to serve as a Regional Coordinator for London, organizing our first ever International Meetup and contributing to our partnership with the RTPI. Finally, Susannah Davidson is wrapping up her term as our first elected Student Representative. She has served as a liaison to APA's Student Representative Council and provided insight on how to work with our rapidly expanding student membership. ■

Division Business Meeting during the 2019 National Planning Conference at San Francisco

The arm of the United Nations that is focused on cities, UN Habitat, held its first-ever General Assembly in Nairobi in May. APA has partnered with UN Habitat and provided information and participation in preparing its most recent strategic plan. In addition to the formal meetings of Habitat, the World Urban Campaign, a collection of non-governmental organizations like the APA, met to consider its role in providing advice to UN Habitat. Since the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda (NUA) were adopted, the World Urban Campaign has focused on five areas: 1) Awareness; 2) Influence; 3) Practical Application; 4) Integration of reports and conventions; 5) Changes in policies and practice

Awareness of the value of planning and value of cultural and natural heritage has grown over the period since the adoption of the SDGs in late 2015. This is evidenced by increased participation of cultural and natural heritage experts in meetings and in the incorporation of language that reflects goals and objectives reinforcing the value of heritage in urbanization. The Concept note that ICOMOS—the International Council on Monuments and Sites-- prepared has achieved wide recognition and continues to inform, influence and expand awareness. At recent high-level meetings in New York on the future of urbanization within the United Nations, representatives from member states reflected the increased influence of planning for cultural and natural heritage in their comments.

Planners for Climate Action

APA is one of the founders of Planners for Climate Action (P4CA), a "cooperative initiative" under the UNFCCC's Marrakesh Partnership for Global Climate Action. This initiative provides a significant vehicle for knowledge sharing and exchange, to coordinate and apply best practices in implementation. It brings together key associations of planning professionals, educators and practitioners. At the UN Habitat General Assembly, P4CA held a side event that packed the room to:

- *Announce/analyze the results of the global call for courses for the Repository (and commit to renew the global call on a continuous basis!)*
- *Announce the growing number of members/affiliates (now 100!) and appeal to join*
- *Explain the communication work (website, social medias, appeal to follow us, etc.), the mapping exercise (about 30 people/organizations have replied to the survey… only but submitted some interesting best practices.*

Global Planners Network

The GPN is a network of planning organizations and supporting organizations that shares information and promotes good planning, globally. GPN meets by telephone regularly and face to face at each other's national planning conferences. The administration of GPN rotes among members and after a three-year leadership stint, the APA turned over the management to the Planning Institute of Australia's capable team. The next few months will see the GPN update its strategy which dates to 2016. All suggestions are welcome. ■

Jeff Soule, FAICP, is the Director of Outreach and International Programs for APA. Soule serves as a US delegate to the General Assembly for ICOMOS and advises governments regarding cultural conservation and is member of the US committee for Habitat III. Jeffrey represents APA at a variety of international forums including the United Nations Habitat, UNESCO and is the Focal Point for ICOMOS on the World Urban Campaign.

Jeff Soule can be reached at jsoule@planning.org

The First International Track at NPC

This was the 19th edition of the National Planning Conference, but it was the first one that had an International Track. With six sessions endorsed and organized by International Division leadership, we had a full schedule with many great topics available. In addition to 6 sessions, there was the Multi-Chapter Reception, the International Division Business Meeting, and an International Careers Q&A hosted by Jeff Taebel and Tim Van Epp. The first International Division session, Integrating Urban and Regional Sustainability Planning, set the tone for sessions to come--punchy, filled with valuable information, and made of a panel with diverse experiences, the audience was excited and came from many different planning backgrounds; some that had worked internationally for decades and others who were still in planning school with an international interest.

International Session, 2019 NPC


Reception, 2019 NPC

Regional Meet-Ups

New York City, January 31

The first meet-up in 2019 lead by Michael Kolber, the Division Chair, at Amity Hall in New York City.


NYC Meet-up, January 2019

Washington DC, April 5th

Connecting professionals from government, multi-lateral and non-profit organizations, and private firms with students and academics to meet and explore opportunities in the field of international planning.

Atlanta, April 26th

This meetup followed inaugural Atlanta Global Studies Symposium, making the segway from the conference to our meetup quite convenient for those interested.


Atlanta Meet-up, April 2019

UK, New Jersey Chapter @ NYC, May 13th

A fellow planner, Josh Wainman, MRTPI, from the United Kingdom discussed about the challenges young planners face across the pond.


DC Meet-up, April 2019

Tim Van Epp Recieved Terry Holzheimer FAICP Leadership Award

Tim Van Epp Led International Division to receive two Divisions Council Annual Performance Awards (2016, 2018); elevated leadership and governance of the division, Divisions Council, and APA. Tim is an environmental planner with more than 40 years of experience in the U.S. and internationally.

APA Award Ceremony, NPC 2019

The International Division won THREE 2018 APA Divisions Council Awards

CONTRIBUTION TO PLANNING PROFESSION

PROJECT: Livable Communities for All Ages

Partnership with AARP, Arup, and Cornell University that gathered survey input from 567 planners from 33 countries on local governments and planners' motivations, actions, and barriers to incorporate Livable Communities for All Ages considerations into planning and the effectiveness of practices and strategies to engage planners in these approaches.

APA ID Planning Award, NPC 2019

OVERALL DIVISION PERFORMANCE

Major activities include:

- Student Grant Program.
- National Planning Conference 2018 in New Orleans.
- International Track for NPC 2019 in San Francisco.
- Interplan Newsletter
- International Strategy Knowledge Based Governance Paper.
- DC Research Grant for Livable Communities for ALL Ages.
- Planning for Humanitarian Assistance and Conflict Zones.
- ISOCARP-Oregon Chapter Joint Conference.
- Webinars on Urban Planning in Mexico.
- Capacity Building with Other International Organizations


DC Meet-up, April 2019

BEST NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

"Rethinking Resilience: Women's Organizing and Adaptive Capacities in Self-Built Neighborhoods" by Julia Duranti-Martinez

Highlighting personal experience with a case of community-led development in Los Platanitos, a self-built neighborhood of 2,000 residents in Santo Domingo Norte, Dominican Republic, the author factually demonstrates the human dimension of community resilience.


DC Meet-up, April 2019


Division Dinner, NPC 2019

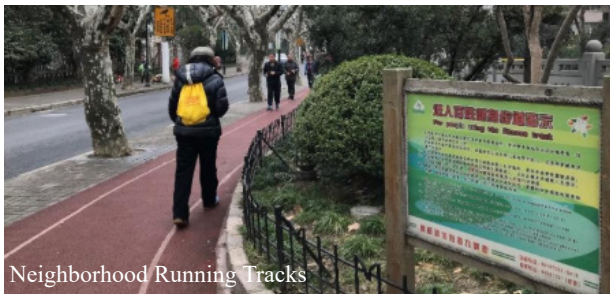
APA International Division 2019 International Planning Excellence Award (China)

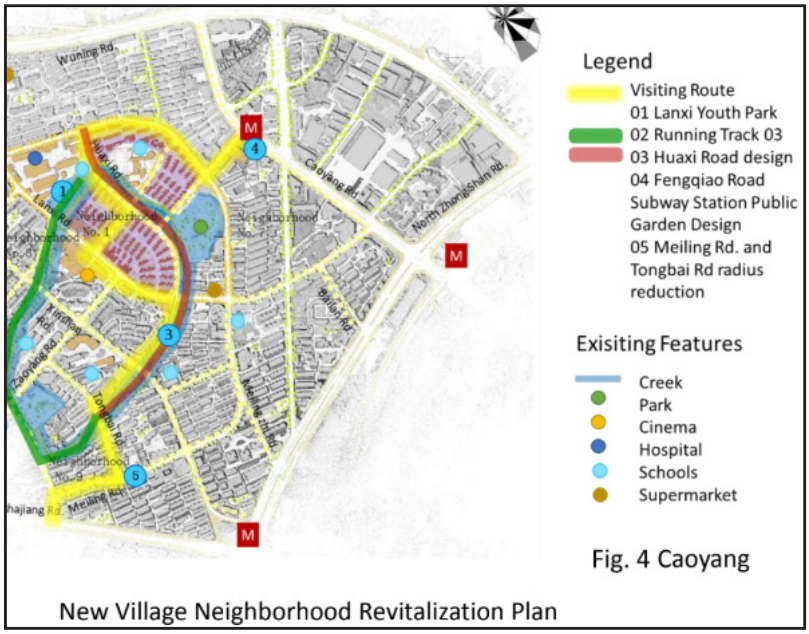
« Jane Jacobs Award for Community and Regional Planning »
« Special Award for Excellence in Advancing Social Equity »

PROJECT: Caoyang New Village Neighborhood Revitalization Plan

Shanghai Urban Construction Design and Research Institute


Community Garden

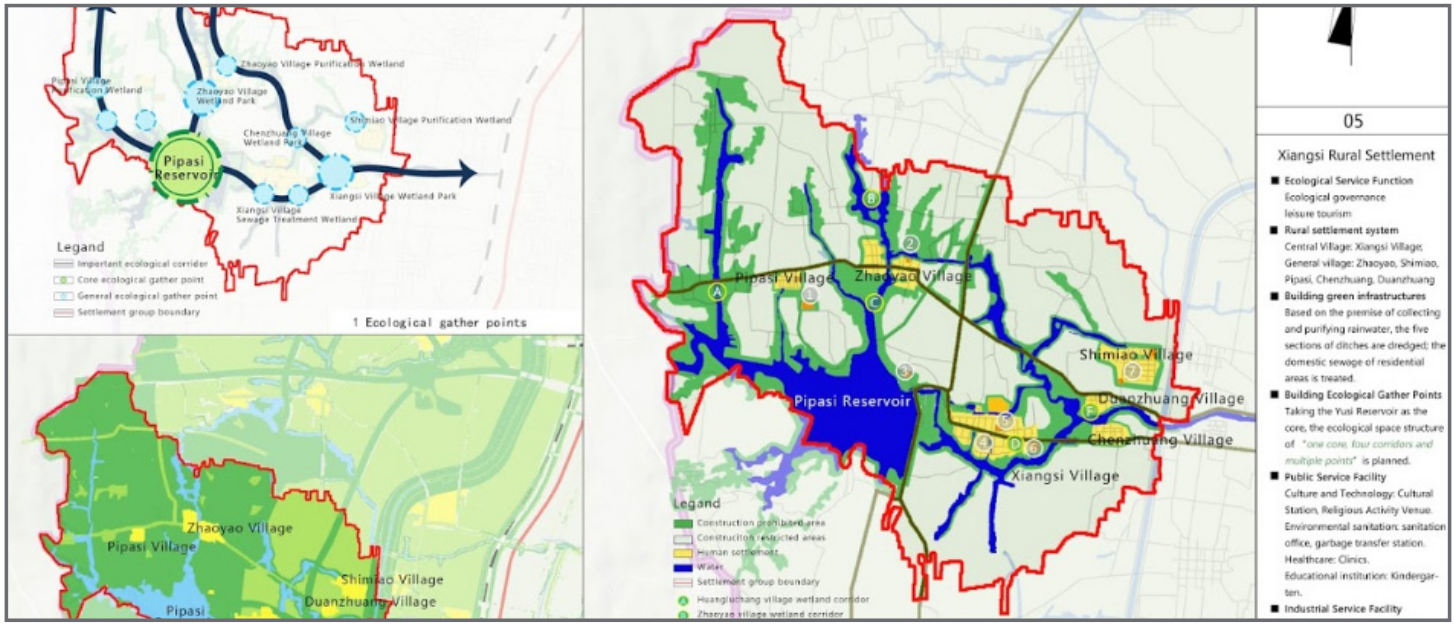

Neighborhood Running Tracks



« Special Award for Excellence in Public Involvement »

PROJECT: Ecological Special Planning of Tangyin County

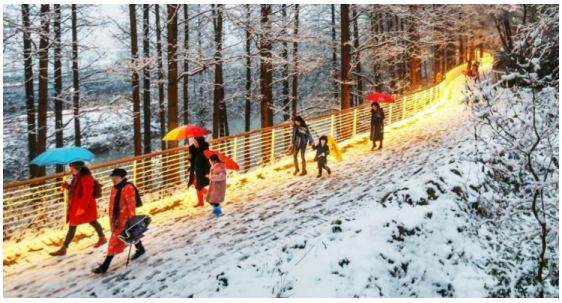
Shanghai Tongji Urban Planning & Planning Institute



« Ian McHarg Award for Environmental Planning »
« Special Award for Excellence in Innovation »

PROJECT: Building a Greenway: Puyangjiang River Corridor Plan

Turenscape; College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, Peking University



« Kevin Lynch Award for Urban Design »
« Special Award for Excellence in International Collaboration »

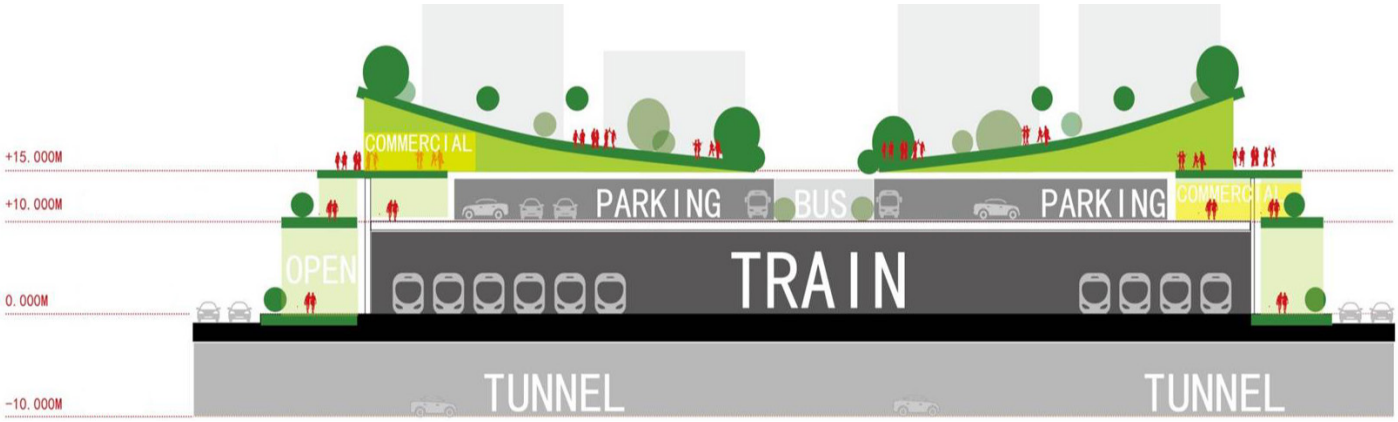
PROJECT: Revitalizing Kazan's Prime Waterfront Plan

Turenscape; College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, Peking University

« William Whyte Award for Transportation Planning »

PROJECT: Transportation Planning for the Development of the Upper Cover Space of the Bullet Train in Hangzhou

East China Architectural Design & Research Institute



Interplan China Special Report

The Spring 2019 issue of Interplan, the International Division newsletter, is a Special China Report, first in a series of country-specific reports covering planning-related issues and projects developing outside the United States. Read the report's illustrated articles and interviews for insights into aspects of Chinese culture and the status of urban planning in China. Find out how American planners can help move it forward. The Report is avaiable here (www.planning.org/media/document/9179005/)

Regenerative Urbanism: -- the Meaning, Challenge, and Value

Scott T. Edmondson, AICP, ISSP-SA, is a Sr. Planner-Economist in the Information & Analysis Group, SF Planning; founder/past co-director and Research Program Lead of the Northern Section's Sustainability Committee, one of the APA Sustainable Communities Division's Sustainability Champions. He pursues his interest in systems sustainability planning independently under the umbrella of the Sustainability 2030 (scott-e@sustainability2030.com).

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Regenerative urbanism is, at present, an emerging, unorchestrated response to our sustainability planning predicament. That predicament is, an ad-hoc greening approach that cannot produce sustainable cities, regions, and planet and our need to achieve sustainability before the opportunity passes. Regenerative urbanism allows us to shift from degenerative to regenerative urban-regional systems performance. This is accomplished by changing our focus from project sustainability to urban-regional systems sustainability. We need to shift our practice from simply reducing the rate of destruction, e.g., net negative mitigation, to expanding the life support capacities our city-region systems in nature, in our economies, and in our communities, , e.g., net positive regeneration.

Regenerative urbanism accomplishes this by addressing impacts at their source, the economy, by designing out negative impacts through on-going innovation. That innovation uses living systems principles as a guide. The initial focus for planning is the built environment and infrastructure (cities), and ultimately extending to the whole urban-regional system, including the economy's supply chains. Not only would regenerative urbanism produce better places, it would create the circular ecological sustainability economy that is the necessary material basis for sustainable cities and society, for sustainability success. As a result, good planning, design, and building become more than optional nice-to-have aesthetic values when affordable. They become the source of the necessary, must-have economic development needed as the material basis for sustainability success (cities, regions, and planet), while simultaneously being the only real antidote to the climate crisis. This article summarizes key points of this opportunity.

What is Regenerative Urbanism?

Cities that "make" more than they "take," regenerative cities of inclusive prosperity and wellbeing -- fact or fiction? Ten years ago, they were fiction. Today, they are an emerging fact, designed as the necessary innovation to scale at the velocity needed to respond to accelerating unsustainability.[1]

Regenerative urbanism, meaning regenerative urban systems sustainability, is arising from the familiar arena of "ecological" planning theory and practice (and design) that stretches back to the first-generation environmental movement of the 1960s.[2] Its roots go further back into the 20th century with the work of Buckminster Fuller, who some regard as an underappreciated sustainability pioneer. Fast forward to the early 21st century, and regenerative urbanism is beginning to flourish in the work of the International Living Future Institute, EcoDistricts, the Biophilic Cities Network, the APA and that of other pioneers of urban innovation.

Regenerative cities are implied but not explicitly formulated in the new U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Habitat III New Urban Agenda (NUA)[3], where cities are finally on the center stage of international development policy and planning. The need for regenerative urban systems sustainability policy and planning is underlined by the current phase of the urban transition. The share of the global population living in urban areas has increased from 46% in 2000 to 55% today and is projected to be 68% by 2050. Much of that growth will reside in cities and neighborhoods that have yet to be planned, designed, and built, with the main question being, will we build regenerative cities or traditional degenerative cities?[4]

Regenerative urbanism involves developing cities whose economies and metabolisms no longer destroy the environmental life support system of the planet (net negative). Regenerative cities would eliminate impacts at their source (the economy) and produce net positive, inclusive abundance through redesign and innovation of the existing and new built environment. Regenerative cities will be a core component of and catalyst for developing the new circular ecological sustainability economy of sustainability success.[5]

From an Optional Aesthetic to a Powerful Must-Have Source of Economic Value

Regenerative urbanism, and therefore, urban planning and design, plays an essential role in creating the sustainability economy that is the material basis for sustainable cities and society. With cities and the built environment being a hard and very slow-to-change spatial dimension of our economy, how we plan, design, manage, and renew the built environment fundamentally determines urban, regional, and global sustainability performance for the next 50 to 100+ years.

As a result, the contribution—or value added--of good planning, design, and environmental quality changes profoundly from being nice-to-have optional aesthetic practices to being essential, must-have economic practices. Planners, planning, and the built environment become creators of the necessary sustainability economy. Investing in, planning, designing, and building regenerative city-regions becomes the imperative of our time and for our profession. Regenerative urbanism is the antidote for society's current unsustainability trend. It is the method and central task on the path to city/global sustainability. From this perspective, regenerative urbanism becomes the source code, the DNA, for shifting our economy to one of net positive, regenerative, inclusive abundance and achieving the UN SDGs & NUA.

Next Step: Understand, Cultivate, and Amplify

Fortunately, regenerative urbanism does not need to be invented anew. It is already "bubbling up" from the spontaneous and uncoordinated innovation occurring across our planning, design, and building professions. This innovation has accelerated over the past 10+ years. However, there is no guarantee that it will continue or produce sustainability success. Regenerative urbanism is in its infancy. Therefore, it needs cultivation to realize its potential as a powerful source and method for city-region sustainability. We must recognize, understand, and harness it for our own cities with innovative policies and programs at each inter-related scale

Transit Center Park (5 acres on roof)

of practice and policy. As a result, recognizing, cultivating, and amplifying this spontaneous innovation and harnessing it for sustainability success becomes our profession's (and society's) core sustainability planning challenge and task.

Contours of Practice

In regenerative sustainable city-regions, the nature of the planned and designed built environment and metabolic systems become the critical focus in the shift from net negative to net positive "regenerative" systems performance.[6] Expanding use of current innovative practices would be a start. However, the shift will only be accomplished with on-going innovation (technical, financial, policy, social) so that the built environment and the larger city-economy system will perform up to the imperatives of sustainable, regenerative, net positive systems.

As a guide, regenerative urbanism uses the integrated processes of living systems to inform on-going planning, design, and building innovation, including the shift from a linear "take, make, waste" metabolism to a circular metabolism and economy.[7] Such innovation adds more total value than total cost (including externalities) in comparison to current practice. As an added bonus, it produces better urban neighborhoods and districts. They are more attractive to people and healthier places compared to those produced by traditional development or with ad-hoc greening under our current economy.

Curiously, practice--not research--is leading this path-breaking innovation in our professions, as shown in these examples:

- *Burnaby, BC: Full strategic integration planning for a regenerative city*
- *Vancouver: 100% renewable energy supply, including mobile*
- *Sydney: Net positive water reuse*
- *Amsterdam: Circular local economic development*
- *Shanghai: Public realm vertical farming systems*
- *Kashiwa-no-ha (Japan): New governance & smart regenerative city development*
- *Vienna, Helsinki, Palo Alto: Automobile-eliminating, emissions-free transit*
- *(Biophilic) Singapore: Integrating wild nature into the city*
- *Chicago: Managing urban development to achieve health for all*
- *Copenhagen: Redevelopment for the regenerative city*

A critical premise of regenerative urbanism is the need to intentionally design and plan systems integration to achieve regenerative sustainable urban system performance. This requires that the focus of urban sustainability planning expand from the project to the system (nested districts, cities, and regions).[8] A regenerative approach involves "big," system-wide integrated moves to set the foundation for easily producing the regenerative systems performance of sustainability. Four such "big moves" applicable to one test application, but also reflecting regenerative principles with transferable value, are as follows.[9]

1. Installing district water + heat/cooling exchange infrastructure to reuse existing water and energy that is lost otherwise.
2. Developing an extensive system of blue-green, biophilic city Infrastructure[10] that creates a high-value/high-performance health environment (community, human, habitat) and that also defends against global warming challenges.
3. Connecting and integrating the built environment across scales (district, building, occupant) to easily share resources and costs in a circular metabolism and economy.[11]
4. Developing integrative metabolic centers, as part of the renewable-energy-powered circular spatial economy and to reap the benefits of a circular urban metabolism.

Preliminary testing of these regenerative sustainability system planning and design concepts suggest that regenerative design and infrastructure may cost roughly 10% more than traditional development but yield approximately 50% more value.[12] This order-of-magnitude estimate indicates that benefit exceeds cost, thus warranting further attention. As a bonus, the investment would create the more attractive places that people want—and NEED for public health--in our urbanizing world (68% by mid-century in city-systems not yet constructed, but 100% of existing urban settlement patterns and infrastructure are in need of repair, replacement, and investment).

Experience with a regenerative approach suggests that new governance principles and forms of organization are required to "unlock" and produce the full value of regenerative urbanism and sustainability success.[12] Instead of traditional developers focusing on a parcel or master-plan area of new development, they will need to be new "district- or city-sustainability-developer" actors taking responsibility for producing and incorporating the full regenerative system performance of a district or city. This approach would integrate government, private, and civic functions in new partnerships to create the needed capacity for regenerative sustainable development and ultimately, sustainability. They would be able to coordinate across the sectors, scales, and phases of development beyond which any one partner could accomplish alone in the on-going innovation planning, designing, financing, building, and management of regenerative sustainability. This coordination is essential for securing, increasing, and optimizing the multiple benefits and success that a regenerative sustainability approach produces.

A Timely Opportunity

If regenerative urbanism is emerging from spontaneous innovation across our planning, design, and building professions, then we can and must harness and cultivate it to plan, design, and build cities that "make" more than they "take." Doing so will resolve our sustainability planning predicament and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations and the New Urban Agenda (NUA) of Habitat III. This success will create the good, inclusive, equitable, and climate mitigating places we want and need. It will create the economies we need as the material basis for authentic sustainable city-regions and planet as a bonus. Thus, we need to recognize the full value of this opportunity and intentionally cultivate and use it by developing a new integrated, local-to-international urban-regional policy and planning practice. Planning, designing, and building regenerative city-regions is an opportunity that we must seize and advance, not ignore. ■

[1.] This formulation is developed most recently in, Mason, Pamela, William C. Clark, Krister Andersson, Pursuing Sustainability---A Guide to the Science and Practice, Princeton University Press, 2016; and earlier in a variety of seminal works, including:

- *Brown, Lester, Plan B, Environmental Policy Institute.*
- *Lovins, Amory & Hunter L., Paul Hawken, Natural Capitalism-Creating the Next Industrial Revolution, Little Brown & Company, 1999.*
- *Mang, Pamela & Bill Reed, Regenerative Development & Design, Wiley, 2017 (https://www.researchgate.net/publication/273379786_Regenerative_Development_and_Design).*
- *Meadows, Donella, Beyond the Limits-Confronting Global Collapse and Envisioning a Sustainable Future, Chelsea Green, 1992.*
- *Sachs, Jeffrey, Common Wealth – Economics for a Crowded Planet, Penguin, 2008.*
- *Senge, Peter (et. al), The Necessary Revolution – How Individuals and Organizations are Working Together to Create a Sustainable World, Doubleday, 2008*
- *Steiner, Frederic, et. al., Nature and Cities—The Ecological Imperative in Urban Design and Planning, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, 2016. Also, Chap 7, Creative Fitting: Toward Designing the City as Nature, Jose Alminana and Carol Franklin is an exceptional summary of the regenerative approach arising within landscape architecture.*
- *Tillman Lyle, John, Regenerative Design for Sustainable Development, Wiley, 1996 (https://www.wiley.com/en-us/Regenerative+Design+for+Sustainable+Development-p-9780471178439).*

[2.] Edmondson, Scott, The Regenerative Urbanism Guide – A Brief Introduction and Bibliography, Sustainability 2030 Initiative, 2016, revised 2018. https://www.dropbox.com/s/unars9x8zjg18z8/0_RegenUrb_Guide_030319.docx?dl=0

[3.] UN, 17 Sustainable Development Goals to Transform the World (http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/) and Habitat III's New Urban Agenda (http://habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda).

[4.] See, The UNDESA, https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/population/2018-revision-of-world-urbanization-prospects.html, Our World in Data, https://ourworldindata.org/urbanization, and Urban Population, https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/sp.urb.totl.in.zs.

[5.] McDonough, William, The Upcycle: Beyond Sustainability-Designing for Abundance, Northpoint Press, 2013. This theme is central to Buckminster Fuller's comprehensive anticipatory design science and to the long thread of ecological planning theory and practice, including the work Living Future Institute and EcoDistricts.

[6.] Tyler, Mary-Ellen "Ecological Plumbing in the Twenty-First Century," MetroPlanner, Newsletter of the APA New York Metro Chapter, March 1999. (click) https://www.dropbox.com/s/3osctzqh06ohuik/1a1_Ecological_Plumbing.pdf?dl=0 Two recent books extending the topic substantially include:

- Steiner, Frederic, et. al, Nature and Cities—The Ecological Imperative in Urban Design and Planning, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, 2016; and Chap Creative Fitting: Toward Designing the City as Nature, Jose Alminana and Carol Franklin.
- Mang, Pamela & Bill Reed, Regenerative Development & Design, Wiley, 2017 (https://www.researchgate.net/publication/273379786_Regenerative_Development_and_Design).

[7.] See Biomimicry Institute. This component of regenerative urbanism might be termed bio-systems-mimicry! See also, Amsterdam's approach to the circular economy: https://www.dropbox.com/s/ylvr7w20e1k7zza/2c_towards_the_amsterdam_circular_economy_web.pdf?dl=0

[8.] A recent example that recognizes the importance of this shift to a systems focus is Stanford Engineering Program's Sustainable Urban System Initiative, http://sus.stanford.edu/.

[9.] SF Planning, Regenerative San Francisco: Phase 1 - Explorations and Proposal for Action, April 2018.

[10.] SF Planning and the International Living Future Institute, Living Community Patterns – Exploratory Strategies for a Sustainable San Francisco (https://living-future.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Living-Communities-Patterns-SanFrancisco.pdf). Example Patterns: 01-Rewilding, 04-Blue-Green Streets, and 05-Streets to Table. Also, Biophilic Cities Network, http://biophiliccities.org/about/.

[11.] ZGF Architects, Environmental Stewardship--Building Across Scales.

[12.] Op. cit., SF Planning, Regenerative San Francisco.

[13.] See Urban Design Center Kashiwa-no-ha (UDCK), the new sustainable district development entity of Kashiwa-no-ha Smart City, Japan. http://www.kashiwanoha-smartcity.com/en/concept/makekashiwa.html and https://www.zgf.com/project/kashiwa-no-ha-smart-city/.

Rebuilding Tohoku, Japan
東北町の再建

Susannah Davidson

Susannah is the Student Representative for the International Division. She is currently studying for her master's in urban planning at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She got her bachelor's degree in Japanese language for the University of California-Berkeley and then worked for Unnan City in rural Shimane Prefecture, Japan.

Last summer, I participated in an international planning studio in the Tohoku region in the northeast of Japan. The studio was a collaboration between The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, National Taiwan University, and Tohoku University. Our goal was to learn about how reconstruction from the 2011 tsunami has progressed in towns and cities along the Tohoku coast. We ended with a 5-day planning studio in Kamaishi City in Iwate Prefecture.

7 and ½ years earlier, when the disaster struck, I was living in Japan working for a local government on the other side of the country (in an international relations role, not a planning role). I remember watching the destruction from the earthquake and tsunami on television and following the post-disaster damage at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Fukushima Prefecture. There was a lot of confusion and misinformation in the wake of the disaster and I felt helpless in the face of this overwhelming disaster. Parts of Fukushima are still off-limits, but Fukushima was not the focus of our planning studio. I was grateful for the opportunity to return and finally be in a position to offer assistance to Tohoku.

For our planning studio, we started in Sendai and stopped in coastal towns going north until we reached Kamaishi, our studio site. Along the way, we got an overview of how different towns and cities have chosen to redevelop since the destruction they suffered from the March 11, 2011 tsunami. In some places, redevelopment has taken place right on the coast, sometimes with land raising or high concrete levees. In other places, the municipality has decided to move all residential development inland. Some places have designed multiple lines of defense against future tsunamis. In addition to levees, elevated roadways or man-made hills serve as secondary barriers, and evacuation towers are available just in case.

The 2011 tsunami is not the first major tsunami to hit this region. Other major tsunamis affected the region in 1896, 1933, and 1960. Even though more population was exposed to inundation in the 2011 tsunami than in any of the earlier tsunamis, the fatality ratio was the lowest, showing that measures were in place to keep people safe and the majority of residents know what to do. Most levees are being built where levees existed before the 2011 disaster.

Japan has a shrinking, aging population. Even before the 2011 disaster, Tohoku was losing population faster than the average for Japan. After the disaster, municipalities in this region had a rare opportunity to have an influx of funding for new development. Most Japanese planning had assumed population expansion through the 1990s,

but contemporary planning in Japan is more practical about the reality of shrinking populations. The Compact City was mentioned as an ideal for redevelopment, but redevelopment plans also called for separation of uses, bringing residences away from the coast while leaving commercial and industrial uses near the water. Bureaucratic silos make it even more difficult to complete Compact City-style planning. Federal Recovery Agency funding could only be applied to projects that were directly related to tsunami disaster recovery, not for neighborhood re-design plans that encouraged compactness and mixed uses. Despite the best of intentions, suburbanization accelerated after the disaster. Even though the fatality rates were relatively low, many survivors relocated, thinking it would be temporary, and then never returned. Only larger cities, such as Sendai, have been increasing in population. People left fishing villages for regional urban centers and they left regional urban centers for metropolitan areas. Working age people and their families were most likely to relocate. There were many reasons people left. They could not afford to sit and wait for the uncertain possibility that their former job might have them back at some unknown time. Or they were worried about the living situation for their children. Or they had family who could offer them a nicer place to live than the temporary housing. The end result is that many places lost 20% of their population, mostly due to relocation. And many of those who remain are elderly residents with limited mobility, making it difficult for cities to connect residents with services.

Many local organizations popped up in the affected communities and they are doing interesting community building work. In Ishinomaki city, the Manbow organization runs clubs for adults, and challenge shops. Challenge Shops offer subsidized rent for those who want to start new businesses but limit the amount of time the owners can rent the space, usually for 1 to 2 years. Some successful businesses move to permanent locations. They also offer space for residents to casually gather and they organize concerts and festivals. Their goal is to activate the space, not to maximize economic activity.

The new Onnagawa train station, designed by architect Shigeru Ban, with the Seapal Pier shopping area in front.

We arrived in Kamaishi about halfway through our trip. We spent 4 days learning about Kamaishi, so we could offer suggestions on future development considerations on our fifth and final day. Kamaishi is a city of industry where the modern Japanese steel industry was born. In addition to the damage from the 4 historical tsunamis (1896, 1933, 1960 and 2011), the city was firebombed during WWII. Unlike other cities along the coast, Kamaishi was protected by a breakwater that had been completed in only 2009, the world's deepest. It was championed by a former mayor and a former prime minister who experienced the 1960 tsunami. The massive breakwater overtopped and much of the coastal downtown was inundated, but the destruction certainly would have been much worse and happened much sooner without the breakwater holding back water. The death toll of 1,064 would have been much higher without the breakwater. Kamaishi chose to rebuild their breakwater, meaning they could rebuild their city much closer to the water than other cities, where redevelopment was moved further inland.

Kamaishi's downtown was redesigned with three main project areas, which they call Front Projects. Front Project 1 is a retail and community area. It includes a new shopping mall, a civic center, and a nightlife area. They are all facing each other and easy for pedestrians to move between. Behind the mall the city built a living levee, a man-made hill that served as a third line of defense after the breakwater and a new levee. But the hill is hard to access and mostly enjoyed by deer, according to the mayor. Front Project 2 had not been started when we were in Kamaishi. It will eventually replace the old city hall, which spread across multiple buildings as they needed to expand and will finally be consolidated. Front Project 3 is on the coast and designed to encourage and revive the fishing industry. It also includes a restaurant and visitors center. Because it must be inside a seawall, the areas for tourists are on the second floor with a balcony that opens up to a sea view over the seawall. Although it is a pleasant facility, it is difficult to access and there is no access plan. After seeing the Front Projects we decided that they are worthwhile projects and could be even more successful if they were easier to access. While each individual Front Project is walkable within its bounds, it is hard to get from one to another. Better connection between the disparate areas was our main recommendation.

Tohoku has many challenges in the future. The shrinking population makes planning very difficult and it seems that the Compact City is still more of a hope than a reality. Shrinking sustainably requires compromises and sacrifices. One major difficulty is the way that property holdings work in Japan. Private property laws make it difficult for rural municipalities to take action when vacant homes fall into disrepair. There are usually multiple owners who most likely live far away. Balancing com-

New housing on raised land in Ishinomaki city.

These blue markers, which can be found throughout Tohoku, show the height the tsunami waves reached.

munity identity in spread out neighborhoods and tiny towns with the need to have more compact development in order to make smaller populations sustainable is another major issue.

In terms of disaster reconstruction, the expense of the reconstruction is staggering. I was amazed by the sheer volume of concrete that has been poured, the amount of land that has been raised, and the amount spent on partially filled housing units, which many elderly residents will soon depart as they pass away. Also, because the federal government covered so much of the expenses, it was hard to local governments to feel responsible and easier for them to ask for audacious projects. Most places we visited had a splashy new retail development and they hoped to draw in shoppers from a wide radius. But I'm skeptical of the rosy predictions for these retail hubs, including the mall in Kamaishi Front Project 1.

Kamaishi also hopes to draw in tourists from all over the world. Although it is a lovely town to visit, it is far from the major population centers of Tokyo and Osaka where most tourists go.

As climate change progresses and more cities around the world experience shrinking populations, the lessons from Tohoku will become more and more relevant globally. Cities with shrinking populations, cities that are susceptible to flooding, and cities that are seismically active can all look to Japan for ideas about how to mitigate risk and address the many challenges they face. ■

The plaza in front of the mall in Kamaishi Front Project 1

Village Character Above and Beyond the Buildings – a Tour of Small French Villages

Au-delà de l'architecture - à la découverte de l'âme des petits villages français

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Across the United States, many plans and ordinances discuss historic character or community character as something to protect. However, definitions of character are few and elusive, or when tackled are either complex or missing vital elements. As character is indeed complex, many places are hesitant to pursue the topic, especially as they see it as exclusively aesthetics. I seek here, not to provide a concrete definition of character, but hopefully to 1) add clarity as to why preserving character can be important for communities beyond aesthetics, 2) add some considerations often omitted in in many definitions or reviews of what character might entail. The source for this discussion is a quick tour through several small villages in France.

Classic discussions of character usually involve architecture and building materials – occasionally an iconic park or set of features. Certainly, that is abundantly visible from village to village as one travels through the back roads of France. Examples follow, but note specifically the materials, the blending of old and new construction, as well as the use of space:

It is important to note the abundance of old and new construction intermixed. Yet, it all contributes to the same character. Colors blend, and accents can serve to connect the styles while avoiding the exorbitant cost of remaking an entire stone wall in the traditional way (note below the accent wall on the art museum in Sarlat). Also, the space between the buildings is part of the character – sometimes narrow, sometimes inconsistent, but then the irregular pattern IS the pattern. A formal, rectilinear Georgian street in England or US streetgrid is in direct contrast, not worse, just a defining pattern.

Most importantly, character goes beyond the architecture and the parks. It is not merely the look. Rather it is a community dialog,

Chinon: White, chalky stone, slate or similarly colored tile roofs

Auvergne1: Brown, volcanic stone, red tile roofs

Rocamadour: Light-colored, mixed stone, Slate, some tile roofs

Fleury: Rectilinear-ish grid, with allees, leading to farmland

Fleury: New construction blending with old, more rectilinear street pattern

Sarlat: Yellow, chalky stone, slate or similarly colored tile roofs

Sarlat: Art Museum on the right. Accent wall behind the tree blends the otherwise VERY modern building with its neighbors.

tive walk, in buildings and “wild” plums (not mirabelle here) lunch with neighbors and mirabelle plum tarte!

Fleury: Attention to detail in back streets and allees

Fleury: Vegetated allees windbreak and define farmland and act as community walking trails

an obligation to and a support of the neighbors and the community. It is also a key to survival of these villages over time. Without the allure of the community character to attract new residents, there is no way sustaining these villages through tourism alone. So character leads to sustainability and viability over time.

I was not intending to write an article during my visit, so I did not have convenient access to the records for the centuries of history involved. Allow me to illustrate the "other aspects" of character through my discussions with local residents and deductions to generate a narrative that seems logical and reasonable about a small Burgundian village called Fleury-la-Vallee. From the architectural and pattern review used above, the buildings have an off-white chalky stone, with brick trim and red tile or red wood shingles. The village pattern is more rectilinear than all of the villages above except Chinon.

Fleury is defined as much by its ancient connections to farmland fields as its architecture. There were no real "central squares" in Fleury. The connections were in the form of vegetated allees that acted as windbreaks between farm fields, but more importantly now act as the lifeblood of the village, with dozens of families strolling along them after their weekend meals. These allees were also paths for drainage ways and creeks – an ancient green infrastructure that was home to roe deer and small animals, as well as myriads of quasi-wild fruit trees. This organic edible landscape arose from centuries of farmers throwing their pits into the allees while they were working, which support the "critters" – and now the neighbors. I was treated to a tarte from free-range Mirabelle plums. The allees and the streets connecting to them were not trash dumps. Care and attention were given to add beauty and amenity for the neighborhood. Residents told me that this was why they moved there rather than Auxerre, where they worked, or the neighboring village which was struggling for survival. Thus, there were no government studies or federal programs that anyone was aware of that generated the elements of the narrative: no greenways initiatives, no edible landscaping effort. So, even if there were, residents were living and acting without recognition of them. Thus, these villages grew up and evolved organically, over centuries, adapting to needs and diverse input over time. Admittedly, there were laborious standards for "bricolage" or "fixing up" older homes to avoid losing the village character from a larger element perspective – materials, designs, etc. The government standards generated not a small amount of grumbling, but the residents chose to live in their little villages BECAUSE of that character, allowing those villages to continue far beyond the viability of the agrarian economy that built them centuries earlier. ■

Rocamadour, France

Tripoli, Libya

طرابلس ليبيا

Mohamed S Zeglam is a petroleum engineer. He received his master's degree from West Virginia University and has worked in the United States, Libya, Algeria, and Egypt. He and his family are moving to Istanbul.

The state of Libya is made of three regions, that is Tripolitania, Fezzan and Cyrenica. The first region is where the capital is located, Tripoli, previously known as Oea. The city's population is estimated at about 1,158,000 people in 2018, which forms about 16% of the Libyan population. The city historically underwent several regimes starting from the Phoenicians discovering the city in the 7th century BC, descending to the Ottoman era, the Italian era and lastly Gaddafi era until it was liberated in October, 2011.

The Italian order, that lasted for over 3 decades, had a large impact on the capital from huge architectural and urbanistic improvements to major linguistic influence as it is observed in the dialect spoken in Tripoli which is mainly Arabic inflected by Italian, Turkish and the language of the Amazigh, whom are the native habitants of Libya. However several other dialects can be heard in the capital as it became the main attraction for the rest of the cities due to its state economically and educationally as well as being the location of many business headquarters and the home for over a million refugees from all over the country fleeing the civil war that had outburst in 2014.

Mohamed and his family in Tripoli, Libya

With regard to sports, since the most popular sport in Libya is football, Tripoli is the home for most prominent football clubs and was once the host to the Italian Super Cup in 2002. The city also holds two airports, Tripoli International Airport and Mitiga international airport. The former however was destroyed in 2014 as a result of the civil war. On the urban level, the capital consists of several districts of various conditions. Some are residential such as Njila and Bin Ashur, others are commercial like Al-Shatt street. Shopping districts include Jrapa and Hay Al-Andalus, for instance. In regard of the Tripolitanian cuisine, it is most popular for traditional food like Bazeen, Couscous and Mbakebka. However, Italian dishes are also found at a reasonable price all around the city or even made at homes for it becoming part of the Libyan cuisine.

The cost of living in Tripoli is relatively low in spite of the sharp economic decline and prices increase. The city's infrastructure is unfortunately in a quite poor state. It suffers from constant long-lasting power cuts, floods in winter and occasional running water shortage and inadequate transportation system. The most problematic concern however is the absence of security in the capital and continuous clashes among unlawful militias. Regrettably, the capital has been a scarcely habitable city for several years despite its excellent location. ■

State-Paved Paths to Inclusion?

Early Lessons from Ghana's Ministry of Inner City & Zongo Development

Colleen Brady, MUP, is an international development practitioner and urban planner specializing in participatory monitoring and evaluation, with fieldwork experience in Cameroon, France, Ghana, the Philippines, and the US. A companion piece to this article, based on her thesis at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design exploring the topic through the lens of state-society engagement, will be published in the forthcoming issue of Urbanisation. She can be reached at colleenmariebrady@gmail.com.

Accra's rapidly growing population and economy make it a central hub within West Africa; however, this growth has been unequally distributed city-wide. Despite efforts by local and national government, as well as civil society organizations, in recent decades, socio-spatially marginalized communities have largely been left behind by urban development efforts. Among the most marginalized are Accra's zongos, or "stranger's places," neighborhoods which historically housed northern Hausa migrants and – due to their affordability – have become more heterogeneous arrival cities over time (Pellow, 2002; Quayson, 2014). My research explored the initial stages of a new government initiative to improve social, economic, and infrastructural development in Ghana's zongos called the Ministry of Inner City and Zongo Development.

As my field research took place only one year into the Ministry's existence, its activities had yet to begin in earnest. Thus, my questions focused not on the Ministry's impacts, but on how new efforts to "develop" historically marginalized communities are framed, planned, and perceived. What expectations do zongo communities have for the Ministry's work? How are zongo needs determined by the Ministry? How does the Ministry communicate and engage with zongo communities about its plans, programs, and budget? Early lessons from this research suggest that if the Ministry is to succeed - by its own definition and as it is understood by zongo communities - it will need to move beyond including these neighborhoods in the urban fabric through infrastructure, social, and economic development, towards greater community inclusion in the process of urban development, as well.

ZONGOS, PAST AND PRESENT

Zongos face widespread stigma in Ghana, reputed to be "slums" and areas of concentrated poverty and crime. Since their establishment over a century ago, Accra's zongos have been socially and spatially marginalized, both from urban governance processes and the greater urban fabric. As an outsider traveling to Accra, I found that my lack of preexisting stereotypes about these communities could be quite useful, as it allowed me to be open to understanding the heterogenous, nuanced natures of the two Accra zongos I studied, Nima and Sabon Zongo. While they began as "stranger's places" of northern migrants, with Hausa as the lingua franca and Islam as the most frequently observed faith, over time zongos have become more diverse, with a combined Muslim and Christian tradition. Northern dress – long skirts in colorful wax print, often with matching shirts and headscarves – is common. Non-Hausa residents learn some of the language to converse with their neighbors, and

"If the communities cannot observe transparency in your methods, mechanisms, resource allocation, and decision making, you will fail even before you begin."

-- Ministry staff member

Nima: Shops and stalls along bustling Hilla Limann Highway, near the Nima Market

the bustling Nima Market attracts shoppers from across Accra.

Within zongos exists a strong sense of cohesion, described by residents as close-knit community in which "we all interact as one family." While stereotypes about poverty and crime in zongos may overstate the realities on the ground, public service provision in these neighborhoods remains notably lower than elsewhere in the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area. Statistics on educational outcomes, employment, and service provision attest to how zongos continue lag behind Accra's other neighborhoods in terms of both socioeconomic opportunities and physical infrastructure provision (Owusu et al. 2008). Government and civil society efforts to improve conditions in recent decades have been described as piecemeal at best by officials and zongo residents alike, attributed to both limited government capacity and the failure of programs to address the root causes of challenges facing zongo communities.

A NEW INITIATIVE FOR INCLUSION

In the face of such disparities, Ghana's newly-elected President Akufo-Addo launched the Ministry of Inner City and Zongo Development (MICZD) in January 2017. Allocated nearly $50 million USD in funding, the MICZD marked a significant turning point in both its scale and scope of efforts. Its stated objective is to improve the social, economic, and infrastructural development of zongos – a mixed approach differing from many more siloed past government efforts (Frimpong 2017).

Notably, since my field research was completed in January 2018, the Ministry has undergone significant changes. A Cabinet reshuffle in October 2018 brought Dr. Mustapha Abdul-Hamid, the former Information Minister, to the position of Minister. The Ministry expanded its early Arabic teaching program and launched additional stadium construction projects, neighborhood sanitation cleanups in Nima, and activities like the "Zongo Cuisine" program in zongos across the country. This research thus does not reflect these developments, but instead focuses on the process and perceptions around establishing a new effort to promote inclusion and development in historically underserved communities.

THE RESEARCH APPROACH

This research was principally informed by field research in Accra, Ghana for three weeks in January 2018. While there, I interviewed 38 local leaders, government stakeholders, and community-based organizations. I also conducted four focus groups with a total of 31 residents of Nima and Sabon Zongo. These opportunities to hear from zongo community members in their own words would not have been possible without the instrumental assistance of a translator, who

ensured that all could participate in Twi or Hausa. I supplemented my understanding from interviews and structured observations with a review of existing academic literature and government reports about Accra's zongos, the Ministry, and the broader literature of state-society engagement within marginalized populations in the global South.

EARLY LESSONS LEARNED

Across these conversations, several key themes emerged that speak to early learnings about the Ministry's efforts, and may offer points of reflection for similar efforts elsewhere:

Innovation as a point of Optimism. Zongo residents spoke about the novelty of the Ministry's coordinating role and targeted focus on zongos, which fostered some optimism about its chances of success. Amid a history of local government interventions that often left zongos behind, the creation of the Ministry as a high-level coordinating body was thought to allow for a more targeted focus on zongo communities. Furthermore, linking a flexible Zongo Development Fund to the Ministry suggested the potential for long-term investment. This research suggests that such new approaches may be well-received by communities and potentially better position a new institution for success.

Community football (soccer) score board in Sabon Zongo

Anticipate Change; Be Flexible. The Ministry clearly articulated its plans to pursue multiple strategies towards inner city and zongo development. However, in early conversations, government representatives and zongo community members appeared to prioritize these strategies and types of development activities differently. While Ministry representatives asserted that all focus areas of their work (social and economic development; infrastructure; cultural heritage; and crime and security) are important, many Ministry partners focused largely on infrastructure needs. Zongo community members, on the other hand,

Nima: A drainage system built in recent years doubles as a pedestrian path.

Sabon Zongo: open gutters create sanitation and flooding challenges for parts of the neighborhood

Shopping options in Nima Market.

overwhelming highlighted the need for improved education systems, which they shared were foundational for future development.

During interviews, Ministry staff themselves spoke to the importance of flexibility in responding to each zongo communities' needs. This research reinforces that such flexibility will likely prove necessary, and indeed how new institutions working with marginalized communities should build in time to listen to community needs and revise, iterate, and customize activities and budgets based on this listening.

Engage, Don't Just Inform. While the themes of inclusion, transparency, and close cooperation with marginalized communities surfaced in conversations with the Ministry and zongo communities alike, zongo community members often looked skeptically at these claims. Many government representatives spoke to the Ministry's highly participatory approach, and Ministry representatives asserted the importance of in-depth community needs assessments and engagement. Nevertheless, discussions with zongo residents highlighted that many community members and leaders had yet to find ways to engage with the Ministry, despite their best efforts. This suggests that participatory outreach to date may be incomplete, only reaching parts of zongo communities. As one zongo chief shared, "you have to go to people and listen to what they want. As a Chief, if I sit in my palace and wait, no one will come. You have to go around and meet people to help the community."

These early observations distill to a larger point about trust. For historically marginalized communities, a change from the status quo can signal a cause for optimism; however, ongoing flexibility and engagement is needed to promote an inclusive process that will facilitate outcomes that both marginalized communities and government initiatives can call a success. ■

"We want the government to invest in education. Without education, we can't do anything. Without that piece, development can't come."

-- Zongo community leader

Energy Justice: A Comparative Case Study of Decentralized Energy Planning Models in Rural Ayiti [Haiti]

Sophonie Milande Joseph is a Ph.D. Candidate in Urban Planning at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP) in New York City. Her current research agenda centers environmental justice, transnational planning and intersectional feminism. Her doctoral research is focused on the diffusion of traveling planning ideas in Haiti with an intersectional feminism lens.

The purpose of this study is to determine how different institutional arrangements affect energy justice and sovereignty in Ayiti [Haiti]. Several organizations are currently providing electricity to Haitian citizens; representing different organizational, technical, and geographic approaches to delivering energy services. I hypothesize that different institutional arrangements lead to differences in distributive, procedural, and recognition of energy services — these key theoretical concepts in the emerging energy justice literature highlight three ways that inequality may occur during energy service provision (Jenkins et al., 2016). To evaluate this hypothesis, I collected data that describes the organizational properties of each institution through a semi-structured interview protocol administered to energy service provider representatives.

COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Ayiti is located in the Caribbean region, sharing the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic. In Ayiti's republican governance system, the people and the state's social contract endows state powers at the national level. Thus, the central state must explicitly decree powers to subnational government units to undertake civic duties — for example, the provision of electric service delivery to local consumers.

The World Bank estimates a human population size of 10,981,229 people in 2017 (WB, 2018). In Figure 1, note the population distribution is within the capital and primate city: Pòtoprens (Port-au-Prince) and its metropolitan region (Bodson, Benoît, Duval, & Thérasmé, 2017; Manigat, 1997). Urban primacy is where population and economic activity within a given country are dominated by one or a few of the largest cities.

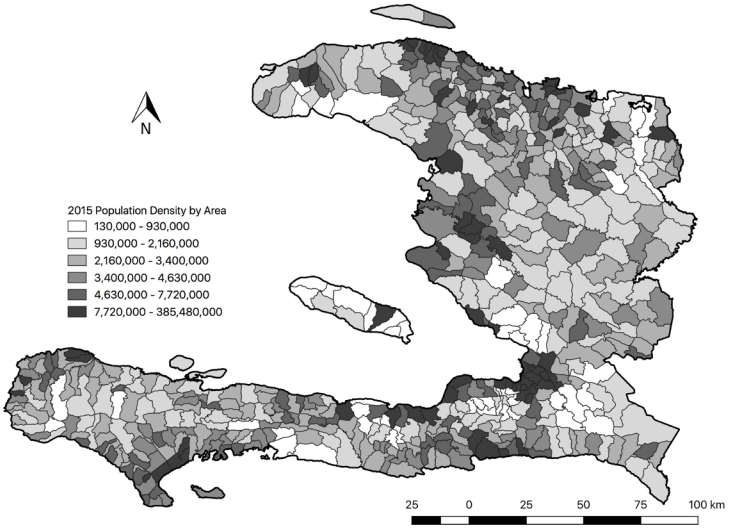
THEORETICAL UNDERPINNINGS

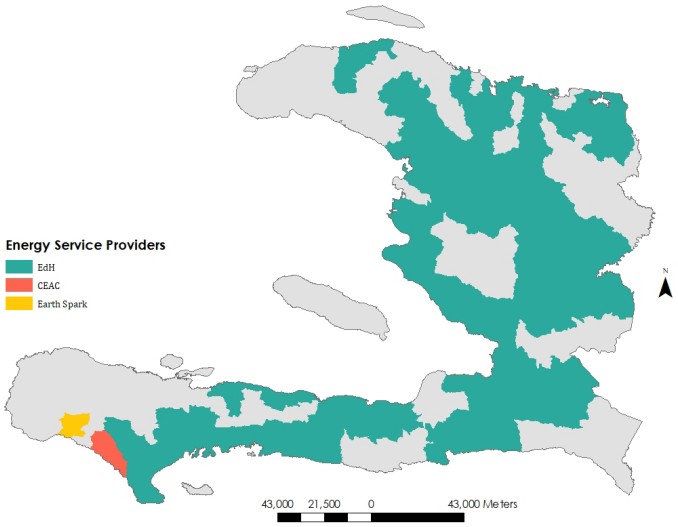
Ayiti's fractured decentralization planning results from the political needs of national and subnational leaders, rather than reflecting a broader concern with the public good (Cantave, Fils-Aimé, & Brutus, 2000; Charles, 2018; Joseph, Klopp, Schumacher-Kocik, & Marcello, 2011Njoh, 2016 #64). Ayiti's non-urbanized areas are in varying states of fragmented, administrative deconcentration from the national state's influence centralized in the urban primate, Pòtoprens (Joseph, 2019). Legislative loopholes, or gray spaces, are strategic tools that facilitate ongoing corruption and co-opting of systems that delay implementation of decentralization (Yiftachel 2009).

Simultaneously, Haitian planning law also provides legal justification for the parallel pursuit of improved economic livelihoods, in this case through electrification, and social justice (law of April 5, 2017). Energy justice metrics provide explicit measures for assessing just processes and equitable outcomes that parallel global trends in the creation and use of value-based, planning metrics (S. S. Fainstein, 2010; Griffin, Cohen, & Maddox, 2015; Heffron, 2015). Distributive, procedural, and recognition comprise key justice sub-types in the emerging energy justice literature stream. The justice indicators monitor the energy planning cycle and outcomes (Griffin et al., 2015).

I use these three, energy justice building blocks, to frame the analysis of data findings.

Distributive justice (DJ) supports tracking social and spatial distribution of positive and negative externalities upon electricity consumers by operationalizing equity of outcomes [Appendix B: 8-12]. DJ's policy implications prioritize inclusionary, electricity distribution mechanisms.





Procedural justice (PJ) centers citizens' rights for meaningful, public participation in decision-making processes that affect their built environment's outcomes (Arnstein, 1969; Choguill, 1996). Moving beyond tokenized participation, PJ operationalizes energy service providers' institutional structure using three measures: organizational, technical and geographic characteristics [Appendix B: 1-7] (Heffron, 2017; Jenkins et al., 2016).

Recognition justice (RJ) centers the struggle for redistributive justice by acknowledging inequalities originating in the slavery era's transnational mercantilism and its influence on population settlement patterns (Allen, 2017; Yarrington, 2015). Such spatial-historic analysis of infrastructure investments connects contemporary patterns in siting of energy infrastructure investment to extractive, institutional practices.

RESULTS

How are different institutional arrangements affecting energy justice in rural Ayiti?

- **Electricity Provision by EarthSpark, CEAC, and EDH Organization and Public Participation**

Each of the institutions reviewed had varied organizational structures and different methods for public engagement. The EarthSpark microgrid is owned privately with the aim to operate a for-profit business. The EarthSpark team is knowledgeable and comprised of experienced employees working to develop and maintain the microgrid (Interview X). They have a memorandum of understanding with the local komin. There are three levels of engagement with the community: an energy committee, community meetings and grid ambassadors. The energy committee is composed of selected members of the community. The purpose of the committee is to discuss any pressing items relating to the microgrid system. The greater community meeting is open to all members of the community. Inevitably, the voices in the energy committee and greater community meeting do not always align. Lastly, the grid ambassadors are the face of EarthSpark in their respective areas. They typically work at a store in town and act as the point of communication between individual customers and the microgrid.

The CEAC cooperative is designed to include the community in the development and operation of the microgrid. The responsibility for such communication lies with the board, which consists of three members of the community who each serve three-year terms (Interview). The board members are paid only a token remuneration and are responsible for overseeing all aspects of the microgrid development and operations. Due to the technical and economic difficulties of the microgrid development, official communication channels were not a priority and thus never developed. There are, however, periodic informal exchanges through places of public gathering, such as schools and churches. For practical needs, if a customer needs to report a failure, they can contact a representative located in each commune or call the commercial director or general manager. Due to the small number of clients, the interviewee states this direct mode of interaction is feasible; however, there would be more difficulty with higher client numbers.

EDH does not have explicitly delineated policies for including the community in the planning of new energy-related, infrastructure (Interview). Communications appear to primarily be top-down using mediums such as newspapers, televisions, and radio. Customers can call to report failure or outages, but they are not guaranteed a response (Interview).

Business Models for Sustained Operation

Common to all the institutions is the inability to recover costs, as none have yet to settle on a sustainable business model.

EDH has well documented financial issues. The government pays two-thirds of the system's running costs with payments for service only covering a small fraction of costs. It is estimated, however, that if revenue were able to be recovered that the system could run at a profit (Belt, Allien, Mackinnon, & Kashi, 2017). While technically introducing metering technology is possible, recent attempts to do so have failed due to what has been termed as a lack of will from the organizations in power.

In contrast, EarthSpark was initially funded through external grant funding with the intent to develop a sustainable business model through public and private partnerships. EarthSpark has made several strides in attempting to develop a model of electricity provision that can be profitable. They have developed a methodology to evaluate and rank various communities throughout rural Haiti to assess their suitability, based on several metrics including population density and ability to pay (Archambault, 2014; Interview). They have also developed new low-cost metering technologies, incorporated pay-as-you-go payment methods, and developed ties with the community to mitigate theft all in attempts to bring costs down (Archambault, 2014; Interview). They have significantly oversized their system enabling them to have a controlled ramp up to more customers while maintaining the same level of service. However, they are still yet to recover costs. To rebuild after Hurricane Matthew, EarthSpark was required to return to investors for subsequent funding (Stuebi & Hatch, 2018).

The CEAC cooperative was built with initial funding from the Norwegian government, USAID, and other non-governmental organizations (NGO's) and with volunteer contributions in-kind from the National Rural Electrical Cooperative Association (Stuebi et al. 2018; Interview). The initial business model aimed at the microgrid to be self-sufficient in 4 years. However, several aspects hindered this progress. The business model assumed a rate of demand increase higher than what occurred, the cost to obtain diesel increased substantially from initial projections, and Hurricane Matthew destroyed the microgrid requiring additional financing and slowing the growth of the system. Currently the price of electricity is subsidized to a value

EdH Office Building in Cabaret Haiti

How do you balance the business need for economies of scale and the need for organizations equipped to meet the communications needs of the community? The black and white approach is a set up for failure. A holistic approach acknowledges that without social stability, economic development is not sustainable.

of 25 c/kwh but according to the interviewee may need to increase to the full cost of 45 c/kwh (Interview). This would be a substantial increase for their customers and could render the whole project infeasible.

Environmental and Sustainability Policies and Practices
In CEAC, environmental policies are adhered to in order to maintain membership in the Conseil National de Cooperatives. EDH has a department of environmental affairs to manage environmental issues of siting. EarthSpark has environmental practices which mainly consists of social and environmental impact assessments used to mitigate risk. EDH has stated sustainability policies but it is unclear what has been done in practice. CEAC does not have any explicitly stated sustainability policies.

- **Implications for Energy Justice**

Procedural Justice

Procedural justice seeks to determine how decision-makers have sought to meaningfully engage with the community and power relations. Arnstein (1969) outlined eight levels of public participation: manipulation, therapy, informing, consultation, placation, partnership, delegated power and citizen control.

EarthSpark exhibits a level of public participation that is categorized as placation. This level is defined by engaging the community in dialogue through surveys, neighborhood meetings and public hearings. While the community is consulted and able to provide advice, EarthSpark retains final decision-making power.

CEAC is a cooperative. There is a layer of technical experts that mediate communications between the CEAC citizen representatives and external funding bodies (Interview). I categorize CEAC as also being a case of the placation form of public participation.

I have not been able to identify EDH's systematic process for continuous public participation. There has been project-by-project inclusion of community members through informational campaigns in the past (Interview X). Respondents noted such public engagement activities will occur again in the future. As such, I categorize EDH as being in the non-participation levels of Arnstein's ladder of public participation.

The differences in the level of citizen participation directly translate into meeting the electrification for economic development needs of people through socially just planning processes and outcomes (S. Fainstein, 2011). July 2018's events mark the start of an energy justice story that demonstrates how corruption related to the Petrocaraibe funds' embezzlement and the lack of transparency in fuel price decision-making negatively impact recent strides in the country's branding as a place of socio-economic stability that is open for business to investors and tourists alike (Seraphin, 2016). Instead, the lack of inclusion of social justice issues in previous energy-related decision-making launched the ongoing "Ayiti Nou Vle A / The Ayiti We Want," social media-led uprising against corruption within Ayiti's state and international aid sectors. Sustainable development requires simultaneous pursuit of equity, economic and environmental goals (Campbell, 1996); otherwise, electrification for economic development will not be sufficient to spark Ayiti's viable inclusion in a globalized economy (Goldsmith, 1997).

Distributive Justice

Distributive justice seeks to highlight the equity of differences in benefits and negative effects. With respect to the benefits afforded by electricity service, there is a clear division in the allocation of energy services to the rural customers served by EarthSpark and CEAC's micro-grids and the urban customers served by EDH. The microgrid systems through their targeted approach were each able to provide a high level of service relative to EDH and incorporate various levels of public participation. Using urban and rural as collective classes to compare differences in service outcomes, demonstrates urban citizens have access to more electricity provision, albeit sparse and intermittent, than their rural counterparts. EarthSpark will only expand a microgrid system to komins that show the possibility for

favorable returns. For the cooperative model, komins could petition to develop a cooperative microgrid but are still beholden to outside funding organizations to obtain capital and technical know-how. Overall, densely populated areas are viewed as a priority for electrification by EDH while EarthSpark targets specific urbanized areas of rural regions due to the minimum densities required for micro-grids to be financially solvent within privatized funding models.

Recognition Justice

Recognition attempts to determine which communities are mis-represented and ignored by energy service providers by asking survey questions to understand the make-up of each energy provider's customer base, the participatory committees and governance bodies. Due to the fuel riots, which canceled the household survey, the study was not able to obtain household-level data about the communities served by each energy service provider.

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

The purpose of this study is to determine how different institutional arrangements affect energy justice and sovereignty in Ayiti. The findings indicate privatization of formerly state-goods, dependency on international aid and short-term, political maneuvers have undercut implementation of decentralization planning. As a result, the three models for energy provision are also affected by international aid limitations, privatization's demands for fiscal solvency, deconcentration of energy infrastructure beyond urbanized areas and delayed devolution of state powers to the local level.

There are positives and negatives in my findings on the launch and implementation of the two decentralized IPPs in the Southern Haiti region. CEAC and EarthSpark are providing partially clean-energy in sites that previously did not have access to or reliable access to energy. Furthermore, CEAC and EarthSpark are experimental models that are creating experiential knowledge that may inform future energy infrastructure expansion in other communities.

The negatives regarding the two decentralized IPPs in the Southern Haiti region that also provide lessons learned for planning professionals working to expand utility infrastructure within marginalized communities. Given the push for privatized utilities, business models for sustained operation demand changes in business and technical plans. There is a need for business plans that explicitly incorporate known uncertainties due to damage from natural disasters. For example, the CEAC business plan's forecasts did not incorporate financial needs in case of a natural disaster such as Hurricane Matthew in October 2016. Technical plans need to include modular build up to be able to operate under changing conditions.

The organization's size has positive and negative impacts on energy justice outcomes for individual consumers. The struggle may appear to be binary: how do you balance the business need for economies of scale and the need for organizations equipped to meet the communications needs of the community? The black and white approach is a set up for failure. A holistic approach acknowledges that without social stability, economic development is not sustainable.

The planning and policy implications of decentralization planning displayed in Ayiti's trends in unbundling of utility services. Ongoing monitoring of energy justice indicators across different institutional arrangements provides lessons learned for practitioners and policymakers regarding best practices for improving access to electricity. In this manner, Haitian citizens may be spared the injustice of an international aid and governing system that seeks to indirectly inform affected citizen stakeholders regarding pertinent energy policy decisions via a football game. ■

Is it ethical for American planners to work for authoritarian* countries?

Alan Mammoser, AICP

We might approach the question by asking whether planners should even work for the US government? Our war machine has been used irresponsibly on various occasions. The great patroness/critic of our profession Jane Jacobs quit America and took up residence in Canada to show her disapproval of the war in Vietnam.

Still, the US is a democracy with legitimate elections. The government respects and protects our rights to investigate, write, organize and protest. So, yes, planners should work for the US, even when the country sometimes goes astray.

But when we consider many other countries, which lack protections for human rights, troubling questions arise. It may appear that we are legitimizing these governments if we work on their projects.

Of course we are legitimizing our clients, we can't deny it. But we are planners not financiers or weapons dealers. We will reply that our work is dedicated to improving communities, and this is true no matter who is in the government. Still there are occasions when the world community must simply say 'No' to some really bad governments, as occurred with South Africa in the 1980s.

What would be remarkable, though, would be if planners were to lead such a movement against an oppressive regime rather than just go along with it. It would be hard to say 'no' to the big contracts it would dangle in front of us, and many would give in to these. But would the profession as a whole raise its voice against a tyrant?

Perhaps we need an 'oppressive state' list – something like our government's 'terror state' list – warning us when we're dancing with the devil. We look to our 'Fellows' in leadership to consider this.

Aniket Sangwan, AICP

An easy answer to should question is always- "it depends on a case by case basis". However, it is more pragmatic in this case to lean towards a resounding yes. Particularly because a sharp opinion on such a subject risks ostracizing members of the planning community who want to help other countries.

An important aspect to understand in this question is - what are planners doing? They are not providing them with uranium enriching plants or mobile technology that will give them leverage against the US. They are simply helping people; people who are miserable being under an authoritarian rule. If we as planners can use our education to make life a little bit easier for people living under the worst of tyrants, the answer should always be a yes.

Then there is the question of which country is under a foreign tyrant? DPRK would be a

**In government, authoritarianism denotes any political system that concentrates power in the hands of a leader or a small elite that is not constitutionally responsible to the body of the people. Authoritarian leaders often exercise power arbitrarily and without regard to existing bodies of law, and they usually cannot be replaced by citizens choosing freely among various competitors in elections. The freedom to create opposition political parties or other alternative political groupings with which to compete for power with the ruling group is either limited or nonexistent in authoritarian regimes. (Source: www.britannica.com/topic/authoritarianism)*

shining example but what about UAE or Saudi Arabia where there are monarchies that restrict liberties of people and freedom of expression. A perspective of what counts as "authoritarian" or "tyrant" is bound to be different for different people.

It is pertinent to remember that even under the worst of sanctions on North Korea, US AID continued to provide essential food supplies and humanitarian aid to the country. Yes, we should restrict technology transfers with authoritarian countries or dissuade financial profiteering. But planning is neither of those things. Planners work for people much more than they do for the government.

Planning in these countries can also be a source of progressive change. Planners can design cities and gardens with public spaces, encouraging social engagement and dare I say, even revolt against an authoritarian regime or foreign tyrant. There would be no Arab Spring without Tahrir Square in Cairo. Tahrir Square was inspired by Paris urban planning, built under an autocratic Khedive Ismail. However, its design would go on to allow space for social revolution. This wouldn't have been possible in the narrow lanes of old Cairo or the districts that didn't flourish until western styled control of Nile was established.

Planners are humble people. They underestimate and undersell the impact of their work. As I write this piece, sitting in urban sprawl, disappointed by the condition of public transport in my dysfunctional American megacity, I wonder what it is that we planners can offer to the people living under foreign tyrants. But then even with all the dysfunctional things around us, we are able to find joy in the simple urban design of public squares or birds chirping on sidewalk trees. If we as planners can provide a safe street for a child to play in a war zone, a garden for social engagement where women get to share their experiences with each other, a bus lane for a poor industrial worker who spends most of their money on private commute- it should be our moral duty to do so. In a world full of hate, planners can create avenues for love to blossom and we must.

Kate Holmquist, AICP

I agree that planners have the capacity to be agents of change, but it seems important to me to lead by example, and carefully consider HOW we engage with other countries. My feelings strongly align with UN-Habitat which stresses that sustainability needs to be addressed comprehensively and is only effective if social equity is considered.

Ric Stephens, AICP

ISOCARP had long ago determined that geopolitics should not interfere with planning goals and objectives, and the ability to be agents of change for progressive ideals…and cnosider the list of countries with right-wing populist, nationalistic, authoritarian governments is growing.

Note that this topic may be on the minds of other international professional organizations who advocate for climate action. There is only one country with an autocratic leader who is a climate denier. We would not want other countries to stop working with us, eh?

Andy Cross, AICP

Consistent with Ric's input that planners can be the agents of change and improvement, the question requires a leap to "what are some key issues in authoritarian countries and how are they similar to what we're facing in our (US-American) rural areas and population centers? What solutions have we pursued here and how transferable are they? What impact does the authoritarian-style of government have on implementation of planning tools we've studied and discussed?

International Planners: *Tips on Finding a Job in the U.S.*

Jing Zhang is a transportation planner at the Morgantown Monongalia MPO. He serves as the vice-chair of communications for the APA International Division. He holds a master degree in planning from Clemson University, a master degree in music and double bachelor degrees in music and English literature from Beijing Normal University.

This article is intended to convey some thoughts about the career development of foreign planners in the U.S. in light of the U.S. immigration process. While my opinions do not constitute legal advice, they are lessons learned from personal experience with immigration proceedings over the last eight years.

In writing this article, I presume that its readers are:

- *Young professionals or planning major students who are classified under a non-immigrant status in the U.S. and intend to work in the U.S. as a planner*
- *Interested in jobs in a private or government setting. In other words, readers are not professional scholars with numerous academic publications*
- *Not married or engaged to an American citizen*
- *Not in the top five percent who possess extraordinary ability in planning and qualified for EB1*

GAIN DEMONSTRABLE SKILLS

Soft skills, such as communication and time management, are important, but certain skills carry extra weight for foreign planners. Those skills can generate tangible results that demonstrate your expertise and allow it to be effectively presented on paper.

For planners, it includes GIS analysis, graphic design, in-depth analysis of social-economic data, technical writing on complex issues, and traffic modeling, or the combination of any of those skills. Indeed, these skills are billable and marketable. But, more importantly, they help to establish a compelling case in front of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) adjudicators who decide if you are qualified for the immigration benefits that you are seeking.

However laborious, in a sense, you are only as good as what you can document in the context of immigration petition. Keep track of your projects, certifications, trainings, conference presentations, and other career events.

UNDERSTAND H-1B VISA

A few core issues about H-1B visa: It allows you to work temporarily in the U.S, with a three-year limit, potentially extendable to six years.The visa has a cap each year, and your chance of getting it very likely depends on a lottery conducted by the USCIS, if your employer is not cap-exempt. You can work ONLY for the employer who is identified in your H-1B visa petition unless the employer is not in the U.S.

You need to be continually employed to keep your H-1B status valid.

FIND THE RIGHT EMPLOYER

Among employers who are interested in hiring you, ensure that the employer of your choice is able and willing to sponsor your H-1B visa, with an awareness of the constraints imposed by the visa. As mentioned, H-1B visa has a cap each year and, once the cap is met, ALL applicants are subject to a lottery.

One way to sidestep this obstacle, however, is to find a cap-exempt employer, such as higher education institutions and nonprofit/government research organizations. Those employers still need to file an H-1B petition for you, but the process is much less burdensome.

In the event of filing an immigration petition (not H-1B visa) through the PERM labor certificate path, your employer will need to demonstrate that there is no American citizen who is able AND willing to do your job.

DEVELOP EXPERTISE

Having focused expertise could place you in a position advantageous for your career and, if you are an alien worker in the U.S., for your immigration petition. In the context of planning, your expertise can be demonstrated through innovative approaches in solving problems and seizing upon opportunities, improving social well-being such as safety, sustainability, equity, and economy.

Again, your expertise and related achievements are helpful to your immigration case only when their significance is supported by evidence. That evidence includes reference letters from prestigious colleagues, media reports, academic citations, data showing factual impact, your job title, and your salary.

A note: Your expertise is more valuable when it is narrow, well defined, and on the top in its field, especially when you pursue the Green Card through the National Interest Waiver (EB2) or Extraordinary Ability (EB1).

DEAL WITH IT

On numerous occasions, immigration issues put my life in limbo. Waiting on a decision from the USCIS is not a thing I enjoy, and weathering through the process (I am still in it) is an ordeal. However, there are no life-and-death consequences.

Remember, there are asylum seekers waiting to find out if they have successfully demonstrated that they meet the qualification to be treated as refugees, so it is important to keep things in perspective.

(Edited by Andrew Gast-Bray, AICP, CNU-A.)

Comments

I recieved the following comment after the article was posted in the APA Knoweldge Blog online. I found it very helpful and share it here therefore.

Many times (but not always) public agencies are not open to sponsoring visas, and that consulting firms (especially architecture or transportation firms) or large, research-based non-profits are the route to go for international students. However, international planning agencies like USAID, UN, Asia Development Bank, and World Bank are incredibly difficult to get jobs in.

A lot of the job search advice that gets given to students is not applicable to international students. For example, I've heard constantly that soft skills, writing, communication, and "general" skills are most important for planners. However, like you mentioned in your post, for international students, the more STEM related, the better. That often means technical skills (GIS, Adobe CS, coding, data analysis, etc.), which usually leads to consulting firms or MPOs. Often, this steers international students to concentrate in transportation planning or urban design because those fields are more 'technical' and have more jobs available.

Another implication is that international students often have to look in bigger cities like New York, SF, because of more availability of jobs, more willingness of employers to sponsor visas, and more racial and ethnic diversity in general. However, to land in bigger, coastal cities, you also have to attend large, well-known, and prestigious planning schools, which has equity implications.

In my graduating class, about 40% of the planning students were international. Despite being in a well-known program, most of them went back to their home countries or abroad somewhere, often out of necessity or struggles with job searching. The ones that stayed wound up working for tech companies or consulting firms in a planning-adjacent capacity. Many of them had to rely on their other skills picked up from their undergrad field of study or previous background (like civil engineering, architecture, or landscape architecture), or had had to teach themselves new, non-planning skills like computer coding, which was not covered in planning school. Overall, I would say planning schools, planning employers, and planners overall in the US are not very well equipped or informed on what to do with international students/applicants.

INTERPLAN
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Expected Release Date: **December 30, 2019**

Special Report

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Expected Release Date: **October 30, 2019**

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Any ideas, suggestions, or questions about Interplan? Want to join the editorial team? Contact Jing Zhang at jingzhangaicp@gmail.com

International Division

The International Division is active in promoting information, networking, and professional development opportunities related to international planning. In pursuit of these goals, the division provides a limited number of grants for projects and study abroad. Other programs and activities include a newsletter, conference sessions, and professional development and networking events. We are also working hard to restart our popular exchange program for practicing planners.

The International Division has members worldwide, based in the Americas, Africa, Eurasia, and the Pacific. They include American planners with an interest in planning practice in other countries, planners living and working outside the U.S. who want to maintain contact with the American planning community, and others concerned with planning issues worldwide. No matter your planning specialty, if you have an interest in other parts of the world, the International Division has a place for you. Join us at

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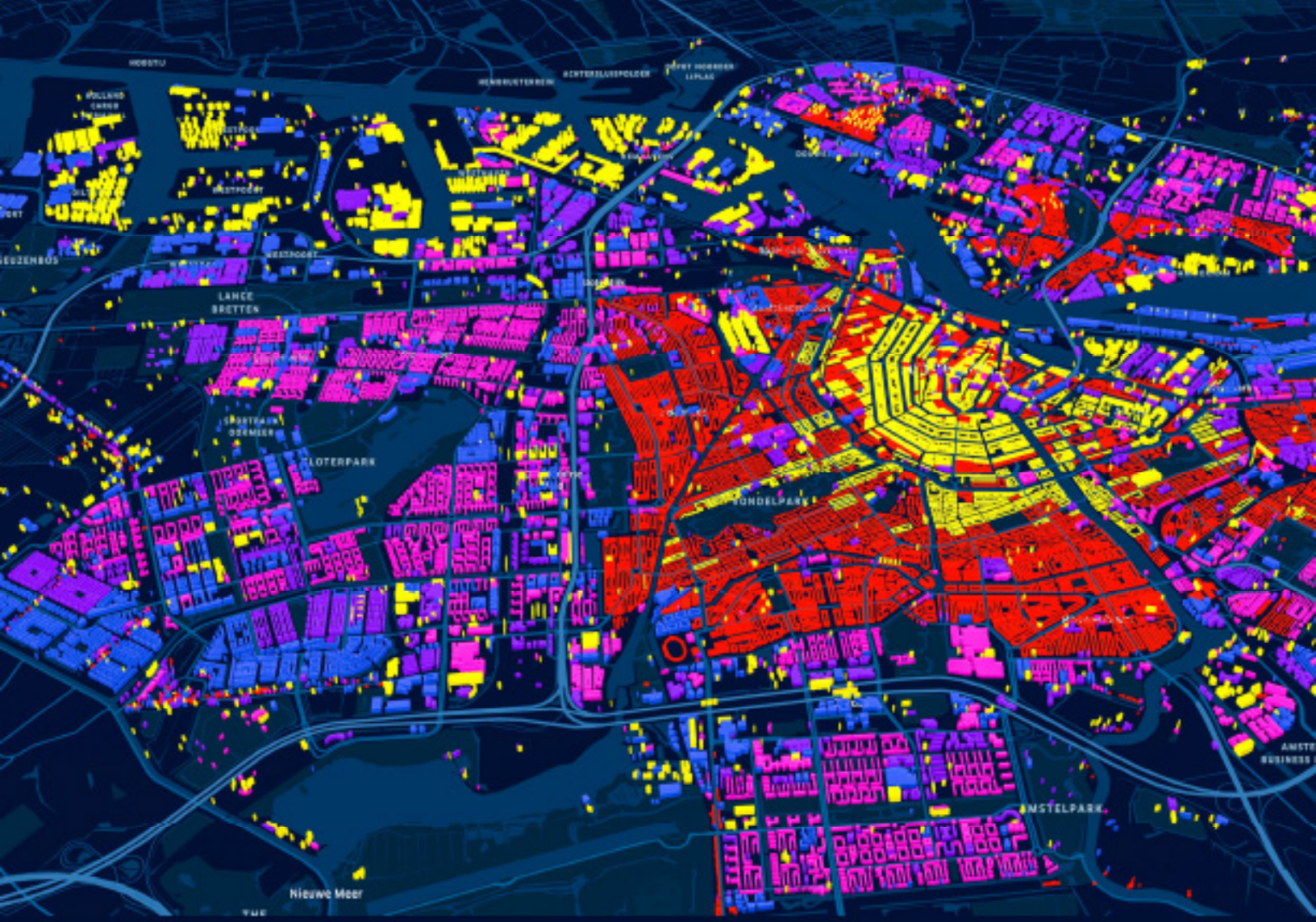

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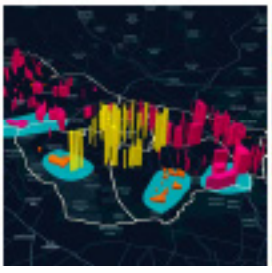
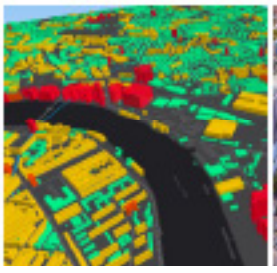

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