

NEW URBANISM DIVISION UP...AND RUNNING

The New Urbanism Division, APA's newest division, is now up and functioning a little over three years after it was conceived. Many people have contributed to founding the division; Rick Bernhardt's article, "It's Been a Long, Hard Road - A History of the Division" on page 2 describes this process in full.

The New Urbanism Division was approved by the APA Board of Directors at their annual meeting in Chicago in 2002. The "new kid on the block" is designed to return planners' focus to the core of our profession. Building on the time and effort APA has expended on the Growing Smart Initiative, this division will provide practicing planners the tools necessary to bring meaningful change at the community level.

The New Urbanism Division will be working to familiarize planners with the tools needed to develop and implement holistic town plans that truly build sustainable communities. All the disciplines of planning, from basic community design to transportation, environmental sciences, land development, public services and finances are brought to bear in the work of community building.

More specifically, the Division will be conducting and assembling research that demonstrates the holistic aspects of New Urbanism - namely, the interconnection between environmental protection, historic resources, energy conservation, social and cultural understanding,

land use efficiency and economy, human health, and physical beauty in the built environment.

The General Purposes of the New Urbanism Division are to:

1. Re-establish the art and science of traditional town planning,
2. Encourage and support efforts to plan development in a way that promotes a sense of community,
3. Educate planners and the public about the importance of quality design, neighborhood structure, and a sense of community,
4. Coordinate with the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning and the Planning Accreditation Board to include courses in the practice the New Urbanism as part of the required curriculum,
5. Report on research activities related to traditional town planning and serve as a resource to members,
6. Establish useful relationships among professionals, and
7. Provide for the exchange of information and ideas among members.

Continued on Page 4

GET INVOLVED - SUPPORT THE DIVISION

The newly-formed New Urbanism Division will host its first business meeting during the National Conference in Denver. In addition to meeting the new officers and discussing the Division's mission, members will help to forge a work plan for this coming year.

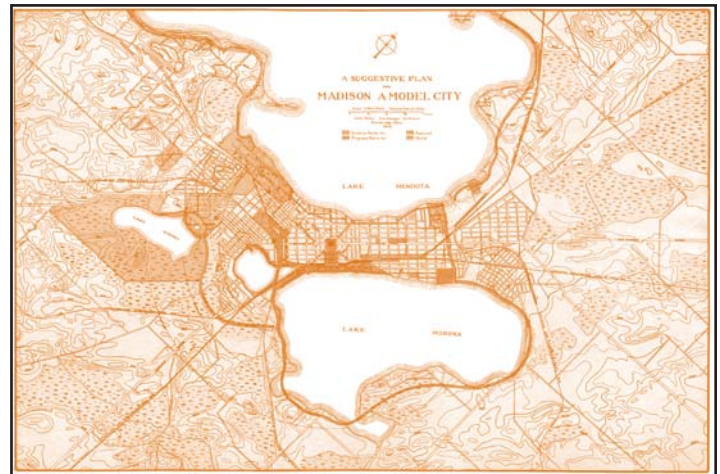
New Urbanism Division Business Meeting and Reception

Monday, March 31st
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Adam's Mark Hotel in Tower Court C

All interested APA members are encouraged to attend and actively participate in crafting the future for this exciting Division.

Be sure to stay updated with news from the New Urbanism Division at:
<http://www.planning.org/divisions/>



The 1910 plan of Madison, WI created by John Nolen, considered by many to be one of the grandfathers of new urbanism



IN THIS ISSUE

Division Up and Running
First Business Meeting
History of the New Urbanism Division
2003 Division Officers
Calendar of Events & Happenings

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NEW URBANISM IN PRACTICE

2002 New Urbanism Division Officers

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New Urbanism in Practice, published quarterly, is the official newsletter of the New Urbanism Division of the American Planning Association. We welcome articles, letters, suggestions, and information for inclusion in the newsletter. Please forward your submissions to our Editor, Suzanne Rhees. The next deadline for the submission of articles is June 21, 2003.

New Urbanism in Practice along with other information about the New Urbanism Division is found online at:

<http://www.planning.org/divisions/>

Division members are encouraged to sign up for the Division list-serve at <http://list.planning.org>

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IT'S BEEN A LONG, HARD ROAD - A HISTORY OF THE DIVISION

It is with pride that I am able to say, "Welcome to the New Urbanism Division." APA's newest division is now up and functioning a little over three years after it was conceived as a project of the Planners Task Force of the Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU).

A few years ago, the Planners Task Force recognized the need to enhance the resources available to professional planners interested in the tools, techniques, and application of the principles of new urbanism. Having been involved in APA leadership over the years, I felt that the appropriate venue to achieve this purpose was through APA, the planners' professional organization. As a result, the formation of a new division became a task force objective and I assumed responsibility to coordinate with APA.

At the 2000 APA National Conference in New York, there was a pivotal discussion with Mr. Frank So, then Executive Director of APA, on the need for a division focusing on the principles of new urbanism and traditional town planning. The major concern, and (I believe) fundamental misconception expressed by Mr. So was whether the practice of new urbanism would be better served through the Urban Design and Preservation Division. It was pointed out that the practice of new urbanism is much broader than simply an urban design approach.

Many in the planning profession see the practice of new urbanism as simply a return to alleys, porches and picket fences. But new urbanist town planners intend to focus on the process of town and community building in a comprehensive manner by application of all of the 27 principles of the Charter of the New Urbanism. This process focuses on an integrated and sustainable approach to community building from the region to the site. The principles are fundamental to the practice of comprehensive planning, but while relatively simple and straightforward, are not understood or applied by many APA members.

Following the 2000 National Conference, it was obvious that a new division was critical if we as planners were to benefit from the practice and principles of new urbanism. A steering com-

mittee was formed in accordance with the requirements of APA for new divisions. This committee represented all 6 regions of APA and developed the application. In addition to myself, the members of the committee included Tom Comitta (Pennsylvania), David Fuller (South Carolina), Rich Unger (Florida), Suzanne Rhees (Minnesota), Shane Hope (Washington), and Phil Erikson (California). This committee prepared the purpose, objectives, by-laws, solicited petitions and CNU congresses and did the necessary follow-up and administrative work needed to comply with APA requirements.

The first action was to coordinate with the sponsors of the 2001 annual conference in New Orleans to provide conference sessions. As a result, there were a number of sessions directly on point or given by planners who are also members of CNU. However, the behind-the-scenes focus of the year was an ongoing dialogue between APA members, division officers, and APA staff on whether the new division was warranted. The critical issue remained: Why is new urbanism different from urban design? Other issues included whether new urbanism was a "fad" or simply a "niche" that didn't warrant a division, and whether there already too many existing divisions.

The elected APA leadership understood the need and supported the effort. One proposal suggested combining new urbanism with the urban design division. Once again, we stressed the broad philosophical approach of new urbanism and the need to coordinate with the Urban Design Division, not to replace it. It was noted that it was our intent to establish a division that provides a focused forum for the education, research, and communication of the application of the principles of traditional town planning and new urbanism. These principles are intended to provide the foundation for planning at the regional and local level to achieve sustainable communities.

This year-long debate culminated in the approval of the New Urbanism Division by the APA

Continued on Page 4

2003 DIVISION OFFICERS

**Chair**

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In his 33-year career, Terry Wendt has had the fortune of approaching New Urbanism from all professional angles, and for all types and all scales of development.

In his current position he serves as the Director of Planning and Design for The Community Builders, Inc., the nation's largest developer of mixed-income housing with a national portfolio of over 10,000 residences. In this position he oversees the design work of some of America's best New Urbanism planning firms, including Urban Design Associates, Torti Gallas & Partners, Calthorpe Associates, Stull and Lee, ICON Architecture, and Design Collective.

He has previously served as the Principal Urban Designer for the City of Kansas City (where he wrote the Urban Design Guidebook) as well as the Director of Planning for The Bigelow Group and American Multi-Cinema where he prepared plans for high-density projects on urban and suburban sites.

His experience has enabled him to lead design teams with nationally-prominent consultants including TPAP, Lohan Associates; and WRT - on plans for mixed-use centers (Chicago Transit Authority Station Area Guidelines; Los Alamos Downtown Plan; Oak Brook Comprehensive Plan; Project 500 Office Campus in Cleveland; Navy Pier Framework Plan; Quality Hill). He has also drafted New Urbanism guidelines for City ordinances (Lee's Summit, MO, with Connie Cooper; and Lenexa, KS).

He has an MCP and M.Arch. from the University of Pennsylvania Urban Design Program, and a B.Arch. from the University of Minnesota.

**Vice-Chair**

Ramond A. Chiaramonte,
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Ray Chiaramonte brings a physical design and social behavior background to his role as assistant executive director of the Hillsborough County Planning Commission. The Planning Commission is the planning agency for Hillsborough County, Florida, population 1,055,807.

Ray's professional experience in planning spans 30 years and includes positions in both the public and private sectors. Ray has been a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners since 1987.

He first became interested in the New Urbanist movement in the late 1980s and has been instrumental in getting the principles of that movement incorporated into planning efforts at the county and neighborhood levels.

As a believer in the movement, he became one of the first residents in Disney's Celebration community outside of Orlando, Florida, in 1996, commuting via van pool to Tampa each day. When Hillsborough County's first New Urbanist community, West Park Village, opened in 2000, Ray and his family subsequently moved back to Hillsborough County and took up residence there.

As a result of his personal experiences, he has become an expert in the physical design of New Urbanist communities as well as on the impact that the movement has on sociologic behavior. Ray is a member of the Congress of New Urbanism and completed a specialized seminar on neo-traditional planning taught by Andres Duany in 1990. He is a frequent presenter at national, state and regional conferences and regularly takes advantage of opportunities to address students at all levels on issues related to visioning and planning as well.

**Secretary/Treasurer**

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Murphy Antoine is a Senior Associate with Torti Gallas and Partners, a private sector planning and architecture firm in Silver Spring, Maryland. He works as a Project Manager, Project Architect and Project Planner on the firm's extensive and award-winning HOPE VI portfolio. The HOPE VI program won the Innovation in American Government Award in 2000, and Murphy's efforts to implement this important affordable housing policy through appropriate and contextual neighborhood planning and architecture have manifested themselves nationwide in over a dozen projects.

Murphy's expertise has been tapped by HUD and the CNU as a presenter at several regional design training workshops. He was a panelist at CNU X's "Making Mixed Income Communities" session, and has presented similar material at state Department of Housing and Community Development seminars local to the Washington, DC area.

Murphy is a registered architect and certified planner, a member of APA since 1998, and AICP since 1999. He has been a member of the CNU since 1998. He holds Masters degrees in Urban and Environmental Planning, and in Architecture, both from the University of Virginia, along with specialized studies certificates in American Urbanism, and in Historic Preservation. He was the treasurer of his Student Planners Association, and the recipient of the Virginia APA's Outstanding Graduate Student award in 1995. He also supports and assists Alexandrians for Sensible Growth, a grassroots smart growth movement in Alexandria, Virginia.

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Continued from Page 2

A HISTORY OF THE DIVISION

Board of Directors at their annual meeting in Chicago in 2002.

Following the approval by the Board, I served a short time as the interim chair. However, I must give considerable thanks to Ms. Gina Tirinnanzi who served as Interim Chair for most of 2002 and did a tremendous amount of work in transitioning the division from paper to action. Under Gina's leadership, the division held its first election of officers in early 2003. The election resulted in Terry Wendt, Division Chair, Ray Chiaramonte, Division Vice Chair, Murphy Antoine, Division Secretary-Treasurer. The executive committee has appointed Suzanne Rhees as Newsletter Editor, Craig Lewis as Associate Editor and Nathan Bilger as WebMaster.

In working on this new division, it is my desire to bring about greater coordination between CNU and APA. The practice of town building requires the use of the tools and techniques that have been CNU's focus the past ten years. The development of the New Urbanism Division that concentrates on this process will be of considerable service to the membership of APA. In the coming months, you will see more

information about this new division. In the meantime, we encourage you to join. We are excited about the potential impact of New Urbanism, and look forward to the return of traditional towns.

- **Rick Bernhardt, FAICP, CNU**

Rick is the Executive Director of the Nashville-Davidson County Planning Department and was the first Chair of the New Urbanism Division

Continued from Page 1

UP...AND RUNNING

The New Urbanism Division will act as a supplement and complement to the work of other divisions and will fill a void by providing assistance, resources, and information about traditional town planning.

The Division will provide a resource network to benefit planners, developers, and researchers, which will in turn assist in the education of the public, developers, and lenders in the principles and benefits of traditional town planning.

- **Ramond A. Chiaramonte, AICP, CNU**

Ray is the Assistant Executive Director for the Hillsborough City-County Planning Commission and the current Vice-Chair of the New Urbanism Division

EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

April 24-25, 2003

Place Making Conference:
How to Turn a Place Around
New York, NY
<http://www.pps.org>

April 24-26, 2003

Tools for Community Design
and Decision Making
San Francisco, CA
<http://www.tcddm.org>

June 19-22, 2003

Congress for the New
Urbanism XI
Washington, D.C.
<http://www.cnu.org>

September 10-14, 2003

RailVolution 2003
Atlanta, GA
<http://www.railvolution.com>



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Want to Submit an article for the next New Urbanism in Practice? The deadline is June 21st. Contact Suzanne Rhees, Newsletter Editor at suzanne_rhees@urscorp.com.