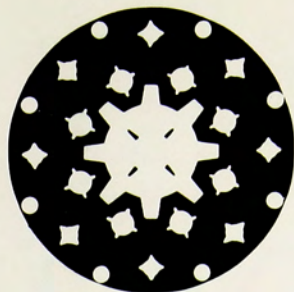


Planning History



Bulletin of the
Planning History Group

Vol. 13 No. 3

1991

Planning History

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Design: Rob Woodward
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This issue is printed by Oxonian Rewley Press Ltd

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Notes for Contributors

The prime aim of Planning History is to increase an awareness of developments and ideas in planning history in all parts of the world. In pursuit of this aim, contributions are invited from members and non-members alike for any section of the bulletin. Articles should normally not exceed 2500 words, and may well reflect work in progress. Photographs and other illustrations may be included. Contributions submitted on a disc, with accompanying hard copy, are to be encouraged; please contact the editor for format details.

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war against Paraguay. It was the main commercial centre on the river Paraguay, and the warehouses in the harbour area are still viable.

Petropolis (Rio de Janeiro)

City founded in 1846 according to a German urban plan to accommodate German immigrants. Located in a hill area, the plan permitted the urbanisation of the valleys leaving the slopes as open green spaces. Thanks to its position it became the place of summer holidays for the imperial court.

Santa de Parnaiba (Sao Paulo)

Founded in the seventeenth century as a departure point for the conquest of new lands in the interior, for gold digging and the hunt of indios to trade on the slave market. Like all *bandeirante* cities it did not experience a significant growth. Being in a marginal position with respect to modern development axes, it has maintained its original character.

Sao Francisco do Sul (Santa Catarina)

Founded in 1658 as a necessary support base for the course linking Rio de Janeiro and Sao Vicente to the colony of Sacramento at the mouth of the Rio de la Plata. Economically weak, it remained a halting harbour on this route until the nineteenth century and it is a clear example of a conquest city ensuring the trade among more important centres.

Antonio Prado (Rio Grande do Sul)

Founded in the second half of the nineteenth century with a grid plan on an uneven land. It stays as the best kept example of timber architecture, typical of Italian immigrants.

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Reports

ACSP/AESOP Joint Congress, Oxford, July 8-12, 1991.

Stephen V Ward
Oxford Polytechnic, UK

By any standards the first Joint International Congress of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (of North America) and the Association of European Planning Schools was a unique and extraordinary event. This claim might be regarded as a typical piece of promotional hyperbole, coming as it does from a member of the host institution's organising committee. But the facts speak for themselves: 700 delegates, half of them from North America with the remainder split more or less equally between Britain and the rest of Europe, converged on Oxford making it the largest ever gathering of planning educators anywhere. Just under 400 papers were presented, mainly in 16 parallel 'tracks', each with American and European co-chairs. Conference sessions were balanced by a full complementary programme of study visits, social events, receptions etc.

Most of this activity was heroically (again no false modesty) - packed into the not always conducive setting of a late twentieth century UK Polytechnic, with its confusing collection of cramped (and in July rather stuffy) rooms, ugly buildings and less than outstanding facilities. A vast marquee was erected to provide temporary conference eating facilities, thankfully only at lunch time. However, as sometimes happens on such occasions, human endeavour far exceeded the limitations of immediate environment. The sheer hard work and commitment of the Oxford Polytechnic team and the tremendous reservoir of goodwill on the part of the delegates enabled the conference to rise above all this. And of course the wider setting of Oxford also provided something of a diversion, samples in receptions at the Ashmolean Museum and Blackwell's Bookshop and dinner at the Randolph Hotel.

The Planning History Track

Amidst all this activity planning historians were able to pursue their own concerns and interests. Planning history was the theme of one of the tracks and 28 papers were presented in nine sessions throughout the week. Of these no less than 17 were by authors from the United States with a further two from Canada. Only four were by UK authors with three from Italy and one each from Germany and Norway. Not surprisingly therefore the sessions took on a very pronounced North American flavour, so much so that a German professor commenting on an aspect of US planning prefaced his remarks with the words 'In this country...' before correcting himself! However this North American bias was not peculiar to planning historians. In fact the proportions of the US and Canadian papers to others was very similar to the Conference as a whole.

But there was a significant under-representation of British papers in the planning history track compared to the conference as a whole, where they made up almost a quarter of the papers. This reflected the very low number of British planning historians attending, raising the interesting question as to why this should be the case. For some certainly the timing of the conference, which was near-perfect for the North Americans, clashed with academic or other duties. Others were wearing other hats elsewhere at the Conference, but perhaps the most important point is that most British planning historians are not actually based in planning schools and not therefore part of the AESOP network. Although this did not absolutely rule them out, it effectively rendered such individuals less likely to attend, particularly since demand for places at the Conference exceeded supply by a considerable margin.

The nine 95 minute sessions of the planning history track were divided up into clear themes. There were two sessions on 'Transatlantic Connections' and two that focused 'On the Study of Planning History'. Two sessions were devoted to 'The City in the Americas' and one on 'The City in Europe'. Reflecting the focus of offered papers, one session was devoted to 'Christopher Tunnard: Multi-National Visionary Planner' while the final session was a roundtable discussion, with no paper presented, on 'Periodicity and Patterns of Change in Planning History'.

Transatlantic Connections

As in all such conferences constructed from submitted papers, the grouping of papers seemed to be rather arbitrary and several distinctly

different themes were pursued in a common session. With the benefit of hindsight a reporter of such sessions is able to regroup the papers to highlight the common themes that emerged. Accordingly the present account, though it retains the conference themes, differs slightly from the original ordering. The paper by Gerd Albers (Munich Technical University, Germany) on the 'Influences of US City Planning on Germany' was the most wide ranging. Thus it noted the impacts of the City Beautiful movement before 1914, planning for the automobile, Radburn and the TVA between the wars, planning theory, urban renewal from the late 1950s and environmental protection and the public-private partnership today. Connections in the other direction were examined by William F. Menking (Pratt Institute, USA) in a paper entitled 'Catherine Bauer: An American Account of European Modern Architecture and Housing Estates'. This looked at American interests in the emergent modernism of social housing in Germany and other parts of Europe between the wars.

Kermit C. Parsons (Cornell University, USA) acknowledged the more complex nature of international transfers of planning ideas in his paper 'British and American Community Design: Clarence Stein's Manhattan Transfer 1922-1972'. He identified a three cycle transfer, beginning with Stein and Wright's visit to Letchworth and Welwyn in 1922, followed by their development of Radburn and other community designs, the impact of these on British thinking and the transfer of British New Town ideas back to North America evident in Kitimat, Reston and Columbia. In another session, and also in the pursuit of the transatlantic dimensions of the garden city movement, Gordon P. Scholz (University of Nebraska-Lincoln, USA) attempted to reconstruct Ebenezer Howard's few months in Nebraska vainly attempting to become a frontier farmer in 1871. By showing the grim and inhospitable nature of the area at that time he succeeded in showing why Howard stayed such a short time. But the very scant nature of the evidence yielded only a few flashes of insight into this period and certainly showed no 'Nebraska connection', in the garden city tradition. However Howard's meeting with Buffalo Bill, one of the few recorded events of these months, provides one of the great footnotes of planning history.

The other three papers in these sessions pursued rather different issues. The paper by Elwin C. Robinson (Kent State University, USA) followed very much in the approach to planning history pioneered by John Reps. In his paper 'British Proposals for American Settlement: Granville

Sharp's Plan for Town and Township' he looked at a specific settlement model for new town plantations in eighteenth century British colonial settlement in the Americas and elsewhere. The colonial theme was updated by **Michael Safier** (University College, London, UK) in his paper 'Transatlantic Contributions to the Transition from Colonial to Developmental: Urban Planning in the Wider World 1940-1965'. This explored a rather neglected aspect of planning history and highlighted key episodes in this important transition from the imposed master plan of the colonial era into the self-help, action plan and other responses of developmental approaches. Finally **Stephen V Ward** (Oxford Polytechnic, UK) explored the antecedents of local economic development policies in his paper 'the Local Role in Promoting Economic Growth 1870-1939: A Transatlantic View (UK and Canada)'. Here the theme was of experience following broadly similar paths, albeit with different timing, in two different countries, rather than of a transfer of ideas and practice.

On the Study of Planning History

These sessions were given a stimulating beginning by **Shoukry Roweis** (University of Toronto, Canada) in a paper called 'Writing Our Own History'. He argued that too much planning history performs an enculturating role, underlining the 'lessons of history' and essentially being too judgemental about planning efforts of the past. He wanted a more careful separation of ideology and analysis in planning historiography and teaching. The effects of this were little short of explosive on some other North American delegates and there followed a vigorous and at times fierce debate. Roweis' main antagonist, **Lawrence Mann** (University of Arizona, USA), presented his own schematic framework for planning history in a paper entitled 'Privatism and Alternative Historic Patterns in the Evolution of Urban Development and Its Planning', which attempted to counteract the usual 'collectivist' emphasis of much planning historiography.

Three other papers explored various approaches to American planning history. Thus **June Manning Thomas** and **Richard W. Thomas** (Michigan State University, USA) argued for merging our concerns with other historical specialisms in their paper, 'Understanding the Present State of US Cities: Joining Black Urban History and Planning History'. **David R. Hill** (University of Colorado, USA) gave a spirited account of 'Street Life in Lewis Mumford's Philosophy of Urban Form History', a welcome insight into the work of one of America's

great urban thinkers. In a paper entitled 'The City as Discourse: The Origins of American City Planning' which had to be delivered by a colleague because of her illness, **Katherine Tehranian** (University of Hawaii, USA), offered a new interpretation of the emergence of US planning. She presented it in terms of several alternative hegemonic projects for the industrial city which underwent significant shifts in the early twentieth century to form the basis of a new profession of urban planning.

The other two papers were more European in focus. Thus **Dennis Hardy** (Middlesex Polytechnic, UK) reviewed visionary planning literature about the year 2000 and beyond in his paper 'Pragmatists and Prophets: Planning History and the Third Millennium' concluding that it cast important light on the nature of change. By contrast **Morton Edvardson** (Agricultural University of Norway) offered a critique of the common distinction between 'planned' and 'organic growth' in historic town plan analysis in his paper 'On the Track of Planning in Urban History'.

The City in the Americas

As in the conference as a whole, the USA was dominant in the focus of these papers. However three of the nine papers in these sessions addressed non-US topics. Thus **Gordon R. Echols** (Texas A & M University, USA) gave a fascinating account of 'Planning and Design of the Early Hispanic Cities in the New World', involving extensive use of the various Spanish 'Laws of the Indies' which incorporated a detailed set of urban design and planning guidelines. This was complemented by a paper by **Giorgio Piccinato** (University Institute of Architecture of Venice, Italy) entitled 'For an Atlas of Historic Centres in Latin America: Brazil!'. This gave an account of a Venetian-initiated study of Brazil's historic cities, intended to foster increased awareness of conservation issues. The paper is reproduced in this issue of Planning History. The third of the non-US papers was by **Godfrey L. Spragge** (Queen's University, Kingston, Canada) who examined 'Early Town Planning in South Western Ontario: A Tale of Three Cities', showing how public health concerns and new planning ideas were important formative influences in the pre-World War I period.

Several themes were apparent in the US-oriented papers. **Michael Lang** (Rutgers University, USA) and **John L. Hancock** (University of Washington, USA) were concerned with military impacts on planning. Lang's paper, 'Yorkship Village, Camden, New Jersey: Success of a World War I Era

Planned Village Suggests a Vision for Modern Urban America' re-examined this early example of US garden village planning, focusing particularly on its success in avoiding the dereliction which has afflicted the wider locality. Hancock's paper "'And a Few Marines": Military Bases and City Planning in San Diego' represented an early review of a research project intended to examine the long term impact of a major military presence on planning efforts from 1916 through to the present.

Marc A. Weiss (Columbia University, USA) gave a fascinating account of 'The Evolution of Skyscraper Zoning in American Cities', which showed why zoning efforts were necessary, how they influenced skyscraper architecture and how they resolved various problems arising from uncontrolled development. By contrast the picture given by **Bruce Stephenson** (Rollins College, USA) in his paper 'Saving Eden: The Merging of Ecology and Planning in Florida' was of a rather more depressing conflict between planning and development concerns. Two rather different pictures of the planner-developer relationship were given by **Michael Ebner** (Lake Forest College, USA) and **Charles E. Connerly** (Florida State University, USA). Both focused on the role of planning and public investment in encouraging private investment and urban growth. Ebner's account of 'Experiencing Megalopolis in Princeton' was of a town's success in becoming the focus of a new growth corridor, which directly influenced Jean Gottmann in the articulation of his theory of Megalopolis. By contrast Connerly's paper 'One Great City: Birmingham's Struggle for Greatness through Suburban Annexation and Consolidation, 1945 to the Present' was of a rather less spontaneous growth process requiring much more conscious public action.

The Other Sessions

A rather more limited selection of papers were on offer in the session on The City in Europe. **J. C. S. Cavalcanti** (University of Manchester, UK) examined 'The Development of the Water Industry in Nineteenth Century Britain', trying to reinterpret the roots of the collectivist impulse which brought the industry largely into public ownership by 1900. Infrastructure provision was also the theme of **Corinna Morandi's** (Milan Polytechnic, Italy) paper 'The Infrastructuralisation Process and Town Development in Milan at the End of the Nineteenth Century'. Her paper explored the connections between this activity and the origins of more comprehensive town planning activity. Finally **Leonardo Ciacci** (University Institute of Architecture, Venice, Italy) spoke on 'Italian Rhodes

1912-1923: How a City Can be Invented', using contemporary film to show how the new identity of fashionable resort was fostered.

The final session where papers were presented, on Christopher Tunnard (1910-79) contained just two papers, permitting a more leisurely presentation and discussion. Both presenters, **Ralph Warburton** (University of Miami, USA) and **James P. DeAngelis** (University of Pittsburgh, USA) had worked closely with Tunnard and clearly been greatly influenced by him. Warburton's paper 'Christopher Tunnard: The Anticipatory Generalist Planner' gave a more general overview of Tunnard's work in his homeland of Canada and later in Britain and particularly the United States. DeAngelis dealt with a more specific aspect of his work in his contribution 'Christopher Tunnard: The Transportation Connection in Planning at Yale University (An Idea Whose Time May Be Here, Again!)'.

After listening to so many papers it was a wonderful liberation to engage in a roundtable discussion for the final session. The discussion was initiated by contributions by **David Johnson** (University of Tennessee, USA) and **Seymour Mandelbaum** (University of Pennsylvania, USA) who discussed the applications of Kondratieff and other cyclical theories of history to planning history and challenged the whole notion of periodisation respectively. What followed was a relaxed and fruitful exchange of ideas and views about planning history in general and the experiences of particular countries. It was in fact a fine way to end our deliberations.