

Introduction

NINETEEN FORTY-EIGHT was an exceptional year even in a century of exceptional years. Nineteen forty-eight was a year that shaped the future of the world. Nineteen forty-eight was the year that John Barkle, William Shockley and Walter Brattain of Bell Telephone Laboratories invented the transistor, the forerunner of the microprocessor and the basis of today's high-technology economy. Nineteen forty-eight was the year Captain Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier in the Bell X-1 rocket plane and started humankind down a path that would take it to the moon just 21 years later. The Marshall Plan, which would provide aid to rebuild post-War Europe began that year. Nineteen forty-eight also marked the first real year of the Cold War, the defining political milieu of the second half of the Twentieth Century.

It would be presumptuous—and perhaps not a little inaccurate—to equate the founding of the Department of City and Regional Planning (DCRP) at the University of California, Berkeley in 1948 with the invention of the transistor or the advent of the Cold War. Nonetheless, in their own way, often without fanfare, the faculty, alumni, and friends of DCRP have made historical and important contributions to the profession of planning and to the quality of life in urban communities throughout the world. This volume, a collection of original essays, journal articles, and book chapters, is the first of two anthologies, chronicling those contributions. A second volume of alumni work is planned for next year.

First and foremost, this is a book about the history of planning ideas, and about the ideas that have shaped planning history. It begins, appropriately, with Jack Kent's 30-year history of the Department of City and Regional Planning; and ends, also appropriately, with Melvin Webber and Fred Collignon's history of the ideas and people who shaped DCRP.

Between these historical bookends lie four other chronologies: Fred Collignon's history of DCRP's role in the shaping of national disability policy; Michael Teitz's histori-

cal and prospective analysis of American planning in the 1990s; Victor Rubin's account of the evolution of the Oakland-Metropolitan Forum; and Francis Violich's history of Telesis, an innovative Bay Area planning movement, which in 1948, would coalesce into DCRP.

The intellectual history of DCRP, like that of planning itself, is composed of three interwoven strands. The first strand is that of professionalism. Foremost, DCRP, has always been a professional school—dedicated to teaching generations of planning students the skills and perspectives they would need to better serve their many clients and improve their diverse communities. A number of the works in this volume speak to how planning as professional practice should operate in the rough-and-tumble real world of politics, insufficient information, and conflicting interests. Elizabeth Deakin's "The Politics of Exactions," Thomas Dickert's "Cumulative Impact Assessment in Environmental Planning," Timothy Duane's "Community Participation in Ecosystem Management," Michael Heyman's "Innovative Land Use Regulation and Comprehensive Planning," and Allan Jacob's "Looking Back" (from his 1978 book, *Making City Planning Work*), all offer guidance and insights into improving the professional practice of urban land use and environmental planning.

Moving beyond land use, Chester McGuire's "Housing Policy—An Overview," and Roger Montgomery's "High Density, Low Rise Housing and Changes in the American Housing Economy" examine the rationales and purposes of federal housing policy during the 1960s and 1970s. In a more contemporary vein, Edward Blakely's "Land Use Regulation and Public Infrastructure as Tools for Economic Development," and Robert Ogilvie's "Participation and Self-Determination" (two original works written for this volume), examine the current state of community development planning. Bringing a more realistic approach to urban transportation planning and policy is the subject of Martin Wach's "Critical Issues in Transportation in California" and Melvin Webber's "How to Make Transit Popular Again."

Just as Jack Kent did in *The Urban General Plan* in 1964 (selections of which are included in this volume), a number of contributors advocate pushing the practice of city planning in new directions. Richard Cowart's "The Case for an

Electrical System Benefits Trust,” David Dowall’s “Designing Private Sector Land and Housing Markets,” Leonard Duhl’s “Conditions for Healthy Cities,” Judith Innes’s “Planning Through Consensus Building,” and John Landis’ “A Choice Agenda” (another original contribution) all advocate new—and generally very different—approaches to reinvigorating the practice and institution of planning. Dowall and Innes’ works in particular, are part of a larger and still-developing body of work.

One idea that isn’t new is regional planning. In “Metro-Allocation Planning,” published in 1967, William L.C. Wheaton lays out a methodology for developing effective regional land use plans. Nor is newer necessarily better, as Corwin Mocine writes in his defense of traditional planning approaches in “Urban Physical Planning and the ‘New Planning,’” first published in 1966.

The second strand in planning and DCRP’s intellectual tapestry involves understanding and shaping the physical and functional form of cities and metropolitan areas. Mel Scott, in a chapter from *The San Francisco Bay Area: A Metropolis in Perspective* (1959; reprinted 1985), explored the seeds and early frustrations of Bay Area regionalism. Picking up on Scott’s theme of regionalism, John Dyckman, in a prescient 1966 essay entitled “Progress, Efficiency, and Emerging City Systems” dissects the forces promoting metropolitan decentralization.

The power of technology to transform economies, cultures and urban form has always been on the minds of DCRP faculty. In “The Space of Flows,” (a chapter from his just-published book trilogy, *The Information Age: Economy, Society and Culture*), Manuel Castells puts forth a new theory of spatial and social transformation based on the worldwide emergence of information networks. In a related vein, Richard Meier writes of the ability of information technology to transform the economies of less-developed countries in “Late-Blooming Societies Can Be Stimulated by Information Technology.” In “Lessons from Silicon Valley,” AnnaLee Saxenian shows us through case studies of high technology industry how regional losers as well as winners are created. And in “Why Go Anywhere?” Robert Cervero considers how technology is altering long-standing transportation-land use relationships.

Comparing new and old, Michael Southworth contrasts the urban design and transportation characteristics of two new neo-traditional communities and one turn-of-the-century streetcar suburb in “Walkable Suburbs?” Moving from the local to the global, Nezar AlSayyad, in “Culture, Identity and Urbanism in a Changing World,” disputes the conventional wisdom that the urban forms of cities in the North and South are becoming more alike. In “Form, Scale and Limits in China’s Trade and Development,” Stephen Cohen

expands the concepts of form and scale beyond cities to encompass national trade policy. The measurement of forms—urban and otherwise—is also the subject of John Radke’s original essay, “Boundary Generator’s for the 21st Century.”

Planning’s third basic intellectual tenet involves asking difficult questions about the conduct of policy, governance, and societal decision-making; it requires taking a stance that is simultaneously reflective and critical. Here too, DCRP faculty have led the way. In “Do Americans Hate Cities?” and “What are New Towns For?” published in 1956 and 1967, respectively, Catherine Bauer and William Alonso questioned the basic precepts behind federal urban development policies during the 1950s and 1960s. Donald Foley asks similar questions of British urban development policy during the 1960s in “British Town Planning: One Ideology or Three?”

In a more modern vein, Donald Appleyard in “Identity, Power and Place,” Karen Christensen in “Coping with Uncertainty in Planning,” Ann Markusen in “The Future of Planning: Gains for the Craft, Threat to Philosophy,” and Peter Bosselmann in “Planning Education and the Problem of Abstractions,” all critically question the contemporary conduct of American urban planning and planning education. Planning isn’t the only field that needs to critically examine its underpinnings—something Peter Hall reminds economists to do in his tribute to Joseph Schumpeter entitled “The Third Man of Economics.”

One area in which planners should probably be more self-critical is in their reliance on forecasting models. Douglas Lee first sounded this alarm in 1973 in his now-classic “Requiem for Large-Scale Models.” Maybe, maybe not, concludes Andrei Rogers in an original and decidedly non-revisionist essay entitled, “Back to the Future: Projecting California’s Population 30 Years Ago.”

Several contributors remind us that issues of poverty and community development go far beyond city planning and the United States. Arthur Blaustein, in “Community Development and Values: A Multicultural and Literary Approach,” points to the interpretive and reflective power of modern fiction. In “Beyond the Urban-Rural Dichotomy,” Gillian Hart suggests that traditional distinctions between urban and rural development are no longer useful, and must be superseded by a more integrative model. Janice Perlman, in “Misconceptions About the Urban Poor and the Dynamics of Housing Policy Evaluation” critiques most centrally-planned and administered housing policies (including those of the U.S.) as based upon fundamental misunderstandings about the lives of the urban poor. The condition of the urban poor, particularly those in female-headed households in less developed countries, are also the object of Irene Tinker’s essay, “Family Survival in an Urbanizing World.”

Two people deserve most of the credit for this volume. The first is Stanley Lowney (MCP 1998). Skip, as he is known to everyone, almost single-handedly oversaw the assembly and formatting of fifty years of diverse (and occasionally misplaced) faculty work. With an endless reservoir of diligence and good humor, he kept after dozens of faculty members—all of whom are accustomed to disregarding deadlines—to submit their writings, biographies, and pictures. His able editorial hand and attention to detail improved numerous writings, and caught more than a few thirty year old errors. The fact that this volume is so substantial and so good stands as a testament to this remarkable young man. Skip Lowney truly belongs in Allan Jacob's pantheon of busts of planning heroes.

The other person who deserves the credit for this volume is Allan Jacobs, for it was his idea that we undertake a fifty-year collection of great DCRP lectures and presentations in honor of DCRP's Fiftieth Year and its founder, Jack Kent. As is always the case, those charged with implement-

ing great visions change them somewhat. To Jack and Jake, we hope you like what has come of your respective visions. To DCRP's current and future alumni, and to all of our friends around the world, we hope you enjoy discovering and rediscovering the incredible ideas and insights that we think—just like the events described at the beginning of this introduction—have changed the world.

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