

PSYCHOLOGY & THE CITY: THE HIDDEN DIMENSION

BY CHARLES LANDRY & CHRIS MURRAY

- A unique way of looking at cities through a psychological lens
- 40 full-colour photographs

Being in a city is a two-way psychological process. The city impacts upon our mind and our mental and emotional state impacts upon the city. This constant cycle of influencing and being influenced, has repercussions both for us and for the city. To see the urban fabric, its dynamics and city life as empty shells devoid of human psychological content is careless. To be blind to its consequences is foolish, because the city is primarily an emotional experience with psychological effects.

It is astonishing then that psychology, the study that explores the dynamics of feeling and emotion, has not been taken sufficiently seriously as an urban discipline, not only by psychology itself but also by urban decision makers, since it seeks to understand not only why we act the way we do. Psychology concerns itself with individuals, organisations and groups, but with notable exceptions not the city.

The city is not a lifeless thing. People have personality, identity and, as they are congregations of people, so do cities. The 'urban psyche' could be described as the complex personality that emerges from the interactions between people and place.

Charles Landry is an international authority on thinking imaginatively about city futures and the inventive use of urban resources.

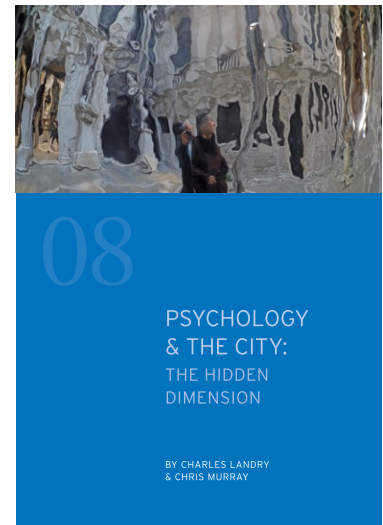
Chris Murray works with cities and governments in the UK and internationally, to improve their economic and social potential.

This is the eighth title in a series exploring urgent themes in city making.

For further information: www.charleslandry.com

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Where Next for Urban



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