

The Art of City Making

The Art of City Making was voted the 2nd best book ever written on cities. See: <http://www.planetizen.com/node/66462>

City-making is a complex art; it is not a formula. There is no simplistic, ten-point plan that can be mechanically applied to guarantee success in any eventuality. But there are some strong principles that help send good city-making on its way, including: going with the grain of local cultures and their distinctiveness, yet being open to outside influences; involving those affected by what you do in decision-making; learn from what others have done well, but don't copy them thoughtlessly and foster *civic creativity* as the ethos of your city, which is imaginative problem-solving applied to public good objectives.

The Art of City Making argues that the skills required to re-enchant the city are far wider than conventional ones like architecture, land use planning and engineering and include softer the undervalued skills of people who grasp the dynamics of cities and what motivates people to give of their best.

It states that the vision for 21st century cities is for them to seek to be the most imaginative city *for the world* rather *in the world*. This gives city-making an *ethical* foundation and become *places of solidarity* where the relations between the individual, the group, outsiders to the city and the planet are in better alignment.

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Bibliography

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