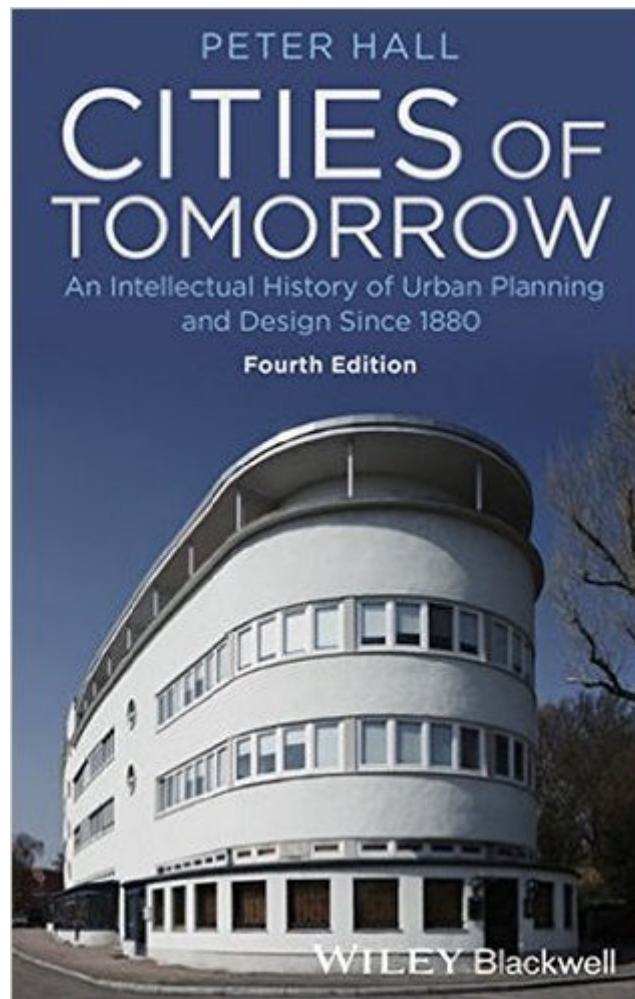


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Cities Of Tomorrow: An Intellectual History Of Urban Planning And Design Since 1880



Synopsis

Peter Hall's seminal *Cities of Tomorrow* remains an unrivalled account of the history of planning in theory and practice, as well as of the social and economic problems and opportunities that gave rise to it. Now comprehensively revised, the fourth edition offers a perceptive, critical, and global history of urban planning and design throughout the twentieth-century and beyond. A revised and updated edition of this classic text from one of the most notable figures in the field of urban planning and design. Offers an incisive, insightful, and unrivalled critical history of planning in theory and practice, as well as of the underlying socio-economic challenges and opportunities. Comprehensively revised to take account of abundant new research published over the last decade. Reviews the development of the modern planning movement over the entire span of the twentieth-century and beyond. Draws on global examples throughout, and weaves the author's own fascinating experiences into the text to illustrate this authoritative story of urban growth.

Book Information

Paperback: 640 pages

Publisher: Wiley-Blackwell; 4 edition (June 3, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1118456475

ISBN-13: 978-1118456477

Product Dimensions: 6.8 x 1.1 x 9.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #37,508 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Urban Planning & Development #13 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Public Affairs & Policy > City Planning & Urban Development #44 in Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Political Science > Public Policy

Customer Reviews

This book is a very impressive work of synthesis about a huge topic. Professor Hall traces a series of diverse themes about the city planning process that overlap, reinforce, and contradict one another at various moments. He does so with humor and erudition, encompassing an enormous number of books and hundreds of examples of urban planning successes and failures with which he was personally familiar. The book is not perfect. There are a couple of instances where he mentions a specific city in the sub head of a chapter title, only to fail to mention anything about that city in the

actual text. At one point he extensively quotes himself, referring to himself by his name without providing any acknowledgement that he is quoting himself. He also does not offer his own all encompassing definition or theory of the city planning process, and his recurring theme seems to be that the various approaches to planning promised great things but all too often delivered very little. The book also contains some surprises. For a field that today is considered by many Americans to represent government interference with private property rights, Professor Hall argues that many of the founders in the field embraced the anarchist tradition, meaning, in this case, that they emphasized individuals and groups taking the initiative to improve their community independent of government. Most of the basic ideas and issues in planning originated before World War Two and have never really gone away. And there was a fascinating oscillation of planning concepts between Europe and the United States, in many cases originating in Europe, being tried and abandoned in the US, and then being applied back in Europe. I only wish the author had been a bit more selective in his use of examples to make his points, because sometimes it is difficult for the reader to see the forest because of the trees.

One of the single best books on the history of urban form and planning. I cite it all the time and chapters stand alone as perfect reading assignments for advanced undergraduates and graduates.

Great overview of the history of the profession.

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