University of Connecticut
Department of Geography
Urban and Regional Planning

Lecture 1. Background: Urbanization and Planning

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Background: Urbanization and Planning

Fundamentals of Cities and Urbanization

The Origins of Cities and Urbanization

How do we define cities?

- What are cities?
  - **City** and **Town** denote nucleated settlements, multifunctional in character, including an established central business district and both residential and nonresidential land uses. Towns are smaller in size and have less functions.
  - **Suburb** denotes a subsidiary area, a specialized function segment of a large urban complex, dependent on an urban area. Suburbs can be independent political entities, as in Connecticut.
  - The **Central City** is the part of the urban area contained within the suburban ring; it usually has official boundaries.
  - An **Urbanized Area** is a continuously built-up landscape defined by buildings and population densities with no reference to political boundaries.
  - A **Metropolitan Area**, on the other hand, refers to a large-scale functional entity, perhaps containing several urbanized areas and operating as an integrated economic whole.

Fundamentals of Cities and Urbanization

Theories of Urban Origins

- Agricultural Surplus:
- Religious Causes:
- Defensive Needs:
- Trading Requirements:

Fundamentals of Cities and Urbanization
Why do communities plan?

- Planning as a Response to Problems of Urbanism
- Do you need to plan for this?

- Do you need to plan for this?

Fundamentals of Cities and Urbanization
Urbanization and Cities

- How does the 'human condition' vary from…
- Hamlet, Village, Town, City, Megalopolis

- What is the nature of human relationships?
- How specialized is society?
- What are the traits of urban/non-urban cultures?
- Why does government become more important with cities and urbanization?

Fundamentals of Cities and Urbanization
The Dawn of Urbanization

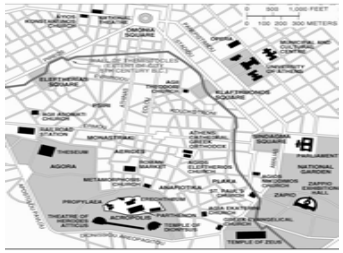
- What is 'urban'? What is a 'city'?
- Evolution Toward Urbanism
  - 'Sedentary Communities' & Agriculture
  - Hamlets
  - Villages
  - Towns
  - Cities
- Urbanism and Culture

Fundamentals of Cities and Urbanization
Urbanism, Government, and Planning

- What is the role of government in an urban society?
- Planning in an urban society
  - Individuals and Families
  - Groups
  - Government

Fundamentals of Cities and Urbanization
Classical Urbanism (Greeks and Romans)

- Who cares?
- Greeks: City-states & 'organic cities'
  - Forms
    - Acropolis, Agora, Temples, Theaters, Sports
    - Unplanned
  - Housing
    - Courtyard style
    - Mixed neighborhoods
  - Quality of Urban Life
  - Urban Design
    - Grids as a means of organizing space



Fundamentals of Cities and Urbanization
Classical Urbanism (Greeks and Romans)

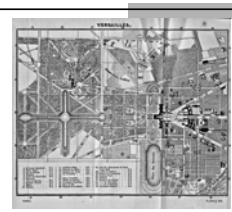
- Context of an Economic/Military Empire
  - Trade, Colonialism, and Wealth
    - Roads
    - Trading towns
    - Military settlements (castra towns)
  - Urbanization and Urban Development
    - Massive investment in major cities
    - Investment in Social & Physical Infrastructure
  - Innovations: The Roman Arch & Concrete
    - Vaulted Ceilings
    - Basilicas
    - Concrete

Fundamentals of Cities and Urbanization
The Renaissance City

- Planning and the City
  - Trade, Money, and Power
  - Changing defensive roll of the city
    - Gunpowder
    - Rapid urbanization
  - Grid patterns reintroduced
  - Public spaces an city life-squares, piazzas, etc.
    - Practical uses
    - Symbolic uses

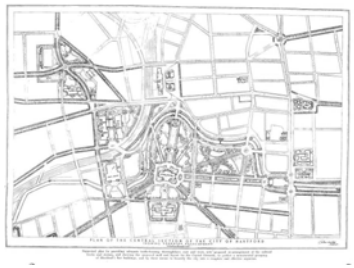
Fundamentals of Cities and Urbanization
The Baroque Period

- Context
  - Empires, Monarchies
  - Early Colonialism and its financial influences
  - City as home to the wealthy
- 'Formal' Cities
  - Elements
  - Versailles & Paris as model
- Who cares?
  - Impact on the communities of the western hemisphere
  - Baroque planning and capital cities



Fundamentals of Cities and Urbanization
The Origins of Planning Cities

- Planning as a way to improve our lives
- Planning becomes more important when we live in cities
- Evolution of Cities/Planning
  - What were cities like prior to the 1800
  - What was planning like prior to 1800
  - Rural ideal in U.S.
- Rebirth of capitalism & its urban influence



Source: Hartford 1912 City Plan

Fundamentals of Cities and Urbanization
Early Urban America

- The 1st American cities
  - European Traditions
    - New England, New Amsterdam & village tradition
    - Tidewater and the 'Town Acts'
    - The Carolinas/Georgia & Renaissance Style
    - L'Enfant-Washington DC & Baroque Style
  - The Economics of Transporting Goods
    - In 1690 only 10% of the population was urban
    - Resource Exploitation and Trade
    - Population lived in small coastal/river valley villages

Fundamentals of Cities and Urbanization
Urbanizing America After the Revolutionary War

- The Revolutionary War and its Impacts
  - In 1800 only 6% of the population was urban
  - In 1800 85-90% of the labor force were farming
  - Only 24 communities with over 2500 inhabitants
  - NYC had 100,000 residents in 1800
- Stabilizing the frontier
- Expansion of the frontier
- Trading routes into the interior
- Growing population providing markets for rural products
- Relative drop in urban population

Fundamentals of Cities and Urbanization
What Happens in the 1800s?

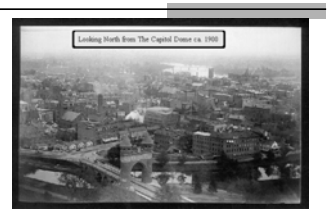
- The frontier becomes more distant & less appealing
  - The topography of the new frontier
  - Conditions on the frontier
- Massive immigration
  - many East Coast cities top 100,000
  - NYC 100,000 in 1800, over 2,000,00 by 1880
- Technology Change & Urban Growth
  - Water power to steam
  - Trains
  - Elevators and steel
- The Industrial and Urban Revolutions

An Industrial Utopia?

Fundamentals of Cities and Urbanization

The Evolution of Industrialism and Cities

- Industrialization
- Crowding (Over) of the Central Cities
- Closing of the frontier
- Massive immigration & migration
- The Railroad Flat & the Tenement
- Problems of Sanitation & Health
- Problems of Urban Unrest



Fundamentals of Cities and Urbanization

Impacts of Industrialization

- Industrialism Defined
  - Craft
  - Manufacturing
  - The move to the city
- Positive
  - Economic Growth
  - Job Creation
  - Material Production
  - Wealth Creation
- Negative
  - Increases Poverty
  - Concentrates Poverty
  - Decreases Skill Demand
  - Increases Child Labor
  - Pollution
  - Lowers Life Expectancy
  - Conflict

Fundamentals of Cities and Urbanization

Impacts of Industrialization – We start of with…

- Pre-1800's Urbanism
- Add
  - Industrialization
  - Immigration
  - New technology
- Results in rapidly growing urban centers
- Results in rapidly growing problems

- How do we dealing with the problems?

Fundamentals of Cities and Urbanization

Impacts of Industrialization – The 19th Century City

- Housing
  - Higher Density Housing-Tenements
  - Suburbs-Estates, Enclaves, Bedroom Communities
- Factories
  - The Factory
  - Factory 'Towns' (1880's)
- Mass Transit & Its Evolution
- Evolution of the Skyscraper

Fundamentals of Cities and Urbanization

Impacts of Industrialization – Dealing with changes prior to WWI

- Public Awareness of the Problems
  - Jacob Riis 'How the Other Half Lives' (1890) and 'The Children of the Poor' (1892)
  - Upton Sinclair 'The Jungle' (1905)
  - William Booth
    - Poverty Surveys
    - The Salvation Army
    - Whitechapel

Conditions in the Industrial City

Fundamentals of Cities and Planning

What to do about the problem?

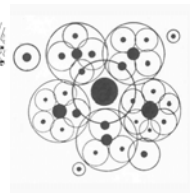
- Zoning and the Public Health Movement
  - Regulations to benefit the human condition
- New Towns, Garden Cities, & Streetcar Suburbs
  - Bring housing to nature or start from scratch
- The City Beautiful and City Planning
  - The first generation of urban renewal

Fundamentals of Cities and Planning
The Public Health Movement

- Cities as unhealthy places
  - Massive migration/immigration/population growth
  - Industrial Impacts
  - 'The Great Stink', Cholera, Tuberculosis, Alcoholism….
    - Alcoholism, distillation & the Temperance Movement
- Some good things to know
  - Housing sanitation-NYC Tenement Law of 1867
  - Housing safety-NYC Tenement Law of 1901
    - The 'Dumbell' Tenement
  - Parks movement & F.L. Olmsted
    - Central Park (1866) Fenway (1880) Stanley Quarter Park
  - 1st Regulations against noxious uses in cities

Fundamentals of Cities and Planning
Garden Cities of Tomorrow

- Ebeneezer Howard 'Garden Cities of Tomorrow'
  - Anti urban 'satellite' cities (village life as ideal)
- Some good things to know….
  - Small self-supporting communities
  - Limited population
  - Greenbelts and open space
  - Letchworth, Welwyn, Hampstead G.S.
  - Columbia, MD
- Leads to New Towns Movement in the U.S.
- 'Satellite' cities in U.S.S.R

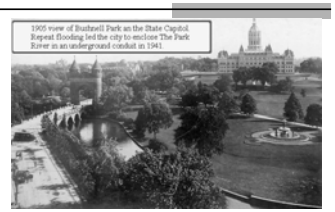


Fundamentals of Cities and Planning
The City Beautiful Movement

- Some good things to know…
  - The Columbian Exposition of 1893 'White City'
  - Daniel Burnham's Plan for Chicago (1909)
    - "Make no little plans they have no magic to stir men's blood…"
- What they learned
  - Beautification and adornment (at huge costs) had limited practicality for most cities. Hmmmm…

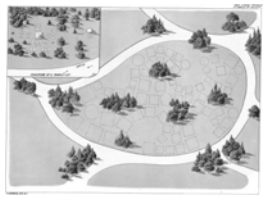
Fundamentals of Cities and Planning
The City Beautiful Movement - Elements

1. Cities can be beautiful
2. Good design pays
3. We can solve urban problems through rationality
4. We can improve the plight of the working classes
5. We should do this or else they will harm us
6. Europe as a model for American urban form and government
7. A new acceptance of the city



Fundamentals of Cities and Planning
Development of City Plans and Commissions

- Cleveland (1903)
- San Francisco (1906) Burnham
- Hartford Commission on the City Plan (1907)
- Chicago (1909)
- Most early plans dealt with public buildings, parks and streets. No changes to or control over private property.



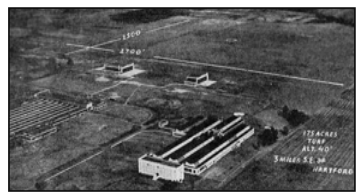
Fundamentals of Cities and Planning
Regulatory Planning

- Evolutionary track of regulations
- Milestones
  - First city plan (Cleveland 1903)
  - First state 'enabling legislation' (WI 1909)
  - First city-wide zoning 'code' (LA 1909)
  - Standard State Zoning Enabling Act (1922)
  - Cincy adopts 1st comprehensive plan (1925)
  - Euclid vs. Ambler Realty (1926)
  - Standard City Planning Enable Act (1928)

Planning and Urbanism Between the Wars

Fundamentals of Cities and Planning
Planning in the 1920s

- 1920s Boom
  - Period of extensive suburbanization
  - Planning focus: Development control at city perimeter, widening of streets
  - City Beautiful turns into City Efficient



Fundamentals of Cities and Planning
Planning in the 1920s

- 1920s – The Suburban Boom Begins
  - Standard Zoning and Planning Enabling Acts
    - U.S. Department of Commerce
  - Basic legal framework for control of private development created:
    - Emphasized control and protection of physical character of new residential areas in perimeter
    - Maintenance of status quo in central city
  - Fist Mall: Country Club Plaza, Kansas City
  - Former central city commercial begins to move to perimeter

Fundamentals of Cities and Planning
Planning in the 1930s

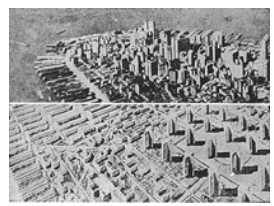
- 1930s – The Boom Goes Bust
  - Massive unemployment
  - Federal government finances public works projects to provide jobs
  - 1934 – Over 1,000 home foreclosures per day in 1934
  - Federal housing and finance policy

Fundamentals of Cities and Planning
Planning and the Great Depression

- Boom to Bust in the U.S. Economy
- Planning Impacts (the New Deal)
  - Economic Development Planning
  - Environmental Conservation
  - Early Urban Renewal
  - Lots of housing legislation
  - Finance Programs
  - First Efforts at Highway Planning (parkways)
  - First Efforts at Regional Planning

Fundamentals of Cities and Planning
Architects and the 'Modern' City

- Industrial age urban constructs
- The Progressive Movement
  - The 'Modern' context
  - 20th Century Architecture
- The Culturalists / Romanticists
  - The 'Traditional' context
  - Achitectural inspirations from the past



Fundamentals of Cities and Planning
The Culturalists

- Drawing from tradition
  - Evolving from the public health movement
    - Garden Cities & Ebenezer Howard
    - City Beautiful & Burnham
  - Nostalgic
  - Inspired by our cultural heritage
  - Criticizes current situation in light of the past
  - Work with and/or add to existing urban context

Fundamentals of Cities and Planning
The Progressives

- Breaking from tradition
  - Evolving from the public health movement
    BUT
  - Future oriented
  - Inspired by vision of social progress
  - Revolutionary visions
  - Breaks with the existing urban context
  - Progressive evolves into 'Modernism'

Fundamentals of Cities and Planning
Modernism

- Modernism is a reaction against the crisis of urban disorder, impoverishment, congestion and anarchy through the imposition of rational order.
- Modern=Rational & efficient. Machine as metaphor.
  - The city is the factory of modern life
  - The machine is our medium of modern design
  - The house is a machine for modern living
  - Home is nothing more than a factory for the production of happiness (Good Housekeeping, 1910)

Fundamentals of Cities and Planning
Modernist…

- Modernists think…
  - Large scale, metropolitan wide, rational, efficient, functionalist (form follows function), organized, and monumental
- Modernists are trying to come to grips with…
  - Explosive urban growth, industrialization, rural to urban migration, failing urban health, social uprisings, and the 'despair of the cities'
- You may be a modernist if you like…
  - 1970's architecture, minimalism, multi-purpose sports stadiums (with the old kind of artificial turf), glass box architecture, or anything from IKEA.

Fundamentals of Cities and Planning

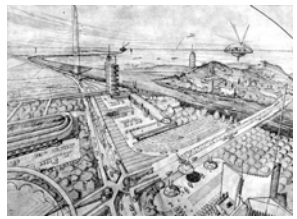
Divergent trends in modernism

- Arts & Crafts-Frank Lloyd Wright
- Futurist-Walter Gropius & Tony Garnier
- Radical-Le Corbusier
- Why should we care…
  - Dominated architecture into the late 1980's

Fundamentals of Cities and Planning

Utopianism and Planning

- What is Utopia?
- Utopia as a concept in writing, design, thinking
  - The Culturalist / Romantic Utopia
  - The Progressive/Modernist Utopia
- New Urbanism—a return to the "utopia' of traditional neighborhoods and cities
- What would we do with a blank slate?
- Is one man's utopia another man's hell?

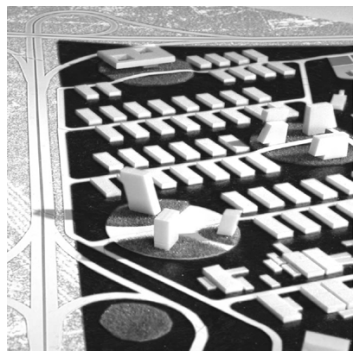


Post-War Urbanism and Planning

Fundamentals of Cities and Planning

Putting Modernism to Work

- Housing
  - Modernist attempts at housing
  - Different European contexts
  - The U.S.?
- Garden Cities & New Towns
  - 1920's and 1930's
  - Unwin and the 'Greenbelt' towns, Radburn N.J.
  - Modern versions of garden cities.



Fundamentals of Cities and Planning
The Car and the City

- Growing automobile ownership
- Benefits of the car vs. mass transit
- Problems of the car vs. mass transit
- Land use impacts of the car
- Planning impacts of the car
- The car and the suburbs
  (See highway impacts)

Fundamentals of Cities and Planning
The Baby Boom and Housing Change

- The Baby Boom
  - Post-war fertility and birth rate growth
  - Short and long term effects
- Post War Housing
  - Housing Act of 1949 and 1954
    - Aim to construct 800,000 units
    - Deteriorated areas became eligible for clearance and redevelopment
  - FHA & VA loan programs
  - Single family housing dominates
  - Levittown
  - Move up markets grow
  - Changes in who owns homes

Fundamentals of Cities and Planning
Economic Growth

- The Post-War Economic Boom
  - The U.S. Position after WWII
  - Devastation in Europe
  - The lack of competition

- Fueling Growth
  - Highways
  - Consumer Spending
  - Urban Renewal

Fundamentals of Cities and Planning
Urban Renewal

- Basic Concepts
  - The U.S. perspective
  - The European perspective
- Impacts
- Urban Renewal, Housing, Public Housing
- Problems
  - Negatives
  - Costs
  - Ambitions
  - Economic downturns

Fundamentals of Cities and Planning
The Coming of the Highway

- Parkways
- Highways
- Justification/funding for highways
- Construction of the highways
- Impacts of highways between cities
- Impacts of highways within cities

Fundamentals of Cities and Planning
Planning and the Post War Period

- Building on foundations of the 1930's +
- Growing car ownership +
- Population growth & the Baby Boomers +
- Urban Renewal and Economic Growth +
- Highway Planning and the Suburb +
- Growth in home ownership =

The 1960's City

The 1960's City and Beyond

Fundamentals of Cities and Planning
The Urban Crisis

- What was it?
- The causes
  - The world catches up
  - Industry moves out
  - Out-migration and urban poverty
    - The taxation crisis
    - Declining urban environment
    - Racially/ethnically biased practices
- Catalysts
  - The Vietnam War
  - The assassinations of JFK & MLK
- Jane Jacobs – *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*

Fundamentals of Cities and Planning
Children of the 60s

- Public awareness of the problem
- Responses to the Urban Crisis
  - Johnson's War on Poverty
    - Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965
    - Model Cities Program: locally-led planning action
  - Grassroots Planning
    - Civil rights
    - Advocacy & Non profits
  - Environmental Planning
    - The Media & 'Silent Spring'
    - Federal Government Actions
  - Regional Planning

Fundamentals of Cities and Planning
The 1970s – The Rise of Environmentalism

- National Environmental Policy (1969)
- First Earth Day: April 22, 1970
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) formed (1970)
- Ian McHarg's "Design with Nature" (1971)
- Federal Laws:
  - Clean Water Act
  - Safe Drinking Water Act
  - Solid Waste Management Act
  - Flood Disaster Protection Act
  - Coastal Zone Management Act
  - Surface Mining Control Act
  - Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

Fundamentals of Cities and Planning
1980s - The Ragan Legacy

- Limiting Federal Involvement
  - Big government 'slims' down
- Independent Communities
  - Home rule not regions
- Funds and not Structures
  - Grant programs
- Planning for Economics
  - Growth pole economics
- NIMBYism

Fundamentals of Cities and Planning
Current Trends

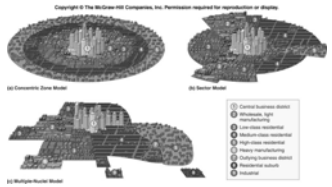
- 1/6 of population moves every year
  - Most short distances
- Three dominant patterns:
  - Movement south and west
  - Redistribution from rural to urban and nonmetropolitan to metropolitan
  - Largest metro regions gain the most
- At least until the 1970s, now non-metro regions gaining…the rural renaissance
- Global economics are influencing change
  - Old manufacturing areas are losers
  - Service and financial sector winners
- Growth and distribution of employment
  - Suburban "exurban" growth

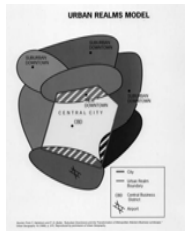
Fundamentals of Cities and Planning

The Shape of the Modern Metropolis

- The sections of the modern metropolis
  - Inner cities
  - Inner suburbs
  - Fringe suburbs
  - Urban realms
- Outside the metropolis
  - Small cities
  - Rural towns
- Chicago to LA?

- What are their conditions, problems, goals?





Fundamentals of Cities and Planning

A new planning era?

- Sustainability
- Smart Growth
- New Urbanism
- Natural and Cultural Constraints