

# Planificateurs et planification aux États-Unis

## Rationalisation, urbanisation et politique \*

*They (the City Planners) comprise perhaps the most important professional group to become reasonably weary of the cultural definitions that are systematically trotted out to rationalize the inadequacies of city life today, for the well-to-do as well as for the poor. With their imagination and bounteous approach they have become, to some extent, the guardians of our liberal and progressive tradition, as this is increasingly displaced from state and national politics. In their best work, we see expressed in physical form a view of life which is not narrowly job-minded. It is a view of the city as a setting for leisure and amenity as well as for work.*

David Riesman

*Although the vast majority of planners are conscientious and competent people, we see a growing number of "eight-thirty to five o'clock" planners. Others are equipped with the technical skills but lack the professional attitude that separates the professional from the technician. Still others convey the feeling of casual detachment concerning the tasks that lie ahead. These elements in the profession concern me because three-fourths of all professional planners are in local government service, and it is in the local planning programs where communities will be won or lost.*

Robert L. Williams, Executive Director,  
American Institute of Planners.

Les deux opinions qui ouvrent cette étude montrent l'étendue et la complexité d'une question qui peut donner lieu à des juge-

---

\* Cette étude a été réalisée grâce à une bourse accordée par l'Université de Chicago pendant l'année 1966-1967 et conduite dans le cadre du Center for Social Organization Studies de cette université dirigé par le professeur Morris Yanowitz.