

form into distinct periods. Within these periods he analyzes the impact of immigration, capital shifts from one sector of the economy to another, changes in income, destabilizing developments such as the Middle East oil embargo and de-industrialization. He illustrates how land use planning has been highly reactive to these wider developments in the economy.

In considering the socio-political dimension, McLoughlin analyzes the influence of an impressive range of structures and agencies that constitute the power blocs in society. At the same time, the discussion is often sufficiently comprehensive to detail the role of particular individuals. The author discusses the influence and locational preferences of various sectors of the economy, such as manufacturing, finance, commerce, and housing. The role of community groups such as anti-freeway and anti-slum organizations is assessed, as is the role of labour and the philosophies of political parties at local state and federal levels. The influence of the built environment professions — architects, engineers, and planners — is considered as well. This section ends with comments on the extensive influence of public corporations that act not just as mediators between other factions and the engineers of powerful investment partnerships between private sector capital and government, but also as power blocs in their own right.

The damning evidence in these two themes is brought together very effectively in the geographical dimension in which a series of maps provides a very clear contrast between stated planning intentions and actual outcomes. Comparisons are made at both the macro (metro-region) level and the micro level that deals with specific projects or areas such as the city centre to provide answers to a number of broad questions. Did the various plans shift the direction of

development as intended? Did plans contain explosive suburban growth? Were major open space allocations protected? Did the city centre develop as planned? It is apparent that there has been very little correspondence between plans and reality at the metro-region level, though slightly more success has been achieved at the residential neighbourhood level.

McLoughlin then questions why planners have had so little influence in Melbourne. He concludes that they have been cut off institutionally and politically from those with greater leverage over development — the factions representing industry and commerce, for example. He also suggests that the strategies planners have put forward have not been well grounded in theories of urban growth and development. Nor has there been any systematic monitoring and analysis of demographic and development phenomena which would help planners to understand the urban dynamics which they are trying to control. Moreover, in his judgement planners seem unaware of relevant academic research that could assist them. But, in the end McLoughlin also wonders whether perhaps we are all a little naive about the ability of planners to influence the pattern and form of development in a society so wedded to the market economy.

There is a short section on changes in research and practise that might improve the situation, but it is very brief and weakly developed. Certainly this is a topic that could have been expanded.

This book should certainly be read by those in the general field of planning and urban development. It will also be of interest to students and professionals in the related fields of urban studies, geography, history, sociology, and political science. Few books make such a significant contribution to our understanding of the

various factors, agencies and processes that affect how land is developed and the urban built form produced. No claim is made that what has happened in Melbourne is typical of the successes or failures of the planning profession in general but this is a very informed study of the difficulties the planning profession faces.

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Schwartz, Joel. *The New York Approach: Robert Moses, Urban Liberals and Redevelopment of the Inner City*. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1993. Pp. xxiii, 375. Illustrations, maps, tables, index. US \$35.00.

Joel Schwartz's thoroughly researched and clearly written study of housing redevelopment in New York City reveals a strong consensus among the city's urban experts and liberal activists for the housing policies adopted between the 1930s and the end of the 1950s. During the period, the city granted huge subsidies to private builders and undertook massive construction projects that "transformed the city, physically and morally," the author writes in his preface.

The physical transformation is apparent to any observer. Huge high rise apartment complexes, including 314 acres supported by Federal Title I slum clearance funds, are enduring monuments to the power of New York's redevelopment machine. The moral transformation is invisible. It stems from the treatment of the people who do not live in these complexes — the ones who were relocated. Ridding the town of the decrepit tenements where its least fortunate citizens lived was one of redevelopment's primary goals. Providing better housing for