

urban planning

"A city is not an accident but the result of coherent visions and aims."

Leon Krier, The Architecture of Community

FUELING THE DEBATE

- How can short and long term planning be joined up and made to work together?
- Can community and/or private sector involvement be helpful for long term planning?
- Can planning encourage business users to settle in peripheral neighborhoods or provide social housing in central areas?
- Are we over-regulating? How can we improve the coordination between legal and political instruments and urban policies? Are more legal and political tools required?

CURRENT CONTEXT

Urban planning should respond to changing local contexts to promote more compact, mixed and inclusive cities, reducing urban sprawl, and promoting public space as a place for social interaction, with the aim of reducing poverty and ensuring sustainability.

Behaviour changes that planners need to take into account



Intention to reduce car dependence, short distances



Increasing value of natural resources, especially water and land



Recycling of land for new uses and demolition of unused properties



Awareness of the risk and unrest caused by spatial fragmentation



Availability of local geographical data allows new formats of communication and management

Young people are looking for more flexible housing solutions in city centers



Trend emphasizing locally sourced food consumption and the agricultural role of the urban hinterland



Cultural expressions in public space: place-making, integration, youth



More participation of communities at neighborhood and city level



Awareness of climate change and disaster risk and responsibility



THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Local governments, particularly in low-income countries, need support to strengthen their capacities for planning and data management, to develop more strategic approaches that integrate spatial, economic and social policy goals.

- The approach of administrations is changing from a focus on controlling development to facilitating it
- Local government planning and consultation processes add a valuable new dimension to the more expert driven, top-down approach of master planning.

CORE COMPETENCES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS



URBAN DESIGN
AND EQUIPMENT OF
PUBLIC SPACES



COLLECTING AND
MANAGING SPATIAL
DATA (CADASTER)



LAND USE (SPATIAL)
AND MASTER PLANS



PROVIDING
AND MANAGING
PUBLIC SERVICES

MAIN CHALLENGES

The scale of the need for housing and basic services, particularly in low-income countries, is growing rapidly and practitioners are often unprepared.

Urban planning is particularly important to cities that are growing or shrinking:

Villages and towns: weak in services and sensitive to public budget cuts, they are frequently reduced to dormitory towns (where they are an affordable distance from cities).

Intermediary cities: growing significantly in land area and need to deal with unexpected demands for services and employment.

Peripheral cities: host a huge proportion of the population that has moved to cities in the last 50 years. Some are home to mainly poor populations, while others harness the economic spillover of wealthy metropolitan areas.

Metropolises: have particular land markets that allow them to reinvent themselves (recycling spaces or regenerating and compacting existing ones).

Regional governments support the aforementioned groups in order to mitigate the disadvantage they face due to location. Additionally some local governments enter into intergovernmental partnerships as a way to be more effective and compete together.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES



Enhancing quality of life

Opportunities for residents to lead healthier lives through design interventions that promote walking and bicycling and programs that encourage easier access to services throughout the city



Redefining density dynamics

Clustered developments with necessary services, such as grocery stores, schools, medical clinics and other businesses in close proximity offer attractive city planning combinations



Improving environmental impact

Smart planning can promote the greening of vacant spaces, including former industrial facilities, to be reused as parks, urban farms or community gardens