

Urban Design and People

Significance

- The city is an element of peoples spiritual and physical culture and indeed, it is one of the highest expression of culture.
- Central to the study of urban design is man, his values, aspirations and power to achieve them.
- Urban Design is people's use of accumulated technological knowledge to control and adapt the environment for social, economic, political and religious requirements.

Significance

- Some of the important questions for consideration are:
 - How the city should be designed to best serve the community needs?
 - How it should be ensured that the end product is culturally acceptable?
- Urban design or planning may be termed as a process by which resource are distributed.
- Planners role is deeply committed to redistribution of resources in favour of the less well-off sections of society.

Nature of Public Planning and Design Decisions

- Public planning and design decision making process is political in nature and can't be considered simply technical.
 - The essence of politics is who gets what or call it a distributive justice (Paul Davidoff).
 - The public planning and design process as a part of political system is inextricably related to the distributional question facing communities in which Planners work.

Nature of Public Planning and Design Decisions

- David Eversley suggested that it must be made clear that the Planner is the person who determines:

where people shall build and where they shall not build, and

where there shall be new or expanded towns or growth areas, and

where national parks or areas of outstanding natural beauty shall prevent building,

where power stations shall be sited, motorways built and railways shut down,

he is in fact responsible for the allocation of very large part of resources in the form of development decisions and their benefits.

Prince Charles' Comments

- Buildings should reflect harmonies, for Architecture is like a language. You can't construct pleasing sentences in English unless you have a thorough knowledge of the grammatical ground rules. If you abandon these basic principles of grammar, the result is discordant and inharmonious.
- People should be involved willingly from the beginning in the improvement of their surroundings, but participation can't be imposed; it has to start from the bottom up.

Analytical Scale of Participation

| 1. Techniques of Participation | 2. Levels of Participation | | 3. Political System | 4. Spatial Units | 5. Mode of Planning | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| 1. Community Administration | 1. Citizen Control | Degrees of Citizen Power | 1. Anarchy | 1. Room | 1. Non-plan | Non-design |
| 2. Self-Build | 2. Delegated Power | | 2. Participation Democracy | 2. Home | 2. Action-plan | |
| 3. Community Planning and Design | 3. Partnership | | | 3. Street | | |
| 4. Political Manifesto | 4. Placement | Degrees of Tokenism | 3. Representative Democracy | 4. Neighbourhood | 3. Incremental Planning | Ad-hoc |
| 5. Public Meeting | 5. Consultation | | | 5. District Quarter | 4. Mixed Scanning | |
| 6. Public Enquiries | | | | 6. Town | | |
| 7. Planning Appeals | | | 6. Informing | 7. City | 5. Structure Planning | |
| 8. The Exhibition | 4. Totalitarian Government | | | 8. Region | 6. Master Planning | |
| 9. Press Release | | 9. Nation | | | | |
| 10. Planning Survey | | 7. Therapy | Non-participation | | | |
| 11. User Study | 8. Manipulation | | | | | |
| 12. Anthropological Study | | | | | | |

Degrees of Citizen Power

Degrees of Tokenism

Non-participation

Democratic Government

Non-design

Ad-hoc

Informal

Geometrical

Axial

Analytical Scale of Participation

- ◆ The more intense forms of participation require techniques which actively involve the individual in plan making, design and constructional work.
- ◆ The mid-range levels of participation suggest the use of bureaucratic techniques usually advocated and administered by professionals.
- ◆ Towards the lower end of scale, although the techniques are more objective and scientific which can inform the planning and design process but represent the level of non-participation.