7 Principles for building better cities
Ted talk by Peter Calthorpe

At the same time that we're solving for climate change, we're going to be building cities for three billion people. That's a doubling of the urban environment. If we don't get that right, I'm not sure all climate solutions in the world will save mankind, because so much depends on how we shape our cities. Fundamentally, the way we shape cities is a manifestation of the kind of humanity we bring to ==bear==. And so, getting it right is the order of the day. And to a certain degree, getting it right can help us solve climate change, because in the end, it's our behaviour that seems to be driving the problem.

There´s a villain in this story, It's sprawl. It isolates people, segregates people into economic enclaves and land-use ==enclaves==. It separates them form nature. It doesn't allow the cross-fertilization, the interaction, that make cities great places and that make society thrive. A model was developed for the state of California so they could get on with reducing carbon emissions. It was made a whole series of scenarios for how the state could grow, some of the aspects the state grew were:

Land consumption: environmentalists, farmers and a whole range of people want open space nearby, the sprawl model developed in California doubles the urban physical footprint.
Greenhouse gas: Cities that don't depend on cars as much obviously create huge savings.
Vehicle miles travelled: It's very expensive to drive that much.
Health care: How do you fix it once we clean the air? Why not just stop polluting?
==**Household**== **costs:** Do we still want large ==lot==, single family, distant and too expensive houses?

So, there are seven principles that have now been adopted by the highest levels in the Chinese government (just to mention an example), and they're moving to implement them. And they're simple, globally, universal principles. They are: **preserve natural environment, mix, walk, bike, connect, ride** and **focus**.

Opinion

I find very interesting this topic, how cities will be transformed in order to keep the environment. Something that really surprise me, is that we are going back to the past in certain aspects such as transportation: instead of creating environment-friendly vehicles we decided to use the vehicles of the past, bicycles and our feet. It because we don't want to spend more time travelling to work, university or school. Because it is better to live near the places that are your destination, so you will take advantage of your personal time and you can do more things in your life.

I agree with the speaker, the principles that he mentioned are universal and can be apply everywhere. Actually, by moving, you can find that the new place make your life happier cause you are less stressed because of traffic jams, or because you can walk or cycling and it relax you. If you live in a place where you can get whatever you want, you will forget about cars and the pollution they cause.

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