City Planners, How valuable are they?

Before city planners, city used to be smelly, noisy and dirty and the people who lived there had poor health and they were really poor, as Julia said in her book Academic Connections 4. That time was in the late 1800s and that kind of cities looked like they were evil and offence to nature. But then men started to look how they could change the city, how could be the city of the future. This new science is called urban planning. And easily it could be divided in two categories: before the city was built and after.

Ebenezer Howard, Le Corbusier and Daniel Burnham are examples of urban planners who designed an entire city vision. The Garden City designed by Howard is country sided and the citizens are spread out in the city and there is a maximum population of 32000 people. But Le Corbusier had a different approach when he designed the Radiant City, it is a vertical city with wide highways and have a high density population, and differently of The Garden City the city can grow more easily. But none of them are so pedestrian friendly as City Beautiful that has curved streets for it and a main street that goes to the center of the city; this city was planned by Daniel Burnham and we can see today at least one example of it, Brasilia the capital of Brazil. But all of them have one characteristic in common; all of them have separated areas for commercial and residential areas. And this could be a problem because at night business areas are empty and during the day suburban areas are empty and that means that in this time these areas are unsafe and dangerous.

To solve the problem of unsafety cities, Jane Jacobs had a vision called eyes on the street, which means that places that have more people are safer than places that are less people. For instance, when people go to work they leave they houses empty, and cities planned by Ebenezer Howard, Le Corbusier and Daniel Burnham all of them separated these areas from commercial areas, and that means that during the day no one are at home, or walking in suburban areas, so no one can see what happens in these areas at this period of the day so it’s unsafe and dangerous, and the same happens with business areas at night because the work is done and it’s time to go home. Jacobs said that problem can be solved mixing those areas, public places and stores everywhere, with street vendors and even pedestrians. But before Jane, people believed in use of traffic barriers fences, buzzer gates and police patrols, this vision was viewed by Oscar Newman when he created a new field of crime prevention called CPTED, and those solutions was called “Hardware Solutions”.

And nowadays it’s clear that most of big cities don’t have poor citizens with poor health, and they aren’t smelly and dirty as before. And now there are several cities that are safe and secure, and good places to live. Those designs and visions innovated cities and made them a good place to work and live. And that’s why each day more and more people move from rural areas to urban areas. Thanks to City Planners