

# Planning Changeover

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unaware of the fact, other cities look to this one for creative new concepts of zoning and urban design — now turning into the reality of concrete and steel.

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With Donald H. Elliott leaving as chairman of the City Planning Commission and John E. Zuccotti taking over the job, the changed role of the Planning Commission and Department comes sharply into focus. Mr. Elliott has shepherded the agency through six crucial years during which it has become a pivotal factor in the city's future. Planning standards have been raised and planning power increased, and a determination demonstrated to come to grips with the city's long-term development in environmental terms.

Mr. Elliott brought to New York some of the brightest planning talent in the country. He was instrumental in establishing the trend-setting Urban Design Group, which has undertaken constructive solutions to the city's growth for the first time; and he set up the special executive planning offices that now chart development for major parts of the five boroughs. The planning job has been done with integrity, vision and skill.

In this period, a controversial Master Plan finally made its appearance, which, whatever its faults and however imperceptible its application thus far, has the virtue of stating issues and making the city physically visible in its problematic complexities.

Mr. Zuccotti, as a member of the Planning Commission, has been a party to these advances in standard and action. He is his own man, but he has stated that such recent policies as increased community involvement will be stepped up, and commitment to present environmental values continued. Although New Yorkers are largely