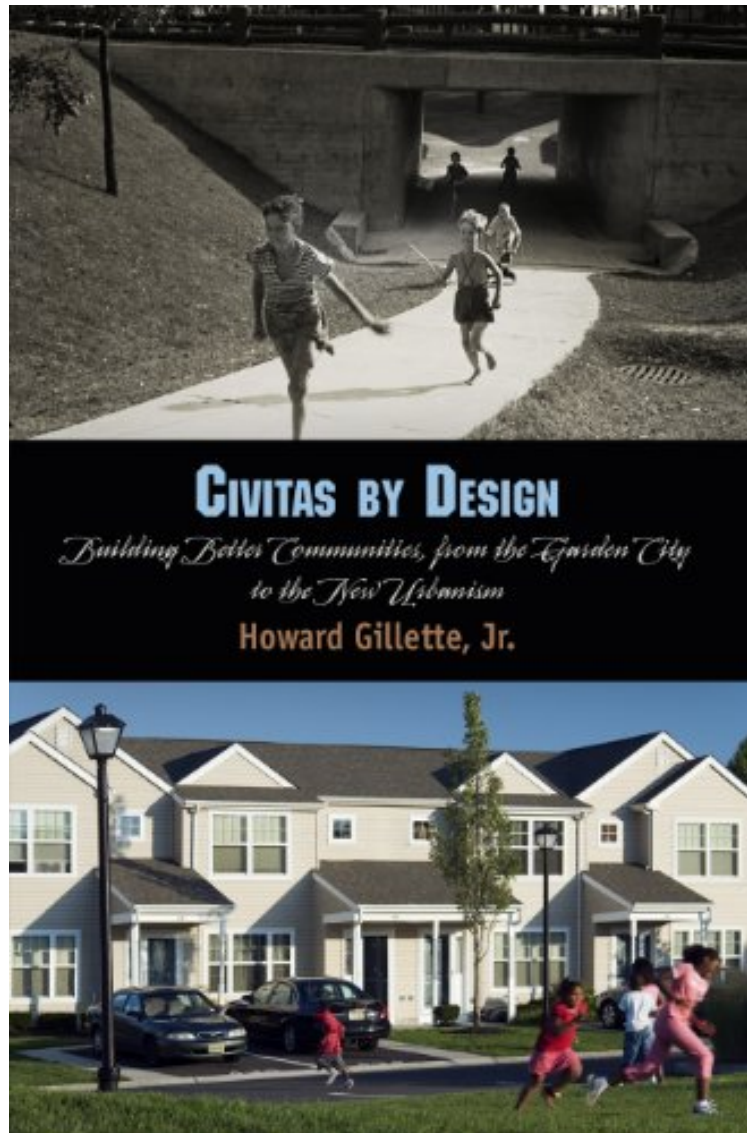


[Read and download] Civitas by Design: Building Better Communities, from the Garden City to the New Urbanism

## Civitas by Design: Building Better Communities, from the Garden City to the New Urbanism

Howard Gillette Jr.

DOC | \*audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#826422 in Books 2012-12-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .60 x 6.00l, .80 #File Name: 0812222229240 pages | File size: 51.Mb

**Howard Gillette Jr. : Civitas by Design: Building Better Communities, from the Garden City to the New Urbanism** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Civitas by Design: Building Better Communities, from the Garden City to the New Urbanism:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Gillette's book is an excellent source for getting a basic overview of

urban planning ...By Gregory M. CarterGillette's book is an excellent source for getting a basic overview of urban planning in the United States. Gillette covers all of the major urban design movements from 1890 to 1990 and how each movement worked out or build the foundation for the next movement in line. Students of urban history must read this book. Illustrations included are excellent too.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An excellent review of the status of urban planning, its current lessons-learned, and how we got here.By Proud MaleHoward Gillette has tracked the ideas of urban planning and matched them up with its accomplishments, and draws some lessons -- mostly of the clear drawbacks and the limitations of theory in practice. He gave me a much deeper perspective on the players and the ideas, the attempts and the practical lessons learned in the reality of people's experience.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. moderately interestingBy Michael LewynThis book discusses several attempts to use urban design to build more civil communities, including the early 20th-century Garden City movement, the early shopping malls, and new urbanism.I felt like the most informative chapters were the first ones- perhaps because I knew less about the Garden City movement than about the more recent movements. The Garden City movement was a reaction against overcrowded urban slums; Ebenezer Howard (a leading Garden City theorist) proposed small towns limited to 32,000 people and linked by commuter rail. These garden cities were to be surrounded by greenbelts within walking distance of homes, putting everyone close to cow pastures and forests.After the automobile became popular, the Garden City movement shifted gears (pun intended). An American Garden City, Radburn, New Jersey, sought to control the auto by separating cars from pedestrian traffic, linking houses by walkways and parks. (I wish, however, that Gillette had explained more clearly why this sort of design did not become more popular). Like the earliest Garden Cities, Radburn provides its residents with plenty of parkland and puts housing within walking distance of shops.Gillette points out that mid-century shopping malls also sought to protect pedestrians from cars in a different way- by creating shopping areas for pedestrians only. But unlike Radburn, suburban shopping malls are often difficult for pedestrians to reach because they are ringed by parking lots, and unlike Radburn shopping, are often not near housing.One area where Gillette stumbles is his treatment of urban malls; he assumes that such malls are generally successful. In the more successful downtowns (e.g. Boston, Baltimore) this is the case. But weak downtowns generally have weak shopping malls; for example, Buffalo's Main Street mall is lifeless even by the low standards of downtown Buffalo.Gillette's discussion of shopping malls leads naturally to the new urbanist reaction against suburbia; new urbanists, like the Garden City theorists, seek to create more walkable, human-scale environmentalists. But unlike the Garden City movement, new urbanism is not limited to small towns; new urbanist developments exist in settings as varied as rural resorts and big-city housing projects. Gillette's description of new urbanism is reasonably balanced but sometimes a bit jargon-heavy for my tastes.

Since the end of the nineteenth century, city planners have aspired not only to improve the physical living conditions of urban residents but also to strengthen civic ties through better design of built environments. From Ebenezer Howard and his vision for garden cities to today's New Urbanists, these visionaries have sought to deepen civitas, or the shared community of citizens.In *Civitas by Design*, historian Howard Gillette, Jr., takes a critical look at this planning tradition, examining a wide range of environmental interventions and their consequences over the course of the twentieth century. As American reform efforts moved from progressive idealism through the era of government urban renewal programs to the rise of faith in markets, planners attempted to cultivate community in places such as Forest Hills Gardens in Queens, New York; Celebration, Florida; and the post-Katrina Gulf Coast. Key figuresincluding critics Lewis Mumford and Oscar Newman, entrepreneur James Rouse, and housing reformer Catherine Bauerintroduced concepts such as neighborhood units, pedestrian shopping malls, and planned communities that were implemented on a national scale. Many of the buildings, landscapes, and infrastructures that planners envisioned still remain, but frequently these physical designs have proven insufficient to sustain the ideals they represented. Will contemporary urbanists' efforts to join social justice with environmentalism generate better results? Gillette places the work of reformers and designers in the context of their times, providing a careful analysis of the major ideas and trends in urban planning for current and future policy makers.

"Gillette expertly and efficiently marches the reader through the main planning and reform movements of the late nineteenth, twentieth, and early twenty-first centuries, focusing on those thinkers, movements, and places that reflect a concern for the utility of design in promoting good community life."Planning Perspectives"Howard Gillette provides a masterful survey of major themes in American planning and social thought over the course of the twentieth century on the proper design and function of urban areas. The title reflects the longstanding belief that improved design will create not simply better buildings and public spaces but truly engaged citizens."David Schuyler, author of *From Garden City to Green City: The Legacy of Ebenezer Howard*About the AuthorHoward Gillette, Jr., is Professor of History at Rutgers University and the author of *Camden After the Fall: Decline and Renewal in a Post-Industrial City* and *Between Justice and Beauty: Race, Planning, and the Failure of Urban Policy in Washington, D.C.* Both books are available from the University of Pennsylvania Press.