

much money each member is contributing to the fund, how to define liabilities, how to raise additional emergency cash if needed, as well as how to redistribute the collected money if funds are not used. In summary, these are examples of how to minimize ambiguity, gaming, or procrastination while engaging communities.

The difference between the examples at the community, local, state, and national levels is that when natural disasters happen in larger areas there are more diverse people affected. For example, there are different groups, castes, or tribes, each with different characteristics, making responses, planning, and cost estimates more complicated. The authors disentangle some key variables that make the approach more complex. First, at a larger scale the trust that exists among tribal or village members is lost as national disasters involve larger territories, more complex social fabrics, and a political component that imply that more layers need to be handled beforehand. Second, in the examples presented, members who do not pay will not receive compensation—all stakeholders involved understand the rules of engagement. However, when local, state, or national governments are involved it is not possible to deny services to those who did not contribute. At a larger scale it is necessary to establish other rules of engagement and to find a formula that is accepted by all involved. This formula would define who pays and how much, who takes the risk and how much, and how the response is provided in the event of a natural disaster.

From a different perspective, the book walks the reader through identifying a few benefactors that have the capacity to lead the shift from “begging bowls,” (i.e., donations or charity) to well-defined credible plans. Identifying such innovators would make the path easy for other people and entities to follow. Benefactors may be national leaders, international donors, or a combination of both. To take advantage of such leaders, governments need to have a detailed plan that should be coordinated with local officials, risks modelers, bureaucrats, and financiers. Then, implementing agencies adjust to these new ways of engaging and coordinating before an event becomes a disaster. Financiers also need to be at the table at the beginning of this process, ensuring the best possible pre-risk financing strategy for creating the most suitable financing instrument before the disaster actually happens. In addition, regional and local agencies need to ensure the most credible and yet practical emergency prevention plan. International humanitarian relief would be necessary only for complementing a response that is already in place on the ground, just in case something extreme develops.

In summary, this book is an invaluable contribution to the literature on disasters. It discusses practical ways to generate engagement, planning, and ways to involve the many stakeholders needed in the process. However, chapter 6, “Moving Forward...,” is a little disappointing as the content is probably a little bit generic and simplistic. It could have included

more specific results, shortcomings, and lessons based on the rich discussion presented in the first five chapters, which could have more clearly informed the steps ahead.

While the authors focus on developing countries, the experience of the 2017 hurricane season that affected Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and the Caribbean islands shows that the lessons presented are relevant everywhere. In sum, this book is a useful guide for practitioners, although some academics may wish for discussions that are more complex and sophisticated, advancing the knowledge frontier, although this was not the authors’ intention, as stated by them.

Friedman, Avi. 2017. *Designing Sustainable Communities*. New York: Bloomsbury. 216 pp. \$51.95 (paperback). ISBN 978-1-4725-7290-5

Reviewed by: Vikas Mehta, *University of Cincinnati*
DOI: 10.1177/0739456X18822058

Several years ago, I came across a poster designed for a public engagement and input process. The text and diagrams displayed the many scales that the proposed transportation project would impact. The four scales were labeled “region,” “city,” “community,” and “neighborhood.” I was perplexed with this taxonomy where three of the four terms alluded to physical space yet only one referred to a social concept. When I asked the planners, I was told that other terms, such as district, seemed too disconnected and would not seem like the planners were addressing the people. This instance is not unusual. The idea and definition of “community” is seldom understood in architecture, urban design and planning, and the term “community” is used to make the point that planners or architects are concerned about people and not merely the planning and design of places. More often, the term “community” is casually and interchangeably used with the term “neighborhood.” This is also the case with *Designing Sustainable Communities* by Avi Friedman. I bring this up not so much as a criticism but to clarify that the book is not about community, sense of community, or community building. It is a book about neighborhoods.

Designing Sustainable Communities is handsomely presented with numerous well-selected case studies with color images, plans, elevations, and other drawings and diagrams that complement the author’s narrative. Like many books addressing the sustainability theme, it covers numerous aspects and a wide range of dimensions at the neighborhood scale including land use, health, housing and housing affordability, building and neighborhood design, movement, food, open space, future growth, and adaptability. The book refers to and engages relevant research but keeps the narrative jargon-free, direct, and accessible. The author provides a good summary of some worthy fundamental, traditional, as well as contemporary urban design principles to form a generally

agreeable narrative. The best part of the book is the section on case studies at the end of each chapter. Friedman not only provides a very comprehensive picture of each case study by including drawings, diagrams, and photographs but also includes a discussion on each case study. The summary and thoughtful exercises at the end of each chapter are very helpful and particularly suitable for instructors and students.

Designing Sustainable Communities is organized into eleven short chapters that contain a brief narrative on the topic followed by several case study examples, making up the majority of the chapter. Although the short length of the chapters discusses the topic, it does not permit an in-depth discussion of any particular aspect of neighborhood planning or design. However, the chapters that provide a deeper discussion (Neighborhoods for Change and Growth, Affordable Neighborhoods, and Net-zero Energy Neighborhoods) are the ones that identify a specific aspect of neighborhood planning and design since this allows the author the space to delve into the issue in some detail.

Chapter 1 (The Broad View) presents an overview that attempts to define the domain of “communities” and “sustainability,” the two concepts in the title of the book. In this chapter, the author briefly touches upon the tenets of historic settlement, town and city development borrowing largely from the work of Spiro Kostof. This discussion is followed by a brief history of neighborhood planning in the United Kingdom and the United States. As expected, the ideas and plans of Ebenezer Howard, Raymond Unwin and Barry Parker, and Clarence Stein and Henry Wright are discussed in some detail, culminating with the mention of New Urbanism and Smart Growth. The discussion is brief and pertinent but centered around the idea of neighborhood planning and design but not community.

Chapter 2 (Transit-Oriented Development) discusses the tenets of transit-oriented development (TOD), suggested by Peter Calthorpe. Friedman appropriately points out the linkages between TOD and environmental, health, social, and economic benefits at the local and regional level but avoids any deep discussion on the politics of transit, a topic that has much relevance in the North American context. The resistance to committing public funds to transit, the cultural association of bus transit as a mode of travel of a low-income person, the political and even partisan divisiveness over transit as a means to infringe upon private rights, the failure of numerous transit proposals and projects, among others, provide an important context in which TODs must be examined. The author also does not discuss the nuances and unintended consequences of TODs.

Chapter 3 (Mixing Dwellings and Amenities) presents the virtues of mixed-use places. After a brief introduction on the benefits of mixing uses, the author presents the reader with several methods for creating mixed-use neighborhoods along with some rules of thumb for densities required for supporting convenience, neighborhood, and commercial centers. However, statements such as “Mixed dwelling types also

generate a socially inclusive place, creating at once both safety and diversity within a community” (p. 45) ignore the complexity of social norms, expectations, and desires. There is little discussion of what the complications of creating such neighborhoods with mixed dwelling type are. The author does not elaborate on what types of mixing work and what do not. The case studies cover examples from Canada, the United States, Europe, and Australia prove to be most useful in showing the possibilities.

Chapter 4 (Car-Free Neighborhoods) begins with a brief description of negative environmental, health, social, and economic impacts of car dependency. Friedman follows up with a discussion on topics such as mixing of land uses and the benefits of transit, better-networked and high-quality bike, and walking infrastructure.

Chapter 5 (Creative Open Spaces) unfortunately only scratches the surface of “creative” or “open space.” With a tilt toward green space, included here are the usual types of spaces such as community gardens, play areas, private yards, and greenbelts, among others. However, the author seems to overlook the place of the street as the ubiquitous open public space in the neighborhood as well as the creative use and appropriation of unused, underused, disconnected space (sometimes called “loose space”) even at the scale of the neighborhood. Typologically, the range of open spaces discussed is limited and conjures up an image of a homogeneous (yet green and sustainable) place that overlooks the messy energy of urban places in North American cities compared with urban places in Asia, Latin America, Africa, and Europe.

Chapter 6 (Neighborhoods for Change and Growth) on adaptable homes, that is, homes that can be modified to accommodate a changing household size, is brief although the author provides some level of detail in the discussion on this issue. The author addresses adaptability at three scales—the neighborhood scale and two approaches to dwelling transformation—add-on and add-in (finishing spaces later). He elaborates on the latter two, discussing several design strategies complemented by accessible, communicative, and very useful diagrams.

Chapter 7 (Affordable Neighborhoods) provides the reader with simple but useful strategies for creating efficient and affordable housing at the neighborhood block scale. The author includes comparative diagrams for a wide range of dwelling types from the single-family detached home to the high-rise and high-density apartment unit to explain the possibilities available to planners and designers for providing affordable housing choices.

Chapter 8 (Net-Zero Energy Neighborhoods) focuses on creating net-zero energy neighborhoods and proposes many building design and construction strategies to reduce energy consumption and waste. However, because energy efficiency is better addressed at the neighborhood scale, as the author acknowledges, there is a missed opportunity to address the fundamental structural issues that make such strategies hard to fold into existing processes that could lead to implementation. The

case studies in the remainder of the chapter discuss some of these factors. For example, University of California (UC) Davis's West Village becomes feasible with the support of Federal and State grants and the continuing use of the development as a research facility for the university. I wish the chapter focused more on the political, social, cultural, and economic aspects that play a critical role in making these strategies possible.

Chapter 9 (Planning for Healthy Living) discusses the relationship between environmental design and health. As aspects of healthy neighborhoods, for example, mixed use, transit orientation, lack of cars, and bike use, have already been discussed elsewhere in this book, the author seems to repeat previous discussions. Chapter 10 (Edible Landscapes) covers a range of scales, ideas, and techniques to create edible landscapes in neighborhoods that are shown in the several case study examples.

The final chapter (Conclusion: Connecting the Dots) opens with recognizing the barriers that may hinder the development of the numerous projects discussed in the book. It promises to review practical aspects that the author only briefly touches upon. Knowing that most of these practical aspects are not yet common urban development practices, it would have been helpful for students, planners, urban designers, architects, economic development managers, among others, to learn about the impediments to these practices and processes, along with some strategies for success.

Many readers will read this book assuming that a sustainable neighborhood is homogeneous. Instead of emphasizing the ability of a city to provide choice, the author repeatedly states that "homeowners no longer have the economic means to occupy large, single-family, detached homes, and neither are these houses . . . considered" (p. 121), further strengthening a single image of the sustainable neighborhood. Although I do not have any reason to disagree with the overall outcome of this image of the sustainable neighborhood, the fundamental problem of environmental determinism (i.e., the physical environment predisposes society to particular outcomes) creeps in when choices are not provided because sustainability itself comes in many shades that are not necessarily perceived as "green."

In sum, Friedman brings to fore important and appropriate topics and issues, and planning and design strategies to create sustainable neighborhoods. The book would have been richer if it had addressed not only what planners and designers should do but what would need to be done through planning and policy to create more sustainable neighborhoods and cities.

Davis, Stephen. 2018. *In Defense of Public Lands: The Case against Privatization and Transfer*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 294 pp. \$29.95 (e-book). ISBN 978-1-399-1538-7

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DOI: 10.1177/0739456X18822067

Of late, the idea of public lands, and the ensuing tension around them, has been in the news. Several years ago, the standoff at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon between Ammon Bundy and federal officials brought the issue of public lands into the spotlight. Since the election of Donald Trump, the Department of the Interior has reduced the size of several National Monuments in Utah (Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante, specifically). As of this writing, *The New York Times* is reporting that the Trump administration has additionally auctioned off nearly thirteen million acres of drilling rights to oil and gas developers, thereby opening up vast areas of the American West to gas extraction.

Thus, it is quite timely that in his new book, *In Defense of Public Lands: The Case against Privatization and Transfer*, Steven Davis, a political science professor at Edgewood College in Madison, Wisconsin, provides a robust defense of the idea of public lands. Unlike other recent contributions to the public lands debate, Davis does not portray himself as a neutral observer, but rather lays out an unapologetic defense of public lands. Stressing his personal investment and connection to the cause, he introduces each chapter (including the cover) with photographs he himself took on visits to lesser known parks as opposed to relying on well-worn iconic photos of Yellowstone or other famous parks. A partisan book for partisan times perhaps, but Davis moves well beyond rhetoric to marshal an impressive amount of empirical information to make his case.

Davis begins by laying out the landscape of public land holdings across the United States, particularly useful to those somewhat perplexed by the myriad of state and federal agencies that collectively oversee a third of the land area of the United States (three quarters of which is federal) and the evolution of legislation that has been passed to support this level of preservation. He also contextualizes the discussion by reviewing the historical ebb and flow of various "privatization" efforts (from the Sagebrush Rebellion to the Wise Use movement) and even devotes an entire chapter to laying out the case for privatization and devolution, including not only the usual economic arguments often trotted out but also lesser heard ecological arguments, as well as critiques of the inefficient government bureaucracy managing these vast land holdings.

He quickly moves on, however, and directly engages his ideological foes (which he somewhat disingenuously groups together as "privatizers"). He methodically and systematically reviews the wide-ranging and diverse literature that make the case for public lands, from an ecological, economic, and political perspective. For the ecological argument, he cites studies demonstrating that publically held lands support more biodiversity and habitat diversity, contain more endangered species, more old growth, and is less fragmented than privately held land. In the next chapter on the economic arguments for public ownership, he takes particular umbrage with the narrow focus on market efficiencies and commodity production as the measure for natural areas,