

Citations from the book:

In evaluating social matters, it is extremely important to distinguish between the truth and the good. Not only because they are constantly interconnected, but also and especially because they do not match at all, at least in and of themselves. (p. 18)

Macroeconomists will take this [definition of primary goals and measures at the meso-level] as heresy, and that is also what it is because for nearly a century their indisputable mission has been to ensure macro-balance. From a meso-perspective, the times of macroeconomics in the old sense are irrevocably over. This task is now handed over to the bearers of asymmetrical values at the meso-level. (p. 192)

Those that truly wish to make a contribution in complex conditions must – due to the nature of the challenge rather than moral considerations, and for completely (multilaterally) rationally substantiated grounds – first acknowledge their sacrifice and withdraw to the edges of their comprehensive efforts. (p. 194)

Review of *Orodja za usmerjanje in nadzor urbanih oblik* (Tools for Directing and Controlling Urban Forms)

Title: *Orodja za usmerjanje in nadzor urbanih oblik* (Tools for Directing and Controlling Urban Forms)

Author: Kaliopa Dimitrovska Andrews

Reviewers: Breda Mihelič and Fedja Košir

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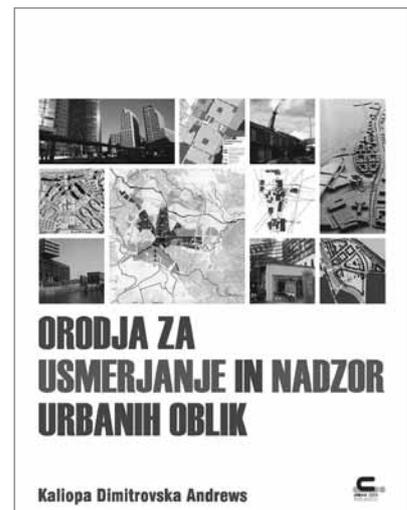
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The tools for directing and controlling urban forms are specified in great detail in the applicable Slovenian spatial planning legislation. However, the majority of them are rarely successfully implemented in planning the living environment. There are numerous reasons for this, from political to economic ones, including poor understanding of the legal provisions and a lack of professionalism. Therefore, for quite some time now there has been a need in Slovenian planning practice to determine the impacts of planning decisions on the development of physical structures in greater detail and to establish which elements of the development of physical structures should be directed and controlled from the viewpoint of protecting the cityscape and individual values of the local urban environment. This seems especially important today because in line with the sustainable development paradigm it is the growth of cities “inwards” (i.e., into the urban

fabric) that is being planned, including the expansion, renewal and (re)urbanization of construction land.

In her book, Kaliopa Dimitrovska Andrews studies planning legislation in countries with a developed market economy and engages in an in-depth interdisciplinary discussion on the aesthetics of the built environment in order to define the basic urban-design criteria that are important for the aesthetic development of cities. She develops a methodological framework for directing and evaluating the quality of urban design and the effectiveness of spatial plans. She classifies the urban-design criteria according to the role they play at individual planning levels (general and local) and the complexity of an individual location (from the supervision of the urban plan to architectural details). Many of these design criteria are important for the general layout of the city or urban area, the local composition



and the architectural design of a structure. Andrews substantiates the use of the methodological framework for directing and evaluating the quality of urban design in practice based on two case studies of Ljubljana. In the first case, the method is used as a tool for directing the “reurbanization of a degraded area” (i.e., former military barracks in the Poljane neighbourhood) and, in the second, as a tool for evaluating the urban-design quality of examples of the “internal development of settlements” (i.e., the Trnovski Pristan Condominium and the Gradaška apartment building).

Using text and illustration, and based on an extensive selection of research and scholarly literature, this book illustrates the impact of these criteria on the development of physical structures within cities. In addition, it includes a concise study on the role of aesthetics in the history of city planning and design

in modern planning systems of selected European countries (Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK) and the aesthetics of the built environment. The author proceeds from the realization that only clearly defined categories can be compared at individual planning levels and in the hierarchic gradation of complexity in calibrating

and implementing control in urban design. Hence individual elements of these categories should be presented in practice with the planning design criteria, their characteristics should be explained and those aspects that are important for planning and implementing control in urban design should be summarized in the form of recommendations. Because

qualitative criteria are difficult to control without prior knowledge of the principles of good urban design, this book and its accompanying handbook also provide informative educational material and a useful tool for spatial planners and urban planning services.

Boštjan Kerbler

From reviews:

Kaliopa Dimitrovska Andrews' book represents the first original research on urban design theory in Slovenian. It is especially important for the development of urban studies and planning practice, and for introducing new urban-design terminology. It is intended for both academics and professionals as well as students in various programs connected with spatial studies and planning.

Breda Mihelič

The book's content and the writer's elaboration on it provide an excellent document about the level that has been shaped in Slovenian discussions on international and Slovenian urban planning to date. From the perspective of its quality, it is important that the book presents a number of claims and findings by various urban-studies researchers together in one place, in which divergences between various interests are also clearly evident. The main desiderata of model urban design include context, continuity and identity. Within this context, public participation in the process of planning and projecting turns into "affirmative personalization." Readers can themselves choose what to affirm.

Fedja Košir

Public presentations at the Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia

The Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia offers free public presentations on topical issues in the profession in Slovenia and internationally. The presentations are announced in newspapers and on the website www.uirs.si, and also by e-mail by signing up at predavanja@uirs.si. Please write to the same address for any additional information. We will also be happy to receive any suggestions for the topics of future presentations. An archive of past presentations with abstracts is available at http://www.uirs.si/dogodki_predavanja.asp.

Overview of presentations from May 2012 to April 2013

22 May 2012

Controlling the yeast

Housing affordability versus urban sprawl "Down Under"

Speaker: Roberta Esbitt, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia

Moderator: Richard Sendi, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Social segregation, permanent landscape degradation, poor infrastructure and unsustainability are only few of the

numerous long-term consequences of fulfilling the "Australian dream" of one's own free-standing house. Despite the



global economic crisis, the threat of energy shortages and the good intentions of urban planners, the process of urban