

From the Editors

Tragic events like the recent hurricanes in the United States and the tsunami in Asia, as well as the growing threats of global warming, remind us of the fragility of our cities and homes. Reliable icons like the World Trade Center—seemingly permanent and indestructible—can be gone in a matter of moments. While these kinds of instantaneous and dramatic changes to the human landscape do occur, urban planners commonly face problems related to more subtle shifts in human settlement patterns. These shifts, although not as tumultuous as tragic events, require innovative approaches to managing change and preparing for the future. Economic development initiatives, policy changes, and urban designs are all strategies for understanding how change occurs and how to adjust our behavior to embrace it.

Urban planners must constantly think of how to shape cities in the face of change. That is the theme of this 14th issue of *Panorama*, the PennDesign Journal of City and Regional Planning. We begin here in Philadelphia with a look at one of South Philadelphia's often-overlooked neighborhoods—Forgotten Bottom. Mindy Watts explores how printmaking can become an effective and beautiful method for chronicling the layers of activity that shape places over time.

Allison Crnic tells the tale of the little church that could—she traces the history of the Gloria Dei parish in Southwark, in existence since the 17th century. As a cultural landscape in South Philadelphia, the church has withstood the vagaries of time, including urban renewal projects that have threatened its future and an interstate expressway that severs it from the rest of its Philadelphia neighborhood. And yet it perseveres.

Many of the great urban places of today emerged from the forgotten underbellies of cities undergoing other transformations. Julie Donofrio takes us to London for a look at the revitalization of the South Bank and its emergence as a landmark cultural destination. Celeste Layne shines light on another one of the world's greatest cities for a look at how change has happened in Paris. She recounts the history of the Périphérique and shows us how a medieval wall has been transformed to become an eight-lane expressway.

Many of history's greatest planning efforts are distinguished by their ability to adapt to changing times while still remaining relevant into the future. Edward Davis assesses the phenomenon of the 19th century Methodist camp meeting and explains how even temporary communities have responded to their surroundings and reflected the same basic organizing principles as permanent settlements.

Perhaps nothing has affected the current trends of urban planning as much as the realization of the threat of terrorism and natural disasters. Andrea Wong compares how defense planning has changed post 9/11 to respond to threats that are more unpredictable than those of the Cold War era, therefore requiring a different level of preparedness.

How do universities plan for change and make projections for the future? Penn's Fall semester urban design studio developed a plan for Dongguk University in Seoul, Korea that addresses the university's severe future space deficit. The plan prepares the university to grow into a more significant academic player in an era of increasing global competition. In this issue, we take a look at a few of the recommendations that the studio made.

As cities change and grow, their physical form must adapt to different modes of transportation. Veronica Polo shows us how Philadelphia, with its street grid and numerous bike lanes, has evolved into a bicycle-friendly city.

Financing urban projects is a constant challenge for cities and one that requires innovative thinking and new approaches to old problems. Nolan Lienhart provides an early assessment of a government program for community and economic development—the new markets tax credit.

With all the buzz about New Urbanism, Jennifer Driver evaluates how the principles of New Urbanism have been successfully applied to the HOPE VI housing program in the United States.

David Godfrey also examines the state of the world's housing condition. Given the increasing demand for cheap and efficient housing, especially for emergency shelters, he argues for the benefits of using shipping containers to provide temporary and even permanent living facilities.

For the final three articles, our focus on shaping cities in the face of change then shifts from housing to transportation policy. Michael Smart provides a critical analysis of pioneering car-sharing programs and evaluates the metrics used to measure the societal and personal benefits of these programs.

Yang Chen also attempts to wrap her arms around the problem of traffic congestion. She examines programs that have been used successfully in western countries and assesses their applicability to reducing car usage in large Chinese cities undergoing rapid development.

Finally, we stop in Boston for a look at how the transit system of a city can shape its growth and evolution. Joshu Shih recounts the history of Boston's streetcar suburbs and finds parallels between the transit infrastructure and development of suburban communities.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *Panorama* and find the discussions informative and relevant to understanding the rapidly changing world in which we live. Many of the ideas presented in these pages are novel and require looking at problems through new lenses. Urban planning is a field as dynamic as the cities in which we live and work; the effective planner must be progressive and innovative in response.

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