

THE **CITY** PROGRAM

Simon Fraser University Vancouver  
Vancouver Canada <http://www.sfu.ca/city>

# URBAN DESIGN web resource manual

An annotated list  
of key websites on  
urban design  
compiled for the  
City Program's  
**Urban Design  
Certificate Program**



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This resource manual of urban design references contains annotated websites found in September 2005. The selection of topics is based upon courses offered in the City Program's Urban Design Certificate Program. Our goal is to aid in the understanding of urban design concepts both in our courses and through additional resources and information presented in these websites.

The background research for this manual was undertaken by Research Assistant, Sara Danziger, under the direction of Judy Oberlander. Frank Pacella designed and produced this manual. It is available as a printed document and can be downloaded directly from the City Program website, <http://www.sfu.ca/city>. The electronic version can also be used to access these websites directly.

The City Program gratefully acknowledges the support of The Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia towards the development of the Urban Design Certificate curriculum.



Download City Program brochures including the Urban Design Certificate Program brochure:

<http://www.sfu.ca/city>

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THE REAL ESTATE  
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OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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By: Melanie Hare, Urban Strategies Inc.  
Policy Research, Vol. 5 (1), 2002  
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Detour's Urban Source  
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EcoDesign Resource Society  
<http://www.vcn.bc.ca/edrs>

The Ecological Planning and Design Directory  
<http://www.nipc.org/environment/sustainable/index.htm>

Ecological planning in an age of myth-information (article)  
[www.cip-icu.ca/English/pcanonline/PC40/PC40122.pdf](http://www.cip-icu.ca/English/pcanonline/PC40/PC40122.pdf)

Ecosustainable Hub  
<http://www.ecosustainable.com.au>

San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association:  
Ecological design, urban places and the culture of  
sustainability  
By: William Eisenstein  
Newsletter Calendar Report 399, 9/1/2001  
<http://www.spur.org/documents/ecodesign.pdf>

Smart Communities Network  
<http://www.sustainable.doe.gov/>

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The Alberta Main Street Programme  
<http://www.albertamainstreet.org/>

City of Vancouver-Downtown Eastside Revitalization  
<http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/commsvcs/planning/dtes/dtehome.htm>

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)  
<http://www.fcm.ca>

Heritage Canada Foundation  
<http://www.heritagecanada.org>

Heritage Society of British Columbia  
<http://www.heritagebc.ca>

International Initiative for Sustainable  
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# Urban Design Web Resources

These are only a small selection of websites related to the subjects offered in the Urban Design Certificate Program. These websites were chosen for various reasons, including: their overall content; relevant links; current resources; Canadian content; applicability to the Urban Design Certificate course subjects; industry representation; case studies and examples;

and ease of navigation. These websites were selected in the Spring of 2004 and revised in the summer of 2005, however, since websites are continually updated and changed, many of them may not be as applicable in the future.

We encourage you to revisit these websites for updated information and links to new sites.

# Urban Design Gateway Sites

## ABOUT PLANNING DIRECTORY

<http://www.aboutplanning.org/directory.html>

### Overview

About Planning describes itself as the “Internet’s Best Planning Directory” and was created by an American Planner, Richard Carson. This site is designed to serve and benefit planning professionals and is constantly being updated and improved using input from those in the industry. It is an extremely comprehensive and up to date website, covering a variety of topics including land use planning, growth management, comprehensive planning, smart growth, and urban design. Besides web links, the site also has a publication list, current news, and essays. The downside to this directory is the lack of Canadian content.

### Highlights

- There are over 300 sites listed in this directory.
- This is one of the easiest gateway sites to navigate.
- Each site on the directory has been reviewed for planning content, relevance and functionality.
- The editor has provided an easy to understand smiley face rating system enabling you to skip over poorly rated sites.

## CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

<http://www.cmhc.ca>

### Overview

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation website contains a wealth of information on many aspects of urban design with a particular emphasis on residential development. In addition to the numerous publications on housing markets, mortgages, and building renovations, the site has a current calendar of workshops, conferences and educational programs across Canada on a wide variety of urban design-related topics. The site also includes many free publications such as the “Research Highlights” case studies, booklets and pamphlets on residential building design as well as many useful books which can be purchased on line.

### Highlights

#### *Research*

<http://www.cmhc.ca/en/res/index.cfm>

CMHC has an extensive internal as well as external research program on housing in all parts of Canada which will interest architects, planners, real estate developers, local government officials and property owners. Detailed information on housing markets locally, regionally and nationally is also available in this part of the website.

#### *Sustainable Community Planning*

<http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/imquaf/hehosu/sucopl/index.cfm>

This section of the website includes links to “Best Practices and Tools”, “Practical Tips for Your Home”, “Sustainable Planning”, and CMHC’s excellent series of “Research Highlights”.

#### *Best Practices and Tools*

[http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/imquaf/hehosu/sucopl/sucopl\\_001.cfm](http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/imquaf/hehosu/sucopl/sucopl_001.cfm)

This section of the CMHC Website includes excellent information on land use and planning, residential intensification as well as the Sustainable Communities Indicators Program; Residential Street Design; Planning Design Charrettes as well as Sustainable Planning and Design. There are case studies of 12 municipal initiatives and 23 built projects in Canadian cities that have stimulated residential intensification and resulted in new housing units.

#### *Sustainable Planning and Development for Small Communities*

[http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/imquaf/hehosu/sucopl/sucopl\\_005.cfm](http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/imquaf/hehosu/sucopl/sucopl_005.cfm)

This section of the website includes background information on a series of workshops which CMHC staff offer municipal decision makers, real estate developers, community organizations and urban designers who are interested in innovative ways of creating sustainable communities.

#### *Research Highlights*

A sample of the many “Research Highlights” papers which can be downloaded directly from the site: Socio Economic Series 75—“Residential Street Pattern Design”

<http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/publications/en/rh-pr/socio/socio75-e.pdf>

This paper provides an excellent analysis of historic urban and contemporary suburban street patterns and analyzes the use of land in different settings--traditional grids, conventional loops and residential quadrants. The design of buildable areas, open space and streets are also discussed in detail. The impact of street design is important to the overall character of a neighbourhood, its function, economic viability, livability and overall urban design.

#### *Residential Intensification Case Studies*

[http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/imquaf/hehosu/sucopl/sucopl\\_007.cfm](http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/imquaf/hehosu/sucopl/sucopl_007.cfm)

This section includes 23 case studies of successful examples of residential projects which illustrate successful work in the area of urban design and urban intensification. They all illustrate unique situations where neighbourhood areas and underutilized sites were intensified and these reports consider each project from the viewpoint of developers, residents and municipal officials. These case studies include detailed information (and a separate report) on each project from across Canada including: Garrison Woods in Calgary; Bishops Landing in Halifax; Koo's Corner in Vancouver; Portland Park Village in Toronto; London Lane, Guelph, Ontario; Seagram Lofts, Waterloo, Ontario; Waterford Suites, Halifax; Les Lofts Laliberté, Quebec City, and Western Elevator Lots in Winnipeg.

## **CYBURBIA**

<http://www.cyburbia.org/>

### **Overview**

Cyburbia started in 1994 at the University of Buffalo and "is the oldest portal site for urban planners and others interested in cities and the built environment". Cyburbia has an exhaustive list on Internet resources relating to planning and urbanism called, "The Planning Resource Directory". Each site listing has a link to "Reviews", which includes a description of the site, when it was added, how many hits, its received, ratings, and votes. There is also an opportunity for you to rate the site.

### **Highlights**

- Cyburbia differs from other gateway sites because of its abundance of Canadian content.

- In addition to the resource directory, there are current planning news headlines, an image gallery, bookstore and a bulletin board.
- Cyburbia provides a direct link to [PLANetizen](#) on their homepage, which is an excellent public interest forum and resource for the planning, design and development community.
- The forums, found on the homepage, are an excellent source of information and a way to share your thoughts or opinions on planning related issues.

## **S ARCHITECTURE PLANNING & LANDSCAPE INFORMATION GATEWAY (SAPLING)**

<http://www.sapling.org.uk/>

### **Overview**

Sapling is a free searchable database with more than 500 reviewed links to information relating to architecture, planning and landscape information. It is important to note that Sapling is a completely independent resource and is not affiliated with any organization, institution or company and the editing team is made up of industry professionals and academics from around the world, including India and Malaysia. Sapling is geared to not only professionals but to academics and students, which increases its content focus. Although they claim to include information from around the world, not just the UK, Canadian content is somewhat limited.

### **Highlights**

- Before sites are added to Sapling they are reviewed and rated on a 10-point scale. They also provide an opportunity for users to rate the site and read other's reviews.
- Each site includes a detailed annotation allowing you to narrow down your search and find exactly what you are looking for.
- This site is very easy to navigate but at times links to other pages may take a while to load.
- Sapling offers "Sapling Update", a monthly newsletter highlighting sites of the month, books of the month, news, and other bits and pieces.
- In the summer of 2004, Sapling introduced "Sapling City Gateways". There are currently 12 city gateways that provide very detailed information relating to each city. Check it out at <http://www.sapling.org.uk/city>

## SMART CITY RADIO

<http://www.smartcityradio.com>

### Overview

Smart City™ is a weekly, hour-long public radio talk show hosted by Carol Coletta, who has been pioneering innovative strategies to improve cities for 30 years. These shows explore urban life, the people, places, ideas and trends shaping cities. Guests include national and international public policy experts, elected officials, economists, business leaders, artists, developers, planners and others for a penetrating discussion of urban issues. There are opportunities to listen both live once a week and at any other time to past broadcasts. The website itself offers an abundance of information on various subjects relating to urban design, people in the industry, and links to websites, books, and other documents that guests have referred to.

### Highlights

- Because they have such a diverse guest list, the Links page provides information that is slightly more varied than what is typically found on more formal gateway sites. For example, there is a link to Veritas et Venustas (<http://massengale.typepad.com/venustas/>) which is a blog where you will find articles and postings on architecture, urbanism, Classicism, Tradition, metaphysics and culture.
- Although there is little Canadian content or guests, the information provided with regard to American cities is easily transferable to the Canadian context. For example, a past show discussed possible new uses for outdated railroads that is an issue that many cities, including Vancouver, are facing.

## UC BERKELEY LIBRARY

[www.lib.berkeley.edu/ENVI/urbhist.html](http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/ENVI/urbhist.html)

### Overview

This website directory has been designed for urban design students at UC Berkeley and is a research guide to library resources and Internet sites. There is an abundance of information on this site relating to urban design research including bibliographies, text resources, standards & practices and organizations, each listed with a brief description. However, some of the links to journals and books are restricted to

UC Berkeley students. As the site was last updated in August 2004, some links may be outdated.

### Highlights

- What this gateway site has that others do not is a list of images, maps and Aerial photographs.
- This site has more American content than the previous two listings but Canadian content is sparse.
- The site is easy to navigate, although the site's text is very small.

## URBAN LAND INSTITUTE (ULI)

<http://www.uli.org>

### Overview

ULI is a U.S. based non-profit research and education organization. Their mission is to provide responsible leadership in the use of land to enhance the total environment. This website is a "multidisciplinary real estate forum" where local, national, and international industry leaders and policy makers can exchange information, ideas, and experiences. Although ULI is an organization that initiates and performs research pertaining to emerging land use trends and issues, it is included as a gateway site because of the wealth of information located in the research section of the site. ([http://research.uli.org/DK/Home/re\\_Homefst.html](http://research.uli.org/DK/Home/re_Homefst.html)). In this section there are more than 1200 real estate related websites that are categorized by topic area such as "Urban Planning and Development Policy Sites" or "Web Directories, Indices and General Reference Sites". Other things found on the site include case studies, statistical data on emerging land trends, and periodicals.

### Highlights

- Each year ULI host's policy forums on topics such as smart growth, housing, transportation, and urban development. Private, non-profit, and public sector industry experts attend the forums to discuss and recommend steps for ULI, policy makers and practitioners. The summaries from these forums contain valuable information and are published on <http://www.policypapers.uli.org>.
- The case studies are U.S. based providing good examples of different development types such as Brownfield Redevelopment and Inner-Ring Development. Brief case study summaries are given and further details can be easily downloaded.

- Some Canadian content can be found in Portal Links under "Government Real Estate-Related Sites". The focus appears to be on the U.S. followed by, in no particular order, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Australia, and Europe.
- ULI is becoming known internationally and have just held their first World Cities forum. More information on the forum can be found on the site.

# Theory and Practice of Urban Design

## CANADA GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL (CAGBC)

<http://www.cagbc.org/>

### Overview

Although this site easily falls under the category of Ecological Planning and Sustainable Design, it is included as part of Theory and Practice because high-performance buildings and sustainable design is a topic that is currently at the forefront of the urban design and planning community. The CAGBC, which stemmed from the increasingly popular US Green Building Council, is a broad-based inclusive coalition of representatives from different segments of the design and building industry which have the collective goal of changing industry standards, developing best design practices and guidelines, advocate for green buildings, and develop educational tools to support its members in implementing sustainable design and construction practices.

### Highlights

- This is the first site to go to for information pertaining to the Canadian version of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design® (LEED) building rating system. The CAGBC is responsible for certifying projects under LEED Canada and the site provides all the necessary information required with regard to the registration and certification process. LEED Canada is based on the US Green Building Council's (USGBC) LEED Green Building Rating System; however, LEED Canada is tailored specifically for Canadian climates, construction practices and regulations.
- The CAGBC website provides information on upcoming events, current news, and case studies.
- The Green Resources section is worth exploring as it leads to links, green building tools, a reading list, and a job posting section that all relate to green design and initiatives.

## CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS (CIP)

<http://www.cip-icu.ca>

### Overview

The Canadian Institute of Planners "serves as the National Voice of Canada's planning community". They are the national professional institute and certification body for the planning profession in Canada. A majority of members (55%) are government employees, while 37% are involved in private businesses, and the remaining 8% are academics or involved in other types of organizations.

The CIP web site has information on planning initiatives worldwide, a student section, a members only section, CIP conference information, Plan Canada magazine, and links to their affiliates, organizations, government sites, consultants, and journals. The CIP is one of the only Canadian sites to include a definition of Urban Design.

### Highlights

- The definition of Urban Design is explained in a simplistic yet comprehensive manner.
- A drop down list located on the web page includes other topics related to defining urban design, such as the urban design process, and urban design practice examples.
- The CIP has many links related to urban design that may be of use.
- A useful page is found in the About Planning section and is entitled, What is Urban Design. It provides a definition as well as important urban design concepts.

## CITY OF VANCOUVER-COMMUNITY SERVICES

<http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/commsvcs/currentplanning/urbandesign/>

### Overview

This website presents a good municipal example of how to define urban design and apply the principles. Through Community Services, which is comprised of 10 departments and groups offering a wide range of services to the community, the City of Vancouver has developed a solid definition of urban design and design principles. To help illustrate the definition

and principles of urban design, they offer detailed case studies that can be downloaded as PDFs.

### Highlights

- There are two very interesting related links located near the bottom of the page. The first, The Changing City, allows you to view pictures of different areas in Vancouver in 1978 and the comparison shot taken from the same angle in 2003.
- The second link, Living First, is a useful article describing the urban design principals and processes used to make the Downtown Vancouver what it is today.
- The City of Vancouver has recognized the significance of urban design and has developed, within the Planning Department, the Urban Design and Development Planning Centre.

## CONGRESS FOR THE NEW URBANISM

<http://www.cnu.org>

### Overview

New Urbanism is an international movement that began in the late 80's and early 90's with the aim of reforming the design of built environments by creating neighborhoods that "are walkable, and contain a diverse range of housing and jobs." This movement has spawned many groups and organizations, one being the Congress for the New Urbanism, which is a non-profit organization founded in 1993 based out of San-Francisco. They have over 2000 members throughout the United States and they work with architects, developers, planners and others in the industry to sponsor "Congresses", which are used to discuss "best practices in New Urbanism". This is one of many sites on New Urbanism and was chosen to represent New Urbanism because of its straightforward definition of New Urbanism, which is nicely presented in a flash slide show. There is also a searchable database of New Urbanists projects around the US and Canada leading you to the names of the developers, planners, or architects and web sites on the project if available. This site is regularly updated and provides a listing of upcoming conferences and current news on New Urbanism.

### Highlights

- This site provides a very comprehensive list of reports, bibliographies, images, jobs, request for proposals, and links that can all be searched by category. There is also an excellent list of speakers that can be searched for by name, state or province, and topic, although the overall Canadian content on the site is somewhat limited.
- There is a Frequently Asked Questions section that touches on a wide area of topics relating to New Urbanism including the criticisms of New Urbanism.
- The Charter of the New Urbanism, which is "the movement's seminal document", can be viewed from this site.

## A PORTRAIT OF POSTMODERN PLANNING: ANTI-HERO AND/OR PASSIONATE PILGRIM.

Dr. Leonie Sandercock Plan Canada, Volume 39 (2), 1999.

[www.cip-icu.ca/English/pcanonline/PC39/PC39212.pdf](http://www.cip-icu.ca/English/pcanonline/PC39/PC39212.pdf)

### Overview

This article provides an excellent synopsis of the history of planning beginning with the emergence of "the so called modernist paradigm" that dominated urban planning in the twentieth century through to the late 90's, where the author believes that the planning profession was between paradigms. The author describes "five pillars of modernist planning wisdom" and provides suggestions for thinking beyond their limitations. The article also discusses inspirations for twenty-first century planning and the necessary qualities that a twenty-first century planner now requires.

### Highlights

- Enjoyable and well written article on the history of planning and the direction of future planning in cities, which is closely related to the history of urban design.
- There are interesting comments and reviews provided by readers at the end of the article.

## **SMART GROWTH ONLINE**

<http://www.smartgrowth.org>

### **Overview**

Related to New Urbanism, Smart Growth is also a movement that recognizes connections between development and quality of life. Smart Growth Online is the gateway site to the Smart Growth Network, which was formed in 1996 when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency joined with several non-profit and government organizations. This site offers a comprehensive overview of the history of Smart Growth and its guiding principles and issues.

### **Highlights**

- In the resources section, you may choose to browse by issue, principle, type, or land development regulation. If you choose to browse by issue or principle, a list of each is provided, when you select a specific issue or principle, a full definition is provided before the list of resources.
- The Smart Growth Network Partnership list provides a good list of organizations.
- The Smart Growth Network is based in the US and the website does provide important information relating to the topic; however, more relevant information may be found on Canadian Smart Growth websites (see SmartGrowth BC above or Ontario Smart Growth, [http://www.smartgrowth.gov.on.ca/scripts/index\\_.asp?LG\\_ID=1](http://www.smartgrowth.gov.on.ca/scripts/index_.asp?LG_ID=1) ).

# Alternative Development Approaches

## JAMES TAYLOR CHAIR IN LANDSCAPE & LIVEABLE ENVIRONMENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

<http://www.sustainable-communities.agsci.ubc.ca/about.html>

### Overview

The UBC James Taylor Chair is a research and outreach organization with the goal of exploring how site and neighborhood design influences the ecological, social and economic health of the region. This organization releases publications, gives presentations, and has initiated and completed many projects including the Alternative Development Standards (ADS) Project. This project examines the traditional ways of building communities and compares them to more sustainable ways using ADS. The comparisons look at such things including densities, infrastructure, coverage and permeability, recreation space, commercial and transportation nodes, and multi-modal transportation.

### Highlights

- One of the few Canadian organizations working to incorporate new and emerging policies for sustainable development into community plans.
- The benefits and challenges to using ADS are well laid out.
- Case studies are included using real communities within the GVRD pointing out the way it is, the way it is heading and the way it could be. Also included is a cost and quantity comparison between the "Status Quo" and "Sustainable Alternative" development types in an easy to understand matrix and annotation highlighting the important points.

## SMART GROWTH BC

<http://smartgrowth.bc.ca>

### Overview

Smart Growth BC is a provincial non-governmental organization who work with communities, business, municipalities and the public to advocate more sustainable and liveable communities in British Columbia that are more economically, ecologically and socially responsible, including the promotion of Alternative Development Standards. This site includes a collection of presentations, reports and publications, newsletters and annual reports, and Smart Growth BC programs and Events. The section on alternative development standards provides a comprehensive background on the standards and suggestions for action.

### Highlights

- The section on Alternative Development Standards has been updated to include: The City of New Westminster's release of their smart growth checklist, a case study of Coffee Creekcenter in Indiana, a case study of East Clayton Greenfield Project, and information on the West Coast Environmental Law's launch of the Smart Bylaws Guide.
- The site appears to be geared towards community members who are interested in responsible land use practices, in addition to industry professionals, making the language on the site easy to understand.
- Smart Growth BC provides a comprehensive background on topics relating to urban development, including transportation, economic development, affordable housing, green spaces, and agricultural land reserves and how the community can be involved.

# Public Realm

## **CITY OF VANCOUVER-COMMUNITY SERVICES: PLANNING: CITYPLAN**

### ***CityPlan: Directions for Vancouver***

<http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/commsvcs/planning/cityplan/dfvs.htm>

#### **Overview**

This is an example of how to manage urban spaces through community involvement. In 1992, the Vancouver city council asked community members for their ideas about their future. Over 20,000 people participated in the process and the resulting effort was called "CityPlan." This summary document highlights the important outcomes of the process. In 1995 city council approved that council adopt the CityPlan document and that the outcomes guide future policy decisions, corporate work priorities, budgets, and capital plans.

#### **Highlights**

- This is a good example of a local government initiative.
- No documents were found on the progress to date.
- The 'CityPlan' home link will guide you to other relevant documents on this topic.

## **CITY OF TORONTO**

### ***Toronto Plan Directions Report-Toronto at the Crossroads: Shaping our future***

[http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/torontoplan/crossroads\\_change.htm](http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/torontoplan/crossroads_change.htm)

#### **Overview**

"*Toronto at the Crossroads* is a report written for consultative purposes setting out directions for the new Official Plan." Research was conducted for one year about the state of the City and region and listened to Torontonians at public open houses, workshops and over the internet and this is the resulting document. The document can either be downloaded in PDF format, or a summary of the document can be read on the page.

#### **Highlights**

- This is another municipal example of how to manage urban public spaces through community involvement.
- Examples and photographs are given in the summarized webpage.
- There is a link to other publications, which may be of interest to some.

## **NATIONAL ROUND TABLE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY (NRTEE)-SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM**

### ***Managing Urban Spaces***

[http://www.nrtee-trnee.ca/eng/programs/Current\\_Programs/Millennium/Millennium\\_Statement\\_Urban\\_e.htm](http://www.nrtee-trnee.ca/eng/programs/Current_Programs/Millennium/Millennium_Statement_Urban_e.htm)

#### **Overview**

NRTEE is an independent advisory body that provides decision makers, opinion leaders and the Canadian public with advice and recommendations for promoting sustainable development. This particular webpage discusses the challenges and implications of rapid urbanization and what needs to be done to offset these challenges and negative social, economic, and environmental impacts that are caused by rapid urbanization.

#### **Highlights**

- NRTEE has directly studied many emerging sustainable development issues by traveling across Canada and has proposed action by policy and government decision makers.
- Besides this webpage, <http://www.nrtee-trnee.ca>, is worth exploring.
- This is a good example of a federal response to emerging issues in urban development.

## **PATTERN LANGUAGE**

<http://www.patternlanguage.com/index.htm>

#### **Overview**

PatternLanguage.com is a fascinating website. It was "created to allow all people: homeowners, architects, builders, planners, and others,

to design their own houses, to design large buildings, streets, neighborhoods, and gardens, in a way that will enhance the earth". Their motto is, "an association of people from all walks of life with architects and builders-we are rebuilding our neighborhoods-slowly rebuilding the earth." Patternlanguage.com is a for-profit corporation that offers a community based website funded through membership fees and their services, which is to provide the tools, techniques, and business organization needed "to get the job done". It is difficult to find a page on the site that clearly explains what the job is but after much searching it can be found. Through a non-profit corporation, The Center for Environmental Structure, which is made up of a team of people that have many years of experience in town planning, offer tools in the form of architectural guidance, professional services, do-it-yourself advice, and publications to help people "build projects in which towns, landscape, buildings, gardens, are truly adapted to support human existence".

### Highlights

- This site offers a very different perspective on public spaces and planning.
- PatternLanguage.com also has a chat room, news page, links, commentary, a picture gallery, and so much more. The downside is that there is almost too much information making it difficult to find their true message.
- The section on Town Planning Services is a great place to explore. They offer "discussions" on issues such as current town planning and the Congress for New Urbanisms, which includes praises, critiques, comments, and articles.

## PROJECT FOR PUBLIC SPACES

<http://pps.org>

### Overview

Located in New York, Project for Public Spaces is a non-profit organization founded in 1975 whose mission is to create and sustain public places that build communities. PPS is run by staff that is trained in everything from environmental psychology to architecture and urban planning. PPS provides technical assistance, research, education and advice on how to make great public spaces communities utilizing their "Place Making Approach".

PPS is the most comprehensive website on public spaces. As a group they focus on the sustainability of parks, transportation, buildings, and markets. They provide information on what makes a successful place, why public spaces fail, the benefits of places, principles for creating great places, awards for great places and more. For an excellent review and description of the web site by Chris Leporini in Realtor Magazine visit <http://www.realtormag.com/rmomag.NSF/pages/Website200204295?OpenDocument>.

### Highlights

- City Commentaries are in-depth case studies of specific cities written by members of PPS "on how a city 'reads'" They are intended by PPS to encourage discussion and share their knowledge and experience in evaluating public spaces. Each City Commentary has a section on Great Public Spaces, Better Than Average, Worse Than Average, and a Hall of Shame.
- What makes the site excellent is that for every public space listed on the site there is a link telling you why it works, a history of the place, and comments from other readers.
- This site is full of rich information laid out in an organized and easy to read fashion as it is geared to the general public rather than industry professionals. Time is needed to explore everything on the site.
- PPS distributes a Making Places Newsletter, which is full of valuable information. To sign up for the free bi-monthly newsletter follow the 'Newsletter' link located on the bottom of the home page.
- In June 2005, the Making Places newsletter focused on transportation. The issue covered: winning back communities by realizing cars should not rule the road, 21 great places that show how transportation can liven a community, how PPS is helping California's San Mateo county relieve gridlock. For more information, visit: <http://www.pps.org/info/newsletter/june2005>

## SCENIC AMERICA

<http://www.scenic.org/>

### Overview

Rated as one of the better Public Spaces Sites on About Planning (see Gateways Sites), Scenic America is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing the scenic character of America's communities and countryside. Based in Washington DC, this group has tackled many issues around America and have seen changes made as a result of their actions. Members of their Policy and Action Center play a role in national policy making by producing studies on how federal laws and policies affect scenic beauty, playing an active role in quality of life and smart growth through a coalition of other national and state organizations, and provide public comment to federal agencies aimed at improving their scenic conservation policies. With regard to state and local policy making they assist these activists in their work with federal agency projects at the local level by providing the tools and information they need to foster a scenic conservation ethic in the federal government.

### Highlights

- Their key issues include: billboards and signs; community planning and design; scenic byways; scenic easements and view protection; telecommunication towers; transportation planning and design; tree conservation; and underground utility wired. On each issue listed on the website, they provide background information on the issue, external resources related to the issue, and what you can do to fight the issue. For example in the Billboards and Signs section, the website offers a page called "Fighting Back: Tools For Billboard Control."
- Although this site is based out of the United States, it provides an excellent example of how one group can make a difference to public spaces. For more information on their position and stance visit the page entitled, Where Scenic America Stands under the Policy & Action center page.

## THE TOWNSCAPE INSTITUTE

<http://www.townscape-inst.com>

### Overview

Townscape is "the art of giving visual coherence and organization to the collage of buildings,

streets, and spaces that make up the urban environment." The Townscape Institute is a Cambridge, MA based non-profit public interest planning organization "that advocates for the visual enhancement of the built environment and projects that combine public art and urban design."

### Highlights

- The Project page provides interesting examples of how place making art can enhance urban areas.
- The Townscape Institute has produced numerous publications, which include publication details and a brief description. These publications can be ordered from the site; however, most the publications are quite outdated.

## URBAN GROWTH MANAGEMENT: A POLICY-IMPLEMENTATION DISCONNECT

By: Melanie Hare, Urban Strategies Inc. Policy Research, Vol. 5 (1), 2002

[http://policyresearch.gc.ca/page.asp?pagenm=v5n1\\_art\\_05](http://policyresearch.gc.ca/page.asp?pagenm=v5n1_art_05)

### Overview

This article, published in Policy Research, a journal put out by the Government of Canada's Policy Research Initiative, highlights the outcomes of a commissioned policy development paper on growth management in Ontario, commissioned by the Ontario Professional Planners Institute. The basis for this paper stems from the fact that growth management policies are designed to guide "smart development"; however, these policies have not stopped urban sprawl in areas such as Toronto, where between 1976 and 1996, 150 000 acres of prime farm land were lost to urbanization.

### Highlights

- The full OPPI Policy Paper on Growth Management can be downloaded in its entirety from the link listed at the bottom of the page.
- The article provides a succinct description of the findings and outcomes.
- The Policy Research Institute website, which can be accessed from the top menu bar and clicking on 'home' has other information relating to different urban design issues.

# Transportation and Circulation in the Public Realm

## BETTER ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TRANSPORTATION (BEST)

<http://www.best.bc.ca>

### Overview

As the name suggests, this non-profit organization based out of Vancouver, advocates to make communities healthier places to live by promoting sustainable transportation and land-use planning, and pedestrian, cycling and transit oriented neighbourhoods. BEST has been active since 1991 and has accomplished numerous feats. For example, in 2002 BEST held Canada's first National Transportation Demand Management Conference, which brought together over two hundred transportation professionals, elected officials, planners and Go Green Co-ordinators for three days of networking and practical workshops. Some outcomes of the conference included discussions around the development of a formal Canadian Transportation Demand Management association to provide continued networking opportunities in this field and the launch of BEST's Building TDM Capacity Project.

### Highlights

- The BEST website offers a Current Issues section that allows users to read up on BEST's current and past policy efforts, transportation events, and a listserv.
- The Programs and Services section makes it easy for users to find ways to get involved and support BEST's work in the community.
- The Resources section is full of case studies, their publications, links, position papers, etc.
- This site is easy to read and navigate and is an excellent example of a local group who has made a difference in community planning decisions.

## CITY OF VANCOUVER-ENGINEERING SERVICES: TRANSPORTATION

<http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/engsvcs/transport>

### Overview

This website provides a good example of how urban transportation issues are dealt with at a local government level. The Transportation branch deals with a variety of transportation matters that affect Vancouver including public transportation, neighborhood traffic plans and management, bicycle and pedestrian issues, bridges, parking, transportation impact reviews, street signs, and traffic signals. There are numerous links to a variety of transportation initiatives and documents relating to the above topic areas.

### Highlights

- A link of interest found on the Transportation homepage is the Downtown Transportation Plan (click on the sidebar link to the Downtown Transportation Plan). The plan demonstrates how urban design and transportation can be integrated into policy.
- Another link of interest may be the False Creek Pedestrian and Cyclist Crossing Study as it discusses the development of a safe and effective network of pedestrian and cycling routes to Downtown.
- The Related Links section provides a list of local web links to various organizations, agencies and initiatives related to transportation.

## **MOBILITY ENVIRONMENTS AND NETWORK CITIES**

By: Lucia Bertolini & Martin Dijst  
Journal of Urban Design, Vol. 8 (1), 2003.  
<http://taylorandfrancis.metapress.com/app/home/content.asp?wasp=d1phxnwtlrrb76qugt33&referrer=contribution&format=3&page=1&pagecount=18>

### **Abstract**

The lives of people and the workings of organizations are increasingly independent of urban physical and administrative boundaries. Cities are developing into extensive webs of interaction, supported by fast transport and real-time communication networks. Urban planners and designers must come to terms with this evolution, as we are traditionally more used to dealing with zones rather than flows, with proximity rather than accessibility. Recognition of the increasingly borderless nature of the contemporary city does not mean that we should abandon the planning and design of physical urban places altogether. Physical places still fulfill an essential role in our open urban systems. In particular, places where mobility flows interconnect—such as airports, railway stations, and also motorway service areas or urban squares and parks—have the potential for granting the diversity and frequency of human contacts that are still essential for many urban activities. It is proposed to call such places ‘mobility environments’. Their quality depends on the features of each location, but also on the characteristics of their visitors. These ideas are elaborated on, and it is shown how the ‘mobility environments’ concept can help better articulate planning and design strategies that try to cope with the reality of an increasingly borderless urban system, and particularly those following the ‘network city’ concept, as presently being introduced in the Netherlands (Bertolini & Dijst, 2003, p. 27).

## **TEN PRINCIPLES FOR SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT AROUND TRANSIT**

By: Robert Dunphy, Deborah Myerson, Michael Pawluciwic, Urban Land Institute, 2003  
[http://research.uli.org/Content/Reports/Reports\\_L2.htm](http://research.uli.org/Content/Reports/Reports_L2.htm)

### **Overview**

This PDF document can be found by going to the above link and then scrolling down to the fifth title listed under Just Published Reports. This report, geared towards transit agencies, designers, developers, and community members, offers 10 principles that can serve as a checklist to encourage development around transit. This will aid in the promotion of compact development, multiple uses rather than single uses, pedestrian orientation, and attention to civic uses.

### **Highlights**

- Each of the 10 principles is described in detail along with an example from an American city where the principle has been applied successfully.
- An overview of the five most common transit modes used in city developments is provided along with the pros and cons of using each one.
- This is a very succinct, easy to read document developed with the input from developers, planners, designers, architects, market analysts, transportation specialists and public sector representatives.

## THE TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

<http://www.tac-atc.ca>

### Overview

This website is an excellent Canadian source of information on urban transportation issues. TAC is a national association whose mission is “to promote the provision of safe, efficient, effective and environmentally and financially sustainable transportation services in support of Canada's social and economic goals.” They have nearly 500 corporate members that include federal, provincial and territorial transportation departments, municipalities, private firms, academic institutions, and associations. TAC provides a forum for gathering and exchanging ideas, information and knowledge on technical guidelines and best practices. TAC also provides courses and educational scholarships. Under their Product and Services Heading, TAC offers a bookstore, a calendar of events, online databases, a reading room, a career corner, a library, links to other transportation websites, and related programs.

### Highlights

- The TAC Reading Room provides complimentary on-line publications, which include TAC news, TAC briefings, TAC reports and other related documents. The Reading Room is recommended if you are looking for background information on many Canadian urban transportation issues.
- TAC provides a number of on-line searchable databases. Some are free, while others have restricted access. This is an excellent source for transportation statistics, information on best practices, bibliographies, past and current transportation research and much more.
- TAC's links page is dominated by Canadian content and is an excellent source of information to other transportation sites and organizations.

## VICTORIA TRANSPORT POLICY INSTITUTE

<http://www.vtppi.org/>

### Overview

The Victoria Transport Policy Institute specializes in providing research-based solutions to solve transportation problems that exist in all urban environments. They are an independent research organization, funded through consulting and project grants, who provide a variety of resources available for free on their website to help improve transportation planning and policy analysis. They state that their “research is among the most current available and has been widely applied”.

This website has been recently updated making it much easier to navigate. There is an abundance of information on this site worth exploring. The Approach Section offers their approach to problem solving divided up into comprehensive sections such as: Work Smarter Not Harder to Improve Transportation and Transportation Demand Management Solutions.

### Highlights

- The Transportation Demand Management Encyclopedia Section is one of the most comprehensive sources of information relating to innovative management solutions to transport problems. The website states that “The Encyclopedia provides detailed information on dozens of TDM strategies, plus chapters on their planning, evaluation and implementation”.
- The website is full of Canadian content in both the research/policy papers and the Internet links.

# Ecological Planning and Sustainable Design

## **BUILDSMART.CA**

<http://www.gvrd.bc.ca/buildsmart/>

### **Overview**

As the website states, "BuildSmart is a program developed and administered by the Greater Vancouver Regional District to encourage the use of green building strategies and technologies." This is an excellent example of a successful government initiative that supports sustainable building. The home page highlights current green building documents and events while the side bar menu is packed with links on information relating to all aspects of sustainable building design. This website includes a product directory, best practices information, GVRD publication links, a glossary of terms, building software and modeling tools, case studies, a research library and much more. This site has been recently updated making it easier to navigate to find exactly what you are looking for.

### **Highlights**

- BuildSmart provides a link to a new GVRD initiative called Smart Steps, which is a program of tools, technical assistance and information to help your business become more eco-efficient and more competitive. The site provides such things as strategies, industry specific information, products and services, and case studies.
- The people from BuildSmart offer free workplace green building seminars on such topics as: Impacts of Buildings on the Environment; Understanding and Applying the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System; Identifying the Costs and Benefits of Green Building; and much more.

## **DETOUR'S URBAN SOURCE**

<http://www.detourpublications.com>

### **Overview**

Falling into both the transportation and the ecological planning categories, Detour is a

great Canadian site with information relating to sustainable transportation, urban planning, urban ecology, climate change and other issues. Detour began as a Toronto based non-profit organization "formed by a lively and creative group of Toronto sustainable transportation folk and professionals who wanted to market and distribute all the great sustainable transportation information that was being written but could not be found in one central location". They have now joined forces with York University bookstore in a new partnership called Detour's Urban Source. The website has a catalogue of books that can be purchased from the site, a page documenting the publications that have recently been released and a links lounge.

### **Highlights**

- The home page has been redesigned and it's now much easier to access the site through the links provided.
- Detour has provided a very simple, yet detailed description of sustainable transportation.
- Detour is an excellent source of information. Their links section has been updated and is now called Links Lounge. It offers a boutique, resource links, organization links and a Friends of Urban Source section.

## **ECODESIGN RESOURCE SOCIETY**

<http://www.vcn.bc.ca/edrs>

### **Overview**

The EcoDesign Resource Society is a British Columbia based non-profit organization that "promotes environmentally responsible design, planning and development practices through research, education, and communication." EcoDesign provides four main services and activities: 1.) a listserve 2.) information and resources on a wide range of sustainable design topics 3.) special events, and 4.) special projects. EcoDesign is also working on a Primer on Green Design that is to be used as a resource tool for schools and as an introduction to green design for the public.

## Highlights

- The resources and links page connects you to links with brief annotations on a variety of topics including: Architecture; Climate Change; Energy; Finance; General Sustainable Development Information; Green Building; Green Roofs; Industrial Ecology; Interior Design; Intriguing Potential; Planning; and Sustainable Community Design and Management.
- EcoDesign is a great local resource that has been designed to act as network to share information on green design.

## THE ECOLOGICAL PLANNING AND DESIGN DIRECTORY

<http://www.nipc.org/environment/sustainable/index.htm>

### Overview

Created by the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC) with funding from Chicago Wilderness, this site presents links, documents, policy papers, and guidelines for achieving sustainable design in communities. It is geared towards both the public and private sector. The resources cover 5 main areas: 1) Biodiversity and Natural Habitats; 2) Conservation Design; 3) Sustainable Development; 4) Natural Landscaping; and 5) Water Resource Protection. There is minimal Canadian content on this site; however, many of the documents still provide a valuable source of information related to Ecological Planning and Sustainable Design.

### Highlights

- A lot of time and effort has gone into choosing the documents for the resource directory. Each document has a link along with a detailed abstract. The following is an example of what you will find under the Conservation Design section,

#### **Conservation Design Resource Manual:**

Language and Guidelines for Updating Local Ordinances. This manual presents model ordinance language and guidelines to help communities effectively update local plans and ordinances to be more amenable to conservation design practices for protecting natural resources in new and existing developments. Examples include providing buffers for wetlands and streams, minimizing the amount of impervious surfaces, and

clustering home sites together to preserve more open space. The lack of such guidance is commonly cited as the principle constraint to permitting good conservation designs in many communities. The manual explains and presents the economic benefits of conservation design; explains how to update comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, subdivision ordinances, and other ordinances; and presents principles and practices for implementing conservation design. Principles and practices covered include: lot size and density, arrangement of development lots, building setbacks, natural area protection, natural landscape preservation, natural landscaping, natural area management, road design, parking lot design, vegetated swales, walkways and driveways, and managing stormwater. The manual also provides some information on incentives and financing conservation design.

## ECOLOGICAL PLANNING IN AN AGE OF MYTH-INFORMATION

By: Mary-ellen Tyler Plan Canada, Vol. 40 (1), 2000

[www.cip-icu.ca/English/pconline/PC40/PC40122.pdf](http://www.cip-icu.ca/English/pconline/PC40/PC40122.pdf)

### Abstract

This article, "emphasizes the ecological context of future planning. Warning us about the 'myth information' that can all too easily mislead us in this new age, Tyler highlights the question 'What are we planning for?' We must now plan not so much for an urban 'environment' as for an urban ecology, and we must make this kind of planning 'human nature.' Tyler focuses attention on innovative demonstration projects that embody the necessary type of 'how' in response to her primary interest in 'why'." (Tyler, 2000, p. 20)

## ECOSUSTAINABLE HUB

<http://www.ecosustainable.com.au>

### Overview

Made up of an Australian and other international professionals, Ecosustainable Hub describes itself as a “one-stop connection to resources and tools on ecology, environment and sustainability made available to visitors and researchers without charge...facilitating cooperation, networking and ethical developments”. Besides information on their mission and scope, Ecosustainable hub offers an Environment Sustainability Exchange, which includes tools, products, services and links; a forum section, including a message board; a main links section featuring resources and tools on ecology, environment and sustainability; and terrific section of project links.

### Highlights

- As the introduction on their homepage to their links section says, “This is a huge ecosustainable resource containing almost 1000 environmentally and sustainability links indexed by specific topics.” Some topics of interest include: Architecture, planning, eco design; Building, housing, urban development; Renewable energy, alternative technology; Networks communities, consortiums; Eco-tourism, ecovillages, eco real-estate; and Foundations, organizations, societies.
- This is a very well designed site, easy to navigate, with a lot of information
- Although this is an Australian based site, it appears that there is equal representation of information from many countries worldwide.

## SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING AND URBAN RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

### *Ecological design, urban places and the culture of sustainability*

By: William Eisenstein Newsletter Calendar Report 399, 9/1/2001

<http://www.spur.org/documents/ecodesign.pdf>

### Overview

The San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR) is San Francisco's “preeminent public policy think tank”. SPUR is involved in research, analysis, public education, and advocacy in order to promote “good planning and good government”. SPUR's website has some very interesting information related to planning that is worth exploring

(<http://www.spur.org>). Every month SPUR sends out a newsletter to it's members, which explores issues, and events that affect San Francisco. In the newsletter article, *Ecological design, urban places and the culture of sustainability*, Eisenstein discusses the importance and benefits of ecological design in building a sustainable city.

### Highlights

- This article provides a good overview of ecological design concepts and the steps needed to make it work.
- The article uses real-world examples to help explain concepts.
- Eisenstein discusses three major design implications for ecological urban landscapes: 1) The importance of visibility; 2) The importance of educating the user of ecological design; and 3) The importance of recognizing the local cultural meanings formed by site-specific ecological design.

## SMART COMMUNITIES NETWORK

<http://www.sustainable.doe.gov/>

### Overview

Run by the U.S. Department of Energy, Smart Communities Network provides information and services on how communities can adopt sustainable development practices as guiding principles to strengthen their local economy, improve the quality of their environment, and enhance the quality of life and the well-being of people in the community. They offer sustainable development decision support tools, which include such things as a Geographic Information System software program that allows you to map, measure and analyze urban ecosystems.

### Highlights

- The ‘Topics in Sustainability’ located on the side menu on the homepage cover topics such as sustainable development, green buildings, green development, land use planning, and measuring progress. In each topic area there is an introduction, definition, examples, articles, educational materials, and other resources.
- Smart Communities Network offers a free newsletter, which must be subscribed to. They also have funding opportunities and a section on coming events.
- As this website is run by the US Department of Energy, the content is mainly U.S. based geared towards industry professionals.

# Urban Revitalization

## THE ALBERTA MAIN STREET PROGRAMME

<http://www.albertamainstreet.org/>

### Overview

Alberta has created a remarkable Main Street Programme, which has evolved through the recognition that Alberta's main streets "are the traditional heart of community life" and that because of 1950's suburban mall developments and the emergence of 'big box' retail, in addition of the reliance on cars and changing work patterns, downtown main streets are in decline. In 1987 Alberta took the initiative to reverse this decline through their Main Street Programme, which is "a comprehensive strategy for reclaiming downtown historic areas as vibrant community places and centers of commercial activity."

### Highlights

- The website has a great list of the direct and indirect benefits that main street revitalization can bring under the headings of: physical revitalization; economic returns; and social benefits.
- This website provides an excellent history of the downtown/urban revitalization initiatives that began to emerge in the 1970's.
- There are links to featured projects, project communities, resources, related programs, and Frequently Asked Questions.

## CITY OF VANCOUVER-DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE REVITALIZATION

<http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/commsvcs/planning/dtes/dtehome.htm>

### Overview

This web page illustrates a local urban revitalization initiative. This program, undertaken by the City of Vancouver, has been geared to restore the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver into a healthy, safe and liveable neighborhood. The main goals are to: reduce crime and drug addiction; provide effective community services to addicts; achieve a balance of types of housing, promote economic development and to "develop the community's capacity to involve all members of society in addressing the issues that face the DTES".

### Highlights

- The website has a history of the Downtown Eastside which explains how the DTES has become what it is today.
- The website states "that there is a belief that there are no simple solutions to the challenges facing the DTES and that governments and community must work together to address the issues". These beliefs appear guide the strategies and initiatives that have been created to tackle the revitalization of this area and can all be easily downloaded in PDF format.

## FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES (FCM)

<http://www.fcm.ca>

### Overview

This website is geared towards the public sector rather than the general public. The site has been updated making it cleaner and easier to navigate. FCM's mission is to "improve the quality of life in all communities by promoting strong, effective and accountable municipal government." The benefits of becoming a member include FCM publications for all Council members and senior administrators, free copies of Forum, which is Canada's national municipal affairs magazine, frequent updates on municipal issues, full voting rights and special rates at conferences and expos, and eligibility to participate in all programs undertaken by FCM.

### Highlights

- This site links you to FCM members, which easily links to you to municipal home pages that are provincially listed. From here you can obtain information on municipal urban revitalization programs through, for example, their Official Community Plans.
- FCM is currently offering information regarding sustainable communities by directly linking you to their Sustainable Communities Knowledge Network website, which is "Canada's Web-based clearinghouse for knowledge and best practices in sustainable community development"
- Information on "Green Municipal Funds"

can also be found on the FCM website. This is a national program in which the federal government has endowed FCM with \$250 million to establish the Green Municipal Funds to support municipal government action to cut pollution, reduce green house gas emissions and improve quality of life.

## **HERITAGE CANADA FOUNDATION**

<http://www.heritagecanada.org>

### **Overview**

Heritage Canada is a national, membership based organization and charity with the intentions of "...preserving, demonstrating and encouraging the preservation and demonstration of the nationally significant historic, architectural, natural and scenic heritage of Canada with a view to stimulating and promoting the interest of the people of Canada in that heritage." Heritage Canada offers a number of services, a forum for exchange of ideas, annual conferences, and news.

### **Highlights**

- Heritage Canada has an extremely well organized and up to date links page with links to: National associations; Provincial and Territorial associations; Municipal heritage organizations; Federal government departments; Federal government agencies; Foreign and international organizations; and the Heritage Canada directory.
- The Featured Heritage Building provides an in-depth look at different heritage sites around Canada.
- The link, Heritage Lost, provides some interesting statistics and articles on the degradation and destruction of heritage sites in Canada and the Saved/Successes links has articles on how heritage sites are being preserved.

## **HERITAGE SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

<http://www.heritagebc.ca>

### **Overview**

The Heritage Society of British Columbia works to promote the conservation of heritage buildings, sites and landscapes. They accomplish this through educating, raising awareness, advocating, honoring and informing others of the importance of heritage sites around BC. The website is quite simple and can be found on the Heritage Canada links page or by going to the link above. Upon first glance it appears that there is little information on the site; however, detailed information about heritage sites and urban revitalization can be found on the side menu under the link More Information. It is here where you can connect to the publications, planning information, funding, organizations, case studies, management programs, etc.

### **Highlights**

- Provides information and examples relevant to British Columbia.
- There is a wealth of detailed information to explore under the 'More Information page'.

## **INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR SUSTAINABLE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (IISBE)**

<http://greenbuilding.ca>

### **Overview**

Similar to the Smart Communities Network site, the IISBE's "aim is to actively facilitate and promote the adoption of policies, methods and tools to accelerate the movement towards a global sustainable built environment." This non-profit organization is based in Canada but is international in its scope and has an international board of directors "from almost every content." Like the Smart Communities Network, this organization offers software, interesting and related websites, news on sustainable environments, and information on upcoming conferences and forums. The benefit to this site is the focus on worldwide content including Canada; however, this site is rather busy and difficult to navigate.

## Highlights

- Geared towards those representing a public or private building-sector organization “that has adopted a goal of supporting sustainable development”.
- The website offers an excellent ‘Sustainable Buildings Information system’, which has more than “1 Gb of freely downloadable documents organized in a comprehensive system.” These documents are “designed to provide the user with non-commercial information about sustainable buildings around the world and to point the user to more detailed sources of information elsewhere.”
- An interesting link to explore on the website is the ‘Green Buildings Policies Network’, which being developed by the SBS Centre of Wageningen University with “a plan to collect all existing policies, regulations, national programs, governmental instruments etc., that are related to sustainable building and construction.”

## NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION'S NATIONAL MAIN STREET CENTRE

<http://www.mainstreet.org/>

### Overview

The National Trust Main Street Center is a program at the National Trust for Historic Preservation. They are considered leaders in preservation-based revitalization and offer assistance, information and leadership to grassroots based organizations around the United States. This program works with communities to revitalize their historic or traditional commercial areas. Similar to Alberta's program, the Main Street Four Point approach is used to tailor the program to local needs and opportunities; however, this program has combined the four points with an additional eight principles that can be easily read off the website.

### Highlights

- This web site is full of examples and information regarding America's Main Street Programs.
- They provide easily accessible statistics on Main Street Program's illustrating how focusing on historic preservation and retaining community character can be a very powerful economic development tool.
- This website has a very detailed Resources & Contacts links page to other National Revitalization links

# Economics and Urban Design

## APPRAISAL INSTITUTE OF CANADA

<http://www.aicanada.ca/>

### Overview

The Appraisal Institute of Canada provides real estate and property advisory services around Canada. They also: promote careers and awareness of the opportunities available in the industry; grant professional designations; conduct research; publish studies, technical papers and professional papers; provide career development and education; in addition to providing professional and member services.

### Highlights

- The bibliography section under their 'Resource Centre' is worth exploring as it covers an extremely wide subject area.
- The site allows you to search for an appraiser in your area and provides you with an area where you can email an appraiser with a question free of charge.
- The Industry Links connects you to an extremely comprehensive list of national and international organizations related to urban design, real estate development, planning, surveying, etc.

## REAL ESTATE INSTITUTE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (REIBC)

<http://www.reibc.org>

### Overview

REIBC is "an organization of diversified professionals whose mission is to advance the highest standards of education, knowledge, professional development and business practice in all sectors of the real estate industry." It is also the only professional organization that covers the entire real estate industry and offers a professional designation to those in the industry who meets their educational and experience standards. The REIBC offers to its members: network resources; referral opportunities; educational seminars; workshops; events; an industry magazine; a listing in the on-line members directory; a monthly e-mail newsletter; and a long distance savings plan. Non-members may also access current events and

announcements, contact names, links to other professional organizations, real estate boards, government agencies, and industries.

### Highlights

- This website posts detailed bios on industry leaders
- The information on the website is full of local content geared towards real estate professionals.
- It is a very easy website to navigate.
- The e-newsletter provides valuable information about what's going on in the field of real estate around BC.

## THE REAL ESTATE ROUNDTABLE

<http://www.rer.org/index.cfm>

### Overview

This US-based organization is made up of public and private real estate industry professionals along with the leaders of national real estate trade organizations to "jointly address key national policy issues relating to real estate and the overall economy." This organization works together to identify, analyze and coordinate policy positions, and ensure that government officials and the public hear a collective voice regarding real estate and its importance to the global economy.

### Highlights

- The 'Media' section guides you to press releases, industry research, letters, presentations, and photos.
- There is an interesting section on US political action policies.
- Under the 'Partners' section there is a link labeled 'Perspectives', which has diverse perspectives from The Roundtable's trade association partners "who represent more than 1 million people involved in virtually every aspect of the real estate business." These issues are presented in newsletters, news releases and special reports.

## **UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA CENTRE FOR URBAN ECONOMICS AND REAL ESTATE**

<http://cuer.sauder.ubc.ca/main.htm>

### **Overview**

The goal of this center is to promote academic research and teaching in the areas of Urban Economics and Real Estate. This web page offers a good gateway to databases, resources, conference information, programs offered in the field, faculty members, and a link to the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia.

### **Highlights**

- The 'Data Website' link is an invaluable source of information designed for "individuals, firms, and institutions looking for current and historic data on Canadian real estate markets." There is quarterly data in both tables and figure format to describe demographic, employment, residential real estate, and non-residential real estate conditions in the eight principal Canadian metropolitan areas. The data is accessible by either data category or by city.
- Another excellent link is 'Resources', which directs you to papers representing the research efforts of the faculty. There are discussion papers, research summaries, working papers, and access to old working papers and summaries. All of the documents can be downloaded in PDF format.

## **UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA LIBRARY**

[http://www.library.ubc.ca/david\\_lam/real\\_estate.html](http://www.library.ubc.ca/david_lam/real_estate.html)

### **Overview**

This is an online guide with links and descriptions to external internet resources relating to all aspects of the real estate industry. The listings include: general resources; associations, boards, and institutes; bibliographies & guides to the literature; dictionaries and handbooks; indexes to journal articles; journals and articles; listings; statistics and research; working papers; and specialized topics that include appraisals, mortgages, and real estate investment trusts.

### **Highlights**

- Beside Canadian listings there is a small red Maple Leaf icon.
- Some access to the journal articles is restricted to UBC/SFU students; however, most of the links on the page are easily accessible.
- A good starting point when doing research on urban design and economics.

## **UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS LIST OF ECONOMICS DEPARTMENTS, INSTITUTES AND RESEARCH CENTERS IN THE WORLD (EDIRC)**

<http://edirc.repec.org/regional.html>

### **Overview**

This gateway site is an attempt by Christine Zimmerman (Department of Economics, University of Connecticut) to index all of the economic institutions listed on the world wide web. She has compiled a list of 7786 institutions in 217 countries and territories. This site is updated regularly.

### **Highlights**

- Extremely comprehensive list with the links categorized by countries worldwide
- The list of associations and societies seems rather limited especially with respect to Canadian data.
- It is interesting to see all the countries that have economic institutions. Although, most are based in the United States.
- Zimmerman has created symbols beside links to assist with the navigation process. There is a symbol for broken links, defunct institutions, top 20% institutions in the region, etc.

# Integrated Neighbourhoods

## CANADA WEST FOUNDATION

<http://www.cwf.ca/>

### Overview

The Canada West Foundation is “an independent, non-partisan, non-profit public policy research institute dedicated to introducing western perspectives into current Canadian policy debates.” Canada West conducts research on issues pertaining to western cities on a broad range of social, economic and public policy issues. This organization and corresponding website provides an excellent Canadian example of an organization that spans across three provinces that works to influence policy makers to make urban and economic changes for the greater good.

### Highlights

- This organization has tackled many initiatives facing western cities that include: Building the New West; Cybercitizenship; Gambling in Canada; Health Care; Social services; Tax Reform; and The West's Role in Canada
- If you perform a Search using the key word “Neighbourhoods”, 28 results appear providing links and documents on such topics as: sprawl; inner-city neighbourhood revivals, a Vancouver neighbourhood analysis; how western cities are managing sprawl, etc.
- The following brochure on their Western Cities Project provides an excellent example of how they tackle their initiatives: [http://www.cwf.ca/abcalcwf/doc.nsf/files/WCPBrochure/\\$file/wcpbrochure.pdf](http://www.cwf.ca/abcalcwf/doc.nsf/files/WCPBrochure/$file/wcpbrochure.pdf). The project provides a framework for which key policy questions are addressed which include:
- What tools do municipalities require to best address current urban realities and future challenges?
- How can these needs be accommodated in Canadian federalism?
- What are the pressures for increased regional and inter-municipal cooperation in the West's city-regions?
- What are the costs and benefits of urban growth?
- How effective are attempts to brand and market western cities regionally, nationally and globally?

## OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CREATING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

[http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm\\_control/documents/homepage/odpm\\_home\\_page.hcsp](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_control/documents/homepage/odpm_home_page.hcsp)

### Overview

Located in various offices around London, England, the ODPM provides an excellent European example of a government initiative aimed at designing sustainable integrated neighbourhoods. The ODPM assists at the local and regional government level and is responsible for housing, planning, regeneration, social exclusion and neighbourhood renewal. Their aim is “to create prosperous, inclusive and sustainable communities for the 21st century - places where people want to live - that promote opportunity and a better quality of life for all.”

### Highlights

- Their Research and Statistics links leads you to numerous policy papers, links, and documents on all of the above topics.
- This site has so much information, laid out in an easy to navigate format, and is worth taking the time to explore.
- Each topic has its own link and within the link are more sub-links providing extremely comprehensive coverage of the topic.

# Magazines & Journals

## **LANDLINES: NEWSLETTER OF THE LINCOLN INSTITUTE OF LAND POLICY**

<http://www.lincolninst.edu/pubs/landlines.asp>

### **Overview**

The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy is a non-profit and tax-exempt educational institution established in 1974. Its mission as a school is to study and teach land policy, including land economics and land taxation. Land Lines is a well put together quarterly newsletter that is mailed at no charge to approximately 8,000 public officials, practitioners and scholars. The newsletter is available online and reports on the Institute's current research and educational programs. As the website states, the newsletter, "offers readers different points of view on a variety of land use and taxation topics of interest in the United States and internationally." Archived issues can also be found on the website starting in September 1995 through the most recent issue. Land Lines was published on a bimonthly basis until January 2002, when it became a quarterly newsletter.

### **Highlights**

- The newsletter offers a well rounded view of land issues pertaining to valuation and taxation, planning and development, and international issues. The October 2004 issue provides a great example of international issues as the first article explores the different urban spatial patterns and infrastructure in Beijing.
- The newsletter is well laid out with easy to read charts and graphs.

## **JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION (JAPA)**

<http://www.planning.org>

### **Overview**

Published by the American Planning Association, the quarterly Journal of the American Planning Association has been around for over 60 years. JAPA publishes articles describing and analyzing the complex process of planning for change in urban, suburban, and rural areas. A major goal of JAPA is to present diverse perspectives from the planning realm focusing on policies,

techniques, and plans. Contributors include academics and practitioners working in the United States and internationally. Their research articles aim to analyze planning techniques and programs, anticipate problems, and suggest possible solutions. Other articles written by experts in the planning field identify important social, economic, and political issues with special-focus sections highlighting specific interest areas.

### **Highlights**

- JAPA is an excellent learning tool for the study of urban design as it covers an extremely wide range of topics such as: Citizen participation and dispute resolution; Planning theory, ethics, and professional practice; Methods, information systems, and mapping; Demographic and spatial analysis; Land use, zoning, growth management, and planning law; Housing, community development, and real estate; Transportation, infrastructure, and capital facilities; Economic development, employment, and the workplace; Environment, energy, and natural resources; Health, education, and social services; Architecture, design, historic preservation, and urban form; Public administration and politics; Planning and urban history; and international planning and development.
- Archived issues can be accessed online going back as far as 1988. Searches can also be performed within the archives helping to narrow down specific topic areas.

## **PLACES**

<http://www.places-journal.org/>

### **Overview**

The University of California, Berkeley College of Environmental Design Pratt Institute School of Architecture publishes *Places*, a Forum of Environmental Design. This internationally-circulated journal incorporates articles from a variety of fields in design, the arts and social sciences. The journal attempts to accomplish numerous goals, one being "To shift the debate about environmental design from the discussion of buildings, landscapes and art projects as

singular, visual objects to the consequences they have in the environments that surround our lives.” Subscription prices are listed in both US and Canadian dollars and costs \$90.00 for six issues.

### **Highlights**

- The link leading Current Issues & News provides a detailed abstract on the focus of the current issue.
- The link Index of Articles allows you to search past issues for articles that contain the keywords you have entered.
- The Links page is kept to a minimum, with links to all their sponsors and partners.
- The design of the site is very rudimentary; however, it is still quite easy to navigate because it is so simple.

# Links to Organizations and Associations

This list of organizations/associations and related links was compiled in September 2005. These sites were selected based on their Canadian content and relevance to the Urban Design Program. As there are numerous organizations and associations on the World Wide Web we attempted to locate the most relevant federal government organizations, provincial government organizations, Canadian based organizations, non-profit organizations/associations, and non-governmental organizations. The content of the sites is ever changing and may no longer be appropriate for our purpose; however, at the time of compilation we thought these sites would be a good representation of organizations and associations in the Urban Design field.

## Organizations and Associations Links

1. American Planning Association  
<http://www.planning.org/>
2. Appraisal Institute of Canada  
<http://www.aicanada.ca/>
3. Architectural Institute of British Columbia  
<http://www.aibc.ca>
4. British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects  
<http://www.bcsla.org/>
5. Canada Green Building Council  
<http://www.cagbc.ca/index.php>
6. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation  
<http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/>
7. Canadian Home Builders Association  
<http://www.chba.ca>
8. Canadian Institute of Planners  
<http://www.cip-icu.ca/English/home.htm>
9. Canadian Urban Institute  
<http://www.canurb.com/home.php>
10. Centre for Livable Communities  
<http://www.lgc.org/index.html>
11. Congress for the New Urbanism  
<http://www.cnu.org/index.cfm>
12. EcoDesign Resource Society  
<http://www.vcn.bc.ca/edrs/index.html>
13. EnviroLink (Non-profit org)  
<http://www.envirolink.org/>
14. Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
<http://www.fcm.ca>
15. Go for Green (The Active Living & Environment Program)  
[http://www.goforgreen.ca/home\\_e.html](http://www.goforgreen.ca/home_e.html)
16. Heritage Canada Foundation  
<http://www.heritagecanada.org>
17. Heritage Society of British Columbia  
<http://www.heritagebc.ca>
18. International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB)  
<http://www.cibworld.nl/website/>
19. International Initiative for Sustainable Built Environment (IISBE)  
<http://greenbuilding.ca>
20. National Resources Canada Buildings Group  
<http://www.buildingsgroup.nrcan.gc.ca>
21. National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE)  
<http://www.nrtee-trnee.ca/>
22. Partners for Livable Communities  
<http://www.livable.com/index.htm>
23. Planning Institute of British Columbia  
<http://pibc.bc.ca>
24. Project for Public Spaces  
<http://pps.org/>
25. Real Estate Institute of British Columbia (REIBC)  
<http://www.reibc.org>
26. Rocky Mountain Institute  
<http://www.rmi.org/>
27. Royal Architecture Institute of Canada  
<http://www.raic.org/>

28. Smart Communities Network  
<http://www.sustainable.doe.gov/>
29. Smart Growth BC  
<http://smartgrowth.bc.ca>
30. Smart Growth Canada Network  
[http://www.smartgrowth.ca/home\\_e.html](http://www.smartgrowth.ca/home_e.html)
31. Smart Growth Online  
<http://www.smartgrowth.org/default.asp>
32. The Alberta Main Street Programme  
<http://www.albertamainstreet.org/>
33. The International Network for Urban Development  
<http://www.inta-aivn.org/>
34. The Land Centre  
<http://www.landcentre.ca/index.cfm>
35. The Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia  
<http://www.realestatefoundation.com>
36. The Transportation Association of Canada  
<http://www.tac-atc.ca>
37. The Townscape Institute  
<http://www.townscape-inst.com>
38. The Urban Land Institute  
<http://www.uli.org/>
39. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
<http://www.hud.gov/>
40. Urban Development Institute  
<http://www.udl.bc.ca/>
41. UrbanFutures.org  
<http://www.urbanfutures.org/>
42. Victoria Transport Policy Institute  
<http://www.vtppi.org/>

# About the City Program

The City Program at Simon Fraser University is dedicated to the enhancement of our understanding of the city and how we as citizens can participate in shaping its future. The City Program serves as a forum for the exploration of urban issues and our offerings change each year to reflect current events. The Program has three components: free public lectures, mid-career professional development courses, and the Urban Design Certificate Program. In addition, the City Program develops customized training programs in off-site locations. All courses are sponsored by the City Program Steering Committee.

We welcome your suggestions and feedback. Please e-mail us at [city@sfu.ca](mailto:city@sfu.ca) or call 604.291.5254/5079. Our website is <http://www.sfu.ca/city>.

We hope you will join us for a course or public lecture this year.

Gordon Price, Program Director  
Frank Pacella, Program Assistant  
Susan Tam, Program Clerk  
Sara Danzinger, Research Assistant

## The City Program

Simon Fraser University Vancouver  
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**THE LOHN  
FOUNDATION**



**VIA ARCHITECTURE**

# THE **CITY** PROGRAM

Simon Fraser University Vancouver

The City Program, an integral part of Continuing Studies at Simon Fraser University, offers one-day courses for mid-career professionals; an Urban Design Certificate Program in Vancouver and Calgary; and free evening public lectures on a wide range of **urban issues**.

For up-to-date information on upcoming City Program courses and events, join the City Program email announcement list by sending an email to [city@sfu.ca](mailto:city@sfu.ca)

## The City Program

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Fax: 604.291.5098 [city@sfu.ca](mailto:city@sfu.ca)

THE **CITY** PROGRAM

# Urban Design

## CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

FALL 2005 – SPRING 2006



Courses in Vancouver and Calgary

Simon Fraser University's **Urban Design Certificate Program** focuses on the education and development of **mid-career professionals** and is designed to:

- enhance mid-career urban design skills
- create a synergy between the classroom and the workplace
- feature leading urban design practitioners teaching 2- and 3-day intensive courses
- emphasize the economic, social and environmental aspects of urban design

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY 

Download City Program brochures including the Urban Design Certificate Program brochure:

[www.sfu.ca/city](http://www.sfu.ca/city)