



Labs, Think Tanks and Companies

International Organizations and City Alliances

Most Influential Thinkers and Books

Other Important Links

Executive Summary:

This document lists valuable resources for urban planners, designers, and architects, emphasizing platforms, organizations, and educational tools that support professional development, global networking, and the promotion of sustainable urbanism.

Key platforms include Urban Design Lab, Jan Gehl Architects, Planetizen, NACTO, Global Designing Cities Initiative, Tactical Urbanism Guide etc.

Additional influential organizations and initiatives include UN Habitat and ICLEI, the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) and Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU), which provide professional networks for urban planners, World Resource Institute (WRI), Cities Alliance and Euro Cities, promoting urban poverty reduction and sustainable city planning at the global and European levels etc.

The document also provides educational resources, including notable urban planning books, documentaries, and the most influencing urban thinkers, along with links to important blogs and forums discussing the latest in urban design trends and innovations.

These resources serve as crucial tools for urban planners and designers looking to stay informed and improve their practices, ultimately supporting the creation of more sustainable, inclusive, and vibrant urban environments.



IMPORTANT LINKS FOR URBAN PLANNERS AND DESIGNERS

Urban Design Lab

Urban Design Lab is an autonomous global platform that promotes critical thinking and constructive debate in relation to the Urban domain. It is a unique platform for Urbanists, Architects, Designers and Planners to share their working methods, acquire additional skills, and explore new avenues of Urban environment. Urban Design Lab is the world's most popular and influential urban design publication. Its goal is to provide a carefully curated selection of the greatest design, architectural and landscape projects from around the world <https://urbandesignlab.in/>



Jan Gehl Architects

Gehl is an urban research and design consulting firm based in Copenhagen, Denmark. Being a leading global urban strategy and design consultancy, it was founded in 2000 by Professor Jan Gehl and urban designer Helle Sørholt as a continuation of Gehl's research within the area over the past four decades. The firm specializes in improving the quality of urban life by re-orienting city design towards pedestrians and cyclists. Gehl has participated in projects in over 50 countries and 250 cities worldwide <https://www.gehlpeople.com/>



Planetizen - Urban Planning New, Jobs and Education

Planetizen is a planning-related news website and e-learning platform based in Los Angeles, California. It features user-submitted news, editor-evaluated news and weekly user-contributed op-eds about urban planning and several related fields. The website also publishes an annual list of the top 10 books in the field published during the current year, and a directory and ranking of graduate-level education in the field of urban planning. The website self-reports that it is visited by 1.5 million unique visitors each year <https://www.planetizen.com/>



NACTO - National Association of City Transportation Officials

NACTO is an association of 100 major North American cities and transit agencies formed to exchange transportation ideas, insights, and practices and cooperatively approach national transportation issues. NACTO's mission is to build cities as places for people, with safe, sustainable, accessible, and equitable transportation choices that support a strong economy and vibrant quality of life. Its publications provide a vital resource for practitioners, policy-makers, academics, and advocates alike. <https://nacto.org/>



Global Designing Cities Initiative

Global Designing Cities Initiative (GDCI) is a team of designers, planners, and urban strategists committed to reimagining streets as places for people, shaping cities that are safe, healthy, accessible, and equitable for everyone. The strategies and best practices in Global Street Design Guide are the foundation of its work, and they have been applied in cities across the globe, helping to update policies, build local capacity, implement and evaluate projects, and scale up impact. GDCI mission is to transform streets around the world, inspiring leaders, informing practitioners, and inviting communities to imagine what's possible when we design streets that put people first. Originally a program of NACTO, the Global Designing Cities Initiative (GDCI) was founded in 2014 by Janette Sadik-Khan, operating under the guidance of Director Skye Duncan <https://globaldesigningcities.org/>



Tactical Urbanism Guide

Tactical Urbanism, also known as Do It Your-Self Urbanism, refers to a city, organizational, and citizen-led approach to neighborhood building using short-term, low-cost, and scalable interventions to catalyze long-term change. Tactical Urbanism projects share common goal of using low-cost materials to experiment with and gather input on potential street design changes. Tactical urbanism is often citizen-led but can also be initiated by government entities. Community-led temporary installations are often intended to pressure government agencies into installing a more permanent or expensive version of the improvement <https://tacticalurbanismguide.com/>



UN HABITAT

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities. UN-Habitat is the focal point for all urbanization and human settlement matters within the UN system. UN-Habitat works with partners to build inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and communities. UN-Habitat promotes urbanization as a positive transformative force for people and communities, reducing inequality, discrimination and poverty. UN-Habitat works in over 90 countries to promote transformative change in cities and human settlements through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance and collaborative action <https://unhabitat.org/>



ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, founded in 1990 as the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, is the world’s leading network of local and regional governments committed to sustainable development. ICLEI believes that local action drives global change and the leadership of local and regional governments can make a major difference in addressing complex environmental, economic and social challenges. The ICLEI European Secretariat works with its over 160 in-house sustainability and communications professionals from its offices in Freiburg (DE), Berlin (DE) and Brussels (BE) <https://iclei-europe.org/>



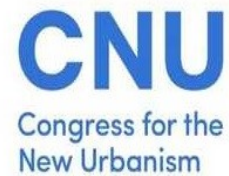
International Society of City and Regional Planners

Since 1965, the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) brings together individual and institutional members from 90+ countries with the vision to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable through integrative participatory urban and territorial planning. ISOCARP mission is to mobilize professional urban and regional planners to co-implement the vision enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda by creating a global network of practitioners; fostering planning research, training, and education; encouraging the professional exchange of knowledge; promoting the planning profession and excellence in practice in all its forms; supporting and protecting planning interest and professional planners. <https://isocarp.org/>



Congress for the New Urbanism

The **Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU)** is a member-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit championing better design of cities and towns to improve lives and strengthen communities for all. For over thirty years, CNU has been the leading organization in reforming city-building across the country, gathering the broad spectrum of practitioners and advocates who share our mission. CNU envisions a world where cities, towns, and neighborhoods are intentionally designed and managed to foster community, preserve the natural environment, and improve the lives of all people <https://www.cnu.org/>



World Resource Institute – Making Big Ideas Happen:

World Resource Institute (WRI) uses research-based approaches and works globally to meet people’s essential needs; to protect and restore nature; and to stabilize the climate and build resilient communities. WRI aims to fundamentally transform the way the world produces and uses food and energy and designs its cities to create a better future for all. Founded in 1982, WRI has nearly 1,900 staff around the world, with country offices in Brazil, China, Turkey, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Mexico and the United States and regional offices in Africa and Europe. WRI’s mission is to move human society to live in ways that protect Earth’s environment and its capacity to provide for the needs and aspirations of current and future generations <https://www.wri.org/>



WORLD
RESOURCES
INSTITUTE

Demos Helsinki Finland – Re-imagining the future

Demos Helsinki is a globally operating, independent think tank. They conduct research, offer a range of services, including strategy, capacity-building and training among other things, and host a global alliance of social imagination. Since day one, their community has been built on the idea that change can only happen together. Demos Helsinki carries out direct engagements and research projects with hundreds of partners around the world. Unlike many think tanks, they are predominantly project-funded and fully independent, without any political affiliations. Demos Helsinki is focused on Decarbonization, Transformative Governance and Regenerative Infrastructure, among others <https://demohelsinki.fi/>



Cities Alliance

Cities Alliance is the global partnership fighting urban poverty and promoting the role of cities. To help achieve these goals, the Cities Alliance promotes long-term programmatic approaches that support national and local governments to develop appropriate policy frameworks, strengthen local skills and capacity, undertake strategic city planning, and facilitate investment. To help cities of all sizes achieve these goals, the Cities Alliance promotes long-term programmatic approaches that support national and local governments to develop appropriate policy frameworks, strengthen local skills and capacity, undertake strategic city planning, and facilitate investment. Successful cities engage meaningfully with their citizens, and they recognize and promote the role of women <https://www.citiesalliance.org/>



Cities Alliance
Cities Without Slums

Euro Cities

Euro Cities is the largest network of European cities. We count over 200 large cities among our membership, representing more than 150 million people across 38 countries, from within and outside the European Union. Their mission is to build places where people can enjoy a good quality of life in a healthy, green environment. Where low-carbon and smart solutions make for cleaner air and better public services. And where people can move around sustainably, feel connected to their community and all newcomers are welcomed <https://eurocities.eu/>



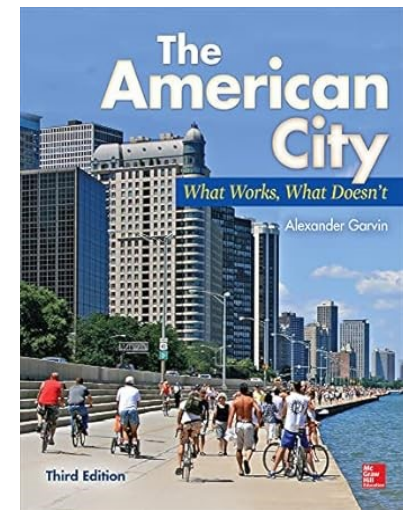
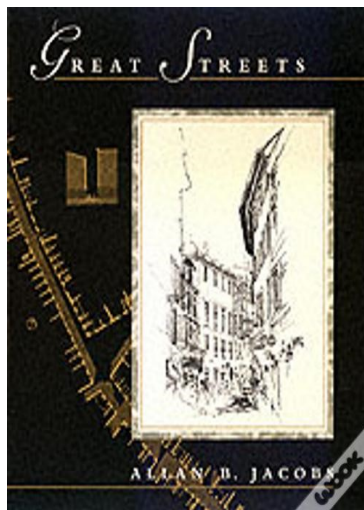
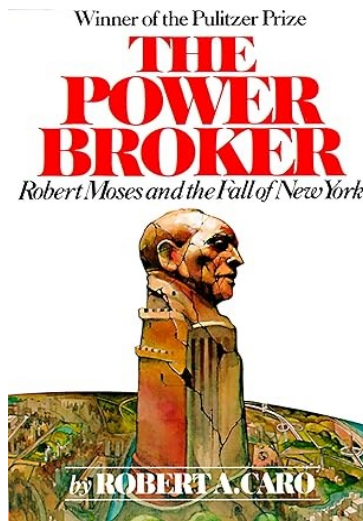
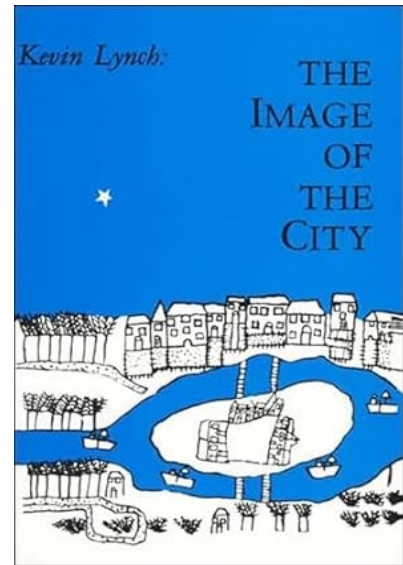
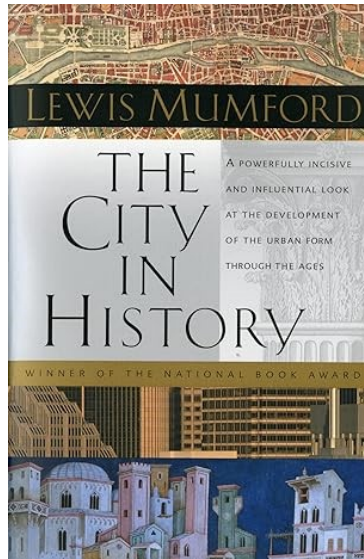
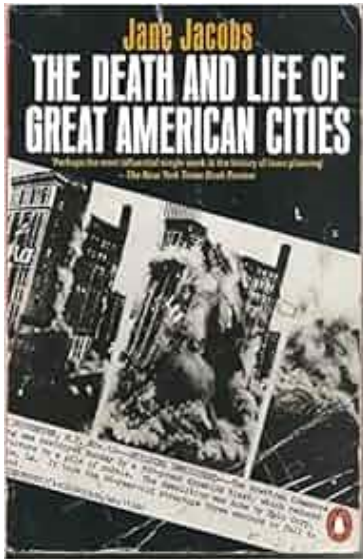
Housing Europe

Housing Europe is the European Federation of Public, Cooperative and Social Housing. Since 1988 it is a network of 42 national and regional federations, as well as 15 partnering organizations in 31 countries in Europe. Together they manage around 25 million homes, about 11% of existing dwellings in Europe. Social, public and co-operative housing providers have a vision of a Europe which provides access to decent and affordable housing for all in communities which are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable and where everyone is enabled to reach their full potential. Therefore, they do not just provide affordable homes but a number of other services, including Urban Development and Urban Regeneration <https://www.housingeurope.eu/>



OTHER IMPORTANT LINKS:

TOP 20 Urban Planning Books of All Time: <https://www.planetizen.com/books/20>



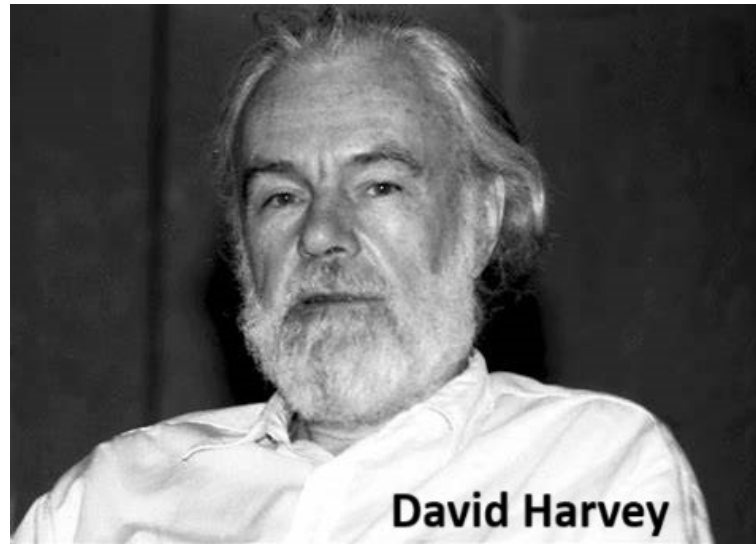
Top 10 Documentaries about Urbanism:

<http://urbanplanner.blogspot.com/2012/07/top-ten-documentaries-about-urbanism.html>

10 Conceptual Urban Planning Theories by famous architects:

<https://www.re-thinkingthefuture.com/know-your-architects/a3380-10-conceptual-urban-planning-theories-by-famous-architects/#googlevignette>

TOP 100 Urban Thinkers: <https://www.planetizen.com/top-100-urban-thinkers>



Good to Check:

Re-thinking the Future / Creating Experiential Urban Spaces: <https://www.re-thinkingthefuture.com/rtf-fresh-perspectives/a13374-creating-experiential-urban-spaces/>

Bloomberg City Lab: <https://www.bloomberg.com/citylab>

World Smart Cities Forum: <https://worldsmartcities.org/>

Bee Smart City: <https://www.beesmart.city/en/>

The Urbanist Blogspot: <https://www.theurbanist.org/>

Urban Planner Blogspot: <http://ubanplanner.blogspot.com/>

Peter Calthorpe's 7 Principles for building better cities:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFjD3NMv6Kw>