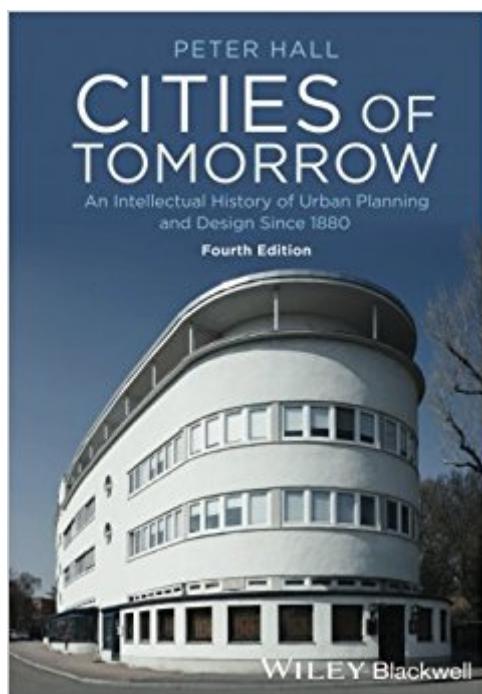


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# Cities Of Tomorrow: An Intellectual History Of Urban Planning And Design Since 1880



## Synopsis

Peter Hall's seminal *Cities of Tomorrow* remains an unrivalled account of the history of planning in theory and practice, as well as of the social and economic problems and opportunities that gave rise to it. Now comprehensively revised, the fourth edition offers a perceptive, critical, and global history of urban planning and design throughout the twentieth-century and beyond. A revised and updated edition of this classic text from one of the most notable figures in the field of urban planning and design Offers an incisive, insightful, and unrivalled critical history of planning in theory and practice, as well as of the underlying socio-economic challenges and opportunities Comprehensively revised to take account of abundant new research published over the last decade Reviews the development of the modern planning movement over the entire span of the twentieth-century and beyond Draws on global examples throughout, and weaves the author's own fascinating experiences into the text to illustrate this authoritative story of urban growth

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This is nothing less than a history of the ideology and practice of urban planning through the century [a] most readable tour de force." • The Architectural Review  
"This is the one book you have to read." • American Planning Association Journal  
"An enthralling journey through the history of city planning." • The Geographical Journal

Peter Hall's seminal *Cities of Tomorrow* remains an unrivalled account of the history of planning in theory and practice, as well as of the social and economic problems and opportunities that gave rise to it. Written by one of the most revered figures in the field of urban planning and design, this classic text offers a perceptive, critical, and global history of urban planning and design throughout the twentieth-century and beyond. Now comprehensively revised, the fourth edition takes account of the abundant new research published over the last decade, and draws on global examples throughout. Making use of a broad range of cities within his discussions, the author weaves his own fascinating experiences into this authoritative story of urban growth.

This book is a very impressive work of synthesis about a huge topic. Professor Hall traces a series of diverse themes about the city planning process that overlap, reinforce, and contradict one another at various moments. He does so with humor and erudition, encompassing an enormous number of books and hundreds of examples of urban planning successes and failures with which he was personally familiar. The book is not perfect. There are a couple of instances where he mentions a specific city in the sub head of a chapter title, only to fail to mention anything about that city in the actual text. At one point he extensively quotes himself, referring to himself by his name without providing any acknowledgement that he is quoting himself. He also does not offer his own all encompassing definition or theory of the city planning process, and his recurring theme seems to be that the various approaches to planning promised great things but all too often delivered very little. The book also contains some surprises. For a field that today is considered by many Americans to represent government interference with private property rights, Professor Hall argues that many of the founders in the field embraced the anarchist tradition, meaning, in this case, that they emphasized individuals and groups taking the initiative to improve their community independent of government. Most of the basic ideas and issues in planning originated before World War Two and have never really gone away. And there was a fascinating oscillation of planning concepts between Europe and the United States, in many cases originating in Europe, being tried and abandoned in the US, and then being applied back in Europe. I only wish the author had been a bit more selective in his use of examples to make his points, because sometimes it is difficult for the reader to see the forest because of the trees.

This text is not only boring, but also presents opinion as fact. The tone is often condescending, particularly in regards to modernism. The author perpetuates the Pruitt-Igoe myth in the book as

well. This is not well-suited to being an academic textbook, although it tragically is an assigned reading in my school of design's city planning program. Not only does this book mislead students in regards to the history of design, it does not offer balanced viewpoints. All this aside, the title of the text in of itself shows a level of pretension and self-promotion that should be embarrassing to academics.

Book in really good shape. Thanks.

nice book

Very pleased

So boring !!

One of the single best books on the history of urban form and planning. I cite it all the time and chapters stand alone as perfect reading assignments for advanced undergraduates and graduates.

Great overview of the history of the profession.

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