

Book Review:

Dimensions of Sustainable City

M. Jenks, C. Jones (Eds.)

Dimensions of the Sustainable City, Future City 2, DOI 10.1007/978-1-4020-8647-2_1, Springer Science+Business Media B. V. 2010

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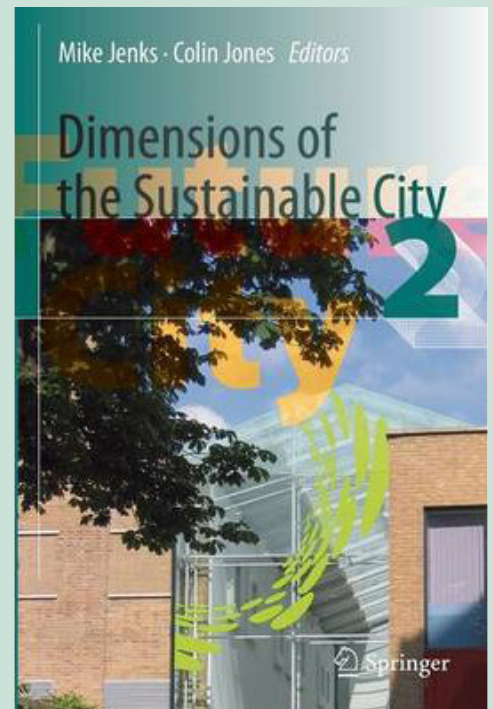
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Sustainable city is a global challenge in 21st century as the united nation endorses the sustainable cities and communities to be one of the sustainable development goals (SDGs). The book profiles “Dimensions of the Sustainable City” is the contribution from the CityForm: Sustainable Urban Form Consortium which is a multi-disciplinary group of UK researchers focusing on the sustainable urban planning. The book’s editors, Mike Jenks and Colin Jones, are the UK philosophers who associated with the several research and practice in urban sustainability planning. The book provides knowledges, theories, and empirical studies from several fields that essential for developing a sustainable city as well as to catch up a recent trend of urban planning around the globe. The book’s outline persuaded that how comprehensive urban planning should be in order to contribute the sustainable city. As authors discussed the relationship between physical dimensions of an urban form and five aspects of sustainability such as social, economic, environment, and transportation.



By introducing critical thinking that supported by empirical review of relevant literatures, the book relatively touchable by the scholars. The key point of the book is to demonstrate how each aspect of sustainable development reflected into the practice of sustainable city planning and development. The book assembled the incoherent aspects of various actions toward achieving the goal of environmental sustainability using the impacts on urban form elements as a connector for interpreting the dimensions of sustainable city practices. The book consists of 11 chapters from UK contributors representing sustainable urban planning from the UK point of view. To understand the contents more thoroughly It could be re-organized into four sections.

The first section is the introductory chapters provide the readers with a basic understanding of sustainable city stated in chapter 1 and 2. It is an introduction to sustainable city that explained the aspects on two major keywords as “city” and “sustainability” to provide the basis for how does sustainability relate to built environment and explain the significance of sustainable city at global level and city level. This section discoursed the significance the Urban form focusing on the urban form elements that consisted of density, building characteristic, land use, layout, and transport infrastructures. As well as revealed the research methods, scale, tools and data that necessary for analyzing the city form.

The second section distinguished five major variables for assessing sustainable city including mobility, ecology, social, energy, and economic as expressed in chapter 3 to 7.

The book presents a strong evidence to support the sustainable city impacts. The highlight of this section is the quantitative analyses to examine the relationship between each variable of sustainability to urban form. Several analyses commonly defined that the traditional urban form is significant for achieving the sustainable city and also being a crucial resource for UK urban planning policy.

Although the book contains various focuses but my most impressive part of this book took place at the Colin Jones’ discussion of economic sustainability. The discussion focuses on urban development and urban change which authors argue mainly in real estate and land use pattern to economic performance based on four components as economics of city form, economic performance and sustainability, economic viability of property market which

also had been discussed thoroughly in (Jones & Watkins, 2009), and infrastructure cost. The suggestion of this study conducive to employ the real estate pricing for a key factor of sustainability in property market.

Third section examines the integration of built environmental planning. Urban form and key factors of sustainability had been implemented into the research from chapter 8 to 10. The contents of this part covered dynamic of urban space intensification to encounter the growing demand for housing discussed in chapter 8. Lifestyle and behavioral impacts on sustainable housing development and biodiversity and human well-being are discussed in chapter 9 and 10 respectively. The final section, chapter 11 concluded the relationship between elements of urban form and core sustainability dimensions.

Although, the contents of this book are a little bit discontinued due to the deep explanation in major aspects presented from chapter three to seven. This makes it a little hard to understand thoroughly in some details that expressed using traditional research manner.

However, my overall impression of this book is the comprehensive idea for introducing a concept of sustainable city and its related aspects. The early parts of the book are appropriate to wide-range of readers from the entry level readers as it encompassed the essential knowledges for structuring sustainable city education and the elements that required to understand in order for the 21th century urban planning.

Additionally, each content of the book provided a conducive for discussions of the aspects of sustainable city so that professionals or those who familiar with sustainable city approaches can also find fruitfully findings throughout this book.

References

Jones, C. & Watkins, C. (2009). *Housing Markets & Planning Policy*. Wiley-Blackwell.