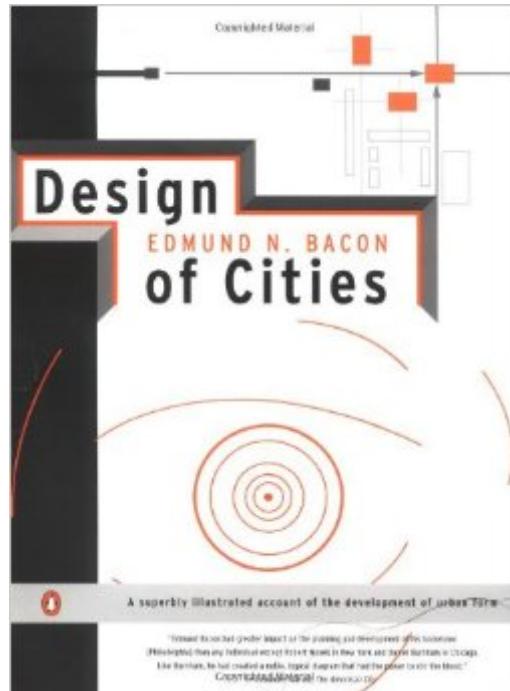


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Design Of Cities: Revised Edition (A Penguin Book)



Synopsis

"The major contemporary work on urban design . . . Splendidly presented, filled with thoughtful and brilliant intuitive insights." *The New Republic* In a brilliant synthesis of words and pictures, Edmund N. Bacon relates historical examples to modern principles of urban planning. He vividly demonstrates how the work of great architects and planners of the past can influence subsequent development and be continued by later generations. By illuminating the historical background of urban design, Bacon also shows us the fundamental forces and considerations that determine the form of a great city. Perhaps the most significant of these are simultaneous movement systems—the paths of pedestrian and vehicular traffic, public and private transportation—that serve as the dominant organizing force, and Bacon looks at movement systems in cities such as London, Rome, and New York. He also stresses the importance of designing open space as well as architectural mass and discusses the impact of space, color, and perspective on the city-dweller. That the centers of cities should and can be pleasant places in which to live, work, and relax is illustrated by such examples as Rotterdam and Stockholm.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is my favorite book on urban design....how cities work, history of city design, and the key elements that make a city exciting, livable, and functional. A key insight of Mr. Bacon is the potential for the integration of various movement systems (train, car, pedestrian, etc.), and the vitality possible at the intersections and nodes of those systems.

This book is an excellent introduction to the nature of urban design. It illustrates, in a concise and simple way, most of the major interventions in urban design beginning with early settlements, and finishing with modern cities. E.G the route to the Acropolis, the extension of the garden of Versailles, the reorientation of Georgian London. Every point is explained clearly using great plans, sections and photographs. The book features many references to the conceptual sketches of artist Paul Klee, which Bacon uses as comparisons for urban concepts. This book had a very positive effect on my understanding of architecture and urban design, and I would recommend it to anyone interested in the field. Bear in mind that it is not a standard history book. It is more light-hearted but that is why I enjoyed it so much.

In this classic text on city design Edmund Bacon explains the elements of the new urbanism. I teach architecture and use this text as reference to explain a brief history of urban form and as a model for urban design concepts and drawings because many of its chapters are beautifully illustrated with refined and thoughtful conceptual diagrams that are rich examples for anyone who wants to understand how to design the urban dimension.

A very informative and well designed book. I am currently a grad. student in architecture and the ideas presented in this book are very intriguing. It takes a very practical approach to urban design. If this book were coupled with Jane Jacob's *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, one could get two different but relevant viewpoints regarding this very important debate, especially in the wake of Modernism.

A comprehensive review of historic and contemporary urban design strategies complete with wonderful hand drawn, pre CAD, diagrams and sketches with a compelling text written by former Philadelphia city planner Ed Bacon and several younger urban designers.

I purchased this book for an Urban Planning class and found it very interesting and ended up wanting to read it a second time. The book was in great condition when it arrived. I would purchase from this seller again.

The book is detailed in description and does have nice sketches of examples, however, to understand the design of each city, one must study the simple sketch for a bit and relate back to the

text back and forth. Although this may sound natural and may also make me come off as a person who just doesn't like to read, I feel the book could've provided better examples or diagrams. Sometimes a sketch of an urban plan and one colored arrow just doesn't cut it for everyone.

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