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Placemaking

exploration, research and reflection on cities , public space, urban design , urban planning and landscape design

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Friday, August 26, 2011

a theoratical review of the elements of Planning system and the current trends in improving its design

Planning System Design

The creation and establishment of a planning system depends on the context drivers such as:

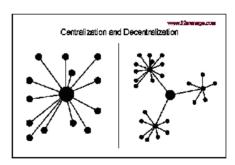
- Legal system which is a byproduct of the political governance system
- · Institutional system that stems from the government agencies mandates and responsibilit
- Development Proces and its various actors
- Existence of a defined urban planning professional bodies

Public administration efforts focused on managing new developments and improving the built environment through improving and defining the planning system. Local governments had no separate identity and were strictly controlled through a central system presently, decentralization is happening progressively – central and local governments are partnering although power and responsibilities are being transferred, it more has to do with responsibility and expenditure. Resources and ability to make key decisions still lie with central governments.

A Systems

The planning systems can be structured in three patterns:

- 1-Centralized pattern distributed in one or more planning tiers
- 2-Balanced responsibility distribution over different tiers
- 3-Decentralized system with high degree of autonomy on each tie



Planning operates within legal frameworks that are either Regulatory framework with strict public policies and rigid controls. Or Discretionary framework that are flexible and open

B Functions

Planning systems differ in their scope, methods of operation from country. But, they are formed by three main functions: Strategic planning-Focusing on long term vision that integrates the drivers based on an evaluation of strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities of the built environment and its different dimensions.

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Plan Making

Providing spatial frameworks based on which developments are planned on the national, regional, city, neighborhood and specific locations. Plans may have different content such as :Strategy ,Policy ,Statutory measures ,Project, Structure Land use, Settlement pattern,Housing, Retail, Leisure and Tourism ,New planned districts

Development controls

Legal and administrative procedures operating at the local level aim to control the location, form, character, activity of the urban development and may include the use permutations within the building affecting the site use.

Urban planning profession is now becoming more open to address beside land use infrastructure programs and integrate more with the sectoral processes responsible for urban finances. It is producing a more open, flexible and proactive planning that takes into consideration community inputs.

C Types of plans

Structural plans:

Originated in the United Kingdom – their flexibility and general guiding principles enable diverse solutions Operating usually at the regional and sub regional level, they are broad in scope covering in addition to land use, infrastructure, landscape, social considerations and economic goals as well as the institutional analysis. Structural plans require intersectoral integration and a robust financial analysis.

Master Plans:



Oldest version of city planning going to 3,000 BC, the plan aims at specifying at the municipality on local level the land use zones for an administrative area whether it is a planned district or general zone.

Local plans:

Usually providing detailed and specific spatial design plans for a specific area, they focus on short term goals either putting in more controls where it is needed or specifying changes spatially where changes are about to happen.



Action Plans:

Based on community participatory processes outputs. It responds to an immediate need or negotiation over specific issue or challenge. They lack the legal status of a plan and in that case highly depend on the municipality management team to support it



D Range of Urban Planning Tools



<u>Planning tools</u>: techniques and information to plan transport, residential housing, landscaping

<u>Information tools</u>: baseline and periodical data as well as impact monitoring and exchange of information through networked

Policy Tools: general or specific guidelines or indicators

 $\underline{Fiscal\ tools}$ either incentives such as tax relief or disincentives such as tax subsidies, lifecycle costing, procurement policies

Decision making tools assessment, mediation sessions, workshops, stakeholder engagement



Educational tools conferences, workshops, task forces, case studies, training,

Participatory tools:

- Participatory mapping of settlements for inhabitants
- Community lead socio economic analysis,
- collective modeling of housing,
- • collective analysis of trends in life histories of residents,
- collective goal and priority ranking,
- • inspirational individuals life stories,
- • formal community champions



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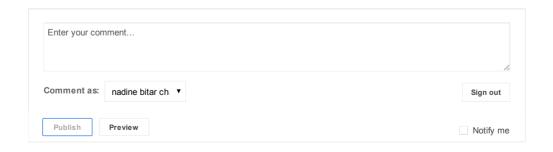


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