



Cities For A Small Planet

Richard Rogers

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Nothing else damages the earth's environment more than our cities. As the world's population has grown, our cities have burgeoned, and their impact on the environment worsened. Meanwhile, from the isolated, gated communities within Houston and Los Angeles, to the millions of residents of Bombay living in squalor, the city has failed to serve its ideal function—as the cradle of civilization, the engine of culture, and the inspiration for community and citizenship. In *Cities for a Small Planet*, Sir Richard Rogers, one of the world's leading architects and the designer of the Pompidou Center in Paris, demonstrates how future cities could provide the springboard for restoring humanity's harmony with its environment. Rogers outlines the disastrous impact cities have had and will continue to have on our world, from waste-saturated Tokyo Bay, to the massive plumes of pollution caused by London's traffic, to the depleted water resources of Mexico City. He traces these problems to the underlying social and cultural values that create them—unchecked commercial zeal, selfish individualism, and a lack of community. Bringing to bear concepts such as that of "open-minded" space—places within cities that serve multiple functions such as markets, parks, and sidewalk cafes—he explains how urban design can be used to give citizens a sense of shared experience. The city built with comfortable and safe public space can bring diverse groups together and breed a sense of tolerance, awareness, identity, and mutual respect. He calls for a new theoretical shift in the way cities do business and interact with the environment, arguing that many products come to market and are sold without figuring their social or environmental cost. Rogers goes on to describe the city of the future: one that is sustainable within its own environment; that can make a positive impact on its surroundings; that encourages communication among its citizens; that is compact and focused around neighborhoods; and that is beautiful, a city whose buildings and spaces spark the creative potential of its inhabitants. As our population grows larger, our planet grows smaller. *Cities for a Small Planet* is a passionate and eloquent blueprint for the cities we must create in response, cities that provide for the needs of both their residents and the earth on which they live.

Cities For A Small Planet Details

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From Reader Review Cities For A Small Planet for online ebook

Sam Abrams says

Loved it - light and quick and so important for understanding people, places and cities

Eduardo García Ruisoto says

Consist on two parts: an analysis of the urban problematics, and a proposal for a model of development for cities, also approaches solutions to London's urbanistic matter.

It is a clear and very accurate analysis of the sustainability problematic for actual cities. Not only points and analyzes the problematics also studies and shows different approaches to solutions that have been taken around the world to the same pathologies and how they have succeeded or failed.

In the proposal we get a view through his projects and competitions over the world and London.

Obviously needs an update since cities' evolution and development speed are faster nowadays and urban landscape has changed a lot since then. But it's still an interesting read and I personally liked his ideas for cities' development.

Kendall Frost says

This is an amazing book! It is a brief read that simply and succinctly explains the connections between social and environmental sustainability. The language is clear and the examples are some of the best architecture in the world, albeit projects by the author's firm. It offers a positive, holistic view on the future of humanity and civilization.

Alex Cunningham says

Sir Richard Rogers (the Lloyd's of London building, Musée D'Orsay, etc) knows buildings. Damned if he doesn't know people, too. He's not Le Corbusier; Rogers' dreams actually come closer to being realized every time one of his buildings goes up. What he is is underfunded, under-appreciated outside of Europe, and seemingly unable to fix either of these problems with his adroit - not to mention pretty - books. I am so swayed by his arguments that I illogically find the fault in this case to be with everyone else rather than with him.

Huibert says

Some parts less relevant for me, but they are outweighed by the numerous great notions and ideas that are

still as relevant today as they were twenty years ago, when this book was first published.
#whydidntweusethem

Sam says

Really enjoyed it - short and important ideas as to why urban design is so important
