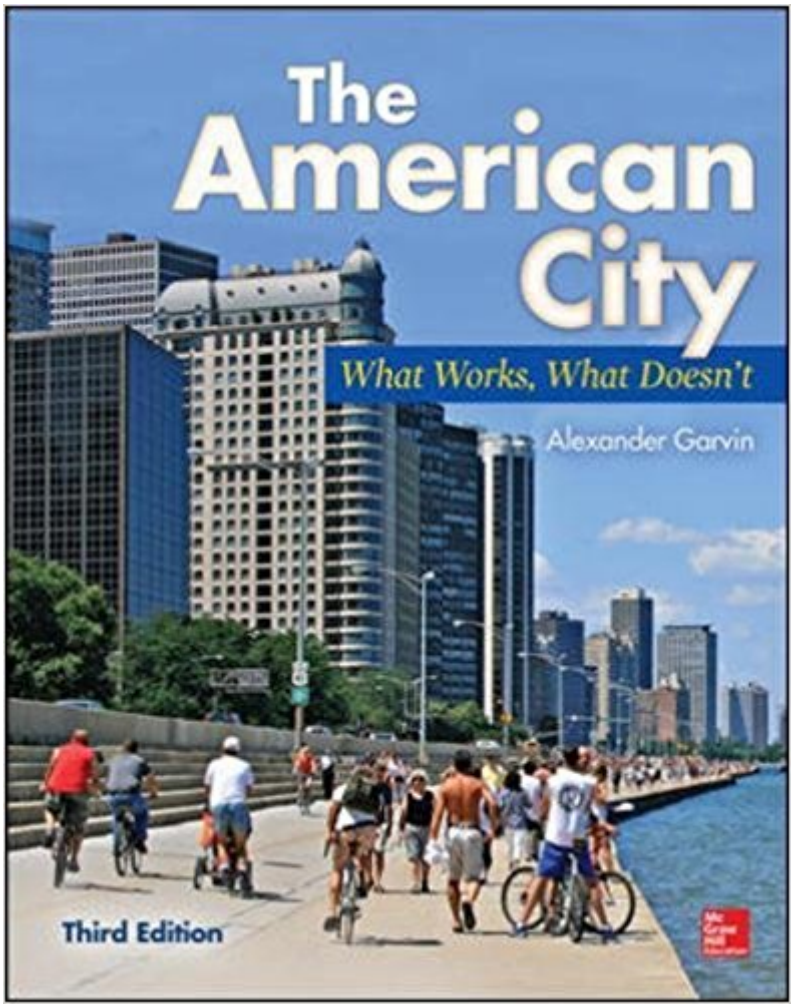
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The American City: What Works, What Doesn't



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Synopsis

The definitive guide to urban planning and design--completely updated and now in full color In the Third Edition of The American City: What Works, What Doesn't, award-winning city planner and renowned urban scholar Alexander Garvin examines more than 350 programs and projects that have been implemented nationwide in 150 cities and suburbs, evaluates their successes and failures, and offers relevant lessons learned from them. Nearly all of the book's 650 illustrations are now in full color and consist almost entirely of photographs, maps, and diagrams produced especially for the Third Edition. Garvin discusses major urban initiatives that have emerged over the past two decades, such as Chicago's Millennium Park, Houston's Uptown Business District, and Metropolitan Denver's FasTracks multicounty rapid transit network. He reexamines the wide range of places and strategies covered in the previous edition, offering new analyses and insights. A new chapter on retrofitting the city for a modern commercial economy is included. This practical guide presents six key ingredients of project success--market, location, design, financing, time, and entrepreneurship--and explains how to combine these elements in a mutually reinforcing manner. Garvin demonstrates how the synthesis of individual and private-sector efforts, community-level action, and broad-based government policy can--and has--achieved urban and suburban regeneration. COVERAGE INCLUDES: A realistic approach to city and suburban planning Ingredients of success--market, location, design, financing, time, and entrepreneurship Parks, playgrounds, and open space Retail shopping Palaces for the people--libraries, stadiums, museums, and other public facilities Retrofitting the city for a modern commercial economy The life and death of the City of Tomorrow--implications of national urban redevelopment programs Downtown management Increasing the housing supply Reducing housing costs Housing rehabilitation Clearing the slums Revitalizing neighborhoods Residential suburbs New-towns-in-town New-towns-in-the-country Land use regulation Historic preservation Comprehensive planning

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Customer Reviews

Alexander Garvin has combined a career in urban planning and real estate with teaching, architecture, and public service. He is currently President and CEO of AGA Public Realm Strategists. Between 1996 and 2005 he was Managing Director for Planning of NYC2012, the committee to bring the Summer Olympics to New York in 2012. During 2002Ã¢â ¬â œ2003, he was Vice President for Planning, Design and Development of the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation. Over the last 44 years he has held prominent positions in five New York City administrations, including Deputy Commissioner of Housing and City Planning Commissioner. Garvin is Adjunct Professor of Urban Planning and Management at Yale University, where he has taught a wide range of subjects, including "Introduction to the Study of the City," which for more than 46 years has remained one of the most popular courses in Yale College. In addition, he teaches two courses in the School of Architecture, including a seminar on "Intermediate Planning and Development." Among other honors, Garvin has received the 2012 Award of Merit from the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the 2004 Distinguished Service Award from the New York City Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA). The first edition of The American City won the 1996 AIA Book Award in Urbanism. Garvin is also the author of Public Parks: The Key to Livable Communities and The Planning Game: Lessons from Great Cities. He earned his B.A., M.Arch., and M.U.S. from Yale University.

The new third edition perfects and updates this towering achievement of American urban planning and real estate. Building on his original material and methodologies, Alexander Garvin adds hundreds of new color photographs, illustrations and diagrams, as well as updating and bringing the story of American cities to the present day. From the first edition, Garvin’s work has served as the final word among those who study cities and endeavor to think seriously about real estate. Those who have followed the development of the text from the beginning will find it rewarding to see Garvin turn his attention to events of recent years, ranging from the 2008 economic crisis to

Supreme Court zoning decisions to the latest developments in urban revitalization. The new photography and the new chapter on retrofitting cities are each major contributions in their own right to the field that could easily stand alone as separate works. Packaged with these new materials as well as with a comprehensive update to the original text, this edition of The American City will remain the definitive statement of its subject matter for decades to come.

I have used this text in my introduction to urban design seminar starting with the first edition. The current edition is an improvement over the last in particular the images he uses to support the text. I use other readings in the class, after all this is Alexander Garvin’s point of view, and there is much other theoretical writing about the American city that places Garvin’s opinions in a more broad context. For an introductory class this is a good text. I recommend reading his 2013 book, The Planning Game: Lessons from Great Cities, it adds value to content in The American City What Works, What Doesn’t.

Really amazing book!!

I am currently using this textbook in my Urban Geography course. I have found it to be a great text thus far and strongly recommend it. My students are enjoying it too.

The American City is one of those books that I keep on buying again and again. As an unapologetic planning nerd, I am probably overly generous in lending out my books to friends and co-workers. Unfortunately, The American City is one of those books that borrowers "forget" to return. There are plenty of planners out there who are pure academics, which is fine. But Alex Garvin approaches the city from the perspective of those roles he has played over the years: planner, architect, developer, public official, and most important of, from the perspective of a citizen. This book gives readers the tools to be better observers of cities - the tools to understand why plans and projects succeed, and why they fail. As a real estate developer, I credit the methodology explained in Garvin’s work for the success of my business. The new edition of the American City is actually much nicer than the old ones - almost all the photos are in color, and there is an entirely new chapter that is an inquiry into how cities can be re-thought in our evolving economy. A must read for anyone interested in local politics, planning, or real estate development.

Alexander GarvinÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The American City: What Works: What

DoesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢tÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• is a holistic and disciplined account of the successes and failures of American urbanism. It is an excellent and definitive textbook for students of planning, design, urbanism, and public policy and equally valuable as a resource and reference for public officials and professionals in practice. Any citizen interested in understanding how change really happens in a city, and how they might play a part in it, will benefit enormously from reading this book. Alexander GarvinÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s clear and concise writing guides the reader through some extraordinarily complex issues in a way that few other writers on the subject can match.The Third Edition of the American City is an up-to-date account, chronicling and evaluating new developments in American urbanism from New YorkÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s High Line to the subprime mortgage crisis to the recent renaissance of neighborhoods like PhiladelphiaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Northern Liberties. Dozens of photographs, maps and illustrations, most taken or prepared directly by Garvin himself, capture the changing character of American cities. The book is especially valuable because it conveys a profound and sophisticated appreciation for the complex interaction of forces that shape cities. No topic is examined in isolation. The chapters address the widest range of issues from politics to aesthetics to environmentalism to development. His carefully compiled observations, noting how cities have evolved, block-by-block, over decades, demonstrate outstanding scholarship.While Garvin skillfully addresses the major intellectual trends in urbanism and city planning of the past two centuries, unlike many planning or urbanism texts, The American City is more than an academic chronicle of ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“isms.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• Instead, it is foundational: a thorough and trustworthy history, but also a guide of great practical utility. Of particular note, GarvinÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s chapter entitled ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The Life and Death of the City of TomorrowÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• carefully evaluates the effects of twentieth century urban renewal from a refreshing and entirely 21st century perspective ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ a must read! Garvin is an astute observer of events with an eye towards identifying real-world outcomes. A chapter as innocuously entitled as ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Reducing Housing CostsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• can, with surprising brevity, equip one with a strong understanding of the the dizzying regulatory complexity of the low-income housing world: whatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s been done, what works (and what doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t), and what may yet be done better.The American City is an active and engaging text: clearly the work of a person in practice sharing his outstanding professional expertise. While the book is objective and free from polemics, it is far from neutral. Instead, GarvinÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s measured and thorough analysis challenges readers to think about their own capacity as agents in the process of shaping and transforming great American cities: this is the bookÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s greatest strength. It is well worth owning!

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