# HORIZONS OF PATTERN LANGUAGES: Software, Cities, Planet



Towns · Buildings · Construction



Christopher Alexander Sara Ishikawa - Murray Silverstein wiin Max Jacobson - Ingrid Fiksdahl-King Shlomo Angel

Michael W. Mehaffy Sustasis Foundation, Portland OR



2016 Habitat III conference outcome document: "New Urban Agenda"



## One of several historic UN initiatives in last two years:



- COP21 Climate Negotiations (December 2015)
- Sustainable Development Goals (October 2015)
- Habitat III defining the "New Urban Agenda" (October 2016)

# The New Urban Agenda is linked to the Paris Climate Agreement



## COP 21, December 2015



Habitat III, October 2016

# Future of Places 💡

The global forum about public space.

71 Speakers have participated during our 3 conferences.

SEE SPEAKERS

96 sessions focused on urban development, placemaking and tackling societal challenges.

H WATCH SESSIONS

**77 Academic papers** with findings on past lessons, present opportunities and future challenges.

BROWSE DOCUMENTS

### **Challenges & Themes**

"Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody."

#### - Jane Jacobs

Connecting.

Today's rapid global urbanization carries great challenges, but also presents great opportunities. A problem that most city mayors are facing today is that the systems for building and managing cities – especially professional and legal systems – are bcuses more on

### Ax:son Johnson Foundation, UN Habitat and PPS

The Future of Places forum is arranged and financed by Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson foundation and has as collaborative partners UN Habitat and Project for Public Spaces.

The overall purpose is to elevate the importance of public space and placemaking in city planning at Habitat III 2016. The means are three international conferences (2013, 2014 and 2015), national

...a collaborative platform for research, implementation, networking and advocacy (including) over 1,500 researchers, practitioners, officials and activists, representing more than 700 organizations, 275 cities and 100 countries from all around the world.

# The critical role of public space







## Center for the Future of Places: Focus on implementation











## THE CHALLENGE: Rapid urbanization in many areas; often chaotic, fragmented, lacking in quality public spaces





## Two parts: explosive growth of informal settlements...





And "market-rate" development that is too sprawling, resource-intensive and high-emissions...









# In both cases, failing to fully provide what cities can...







## Cities as creative networks of people...

"...What is required is a new definition of the city, as a contact system, as a set of interactions and flows that define the kinds of network that enable creativity and innovation to thrive and grow."

- Mike Batty and Peter Ferguson

The physical system of the city needs to connect us as agents that interact with one another...

We can use data networks, transportation systems and other systems, but the foundation is spatial networks, i.e. streets, squares, parks...

i.e. public space systems.

# But there is a kind of "operating system for growth" that produces predictable results!



# We need to reform this "operating system for growth..."









Serious unexpected consequences – health, resource depletion, climate change...





## And economics...

Calling into question our old model of economic growth" (based on waste)





We need new models of growth and economic development

'August-October Source: Denver Public Trustee's Office and Trulia.com

Jeffrey A. Roberts and Jeff Goertzen | The Denver Posts



So how we use technology to manage existing problems (and not create new ones!) is critical...

"I say I'm a technologist, but what I really am is a person who thinks about how people can work better together, <u>using</u> technology."

- Ward Cunningham

# Techne + Logos

# "knowledge of making"

# A conundrum...

# Case 1: Typical Internet

① https://www.rd.com/funny-stuff/five-stupid-internet-reactions

#### The 5 Types of Stupid Internet Comments

## The 5 Types of Stupid Internet Comments

Many responses to online articles are reasoned and articulate, but then there are the rest. If the Internet had been around for 100 years, here's our guess at what the comments might have looked like for these major news stories.

#### **BY DIANE DRAGAN**

Reader's

From the Web

F21: YOU ARE AN IDIOT!

eb90: You moron.

F21: Go back where you ame from.

ng33: Shut up!

OL77: I HATE YOU!

F21: No one asked you.



Play this for 1 minute and see why everyone is addicted



What Doctors Don't Tell You About Snoring. Hint: There's A Better Solution Than A.



# **YOU WON'T BELIEVE** THE 5 STUPID THINGS YOU'LL CLICK ON

Other Bookman

GIVE A GIFT > SUBSCRIBE



# **#3 WILL SHOCK YOU**

# Case 1: Typical Internet



# Case 1: Typical Internet

Donald Trump bodyslams, beats and shaves Vince McMahon at Wrestlemania XXIII





**Donald J. Trump** 

Just heard Foreign Minister of North Korea speak at U.N. If he echoes thoughts of Little Rocket Man, they won't be around much longer!

11:08 PM - 23 Sep 2017

# **Evolution**?



# Maybe not!

# Edward Sapir, "Culture: Genuine and Spurious"

"We have been in the habit of giving ourselves credit for essentially quantitative results that are due rather to an unusually favoring nature and to a favoring set of economic conditions than to anything in ourselves. Our victories have been brilliant, but they have also too often been barren for culture."

# How can we work together to meet common challenges?



## Climate Change



## Inequality and Poverty



*Etc...* 

## Unsustainable Systems

# How can we work together to meet common challenges?





**GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE** Vital Signs of the Planet

SOLUTIONS EXPLORE NASA SCIENCE ABTICI ES RESOURCES

#### FACTS

### **Climate change** consequences

Global climate change has already had observable effects on the environment. Here's what the future looks like in the United States.

LEARN MORE

CARBON DIOXIDE

GLOBAL TEMPERATURE

ARCTIC ICE MINIMUM



286.0 Gigatonnes per

LAND ICE

SEA LEVEL



C Oth

406.94 parts per million F since 1880

# How can we work together to meet common challenges?

of Fear Exposed!

## **Climate Change Scam Alert: Merchants**

The Arctic Ice Cap Grew The Same Year Al Gore Predicted It Would Disappear

Banksters Defraud Millions Th

## Global Warming Hoax Finally Falling Apart

EXPLORE

NASA SCIENCE

CARDON DIOAIDE

406.94

C

NASA

Secure https://climate.nasa.gov

1.7 °F since 1880

# How can we work together to meet common challenges?

ì	-	Secure	https://climate.nasa.gov
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## **Climate Change Scam Alert: Merchants**

www.politico.com/story/2017/04/donald-trump-kathleen-hartnett-white-climate-skeptic-job-237172

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## Trump eyes climate skeptic for key White House environmental post

By ALEX GUILLÉN and ANDREW RESTUCCIA | 04/12/2017 06:00 PM EDT



🔰 Share on Twitter

President Donald Trump may tap a vocal critic of climate change science to serve as the highest-ranking environmental official in the White House.

Kathleen Hartnett White, who says carbon emissions are harmless and should not be regulated, is a top contender to run the Council on Environmental Quality, the White House's in-house environmental policy shop, sources close to the administration told POLITICO.

EXPLORE

# How can we work together to meet common challenges?



EPA" and pushed back against stricter limits on air and water pollution. She is a senior fellow at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a conservative think-tank that has received funding from fossil-fuel companies that include Koch Industries, ExxonMobil and Chevron.

406.

be regulated, is a top contender to run the Council on Environmental Quality, the White House's in-house environmental policy shop, sources close to the administration told POLITICO.

# Case 2: Wikipedia

#### Secure https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main\_Page

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#### Welcome to Wikipedia,

the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit. 5,492,612 articles in English

#### From today's featured article



The Battle of Hastings was fought on 14 October 1066 between the Norman-French army of William, the Duke of Normandy, and an English army under the Anglo-Saxon King Harold Godwinson, about 7 miles (11 kilometres) northwest of Hastings. The death of the childless King Edward the Confessor in January of that year

led to a bloody struggle for the throne. After Harold defeated his own brother Tostig and the Norwegian King Harald Hardrada at the Battle of Stamford Bridge in September, William landed his invasion forces in the south of England at Pevensey. Harold marched swiftly to meet him, gathering forces as he went. The English army, with perhaps 10,000 infantry, met an invading force of perhaps 3,500 infantry and 3,500 cavalry and archers. After failing to break the English battle lines, the Normans pretended to flee in panic, then turned on their pursuers. Harold's death, probably near the end of the battle, led to the retreat and defeat of most of his army and to the Norman conquest of England. William was crowned as king on Christmas Day 1066. (Full article...)

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#### In the news

- Flash floods and landslides from a tropical depression (satellite image pictured) kill more than 50 people in Vietnam.
- Wildfires in Northern California kill at least 31 people and destroy thousands of buildings and other structures.
- Richard Thaler is awarded the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences.



Depression 23W

- Hurricane Nate kills at least 45 people across Central America and in the United States, primarily due to flooding and landslides.
- Kazuo Ishiguro is awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.
- Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Rosbash, and Michael W. Young share the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their discoveries of molecular mechanisms controlling the circadian rhythm.

What's the difference?

Other recent events

# Case 2: Wikipedia

Secure https://www.google.se/search?q=Battle+of+Hastings&oq=Battle+of+Hastings&gs\_l=psy-ab.3..0I10.26409.29498.0.29763.18.18.0.0.0.0.135.... ۲ C \$ Other Google Battle of Hastings  $\cap$ All Images Maps Videos News More Settings Tools

About 18 100 000 results (0,82 seconds)

#### Battle of Hastings - Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\_of\_Hastings -

The Battle of Hastings was fought on 14 October 1066 between the Norman-French army of William, the Duke of Normandy, and an English army under the ...

Battle, East Sussex · Bayeux Tapestry · Alan Rufus · Battle of Fulford

#### The Battle of Hastings - Oct 14, 1066 - HISTORY.com

#### www.history.com/this-day-in-history/the-battle-of-hastings \*

King Harold II of England is defeated by the Norman forces of William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings, fought on Senlac Hill, seven miles from Hastings, England. ... In January 1066, King Edward died, and Harold Godwine was proclaimed King Harold II. ... On October 13, Harold ...

#### Battle of Hastings - British History - HISTORY.com

#### www.history.com/topics/british-history/battle-of-hastings \*

On October 14, 1066, at the **Battle of Hastings** in England, King Harold II (c.1022-66) of England was defeated by the Norman forces of William the Conqueror (c.1028-87). ... He was the last Anglo-Saxon king of England, as the **battle** changed the course of history and established the ...

#### What Happened at the Battle of Hastings | English Heritage

www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/1066-and-the.../what-happened-battle-hastings/ In the early morning of 14 October 1066, two great armies prepared to fight for the throne of England – the forces of King Harold, and the troops of Duke William ...

## Battle of Hastings



The Battle of Hastings was fought on 14 October 1066 between ne Norman-French army of William, the Duke of Normand Land an English army under the Anglo-Saxon King Harold God Lason, beginning the Norman conquest of England. Wikipedia

Location: Battle near Hastings, East Sussex, England

Date: October 14, 1066

Result: Decisive Norman victory

Combatants: Normans, United Kingdom, Anglo-Saxons, Franks, Bretons

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Secure https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global\_warming\_conspiracy\_theory

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## Global warming conspiracy theory

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A global warming conspiracy theory invokes claims that the scientific consensus on global warming is based on conspiracies to provide a number of tactics used in climate change denial to legitimize political and public controversy disputing this consensus.<sup>[1]</sup> Global was through worldwide acts of professional and criminal misconduct, the science behind global warming has been invented or distorted for

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Read

#### Contents [hide]

- 1 Background
- 2 Claims
- 3 Criticism
- 4 Funding
- 5 Fictional representations
- 6 See also
- 7 Notes
- 8 Further reading

### Background [edit]

As stated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the largest contributor to global warming is the increase in atm particularly from fossil fuel combustion, cement production, and land use changes such as deforestation.<sup>[4]</sup> The IPCC's Fifth Assess

# CURATION...

A process that proceeds step-by-step to generate more reliable and more shareable knowledge about the world... Sufficient for shared action

> (e.g. science) (e.g. traditions, e.g. languages)
# Edward Sapir, "Culture: Genuine and Spurious"

"Sooner or later we shall have to get down to the humble task of exploring the depths of our consciousness and dragging to the light what sincere bits o[ reflected experience we can find. These bits will not always be beautiful, they will not always be pleasing, but they will be genuine. And then we can build. In time, a genuine culture--better yet, a series of linked autonomous cultures--will grace our lives."

#### Wiki as Pattern Language1

#### WARD CUNNINGHAM, Cunningham and Cunningham, Sustasis Foundation MICHAEL W MEHAFFY, Delft University of Technology, Sustasis Foundation

We describe the origin of wiki technology, which has become widely influential, and its relationship to the development of pattern languages in software. We show how the relationship is deeper than previously understood. The deep shared logic points to unrealized potential, with expanded capability for wikis – including a new generation of "federated" wiki. We draw conclusions about the use of this and related technology to "curate" (collectively gather and refine) knowledge systems.

Categories and Subject Descriptors: H.5.2 [Information Interfaces and Presentation]: User Interfaces—Evaluation/methodology; H.1.2 [Models and Principles]: User/Machine Systems—Human Information Processing

General Terms: Human Factors

Additional Key Words and Phrases: Wiki, Pattern Language, Smallest Federated Wiki, Scenario-Modeling

#### ACM Reference Format:

Cunningham, W. and Mehaffy, M.W. 2014. "Wiki as Pattern Language." In Proceedings of the 20th Conference on Pattern Languages of Programs (PLoP'13), Monticello, Illinois, USA (October 2013). 15 pages.

#### INTRODUCTION

Wiki is today widely established as a kind of website that allows users to quickly and easily share, modify and improve information collaboratively (Leuf and Cunningham, 2001). It is described on Wikipedia – perhaps its best known example – as "a website which allows its users to add, modify, or delete its content via a web browser usually using a simplified markup language or a rich-text editor" (Wikipedia, 2013). Wiki is so well established, in fact, that a Google search engine result for the term displays approximately 1.25 billion page "hits", or pages on the World Wide Web that include this term somewhere within their text (Google, 2013a).

Along with this growth, the definition of what constitutes a "wiki" has broadened since its introduction in 1995. Consider the example of WikiLeaks, where editable content would defeat the purpose of the site. We will exclude



#### Christopher Alexander, Notes on the Synthesis of Form (1964)





#### Notes on the Synthesis of Form

NOTES ON THE SYNTHESIS OF FORM CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

What is the relation of the parts of a problem to its whole? (And to its final form?) Do parts make wholes, or do wholes make parts? How does this work in nature? How does it work in human technology? (Differently??) What new tools and approaches does this suggest?

### Mereology:

In <u>philosophy</u>, **mereology** (from the Greek  $\mu$ é $\rho$ o $\zeta$ , root:  $\mu$  $\epsilon\rho$  $\epsilon(\sigma)$ -, "part" and the suffix -logy "study, discussion, science") is a collection of axiomatic <u>first-order theories</u> dealing with parts and their respective wholes.

#### Christopher Alexander, "A City is Not a Tree" (1965)





"...In Berkeley at the corner of Hearst and Euclid, there is a drugstore, and outside the drugstore a traffic light. In the entrance to the drugstore there is a newsrack where the day's papers are displayed. When the light is red, people who are waiting to cross the street stand idly by the light; and since they have nothing to do, they look at the papers displayed on the newsrack which they can see from where they stand. Some of them just read the headlines, others actually buy a paper while they wait.



"....This effect makes the newsrack and the traffic light interactive.... the traffic light, the electric impulses which make the lights change, and the sidewalk which the people stand on form a system they all work together."



#### **Christopher Alexander**

#### A City is Not a Tree:

50th Anniversary Edition



with new commentaries by

Mike Batty • Luis Bettencourt • Howard Davis Jaap Dawson • Bin Jiang • Michael W Mehaffy Hans Joachim Neis • Sergio Porta • Yodan Rofè Mariapia Vidoli • Dellé Odeleye and other contributors

> edited by Michael W Mehaffy

Sustasis Press In Association with Center for Environmental Structure

### *Strong links – e.g. between the hinges and knob on a door...*

*Weak links – between that door and another door...* 



(*The pattern here is "door"*...)

### This door is a good design... its configuration meets the need



### What about this door?





### What about this door?





### Pattern "Door" -

### THEREFORE:

Place the hinges on one side of the door, near the top and bottom of the door; place the handle on the opposite side, where it can be reached by most people, including those in wheelchairs



The patterns fit into a network of structured options –

i.e. a language...



# What is a "pattern", really?

A pattern is a configuration of things in a place that happen repeatedly in a similar way.

# What is a Pattern Language?

You combine your patterns in particular ways, following simple rules like the rules of grammar. The patterns with their rules for combining together are called a pattern language. The pattern language allows you to make complete wholes, rather than just assembled collections of bits – more like poetry than a simple list or hierarchy of information.

# What is a Pattern Language? (Continued)

You can begin to see that a pattern is made up of other patterns, just as forests are made of trees, and trees are made of leaves. But leaves don't always "make" trees. In fact, it's more accurate to say that trees make leaves! Often patterns "differentiate" into other patterns, as part of their "mereology" (the relation of parts to wholes).

Pattern languages respond to the idea that it's possible to have good designs... and bad ones (i.e. an "evidence-based approach")



And to manage them within web-networks...

### This teapot is clearly not a good design!

**REVISED & EXPANDED EDITION** 

# The DESIGN of EVERYDAY THINGS

"The Design of Everyday Things is even more relevant today than it was when first published." -TIM BROWN, CEO of IDEO, author of Change by Design

> DON NORMAN

#### An Alexandrian Pattern includes 1) a title and 2) iconic image.....

#### A Pattern Language

Towns Buildings Construction



#### Christopher Alexander Sara Ishikawa - Murray Silverstein Max Jacobson - Ingrid Fiksdahl-King Shlomo Angel

BUILDINGS

Keep the atcade low—criticity MERCHY VARIATY  $(1'q_0)$  i big the root of the strade as low as possible—atcattration being (127); make the columns thick enough to lean agains—back big (127); make the columns thick enough to lean agains—back big place (216); and make the openings between columns (216), and how—tow moosway (214), concrust constants of will be where by arching them or by making deep beams of will be work—so that the inside feels enclosed—solitons for the back mark porters wath (107). For construction he for the stradefield solitows works (210), or the strategield of the stradefield solitows work (211), . . . 120 PATHS AND GOALS\*



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#### 3) Upward hyperlinks...4) problem statement...5) analysis...

once buildings and arcades and open spaces have been once buildings and complex (95), wince on here being oughly fixed by scripping (106), secares (116), there is the track of the secares (119). roughly faired by BUILDOOR SPACE (106), SECADES (119) there (107), POSITIVE OUTBOOR SPACE (106), SECADES (119) the (107), positive outlines to the paths which run between the time to pay attention to the paths which run between the time to pay attention to present these paths and also helps to the buildings. This pattern to present or PURLICHER (16), by the buildings. This pattern industries or PURLACHER (16), Walter to the more detailed form to metarize or PURLACHER (16), Walter to the more detailed form (12), and CIRCULATION REALMS (19). more detailed to and case (52), and cinculation REALMS (98)

4 4 4

The layout of paths will seem right and comfortable only The layout of patible with the process of walking. And the when it is comparing is far more subtle than one might imagine.

Essentially there are three complementary processes:

Essentially there are not seen the landways for intermedian 1. As you want furthern points along the path which you can destinations-the furthern points in a strught line to you can destinations - the rate of hea, to walk in a straight line toward than are. You try, more or hea, the effect that you will be all than see. You try, metatally has the effect that you will car them points. This metatally has the effect there are the owner while points. This means paths, since these are the once which shese and take "diagonal" paths, since present position and other and take "disputs between your present position and the point which you are making for.



Pail to a goal

z. These intermediate destinations keep changing. The further 2. These source you can see around the curner. If you they, you walk, the same you can see around the curner, and the you wait, the mount this furthest point and the furthers point wall straight run will attacly move in a slow carro, like a missile tracking a moving target.

#### 120 PATHS AND GOALS

#### Series of guale

since you do not want to keep changing direction while you 3. Since your want to spend your whole time re-calculating will be direction of travel, you arrange your will usli and do excision of travel, you arrange your walking process your best duty that you pick a temporary "geal" such a way that you pick a temporary "geal" - some theathy is note or less in the dissolute theathy is such a dentrate which is more or less in the direction you want clable lands then walk in a straight line toward in for a hundred or a hundred to jake and as you get close, pick another new goal, once more a surder to you have a state for they on, and walk toward in yards, then, there are not so and walk toward in. . . . You do this handred 7 between, you can talk, think, daydream, and the at that without having to think about your walking direction every minute.



The solund pack.

In the diagram above a parason begins at A and heads for point In the star way, his intermediate goals are point B, C, and F. Along he is trying to work in a roughly straight line toward, D. Share he is trying to be a charge from the straight line toward. D. Son intermediate goal changes from B to C, is seen as C in single ; and from C to D, as soon as D is visible.

The proper accordionates of public is one with manual incom-The push, as make this process workable. If there wonly grouph intermediate proce, the process of walking becomes more plants and committee anisotronary standard marge. Thereises

To bey out paths, forst place goals at successf points of inareast. Then connect the grade to one another to have the

#### 6) diagrammatic conclusion...and 7) downward hyperlinks

#### BUILDINGS

paths. The paths may be straight, or gently curving be tween goals; their paving should swell around the goal. The goals should never be more than a few hundred feet apart.



All the ordinary things in the outdoors—trees, fountains, entrances, gateways, scats, statues, a swing, an outdoor room—can be the goals. See FAMILY OF ENTRANCES (102). MAIN ENTRANCE (110), TREE FLACES (171), SEAT SPOTS (241), RAIRD FLOWER (245); build the "goals" according to the rules of sourcrisic ROUCHLY IN THE MIDDLE (126); and shape the paths according to PATH SHAPE (121). To pave the paths use PAVING WITH CRACK BETWEEN THE STONES (247).... 121 PATH SHAPE\*



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# Pattern languages are ubiquitous in design in many fields today...



# And have spawned some other perhaps surprising innovations...



# Another conundrum:

# Why have pattern languages not been more influential in the world of the built environment?

# PL influence as indicated by Google hits:

Pattern languages in architecture 260,000 hits

Pattern languages in software (AKA "design patterns) 29,400,000 hits!

#### Other pattern language work (not including computer science):

PALM - A pattern language for molecular biology Carsten Helgesen and Peter R. Sibbald J t Department of Informatics, University of Bergen

The Pattern Language for Participation, Action, and Change

A Pattern Language for Strategic Product Management

Towards a Pattern Language for Person-Centered e-Learning M Derntl, R Motschnig-Pitrik - TECHNOLOGY AND TEACHER EDUCATION

Calculating the secrets of life: applications of the mathematical sciences in molecular biology ... Eric S. Lander, Michael S. Waterman....

"We have constructed PLANS, A Pattern Language for Amino and Nucleic Acid Sequences, and implemented this language in LISP and C..."

Developing a pattern language for innovation management Research (Le Pechoux, 2000) Machine models of music - Stephan M. Schwanauer,David A. Levitt - 1993 - 544 "Pattern in Music" presents a formal pattern language for music.

A Pattern Language for a Conservation Economy (Stuart Cowan)

KEWS: A pattern language for environmental research

- "A pattern approach to interaction design" Jan Borchers 2001 246 Chapter 4 A Pattern Language for Interactive Music Exhibits
- Weiss [14] describes a pattern language for agent-based ecommerce.
- a pattern language for weddings
- a pattern language for educational systems
- A pattern language for pattern writing (!)
- The pattern language for the graphical user interface

Cross JK and Schmidt, D., "Quality Connector: A Pattern Language for Provisioning and Managing Quality-Constrained Services in Distributed Real-Time and Embedded Systems," 9th Conference on Pattern Language and Programs, Monticello IL, Sep 2002

A pattern language for sustainability

A pattern language for living communication

### Dynamical patterning modules: a "pattern language" for development and evolution of multicellular form

Stuart A. Newman\* and Ramray Bhat

Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy, Basic Science Building, New York Medical College, New York, USA

We propose that DPMs, acting singly and in combination with each other, constitute a "pattern language" capable of generating all metazoan body plans and organ forms. This concept implies that the multicellular organisms of the late Precambrian-early Cambrian were phenotypically plastic, fluently exploring morphospace in a fashion decoupled from both function-based selection and genotypic change. The relatively stable developmental trajectories and morphological phenotypes of modern organisms, then, are considered to be products of stabilizing selection.


Ramray Bhat

#### UNDERSTANDING COMPLEXITY THROUGH PATTERN LANGUAGES IN BIOLOGICAL AND MAN-MADE ARCHITECTURES Comparisons between Biological and Architectonic Patterns

#### **Ramray Bhat**

Life Sciences Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory <u>RBhat@lbl.gov</u>

#### Abstract

In 1944, the celebrated physicist, Erwin Schrodinger, famously asked, "What is Life?" Neither Schrodinger nor generations of illustrious scientists after him have been able to satisfactorily answer this question. What is generally agreed upon, however, is that being alive is about being complex: forming, transforming, and maintaining a structural organization that consists of multiple constituents arranged in specific orders and patterns. The advances in the theory of complexity have come not just from biologists, but also from architects and urban theorists. In this essay, I discuss how theorists from both life and architectonic sciences have come to a similar conclusion: that patterned and organized form ensures proper function and, ultimately, life. I show how deviation from this principle in biology leads to cancer and death; in architecture, the deviation allows the takeover of mechanical and imagery-based building ideologies leading to dysfunctional and 'lifeless' building and public spaces.

#### THE LOSS OF BIOLOGICAL ORGANIZATION LEADS TO CANCER

We are thus naturally motivated to ask what happens when the organ architecture is disturbed due to some reason. The answer - cancer - would likely even surprise many biologists. Cancer is a deadly disease that afflicts and kills millions of people all over the world. The cause of cancer is often opined to be mutations of specific genes, elements that code for the proteins, the building blocks of biological form. This is biological reductionism at its most extreme. Abnormalities of the organ's microenvironment result in incorrect signals to the genes, including those that are responsible for tissue structure, ECM production, and even cellular health (Lochter and Bissell, 1995; Sonnenschein and Soto, 2008). The convergence of all these pathological signals is cancer. It is important to note that the gene mutations purported to bring about cancer are present in every single cell of the body and yet the individual is afflicted with only cancer of a particular organ. Cancer is therefore a disease of the organ architecture and not the genes.

Despite the fact that every organ is different and its cancerous state is also therefore unique, there are some properties common to the various types of cancers. The first is, of course, a breakdown in organization of the organ: boundaries between erstwhile well-separated cells are no longer honored. A characteristic 'superstructure-scaffold' that acts as the microenvironment for a large subset of cells (known as epithelia) is the basement membrane. Cancer results in breakdown of this superstructure and results in contact between cells that were not supposed to communicate with each other. The result is abnormal communications and signaling leading to loss of organ function (Bhat & Bissell, 2014).

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#### CONCLUSION

In this essay, I have put across sets of principles that were not considered 'mainstream' in biology and architecture, but are increasingly gaining ground in the respective disciplines. I show that these principles may have different names, but bear a great deal of geometric similarity to each other. Examined closely, these sets of principles are crucial in their ability to give rise to spatial complexity in both biological and man-made architectures. Additionally, they are required for homeostasis (biology) and sustainability (architecture). Their loss leads to cancer in organs. An absence of these principles in architectonic methodologies, especially of the current era, underlies the reasons why some buildings, neighborhoods, and even cities start decaying and dying.

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17



Other PL users PL-using software designers

### Theory 1:

### "Architects are weird."

### *Theory 2:*

### "PL is defective, and won't work in the built environment"

("But is somehow still useful in these other areas??")

### *Theory 3:*

### Something very interesting is going on in technology, and in culture...

(Which may suggest new opportunities for Pattern Languages?)

Collaborative and management models...

*Open-source systems...* 

Changes in organization theory...

Manufacturing, one-off, customization...

*A new understanding of nature* (*Complexity, algorithms, emergence etc*)

A new understanding of biological systems and the logic of their processes The Death and Life of Great American Cities: *The Kind of Problem a City Is* 

Jane Jacobs, 1961

"Among the many revolutionary changes of this century, perhaps those that go deepest are the changes in the mental methods we can use for probing the world...." The Death and Life of Great American Cities: *The Kind of Problem a City Is* 

Jane Jacobs, 1961

### "Problems of organized complexity..."

(After the successes of mechanical and statistical models, but also their limits and unanticipated consequences...)

Jane Jacobs, 2001

### "A 'web way of thinking'..."

As opposed to

"A 'thing' theory"

The Death and Life of Great American Cities: *The Kind of Problem a City Is* 

Jane Jacobs, 1961

# Learning to manage "problems of organized complexity..."

(After the successes of mechanical and statistical models, but also their limits and unanticipated consequences...)

# CITIES ALIVE

Jane Jacobs, Christopher Alexander, and the Roots of the New Urban Renaissance



MICHAEL W. MEHAFFY

### Rapid developments in network science...



 $N_{sk} = 36, E_{sk} = 37$ 









### Rapid developments in so-called complexity science





THE EMERGENCE OF EVERYTHING FUTURE OF LIFE

THE

EDWARD O. WILSON

### Emergent Patterns and Cellular Automata

A one-dimensional model of a cellular automata system with two states, yellow and green, where the neighborhood includes one cell on either side of the cell in focus. That cell is marked with a red dot in the state diagram, showing how it changes based on the state of it and its neighbors in the previous cycle.



### The Genome and the Proteome...





Development of an angiosperm seed: Shepherd's Purse

### Astonishing Variety



Examples of different kinds of leaves, mostly from opmmon flowering plants. The diversity of shapes is remarkable, as is the similarity to the forms shown on the facing page. The leaves range in size from under an exit to many feet.



Typical examples of pigmentation patterns on enemals. Note that many vory different animals and up having remarkably similar patterns.

### Astonishing Beauty





















## Fractals - "scale-free patterns"





















MODERN COMPUTING AND INDIGENOUS DESIGN

RON EGLASH











A New Agenda...





A one-dimensional model of the neighborhood includes ned dot in the state diagram in the previous cycle.	X a cellular autor one cell on etche m, showing how	nata system w r side of the o it changes basi	Ith two states, y ell in focus. That ed on the state o	ellow and green, wi cell is marked with of it and its neighbo	
Starting state:					
New focus cell state:		•	۲	۲	
Starting state:					
New focus cell state:					
State 1:					
State 2:		000			
State 3:					
State 4:		00.0			
State 5:					
State 6:		000			
State 7:					
		2	1000		

GUANINE

THYMINE









### Sustasis Foundation (www.sustasis.net)

Emphasis on development of a new and more effective generation of capacity-building, "bottom-up" and generative tools: Wiki, pattern languages, etc...



Some pages will provide further information and guidance on specific topics of rebuilding, such as financing, program requirements, code requirements and so on.

### Ward Cunningham:

Inventor of Wiki, co-developer of pattern languages in software, Agile, and other new open-source and collaborative approaches to data, knowledge and action. Board member of Sustasis Foundation.





#### TOWN CENTER (Master Pattern)



\* \* \*

#### Description:

In this report, Town Centers are defined as urban destinations or locations providing public access to at least three distinct primary uses which may include residential, commercial, civic buildings, government functions, or public green spaces. While variation in architectural or design elements of the built environment are frequently employed in Town Centers, mixed-uses and public access are central to the delineation of a Town Center.

The existing Town Centers identified in this report are spatially restricted to approximately one square mile areas surrounding particular Metro Light Rail transit stops. These locations are recommended for immediate application of the outlined subpatterns to maximize their utility and quality and may be utilized as templates for the development of future Town Centers at additional transit stops along the Metro Light Rail.

#### Discussion:

Existing Town Centers suffer from myriad problems including a lack of diversity in primary uses, design elements that discourage utilization of space, public access restrictions, and limitations to the inclusion of marginalized public groups. The limitation of both public and private economic capacities for development restricts the attention of Town Center development to those areas possessing an existing mix of primary uses.

THEREFORE: Town centers are often the central urban destinations that define the perceptions and experience of a city for both residents and visitors. This makes attention to the problems of access, physical design, and economic development in Phoenix's Town Centers of critical importance. Further, town centers can act as the incubators of community within a city as their convergence of mixed uses forces the interface of people with different needs accessing varied services. This suggests the

#### FARMERS' MARKET



#### \* \* \*

#### Problem statement:

Separation of producer and consumer encourages indifference about where food comes from, and contributes to other serious community health problems.

#### Discussion:

The growing trend of producing mass food product and shipping it into cities causes health, economic, social, and environmental damage. The transportation of the food from the farm, to the processing plant, to the packaging plant, to the store causes the item to lose nutritional value. Neighborhoods need places to obtain fresh, nutritious food.

Economically, shipped in food means money is leaving the local community and only creating secondary jobs. It also creates the extra cost of transporting fresh foods, making processed foods wer and more appealing to people.

Ily, it creates a relationship between food and consumer that is impartial and indifferent. Without ugh research the eater doesn't know where the food comes from and how much processing it has through. There is no enrichment in the economic exchange that goes on at mass supermarkets.

Environmentally, processed foods take excess amounts of energy to produce for the amount of nutrition they supply. Large supermarkets with bulk goods induce more vehicle trips in order to transport to the consumers home. Large parking lots outside of these markets also invite primarily vehicle trips discouraging a walkable area from developing around it.

THEREFORE: Install Farmers Markets so that neighborhoods can access healthy, local food, community interaction and local economy stimulation.

- Give neighborhood a farmers market that is visible and easily accessible.
- Place near public transit so that the goods are easily transported back to the home.
- Install a parking area size suitable for the vendor's vehicles and place public restrooms on site.



#### STREET MUTATION

#### [Opward hyperlinks: TBD]

Problem-statement: Perfectly aligned streets of standard widths can be rigid and lifeless. But incremental variations to street alignment and width can result in unforescen problems.

#### . . .

Discussion: One model of development is far stretes to be had out in perfect alignment, with plors nearly facing them. But there are many other possible forms of streng and plor relationship, as bittery and many of the most successful greas (or changed) incrementally, without being planned in advance as they ended ag. How can we incompose to such a process table)?



Harris Laboration

One problem is proceedend. How case used a process across within the structural planting process that entry in many incusions? We have facult a relatively desplar mechanism, which addresses beds stores marations and other sequential adaptations. It excets a series of "docume low" which a structural planting process (see manyle at heid and then allows sources to make constraint and addresses to their sequential addresses have an allow allows sources to make constraint and addresses to the treatment of the rightco-tways, which is spitically docknown? The Rely are of the process is the treatment of the rightco-tways, which is not spitically docknown? The Rely are of the process in the treatment of the rightco-tways, which is not not observe as a standard or "durange" tract, and then addressed housing the low low process.

This requires that the City or other strent authority stability very minimum standards for arrest width, such design, sidowalk and streatscape alements, and no exe. (These can also be represented as patterns). If a low-speed, fullitely lowvolume condition, such standards can be very lows. (See e.g. the work of Hars Monderman and other researchers in the Gel of no called "haved speed" design.)

Once the standards are established, then the owners are allowed to make their street mutations as they choose, within the minimum standards. The local authority over the streets will review and approve the plans, or else advise of changes needed.

The only other densess that is constrained to that each successive overce reset connect to the analoguines stabilized by the previous overces, and do so with exceeding the geometric standards specified by the local authority. The overc many with to work together so create a shared pattern such as a front courty as gradem or patienting area.

#### Therefore:

Where street matritions are desired within a local development area, creat standard or "documy" street tract, and then specify a nominal, minimum stand maximum width. Then each successive owner may establish their own fronts property line, following the simple rule: connect to the provinus adjacent or formage property line, size within the minimum and maximum oblich, use t established curb pattern(s) for that area, and integrate other approved design elements into the streetscape.

. . .

Dourseur Syperiteder. If adjoining ownen wich, they can create ditached Building can also make syperitents to share features, such as <u>Prior Gueden</u>, <u>Eutower Spaar</u>, <u>Sherel Packurg, Clow</u> ...rof



#### ATTACHED BUILDINGS

Problem-statement: As the plots in a block are built out, there is often a need to create attached buildings incrementally. But this requires that many problems be solved. These include fire protection, water intrusion, and protection of each side in the event the other is modified or demolished.

. . .

Distantian: Let us suppose that two adjacent plot owners have agreed that they would prefer to hald attached building, hat their plars are no accessarily standardized. One usin may be table than another, or wolfer than another. Forthermore, one party may ranke changes later that will expose parts of the other's will. In oach case, care must be taken to protect the separate buildings from damage by waver, fix and other dangers.

This requires that a number of steps he taken to protect each side. - First, each wall must be built as a fully insultance, wather-protected enclosure, of a reaction three there is a straight (see balance).

type that allows fluching to be installed (see below). Second, fluching must be introduced at the top taige where the two buildings about. Think, an it space of approx. The must be unstational between the two walls. This goap can be evaluated by a method agreed upon by the parties and the building afficial, such as calleling with a backer rod at the exposed edges, at covering with a piece of min. -Fourth, any elements of one structure that project beyond the surface of another must be built with fite-resistive structure, as required by local builting codes.

#### Therefore:

Where attached buildings are desired, build each building as a free-standing structure, with full sound analation, moisture protection, and all other engineering requirements. Make sure that the party wall is set up to admit flashing for an adjoining construction, and to mantian a minimum I-inch air space (i.e. 1/2 inch to the property line on each side). When both structures are complete, the remaining exposed areas and gaps can receive an exterior finish that is agreed by built parties.

Maintain an agreement between the neighbors that specifies how many times modifications may be made, and the relative responsibilities of each for incurred costs. Record this agreement with your local property deed authority.

#### . . .

[Deuenwood hyperlinks: A portion of a residential yard may need to accounted ate a side yard, given in the pattern <u>Side Yard Hease</u>. Exc.,...]

# Potential of Federated Wiki:

Open-source, peer-to-peer resource

- Federated structure promotes evolution

- Able to handle <u>quantitative</u> data

- Transparency of data (click-through)

- Ease of relational modeling in real time



### Readiness Diagnostic

Upward Hyperlinks: Regional Plan.

Problem: Different sites have different levels of readiness for development, requiring different tools.

Discussion: In some sites will simply not t development for a n require specialized an analysis of these branching set of ifcustomized tools f

The Diagnostic pr Diagnostic Test. in the sub-patter the modeling.

Therefore: Whe implementation identify key iss essential for p and Neighbori

Note: No trac





#### **Town Center**

Upward Hyperlinks: Urban Center, Regional Plan, Be sure to use the Readiness Diagnostic before siting a Town Center.

Problem: Just as a neighborhood needs a center, groups of neighborhoods (usually about 4, depending on size) need a larger center, providing walkable access to services providing daily needs.

Discussion: People need a coordinated set of resources within walking distance of their homes. Studies show that walking distance is about 1/4 mile, and in certain conditions,



Town Centers bring many essential services within daily and including all



Persons in This Model (Click to Recalibrate)

#### Problem: Many people want to conduct businesses from home. hborhoods can e activity of usinesses -- if ured carefully.

Accessory Live Works

Upward Hyperlinks: Town

Neighborhood

Center, Urban Center, Good

ve Works provide av to reduce small business wide needed heighborhood. the only place uilding is at the

the

nartCode.

such as

ing house -- such as in the front yard,or alley. This can be done if codes are revised ses, and to provide the minimal setbacks lire.



Incremental Tax Income Per Capita Per Vear



Living over the store -- at the edge of a single-family lot.



Persons in This Model (Click to Recalibrate)



llar with mixed-use buildings).





Maed-use buildings pose many challanges.

occupancy separation" between uses can nt expense. Some commercial uses, such produce cooking odors and/or noises that Residents can also create problems that



Mixed Use Building

Upward Hyperlinks: Urban Center, Town Center, Neighborhood Center.

nixed use

Persone in This Model (Detault - Click to Recalibrate)

pan be slow and complex, resulting in risk (especially in suburban



× Smallest Federated Wiki

ew/welcome-visitors/view/single-family-detached-home/view/attaching-homes/view/reducing-infrastructure-embodied-energy

#### Single-Family Detached Home

Upward Hyperlinks: Town Center, Typical Neighborhood

Problem: Many people prefer a detached home on a lot that is large enough to have a vard.



Discussion: The Single-Family Detached (or SFD for short) home is a common type for families and others who

Single Family Detached Home

prefer ample outdoor space for gardening and other recreation. The type is not right for everyone, however; it requires more maintenance, it can be more expensive. and its use of energy and levels of emissions can be higher. These problems can be mitigated, but it is not easy to do so.

Therefore: Within any neighborhood, build a mix of single-family detached homes, alongside other kinds of homes. As a rule of thumb, do not build more than 20 SFD homes without adding some other kinds of homes.

Downward Hyperlinks: Consider Attaching Homes to reduce cost and increase resource efficiency. Smaller lots and attached homes will also reduce Infrastructure Embodied Energy and average Infrastructure Operating Energy, Consider also Making Multi-Family Homes as an even more efficient kind of home.



Family Detailed Home. Cottage

Problem: Many people can live very happily in an attached home. But we need to be able to model the effect on emissions when they change from detached to attached homes.



Uploaded image

Discussion: The Single-Family Detached (or SFD for short) home is a common type for families and others who prefer ample outdoor space for gardening and other recreation. But the Single-Family Attached home (or SFA for short) can accommodate many people too -especially when the benefits are more clear. These include lower yard maintenance, lower energy use, lower emissions - and lower cost.

Therefore: When changing from single-family detached (SFD) to single-family attached (SFA) homes, calculate the additional benefits of lower energy use, lower emissions, and lower cost.

Downward Hyperlinks: Consider Reducing Infrastructure Embodied Energy with smaller and more compact lots. Consider Orienting Buildings to Sun and Shade to further reduce energy, emissions and cost.







6



#### Reducing Infrastructure **Embodied Energy**

Upward Hyperlinks: Attaching Homes, Single-Family Detached Homes

Problem: How can we reduce the embodied energy from infrastructure per person?

Discussion: Infrastructure -- streets, pipes, wires, and all the other elements that provide our urban services -takes resources and energy to build and to repair. This energy is less than the energy that infrastructure usually transmits - but it is not zero, and it can add up.

Therefore: When considering how to locate and design a home or a neighborhood, consider the effect of infrastructure embodied energy. This factor goes down considerably when more homes are placed closer together, on smaller lots.

Downward Hyperlinks: Consider Reducing Infrastructure Operating Energy too, with a reduction strategy. Also consider a District Energy System to locate energy distribution more efficiently.



20 2.5 Units in This Model Residents per Unit (Click to (Click to Recalibrate) Recalibrate) 56.7 7224 KGC quivalent Emissions Percentage Per KG Oil Eauly Consumption Per Capita Per Y Capita Per Year I(x)23.5Annual Energy Cost Tons GHG Emissions Per Capita Per Year Per Capita Per Year X + X + X + X + X + + X X + + X + X + + \* 1 1 1 1 X + \* 1 \* + \$ + 1 X + \$ + \$ + 1 1 1 \$ + 1 X 1 X X X 1 1 X X X X X X + X + \ \ + \ X + X + \ \ \ + \ \ \* +

CC BY-SA 3.0 . JSON

Next, apply the pattern to your site and set the parameters.

#### CALCULATE THE METRICS

Now we can calculate some simple metrics. How many residents are in your identifiable neighborhood area?

What is the greenhouse gas (equivalent) emissions per person in your neighborhood area?

Here are the resulting values:

Source: Mehaffy, M.W. (2014) "Counting Urban Carbon.". citation @

19.2

As we add other patterns, we can explore ways to reduce carbon emissions while

New Emissions per Capita (metric tons)

making choices based on other criteria.

1,760

**Total Residents** (units)

#### EXPLORE NEXT PATTERN

Define the Density Rings that provide choice of density within an overall compact walkable form. Include a Web of Transportation to provide convenient, well-connected transportation choices.

Provide for a Web of Shopping and Activities to create a complete neighborhood, with all the typical activities of

### FEDERATED WIKI:

- Predictive outcomes can be modeled with recognized methodologies
- Improvements can be easily made by a community of developers
- Format is simple and user-friendly

- NOT a black box sources are all hyperlinked

#### Identifiable Neighborhood Network

Establishes the basic neighborhood structure.

Problem: People need an identifiable spatial unit to belong to, that provides a framework for meeting their needs within the city. It must have a spatial layout that promotes the ability to walk and to interact with others.



Upward Hyperlinks: WikiPLACE Alpha Test, Start Tool - Set Baseline

Discussion: There is a growing body of research that shows that walkable neighborhoods have many advantages, including lower greenhouse gas emissions per capita. In particular, there is evidence that a spacing of principal through streets at a rough grid of 1/4 mile (400M) is close to an optimum spacing.

See for example Mehaffy, Porta, Rofe and Salingaros, \*Urban nuclei and the geometry of streets: The 'emergent neighborhoods' model" - citation @

Therefore: identify an area that can accommodate the basic complements of neighborhood life: shopping, recreation, homes, workplaces. Place a Network of Through Streets at no more than ¼ mile within this structure. Provide for retail and commercial Mixed Use along these through streets, especially at intersections.

ACTIVATE THE PATTERN

Next, apply the pattern to your site and set the parameters.

CALCULATE THE METRICS

Now we can calculate some simple metrics. How many residents are in your identifiable neighborhood area?

What is the greenhouse gas (equivalent) emissions per person in your neighborhood area?

Here are the resulting values

Source: Mehaffy, M.W. (2014) "Counting Urban Carbon." citation @

As we add other patterns, we New Emissions per Capita can explore ways to reduce (metric tons) carbon emissions while making choices based on other criteria.

#### 1.760

19.2

(units) EXPLORE NEXT PATTERN

Define the Density Rings that provide choice of density within an overall compact walkable form. Include a Web of Transportation to provide convenient, well-connected transportation choices

Provide for a Web of Shopping and Activities to create a complete neighborhood, with all the typical activities of daily travel nearby.

HINT: You can always go back to previous patterns (including those listed in the "Upward Hyperlinks" section above) and refine your choices. When you are ready to display the final result, click on Analyze and Display.

0 0 + X + X + X + X + X + . . . . . . . . . . . . . . + + 1 1 + + + + × × × 1 % \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* . . CC BY-SA 4.0 , JSON , localhoat:3000

#### older

#### Density Rings

Sets the pattern of overall density within a neighborhood, creating zones with greater or lesser density.

Problem: Urban density car provide a number of advantages. But people vary in their desire to be close to other people, activities and services, or alternatively, to be in quieter areas with more space. These varied desires require variation: of density within a Variations in neighborhood

density offer choices neighborhood, so that people have choices during the day, and over a lifetim

vard Hyperlinks: (Identifiable Neighborhood Network.)

Discussion: Research shows a strong correlation between increases in density and a number of urban benefits, including the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions per capita. But this factor must be balanced with other factors. citation a

Therefore: Set the overall density within the neighborhood. Create ring-like zones with greater or lesser density. Greater density is generally advantageous, but a range should be provided to meet varied needs and preferences

IMPLEMENT THE PATTERN

Change the density value below from the baseline. View the results in the "Metrics" section below that and adjust as desired.

13 Revised Dwelling (Units / Acre)

CALCULATE THE METRICS



Here are the resulting values:



As we add other patterns, we New Emissions per Capita { metric tons } can explore ways to reduce carbon emissions while making choices based on other criteria

1.760

Condition 5

EXPLORE NEXT PATTERN

Provide for a Web of Shopping and Activities to create a complete neighborhood, with all the typical activities of daily travel nearby.

Include a Web of Transportation to provide convenient, well-connected transportation choices.

HINT: You can always go back to previous patterns (including those listed in the "Upward Hyperlinks" section above) and refine your choices. When you are ready to display the final result, click on Analyze and Display.



#### older



Creates a network of destinations serving daily needs and activities.

Problem: People need a network of close-by resources that can meet their daily needs, including shopping, recreation, schools, places of work and other daily activities



Close-by shopping allows

Discussion: The web of transportation etc

Therefore: Create a network of destinations serving daily needs and activities, and integrated with the Web of Provide Neighborhood Centers at the nodes, which will

IMPLEMENT THE PATTERN

value from 1 to 10.5 means "meets the pattern with minimal adequacy." 10 is "meets the pattern to maximum effective degree." 0 is "does not meet the pattern at all." (The default value is 5 -- if you don't know what your score is, leave this value in place.)

8 Web of Shopping and Activities

CALCULATE THE METRICS

Below are the predicted results of your change.

8 Web of Shopping and Activities 16.65 Emissions \* (100-Web)/100



000 30,0

Total Neighborhood GHG

( metric tone ) Equivalent Emissions (metric tons units) Source: Mehaffy, MW (2013). "Prospects for scenario-

modelling urban design methodologies to achieve significant greenhouse gas emissions reductions." citation

EXPLORE NEXT PATTERN

New Emissions per Capital

Include a Web of Transportation to provide convenient. well-connected transportation choices

HINT: You can always go back to previous patterns (including those listed in the "Upward Hyperlinks" section above) and refine your choices. When you are ready to display the final result, click on Analyze and Display.

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#### Web of Transportation

Creates a network of multi-modal interchanges that provide transportation connectivity.

Problem: The system of transportation can only work efficiently if all the narts are well connected.

Unward Hyperlinks: Identifiable Neighborhood Density Rings



An interchange inode in the

Discussion: The web of transportation etc.

Therefore: Create a network of multi-modal interchanges, spaced approx, 1/4 mile (400m) apart. Make larger interchanges further apart (e.g. 1/2 mile, 1 mile etc). At each interchange, bring together the modes of transportation, including walking, biking, driving, bus, streetcar, rail and other modes. Assure that a Network of Through Streets connects well to the interchanges.

IMPLEMENT THE PATTERN

Score your project's performance on this pattern, with a value from 1 to 10.5 means "meets the pattern with minimal adequacy." 10 is "meets the pattern to maximum effective degree." 0 is "does not meet the pattern at all." (The default value is 5 -- if you don't know what your score is, leave this value in place.)

5 Web of Transportation

A rating of 5 corresponds to an average US city (not a suburb).

CALCULATE THE METRICS

Below are the predicted results of your change, based on empirical study of neighborhoods with comparable changes.

16.65 New Emissions per Capita 5 Web of Transportation 15.82 Emissions \* (100-Web)/100



Equivalent Emissions

(metric tons units)

New Emissions per Capita ( metric toos )

Source: Ewing, R., Bartholomew, K., Winkelman S., Walters, J., & Chen, D. (2009), Growing cooler; the evidence on urban development and climate change. Renewable Resources Journal, 25(4), 6-13, citation (9)

EXPLORE NEXT PATTERN

HINT: You can always go back to previous patterns (including those listed in the "Upward Hyperlinks" section above) and refine your choices.

When you are ready to display the final result, click on Analyze and Display.

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walking and exe

Transportation and the Network of Through Streets. allow small shops and other activities to form.

Score your project's performance on this pattern, with a

18.1 New Emissions per Capita
S buildtomorrow.fed.wiki.org/view/welcome-visitors/view/readiness-diagnostic/view/neighborhood-renaissance-center/view/community-design-wiki/view/pre-approved-plans

#### Readiness Diagnostic

#### Upward Hyperlinks: Regional Plan.

Problem: Different sites have different levels of readiness for development, requiring different tools. 20 -2

Not all sites are created

equal

30

Discussion: In some cases, sites will simply not be ready

for development for a number of years, and even then they may require specialized tools. The Readiness Diagnostic provides an analysis of these requirements. A series of tests provide a branching set of if-then actions, leading to a set of customized tools for each site.

The Diagnostic process is completed in the sub-pattern Diagnostic Test. After you have completed entering the data in the sub-pattern, you can return to this pattern to continue the modeling.

Therefore: When preparing a development plan, or an implementation of an existing plan, use the diagnostic tool to identify key issues and opportunities. The diagnostic tool is essential for place patterns like Urban Center, Town Center and Neighborhood Center. You may also decide that the first step is to create a Neighborhood Renaissance Center.

Note: No tracking metrics are associated with this pattern.

 Image: Second second

#### Neighborhood Renaissance Center

#### Upward Hyperlinks: Readiness Diagnostic.

necessary.

Problem: The principal coordination needed of city services comes down to



Neighborhood Renaissance Center brings together ideas and solutions

Discussion: The scale of the neighborhood is the most important when it comes to many of the activities we engage in within cities and towns - especially those that relate to the building and modifying of the neighborhood itself. Individuals need many resources to build and modify their homes and businesses in a way that complements the neighborhood structure. In some cases they simply need to be able to enforce planning requirements and code limitations. But they need more than limitations: they need positive guidance.

A more complete discussion of this issue can be found at http://www.tectics.com/NRCs.htm.

Therefore To develop the social and physical capital of a neighborhood more fully, establish a **Neighborhood Renaissance Center** in a convenient location in the neighborhood. Provide a Design Library of Pre-Approved Plans, Project Pattern Languages and Technical Guidelines. Create a Community Design Wiki that allows people to build and exchange information.

X + X + X + X X + X X 1 + X X + X + X X X \* \* \*

#### Community Design Wiki

#### Upward Hyperlinks: Neighborhood Renaissance Center.

Problem: People need to be able to share information, and grow the body of information they share as they improve it. This information needs to be displayed geographically.

further development of those patterns.



Wiki GIS page

Discussion: People need to be able to exchange information about planned projects, links to resources, and technical information, coordinated to a geographic display of the neighborhood. In this way, people can see patterns forming, and participate in the

Therefore: Create a Geographic Information System, designed as a Wiki, that provides information and guidance on specific topics of rebuilding, such as financing, program requirements, code requirements and so on. Provide the ability to include modular elements of information that the user can collect for their own project. The information can then be easily plugged into the user's own project pattern language, which can then better reflect the requirements and interactions for their own specific project.

Include links to Pre-Approved Plans, Neighborhood Pattern Language, and Home Pattern Language.

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#### Upward Hyperlinks: Neighborhood Renaissance Center, Design Library.

Problem: One of the biggest problems for building structures that are compatible with a local neighborhood is the expense and delay of the permitting process -particularly when it involves customized plans.

Discussion: People need access to plans that are compatible with an existing neighborhood, but that are not cookie-cutter plans. These plans can be adjusted to

Pre-Approved Plans assure that residents can quickly and costeffectively approve compatible plans.

meet user needs, and to take on distinctive features so as to avoid an oppressive sameness. But they can also be pre-approved by the City plans examiners, and by the stakeholders of the community.

Therefore: Work with the City Planning and Building departments to create a library of pre-approved plans of the kinds of buildings that residents would like to have in their neighborhood. Include modular elements that can be added and subtracted to make the plans easy to modify to meet needs. Provide a Financing Information Guide to help owners to secure financing for their project. Consider hiring a Barefoot Architect to make small modifications to the plans to better fit their needs. Provide Pattern Books to guide owners and builders in the details of their plans.

Image: Straight of the straig



53

Minbox - michael.mehaffy@gr ×/ Smallest Federated Wiki

### TYPICAL PLACE TYPE

C S buildtomorrow.fed.wiki.org/view/welcome-visitors/view/readiness-diag ostic/view/town-center/view/mixed-use-building/view/mixed-use-lending-ins rument

dally access.

3.000

#### **Readiness Diagnostic**

#### Upward Hyperlinks: Regional Plan

Problem: Different sites have different levels of readiness for development, requiring different tools.

Discussion: In some cases, sites will simply not be ready

for development for a number of years, and even then they may require specialized tools. The Readiness Diagnostic provides an analysis of these requirements. A series of tests provide a branching set of if-then actions, leading to a set of customized tools for each site.

The Diagnostic process is completed in the sub-pattern Diagnostic Test. After you have completed entering the data in the sub-pattern, you can return to this pattern to continue the modeling.

Therefore: When preparing a development plan, or an implementation of an existing plan, use the diagnostic tool to identify key issues and opportunities. The diagnostic tool is essential for place patterns like Urban Center, Town Center and Neighborhood Center.

Note: No tracking metrics are associated with this pattern.

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equal

sure to use the Readiness Diagnostic before siting a Town Center. Problem: Just as a neighborhood needs a center.

**Town Center** 

Upward Hyperlinks: Urban

Center, Regional Plan, Be

Town Centers bring many groups of neighborhoods essential services within (usually about 4, depending on size) need a larger center. providing walkable access to services providing daily needs.

Discussion: People need a coordinated set of resources within walking distance of their homes. Studies show that walking distance is about 1/4 mile, and in certain conditions.

Persons in This Model (Click to Recalibrate) can be increased to 1/2 mile.

Beyond this distance, they need public transportation to take them to more distant resources. A coordinated approach will organize a transit stop within the Town Center.

Therefore: Designate a Town Center as a node within a walkable pedshed of maximum 1/2 mile radius.

Include the following place elements: Transit Stop.

Rowhouse, Cottage, Townhouse, Multi-Family Residential Building, Accessory Live Works

Consider including the following process elements: SmartCode, Tax-Increment

Upward Hyperlinks: Urban Center, Town Center, Neighborhood Center.

buildings are technically demanding and tend to be expensive, making them uncompetitive. Yet they offer important advantages too.



many challenges.

50

Persons in This Model

(Default - Click to

Recalibrate)

\$16

(Default) Tax Income

Per Capita Per Year

Discussion: Among the many challenges of mixed use buildings, the "occupancy separation" between uses can cause significant pense. Some commercial uses, such as restaurants, produce cooking odors and/or noises that disturb residents. Residents can also create problems that interrupt business.

More significantly, there are regulatory burdens for mixed use buildings that can make them unfeasible. For example, Fannie Mae has a "20% Rule" that limits commercial to 20% of gross square footage. The permitting process can be

slow and complex, resulting in significant delay and risk (especially in suburban jurisdictions not familiar with mixed-use buildings).

Therefore: Use a Readiness Diagnostic to be sure the market is ready for a mixed use building type. Then use a Pre-Approved Type to simplify the planning and entitlement process, and

reduce risk.



Mised-use buildings pose

Problem: It is difficult to finance mixed-use projects, because they are perceived as complex and risky.

Mixed-Use Lending Instrument

PROCESS TOOL

23

Discussion: Mixed use projects are in fact more complex and relatively riskier than single-use projects, because of their greater elexity of uses and, often,

Upward Hyperlinks: Mixed Use

Building, Live Work Rowhouse,

Accessory Live Works.

Mixed use lending is complex and often difficult to secure.

of construction. But part of the problem is simply that lenders are unfamiliar with this kind of project, and unwilling to take on risk that is not well understood and not well identified.

A simple way to deal with this challenge is to create standardized lending instruments, which pre-package the projects into a standardized portfolio. These instruments also set guidelines that are coordinated with the standardized entitlement and permitting approval requirements for mixed use projects.

Therefore: Create standardized mixed use lending instruments, working in partnership with area bankers. Apply loan guarantees where feasible, and where the risk is justified.

Note: No tracking metrics are associated with this pattern.

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**\$120** 

(Default) Tax Income Per Capita Per Year

Mixed Use Building, Consider including: Live Work

120 KG



Mixed Use Building

() buildtomorrow.fed.wiki.org/view/welcome-visitors/view/feeling-map-diagnostic/view/feeling-map-tool/view/feeling-map-display

#### Welcome Visitors

Welcome to the Smallest Federated Wiki for the Envision Tomorrow Carbon Modeling project.

This project offers a "topikit" of proven resources for creating livable, prosperous neighborhoods, cities, suburbs and towns. Each tool is designed to "plug and play" with the other tools, forming a coordinated toolkit that is powerful but easy to use.

This module has several notable features:

- It tracks performance metrics for variables like cost, savings, tax cost, resource use, and greenhouse gas emissions. As you work with several tools in combination, you can see how these metrics are likely to perform, and to change based on your choices. In this way, Build Tomorrow serves as a predictive model of these metrics.

- It uses an advanced wiki format, which means that the information and resources can prow and become more accurate and useful. People who develop new tools, or new ways of using existing tools to achieve better results, can share that information, and others can thereby build more useful toolkits. Significant local improvements can also be uploaded to the main system, making it progressively smarter too. (This kind of improvement process is based on the Github open-source model of Linus Torvalds.)

- It uses a pattern language format, which means the tools can interface with each other as elements of 'object-oriented design.' In plain language, the tools work together to help you to make a design that is a better "fit" with your unique set of problems. (This system is in widespread use today, especially within computer software.)

- It is designed to form a module within the Envision Tomorrow system, an open-source scenario-modeling tool developed by Fregorese and Associates, and now in development at the University of Utah. It will allow those using Envision Tomorrow to go beyond scenario

#### Feeling Map Diagnostic

Upward Hyperlinks: Readiness Diagnostic Problem: Qualitative characteristics play a huge but often underappreciated role in our lives. They are so important that if we don't account for them, a project is not likely to be

"cluster map" showing different successful. But our patterns of methods for doing so are evaluation by color crude and quantitative.

Discussion: The technology of our age has historically been much better at managing guantitative factors than gualitative ones. To handle qualitative factors, we usually rely upon 'genius artists' to come and provide aesthetic characteristics, almost as a kind of cloak over the quantitatively determined parts. (We put an exotic "styled" body over the "guts" of the car, for example.)

Occasionally we are better at integrating these two factors -- but too rarely. The problem is especially acute when dealing with designs with multiple sub-parts that need to "go together" in a more organic way. Parts of neighborhoods and cities are very good examples. How can we do this?

The "feeling map" is what is known as a "consensus methodology" -- a way of combining many smaller qualitative evaluations into a larger, more reliable diagnostic map. Such maps can be used

Therefore: When beginning a project, always go through a qualitative diagnostic, and use a feeling map to identify the areas to be repaired, improved or preserved.

Downward Hyoerlinks: Use the Feeling Map Tool to work with a group to get measurements. Use the Feeling Map Processor to compile the results.

#### Feeling Map Tool

To use this tool, drag your project map into the GPS-activated window below, and set the correct scale:



Then have others on your team load this tool onto their handheid, and use the buttons below to mark their evaluations as they navigate the project area.

#### Feeling Map Display

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#### Feeling Map Display

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A Feeling Map



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### Identifiable Neighborhood Network

Establishes the basic neighborhood structure.

Problem: People need an identifiable spatial unit to belong to, that provides a framework for meeting their needs within the city. It must have a spatial layout that promotes the ability to walk and to interact with others.



The Neighborhood

Upward Hyperlinks: WikiPLACE Alpha Test, Start Tool - Set Baseline

Discussion: There is a growing body of research that shows that walkable neighborhoods have many advantages, including lower greenhouse gas emissions per capita. In particular, there is evidence that a spacing of principal through streets at a rough grid of 1/4 mile (400M) is close to an optimum spacing.

See for example Mehaffy, Porta, Rofe and Salingaros, "Urban nuclei and the geometry of streets: The 'emergent neighborhoods' model" - citation @

Therefore: Identify an area that can accommodate the basic complements of neighborhood life: shopping, recreation, homes, workplaces. Place a Network of Through Streets at no more than 1/4 mile within this structure. Provide for retail and commercial Mixed Use along these through streets, especially at intersections.

ACTIVATE THE PATTERN

Next, apply the pattern to your site and set the narameters

#### Identifiable Neighborhood Network

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See for example Mehaffy, Porta, Rofe and Salingaros, \*Urban nuclei and the geometry of streets: The 'emergent neighborhoods' model" - citation @

Therefore: identify an area that can accommodate the basic complements of neighborhood life: shopping. recreation homes workplaces Place a Network of Through Streets at no more than ¼ mile within this structure. Provide for retail and commercial Mixed Use along these through streets, especially at intersections.

ACTIVATE THE PATTERN

Next, apply the pattern to your site and set the parameters

CALCULATE THE METRICS

Now we can calculate some simple metrics. How many residents are in your identifiable neighborhood area?

What is the greenhouse gas (equivalent) emissions per person in your neighborhood area?

Here are the resulting values:

Source: Mehaffv. M.W. (2014) "Counting Urban Carbon.". citation @



As we add other patterns, we New Emissions per Capita can exolore ways to reduce carbon emissions while making choices based on other criteria

(metric tons)

1.760

(units)

EXPLORE NEXT PATTERN Define the Density Rings that provide choice of density within an overall compact walkable form. Include a Web of Transportation to provide convenient, well-connected transportation choices.

Provide for a Web of Shopping and Activities to create a complete neighborhood, with all the typical activities of daily travel nearby.

HINT: You can always go back to previous patterns (including those listed in the "Upward Hyperlinks" section above) and refine your choices. When you are ready to display the final result, click on Analyze and Display.

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### **Density Rings**

Sets the pattern of overall density within a neighborhood, creating zones with greater or lesser density.

Problem: Urban density can provide a number of advantages. But people vary in their desire to be close to other people, activities and services, or alternatively, to be in quieter areas with more space. These varied desires require variations of density within a neighborhood, so that people have choices during the day, and over a lifetime.



Variations in neighborhood density offer choices

#### Upward Hyperlinks: (Identifiable Neighborhood Network.)

**Discussion:** Research shows a strong correlation between increases in density and a number of urban benefits, including the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions per capita. But this factor must be balanced with other factors. *citation* 

Therefore: Set the overall density within the neighborhood. Create ring-like zones with greater or lesser density. Greater density is generally advantageous, but a range should be provided to meet varied needs and preferences.

#### IMPLEMENT THE PATTERN

Change the density value below from the baseline. View the results in the "Metrics" section below that, and adjust

#### older Density Rings Sets the pattern of overall density within a neighborhood, creating zones with greater or lesser density. Problem: Urban density can provide a number of advantages. But people vary in their desire to be close to other people. activities and services, o alternatively, to be in quieter areas with more space. These varied desires require variations of density within a neighborhood, so that density offer choice people have choices during the day, and over a lifetime Upward Hyperlinks: (Identifiable Neighborhood Network. Discussion: Research shows a strong correlation between increases in density and a number of urban benefits, including the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions per capita. But this factor must be balanced with other factors. citation @ Therefore: Set the overall density within the neighborhood. Create ring-like zones with greater or lesser density. Greater density is generally advantageous, but a range should be provided to meet varied needs and preferences. IMPLEMENT THE PATTERN Change the density value below from the baseline. View the results in the "Metrics" section below that, and adjust as desired. 13 Revised Dwelling (Units / Acre) CALCULATE THE METRICS Following are the predicted 130 results of your change. First, the percentage change in the density from the baseline: Percent Change Here are the resulting values Source: Mehaffy, M.W. (2014) "Counting Urban Carbon.". 18.1 citation 6 As we add other patterns, we can explore ways to reduce ( metric tons ) carbon emissions while making choices based on other criteria. 1.760 EXPLORE NEXT PATTERN Provide for a Web of Shopping and Activities to create a complete neighborhood, with all the typical activities of daily travel nearby Include a Web of Transportation to provide convenient, well-connected transportation choices. HINT: You can always go back to previous patterns (including those listed in the "Upward Hyperlinks" section above) and refine your choices. When you are ready to display the final result, click on Analyze and Display 0 + 1 + 1 + 1 1 + 1 1 + 1 + 1 : + 1 + 1 1 + 1 X 1 1 N + N 1 1 1 1 N N N N N + X + N 1 1 N 1 + X + N N N + X X I X X X X X X X + X + .......... CC BY-SA 4.0 . JSON . localhost:3000



### Web of Shopping and Activities

Creates a network of destinations serving daily needs and activities.

Problem: People need a network of close-by resources that can meet their daily needs, including shopping, recreation, schools, places of work and other daily activities.

Upward Hyperlinks: Density Rings, Web of Transportation, Identifiable Neighborhood





Close-by shopping allows walking and exercise

Therefore: Create a network of destinations serving daily needs and activities, and integrated with the Web of Transportation and the Network of Through Streets. Provide Neighborhood Centers at the nodes, which will allow small shops and other activities to form.

#### IMPLEMENT THE PATTERN

Score your project's performance on this pattern, with a value from 1 to 10.5 means "meets the pattern with minimal adequacy." 10 is "meets the pattern to maximum effective degree." 0 is "does not meet the pattern at all." (The default value is 5 -- if you don't know what your score is, leave this value in place.)

#### older

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Discussion: The web of transportation ... etc

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8 Web of Shopping and Activities

CALCULATE THE METRICS

Below are the predicted results of your change

18.1 New Emissions per Capita 8 Web of Shopping and Activities 16.65 Emissions \* (100-Web)/100

#### 16.65 38,099

New Emissions per Capital ( metric tons ) Source: Mehaffy, MW (2013),

Total Neighborhood GHG Equivalent Emissions ( metric tons units )

"Prospects for scenariomodelling urban design methodologies to achieve significant greenhouse gas emissions reductions." citation

EXPLORE NEXT PATTERN

Include a Web of Transportation to provide convenient, well-connected transportation choices

HINT: You can always go back to previous patterns (including those listed in the "Unward Hyperlinks" section. above) and refine your choices. When you are ready to display the final result, click on Analyze and Display.

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8 Web of Shopping and Activities

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### Web of Transportation

Creates a network of multi-modal interchanges that provide transportation connectivity.

Problem: The system of transportation can only work efficiently if all the parts are well connected.

#### Upward Hyperlinks: Identifiable Neighborhood, **Density Rings**

Discussion: The web of transportation ... etc

#### Therefore: Create a network

of multi-modal interchanges, spaced approx. 1/4 mile (400m) apart. Make larger interchanges further apart (e.g. 1/2 mile, 1 mile etc). At each interchange, bring together the modes of transportation, including walking, biking, driving, bus, streetcar, rail and other modes. Assure that a Network of Through Streets connects well to the interchanges.

#### IMPLEMENT THE PATTERN

Score your project's performance on this pattern, with a value from 1 to 10.5 means "meets the pattern with minimal adequacy." 10 is "meets the pattern to maximum effective degree." 0 is "does not meet the pattern at all." (The default value is 5 -- if you don't know what your score is, leave this value in place.)

#### 5 Web of Transportation



#### Web of Transportation

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Problem: The system of transportation can only work efficiently if all the parts are well connected

Upward Hyperlinks: Identifiable Neighborhood Density Rings

Discussion: The web of transportation etc.

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IMPLEMENT THE PATTERN

Score your project's performance on this pattern, with a value from 1 to 10, 5 means "meets the pattern with minimal adequacy." 10 is "meets the pattern to maximum effective degree." 0 is "does not meet the pattern at all." (The default value is 5 -- if you don't know what your score is, leave this value in place.)

5 Web of Transportation

A rating of 5 corresponds to an average US city (not a suburb)

CALCULATE THE METRICS

Below are the predicted results of your change, based on empirical study of neighborhoods with comparable changes.

16.65 New Emissions per Capita 5 Web of Transportation 15.82 Emissions \* (100-Web)/100

#### 15.81 36,194

Equivalent Emissions

(metric tons units)

New Emissions per Capita Total Neighborhood GHG ( metric tons )

Source: Ewing, R., Bartholomew, K., Winkelman,

S., Walters, J., & Chen, D. (2009). Growing cooler: the evidence on urban development and climate change. Renewable Resources Journal, 25(4), 6-13, citation +9

EXPLORE NEXT PATTERN

HINT: You can always oo back to previous patterns (including those listed in the "Upward Hyperlinks" section above) and refine your choices.

When you are ready to display the final result, click on Analyze and Display.

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Density Rings

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#### Velcome Visitors

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#### WikiPLACE Alpha Test

Welcome to the first alpha version of the WikiPLACE urban design decision support tool.

This page briefly explains the tool. If you're ready to start using the tool, you can skip to the page Start Tool - Set Baseline

WikiPLACE is a simple urban scenario-modeling system with the ease of use of a web -based wiki, combined with the power of numerical calculations. It uses the new "Federated Wiki" system now in development by wiki inventor Ward Cunningham. WikiPLACE is able to calculate the

predicted change to a given 'externality," such as greenhouse gas emissions per person, in response to certain kinds of urban design changes. The changes are represented in the model by "patterns" -- descriptions of urban design features that fit into a network or "language."

> As with any language, this "pattern language" is a flexible system that makes it possible to quickly construct different configurations and explore how they perform. The configurations can be easily adapted to specific kinds of problems and contexts. (That's why WikiPLACE is short for "Wikibased Pattern Language Adaptive

Calculator of Externalities.")

This "alpha test" version uses just five patterns, but in principle this kind of model could prow and evolve to become more complex in response to the particular problems being studied.

The five patterns are updated versions of well-known patterns from the 1977 book A Pattern Language. The book was written

First, you will set the baseline metrics for the neighborhood or other area you are designing -- the measurements per capita for

"business as usual." Then you can see how variations to the design will affect the predicted outcome.

Start Tool - Set Baseline

In this tool, we are modeling changes to CO2 emissions per capita. Enter the baseline CO2 emissions per capita for your residents in the box below, if you have that number. The default below is the average for the USA in 2010. You can look up other countries in the research link given helow

18.1 CO2 Emissions per Capita (Metric Tons)

Source: US Energy Information Agency, World Per Capita Carbon Dioxide Emissions, report -

Next, set the size of the neighborhood or area in acres, the baseline number of units, and the average number of residents per unit. You should use average numbers for developments in your area. These can be modified later to see the predicted result for GHG emissions

> 80 Neighborhood Increment (Acre) 10 Dwelling (Units / Acre) 2.2 Residents / Unit

Now you can start the model and build a scenario to see how it affects the predicted result for GHG emissions

You can start by setting the essential urban framework for your defined neighborhood area. Navioate to the pattern Identifiable

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#### Identifiable Neighborhood Network Establishes the basic

neighborhood structure. Problem:

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People need an identifiable snatial unit to belong to, that provides a framework for

The meeting their Neighborhood needs within the city. It must have a spatial layout that promotes the ability to walk and to interact with others.

Upward Hyperlinks: WikiPLACE Alpha Test, Start Tool - Set Baseline

Discussion: There is a growing body of research that shows that walkable neighborhoods have many advantages, including lower greenhouse gas emissions per capita. In particular, there is evidence that a spacing of principal through streets at a rough grid of 1/4 mile (400M) is close to an optimum spacing.

See for example Mehaffy, Porta, Rofe and Salingaros, "Urban nuclei and the geometry of streets: The 'emergent neighborhoods' model\* - citation -

Therefore: Identify an area that can accommodate the basic complements of neighborhood life: shopping, recreation, homes, workplaces, Place a Network of Through Streets at no more than ¼ mile within this structure. Provide for retail and commercial Mixed Use along these through streets, especially at intersections. ACTIVATE THE PATTERN

Next, apply the pattern to your site.

#### within a neighborhood, creating zones with greater or lesser density Problem: Urban density can provide a number of advantages. But people

Sets the pattern of overall density

vary in their desire to be Variations in close to other neighborhood people, density offer activities and choices services, or

alternatively, to be in quieter areas with more space. These varied desires require variations of density within a neighborhood, so that people have choices during the day, and over a lifetime.

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Therefore: Set the overall density within the neighborhood. Create ring-like zones with greater or lesser density. Greater density is generally advantageous, but a range should be provided to meet varied needs and preferences. IMPLEMENT THE PATTERN

Change the density value below from the baseline. View the results in the "Metrics" section below

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that, and adjust as desired.



Web of Shopping and

Creates a network of destinations

serving daily needs and activities.

Annual Conception and Annual

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Activities

#### allows walking and exercise and other daily activities.

Upward Hyperlinks: Density Rings, Web of Transportation, Identifiable Neighborhood

transportation... etc.

#### 8Web of Shopping and Activities

CALCULATE THE METRICS



#### Web of Transportation

Creates a network of multi-modal interchanges that provide transportation connectivity.

Problem: The system of transportation can only work efficiently if all the parts are

> interchange inode in the web of transportation

Discussion: The web of transportation...etc

Therefore: Create a network of multi-modal interchanges, spaced This is a very good result. The approx. 1/4 mile (400m) apart. model says that, if you were to Make larger interchanges further build this neighborhood as you apart (e.g. 1/2 mile, 1 mile etc). At have specified, you would achieve each interchange, bring together a reduction from "business of the modes of transportation. usual" of: including walking, biking, driving, bus, streetcar, rail and other In the section modes. Assure that a Network of below you can Through Streets connects well to analyze the

the interchanges. - IMPLEMENT THE PATTERN

optimizing the Score your project's performance different on this pattern, with a value from 1 to 10, 5 means 'meets the pattern with minimal adequacy \* 10 is "meets the pattern to maximum effective degree." 0 is "does not meet the pattern at all." (The default value is 5 --- if you don't know what your score is, leave

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A rating of 5 corresponds to an income LIC etty (net a cubude)

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emissions per

And here is the

revised level of

emissions per

according to

predictive

model:

the Wik PLACE

network effects

and try

capita,

baseline

capita:

Congratulations! You are now

ready to see how much reduction

you have achieved, according to

the WikiPLACE predictive model.

PREDICTED RESULTS

18.1

Original CO2

Emissions Per

Capita

(metric tons)

15.81

Achieved

Emissions per

Capita

(metric tons)

2.29

Achieved

Reductions

(metric tons)

Network Effects 50 Identifiable Neighborhood Network Density Rings

Web of Shopping and

N

Hyperlinks: Identifiable

Neighborhood. Density Rings

well

connected.

Upward

Discussion: The web of



the Web of Transportation and the - IMPLEMENT THE PATTERN -Score your project's performance on this pattern, with a value from 1

to 10, 5 means 'meets the pattern with minimal adequacy." 10 is "meets the pattern to maximum effective degree." 0 is "does not meet the pattern at all." (The default value is 5 --- if you don't know what your score is, leave this value in place.)





#### BUILDINGS

paths. The paths may be straight, or gently curving be tween goals; their paving should swell around the goal. The goals should never be more than a few hundred feet apart.

goal

444

All the ordinary things in the outdoors—trees, fountains, on trances, gateways, seats, statues, a swing, an outdoor toon-can be the goals. See FAMILY OF ENTRANCES (102), MAIN ENTRANCE (110), TREE FLACES (171), SEAT SPOTS (241), RANGE FLACES (245); build the "goals" according to the rules of SMMRTMING ROUCHLY IN THE MIDDLE (126); and shape the paths according to PATH SHAPE (121). To pare the paths use FAVING WITH CRACK BETWEEN THE STONES (247)....

### 121 PATH SHAPE\*



h

184

1.5.5

## *Key remaining issues with the PL book:*

- Not enough ability to customize (Limits of 253 patterns)
- Hard to interface with conventional modern systems/methods (e.g. web, open source development, etc.)
- Not enough information about <u>structure</u> (geometric form) to meet designers' needs



## The Nature of Order:

A 25-year project to deal with these shortcomings

But how can it be operationalized??



## How does nature achieve the order that we see everywhere around us?

Nature DOES NOT make "little blueprints"; instead it makes something more like codes or "recipes" for growing form.

The results are complex, adaptive and "emergent".





## What are the lessons?

We CAN learn from these processes, and incorporate them. Indeed, we have done so in the past, and still do so now – but can do much better!

























### 









MODERN COMPUTING AND INDIGENOUS DESIGN

RON EGLASH





# Some Key Ideas...



# Centers



## Space Can Be Analyzed as a Field of Centers



A relatively simple system of centres – a cathedral plan



*A much more complex system the urban fabric of Rome* 

## What are "centers" exactly?

*Centers are particular identified sets,* or systems, which appear within the larger whole as distinct and *noticeable parts. They appear because* they have noticeable distinctness, which makes them separate out from their surroundings and makes them cohere...

- Christopher Alexander, The Nature of Order

## What are "centers" exactly?

The life or intensity of one center is increased or decreased according to the position and intensity of other nearby centers. Above all, centers become most intense when the centers which they are made of help each other.

- Christopher Alexander, The Nature of Order



















# Structure-Preserving Transformations



### Centers go through Structure-Preserving Transformations



Stage 3



"Symmetry-breaking" creates new symmetries and new centers with a series of geometric properties

# 15 Geometric Properties


### Structure-Preserving Transformations create characteristic geometric properties



### **15 Properties of Natural Morphology**

1. Levels of scale



4. Alternating Repetition



7. Local Symmetries



10. Gradients



13. The Void



2. Strong centers



5. Positive Space



8. Deep Interlock and Ambiguity



11. Roughness



14. Simplicity and inner calm



3. Boundaries



#### 6. Good shape



9. Contrast



#### 12. Echoes



15. Not-separateness



### **15 Properties of Aesthetic Phenomena**

1. Levels of scale



4. Alternating Repetition



7. Local Symmetries



10. Gradients



13. The Void



2. Strong centers



5. Positive Space



8. Deep Interlock and Ambiguity



11. Roughness



14. Simplicity and inner calm



3. Boundaries



#### 6. Good shape



9. Contrast



12. Echoes



15. Not-separateness



### **15 Transformations of sets-of-centers**

1. Changing levels of scale



4. Alternating and Repeating



7. Making local symmetries



10. Gradating



13. Creating The Void



2. Strengthening centers



5. Making Positive Space



8. Deep Interlocking



11. Roughening



14. Simplifying, calming



#### 3. Bounding



#### 6. Transforming Good shape



#### 9. Increasing Contrast



#### 12. Echoing



15. Connecting to all



### Structure-Preserving Transformations create characteristic geometric properties







lexploreyeboo.co

# Local Symmetries Strong Centers









Levels of Scale

Echoes

### Roughness

The Void







What characteristic geometric properties are created by current industrial processes?

e.g. stamping, slicing, rotating, aggregating, etc?







Much more limited – only a few of Alexander's "15 properties"

### Template-based mechanical industrialization



**Economies of scale and standardization – but not Economies of PLACE and DIFFERENTIATION** 

### *The kind of problem a city is...* ' "Organized complexity" (Jane Jacobs)



### We (and our cities) are not machines, but biological systems... The behavior of such systems is not linear, but can be chaotic

#### **Regular vs. Strange attractor**











### Modernity (20<sup>th</sup> Century View)

• The Triumph of Reason

• Political Enlightenment



• Technology as Salvation

• Romance of the New

#### • Mechanical Technology as Ordering Idea (Image, Fashion)



"Rational" plans often result in irrational "unanticipated consequences"!

THE DEATH AND LIFE OF GREAT AMERICAN CITIES

JANE JACOBS

# **Jane Jacobs**

Jane Jacobs, 1961

"Why have cities not, long since, been identified, understood and treated as problems of organized complexity?"

Jane Jacobs

The history of modern thought about cities is unfortunately very different from the history of modern thought about the life sciences. The theorists of conventional modern city planning have consistently mistaken cities as problems of simplicity and of disorganized complexity, and have tried to analyze and treat them thus.

Jane Jacobs

Today's plans show little if any perceptible progress in comparison with plans devised a generation ago. In transportation, either regional or local, nothing is offered which was not already offered and popularized in 1938 in the General Motors diorama at the New York World's Fair, and before that by Le Corbusier. In some respects, there is outright retrogression....

Jane Jacobs

## In some respects, there is outright retrogression....



# The CIAM Model of 1933 (as defined in "The Athens Charter")



## Modernist Victor Gruen's Shopping Mall Invention



# Supercampuses and Superblocks



## "Dendritic" Street Patterns



# Connective Relationships





Hierarchy ("Tree")

Web-Network ("Semi-Lattice")

# A Hierarchical Neighborhood



*Hierarchy requires extensive driving, even for simple trips* 

Not walkable, poor public realm

Public transit not practical

Sprawling, land-inefficient

# A Web-Networked Neighborhood



Network means shorter trips

Walkability promotes physical health and civic interaction

Public transit more feasible

Livable at higher densities = greater land efficiency

Evidence shows strong public realm aids in formation of social capital

# The Same Ingredients!



But far fewer of them in the "hierarchical neighborhood"...

...than in the same area of an efficient networked neighborhood

# The Same Ingredients!

A Functional ZONE admits one single quality (function) of a City at the exclusion of all others

#### EXCLUSIVE



All that is not specifically obligatory is strictly forbidden An Urban QUARTER CONtains and PROmotes all the Qualities of a CITY

#### IN-CLUSIVE



All is Permitted & Promoted that is not strictly forbidden The New Urban Agenda recognizes that cities are complex networks that need connectivity, diversity, and the capacity for adaptive evolution...

(Guided by smart frameworks!)

### As in biological processes of adaptation and differentiation...



### Differentiated growth following life-like rules and processes...



- Step-wise adaptation
- Feedback signals
- Qualitative evaluation
- Iterative cycles
- Community action
- *Etc...*



EACH STEP IS ALWAYS HELPING TO ENHANCE THE WHOLE





Latent centers



New building position



Haspice first phase c.700



Latent centers

New building porition



First basilies built 832

# **BEYOND** over-standardized, over-abstracted, poor-adaptivity rules and processes...



- Segregated use zoning
- Remote design processes
- Bank lending rules
- Traffic engineering
- *Market dynamics*

• *Etc...* 





#### **Bottom-up AND top-down:**

A problem "more like gardening than carpentry"

- Evaluating, building fertile soil
- Planting the right seeds
- Watering and fertilizing
- Pruning/weeding
- Building trellises



#### **Bottom-up AND top-down:**

A problem "more like gardening than carpentry"

- Evaluating, building fertile soil
- Planting the right seeds
- Watering and fertilizing
- Pruning/weeding
- Building trellises

- ...(Diagnosing/improving)
- ...(Patterns, prototypes)
- ...(Incentives, funding)
- ...(Regulations)
- ...(Infrastructure, frameworks)
- And combining all of the above, into strategic toolkits changing the "operating system for growth!"

The issue is the same for software and for other domains: how to speed up feedback cycles, get better adaptive quality, get more effective responses, get better feedback (especially for "externalities" like resource depletion etc)...

And to do it by coding "just the essence" of the problem, keeping the structure "agile" and self-organizing
## The question really comes down to this: how do you generate rather than specify?

## – Ward Cunningham

Thank you!