

# Towards An Urban Renaissance

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the urban task force headed by lord rogers one of the uk s leading architects was established by the department of environment transport and regions detr to stimulate debate about our urban environment and to identify ways of creating urban areas in direct response to people s needs and aspirations their findings conclusions and recommendations were presented in a final report to government ministers in summer

1999 and form the basis of this important new illustrated book

this book documents and assesses the core of new labour's approach to the revitalisation of cities that is the revival of citizenship democratic renewal and the participation of communities to spear head urban change in doing so the book explores the meaning and relevance of community as a focus for urban renaissance it interrogates the conceptual and ideological content of new labour's conceptions of community and through the use of case studies evaluates how far and with what effects such conceptions are shaping contemporary urban policy and practice the book is an important text for students and researchers in geography urban studies planning sociology and related disciplines it will also be of interest to officers working in local and central government voluntary organisations community groups and those with a stake in seeking to enhance democracy and community involvement in urban policy and practice

using an historic and contemporary analysis cultural planning examines how and why the cultures have been planned and the extent to which cultural amenities have been considered in town planning from its ancient roots in the cities of classical athenian roman and byzantium empires to the european renaissance public culture shows both an historic continuity and contemporary response to economic and social change whilst the arts are considered an extension of welfare provision and human rights the creative industries and cultural tourism are also vital for economic growth and employment in the post industrial age however the new grand projects which look to the arts as an element of urban regeneration tend to be at the cost of both local cultural amenities and a culturally diverse society cultural planning is the first book on the planning of the arts and culture and the interaction between the state arts policy the cultural economy and town and city planning it uses case studies and examples from europe north america and asia the book calls for the adoption of consultative planning policy distributive models and a more integrated approach to both culture and urban design to prevent the reinforcement of existing geographical and cultural divides

the desire of governments for a renaissance of their cities is a defining feature of contemporary urban policy from melbourne and toronto to johannesburg and istanbul government policies are successfully attracting investment and middle class populations to their inner areas regeneration or gentrification as it can often become produces winners and losers there is a substantial literature on the causes and unequal effects of gentrification and on the global and local conditions driving processes of dis and re investment but there is little examination of the actual strategies used to achieve urban regeneration what were their intents did they

succeed and if not why not and what were the specific consequences whose urban renaissance asks who benefits from these urban transformations the book contains beautifully written and accessible stories from researchers and activists in 21 cities across europe north and south america asia south africa the middle east and australia each exploring a specific case of urban regeneration some chapters focus on government or market strategies driving the regeneration process and look closely at the effects others look at the local contingencies that influence the way these strategies work still others look at instances of opposition and struggle and at policy interventions that were used in some places to ameliorate the inequities of gentrification working from these stories the editors develop a comparative analysis of regeneration strategies with nuanced assessments of local constraints and counteracting policy responses the concluding chapters provide a critical comparison of existing strategies and open new directions for more equitable policy approaches in the future whose urban renaissance is targeted at students academics planners policy makers and activists the book is unique in its geographical breadth and its constructive policy emphasis offering a succinct critical and timely exploration of urban regeneration strategies throughout the world

this collection adds weight to an emerging argument that policies to make cities better are inextricably linked to an attempt to pacify and regulate crime and disorder it provides discussions from a range of scholars examining policy connections that can be traced between social urban and crime policy and the wider processes of regeneration

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this collection adds weight to an emerging argument that suggests that policies in place to make cities better places are inextricably linked to an attempt to civilize pacify and regulate crime and disorder in urban areas contributing to a vision of an urban renaissance which is perhaps as much about control as it is about the broader physical and social renewal of our towns and cities the book has three key themes the theories strategies and assumptions underpinning the securing of urban renaissance the agendas of current urban policy in the field of crime control and thirdly the role of communities within these agendas the book provides focused discussions and engagement with these issues from a range of scholars who examine policy

connections that can be traced between social urban and crime policy and the wider processes of regeneration in british towns and cities the book also seeks to develop our understanding of policies theories and practices surrounding contemporary british urban policy where a move from concerns with urban renaissance to those of sustainable communities clearly intersect with issues of community security policing and disorder providing a rare disciplinary crossover between urban studies criminology and community studies securing an urban renaissance will be essential reading for academics and students in criminology social policy and human geography concerned with the future of british cities and the political debates shaping the regulation of conduct crime and disorder in these spaces

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