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THE HISTORY OF CITY PLANNING AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN

A Summary Report to the Rockefeller Foundation, 1956-58

In the fall of 1956 the Institute for Urban Studies began work on a history of city planning and on the recent history of the design of open spaces under a grant of \$66,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation. Within the Institute for Urban Studies the work is being conducted as two separate projects. Although the subject matter is closely related, the history of cities project was scheduled over a three year period and is concerned with the evolution of cities down to recent times. The design of open spaces project is concerned only with the last quarter century and thus treats largely with relatively recent developments. It was scheduled for a two year period and is now approaching completion. For this reason separate reports are presented on the two phases of the work.

THE INTERNATIONAL HISTORY OF CITY DEVELOPMENT

Scope of Work

This history is intended to provide in a single series a history of urban development covering all parts of the world. Primary emphasis has been given to Europe and Asia during the first two years. It was agreed that only very preliminary work would be done on the Americas and that this would largely be deferred for later treatment.

The program contemplated that the ultimate volumes would be organized on a geographic basis with a volume each on Africa and Asia, and two or more volumes on Europe and the Mid-east. For convenience the assembly of materials has been by 20th Century countries. Although it was intended that the work should be based on secondary sources in large degree, it was also recognized that maps, plans and photographs would have to be assembled for many of the most important cities. A considerable effort has therefore gone into the assembly of original materials with emphasis upon Europe and Asia.

Personnel

Dr. E. A. Gutkind, of London, England, was appointed Visiting Research Professor in September 1956. He has been continuously engaged on the project since that date. During the academic year 1956-57 one research assistant was retained. During the academic year 1957-58 two research assistants have been retained. In all cases these are graduate students in city planning.

For the academic year 1957-58 the Institute for Urban Studies obtained the appointment of Dr. T. P. Szafer of the Polish Academy of Sciences as Visiting Assistant Professor, under a Ford Foundation program. Dr. Szafer has an excellent command of the history of cities in Poland, Czechoslovakia and the Balkan countries, and has had access to materials which might otherwise be inaccessible. It is currently hoped that his appointment can be renewed for the next academic year.

It is hoped that during the next academic year another visiting professor from Japan will be available to assist in the work on Japan and China.

Arrangements have been made with a member of the Department of Geography of the Presidency State College in Calcutta for the assembly of material on Indian cities. It is hoped that arrangements can be made for a visiting Indian scholar during the year 1958-59. A graduate student in oriental studies, of Indian origin, has also been offered a research assistantship during the next academic year.

Expenditures

Expenditures from the Rockefeller Foundation Funds for the first year of operations were \$15,989.69; for the second year they were \$28,112.35. In addition to these expenditures the Institute for Urban Studies has supplied a full-time typist, office space and equipment, and a research assistantship. The Ford Foundation has provided approximately \$4,500 through a fellowship obtained for Dr. Szafer.

Progress

Bibliographic work has largely been completed on 12 countries including most of Europe and parts of Asia. Relatively little has been done as yet on India, China, and the Americas.

The project has obtained a remarkable response from some 2000 letters of inquiry soliciting material from cities in Europe and the Middle East. Several thousand original photographs, plans, maps and photographic reproductions of historic plans, engravings and drawings have been assembled and organized by country and city. The graphic material thus obtained now constitutes a remarkable research resource. Plans are being made for its eventual indexing and binding so as to preserve its usefulness for future research purposes.

Drafts of final manuscripts have been completed on the following countries: Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Holland and Spain. In each case sections dealing with one or two cities remain to be inserted. The manuscripts are in handwritten form. Some difficulty has been encountered in obtaining typists who can type directly from the author's manuscript. We now believe that a qualified person has been found after a long search.

Some manuscripts are available for other countries in varying stages of completion. Dr. Gutkind estimates that Hungary, Greece and Italy are about 90% complete; Russia and China about 80%; Finland and Japan about 75%. Draft material has been prepared for the following countries: India, Pakistan, Canada, Australia, Brazil, indigenous Africa and Mexico. These materials are as yet incomplete and represent important cities within the countries involved.

During the spring of 1958 Dr. Gutkind has given a series of lectures attempting to summarize the major trends in the most important cities treated in the larger work. These lectures have been taped and will be transcribed with the hope they will form the skeleton for a summary volume.

If the recently made arrangement for the typing of manuscript materials proves satisfactory, it should be possible to complete two volumes in form ready for publication during the current calendar year and have one or more additional volumes ready for final publication in the following 6 months.

RECENT HISTORY OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Scope of Work

This project was started in September 1956 on a two year grant of \$12,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation. The project proposed to assemble materials on published and other materials which would serve the evolution of landscape design during the last 25 years with particular reference to the design of urban open spaces of various categories including parks, playgrounds, highways, public centers, and other community open space. It was proposed that the materials be organized into subject matter binders. The published materials to be supplemented by plans and photographs obtained from private and professional sources. At the conclusion of this inventory of recent developments in the design of open spaces, it was proposed that the materials be assembled for a series of publications on the topics of greatest interest.

Personnel

The project is under the direction of Associate Professor Ian L. McHarg, Chairman of the Department of Landscape Architecture of the University of Pennsylvania. During its two years of operation, three graduate students in landscape architecture have been appointed research assistants for periods of one year. One post-graduate research fellow has been appointed for nine months. All have contributed liberally of their own time. In addition, the project has employed a part-time typist.

Expenditures

The entire \$12,000 will have been spent on July 1, 1958. Approximately \$2,000 has been spent for photostats and photographic services, binders and other equipment; the balance for the stipends of persons identified above.

Progress of Work

Virtually all periodicals in the fields of landscape architecture, architecture, public works, parks, and recreation and related subject matter have been canvassed for the entire 25 year period. Original sets of the more lucrative sources have been obtained by solicitation of individuals so that the original materials selected could be removed from the magazines. This has produced a catalogue of approximately 4,000 items arranged in 40 binders. 90% of these items are photographs, plans and descriptions of landscape projects of various types. An additional 10% are critical or descriptive articles on major trends in landscape design. The materials are now arranged by sources. In the next 60 days they will be re-arranged, put in acetate folders and bound by subject. A table of contents for each binder will be prepared. The materials have not been indexed or cross classified.

In addition to these materials obtained from published periodical sources, approximately 2,000 items comprising photographic prints and plans have been obtained from solicitation from members of the American Society of Landscape Architects and the International Federation of Landscape Architects.

Some of these materials are original photographs which also appear in the file drawn from secondary sources. Arrangements have also been made to obtain copies of the prints and plans used in noteworthy design exhibits on landscape architecture which have been prepared by various museums and societies within the last 25 years.

A number of the most important sources have agreed to continue supplying the Department with copies of current work so that the original collection becomes a sort of depository library of landscape design. The entire collection will become a part of the collection of the Library of the School of Fine Arts and will be available as a research resource for scholars in the history of landscape architecture, critics of landscape architecture, architecture, civic design and others. The collection now represents the first, indeed the only, systematic attempt to assemble in one place a comprehensive inventory of contemporary landscape design. For this reason it has attracted attention and enthusiastic endorsement among landscape architects. It makes available for the first time materials needed for a critical review of the progress of landscape architecture in recent years and the preparation of a series of monographs on selected topics.

The material provides an adequate basis for the preparation of such monographs at an early date in some fields. In other fields the relative scarcity of material or the quality of the material assembled reveals clearly the need for increased professional attention, research and writing. In the opinion of the project director, the collection provides an adequate basis in the early preparation of the following volumes:

1. A survey of the major developments in landscape design in the last 25 years; dealing with the influence of modern architecture on landscape design; the contributions of architectural leaders of various schools of thought; the subsequent developments by distinguished landscape architects; and the types of work which have been exploited fully and those which have been neglected.
2. A volume on the townscape, i.e., the details of the urban landscape, textures, foliage, planting, walkways, street furniture and the like which comprise the most essential ingredients of the visual city.
3. A volume dealing with playgrounds and active public recreation spaces.
4. A volume on the role of sculpture in modern landscape design.
5. A volume on the history of landscape design in the 20th Century. It is believed that some materials are also available on the newly discovered or appreciated contributions to landscape design of some primitive and early societies including the Moslem, Japanese, Chinese, and Indonesian. The materials available in these fields are impressionistic and not considered systematic or exhaustive.

The materials in other fields do not appear to provide an adequate basis for immediate publication. In various degrees, these materials are fragmentary or inadequate and additional systematic work will be required in connection with the preparation of published works. These fields include notable parks and larger recreation spaces, the role of fountains in landscape design, the design of highways and thoroughfares, planting design, plant ecology, landscape engineering, climate and micro-climate, hydroponics.