

in modern planning systems of selected European countries (Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK) and the aesthetics of the built environment. The author proceeds from the realization that only clearly defined categories can be compared at individual planning levels and in the hierarchic gradation of complexity in calibrating

and implementing control in urban design. Hence individual elements of these categories should be presented in practice with the planning design criteria, their characteristics should be explained and those aspects that are important for planning and implementing control in urban design should be summarized in the form of recommendations. Because

qualitative criteria are difficult to control without prior knowledge of the principles of good urban design, this book and its accompanying handbook also provide informative educational material and a useful tool for spatial planners and urban planning services.

Boštjan Kerbler

#### From reviews:

*Kaliopa Dimitrovska Andrews' book represents the first original research on urban design theory in Slovenian. It is especially important for the development of urban studies and planning practice, and for introducing new urban-design terminology. It is intended for both academics and professionals as well as students in various programs connected with spatial studies and planning.*

Breda Mihelič

*The book's content and the writer's elaboration on it provide an excellent document about the level that has been shaped in Slovenian discussions on international and Slovenian urban planning to date. From the perspective of its quality, it is important that the book presents a number of claims and findings by various urban-studies researchers together in one place, in which divergences between various interests are also clearly evident. The main desiderata of model urban design include context, continuity and identity. Within this context, public participation in the process of planning and projecting turns into "affirmative personalization." Readers can themselves choose what to affirm.*

Fedja Košir

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## Public presentations at the Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia

The Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia offers free public presentations on topical issues in the profession in Slovenia and internationally. The presentations are announced in newspapers and on the website [www.uirs.si](http://www.uirs.si), and also by e-mail by signing up at [predavanja@uirs.si](mailto:predavanja@uirs.si). Please write to the same address for any additional information. We will also be happy to receive any suggestions for the topics of future presentations. An archive of past presentations with abstracts is available at [http://www.uirs.si/dogodki\\_predavanja.asp](http://www.uirs.si/dogodki_predavanja.asp).

### Overview of presentations from May 2012 to April 2013

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22 May 2012

#### Controlling the yeast

*Housing affordability versus urban sprawl "Down Under"*

**Speaker:** Roberta Esbitt, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia

**Moderator:** Richard Sendi, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Social segregation, permanent landscape degradation, poor infrastructure and unsustainability are only few of the

numerous long-term consequences of fulfilling the "Australian dream" of one's own free-standing house. Despite the



global economic crisis, the threat of energy shortages and the good intentions of urban planners, the process of urban

expansion from markedly low-density areas still continues. It is ironic that expansion processes are overtaking the landscape but at the same time housing costs have never been higher. In her talk, Roberta Esbitt, an architect, pro-

ject developer and lecturer at RMIT University in Melbourne, presented the clash of elements in modern Australian society that stimulate suburbanisation processes but also reduce opportunities for home ownership, which has an

impact on the social and physical structures in the country. Is the Australian example what inevitably awaits other countries as well or will it merely serve as a “wake-up call”?

19 June 2012

## Olympic Park

*London's Olympic legacy*

**Speaker:** Eleanor Fawcett, Legacy Development Corporation, London, UK

**Moderator:** Boštjan Cotič, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Olympic Park hosted the main London 2012 venues, but it was designed to leave a lasting legacy. Ever since the last athletes and spectators departed, it has been serving the local community. Eleanor Fawcett, Head of Design at the London Legacy Development

Corporation, presented the vision for the new city district that was created in East London for the Olympic Games. The park plays a key role in the regeneration of this area, offering acres of vibrant green parklands and walking paths perfect for picnics, walks and play. The talk was introduced by the British



ambassador to Slovenia, Andrew Page, who also opened the accompanying exhibition on Olympic Park. The exhibition, which toured European cities for several months and made its last stop in Ljubljana, highlighted the innovations involved in the park's development.

26 March 2013

## Tools for directing and controlling urban forms

**Speaker:** Kaliopa Dimitrovska Andrews, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia

**Moderator:** Boštjan Kerbler, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia

The tools for directing and controlling urban forms are specified in great detail in the applicable Slovenian spatial planning legislation. However, the majority of these are rarely successfully implemented in planning the living environment. There are numerous reasons for this, from political to economic ones, including poor understanding of the legal provisions and lack of profes-

sionalism. Therefore, there is a need to determine the impacts of planning decisions on the development of physical structures and to establish which elements of the development of physical structures should be directed and controlled from the viewpoint of protecting the cityscape and individual values of the local urban environment. Kaliopa Dimitrovska Andrews, associate professor of urban planning at the University



of Ljubljana and director of the Urban Planning Institute between 1994 and 2010, discussed the design in modern planning systems and the aesthetics of the built environment. She also defined the basic urban-design criteria key to the city's aesthetic development. She presented her book, which uses text and illustrations to present the impact of these criteria on the development of physical structures within cities.

Figure sources: authors of presentations

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