Good Urbanism

Professor Nan Ellin
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Professor Nan Ellin's work in urban design, placemaking, community-building and university-neighborhood partnerships aims to enhance quality of life, specifically through improving the built and natural environments. She has developed a process for accomplishing this called VIDA: Visioning, Inspiring, Demonstrating, and Advocating. Ellin is currently bringing this process to various projects in Salt Lake City (USA) as director of the Salt Lake City Workshop. The workshop brings together students from the University of Utah with community partners to envision best possibilities and work toward realizing these visions. Ellin also applied the VIDA process with students and communities to introduce canalscape in Phoenix. This metropolitan initiative is leveraging the vast network of canals in the Phoenix region, originally built by early inhabitants over a millennium ago, by creating vital urban hubs where canals meet major streets.

Professor Ellin's book Postmodern Urbanism (1996) surveys and critiques urban design in the Western world from the late 1960s to 1990. She served as editor of Architecture of Fear (1997), an anthology about the relationship between fear and city-building. Integral Urbanism (2006) describes a potentially optimistic big picture currently unfolding in the United States and Western Europe, offering a primer on restoring health and well-being to the contemporary city by incorporating five qualities: hybridity, connectivity, porosity, authenticity, and vulnerability. To raise awareness of the creative flourishing in the Phoenix metropolitan region, Ellin collaborated with Edward Booth-Clibborn on Phoenix: 21st Century City (2006). Desert Urbanism is a collection of Ellin's public scholarship about Metropolitan Phoenix. Ellin's new book, Good Urbanism (2012) describes a paradigm shift currently underway from focusing on deficits to assets, fostering a felicitous turn in urban design, placemaking, and community building. Illustrated with ten case studies from around the U.S., Good Urbanism offers a clear path for accelerating this shift in our own practices.

Professor Ellin holds a Ph.D. and M.Phil. in Urban Planning from Columbia University, an M.A. from Columbia University in Cultural Anthropology, and a B.A. from Bryn Mawr College in Anthropology and Hispanic Studies.

The lecture is part of the Dresden-Columbus International Lecture Series on Sustainable Urban Development (DCI). The Dresden-Columbus International Lecture Series addresses topics of high actuality regarding sustainable urban development that are relevant to the development of the two sister cities of Dresden and Columbus (USA). The lectures are a continuation of the successful and long-standing joint program on sustainable development in the urban region conducted as part of a 15-year partnership between Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IOER), TU Dresden and The Ohio State University. The partnership received the Excellence in Teaching Prize of the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) in 2006.

Hinweis: Die Veranstaltung findet in englischer Sprache statt. Der Vortrag der Referentin wird per Videokonferenz live aus den USA nach Dresden übertragen.