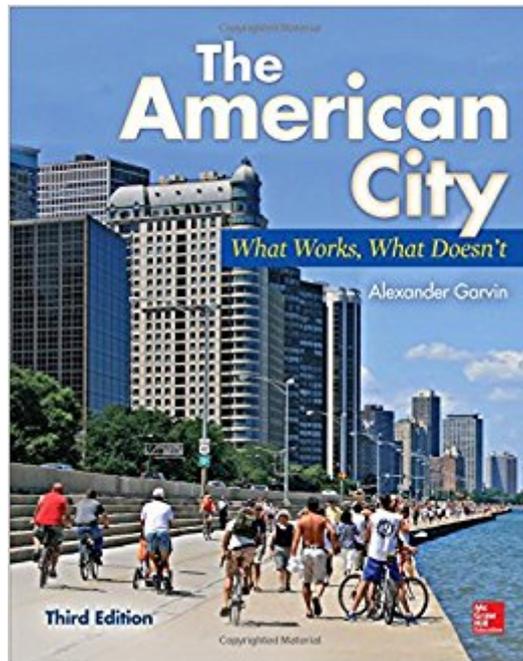


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# The American City: What Works, What Doesn't



## Synopsis

The definitive guide to urban planning and design--completely updated and now in full color In the Third Edition of *The American City: What Works, What Doesn't*, award-winning city planner and renowned urban scholar Alexander Garvin examines more than 350 programs and projects that have been implemented nationwide in 150 cities and suburbs, evaluates their successes and failures, and offers relevant lessons learned from them. Nearly all of the book's 650 illustrations are now in full color and consist almost entirely of photographs, maps, and diagrams produced especially for the Third Edition. Garvin discusses major urban initiatives that have emerged over the past two decades, such as Chicago's Millennium Park, Houston's Uptown Business District, and Metropolitan Denver's FasTracks multicounty rapid transit network. He reexamines the wide range of places and strategies covered in the previous edition, offering new analyses and insights. A new chapter on retrofitting the city for a modern commercial economy is included. This practical guide presents six key ingredients of project success--market, location, design, financing, time, and entrepreneurship--and explains how to combine these elements in a mutually reinforcing manner. Garvin demonstrates how the synthesis of individual and private-sector efforts, community-level action, and broad-based government policy can--and has--achieved urban and suburban regeneration. **COVERAGE INCLUDES:** A realistic approach to city and suburban planning  
Ingredients of success--market, location, design, financing, time, and entrepreneurship  
Parks, playgrounds, and open space  
Retail shopping  
Palaces for the people--libraries, stadiums, museums, and other public facilities  
Retrofitting the city for a modern commercial economy  
The life and death of the City of Tomorrow--implications of national urban redevelopment programs  
Downtown management  
Increasing the housing supply  
Reducing housing costs  
Housing rehabilitation  
Clearing the slums  
Revitalizing neighborhoods  
Residential suburbs  
New-towns-in-town  
New-towns-in-the-country  
Land use regulation  
Historic preservation  
Comprehensive planning

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## Customer Reviews

Alexander Garvin's *The American City: What Works, What Doesn't* is a holistic and disciplined account of the successes and failures of American urbanism. It is an excellent and definitive textbook for students of planning, design, urbanism, and public policy and equally valuable as a resource and reference for public officials and professionals in practice. Any citizen interested in understanding how change really happens in a city, and how they might play a part in it, will benefit enormously from reading this book. Alexander Garvin's clear and concise writing guides the reader through some extraordinarily complex issues in a way that few other writers on the subject can match. The Third Edition of *The American City* is an up-to-date account, chronicling and evaluating new developments in American urbanism from New York's High Line to the subprime mortgage crisis to the recent renaissance of neighborhoods like Philadelphia's Northern Liberties. Dozens of photographs, maps and illustrations, most taken or prepared directly by Garvin himself, capture the changing character of American cities. The book is especially valuable because it conveys a profound and sophisticated appreciation for the complex interaction of forces that shape cities. No topic is examined in isolation. The chapters address the widest range of issues from politics to aesthetics to environmentalism to development. His carefully compiled observations, noting how cities have evolved, block-by-block, over decades, demonstrate outstanding scholarship. While Garvin skillfully addresses the major intellectual trends in urbanism and city planning of the past two centuries, unlike many planning or urbanism texts, *The American City* is more than an academic chronicle of events.

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