



AIA
Leadership Summit



Citizen architects, democratic professionals & civic culture

Joel Mills

The Architects Foundation

Reflecting on this moment



The Cancer of Civic Decline

Poor public processes...public expectations for meaningful participation unmet...conflict and civic frustration...loss of trust...apathy and declining participation by general public...dominance of extreme/activist voices and narrow interests...decline of civil dialogue...politicization and personalization of conflict...state of distrust, conflict, uncivil dialogue....government fear of public participation, civic anger...cannibalization of democracy...less participatory processes...increasing civic anger...loss of community and social capital...loss of faith in democratic institutions...loss of participatory traditions...loss of healthy democracy.



Reading the Headlines today is revealing

“When Community Engagement Becomes Too Much,” ***Governing***

“Community Input is bad, Actually,” ***The Atlantic***

“Free speech or out of order? As meetings grow wild, officials try to tame public comment,” ***The Washington Post***

“Why Participatory Planning Fails (and How to Fix It)”, ***Next City***

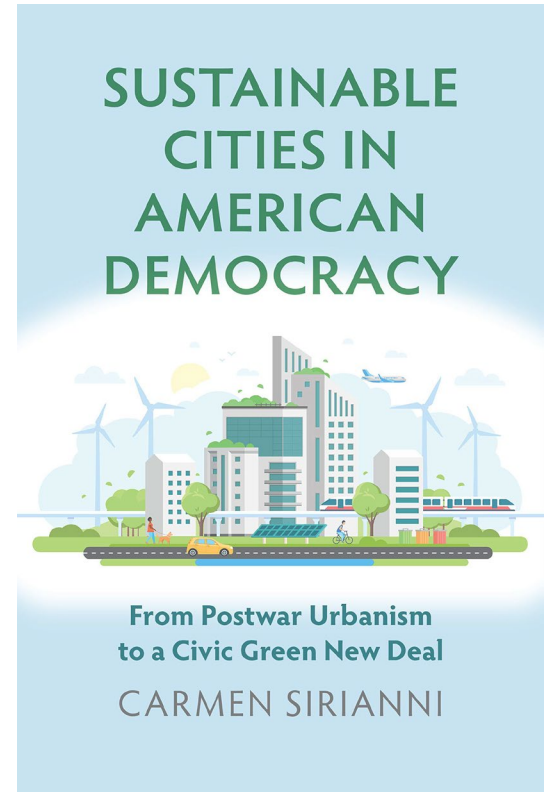
“Public Meetings are Broken: Here’s How to Fix Them,” ***Curbed***

“The People vs. Big Development,” ***New York Times***

“Americans are in a Golden Age of Yelling at Their Local Representatives,”
Slate

The democratic professional

“Democratic professionals are those who not only see their work as contributing to a larger public good, but who also learn how to be responsive to ordinary citizens, to co-produce knowledge with communities so that professional expertise can be fruitfully combined with local insight, and to collaborate with them to solve public problems. Since virtually all institutional systems in our complex society today depend upon high levels of expertise, democratic professionals are essential to a robust civic democracy.”



Birmingham, Alabama - 2011



Citizen Architects' holistic involvement



Public Sector Impact

“A few days ago, Mayor Bell of Birmingham gave welcoming remarks at our Alabama AIA state convention, and his comments centered on this work. Wow. Mayor Bell got the message about the value of design for the public. Not only did he appreciate the outcome of the work, but he praised the impact of good design on our communities and expressed fervent appreciation of the work we architects do. We could not have written a script more complimentary. The real value of this design assistance effort is a renewed credibility of our profession and a commitment for future collaboration. These AIA dollars were a great investment.”— *AIA National Board Member, 2013*

Citizen Architects Changing the Game in Tampa

- Urban Charrette forms
- Hosts AIA SDAT Project
- Conducts dozens of tactical projects, processes, and conversations
- Plans lead to billions of investment and physical change, position UC Members for positions of influence



A 'guerilla movement' of democratic professionals

“Urban Charrette can seem like a guerrilla movement in its approach to influencing urban development, compared to the usual process of meetings, hearings and deals between politicians, officials and developers that often take place in paneled and upholstered chambers.” **-83 Degrees**



the Urban Charrette presents

Open Mic Night

*the third wednesday
of every month*

check back at
www.sdattampa.com
for venue locations



a happy hour with
all you can **think.**

TRANSIT TALK

Thursday 29 July 2010
6.00 – 8.00pm
Tampa Museum of Art
120 W Gasparilla Plaza

They dramatically influenced city's direction



Citizen Architects Establishing a Civic Culture in Nashville

Urban Design Forums – 1990s

East Nashville R/UDAT – 1998

Civic Design Center – late 1990s

Plan of Nashville – 2004

20 years of resurgence

Civics Lessons

When a tornado devastated the seamier side of Nashville, AIA helped the town redefine its future.

By CHERYL WEBER, FOR AIA ARCHITECT



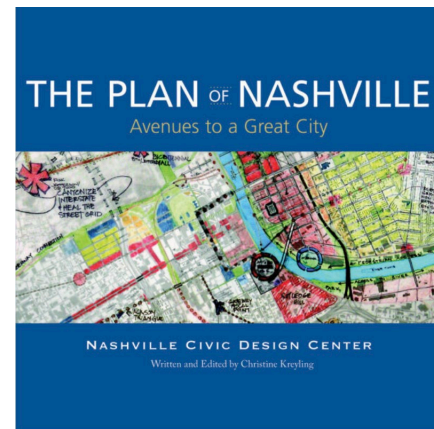
Henry Ambrose

A bustling cafe in the vibrant East Nashville community.

On April 16, 1998, a tornado touched down in Nashville, Tenn. It tore through downtown before hopping across the Cumberland River to East Nashville, toppling some 20,000 trees citywide and damaging hundreds of homes and businesses. East Nashville, a patchwork of quirky neighborhoods and about 25,000 people, took the brunt.

There is no evidence of that devastation today. Instead, new growth knits together this eclectic string of communities. There are historic mansions, humble bungalows, hip restaurants, and a smorgasbord of small businesses. Musicians rub shoulders with physicians, and trendy boutiques share streets with not-so-mainstream bars. There are attractive housing options for people with low and average

incomes. It wasn't always that way.



Philadelphia, PA: Citizen Architects at the forefront

-1990 R/UDAT process

-Community Design Collaborative:

“Founded in 1991 as a pilot program of AIA Philadelphia, the Collaborative is an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a network of over 1,000 volunteers. Together, our volunteer design professionals and nonprofit partners have invested more than 100,000 hours in strengthening neighborhoods through over 600 community design projects.”

-Civic Vision for the Delaware

-Great Expectations Process

-Nutter Administration successes



Dublin, Ireland

Framework Pilot

What is the Framework Pilot?

Story So Far

Pilot stages at a glance

Pilot: Reimagine Dublin One

The purpose of the Framework pilot is to adapt the Design Assistance programme to the Irish context.

The process is guided by the AIA Centre for Communities by Design and follows the [AIA programme stages](#).



Pilot Programme

Ireland





Reimagine
DUBLIN
one



Two years later... “Business group Dublin Town and the American Institute of Architects are behind plans to boost the historic district, writes Michael Cogley”

"There is a huge appetite between developers in the area, which nobody wanted to invest in for years...If you got in a time capsule and got out in 2025, you would be witnessing a very different area."

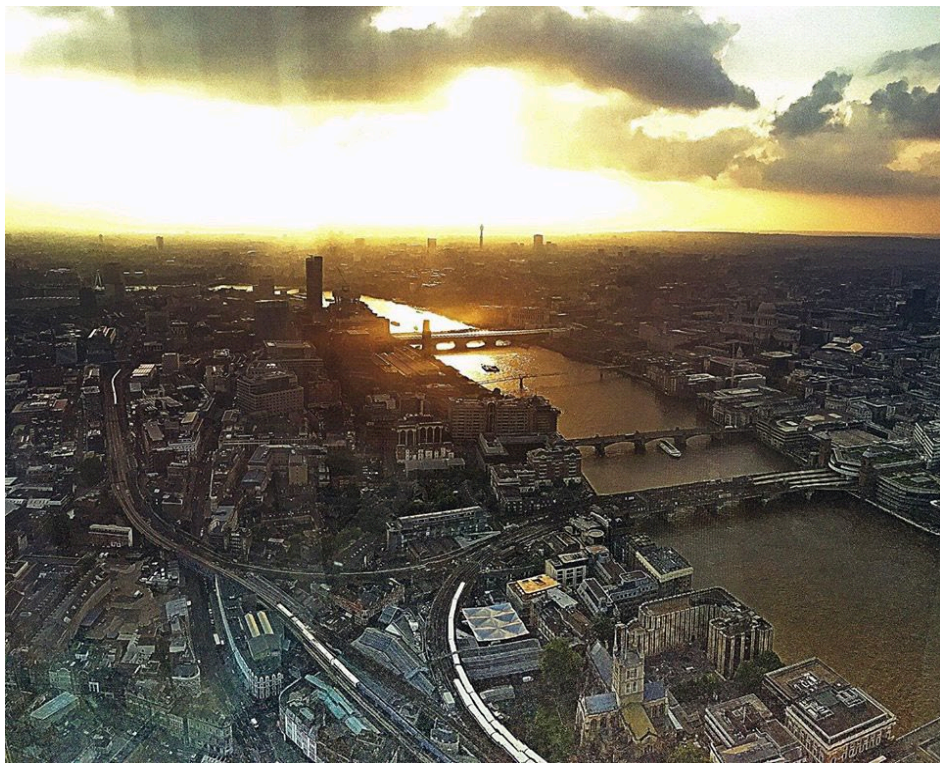


Portland: “The Story of a Vision Come to Life”

“a largely forgotten part of Portland’s past became an urban icon of living unlike anything the country had ever seen: A unique blend of verve and vibrancy, with more than a passing nod to Portland’s uncommon brand of originality. Today, the Pearl District has **earned a worldwide reputation for urban renaissance.**” - *Pearl District narrative*



Global Ripple Effects



THE PEARL DISTRICT

AN URBAN DEVELOPMENT CASE STUDY OF THE PEARL DISTRICT AND BREWERY BLOCKS IN PORTLAND, OREGON

CDBC'S GREEN AND SMART URBAN DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

OCTOBER 2015
DRAFT FOR COMMENT

Imagine what an integrated national process would do!

