



ISOCARP Review 04

Urban Growth without Sprawl - A Way Towards Sustainable Urbanisation

edited by Paolo La Greca and Shi Nan

Urban sprawl may be defined in the most general manner as unbalanced city growth where the physical extent of the city rises faster than the population growth. It also implies land fragmentation, the loss of fertile agricultural land at the periphery of the urban area and suburban densities that are notoriously low so that the provision of infrastructure becomes unnecessarily expensive, and public transport becomes unviable. From its origins in North America, urban sprawl is now a worldwide phenomenon and the most recurring form of urban expansion.

ISOCARP's newly launched publication *Urban Growth Without Sprawl* contains a range of case studies related to this theme and drawn from around the world. Its chapters comprise:

- Jef Van den Broeck *Dealing with Sprawl: the Case of the Belgian Core Area*
- Jeremy Dawkins *The Difference that Planning Makes in Western Australia*
- Chris Gossop *London's Railway Land – Strategic Visions for the King's Cross Opportunity Area*
- Jean-Francois Guet *Mobility and the Compact City: The Bike is Back*
- Jeffrey Kenworthy *The Sustainable Urban Passenger Transport Package Deal*
- Andreas Kipar *Milano: New Landscape Territories in Urban Design*
- Ruan Yisan and Ding Yuan *Historic Water Towns at Crossroads*
- Alfonso Vegara and Judith Ryser *Aviles: Transferring a Steel Town into an International Cluster of Innovation and Culture*
- Peter Zlonicky and Didier Vancutsem *Between Tradition and Vision: Urban Trends and Strategies of German cities – the Munich Experience*

This rich collection of case studies provides an important contribution to our understanding of what is meant by urban sprawl and how it should be countered. It will be important reading for planning practitioners and academics, and indeed for anyone involved in the development process.

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