



IsoCaRP 40th World Congress:  
Management of Urban Regions  
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## Jaime Lerner

Jaime Lerner (1937, Curitiba, Brazil) is an inspiring planner. He was mayor of Curitiba three times (1971-75, 1979-83 and 1989-92) and turned that city into a paradigm of city planning, and not only for developing countries. He created an infrastructure in Curitiba that kept the city from bursting out of its seams despite its rapid growth.

In 1964, the French government granted Lerner a fellowship to study at the Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment, in Paris. After his studies, he worked at the Department of Urbanism, in Toulouse, and at George Candilis' studio for a short period of time.



Back to Curitiba, Lerner designed some buildings such as the Condomínio Mateus Leme (1964) and the Loureiro Fernandes School (1966).

In 1965, he was responsible for setting up and defining the structure of the Research and Urban Planning Institute of Curitiba (IPPUC). At the same time, he was involved with Curitiba's Master Plan to guide the City's physical, economic and cultural transformation.

As Mayor of Curitiba for three terms, Jaime Lerner consolidated the City's basic urban transformations and implemented an Integrated Mass Transport System during his first term. He was elected Governor of Parana State in 1994 and re-elected in 1998. As a UN urban planning consultant, he has been involved with planning designs, mass transportation programs and urban projects in several cities of Brazil, Latin America and Asia. Lerner has been awarded very important national and international awards.

# Curitiba

| FAST FACTS             | CITY AREA  | METRO AREA                                 |  |
|------------------------|--|--|--|
| POPULATION             | 1.6 Million  | 2.4 Million                                |  |
| AREA                   | 432 km <sup>2</sup>                                      | 13,528 km <sup>2</sup>                     |  |
| GDP (EUROS) PER CAPITA | 8,108  | 4,254 (STATE GDP)                          |  |
| MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS | Auto manufacturing, Service sector, Finance and Commerce | Soy Bean, Automotive, Meat, Coffee, Sugar, |  |

## The City

Curitiba, located some 914 metres above sea level on the plateau of Serra do Mar, is the capital of the progressive state of Paraná, Brazil. Since the late 1800's, Curitiba's bracing climate and picturesque location have attracted immigrants of Portuguese, Slavic, German, and Italian origin.

Curitiba is held as a paradigm of urban planning excellence. Curitiba's transportation plan did not call for highways and the dismantling of neighbourhoods. Instead, it integrated transportation and land use planning: growth was directed to designated corridors that would be well served by public transit. Arterial roads containing public transit rights-of-way were complemented by high-density zoning. The system, used by 85% of Curitiba's population, has become the reference for other systems such as the TransMilenio in Bogotá, Colombia. The city is also remarkably successful in preserving and caring for its green areas, boasting 54 m<sup>2</sup> of green space per inhabitant.

Today, Curitiba is considered one of the best examples of urban planning on the planet. In June 1996, the chairman of the Habitat II summit of mayors and urban planners in Istanbul praised Curitiba as "the most innovative city in the world."

## The Economy

The city of Curitiba derives its economic prosperity from its role as a commercial and processing center for the expanding agricultural and ranch areas in the interior of the state. The economic profile of Curitiba is similar to those of more developed cities of the world. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is characterized by an annual growth rate between 3% and 4%, enhancing the overall development of the city.

The performance of its industrial sector is one of the highest performers in the country, adding significant local economic growth. In recent years, the metropolitan area of Curitiba has had significant growth in automotive manufacturing. The metropolitan area of Curitiba is home to the second largest automotive cluster in Brazil, established during the last decade and which received investments of US\$4,2 billion in that period. Six assembly units, four engine factories and over 50 suppliers generate 17,500 direct jobs. The arrival of the assembly units, equipped with the world's most modern technology, caused a great technological leap and led to significantly better qualified manual and technical labour in the region.