

For Comprehensive Planning

11.201 – Gateway

Week 6

Fall 2010

October 18, 2010

Comprehensive Rational Model

- Setting goals and objectives (long-range)
 - Comprehensive list of strategies
 - Data and analysis to evaluate all strategies
 - Implement optimum strategy
 - Evaluate outcomes
 - Return to goals as needed
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- Inspired by modernism and a belief in rationality
 - Basic assumption: identifiable public interest

Characteristics

- Comprehensive
- Integrated
- Long-range
- Optimal solutions

What is the planning process?

- Types
 - Normative theories: what *should* happen?
 - Descriptive theories: what does happen?
- Examples
 - Plan making for cities?
 - Decision-making in public policy?
 - Designing urban space?

“The general plan is the official statement of a municipal *legislative body* which sets forth its major policies concerning desirable future *physical* development; the published general-plan document must include a *single*, unified general physical design for the community, and it must attempt to clarify the relationships between physical-development policies and social and economic goals.” (Kent)

“To me, therefore, there can be no such thing as a flexible plan, since there can be no such a thing as a flexible policy in relation to physical development. A so-called “flexible” plan is no plan at all.” (Kent)

The Urban General Plan (Kent)

- Client: City Council
- Contents
 - Working-and-living areas
 - Community facilities
 - Civic-design
 - Circulation
 - Utilities
- Characteristics
 - Contents
 - Physical focus
 - Long-range
 - Comprehensive (in scope)
 - General
 - Relate proposals to policies
 - Procedures
 - Formatted for public debate
 - City Council's plan
 - Available and understandable to public
 - Educational
 - Amendable

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See the Berkeley Master Plan [here](#).

Discussion:
“Urban General Plan” Pro and Con

A Defense of 'Comprehensive' Planning (Faludi)

- Lindblom and others harshly critiqued the rational comprehensive planning model as impractical, proposed incrementalism as an alternative
- Faludi argues model not dissimilar with comprehensive model with reasonable limits
- The key differences are underlying theory of society, scope of images, and relative autonomy

Friday

- Emma Rothschild: 12:00-2:00

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