



*Designing the City of the
Future through Classic
Planning*

*El diseño de la ciudad
del futuro por medio del
planeamiento clásico*

*Projetar a cidade do futuro
através do planeamento
clássico*

Pablo Álvarez Funes

Planning is a term used by architects and urbanists for the process of creating urban fabric. This process arose with civilization itself and somehow remained stable until the early twentieth century, when hygiene and urban renewal policies updated and refined a model that had lasted for thousands of years. The advent of new means of transportation, together with new Modernist theories, changed the process radically. To the point of converting urban expansion into a Saturn that devours its children, whether the traditional city or the countryside.

This problem of uncontrolled and unsustainable urban growth is precisely what this book by Dr. Nir Haim Buras is about. Dr. Buras has a long track record

as a specialist on infrastructure and heritage. This book, published in 2020, is arranged in three parts: the first on how we got into the current situation, the second setting out the fundamentals of classic planning, and the third discussing how to apply these principles.

Of particular interest are chapters 6, 7 and 11. Chapter 6 defines our perception of urban form from a scientific, neurological viewpoint. Chapter 7 introduces the conceptual basis of classic planning, including the concept of architectural literacy, namely a knowledge of the principles of classical and traditional architecture. Finally, chapter 11 and the epilogue show a way forward for the design of cities, viewing planning less as a solution than as a legacy.

With a straightforward and accessible style, this is an essential reading for anyone questioning the current model of urban growth and who may be seeking an alternative beyond kicking the can down the road with yet more Modernism.

Nir Haim Buras

The Art of Classic Planning. Building Beautiful and Enduring Communities
Harvard University Press and Belknap Press, 2019