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Title

Urban & regional planning: A Systems Approach

Author

MCLOUGHLIN, J. Brian

Abstract

Town and country planning is in a state of transition. The traditional approach based on physical design is gradually being replaced by a new concern with social and economic processes. Planners are becoming more aware of the need to clarify their objectives so that they may be understood by the public's representatives. Planners still lack a unified theoretical and practical framework to which advances in general systems theory and social sciences may be related. This book aims to provide a framework for applying theories of systems and control to the planning of urban environments. Advances in computing and control theory enable the planner to simulate the behaviour of urban systems and their responses to a wide variety of stimuli. The future prospect is that cybernetics the science of control systems and very complex systems may be applied to the planning of urban regions, and greatly augment the sensitivity of planning over its surroundings. Our present danger is that the lack of skill in tinkering with parts of our environment may have serious repercussions on the whole system. Emulation of cybernetic principles may lead us in the right direction. McLoughlin was until recently Director of the Sub-Regional Planning Study. His book, written for both professionals and the interested layman, covers the whole planning process, showing how the new concepts may be used alongside more traditional methods. Professor McLoughlin's work is a strikingly original work on the new concepts of urban planning which must become the basis of Strategy for the 1970s. It should rapidly become a standard text.

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