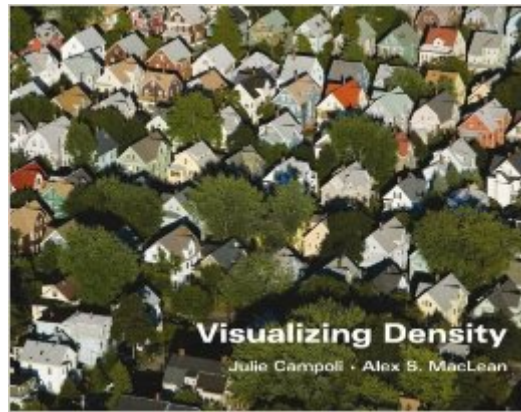


The book was found

Visualizing Density



Synopsis

The American Dream of a single-family home on its own expanse of yard still captures the imagination. But with a growing population of 100 million more people expected in the United States by 2050, rising energy and transportation costs, disappearing farmland and open space, and the clear need for greater energy efficiency and a reduction in global warming emissions, the future built environment must include more density. Landscape architect and land planner Julie Campoli and aerial photographer Alex S. MacLean have joined forces to create a full-color, richly illustrated book to help planners, designers, public officials, and citizens better understand, and better communicate to others, the concept of density as it applies to the residential environment.

Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Lincoln Institute of Land Policy; Pap/Cdr edition (January 30, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1558441719

ISBN-13: 978-1558441712

Product Dimensions: 11.5 x 9 x 0.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (4 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

The book aims to link perceived density to measured density by providing a catalogue of 250 neighbourhoods from the US, each example illustrated with four aerial images, a street pattern diagram and a dwelling density measure in units per acre. This is not an uncommon attempt to provide a tool helping the understanding of the relationship between urban density measures and built form outcomes, several such catalogues having been published in the last decades internationally. The strength of this particular density catalogue is the extensive high quality aerial imagery. However, there are many limitations to its usefulness. Firstly, we normally perceive neighbourhoods from ground level, not from the air, but no eye level imagery is provided. The second key problem is that scale, a key aspect of any density measure, is not consistently used.

While the book refers to neighbourhoods, the provided density measure of units per acres has been often calculated for a single block only, and is not clear whether is net or gross. For homogeneous suburban neighbourhoods this is not a major problem, but for the diverse inner urban areas the density of a single block can widely differ from that of the neighbourhood. Thirdly, it would have been fair to warn the reader of the multiple limitations of the used density measure of units per acre, such as that the presence or absence of non-residential uses is ignored, that the actual size of a unit is ignored, or that family size can largely vary from one neighbourhood to another, and thus the density of people might compare differently than the density of units.

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