# **COMMUNITY DESIGN**: ORIGINS, APPROACHES, DIRECTIONS

Landscape and Democracy Online Seminar November 24, 2015

PAULA HORRIGAN
Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture
Cornell University, USA

## Presentation:

1. SETTING THE STAGE:

COMMUNITY DESIGN'S EMERGENCE

#### 2. DEFINING COMMUNITY DESIGN THROUGH CASES:

- HESTER'S MANTEO PROJECT: SACRED STRUCTURE
- SHNEEKLOTH & SHIBLEY'S ROANOKE CHURCH PLACEMAKING PROJECT
- BOONE'S CHAVIS PARK + CELLPHONE DIARIES PROJECT

#### 3. LEARNING FROM THE CASES

4. MOVING TOWARDS DEMOCRATIC PROFESSIONALISM

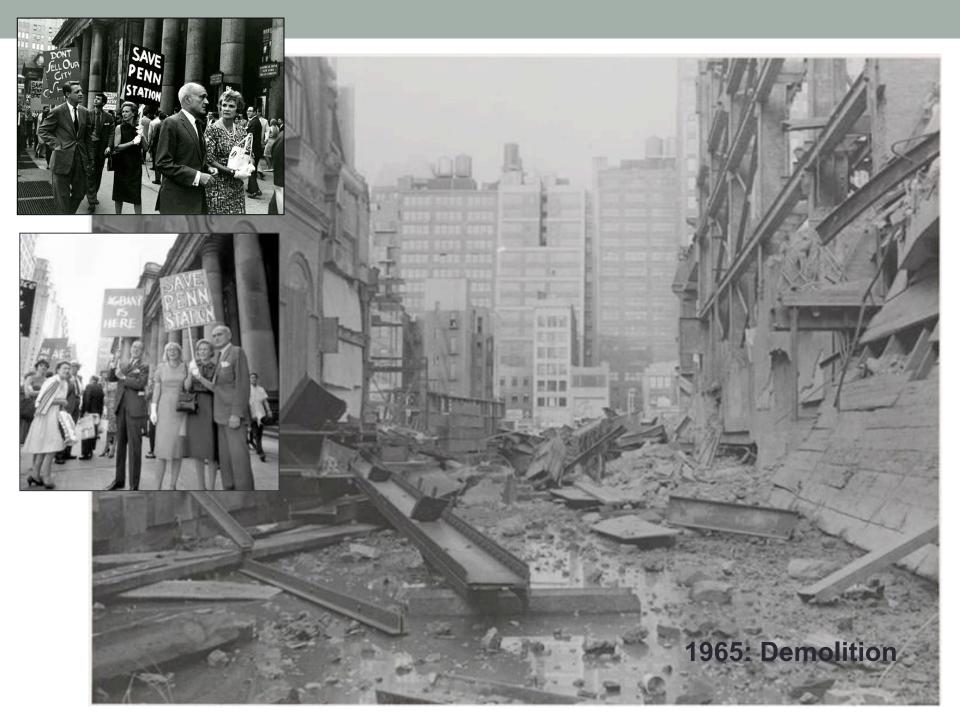
# 1960's to the present... towards community + democratic design

- Resistance: Rejection of brutal modernism, standardization, meta-narratives, technical rationalism, urban renewal
- Rights: civil rights, disability rights, adult education (Freire), feminism, rights to the city, environmental justice
- **Movements:** historic preservation, environmental/ecological, sustainability: linking public health, social welfare and equity with environmental design
- Environmental psychology and behavior research, place, place attachment and placemaking- merging of social sciences w/ design knowledge;
- Democracy: community design, landscape democracy, ecological democracy, public interest design, social activist design
- Crises: displacement, conflict, climate change, migration, urbanization, disaster....

URBAN RENEWAL + Federal Highway Programs
Oak Street Neighborhood New Haven, CT: leveled 1957







Jane Jacobs

THE DEATH
AND LIFE
OF GREAT
AMERICAN
CITIES

Urban activist and scholar who challenged Robert Moses and spearheaded citizen led coalition to fight and kill the Lower Manhattan Expressway and an urban renewal plan for her own neighborhood.



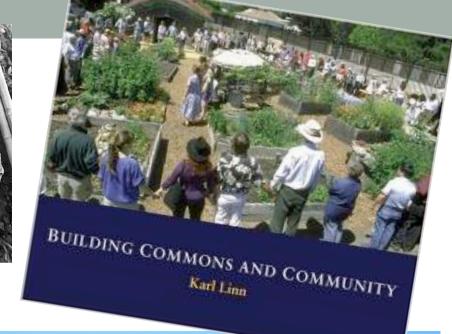
Planner Robert Moses' displaced ½ million people with NY highways... His Plan for NYC was rejected in 1964!





## Karl Linn

- reclaim the commons
  - "neighborhood commons"= a community right
  - secure public lands for people
  - guidelines for public lands for community gardens in city plans
  - landscape + social justice + activism
- 1984: Architects/Designers/ Planners for Social Responsibility (ADPSR)





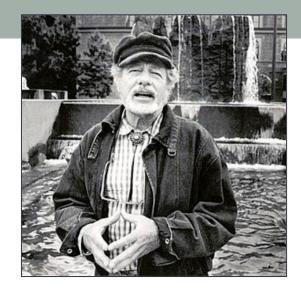
## Lawrence Halprin

#### **SCORES:**

"the form of anything is latent in the process"

By involvement in process we all interact, our input is significant, visible, meaningful, useful, and no one point of view can hold us in thralldom. Scores are not goal-oriented; they are hope oriented.

(p. 4. Halprin, 1969)



The RSVP Cycles

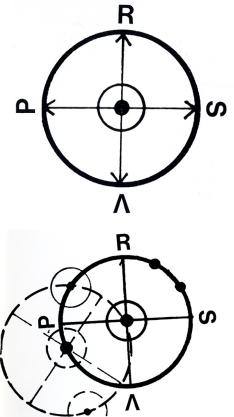
State of the second second

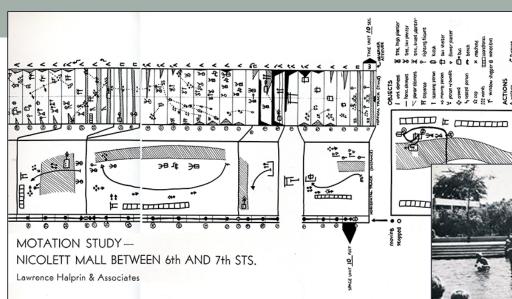
Resources which are what you have to work with. These include human and physical resources and their motivation and aims.

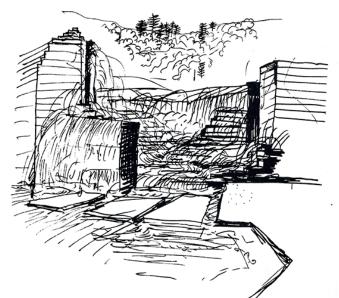
Scores which describe the process leading to the performance.

Valuaction which analyzes the results of action and possible selectivity and decisions. The term "valuaction" is one coined to suggest the action-oriented as well as the decision-oriented aspects of V in the cycle.

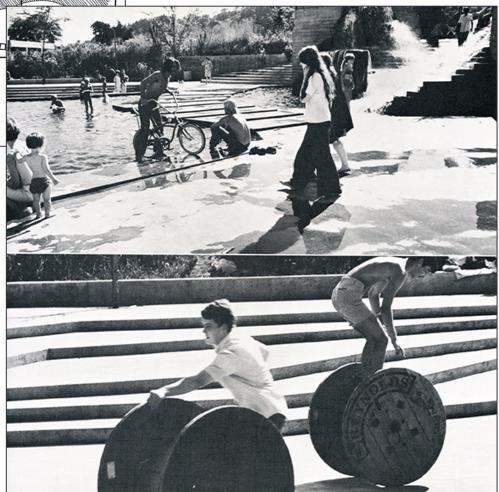
Performance which is the resultant of scores and is the "style" of the process.





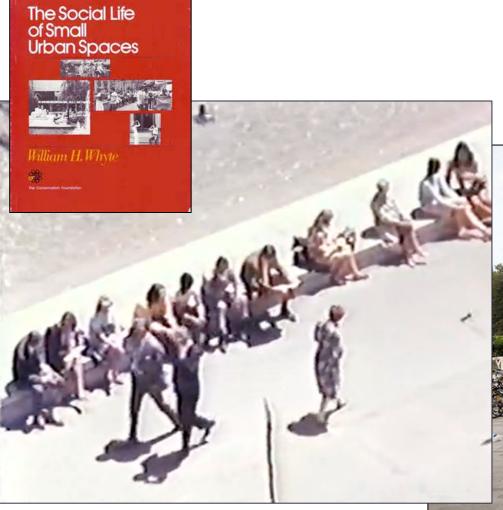


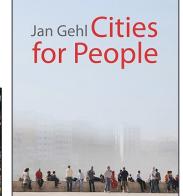
In the playa there should be <u>Events</u>.... sculpture shows - crucerts - dence Events with dancers all over AND arrang to center space from above down stains around foundam.

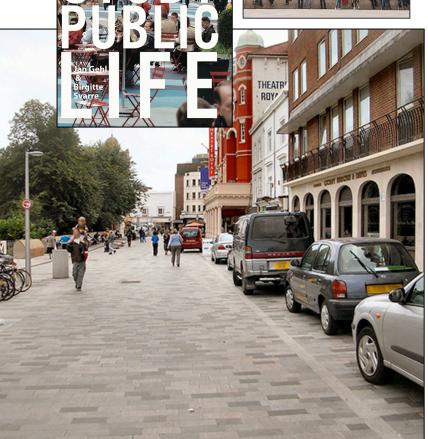


William H. Whyte ..... Jan Gehl

1970's to....present











Community Asset Mapping; SWOT Analysis, Surveys...

Community Build

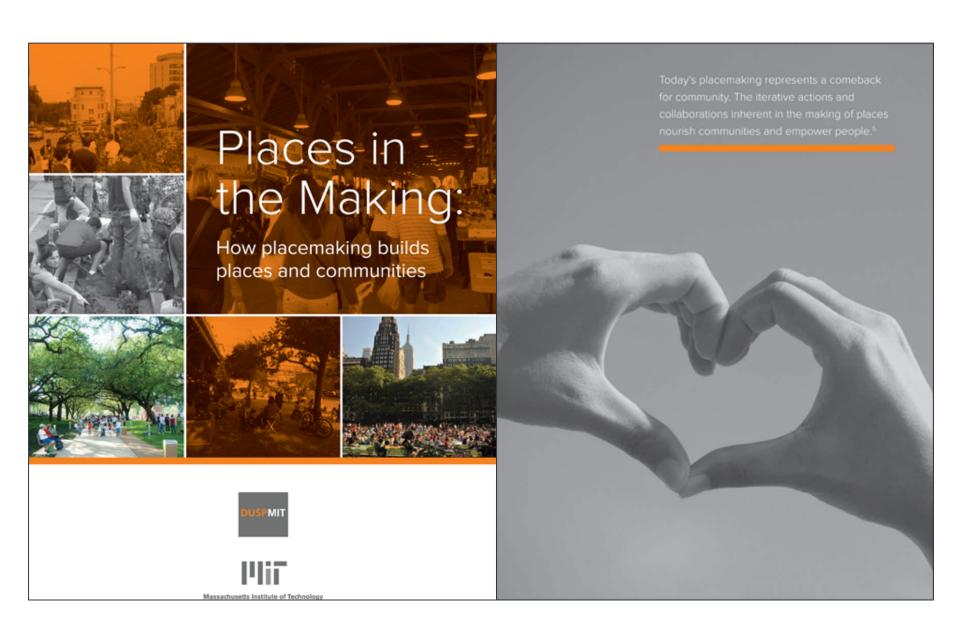


Community Visioning and Design Sessions

Community and Public Meetings



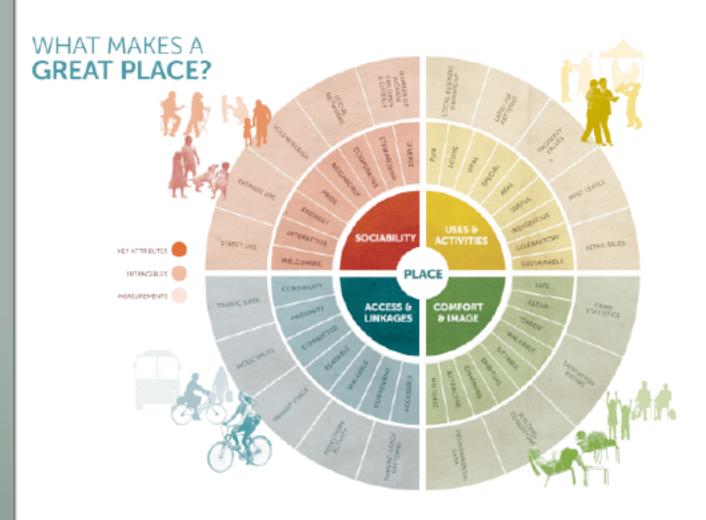




# Creating Great Community Places...

#### 11 elements

- 1. The Community Is the Expert
- 2. Create a Place, Not a Design
- 3. Look for Partners
- 4. You Can See a Lot Just By Observing
- 5. Have a Vision
- 6. Start with the Petunias: Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper
- 7. Triangulate
- 8. They Always Say "It Can't Be Done"
- 9. Form Supports Function
- 10. Money Is Not the Issue
- 11. You Are Never Finished

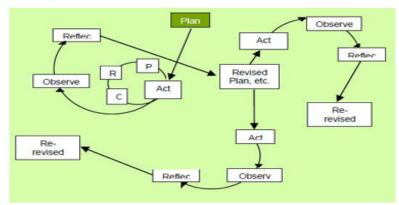


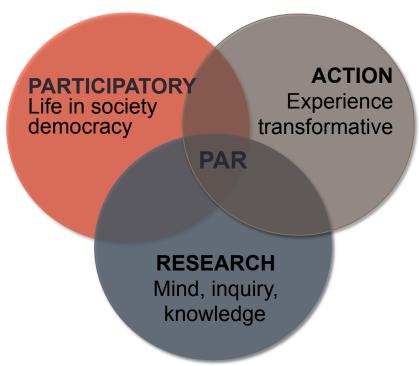


# PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH

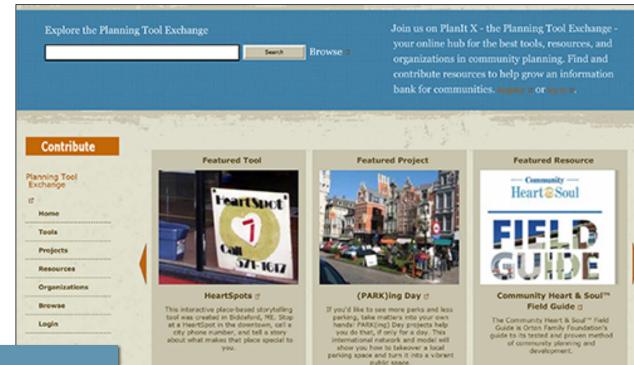
- Engage people and multiple stakeholders
- Co-learning and co-creation
- Mobilize evidence, Meaningful Action
- Inquiry, action, reflection cycles
- Create an action learning system and process
- Dialogic; engages stakeholders and mediates differences through dialogue
- Democratization of knowledge making, process and action
- Grounded in real community needs and learning

## inquire, reflect, revise, act





Adapted from Chevalier & Buckles, 2013



### PLANNING TOOL EXCHANGE

http://www.planningtoolexchange.org/



#### Recent & Rated

most recent highest rated

Imagine Central Arkansas (Project) ©

Australian National University Union
Court Revitalization (Project) ©

EngagingCities (Resource) ©

Denver Zoo Facility Master Plan
(Project) ©

Community Remarks (Foot) ©

Nextdoor (Foot) ©

Peg Community Indicator System
(Foot) ©

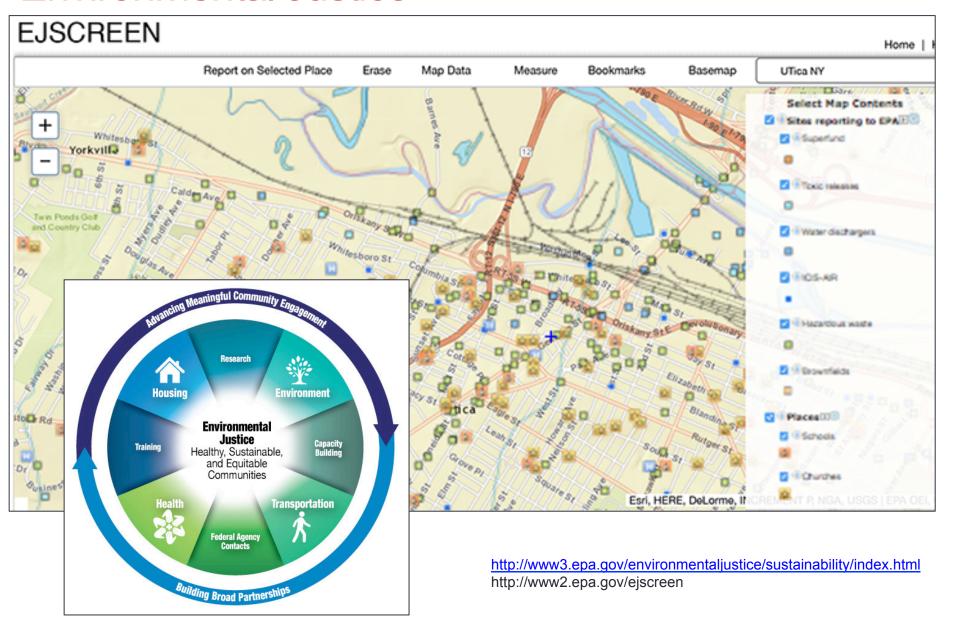
Youth Engagement & Voice (Resource) ©

#### **Project and Organization Map**



HORE

## **Environmental Justice**



## Sustainable Development

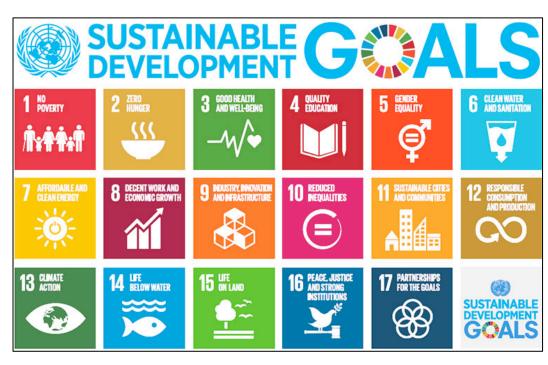
1987: "Sustainable Development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

UN World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission)



#### 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT





1960's community design centers

1960 **Pratt Center for Community Development** Yale Building Project Community Development Group NCState

1994

Detroit Collaborative Design Cen





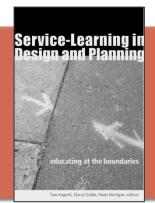
Building on the civic ⊆ legacy of the city, ⊊ faculty and students

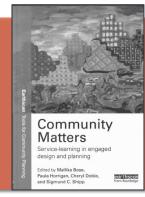
practice design

activism through

service-learning studios that shad involve find marginalized social groups in design and planning of urban spaces.

2008 erasing boundaries project



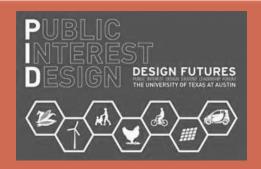


We train students to challenge the predominant patterns of environmental

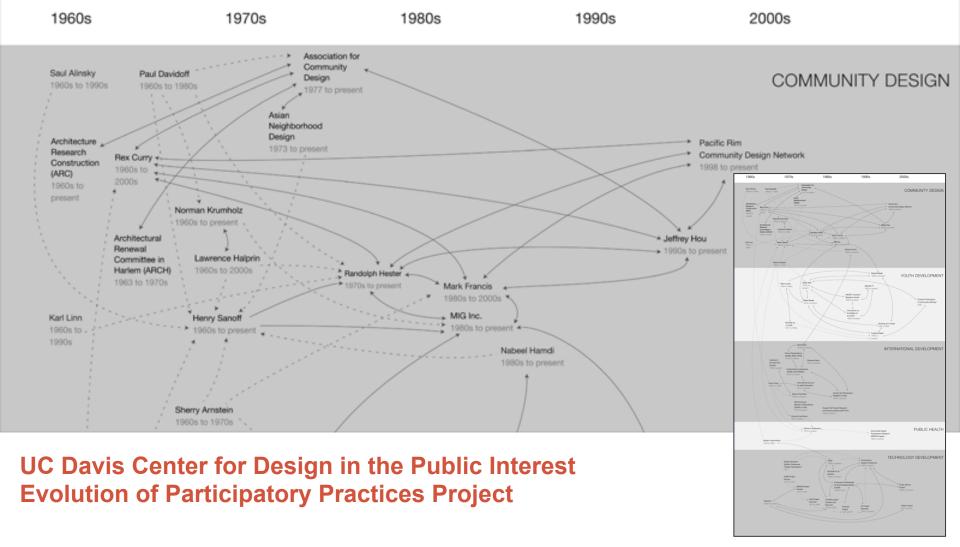
injustice and to become advocates of the voices

and interests of marginalized communities and landscapes.

2013 design futures | PID







EVOLUTION OF / PARTICIPATORY / 5 disciplines PRACTICES / 50 years

The Evolution of Participatory Practices (EPP) Project, sponsored by the UC Davis Center for Design in the Public Interest, is a joint effort between researchers, design practitioners, and students to explore the evolution of participatory practices over time. A participatory practice is a range of practices enabling everyone who has a stake in the intervention to have a voice and influence in the decision making process.

The project examines key individuals, organizations, projects, writings, and social/cultural events across five decades and disciplines—community design, youth development, international development, public health, and technology development.

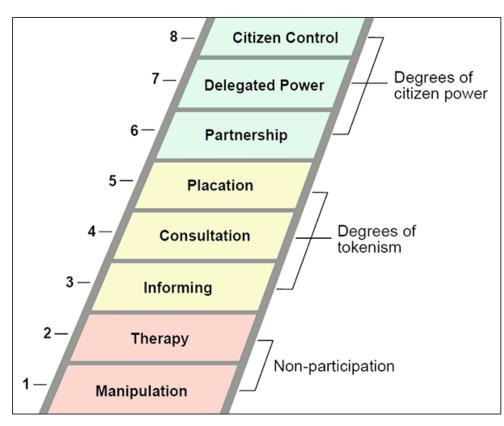
UC Davis Center for Design in the Public Interest (dipi) Yohei Kato, Susan Verba, Sumayyah Ahmed, Prerna Dudani and Sarah Perrault

## Community Design: Purpose Matters

- Rooted in addressing and overcoming environmental injustices and inequities and equitably distributing environmental resources
- Community building, empowerment, belonging, education
- Local knowledge and professional knowledge valued, combined
- Inherently democratic
- Attends to:
  - people, place, culture
  - place meanings, sociability and needs of users
  - individual and community place attachment
  - community building and belonging
  - environmental design as place-making

## Community Design: Process and Participation Matters

- Design with People, not for
- Collective Inquiry, reflection and action through Participatory Processes engaging professionals and nonprofessionals together
- Co-learning, Co-creation: transactive process, learn together, engage "all" in the making process
- Foster relationships, reciprocity, mutual trust through process
- empowerment as central to process: redistributing power, gaining individual and collective agency and self-esteem; building social capital, social fabric, democratic engagement



## community design in action?

making the case

## Randolph Hester

- Educator + Activist + Designer
- Participatory Community Design knowledge through works, literature, education
- Methods | Process:
   12-Step Community Design Process; "Sacred Structure"
- Environmental Justice
- "Ecological Democracy"



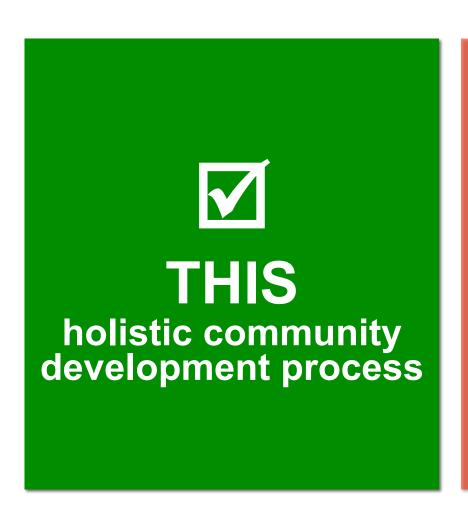
## MANTEO, NC







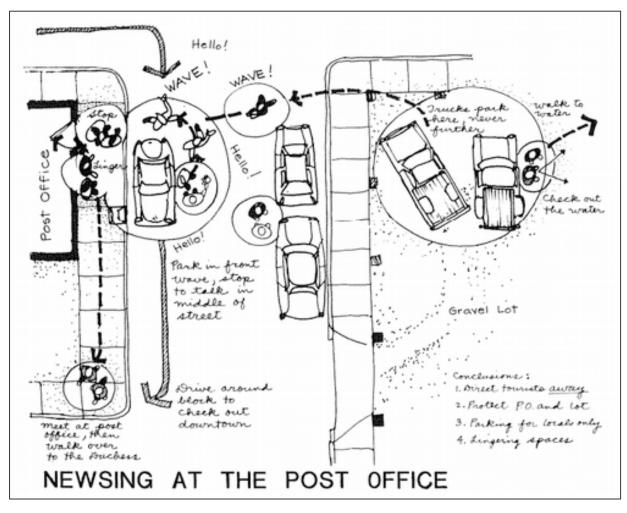
### CHALLENGE THE PROGRAM

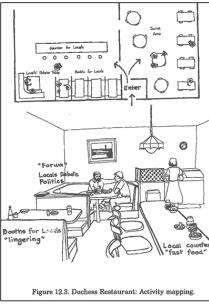


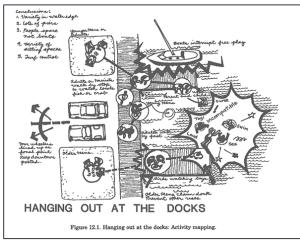


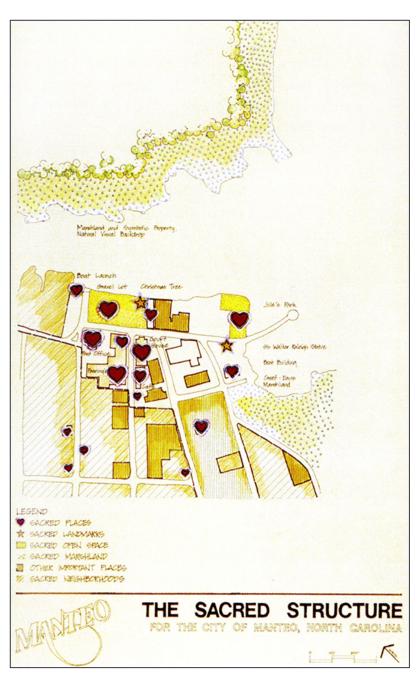
### **BEHAVIOR MAPPING + OBSERVATION**

Record and reveal existing patterns of daily life and place attachments



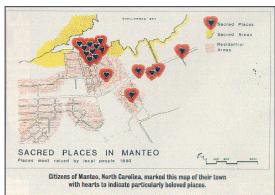


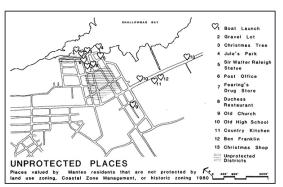




## MAP AND SECURE the SACRED STRUCTURE

the community's valued social patterns and places



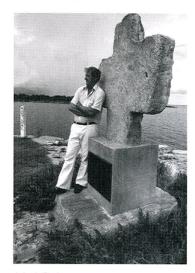




Town launch



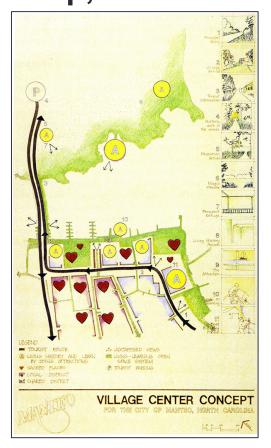
Duchess Restaurant



Jules's Park

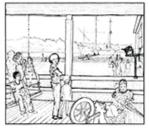
Manteo's Sacred Structure—mostly humble places that were essential to the community's daily life, identity, and health—would not be sacrificed even in times of economic hardship.

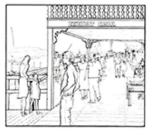
PLACE ATTACHMENTS, SACRED STRUCTURE inspire planning, design, form, stewardship, future....



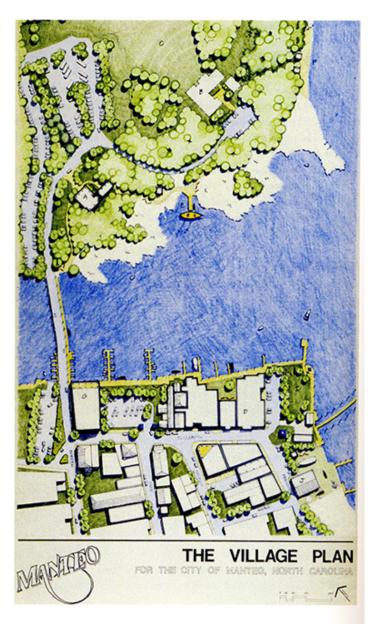








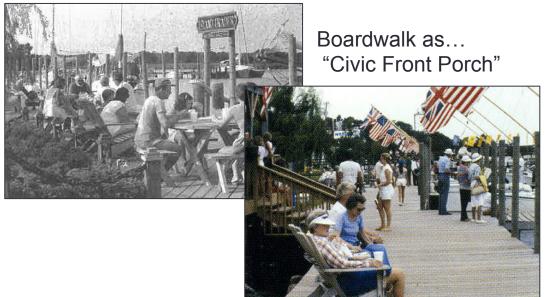
The sacred structure inspired the final plan to revitalize Manteo by enhancing fishing industries, employing traditional skills to craft wooden ships, and making a frontporch-like open-space system.

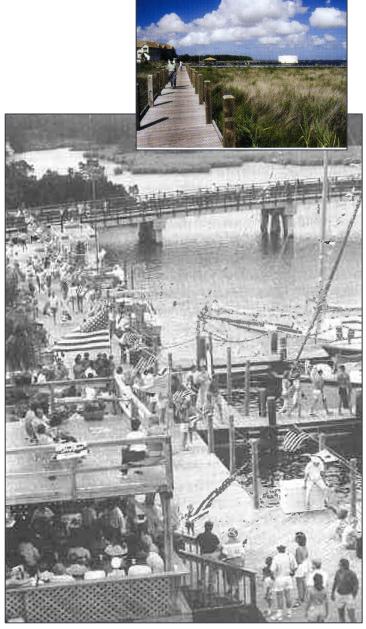


### making the case....



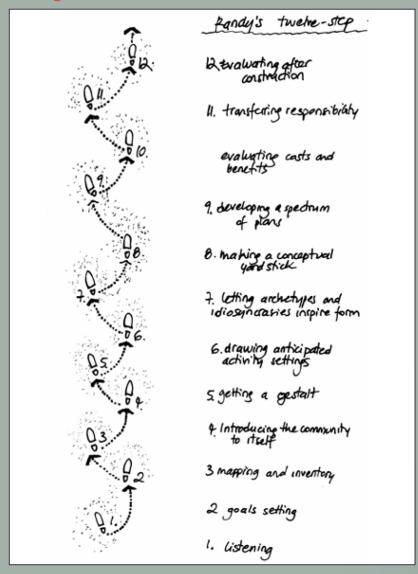






material world + activity + meaning = sense of place

#### making the case....



CHAPTING WESTPORT 2 to awating after construction 11. transfering responsibility 10. evaluating costs and benefits 9. developing a spedrum 8. making a conceptual yard stick 7. Letting archetypes and idiosyncrasies inspire form 6. drawing anticipated activity settings 5 getting a gestalt 4 Introducing the community to itself 3 mapping and inventory 2 goals setting 1. Listening

**Hester's 12-Step Process** 

Adapted 12-Step Process in "Crafting Westport"

# Lynda Schneekloth Robert Shibley

 Educators + Activists + Designers

Placemaking Theory +
 Placemaking Practice

 Placemaking knowledge through works, literature, education



# placemaking praxis

with **not** for

primacy of place and democracy create relationships between people and places, and relationships among people in places

empowerment, voice to community and community identity | building

Beautiful places will emerge as a result of the **relational aspects** of making places. This inversion of aim is based on a series of tasks that require traditional professional skills and more.

Schneekloth and Shibley, 2008

### Placemaking praxis

# 3 main components

Schneekloth and Shibley (1995)

### 1. Dialogic Space

Creating an "open space" ... a sustained space for dialogue- this is the space of creating a relationship with the place constituencies through a "dialogic space"

#### 2. Confirmation and Interrogation

Undergoing the dialectical work of **confirmation** which asks what is? what has been? and **interrogation** which asks critical questions, seeks gaps, disruptions and incongruities and brings them into the dialogue (that occurs in a dialogic space)

### 3. Framing the action

the ongoing and emergent confirmation and interrogation reveals the constraints and opportunities for action- deciding what to include and not include; whose voices are included, methods used.

# Placemaking praxis methods + ways of working Schneekloth and Shibley (1995)

- Many methods available and able to be invented
- Selection of methods of work and approaches to framing and solving problems is <u>not</u> a technical activity but an ethical one
- Methods should be questioned critically to discern whether they will empower many voices or deny collective action
- Methods should emerge from the specific situation rather than be imposed or overlaid on the context
- Placemaking methods must be linked to placemaking beliefs, ideologies and aims of practice

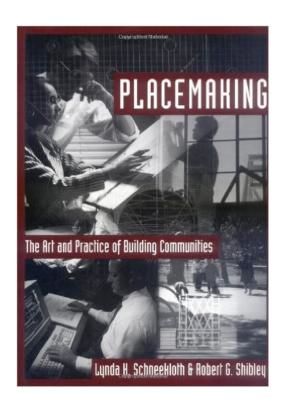
# approaches and methods rooted in beliefs and ideologies

#### **Paolo Freire**

"Methodological failings can always be traced to ideological errors...If one is to adopt a *method* which fosters dialogue and reciprocity, one must first be *ideologically* committed to equality, to the abolition of privilege, and to non-elitist forms of leadership wherein special qualifications may be exercised, but are not perpetuated."

## Case: Roanoke Baptist Church

Schneekloth, L. and Shibley (1995). *Placemaking: the Art and Practice of Building Communities*, New York: John Wiley, p.19-63.



- Collective process design: designers/ facilitators with congregation "to involve the whole congregation"
- entering <u>not</u> as experts, but as knowledge contributors, enablers and partners in process
- open and visible form of communicating and dialoguing
- Iterative process guided and dictated outcome/building design

#### "CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE FUN KIND"

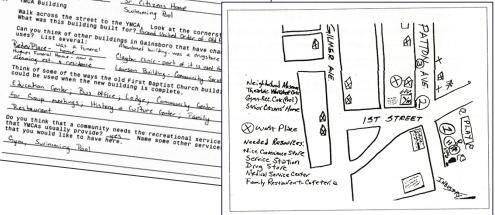
getting to know their place better

- Invited the congregation and neighbors to "visit" their neighborhood
- Community picnic; small group walks to share experiences and memories
- SPACE WALKS: Loosely organized walks with a score or script focusing on things to look at, explore and questions to engage related to history, environment, social aspects
- Time for reflection, discussion, mapping, compiling discoveries



Walk to the library. Go inside and sit down. The library is an excellent source or information and pleasure for everyone in the community of t

SPACE WALK PARTICIPANT SCORE + MAP



## **VISITATIONS:** what is a church building?

- Expand awareness of possibilities
- "Visitation"- members visit other churches on a Sunday morning and return to their church for lunch and discussion
- created scripts for them to do the visits, observe and collect info on all the roles of the church
- share results in the New Building Corner

get to the service at least 15 minutes early to see where the choir prepares and if the see before service.
Is there a special choir practice room? Where is it located?
Describe the room
Where does the choir dress for service?
Is there enough room to store robes? Is there sufficient room to dress? Is there a safe place to keep personal belongings during service?
Where is the choir located in the sanctuary?
Does the choir face the altar, the congregation, the minister?
Watch how the choir enters and exists the choir area. Does the position of the choir
seating make this easy? Do you like this arrangement for the
choir? Why or why not?
If someone had to leave the choir area during service or needed to be taken out, how would this happen?
What kind of musical instruments were used during the service?
Did they have an electric or pipe organ?
What advantages and disadvantages do you see with their choice?
Did the choir use electrical amplification? If so, did it add to or detract from the service?

VISITATION WORKSHOP SCRIPT

## FORMING BUILDING COMMITTEES



- ORGANIZED AROUND CHURCH FUNCTIONS
- EACH COMMITTEE DEVELOPED PATTERNS
- Worship/Sanctuary
- Music/choir

Educational Programs

- Ushers
- Site and Entrance
- Support Facilities
- Kitchen/Eating
- Recreational
- Nursery
- Administrative/ Organizational

Exterior Friq. Sink tove Construent discharge of the Construent discharge of the Construent discharge of the Construent discharge of Construent of Discharge of Construent of Co

Figure 2.14 Building Committees meet to develop patterns for their area of concern.

## **CONCEIVING PATTERNS...**

written

#### Idea?

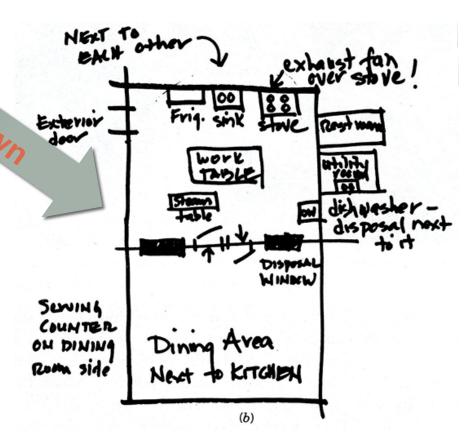
A Window into the Sanctuary

#### What?

Crying infants and latecomers often disturb the service or those in the sanctuary

#### How?

Place a glass wall between the foyer and the sanctuary so that parents with infants can see the service without disturbing others and so that latecomers can stand and wait until they see an available seat. Include a speaker system so the service can be heard as well as seen,.



## **CREATING A PATTERN BOOK**

## First Baptist Church PATTERN BOOK

#### **593 Patterns**

- select and guide the architect
- empower the congregation to drive design direction, use the materials generated, continue working with committees,
- evaluate, reflect

Idea:	The	Church	is	the	Peop!	le
-------	-----	--------	----	-----	-------	----

What: The church is a body of people whose mission is to spread the good

news of Christ. Its energies should therefore concentrate on people,

not material possessions.

How: While the church facilities should enhance and support the activities

of the people, they should be at a small enough scale and easy enough to maintain so as not to strain the resources of the people.

Idea: Foot Tapping

What: Some sounds are important during the worship services, especially

foot tapping while the choir and congregation sing.

How: Surfaces under the church pews should be designed to reflect the

sound of tapping feet. Do not put carpet under the pews.

Idea: Access for All

What: Not all people are blessed with youthful, healthy bodies and should not be excluded from church activities because of physical barriers,

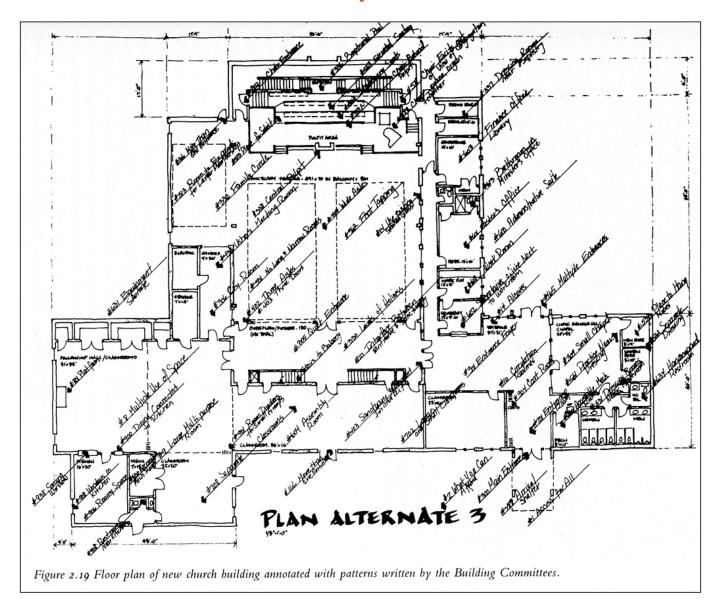
such as long flights of stairs, steep inclines, and slippery surfaces.

How: Eliminate barriers and provide access to all major parts of the church buildings. This can be accomplished by ramps, elevators,

and handrails.

Figure 2.16 Three of 593 patterns for the new First Baptist Church.

## PATTERNS EMBODIED in place + form



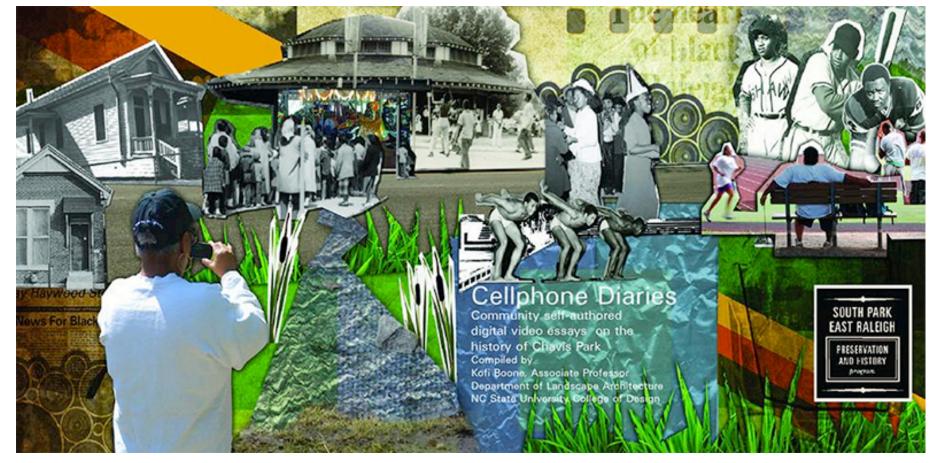
## Chavis Park, Raleigh NC

## cellphone diaries

innovate tools enabling people to create their place





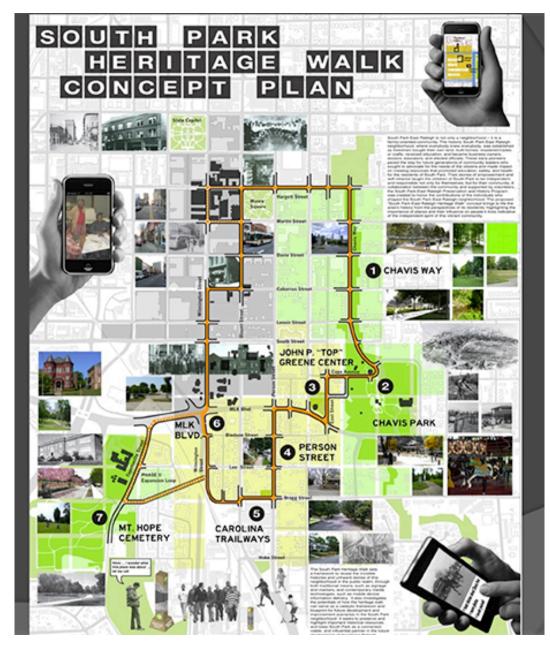


Boone, K. (2012). "Cellphone Diaries." Prism: A Journal of Regional Engagement, Vol 1: No. 2. pp.172-182.

#### making the case....



#### making the case....





Cell-phone training session preceding walks with "tech buddies"

Stories reveal heritage, identity, shared history and become embodied in "Heritage Walk" and community action to save the Carousel

Boone, K. (2012)

#### making the case....



"Heritage Walk" and Carousel building and place become embedded in revitalized "new" Park Design and meanings

Boone, K. (2012)

new outdoor performance area at historic pool site

enhanced entry areas and defined neighborhood edge

"cues to care" stream edge naturalization

## learning from the cases?

- Professional and non-professional roles and relationships fostered and shaped by community design purpose, process and ethics
- Process and methods are a <u>critical act</u>
- Process and methods vary and are tailored to purpose, place, community, people, culture
- "Community" Matters: Building, Empowerment and Place Attachment are central
- Design reflective and expressive of place and community; fostering affective bonds between people and place, producing shared community meanings

# learning from the cases? Community Design (democratic) HABITS OF PRACTICE

- task sharing
- sharing power, authority and authorship
  - design as co-creation
  - rigorous and critical processes
    - design skillsets +
- mutual respect for local and expert knowledge
  - on-going reflection and evaluation
    - collaboration
      - flexibility
  - commitment- across time, space
    - political, ethical



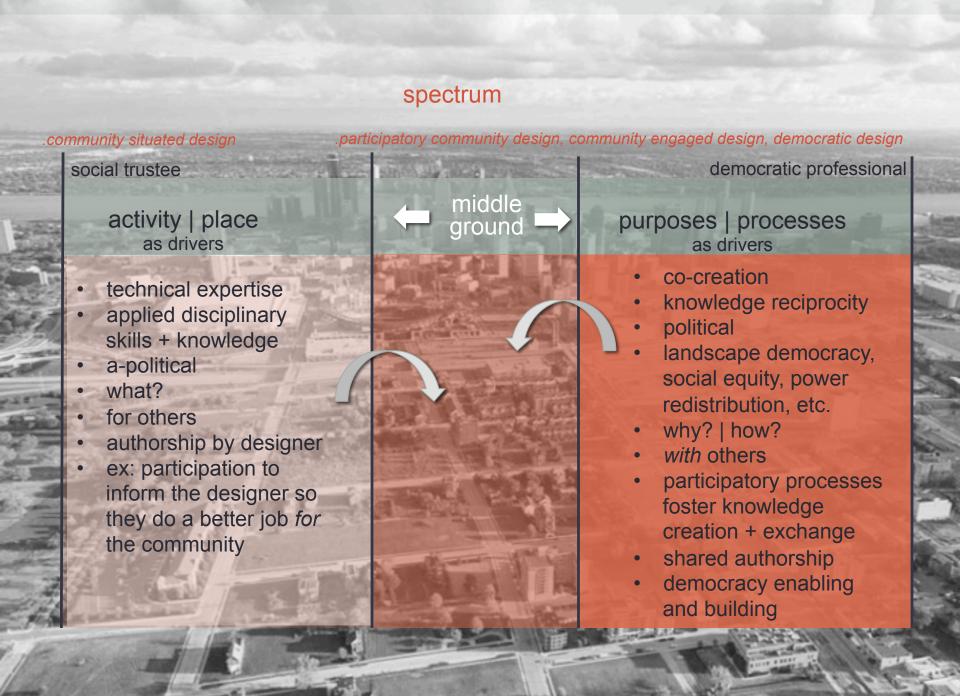
**LAITY** 

co-participants | co-creators | local knowledge

Community Design meeting ground

#### **PROFESSIONALS**

intermediary | facilitative | Interactive | collborative



## democratic professional

#### attributes

- Facilitative of more active and engaged democracy
- spreads and also gains useful habits of active and reflective citizenship
- encourages democratic capabilities, interests, norms
- "habituated" to norms of democratic civic participation
- gain healthy relations of authority and gain authority
- temper ambitions and ones habits of mind

#### challenges

competent practitioner/ researcher adopting norms of discipline



good facilitator of community participation

exercise authority



share authority

Towards democratic professionalism... changing field | practice | knowledge

PUBLIC COMMUNITY
INTEREST DESIGN responsible democratic democratic democratic socially engaged design marked community-engaged design participatory design participatory design procession procession

DESIGN FOR EQUITY SOCIAL IMPACT SOCIAL ACTIVISM DESIGN



citizen designer |architect community designer

placemaker
democratic designer
public interest designer
social activist designer





