Not in my backyard: Community responses to higher density living

Is it all in the mind?

Wendy Sarkissian
The offending buildings...

We are not talking about the inner city of Redfern
The Turbulent River of so-called NIMBY responses

Two Tributaries
Two Tributaries

1. Insensitive Housing Design
2. Insensitive Community Engagement

A really difficult situation
Lessons from Boston
1953-1961
NOTICE TO LANDLORDS IN THE BOSTON AREA

The Boston Redevelopment Authority is desirous of obtaining listings of available apartments, in all sizes, and rental ranges, to assist in the relocation of the families being displaced by the URBAN Renewal Program. If you have any vacancies please contact Mr. John J. Hallisey, 25 Blossom St., Boston. Tel. RI 2-1740.
The Last Tenement House
Giovanni Attili &
Leonie Sandercock
Finding Our Way
(2010)
A Humanistic Design Manifesto

In the 1960s, the zeal of urban mind set for a more socially responsible and humanistic approach to urban design. Twenty years later, despite pockets of change, much of our physical environment has become more alien, less inviting, less healthy, less public, in a word, less human. Though ordinary people everywhere are demanding a say in the design of their environment, they remain excluded from the decision, design, and construction of the places in which they live and work.

Designers have withdrawn from social commitment. The rhetoric of social responsibility is still rooted, but experience in a period of economic recession has made the separation between architecture, urban design, and the community more visible. We need a new kind of designer, one who is not afraid to be a critic and who can hear the voice of the people. The time of design and planning has long since passed. We need the courage to speak out against the waste and folly of our past, and to envision a future.

Thus the Humanist Design Manifesto is a device for finding which is a new kind of humanist architect, one who is able to make the choices of our time.

There are four principles essential to a new human design:

1. **Humanism:** The belief in the inherent goodness of humans and their capacity for self-improvement.
2. **Social Responsibility:** The belief that architects and designers have a duty to create buildings and spaces that benefit society.
3. **Environmental Sustainability:** The belief in designing buildings and spaces that minimize their impact on the environment.
4. **Cultural Sensitivity:** The belief in designing buildings and spaces that respect and reflect the cultural context in which they are built.
A Humanistic Design Manifesto

In the 1950s the call clearly rang out for a more socially responsible and humanistic approach to environmental design. Twenty years later, several packets of change, much of our society’s woven fabric became more visible, interdependent, less healing, less public, in a world, less humane. Though ordinary people everywhere are demanding a say in the design of their environments, they remain excluded from the creative, design, and construction of these spaces which they live in.

Designers have withdrawn from social commitment. The rhetoric of social responsibility is still mouthed, but experience in practice now compositionally keeps the non-architect, society, architect, others from the mainstream whose socially conscious designers from the everyday world of people. The time of design and criticism has swung strongly back towards the narrow experience of decision on buildings and proposals, rather than living in them.

This new formalism is a refusal from social responsibility and sacriﬁces the conscious and humble of common people to an actively perceived aesthetic movement for the elite.

Hence we manifest the following principles as essential to a more human design:

(Photograph 1970)

(May 1970)
Aftab Erfan
LOVE

LISTENING

OPENNESS

VALIDATION

EDUCATION
Validation

Influence
Transferring your ideas and knowledge
Knowledge not used

Who is considered knowledgeable?
Clout

Not valued
Dismissed ideas

Big Barrier:
Gatekeepers’ Frames of Reference
LOVE

Listening
Openness
Validation
Education
New Infill Housing
Adelaide
Courtyard, Halifax Street

Halifax Street, 2003
Image & entries
A Basic Building Block: Shared On-site Open Space

Nature-Deficit Disorder
Households with children
Households with children
Two Tributaries

1. Insensitive Housing Design
2. Insensitive Community Engagement
Environmental Psychology
Community Psychology
Humanistic Psychology
Environment-Behavior Studies
John Zeisel

Four Environment-Behaviour/Neuroscience Concepts

1. Place
2. Personalization
3. Territory
4. Wayfinding
Home and territory are hard-wired.

Ten Categories of Psychological Material We Have Forgotten

1. Environmental psychology
2. Place, place attachment and placelessness
3. The territorial core
4. Housing messages
5. The threshold
6. Congruence or fit
7. Privacy: frontstage an backstage
8. Identity, image and housing form
9. Personalisation
10. The house as mirror of the self
Ten Categories of Psychological Material We Have Forgotten

1. *Environmental psychology*
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9. Personalisation
10. The house as mirror of the self
A Humanistic Design Manifesto

In the 1980s, the social climate rang out for a more socially responsible and humanistic approach to environmental design. Twenty years later, despite pockets of change, much of our built environment has become more alien, less legible, less beautiful, less public, in a word, less humane. Though ordinary people everywhere are demanding a say in the design of their environment, they remain excluded from the decisions, design, and construction of the places in which they live and work.

Designers have withdrawn from social commitment. The rhetoric of social responsibility is still mouthed, but experiments in prairie views of sustainability have become the exception, society architecture, soberly thematic, and the building community for just some of the techniques which allegedly displace designers from the everyday world of people. The tide of design and criticism has swung strongly back towards the narrow experience of building and physics, rather than the interplay between them.

Thus the proposal is a defense from social responsibility and sacrifices the concerns and needs of ordinary people to an elitely defined aesthetic measure for the few.

Here we manifest the following principles as essential to a new human design:

(Handwritten notes:)

Amos Rapoport
House Form and Culture
Ten Categories of Psychological Material We Have Forgotten

1. Environmental psychology
2. **Place, place attachment and placelessness**
3. The territorial core
4. Housing messages
5. The threshold

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Place
Place Attachment and Placelessness

Place and Placelessness
Edward Relph
Ten Categories of Psychological Material We Have Forgotten

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Territory
The Home is the Territorial Core
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Housing Messages
<table>
<thead>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Threshold
The threshold is an important *transition*
from the public
to the private realm
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Congruence or ‘Fit’
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6. Congruence or fit
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**Privacy**
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**Identity, image and housing form**
A dwelling with a home-like image is important to resident satisfaction.
The Image of Home

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Personalisation
Modification
Display
Control

Personalisation
A Pattern of Cluttering

Ten Categories of Psychological Material We Have Forgotten

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The House as a Mirror of Self

Professor Emerita Clare Cooper Marcus
Jack’s image of his home six months after the death of his partner, Stephen.

HOMING INSTINCT
My Suggestions
THE NIMBY CLEARINGHOUSE
Where to go for help about the psychology and sociology of NIMBYism

WELCOME TO THE NIMBY CLEARINGHOUSE!

Greetings!
This site is currently under construction. It should be up by the end of April 2011.
THE NIMBY CLEARINGHOUSE

Welcome to the Nimby Clearinghouse!

Greetings!

www.thenimbyclearinghouse.wordpress.com

This site is currently under construction. It should be up by the end of April 2013.