

"Garden Cities" through Transcontinental Lens: Planning Cultures of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

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ABSTRACT

Against the background of the realization of "garden city" ideas first in Britain at the beginning of the 20th century and immediately afterwards in the entire world, the article traces the variety of manifestations of this planning phenomenon both on the timeline and in selected geographical spaces through a number of representative case studies. It shows how, in the last hundred years, urban planning cultures – products of socio-political, regional and place-dependent processes – have modified the original Howardian idea. This is in order to adapt the idea and to make it relevant to their respective contexts. These modifications have a variety of expressions, from ones that are relatively close to the original idea (mostly in Britain and the US), via only a partial implementation (mostly in Asia), to using the "garden city" as a rubric to serve totally different agendas (mostly in Africa). In addition to this article's contribution in the unprecedented geographical scope of "garden city" ideas, it also demonstrates how the discourse on environmental and social sustainability has been integrated, especially since the beginning of the twenty-first century, in the regional translations of "garden city" ideas in selected areas. In the light of the sustainability discourse, contemporary "garden city" planning agendas (or the lack of them) are critically examined, viewing the challenges posed by accelerated urbanization processes, and the terminology that is often involved in the projects.

Keywords: Garden Cities; Garden Suburbs; Ebenezer Howard; Great Britain; Northern and Southern Hemispheres; Sustainable Cities

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