

REIMAGINING URBAN PLANNING IN AFRICA

This book analyses urban planning in Anglophone, Francophone and Lusophone Africa, exploring its history and advocating for new approaches. In a climate-changing world, cities need to be reimagined and designed to be more sustainable. But despite being one of the fastest urbanising continents, Africa has generally weak urban planning systems. The chapters adopt multi-disciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches, combining insights from urban studies and policy sciences, emphasising existing gaps, particularly in decision-making, planning practice and inclusiveness, to offer an in-depth analysis of urban planning in Africa. The authors advocate for the reimagination of urban planning, debating new institutionalism, digital infrastructure, climate urbanism, gated communities and smart mobility. The chapters provide both theoretical and practical contributions, and advance thinking, policymaking and implementation of sustainable urban planning approaches in Africa, thus making the book indispensable for advanced students, researchers and practitioners alike.

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Contents

<i>List of Contributors</i>	page viii
<i>Foreword</i>	xix
SUSAN PARNELL	
<i>Preface</i>	xxi
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xxiii
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xxiv
Part I Understanding Sustainable Urban Planning in Africa	1
1 Reimagining African Cities	3
PATRICK BRANDFUL COBBINAH AND ERIC GAISIE	
2 Annals of Urban Planning in Africa	18
RHODA MENSAH DARKWAH AND PATRICK BRANDFUL COBBINAH	
3 New Cities in Africa and the Reimagination of Urban Planning	36
PROSPER ISSAHAKU KORAH AND PATRICK BRANDFUL COBBINAH	
4 Informal Settlements and Pro-poor Urban Planning in African Cities: The Luanda Socio-historical Narrative	52
SETH ASARE OKYERE, LOUIS KUSI FRIMPONG, STEPHEN KOFI DIKO, STEPHEN LEONARD MENSAH AND EURIDICE LURDES JORGE PEDROSA	
5 Urban Planning and Sustainable Land Governance in Africa: Dialectics and Dialogues	70
UCHENDU EUGENE CHIGBU	

vi	<i>Contents</i>	
6	Urban Planning and Climate Change Action in Africa ERIC GAISIE, CHATI JERRY TASANTAB AND OLUWADUNSIN AJULO	84
	Part II Case Studies on Urban Planning in African Countries	107
7	The Proliferation of Gated Communities: Towards Reimagining Urban Planning in Ghana RICHMOND JUVENILE EHWI	109
8	History, Practices, Challenges and Opportunities of Urban Planning in Zimbabwe INNOCENT CHRISA, TINASHE BOBO, RUMBIDZAI MPAHLO AND ABRAHAM MATAMANDA	131
9	The Evolution and Nature of Urban Planning in Nigeria AYOBAMI POPOOLA, NUNYI VACHAKU BLAMAH, SAMUEL MEDAYESE, OLUSEGUN FALOLA, OLUWAFISAYO D. OGUNMODEDE AND BOLANLE WAHAB	143
10	Rethinking Urban Planning and Informal Settlement Upgrading: Density Management for a Post-COVID-19 Era MPUMELELO PHAKATHI	165
11	Urban Planning Challenges and Slum/Informal Housing Formation in Ogun State, Nigeria FOLASADE JOKOTADE ODEKUNLE, GABRIEL OLABISI ADEBAYO AND OLADIMEJI ABDULGAFAR OYEWOLE	182
12	The Proliferation of Slums in Cameroon: What Do Internal Migrations Mean for Urban Planning? JULES MÉDARD NANA DJOMO AND BONIFACE NGAH EPO	196
13	An Overview of Urban Planning in Tanzania: From Colonial to Post-colonial Urban Planning Practices NESTORY E. YAMUNGU, MANFRED SPOCTER AND RONNIE DONALDSON	216

Contents

vii

Part III Sustainable Urban Planning in Africa: Towards the 2030 Agenda and Beyond	237
14 On the Need for Sustainable Digital Urban Infrastructure in Twenty-First-Century South African Cities STEFAN CHAVEZ-NORGAARD	239
15 The South African Landownership Struggle: A Thematic Commentary AYOBAMI POPOOLA, OCKERT PRETORIUS, NUNYI VACHAKU BLAMAH, MJABULISENI NKOSI AND MHLALISI MNDZEBELE	261
16 The 2030 Agenda, Climate Urbanism and Urban Planning in Zimbabwe TALENT MOYO	282
17 Urban Planning and Quality of Life of Urban Residents in Africa AKEEM BAYONLE OLA	303
18 Realising Rights in Complex Informal Settlements Contexts: The Case of Mukuru Informal Settlements, Nairobi SMITH OUMA	325
19 Participatory Design Won't Fix Unequal Southern African Cities: But We Should Still Do It, Just Better JHONO BENNETT	345
20 Enabling Smart Mobility in African Cities: A Critical Perspective from South Africa DILLIP KUMAR DAS	372
21 On the Future of Urban Planning in Africa PATRICK BRANDFUL COBBINAH AND ERIC GAISIE	390
<i>Index</i>	398

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Foreword

As a dynamic process committed to mediating and directing urban outcomes in ways that protect public, economic and environmental values, the discipline/profession of planning needs constant renewal and reconfiguration regardless of where geographically it is embedded. Planning for African cities, however, puts much higher demands on planning theorists and practitioners to think differently. Blighted by an extractive urban past, mired in multiple contemporary urban crises but blessed with possibilities of a different and brighter urban future, the African city is the test of what planning could enable and how it might better serve the poorest of the poor.

Mindful of the lacuna of serious intellectual engagement by planners with the past, present and future of urban Africa, editors Patrick Brandful Cobbinah and Eric Gaisie have drawn together this timely collection, *Reimagining Urban Planning in Africa*. It offers a thoughtful and provocative recasting of the big ideas that need traction to change our view on the values that planners foreground and the ways that urbanites might implement progressive changes through shifting assumptions about planning modalities. Across the chapters we discover African ways to unlock a systematic refreshing of planning practices that range across policy, law, spatial thinking and innovation in institutional systems including land management and finance.

Compared to other parts of the world, planning for African cities faces elevated challenges and demands especially innovative planning responses. There are several reasons for a robust recalibration of the failing status quo, some of which have to do with capacity, some with money, some with the wider state of the world and Africa's position in that configuration. Before reading *Reimagining Urban Planning in Africa*, it is worth highlighting the imperatives for this sort of sustained evidence gathering and critical thinking.

First, what serves as the urban planning canon for Africa is not fit for purpose. As made abundantly clear by the cases in the book, which provide wonderful back castings to the planners of the mid-twentieth century, while nowhere are cities managed entirely through inherited town and country planning legislation, across the continent of Africa the distortions and failures of colonial planning practice persist. The selective and segregationist applications of planning and also the persistence of the colonial practice of omitting large parts of the city from the plan, allow the vast majority of settlements to develop without oversight but also without foresight.

Second, the demands on planners are greatest when there are limited resources and substantial needs. As the poorest continent that is characterised by rapid urbanisation,

clusters of high fertility and generally inadequate economic prosperity, stylised high-cost solutions to address the urban crisis are misplaced. The book is careful to articulate ways to reconfigure planning to work with existing urban conditions and limited city budgets while holding on to the planning ideal of a better urban future. As such, the issues of informality, *in situ* upgrading and self-building – horribly under-debated elements of planning in poor cities – are foregrounded in cases such as from Angola, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Mainstreaming what were once seen as exceptionalist debates in planning theory and bringing the issue of how to plan the future city from a platform of informality is one of the core contributions of the book.

Third, the backlog of sustained and meaningful collective investment in African cities (often justified as the outcome because of a failure of planners to provide a stable and predictive environment for investment) means that ad hoc, self-interested planning decisions increasingly dominate the African urban scene as the rich opt out into private, smart settlements beyond the realm of public planning structures. The inability to address medium- and long-term planning frameworks necessary to secure public infrastructure interventions for these rapidly expanding cities not only drains resources away from Africa but the lack of investment then has the circular effect of reducing the influence of the planner in city building and management and of reducing the role of the state in the cities themselves. Planning, while not entirely a state enterprise, does need credible government.

Fourth, Part II of the book is clear in demonstrating how weak planning not only precludes effective investment in infrastructure but also exacerbates risk and makes it difficult for cities to absorb new migrants. Sidestepping the imperative to plan the city as a whole (and not just provide household shelter) has left millions of urban Africans vulnerable to risks including flooding and water-borne disease. Across the chapters the message is clear – a reimagined urban future has to have not just social and economic security but also ecological integrity as an African planning value.

Fifth, the volume embraces, albeit critically, the implications from and for Africa of the global turn to more sustainable planning values that are prompted by the climate and biodiversity emergencies and informed by the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Noting the imperative of and tardiness to implement climate urbanism in Zimbabwe, or the barriers to post-COVID planning in South Africa, the overall arguments of the book gather momentum around the theme of ensuring reimagined planning in action to address the spatial configurations appropriate to enhancing urban Africans' quality of life.

The success of *Reimagining Urban Planning in Africa* in making a case that planning can and must be different lies with the authors, who are grounded in the realities of Africa and who bring both the harsh reality and the satisfaction of working in fluid, demanding and surprising contexts. Rich and varied chapters enable the reader to see the city from Africa. The book thus serves to give voice to African urban planning scholarship. Even in the emergent literatures of the global south, African voices are muted. Here in full voice, the contribution planners can make to cities of Africa by Africans is forcefully articulated.

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Preface

Urban planning imagination has assumed a central place in contemporary analyses of Africa's informal-oriented urbanisation, spatial transformation, climate uncertainty and sustainable development. Since the end of colonisation, rapid urban population growth and unplanned urban expansion, both underpinned by colonial urban planning imagination, have become the dominant mode of urbanism in Africa. These challenges have been recently compounded by the complications of climate change and health epidemics. The prevailing planning imagination has been inept in framing and shaping the orientation of African cities. Positioning the ongoing discussion of African urbanism within a larger body of scholarship on sustainable urban development, scholars have linked the growth and dominance of urban pathologies to urban planning inadequacies, which have been progressively subordinated to the state's pursuit of entrenching colonial urban planning imagination. Resistance to this problematic colonial planning imagination pursued by urban citizens, often through petitions, lawsuits and protests, demonstrates the highly contentious, ineffective and politicised nature of urban planning systems across many African cities. Housing, land governance, economic activities and transport as well as climate change adaptation actions are framed and primarily shaped by planning imagination. Yet urban planning has failed to acknowledge and positively engage informality to improve urban functionality.

The centrality of planning imagination to existing scholarship on Africa's contested urbanism, however, requires re-contextualisation and re-problematisation to improve the functionality of the continent's cities. *Reimagining Urban Planning in Africa* addresses this requirement by offering a standard and comprehensive analysis of the urban planning discipline from multiple perspectives: climate change, sustainable development, land governance, migration, education, new futures (e.g., gated communities and new cities) and technology. The pressures of unplanned urbanisation and climate change in Africa, coupled with international interest in the sustainable urban development narrative, have created an urgent need

to re-contextualise and re-problematise urban planning on the continent to improve the livelihoods of citizens, generate benefits for the environment and secure the future of cities. The chapters are produced by established and emerging researchers who work and/or live on the continent and provide significant insights into the theory and practice of urban planning in African cities, highlighting the geo-historical antecedents, the contemporary anatomy and optimism for the future. The editors and contributing authors of this book hope that this project presents a defining moment in invigorating rigorous and nuanced debate on strengthening urban planning theory, laws, systems and practices in Africa.

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Abbreviations

Ito1	Ito1 – Agency of Engagement
4IR	Fourth Industrial Revolution
ABM	Agent-Based Models
ACGI	African Cities Growth Index
ACR	Accra City Region
ADB	African Development Bank
ANC	African National Congress
APA	African Planning Association
ATOPCON	Association of Town Planning Consultants of Nigeria
AU	African Union
BRT	Bus Rapid Transit
CBCPS	Central Bureau of Census and Population Studies
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
CHCS	Fourth Household Consumption Survey
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DAG	Development Action Group
DCoG	Department of Cooperative Governance
DFRRI	Directorate of Foods, Roads and Rural Infrastructure
DHSWS	Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation
DSPD	Department of Spatial Planning and Development
EBL	The University of the Free State (UFS) Entrepreneurship and Business Literacy Institute
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMC	Environmental Management Committee
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FCT	Federal Capital Territory (of Nigeria)
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FESTAC	Festival Town
FLISP	Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme
FMS	Freeway Management Systems
FNB	First National Bank

List of Abbreviations

xxv

GAMA	Greater Accra Metropolitan Area
GC	Gated Communities
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEAR	Growth, Employment and Redistribution
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GIS	Geographic Information System
GRA	Government Reservation Areas
GSM	Global System for Mobile Communication
HDI	Human Development Index
ICDL	International Computer Driving License
ICED	Infrastructure and Cities for Economic Development
ICLEI	International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
IGF	Internally Generated Funds
ILO	International Labour Organization
IoT	Internet of Things
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPGUL	Urban Planning and Management Institute for Luanda
IRTN	Integrated Rapid Transit Network
ISU	Informal Settlement Upgrading
ITS	Intelligent Transport Systems
IUDF	Integrated Urban Development Framework
KAEC	King Abdullah Economic City
LGA	Local Government Area
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
MAP	Municipality Adaptation Plan
MCA	Multiple Correspondence Analysis
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MDP	Municipal Development Programme
MICT- SETA	Media, Information and Communication Technologies Sector Education and Training Authority
MLHSD	Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development
MMDAs	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies
MRALG	Ministry for Regional Administration and Local Governments
MRT	Mass Rapid Transit
NADMO	National Disaster Management Organisation
NCC	Nairobi City County
NDP	National Development Plan
NEEDS	National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NIS	National Institute of Statistics

NITP	Nigerian Institute of Town Planners
NIUPLAN	Nairobi Integrated Urban Development Master Plan
NMT	Non-Motorised Transport
NSDP	National Spatial Development Perspective
NUA	New Urban Agenda
NUDP	National Urban Development Policy
NYDA	National Youth Development Agency
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OGSPDA	Ogun State Planning and Development Permit Authority
P4CA	Planners for Climate Action
PSM	Propensity Score Matching
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Programme
RPL	Recognition of Prior Learning
RSA	Republic of South Africa
RTCPA	Regional Town and Country Planning Act
SANRAL	South African National Road Agency Limited
SAP	Structural Adjustment Programme
SCP	Sustainable Cities Programme
SDFs	Spatial Development Frameworks
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDP	Sustainable Dar es Salaam Project
SERI	Socio-Economic Rights Institute
SI	Sustainable Infrastructure
SPA	Special Planning Area
SPC	Statutory Planning Committee
SUD	Sustainable Urban Development
SUDP	Strategic Urban Development Plan
TOD	Transit-Oriented Development
TOPREC	Town Planners Registration Council
UCT	University of Cape Town
UDF	Urban Development Framework
UISP	Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme
UN	United Nations
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlement
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNISDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Reduction
URP	Urban and Regional Planning
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VKT	Vehicle Kilometres Travelled
WHO	World Health Organization
ZPA	Zonal Planning Area
ZPO	Zonal Planning Offices