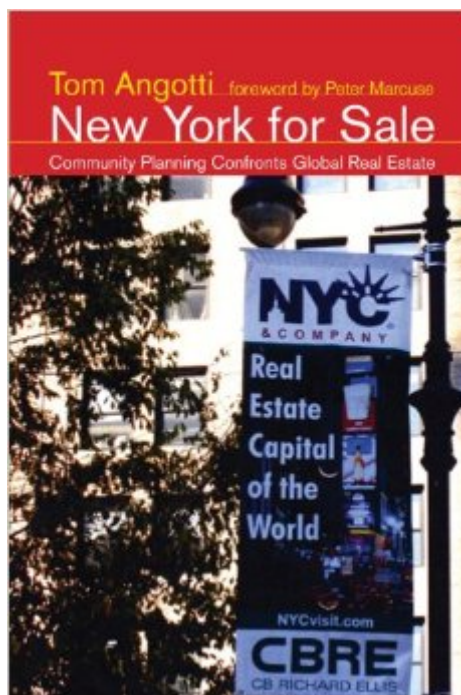


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New York For Sale: Community Planning Confronts Global Real Estate (Urban And Industrial Environments)



Synopsis

Remarkably, grassroots-based community planning flourishes in New York City -- the self-proclaimed "real estate capital of the world" -- with at least seventy community plans for different neighborhoods throughout the city. Most of these were developed during fierce struggles against gentrification, displacement, and environmental hazards, and most got little or no support from government. In fact, community-based plans in New York far outnumber the land use plans produced by government agencies. In *New York for Sale*, Tom Angotti tells some of the stories of community planning in New York City: how activists moved beyond simple protests and began to formulate community plans to protect neighborhoods against urban renewal, real estate mega-projects, gentrification, and environmental hazards. Angotti, both observer of and longtime participant in New York community planning, focuses on the close relationships among community planning, political strategy, and control over land. After describing the political economy of New York City real estate, its close ties to global financial capital, and the roots of community planning in social movements and community organizing, Angotti turns to specifics. He tells of two pioneering plans forged in reaction to urban renewal plans (including the first community plan in the city, the 1961 Cooper Square Alternate Plan -- a response to a Robert Moses urban renewal scheme); struggles for environmental justice, including battles over incinerators, sludge, and garbage; plans officially adopted by the city; and plans dominated by powerful real estate interests. Finally, Angotti proposes strategies for progressive, inclusive community planning not only for New York City but for anywhere that neighborhoods want to protect themselves and their land. *New York for Sale* teaches the empowering lesson that community plans can challenge market-driven development even in global cities with powerful real estate industries

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Customer Reviews

Angotti is an advocate of progressive community planning, meaning he rejects the exclusionary community planning that is for the wealthy and usually only for white people. It is planning that considers equality and assisting people with needs. Angotti notes that real estate interests have great influence in New York's planning process and that many established neighborhoods are being destroyed by these powerful real estate interests. Angotti favors using progressive planning for preserving communities rather than displacing its people and its businesses. Planning needs to consider the needs of all the economic classes and racial groups within a neighborhood. Angotti dispels the myth that planning is politically neutral. New York has seen strides made towards inclusionary zoning that looks at what low income residents, working class residents, and people of color need. New York has seen environmental justice become part of its planning process. Jane Jacobs in 1961 wrote how the traditional rational-comprehensive planning that was common that relied on scientific knowledge was used to create building height limits, parks, wide streets, etc. This planning led to large development that destroyed neighborhoods and the people living in those neighborhoods. Real estate developers profited from the physical determinism of this traditional Keynesian model that argued that massive building projects would lead to solving poverty. Instead, poor people were displaced as their homes were sold to make room for high priced development that served wealthier people. The difficulties witnessed from the rational comprehensive model led to the rise of the neoliberalism movement in the 1970s.

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