Composing Cosmopolis

Dean Saitta
Anthropology & Urban Studies
University of Denver
1. To Compose Cosmopolis We Need to Think & Design Interculturally.

- **Policy**: Adapt services, institutions, and governance structures to the needs of culturally-diverse populations.
- **Planning**: Design and develop public spaces that culturally-diverse populations will want to use.
Available Planning & Design Strategies

1. *Locate* public spaces at neighborhood edges to soften boundaries & promote “hybridity”.

2. *Widely distribute* cultural amenities and iconic buildings rather than concentrating them in “districts.”

3. *Detail the built environment* (architecture, monuments, signage) to evoke *culture, history, and place.*
Social Urbanism in the Global South
2. To Compose Cosmopolis we need to Engage with *Old Urbanism*.

Consider *Mohenjo-Daro (Pakistan)* & *Jenne-Jeno (Mali)* as models for *social inclusion* & *environmental sustainability*. 
1. There is great variety in the ways that neighborhoods were organized and populated.

2. Time (History) and Space (“Sacred Landscapes”) were effectively used to promote civic identity out of cultural diversity.

3. The most inclusive and sustainable ancient cities employed policies of urban governance based on heterarchy rather than hierarchy.
“The 21st century project is, I would argue, precisely that: a century-long project, a long-term process of building new communities and of actively constructing new ways of living and working together on matters of common destiny, seeking new forms of social and spatial belonging...the possibility of a togetherness in difference.”
The Cosmopolitan Project is informed by Intercultural Theory and a comparative understanding of urbanism’s Deep History.
INTERCULTURAL URBANISM
An Interdisciplinary Perspective on Urban Culture, Space, Architecture, and Design

Building the Inclusive City

How Ancient and Modern Cities Compare (and Why Planners Should Care)

Baltimore Street Protest, 2015 (Wikipedia)

Teotihuacan, with the iconic Pyramid of the Moon at right (Gorgo, Wikimedia Commons)