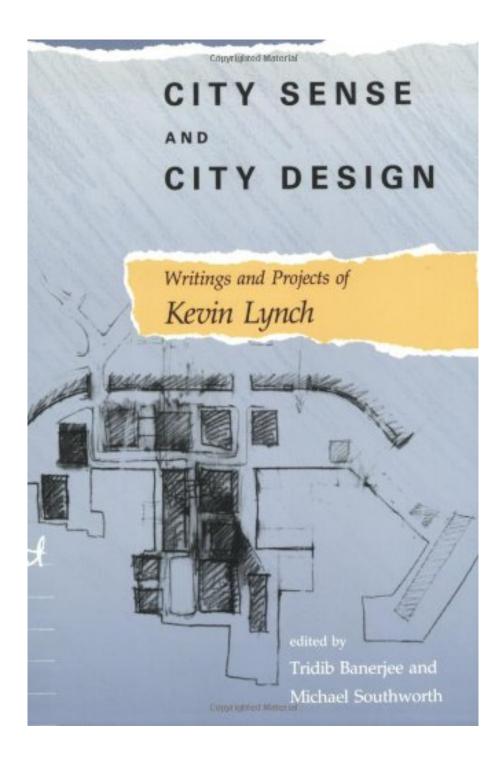


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Kevin Lynch's books are the classic underpinnings of modern urban planning and design, yet they are only a part of his rich legacy of ideas about human purposes and values in built form. City Sense and City Design brings together Lynch's remaining work, including professional design and planning projects that show how he translated many of his ideas and theories into practice. An invaluable sourcebook of design knowledge, City Sense and City Design completes the record of one of the foremost environmental design theorists of our time and leads to a deeper understanding of his distinctively humanistic philosophy. The editors, both former students of Lynch, provide a cogent summary of his career and of the role he played in shaping and transforming the American urban design profession during the 1950s, the 1960s, and the 1970s. Each of the seven thematic groupings of writings and projects that follow begins with a short introduction explaining their content and their background. The essays in part I focus on the premises of Lynch's work: his novel reading of large-scale built environments and the notion that the design of an urban landscape should be as meaningful and intimate as the natural landscape. In part II, excerpts from Lynch's travel journals reveal his early ideas on how people perceive and interpret their surroundings--ideas that culminated in his seminal work, The Image of the City. This part of the book also presents Lynch's experiments with children and his assessment of environmental-perception research. The examples of both small-scale and large-scale analysis of visual form in part III are followed by three parts on city design. These include Lynch's more theoretical works on complex planning decisions involving both functional (spatial and structural organization) and normative (how the city works in human terms) approaches, articles discussing the principles that guided Lynch's teaching and practice of city design, and descriptions of Lynch's own projects in the Boston area and elsewhere. The book concludes with essays written late in Lynch's career, fantasy pieces describing utopias and offering new design freedoms and scenarios warning of horrifying "cacotopias."

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Cities are human!

By Y. Nevares

This is THE BOOK for anyone -not exclusively urban planners- who wants to understand not only the physical form of the city, but how its citizens interact with the urban landscape. Through his experience and observation, Lynch reminds us that the most important component of a city -the reason why they are built-are its inhabitants.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Lynch's researches and projects brilliantly organized

By Carlos Leite de Souza (cleite@uol.com.br)

Michael Southworth and Tridib Banerjee, former students of Kevin Lynch at MIT's School of Urban Studies and Planning, have organized a brilliant collection of most of Lynch's works. Here we can find his seminal ideas pointed out trough his researches in the field of environmental perception, as well as his urban design projects. The book still presents a good biography of Lynch and serves as a very interesting complement to the books that this fundamental author wrote. It is an extremely important work both to architectural and urban design students as well as to professionals and researches.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Transnational thoughts from a human geographer & Latino Veteran of U.S. Army

By Rafa

Lynch (1918-1984), was born in Chicago, IL, raised in NC, and later educated under the tutorage of Frank Lloyd Wright, before leaving to serve overseas with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in the Pacific/Southeast Asian Region during World War II (WWII) and returned home to complete undergraduate studies at MIT, served as an urban planner (working in Greensboro, NC), then was asked to return to MIT as a professor. Thus, his work was instrumental in transforming some of the greatest scientific minds when universities in the U.S. accepted professors without doctoral degrees. With this in mind, some of our universities are failing students because they insist on ignoring the experiential knowledge of veterans that served overseas and gained insight into both the destruction of landscapes and reconstruction of urban centers which suffered from catastrophic situations. Working in Latin America and the Pacific-Asian Region of the world in the second half of the twentieth century, Lynch provided both applied and theoretical designs which exist in this book and I recommend it for those interested in geography, landscape architecture, regional planning, and urban development.

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