

BOOK REVIEW

Luigi Fusco Girard, Karima Kourtit and Peter Nijkamp (Eds.) (2023). *The Future of Liveable Cities*, Springer Verlag, Heidelberg/Berlin

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The Future of Liveable Cities by Luigi Fusco Girard, Karima Kourtit, and Peter Nijkamp is a comprehensive examination of urban livability in the 21st century. The book delves into modern cities' challenges and opportunities, aiming to bridge the significant gaps in urban planning literature by offering theoretical insights and practical solutions. Structured into three parts across 14 chapters, it provides valuable resources for policymakers, urban planners, and students by integrating conceptual models, empirical research, and case studies.


The book adopts a holistic view, drawing on economics, sociology, environmental science, and urban planning to understand urban livability, based on a multidisciplinary approach. By doing so, it aligns with global frameworks like the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), addressing the complex interplay between social justice, climate change, and urban resilience.

Building on the foundational principles of the “good city” from Kevin Lynch’s work (1960), the authors examine how contemporary cities are grappling with unprecedented challenges such as pandemics, climate change, wars, and demographic shifts. This historical-to-modern perspective situates the book within ongoing global debates on urban development.

The volume is not just theoretical but also serves as a manual for actionable strategies. Through case studies and empirical research, it provides real-world examples that illustrate the theories discussed, making it particularly relevant for both academic and practical audiences.

By addressing urban livability through a multidimensional and multi-scaled lens, the book contributes to ongoing dialogues about creating inclusive, sustainable, and resilient cities. In a world increasingly shaped by global crises, the volume is making an essential resource for those involved in urban governance and planning.

The first part of *The Future of Liveable Cities*, titled “Spotlights on Liveable Cities”, explores the conditions, drivers, and effects shaping urban livability through various perspectives.

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This section lays the groundwork for understanding the multifaceted nature of urban livability and highlights practical strategies for addressing contemporary urban challenges through an integrated, global approach.

The second part of the book titled “Urban Liveability Planning”, emphasizes the need for context-specific planning approaches and multidimensional solutions to enhance urban livability, reflecting diverse regional and socio-economic contexts across the globe.

The final part addresses “Urban Quality of Life Challenges”, focusing on health, well-being, and happiness in urban areas, particularly in a post-COVID-19 context. This section underscores the need for holistic urban policies that integrate health, well-being, and resilience into the broader framework of urban development, particularly in the wake of global crises like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout *The Future of Liveable Cities*, environmental, social, and economic aspects are seamlessly integrated to present a holistic vision of urban sustainability. A recurring theme is the concept of resilient and smart cities, where digital technologies play a crucial role in reducing emissions, optimizing resource management, and enhancing urban efficiency. From intelligent transportation systems to energy-saving innovations, technology is positioned as a key enabler of sustainable urban living.

Several contributions emphasize the importance of adaptive governance structures capable of responding to the evolving demands of urban populations and the growing challenges posed by climate change and technological advancements. These flexible systems are essential for ensuring cities remain resilient and responsive to both environmental and social disruptions.

In terms of social inclusion, the book stresses the necessity of creating inclusive community spaces, affordable housing, accessible healthcare, and high-quality education. Addressing socio-economic inequality and exclusion is seen as fundamental to constructing cities where all citizens can thrive. The various authors advocate for urban policies that bridge social divides and foster equitable growth.

The book delivers a powerful call to action, urging readers to rethink urban design and governance to better serve both current and future generations. With its multidisciplinary approach, empirical research, and practical insights, *The Future of Liveable Cities* provides a valuable contribution to urban studies, offering guidance for building more inclusive, sustainable, and livable urban environments.