

Designing Compact Cities In China: Balancing Urbanization and Livability

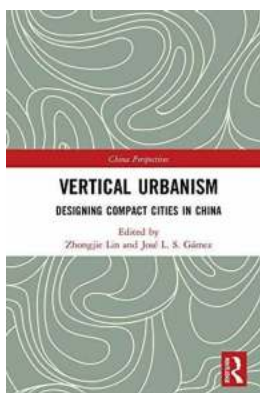


China, a country known for its rapid urbanization, has been facing numerous challenges in managing its growing urban population. The government recognizes the need for designing compact cities that promote sustainability, livability, and efficiency. This article explores the various strategies employed in

China to achieve compact urban development and their impact on the overall urban landscape.

The Urbanization Challenge

With a population of over 1.4 billion people, China experiences significant rural-to-urban migration. This massive influx of people into cities poses several challenges, including increased demand for housing, transportation, and public services. Traditional urban planning approaches of sprawling cities are no longer sustainable in such a densely populated country.



Vertical Urbanism: Designing Compact Cities in China (China Perspectives)

by Zhongjie Lin (1st Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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File size : 18782 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 305 pages



The Rise of Compact Cities

To tackle these challenges, China has been actively promoting the concept of compact cities. Compact cities are designed to reduce the need for extensive travel between various urban functions, such as residential, commercial, and industrial areas. This approach aims to minimize traffic congestion, decrease pollution levels, and improve overall livability.

The Benefits of Compact Cities

Designing compact cities offers numerous benefits. Firstly, it allows for efficient land use, with smaller distances between housing, workplaces, and recreational areas, reducing the need for extensive transportation networks. This results in a more walkable, bikeable, and sustainable urban environment.

Secondly, compact cities promote social cohesion by creating vibrant and mixed-use neighborhoods. By integrating different land uses within close proximity, residents have easy access to amenities and can enjoy a sense of community belonging. Additionally, compact cities typically foster a stronger sense of identity and pride, as they preserve local culture and heritage.

Lastly, compact cities help reduce the environmental impact. By limiting urban sprawl, valuable agricultural land and natural habitats can be protected. Moreover, compact cities can adopt green building practices, utilize renewable energy sources, and implement effective waste management systems, contributing to a more sustainable future.

Strategies for Designing Compact Cities in China

The Chinese government has implemented various strategies to promote compact city development. One such strategy involves the construction of high-density, mixed-use developments near public transportation hubs. These developments often incorporate residential, commercial, and recreational spaces, minimizing the need for long-distance travel.

Another strategy is the redevelopment of urban brownfields and underutilized spaces. By repurposing these areas, China can reclaim valuable land within existing cityscapes and create vibrant, sustainable neighborhoods. This approach not only optimizes land utilization but also revitalizes underdeveloped parts of the city.

Furthermore, China has been investing heavily in developing efficient public transportation systems, such as metros and light rail networks. These transportation systems help connect different parts of the city, reducing reliance on private vehicles and decreasing traffic congestion. Additionally, bicycle-sharing programs and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure are being implemented to further encourage sustainable modes of transport.

Success Stories: Compact Cities in China

Several cities in China have successfully implemented compact city principles. For example, Shenzhen, often referred to as China's Silicon Valley, has transformed from a small fishing village to a modern metropolis with a compact urban layout. The city's efficient public transportation system, mixed-use developments, and green spaces make it highly livable and attractive for residents and businesses alike.

Another noteworthy example is Suzhou Industrial Park, located near Shanghai. The park showcases compact city features, including walkability, integrated land use, and efficient transportation. It has become an innovation hub, attracting numerous multinational companies and creating high-quality jobs for residents.

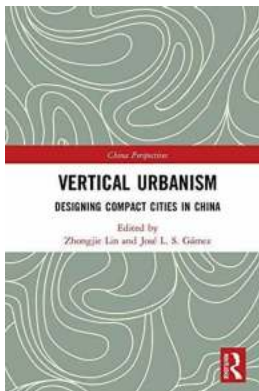
Challenges and the Way Forward

While the concept of compact cities in China has shown great potential, there are still challenges to overcome. One major obstacle is managing population density within these cities. Balancing high population density with the provision of adequate infrastructure and public services is crucial for maintaining livability.

Another challenge is ensuring affordability and social equity. As compact cities often come with increased land values, there is a risk of excluding low-income populations. The government needs to implement policies that promote inclusive

urban development, ensuring that affordable housing options are available for all residents.

In , the design of compact cities in China reflects the country's commitment to sustainable urbanization and improving the quality of life for its citizens. Through effective planning and implementation of various strategies, China is leading the way in creating livable, efficient, and environmentally-friendly urban environments. As the world continues to face urbanization challenges, China's experience in compact city design serves as an inspiration for other countries seeking to achieve a balance between urbanization and livability.



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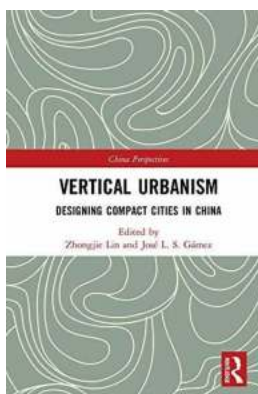
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Studies of compact cities have evolved along with the rising awareness of climate change and sustainable development. Relevant debates, however, reveal that the prevailing definitions and practices of compact cities are tied primarily to traditional Western urban forms.

This book reinterprets "compact city", and develops a ground-breaking discourse of "Vertical Urbanism", a concept that has never been critically articulated. It emphasizes "Vertical Urbanism" as a dynamic design strategy instead of a static form, distinguishing it from the stereotyped concept of "vertical city" or "towers in the park" dominant in China and elsewhere, and suggests its adaptability to different geographic and cultural contexts. Using Chinese cities as laboratories of investigation, this book explores the design, ecological, and sociocultural dimensions of building compact cities, and addresses important global urban issues through localized design solutions, such as the relationship between density and vitality, the integration of horizontal and vertical dimensions of design, and the ecological and social adaptability of combinatory mega-forms. In addition, through discussions with scholars from the United States, China, and Japan, this book provides an insight into the theoretical debates surrounding "compact city" and "Vertical Urbanism" in the global context.

Scholars and students in architecture and urban planning will be attracted by this book. Also, it will appeal to readers with an interest in urban development and Asian studies.



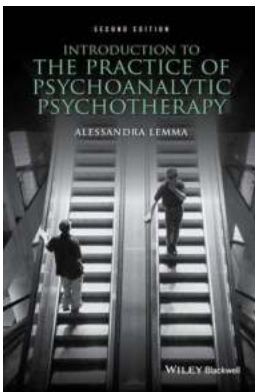
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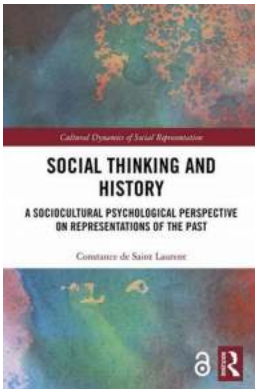
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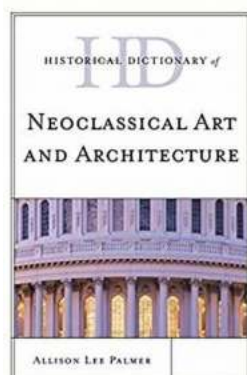
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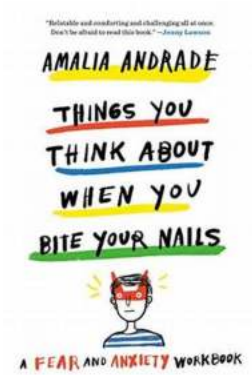
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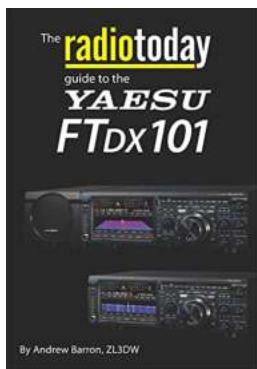
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