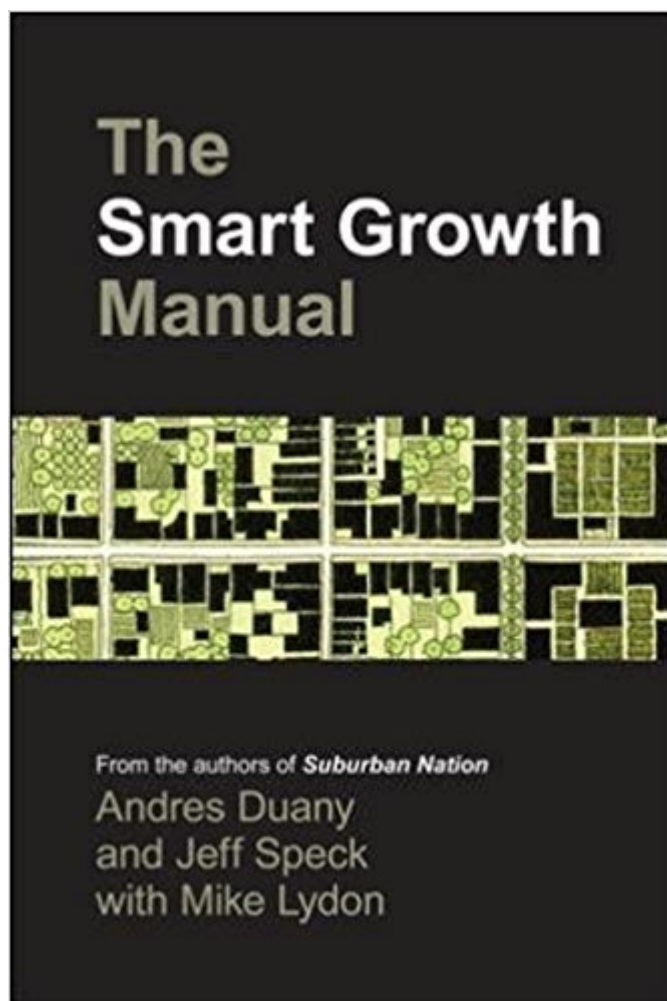


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# The Smart Growth Manual



## Synopsis

Everyone is calling for smart growth...but what exactly is it? In *The Smart Growth Manual*, two leading city planners provide a thorough answer. From the expanse of the metropolis to the detail of the window box, they address the pressing challenges of urban development with easy-to-follow advice and broad array of best practices. With their landmark book *Suburban Nation*, Andres Duany and Jeff Speck "set forth more clearly than anyone has done in our time the elements of good town planning" (*The New Yorker*). With this long-awaited companion volume, the authors have organized the latest contributions of new urbanism, green design, and healthy communities into a comprehensive handbook, fully illustrated with the built work of the nation's leading practitioners. "The *Smart Growth Manual* is an indispensable guide to city planning. This kind of progressive development is the only way to fully restore our economic strength and create new jobs, new industries, and a renewed ability to compete in the first rank of world economies." -- Gavin Newsom, Mayor of San Francisco "Authors Andres Duany, Jeff Speck, and Mike Lydon have created *The Smart Growth Manual*, a resource which not only explains the overarching ideals of smart growth, but a manual that takes the time to show smart growth principles at each geographic scale (region, neighborhood, street, building). I highly recommend [it] as a part of any community participant's or urban planner's desktop references." -- LocalPlan.org

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Andres Duany, FAIA, CNU, is a founding principal of Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company (DPZ). DPZ is a leader of the New Urbanism, an international movement that seeks to end suburban sprawl and urban disinvestment. Since 1980, DPZ has designed more than 300 new towns, regional plans, and community revitalization projects. Duany is cofounder of the Congress for New Urbanism and the recipient of several honorary doctorates and awards, including the National Building Museum's Vincent J. Scully Prize and the Richard H. Driehaus Prize. Jeff Speck AICP, CNU, LEED-AP, Hon. ASLA, spent 10 years as director of town planning at DPZ, where he led or managed more than 40 of the firm's projects. Subsequent to the publication of *Suburban Nation*, he was appointed director of design at the National Endowment for the Arts, where he created the Governors' Institute on Community Design, a program that brings smart growth techniques to state leadership. After four years at the Endowment, he founded Speck & Associates, a design consultancy serving public officials and the real estate industry. He is a contributing editor to *Metropolis* magazine. Mike Lydon CNU, is an urban planner, writer, and livable streets activist. Before founding The Street Plans Collaborative, an urban planning firm specializing in alternative transportation and the public realm, he worked for DPZ, the Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition, and Smart Growth Vermont. He is currently a Next American City Urban Vanguard and serves as a board member for the Miami Bicycle Coalition.

Excellent handbook, providing an easy entry into the principles of New Urbanism and Smart Growth for the architect or city planner. It is written clearly and simply enough to be useful for anyone interested in Smart Growth .an addition after a few years: One of the virtues of this book is that it consists of bite size, one- page, picture and text presentation of principles. It is a necklace of beautifully written pearls , each readable alone. It can be picked up and absorbed in brief 5 minute readings. And it is relevant to anyone's life, so it can be read by any person interested in improving our communities, i.e. anyone from 13 to 99 years old.

Duany and company are architects so their focus on design is highly useful. Echoing other on-the-ball reviewers here, the book is very well organized, easy to follow and leads directly to application. If the authors ever read customer comments, I would like to suggest the following should the book be updated: 1. Our country's population is growing, but it also aging. Over the next 20 years, the aging of the population may be more significant to planners than "just" growth (which is inevitable, despite the silly claims of other reviewers). There has to be a "Smart Aging" perspective this country needs to adopt because older Americans have different needs--not lesser needs,

different needs that should be addressed.<sup>2</sup> Include a section on the behavioral side of Smart Growth--while a necessary component of getting people out of their cars, design by itself is insufficient to get people out of their cars. What incentives, what kind of education and outreach needs to take place for the public and, perhaps most importantly, elected officials. Most local officials aren't particularly brave. They need help.

One of the most readable and interesting works on Urban Planning. Each page gives a real-life case study from around the U.S. with a picture to illustrate the changes. It illustrates very convincingly why certain design elements can be so crucial for a town center, walkable street or retail district. Motivated me to study urban planning

Jeff Speck said the book was written with the regular decision maker in mind - that s/she could board a continental flight with the manual in hand and read it during those five, six hours. It is a book which covers every single topic that touches on smart growth but does not go very deep. It is easy to read, possible to memorise a lot of it and a helpful "checklist". If one wants to study the topics deeper, you need to study other books. But if you want to get a comprehensive idea of what smart growth is, what it requires and entails, this book is for you. The book is quite small, easy to take on a trip for example, and can be read piecemeal.

But it was really only that, a first look. I was hoping for more in depth, or at least some mention or notation of research that went into forming each tenant of Smart Growth. While well written easy to read and get an immediate understanding of the major notions of smart growth planning, I find myself after reading such a broad and general manual for such a complex and systematic practice to be ever more disenchanted by the folks at CNU (congress of new urbanism). While many of their principles are good and hold up on their own a lot of examples of their work throughout the country creating "New Town"s and districts in cities come off as incredibly manufactured and a lot of examples of their successes come from areas or cities I know from experience to be very unsuccessful or mediocre urban places at best. While this book provides an excellent primer into the principles that have come to the forefront of the urban planning community today, I am still wary of this particular system or rulebook to be the end all be all of the city, and especially unconvinced of the CNU's success in developing a more urban America. I am a strong proponent of urbanism and cities but this guide and this organization seem to be more concerned with replacing the old suburban development model with a new suburban development model that doesn't necessarily

seem to be dealing with the issue of sprawl, just transforming it. It also leaves me on the hunt for more academic publications on the subject.

A quick and heavily illustrated guide to smart growth. This topic of planned growth has been around for a long time. It is clouded in our obsession with urban sprawl after the 1940's and WWII. With it making a dramatic comeback now, this book is a good introduction to its principles. A suggested read for anyone getting into the topic!

This book is highly recommendable if you are thinking on making some urban studies and you are looking at the elements to look for in the city. The book structure starts from the smallest scale into the biggest scale, giving at the end a very interesting global picture of the elements to consider. Although there are many references to some technical documents, I would not consider it as a technical book; but more as a really useful reference book for not losing the perspective of the elements to consider in the city. I would specially point out its nicely exposed logical order of the elements of the city which brings their interconnection without needing to explain it; very clear, brief and understandable definition of the elements and the concepts to consider, and finally useful links to the technical references to take a look to. Highly recommendable and a "keep in shelf" reference book!!

Love the book. A great beginner's guide to smart growth principles.

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