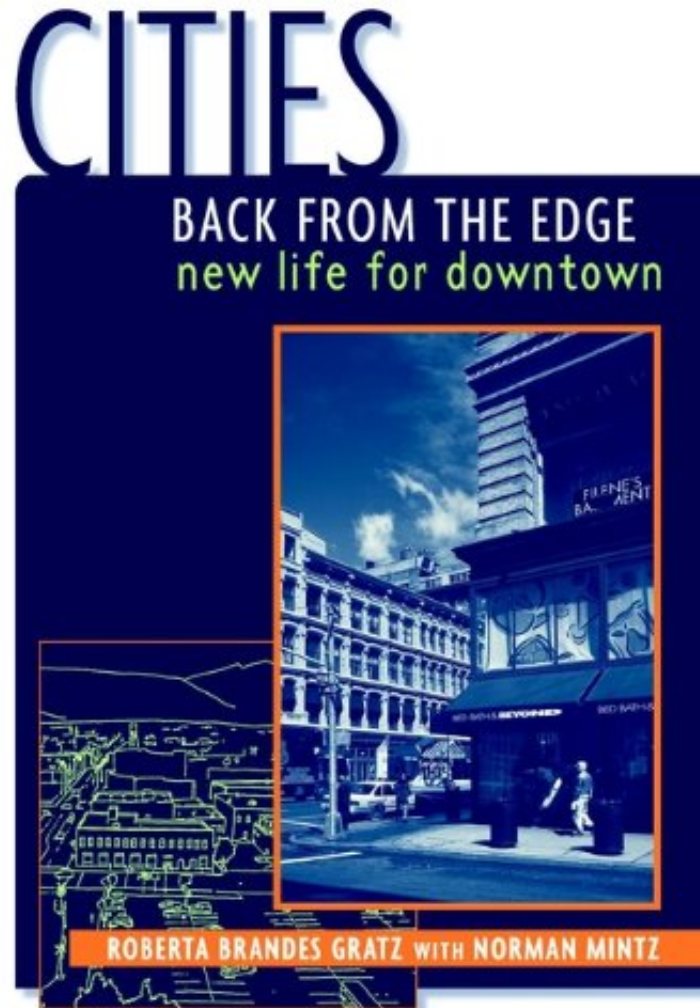


(Ebook pdf) Cities Back from the Edge: New Life for Downtown

Cities Back from the Edge: New Life for Downtown

Roberta Brandes Gratz, Norman Mintz
*ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#2712878 in eBooks 2008-04-21 2008-04-21 File Name: B0013TPPUM | File size: 27.Mb

Roberta Brandes Gratz, Norman Mintz : Cities Back from the Edge: New Life for Downtown before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cities Back from the Edge: New Life for Downtown:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great solutions to downtownsBy melanie m.This book will educate the reader on small and large cities that have turned their downtowns around. There are so many case studies of interesting solutions in solving the problems that most cities and towns have. The writing is beautifully written and had me interested in each case study.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Big Highways Crippled Cities, Big Commercial Plans Can Thwart RebirthBy Neil CotiauxThose are the twin themes permeating Cities: Back From The Edge, a take-no-prisoners diatribe against America's strategic misplacement and overapplication of asphalt and the

"bigger is better" mentality of all too many commercial developers. In this spirited, edgy work, Gratz and Mintz systematically explore how the Interstate System and its connecting routes helped weaken or destroy the commercial and residential viability of many U.S. downtowns, shifting the center of gravity in metropolitan areas and setting the stage for any number of revitalization plans founded on lack of imagination, the desire for a quick buck or graft. The authors describe some of these projects in detail and name real-life culprits while shining the spotlight on more far-sighted community activists, some of whom went on to develop micro solutions to their downtown dreams. The authors remind us that, in downtown revitalization efforts, size does not really matter; that even the most fledgling business in a particular niche, operating alongside similar startups or in collaborative fashion, can successfully engage in mass customization, grow, and incrementally assist in the sustainable rebirth of a downtown, reinventing a unique critical mass that not only serves friend and neighbor but also draws tourism. "Cities" offers some wonderful quotes from these entrepreneurs as well as some pithy quotes from third parties ranging from H.L. Mencken to Winston Churchill to buttress their arguments. A genuine bonus to this insightful work are the large number of crisp, black-and-white photographs of streetscapes, artist's studios and other manifestations of urban rebirth. Some have the decided look and feel of the first-rate photography to be seen in *The New York Times* before it went to color. "Cities" remains on my bookshelf for reference and inspiration. I'm not done with it yet. 10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Informative but preachy. By Scott Singer (ssinger@mactemps.com) Gratz and Mintz bring some interesting perspective to the study of urban renewal. The professional consulting experience brought forth by the authoring team provides some actual know-how about solving urban problems. The book's major drawback is its almost remedial preachiness. Oftentimes, the narrative is interrupted by the authors' lessons - lessons that are frequently placed in italics so as to ensure the reader does not miss their point. Personally, I enjoy forming my own opinions and conclusions based on an author's text; this book does it for you. Overall, not a bad book, still fascinating and impressive in the authors' knowledge of actual city circumstances. The research behind this work is very good.

"A love song for the city . . . [this] volume, attractively packaged and richly illustrated, is really a cookbook for downtown revitalization." --Wall Street Journal In this pioneering book on successful urban recovery, two urban experts draw on their firsthand observations of downtown change across the country to identify a flexible, effective approach to urban rejuvenation. From transportation planning and sprawl containment to the threat of superstore retailers, they address a host of key issues facing our cities today. Roberta Brandes Gratz (New York, NY), an award-winning journalist and urban critic, is author of the urban design classic *The Living City*. A former staff reporter for the *New York Post*, Gratz has written for the *New York Times Magazine* and other publications. Norman Mintz (New York, NY) has played a leading role in the field of downtown revitalization for more than twenty-five years. He is Design Director at the 34th Street Partnership in New York City and a consultant on downtown revitalization across the country.

In *Cities Back from the Edge*, Gratz and Mintz offer a love song for the city...their volume, attractively packaged and richly illustrated, is really a cookbook for downtown revitalization. It turns out the most valuable contribution to urban understanding of the year isn't only a book, it's also a bumper sticker: Think globally, act locally." --The Wall Street Journal *Cities Back From the Edge* was featured again in *The New York Times*. Frank Rich writes, "In their new book persuasively arguing for less grandiose, more indigenous urban renewal, Roberta Brandes Gratz and Norman Mintz write that a 'collection of visitor attractions does not add up to a city' whether those attractions are cultural centers, convention centers, aquariums, stadiums or enclosed malls." --The New York Times "...provides a fascinating insight into the US Urban Design scenario..." (Urban Design, Autumn 2001) From the Publisher Many of America's downtowns are coming alive--again--through redevelopment to sustain growth into the 21st century. This book chronicles stories of how dozens of communities, downtowns, neighborhoods, main streets and big city business districts have revitalized buildings and businesses. From the Back Cover Gratz takes us on tours of places that are doing better and actually getting somewhere, because, against all odds, they have abandoned conventional wisdom's unworkable and oversimplified formulas and re-embraced new opportunities as complex and rewarding as life itself. It's roll-up-our-sleeves time in America, folks, and now we have no more excuses. Roberta Gratz has assembled the examples worth learning from, and her book is an excellent teacher." -- Tony Hiss author of *The Experience of Place* "Roberta Gratz is wonderful at discovering important things that are going on that most of us have not heard of yet." -- Jane Jacobs author of *Death and Life of Great American Cities* "I read the newspaper differently every day since I read this book." -- Anthony Mancini author, professor of journalism at Brooklyn College, and former reporter for the *New York Post* After decades of decline and decay, scores of downtowns in urban America are coming to life once again. Others continue to languish despite massive public investment. In *Cities Back from the Edge*, acclaimed author Roberta Brandes Gratz teams up with Main Street expert Norman Mintz to tell us why. Based on their firsthand observations of downtown change throughout the country, this book is filled with stories of urban recovery from Mansfield, Ohio to Los Angeles, from Pasco, Washington to SoHo. Rejecting simplistic cookie-cutter prescriptions for success, Gratz and Mintz instead identify a more flexible and effective approach to downtown

rejuvenation: Urban Husbandry. They illustrate how this organic, sustainable process is already producing real-world results. What's more, they show the tremendous advantages of low-cost, modest initiatives over the blockbuster resuscitation efforts of traditional large-scale Project Planning—the budget-busting convention centers, aquariums, stadiums, and other stand-alone solutions that do little to improve the city around them. Throughout this book the authors address the key issues facing the nation's cities and towns today, including transportation planning and sprawl containment, the threat of big-box superstore retailers, and the preservation of the essential downtown components necessary to anchor a thriving, vibrant community. Gratz and Mintz show us that rebuilding authentic places, reconnecting communities, and stimulating innovative change are within everyone's reach. *Cities Back from the Edge* turns the spotlight on the resurgence of downtown America in a new and insightful way. With proven ideas on how to correct the mistakes of the past several decades, this book offers new hope that our cities will not merely be rebuilt—but reborn.