

Land and the City: New Ways towards More Dynamic Spatial Planning Methods as Recently Observed in Denmark

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ABSTRACT

The creation of private property often implies directions from spatial planning. It is therefore reasonable to state that decision on private property is indirect an implementation of spatial planning.

The purpose of planning is to promote desirable developments and to avoid unwanted events.

For instance a decision on large infrastructure project or in the process of development of urban zones often are a products of desirable developments - it is therefore easy to conclude that spatial planning has an effect on what happens in reality. It is easy to see that decisions like these over a period will have notable effect on the future developments in the land and the city. Good or bad.

But planning is also a political process with an ongoing debate and revisions of plans. In this light planning is a form in which feting the debate on the future development becomes central.

What is seen often – is that – despite the existence of a plan, the comprehensive regional or urban development does not automatically come along. What is wanted as desirable developments does not occur to happen. The reason could be that the existing planning guidelines has been too restrictive. But restrictive plans do tend to result in significant qualities when realised. Therefore what is more likely to be characterising the unrealised plans as described, is the absence of so-called dynamic elements. These more dynamic elements in planning seem to appear when the purpose of a plan is somehow connected to the existing general urban or regional development strategy. The successful development therefore tends to occur more often, when planning is considered as a precondition for regional development, as well.

It is in this line, that this paper will give some examples on new planning steps as recently been observed in Denmark. It is not a new planning method as such - even though new parts of legislation recently have been implemented through law administration. The examples that will be shown here will in particularly show a focus on the political aspect of planning and it will underline the purpose of planning as a means of effecting future urban and regional

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developments. Planning will be described as a balance between, on the one side “development” and on the other side the “preparing the right conditions for development”.

Chapter 1 will firstly give a short overview of the physical outlook of the country of Denmark and afterwards generally describe the Danish planning system. Chapter 2 will describe the most recent national planning in Denmark as seen in a perspective “Denmark year 2025” including a vision for the future development and give a number of examples to outline how this has been implemented on a concrete basis. This will give some hints on what lays behind local decisions on the creation of private property as part of the political scene. Chapter 3 will conclude on the above.

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