The Future of Cities and Regions

Simulation, Scenario and Visioning, Governance and Scale

The book presents the best world practices of innovative and promising methodologies for urban and regional simulation. It illustrates the urban future on the examples of 9 simulation cases. It describes how to use advanced practices for decision-making processes in complex transformations of cities. It provides guidelines for new trends of planning and design for the next 50 years.

This guide for tomorrow’s urban practitioner systematically explains fourteen best practices across three continents; it explores questions of broad interest for designing and planning the future of cities and regions. Key questions addressed are: Is simulation useful to explore the effects of different design, policy and planning strategies? Which approach will help manage the uncertainties of metropolitan areas both today and tomorrow? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the different simulation practices for city leadership, public and private partnership, and citizen involvement?

The book reviews computer models and media, socio-political initiatives, professional practices which help communicating the future effects of different design, political and planning strategies with a wide range of aims: from information, through consultation, towards active participation. These world best practices are considered according to four leading issues for urban and regional development, respectively Simulation, Scenario and Visioning, Government and Governance, and Scale. The book examines the approaches adopted technically and procedurally. The selected knowledge and the innovative tools used in each case study are among the most advanced and up-to-date in the professional and research fields. This volume successfully illustrates these innovative practices and methodologies in a straightforward and accessible way.