New urbanism as a modern religion - will the smaller cities win?

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Professor of EUROPEAN history
29 XI 2017 Oslo
World Metro Map
© TFL, Alan Foaie, Mark Ovenden 2005
Moscow and/or Chicago...?
The Golden Age and Cities..and “golden ideas” of a good city life

- Athens 500-400 BC
- Rome 50 BC-AD 100
- Gent, Bruges, Antwerp 13th century
- North Italy 15th, 16th century
- Amsterdam 1648-90
- London 18th century
- Manchester 1760-1830

- St. Petersburg & Vienna 19th century
- Paris before 1914
- New York 1880-1940
- Los Angeles 20th century
- Stockholm 1945-1980
- Singapore, Hong Kong 21st century
- Berlin, Moscow, Sao Paolo 21st century
The spirit of cities..

• Can cities provide a sense of uniqueness, of a particular political and cultural identity?
• Theories arguing for the general advantage of urban life are many and important
• …but there is hardly any discussion on what makes cities special and different from each other
• How cities represent themselves locally / globally?
• Cosmopolitanism – community rooted in particularity
• Why city-based identities matter from a normative point of view?
  o What creates a sense of community / a feeling that a city is particular?
capital – le capital – die Hauptstadt – huvudstad – pääkaupunki
DER

STÄDTE-BAU

SACH EINES

KÜNSTLERISCHEN GRUNDSÄTZEN.

Ein Beitrag zur Lösung
ter und monumentaler
Plastik unter besonderer Berücksichtigung auf Wien

VON

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HEALTH of the COUNTRY
COMFORTS of the TOWN

LETCWORTH
The FIRST GARDEN CITY

Yesterday
Living and Working in the Smoke
To-day
Living in the Suburbs—Working in the Smoke
To-morrow
Living & Working in the Sun at WELWYN GARDEN CITY
THE THREE MAGNETS:

TOWN:
- Opportunities
- Hands of society
- Hands of nature
- Foul air, bad water
- Higher rents, higher wages
- Long hours, low wages
- Unemployment
- Hard life

COUNTRY:
- Hands of society
- Hands of nature
- Foul air, bad water
- Higher rents, higher wages
- Long hours, low wages
- Unemployment
- Hard life

TOWN-COUNTRY:
- Beauty of nature
- Social life
- Foul air, bad water
- Higher rents, higher wages
- Low rates, plenty to do
- No sweat
- Freedom

THE PEOPLE
WHERE WILL THEY GO?

BRIGHT HOMES & GARDENS, NO SMOKE, NO SLUMS
CO-OPERATION

SUMMER

RURAL VILLAGES
Weymouth, Dorset, England
Romantische Strasse
Rothenburg ob der Tauber
Bad Mergentheim
Solingen: Mittelalter-Markt mit einer Resonanz
Trästaden Eksjö och tidens vingslag
Christmas in Norway lasts more than a few days: it’s a whole season with specific rituals and preparations...
Panorama of picturesque small town Gudhjem with red roofs by early morning, Bornholm, Denmark
Gouda, The Cheese Capital
Tartu
Williamsburg, Virginia..
Williamsburg, Virginia..

• might just have the most unique downtown main street of any town on this list. The 301-acre downtown area is a living museum, and reenacts life during the American Revolution 365 days a year (in fact, Williamsburg’s historic reenactment is considered the best in the world).

• Visitors along the main street are sure to enjoy speaking with the costumed actors and visiting the meticulously detailed, Colonial-era shops and restaurants.

• Visit in October and take in the annual An Occasion for the Arts. Interestingly, located within only a few miles of downtown Williamsburg is Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in what would become the United States.
Réthymno
Uusikaupunki
Город Мышкин
в 2012 году