Arendt as Author

Praise From Colleagues

"Randall Arendt's approach to land use and public policy mechanisms for rural development have inspired designers and civic leaders worldwide. The power of his ideas resides in the fact that they are practicable, demonstrable, and delightful."

- William A. McDonough, FAIA

"Randall Arendt has produced a simple, clear, understandable, persuasive, and well-illustrated manual. The application of its principles can assist developers to plan and design with sensibility and intelligence, and planners and officials to evaluate and appraise proposals. I recommend it highly."

- Ian L. McHarg, Professor Emeritus, Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, University of Penn.

"Randall Arendt has done it again. This time he speaks of a 'greener vision' in his intelligent, articulate, and exceptionally useful new book, Conservation Design for Subdivisions. His ideas, advice, and suggestions can make this greener vision a reality, creating places that people will have to care about."

- Tony Hiss, author of The Experience of Place



Photo by Mari Harpur

Possibly the most-published non-academic practicing professional planner in the US

hen asked how he has found the time and energy to produce such an extensive body of written work, while pursuing a very active professional practice and heavy travel/speaking schedule, Arendt sometimes says the answer is quite simple: that he is basically propelled by outrage - at the outrageously wasteful consumption of land and the abysmally low standard of site design in the vast majority of suburban developments built around the edges of almost all of the nation's metropolitan areas during the last four decades.

Arendt's first book -- Dealing with Change in the CT River Valley: A Design Manual for Conservation

and Development -- was a collaborative effort with landscape architect Harry Dodson, who also contributed an equal 40 percent of the work (the other two coauthors contributing the remaining 20 percent). That volume, produced while Arendt served as Director of Planning and Research at the Center for Rural Massachusetts (CRM) at UMass/Amherst is currently in its fourth printing and has received four awards, one from the Boston Society of Architects, which noted that the book had "exerted an uncommon influence on public awareness of our built environment".

While at CRM, Arendt also wrote three-quarters of a sequel volume (Rural by Design), which he completed at the Natural Lands Trust in Pennsylvania. This volume - which has been called "the rural planners' Bible" -- is one of the APA's Top 10 best sellers in the past 25 years, and was listed by that organization in 1997 as one of 39 indispensable books it recommends for "the essential planning China library". It is a comprehensive work Beijing, (containing chapters on a wide range of Overseas, subjects of high relevance to staff planners and lay mem-Planning bers of planning boards and commis-Urban sions, including chapters on conservation design, commercial design in town centers and along highway, affordable housing, street design and septic treatment alternatives, farmland preservation, scenic roads, and affordable housing, among others. Of its 441 pages, Arendt was individually responsible for 366, or 83 percent.

While at the Trust (1991-99), he secured grants to fund his time writing three further books: Conservation Design for Subdivisions: A Practical Guide for Creating Open Space Networks (1994, 184 pp.), Growing Greener: Putting Conservation into Local Plans and Ordinances (1996, 236 pp.), and Crossroads, Hamlet, Village, Town: Design Characteristics of Traditional Neighborhoods, Old and New (1999, 143 pp.). He also produced a 55-minute video (Conserving Open Space

英美小城镇规划的经验与教训



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Three page interview appearing in Beijing's "Urban Planning Overseas." Preparations are ongoing for a Chinese language version of "Rural By Design." Networks Through Conservation Subdivision Design) as well as a CD-ROM (Growing Greener Ordinance Language: Visually-Enhanced Zoning and Subdivision Models) containing an electronic version of his model land-use regulations supplemented with several dozen color images from the video.

Since leaving the Trust in December 1999, Arendt has focused on expanding his practice, chiefly in conducting educational workshops with hands-on design exercises, and preparing site plans for numerous residential and mixed-use developments. However, during the last four years he has also produced a second video (*Creating Traditional*

Neighborhoods with Conservation Design Principles: The Greener Aspects of New Urbanism), a second CD-ROM (accompanying the second edition of Crossroads, Hamlet, Village, Town), and an additional 48-page publication (Smart Growth for Quality Communities) distributed to officials in all incorporated towns and villages in upstate New York by the NY Department of State. In addition, he has written a 28-page peerreviewed article for Landscape and Urban Planning, published earlier this year. At the present time he is scripting a third video, describing and illustrating practical ways in which local planning officials can "reclaim" existing strip development along their highways, through plans and ordinances for impleneighborhoods.

American Planning Association

As all of his publications and media productions are currently in print, it is likely that Arendt is the most-published nonacademic practicing professional planner in the United States.

"Dealing with Change in the Connecticut River Valley'... exerted an uncommon influence on public awareness of our built environment"

- From the award given to the authors by the Boston Society of Architects

Books

Dealing with Change in the Connecticut River Valley: A Design Manual for Conservation and Development, 1989, Cambridge: Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, 183 pp. Co-author (estimated 40% contribution).

Rural by Design: Maintaining Small Town Character, 1994, Chicago: Planners' Press, 441 pp. Principal author (83% contribution, by page count).

Conservation Design for Subdivisions: A Practical Guide for Creating Open Space Networks, 1996, Washington DC: Island Press, 184 pp. Sole author

Growing Greener: Putting Conservation into Local Plans and Ordinances, 1999, Washington DC: Island Press, 236 pp. Sole author

Crossroads, Hamlet, Village, Town: Design Characteristics of Traditional Neighborhoods, Old and New, 1999, Chicago: American Planning Association, 143 pp. Sole author

Monographs and Booklets

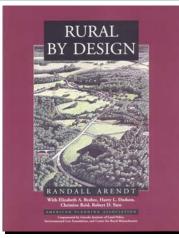
Smart Growth for Quality Communities, Cattaraugus County Department of Economic Development, Planning, and Tourism, Little Valley, NY, 2001, 48 pp. Sole author.

Growing Greener: Putting Conservation into Local Codes, 1998, 20 pp. Natural Lands Trust. Sole author.

Design Studies Portfolio, 2002, 12 pp., Media, Natural Lands Trust. Sole author.

Conservation Design in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, 2002, Natural Lands Trust and US EPA, 21 pp. Sole author.





"Rural by Design" is one of the American Planning Association's Top 10 best selling books in the past 25 years.

Monographs and Booklets — Continued

Discovering Downtown Lowell: A Handbook for Self-Guided Walking Tours, Lowell Historic Board, 1985, 20 pp. Sole author.

Improving Non-Residential Development: Regulations for Performance and Appearance, Center for Rural Massachusetts Monograph Series, University of Massachusetts, 1987. 26 pp. Sole author.

"Farmview", Project Reference File, Vol. 23, No. 7, Urban Land Institute, April 1993, 4 pp. Sole author.

"Hawksnest", Project Reference File, Vol. 24, No. 8, Urban Land Institute,

Articles in Periodicals (partial list)

"Linked Landscapes: Creating Greenway Corridors through Conservation Subdivision Design Strategies in the Northeastern and Central United States".2004. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, Vol. 68, pp. 241-269. (peer-reviewed article).

"Improving the Subdivision Review Process", *Planning Commissioners' Journal*, Issue No. 50, Spring 2003, pp. 12-15.

"Enhancing Subdivision Value Through Conservation Design", *On Common Ground* (National Association of Realtors), Summer 2001, pp. 10-15.

"Designing Traditional Neighborhoods Around Natural Features", *Terrain* (on-line magazine), No. 7, Spring 2000, <u>www.terrain.org/articles/7/arendt.htm</u>

"Growing Greener: Model Ordinance Provisions for Conservation Subdivision Design", *Planning Commissioners' Journal*, Issue No. 33, Winter 1999, pp. 7-14.

"Beyond Clustering", Civil Engineering News, Vol. 9, No. 12, January 1998, pp. 48-54.

"Basing Cluster Techniques on Densities Appropriate to the Area", *Journal of the American Planning Association*, Vol. 63, No. 1, Winter 1997, pp. 137-145. (Peer-reviewed article).

"Creating Open Space Networks", *Prostor: Architecture and Urban Planning Scientific Journal*, University of Zagreb, Croatia, Faculty of Architecture, Vol., 3, No. 2, 1996, pp. 135-145.

"The Four-Step Design Process for Open Space Subdivisions", Land Development, Winter 1995, pp. 22-26.

"Open Space Zoning: What It Is and Why It Works", Planning Commissioners' Journal, Issue No. 5, July 1992.

"Rural Landscape Planning, Journal of Preservation Technology, Vol. 21, No. 2, 1989, pp. 13-20. (Principal author).

"Open Space Zoning: An Effective Way to Protect Rural Character", *Land Use Manager*, Massachusetts Executive Office of Communities and Development, Boston, April 1989. (<u>Re-printed by</u> the NY Planning Federation, Maine Municipal Association, Cornell Co-operative Extension Service, Callaghan's "Current Municipal Problems", The Catskill Center, American Planning Association Michigan Chapter, Berkshire County Association of Land Trusts, Massachusetts Homebuilders' Association, and Connecticut Homebuilders' Association).

"Rethinking Rural Development: An Alternative for Preserving the Landscape", *Habitat* (Maine Audubon Society), Vol. 6, No. 6, 1989, pp. 16-21.]

"Patterns in the Rural Landscape", Orion Nature Quarterly, Autumn, 1989, pp. 21-27.

"Open Space Zoning for Farmland", American Farmland, American Farmland Trust, June 1990.

"Commercial Kudzu and the Townless Highway: Theory and Practice of New England Roadside Planning", *New England Landscape*, Vol. 1, No. 1, June 1989, pp. 41-54.



Articles in Periodicals (partial list) - Continued

"Land Use Planning in Britain and New England", *Monadnock Perspectives*, Vol. 8, No. 2, Spring 1987, pp. 1-3. "New Idea for Farmland Preservation", *Monadnock Perspectives*, Vol. 4, No. 4, Winter 1983-84, pp. 1-4.

"Manufactured Housing: An Innovative Approach to Municipal Siting Standards", *Maine Townsman*, Vol. 44, No. 2, July 1982, pp. 33-34.

"Legal Trends in Controlling Low-Frequency Noises", Maine Association of Planners Quarterly, Vol. 7, No. 3, Nov. 1983.

"Municipal Response to Noise Conflicts in York County", Maine Townsman, Vol. 44, No. 11, November 1982, pp. 25-26.

Other Media

CD-ROM: Growing Greener Ordinance Language: Visually-Enhanced Zoning and Subdivision Models, 2001, Island Washington DC, Island Press. Principal Author.

CD ROM: Model Ordinance Language for Traditional Neighborhoods (included in second edition of Crossroads, Hamlet, Village, Town, American Planning Association, PAS Report No. 523/524, April 2004.

Video: Creating Open Space Networks Through Conservation Subdivision Design, 55 minutes, 1998. Sole producer.

Video: Creating Traditional Neighborhoods with Conservation Design Principles: The Greener Aspects of the New Urbanism, 55 minutes, 2003. Sole producer.

Praise From Colleagues —Continued

"What strikes me most about *Rural by Design* is its tremendous breadth and impressive depth. As comprehensive a work as could be fit between two covers, it also provides an incredible amount of detail that will undoubtedly be helpful to a very wide variety of readers. I view *Rural by Design* as an ideal complement to *Design with Nature*, in tune with the tenets of ecological planning that I defined 25 years ago. One of the great strengths of the book is that it makes complex, technical issues understandable to the lay reader." - *Ian L. McHarg, author of* "Design with Nature"

"As in Randall Arendt's previous books, clear writing, easy-to-understand drawings, and illustrated case studies make the book valuable for the interested citizen or public official as well as the developer or planning professional." - Joseph Molinaro, AICP, Director of Land Development Services, National Association of Home Builders

"The Greener Aspects of the New Urbanism makes an important contribution to our knowledge about how to create better neighborhoods. It offers a visual feast of exquisite places to live – most of them quite affordable. It makes one feel that it's almost a crime NOT to design according to the common-sense principles outlined on the tape." - Judy Corbett, Executive Director, Local Government Commission, Sacramento (and a board member of the CNU)

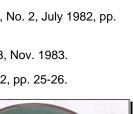
"In this generously illustrated book (Crossroads, Hamlet, Village, Town), Randall Arendt recommends illustrated design principles as a means of articulating and designing traditional neighborhoods. With disdain for the forced geometry of grid-like street patterns, he advocates a form and pattern of streets that evolve from the natural landscape...this book will lead you down the right path." -Thomas Comitta, in "New Urban News"

"Crossroads, Hamlet..."brings to light the benefits of good planning within the context of traditional neighborhood design. Arendt displays sensitivity toward the human scale and proportion in neighborhood design, and offers built examples of villages and neighborhoods that are in harmony with their natural environment. However, before any of this type of innovative subdivision design can take place, someone needs to write the ordinance revisions that make conservation-based traditional neighborhood development permissible. Never fear, however, for Arendt has done this for us too. Part III is a model village design ordinance and may well be the most valuable chapter. A town or county could easily adopt the ordinance with only minor modifications." - Matthew L. Butrill, in "Land Development" (publication of the National Association of Home Builders)

American Planning Association

"Arendt's approach to land use and public policy mechanisms for rural development have inspired designers and civic leaders worldwide."

- William McDonough, FAIA



Arendt's use of aerial views portraying alternative development scenarios has been a particularly effective tool in helping people visualize what happens if their communities develop in accord with local laws regulating land development. This sequence is from a 1989 rural design manual prepared by Arendt and his co-author, Robert D. Yaro, for the Center for Rural Massa-chusetts. The manual proved to be an innovative tool leading to more effective and practical guidelines for protecting the state's rural landscape.

1. Rural village before expansion

