British town planning and urban design

Principles and policies

Eleanor Smith Morris
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Urban design is a legitimate concern for architects, planners and landscape architects. It is, therefore, reasonable that the subject matter of urban design should inform the curricula of those disciplines. Urban design, however, is itself a nascent discipline. In this case, decisions at the higher level should inform the design process at the next lower order of design, for example, from regional to town planning. It makes most sense when each component of the environment fits consistently within the framework of a "higher order" or contextual plan, for example, a building designed to fit within an urban design scheme which is determined by an urban structure plan based upon proposals for the region. It is, however, not simply a one-way process from large to small scale.