



# Framework Thinking

## Lessons in Community Planning and Design

### William J. Johnson

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- Compact, illustrative handbook emphasising visioning, process, and the “soft” skills for design excellence
- Lessons learned from William J. Johnson, FASLA -- distinguished landscape architect, educator, and co-founder of Johnson, Johnson & Roy (now SmithGroup)
- Geared towards practitioners, educators, students, and community builders
- Features a dozen selected projects from different settings of various types and scales

**Framework Thinking** distills key lessons in creating extraordinary design outcomes. It shares how the clarity, power, and enduring presence of an inspired vision can be increased through holistic thinking, inclusive collaboration, and intentional process – in short, a framework thinking mindset.

Reflecting on decades of planning and design experience, and recent projects together, Bill Johnson and Har Ye Kan address the search for more complete, meaningful solutions. As an attitude, **Framework Thinking** features a ‘context-centered’ frame of mind, where every turn of the process, from start to finish, points to the larger picture of people and place.

While seeking short-term, achievable, design outcomes, **Framework Thinking** also embraces the long-term visionary guidance in the early discovery stages. Finding this ‘big idea’ in the structure of the place is often the difference maker in shaping communities of distinction.

In short, **Framework Thinking** is an encouragement to see more, to expect more, and to offer a way forward to the stewardship of our common good by making the little choices for digging deeper and thinking bigger.

**William J. Johnson**, FASLA, is a community planner, designer, teacher, and academic leader. A co-founder of Johnson, Johnson and Roy (JJR) and an Emeritus Professor at the University of Michigan, Bill’s contributions over his 60-year career have focused on contextual fitness, harmony, and community involvement in local and international settings.

