



Seeking Savannah

Peter Cookson Smith

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- An original means of examining American urbanism through a narrative of discussion and exploration between various fictional participants, that relate in the first instance to the visionary plan for Savannah, acclaimed for its interwoven urban values, and the wider debate on the urban challenges facing the US in the 21st century
- Set in the historic city of Savannah, the book encapsulates a compelling and often light hearted discourse on the issues and opportunities facing America as it seeks to overcome inherent urban problems and provide for livable and sustainable cities
- A fresh approach to the story of US urban trajectories set against a backcloth of Savannah - one of the nation's most historic cities, and offering a new and invigorating debate on the reshaping of Metropolitan America
- A witty and urbane overview of America's planning history and its metropolitan future, with a worthy tribute to the urban values of Savannah - one of the most uniquely planned cities of the South
- A fresh and creative commentary on the New Urbanism agenda through recourse to aspects of American city growth and change through to present issues of metropolitan planning, set against the intriguing history of Savannah, with sketch illustrations to match
- The Savannah plan has long evoked an admiring reaction from those engaged with city planning. The book offers a welcome perspective on American urbanism through an interactive dialogue between various fictitious commentators set against the backdrop of the city
- A new and enlightened take on American urbanism by a fictional group of highly charged professional participants on a mission, orchestrated by the rambunctious Professor Mo Hooguahey. Serious and amusing at the same time with wonderful sketch material of the city as a backcloth to deliberations, and more

A disparate but exuberant group of scholars are brought together in Savannah by an eminent professor to explore and debate the history and characteristics of the city and its implications for a twenty-first century urbanism. This narrative represents a forceful and humorous interplay between formal discussion, informal interludes, irreverent comments, and less than academic relationships. Its serious purpose is to identify the urban challenges facing America in terms of containing and consolidating growth within livable communities. However like all such participatory events it is also an opportunity for informal personal agendas set against a backdrop of real life events. The text is interspersed with 90 drawings of Savannah, illustrating its unique and multilayered identity as a potential urban paradigm for the future.

Dr. Peter Cookson Smith is an architect, planner, and urban designer. He has been a resident of Hong Kong since 1977 where he founded URBIS - one of the first specialist planning, urban design and landscape consultancies in South-east Asia. Over the past forty years the firm has won more than 200 local and international awards for their work in China and other parts of Asia. Peter is a past professor at the University of Hong Kong Faculty of Architecture and a past-president of both the Hong Kong Planning and Urban Design Institutes. He writes and lectures widely on the subject of urban design.