



# Urban Lessons of the Venetian Squares

**Kenneth Moffett**

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- Venice, unique as a city without cars or roads, is enduringly popular among the general public and design professionals alike
- Both its iconic squares such as San Marco and the many lesser-known squares, despite their origins in the past, have direct appeal as social urban spaces today
- Are findings, as to why they seem so successful, applicable to modern times? A typology of modern-day urban squares in America leads to some enlightening conclusions which should be of special interest to urban designers today

The first part of the book is both a homage to the nature and appeal of the squares of Venice and an analysis of their physical qualities in urbanistic terms.

The Venetian settings were chosen for their freedom from auto traffic, streets, or peculiarities of topography. The narrative then takes those insights and applies them in a corresponding examination of a wide variety of modern-day urban spaces in America, to determine which are being emulated today and which less so.

Following a year abroad as a Paris Prize recipient and interning with the Architects Collaborative, **Kenneth Moffett** co-founded of the award-winning Tennessee architecture firm BullockSmith, where he has spent a career as Design Director.