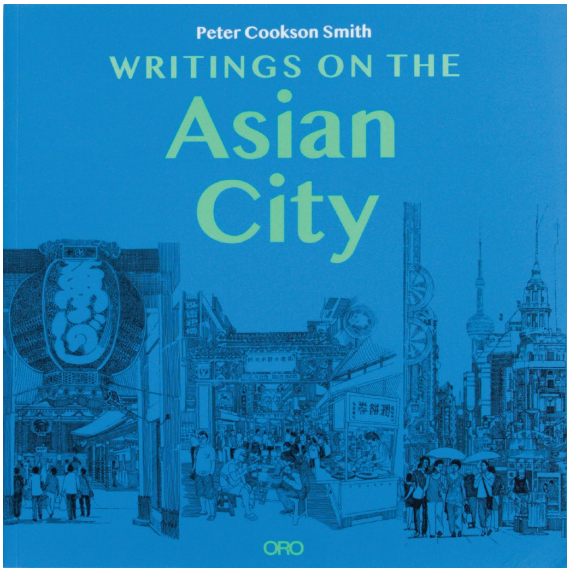
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Writings on the Asian City

Framing an Inclusive Approach to Urban Design

Peter Cookson Smith

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- The book frames a set of perspectives on the Asian city and how we might deal with prevailing urban issues aimed at improving cities for their growing populations, and making them more sustainable
- Shaping the dimensions of the expanding city, reinforcing both cultural identity and contested urban environments
- The means of meeting climatic challenges; the emerging role of waterfronts as part of urban regeneration initiatives
- The intensity of spirituality and belief systems associated with sacred places; and the importance of connecting with the community

The book examines the contemporary Asian city through the prism of urban design in assimilating new and established drivers of growth. This includes intensified forms of residential development, specialised commercial centres and technology parks, that drive the momentum of the contemporary city, while acting to restructure and reshape forms of capital investment. New spatial patterns are facilitated by tranches of urban expansion, redevelopment, regeneration and suburbanisation that have emerged as by-products of both formal and informal development processes. The book also examines the Asian city language embodied in the local morphology — the essential values of the street, block, temple precinct and monument, and how these can be incorporated as drivers of new urban identities that relate to the changing culture and configuration of city neighbourhoods. All of these continue to impose different levels of impact on the creation of livable cities and the quality of life for their inhabitants. In this way urban design can look to the future while respecting the past.

The book frames a perspective on the urban design challenges presented by the rapidly expanding and regenerating Asian cities, and how these can be shaped by memory, meaning and identity while meeting sustainable, resilient and community concerns.

Dr. Peter Cookson Smith is an architect, urbanist, and founder of the URBIS consultancy in Hong Kong, which has operated throughout Asia for more than forty years. He is a former professor of architecture and former President of Hong Kong's Institutes of Planning and Urban Design. He is the author of seven previous books on cities and urban design.

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