

From the Planners' Bookshelf...

Edmund N. Bacon, City Planner, Philadelphia, 1949-1970.

Summary.

Mr. Bacon was the distinguished executive director of the Philadelphia Planning Commission from 1949 until 1970. He is personally responsible for the resurrection and enhancement of this great American city.

Mr. Bacon's approach is to describe the forces and factors of design and then apply them to cities around the world, large and famous, small and little-known. As he describes his purpose:

"The building of cities is one of man's greatest achievements. The form of his city always has been and always will be a pitiless indicator of the state of his civilization. This form is determined by the multiplicity of decisions made by the people who live in it. In certain circumstances these decisions have interacted to produce a force of such clarity and form that a noble city has been born. It is my premise that a deeper understanding of the interactions of these decisions can give us the insight necessary to create noble cities in our own day." [p13]

Design of Cities is the book one should read when starting a career in design, any kind of design, but building and city design in particular. And, even though "design" is the topic, Mr. Bacon's Philadelphia experiences permeate the book and tell a good story.

Youtubes:

Form, Design, and the City (1962)

Philadelphia Department of Records; Published on Oct 4, 2013.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GGqSkDXOSg>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZw7Yw245Pg>

Published Review.

Design of Cities, [Edmund N. Bacon](#)

Reviewed by: [Design of Cities - Edmund N. Bacon - Google Books](#)

"In a brilliant synthesis of words and pictures, Edmund N. Bacon relates historical examples to modern principles of urban planning."

Edmund Norwood Bacon was an American urban planner, architect, educator, and author.

During his tenure as the executive director of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission from 1949 to 1970, his ... [Wikipedia](#)

Born: May 2, 1910, [Philadelphia](#).

Died: October 14, 2005, [Philadelphia, PA](#)

Education: [Cornell University](#), [Cranbrook Educational Community](#), [Friends' Central School](#)

Structures: [Park Towne Place](#)

Parents: [Ellis Williams Bacon](#), [Helen Atkinson Comly](#)

Awards: [Frank P. Brown Medal](#)

Link:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edm>

