

## PEOPLE TO KNOW...

### *John Nolen, Landscape Architect and City Planner.*

This recent biography of Mr. Nolen, R. Bruce Stephenson describes the importance of Mr. Nolen's career and his influence in shaping the planning and urban design professions.

**From Amazon...**“John Nolen (1869–1937) was the first American to identify himself exclusively as a town and city planner. In 1903, at the age of thirty-four, he enrolled in the new Harvard University program in landscape architecture, studying under Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. and Arthur Shurcliff. Two years later, he opened his own office in Harvard Square.

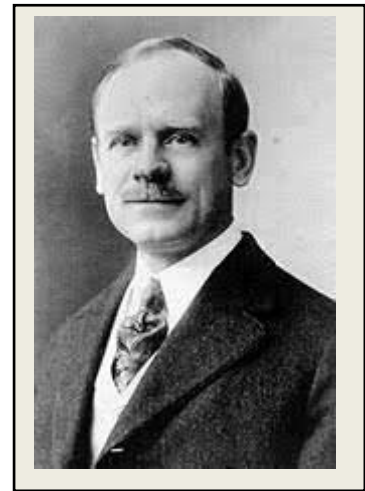
“Over the course of his career, Nolen and his firm completed more than four hundred projects, including comprehensive plans for more than twenty-five cities, across the United States. Like other progressive reformers of his era, Nolen looked to Europe for models to structure the rapid urbanization defining modern life into more efficient and livable form. His books, including *New Towns for Old: Achievements in Civic Improvement in Some American Small Towns and Neighborhoods*, promoted the new practice of city planning and were widely influential.

“In this insightful biography, R. Bruce Stephenson analyzes the details of Nolen's many experiments, illuminating the planning principles he used in laying out communities from Mariemont, Ohio, to Venice, Florida. Stephenson concludes by discussing the potential of Nolen's work as a model of a sustainable vision relevant to American civic culture today.”

*John Nolen, Landscape Architect and City Planner* by R. Bruce Stephenson, University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst, in association with the Library of Landscape History, 312 pages, 2015.

**See more at:** <http://www.umass.edu/umpress/title/john-nolen-landscape-architect-and-city-planner#sthash.c5369uDZ.dpuf>

**LINK:** <https://www.amazon.com/John-Nolen-Landscape-Architect-Planner/dp/1625340796>



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# Dr. Bruce Stephenson

## Living New Urbanism

Bruce Stephenson is dedicated to the art of city planning. A Rollins professor and consultant, he is a recipient of the John Nolen Medal and the Graham Frey Civic Award, and his biography, *John Nolen, Landscape Architect and City Planner*, won the JB Jackson book award. Serving on the Orlando Sustainability Task Force and the Pearl District (Portland) Planning & Transportation Committee inspired his new book, [\*Portland's Good Life: Sustainability and Hope in an American City\*](#)



Portland was a model for Sustainability Task Force's Orlando's *Greenworks Plan*, and *Portland's Good Life* documents the author's life after he sells his car and takes up residence in the Pearl District--a prototype urban renewal project--to document the future Orlando envisions. In addition to assessing [living in a historic neighborhood designed for sustainability](#), [the book concludes with the lessons Orlando drew from Portland and that are featured in the January 2021 edition of \*Planning\*](#).

*Portland's Good Life* builds on *John Nolen, Landscape Architect and City Planner* and Stephenson's research on [Lewis Mumford](#), the great urbanist who inspired Portland's path-breaking experiments in urban planning. Since 2018, Stephenson has contributed to [City Planning History](#), [Planning](#), and [The Classicist](#), [The Wilder Heart of Florida](#), [Iconic Planned Communities: The Challenge of Change](#), and the [Orlando Sentinel](#).

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