

PEOPLE TO KNOW...

Constantinos Doxiadis, City Planner.

By **Wolfgang Saxon**, June 29, 1975.

Credit...The New York Times Archives

Read the full obituary at: <https://www.nytimes.com/1975/06/29/archives/constantinos-doxiadis-city-planner-is-dead-at-62.html>

“Constantinos Apostolos Doxiadis [1913-1975], the visionary city planner whose concepts touched the lives of millions of people around the world, died yesterday in Athens, where he kept his home and headquarters. He was 62 years old.

“Mr. Doxiadis, who gained international prominence as one of the architects of Greece's postwar reconstruction, was the head of Doxiadis

Associates, an urban-planning concern with offices all over the globe, including Washington.

“His preoccupation with urban sprawl, generated everywhere by population growth, led him to develop ‘ekistics’, a multidisciplinary science of human settlement that brought together old and new methods for the sake of planning and rearranging cities. The term derived from the Greek word for house. ‘Aristotle said the goal of the city is to make man happy and safe,’ Mr. Doxiadis once said. ‘I can't think of a better definition.’”

CT.org keeps returning to the urban planners of the 1960's. Doxiadis, Lynch, Halprin, Bacon and others were exploring new ground, doing important work, making mistakes but progressing the art and science of urban planning. The obituary from The NYT presents a great picture of this Greek thinker.

Excerpts from the NYT story:

- “Mr. Doxiadis became the chief town planner of Athens in 1937 and during World War II served as department head for regional and town planning in the Greek Ministry of Public Works. While the country was occupied by the Italians and Germans, he also headed a secret-service resistance group and was later decorated for his exploits.
- “The liberation of Athens in 1944 gave him the chance to put into practice the plans he had ready for his country's reconstruction. He became Minister of Development and Coordination and also served on the Greek delegation to the peace conference in San Francisco that set up the United Nations in 1945.
- “As his firm began to take in millions of dollars yearly in fees, Mr. Doxiadis took to sponsoring annual cruises of the Greek islands, which he called Delos Symposia. The outings were junkets for prominent figures who would enjoy the sea and clean air while discussing the future of man and his habitat. Among his guests were Margaret Mead, Barbara Ward, Buckminster Fuller, Arnold Toynbee and René Dubos.”

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