

Brent D. Ryan

Department of Urban Studies and Planning
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
77 Massachusetts Avenue, room 10-485
Cambridge, MA 02139

P (617) 324-1874
bdr@mit.edu

Place of Birth: New Haven, Connecticut, April 14, 1969

Academic Positions

Acting Head, City Design and Development Group
Department of Urban Studies and Planning, beginning January 2015

Associate Professor of Urban Design and Public Policy
Department of Urban Studies and Planning
School of Architecture and Planning
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2013-

Assistant Professor of Urban Design and Public Policy
Department of Urban Studies and Planning
School of Architecture and Planning
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2009- 2013

Assistant Professor of Urban Planning
Department of Urban Planning and Design
Graduate School of Design
Harvard University, 2007- 2009

Co-Director, City Design Center and Assistant Professor of Urban Planning and Policy
College of Architecture and the Arts and College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs
University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, Illinois, 2002- 2007

Professional Positions

Senior Urban Planning Specialist, World Bank, Washington, D.C., 2014-
Senior consultant for Ukraine Urbanization Review.

Urban Designer, New York City Department of City Planning, New York City, 1994- 97
Zoning and Urban Design Division, 1994- 96; Manhattan Borough Office, 1996- 97

Education

Ph.D. in Urban Design and Planning, 2002
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

Dissertation: "The Suburbanization of the Inner City: urban housing and the pastoral ideal." Advisor: Lawrence J. Vale. Committee: Eran Ben-Joseph, Anne Whiston Spirn, Sam Bass Warner

Master of Architecture (M.Arch.), 1994
Columbia University, New York, NY

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Biology, 1991
Yale University, New Haven, CT

Professional Affiliations

American Planning Association, 1999-present

American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), 2001-2009; 2012- present

International Society of City and Regional Planners, 2012- present

International Seminar on Urban Form, 2001- present

Research Interests

Urban Design; Shrinking Cities; Urban Morphology; Urban Design and Planning Theory

Honors and Awards

Committed to Caring Award, MIT Office of the Dean for Graduate Education, July 2014

Best Article of 2011 (“Reading Through A Plan”), *Journal of the American Planning Association*, April 2013

Planetizen Top Ten Book of 2012 (*Design After Decline*), December 2012

Linde Career Development Professorship, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, July 2009- June 2012

Annual Dean’s Research Grant, Harvard University Graduate School of Design, May 2008

First Annual Award for Excellence in Teaching, University of Illinois at Chicago Urban Planning and Policy Student Association, May 2006

Lincoln Institute of Land Policy Research Fellowship in Planning and Development (with Rachel Weber), November 2004

Curriculum and Instructional Grant, UIC Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (with Rachel Weber), February 2003

Institute for the Humanities Award, UIC Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, December 2002

Student Project Award (supervisor), Massachusetts Chapter, American Planning Association, December 2001

Fellow, Salzburg Seminar #378, June 2000

Outstanding Contribution to the Intellectual Life of the Department Award, MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning, June 2000

Outstanding Contribution to the Intellectual Life of the Department Award, MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning, June 1999

Voorhees Doctoral Fellowship, MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning, 1997-98

Publications

Books

Plural Urbanism. Manuscript in progress (2014)

Design After Decline: How America rebuilds shrinking cities. (2012) Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Refereed Journal Papers

"Autopia's End: The decline and fall of Detroit's automotive manufacturing landscape." (2013) With Daniel Campo (Ryan first author). *Journal of Planning History*, 12:2, 95-132.

"Whatever Happened to 'Urbanism'? A Comparison of premodern, Modernist, and HOPE VI morphology in three American cities." (2013) *Journal of Urban Design*, 18:2, 201-219.

"Reading Through A Plan: A Visual Interpretation of What Plans Mean and How They Innovate". (2011) *Journal of the American Planning Association* 77(4), 309-327.

"The Restructuring of Detroit: City block form change in a shrinking city, 1900- 2000." (2008) *Urban Design International* 13:3, 156-168.

"The Entertainment Zone: Unplanned nightlife and the revitalization of the American downtown." With Daniel Campo (Campo first author). (2008) *Journal of Urban Design* 13:3, 291-315.

"Valuing Privately-Financed Housing in Distressed Urban Neighborhoods: Does design matter?" With Rachel Weber. (2007) *Journal of the American Planning Association* 73:1, 100-112.

"Morphological Change Through Residential Redevelopment in Detroit, 1951-2000." (2006) *Urban Morphology* 10:1, 1-30.

"Incomplete and Incremental Downtown Plan Implementation in Providence, RI 1960-2000." (2006) *Journal of Planning History* 5:1,35-64.

"AlphaWorld: The urban design of a digital city." (2004) *Journal of Urban Design* 9:3, 287-309.

Chapters in Edited Books

"The Fiscal Topography of the Shrinking City." (2015, forthcoming) Chapter in *Urban Landscape (Critical Concepts in the Built Environment)*, edited by Anita Berrizbeitia. New York: Routledge. With Lorena Bello Gomez (Ryan first author).

"The Metastasizing Megaproject: Urban design and 'monstrous moral hybrids' in the American city." (2013) Chapter in *Megaprojects: A Global Perspective*, edited by Gerardo del Cerro. London: Emerald.

"Rightsizing Shrinking Cities: The urban design dimension." (2012) Chapter in *The City After Abandonment*. Margaret Dewar and June Manning Thomas, eds. University of Pennsylvania Press.

"Reading Through A Plan." (2012) Chapter in *The Oxford Handbook of Urban Planning*. Randall Crane and Rachel Weber, eds. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

"From Cars to Casinos: Global Pasts and Local Futures in the Detroit-Windsor Transnational Metropolitan Area." (2012) Chapter in *Rethinking Global Urbanism: Comparative insights from secondary cities*. Xiangming Chen and Ahmed Kanna, eds. London: Routledge.

"Some Thoughts on Desert Urbanism." (2010) Essay in *Invention/Transformation: Strategies for the Qattara/Al-Jimi Oases in Al-Ain*. Jorge Silvetti and Felipe Correa, eds. Cambridge: Harvard Graduate School of Design.

Other Publications

"Jane Jacobs in the Neoliberal City." Review essay, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. Forthcoming, 2014.

"The Fiscal Topography of the Shrinking City." Invited contribution to *Perspecta 47: Money*. September 2014. With Lorena Bello Gomez (Ryan first author).

Review of *New Deal Ruins: Race, Economic Justice, and Social Housing Policy*, by Edward G. Goetz. *Journal of Urban Design*, 2014.

"Sustainability and Pluralism." Penn Institute of Urban Research *Urban Link*, January 2014.

Baltimore Inversions: Shrinking City Urban Design Studio. MIT School of Architecture + Planning, Fall 2013.

Review of *Good Urbanism*, by Nan Ellin. *Journal of Urban Design*, 18:4 (2013): 142-144.

Privatopolis: Urban Design Strategies for Sauget-East St. Louis, IL. MIT School of Architecture + Planning, Fall 2012.

Review of *Distributed Urbanism: Cities after Google Earth*, edited by Gretchen Wilkins, and *The Exposed City: Mapping the urban invisibles*, by Nadia Amoroso. *Journal of Urban Design* 17:1 (2012): 163-165.

"Lands of Opportunity: Cities and Prosperity, a conversation with Edward L. Glaeser." *Architecture Boston*, Summer 2011.

Review of *Residential Landscape Sustainability: A checklist tool*, edited by Carl Smith Andy Clayden, and Nigel Dunnett. *Journal of Urban Design*, 15:1 (2010): 151-153.

"The Once and Future Neighborhood." *Architecture Boston*, Spring 2009.

Review of *Chicago Architecture: histories, revisions, alternatives*, edited by Charles Waldheim and Katerina Rüedi Ray. *Journal of Urban Design*, 13:1 (2008): 147-149.

Review of *The Form of Cities: political economy and urban design*, by Alexander A. Cuthbert. *Journal of Planning Literature*, 22:2 (2007): 125-126.

"What is a Greystone?" In *The Chicago Greystone in Historic North Lawndale*, edited by Roberta Feldman and Jim Wheaton, 85-91. Chicago: UIC City Design Center, 2006.

Review of *The Dictionary of Urbanism*, by Robert Cowan. *Journal of Urban Design*, 11:3 (2006): 367-369.

Review of *Along the Divide: photographs of the Dan Ryan Expressway*, by Jay Wolke. *Journal of Urban Design*, 10:3 (2005): 400-403.

Review of *Behind the Gates: life, liberty, and the pursuit of prosperity in Fortress America*, by Setha Low. *Urban Affairs Review*, 40:5 (2005): 687-690.

"Philadelphia's Center-City District and the privatization of the public sphere." *Projections* 1 (2000): 42-65.

Professional Reports

Central, Squared: The Mayor's Red Ribbon Commission on the Delights and Concerns of Central Square Final Report. December 2011.

Green Schemes: Sustainable design and planning in Garfield Park (with Penelope Dean and Susanne Schnell.) UIC City Design Center, March 2008.

Revving Up The Red Line: Collective community design for the Edgewater neighborhood (with T. Abraham Lentner.) UIC City Design Center, March 2008.

East Garfield Park Comprehensive Retail and Urban Design Plan (with T. Abraham Lentner.) UIC City Design Center, January 2007.

Chicago Historic Greystone Initiative: Planning Phase Report. UIC City Design Center, December 2005.

Village of Burnham Comprehensive Retail Plan. UIC City Design Center, December 2005.

Rogers Park Comprehensive Retail Study. UIC City Design Center, October 2005.

Washington Park Urban Design Studio. UIC City Design Center, September 2005.

City of Whiting Commercial Development Plan. UIC City Design Center, August 2005.

Washington Park Housing Charrette. UIC City Design Center, March 2005.

Village of Worth Comprehensive Retail Plan. UIC City Design Center, September 2004.

US-China Affordable Housing Exchange Review of Selected Projects. UIC City Design Center, September 2004.

Projections: the MIT Journal of Planning. Senior Editor, Volume 2 (Spring 2001).

Projections: the MIT Journal of Planning. Founding Editor, Volume 1 (Spring 2000).

Peer Review

2014: *Journal of Planning Education and Research*; *Habitat International*; *Journal of Urban Design* (3); *Journal of the American Planning Association*; International Planning History Society; University of Chicago Press; University of Pennsylvania Press; Temple University Press; Island Press; Routledge.

2013: *Journal of the American Planning Association* (2); *CITIES*; *Journal of Planning Education and Research*; *Environment and Planning C*; *Journal of Planning History*(2); *Urban Affairs Review*; *Journal of Urban Affairs*; *Journal of Urban History*; *Journal of Urban Design*; University of Pennsylvania Press; Routledge.

2012: *Journal of the American Planning Association; Journal of Planning Education and Research; Journal of Urban Design; Journal of Urbanism*

2011: *Journal of the American Planning Association; Journal of Urban Design; Urban Morphology; Environment and Planning A*

2010: *Journal of Urbanism; Journal of Planning Literature; Journal of International Heritage Studies; Urban Affairs Review; Projections*

2009: *Journal of Planning Education and Research; Journal of Urban Design; Urban Morphology; Journal of Urban Affairs*

2008: *Journal of Landscape and Planning*

2007: *Journal of Planning Education and Research; Journal of Urban Design*

2005: *Projections*

Lectures, Presentations, and Seminars

Invited Lectures and Seminars

“The Pluralist Shrinking City.” Spatial Perspectives and Institutions: the Ruhr agglomeration in international comparison. Conference. Essen, Germany. June 2015, invited.

Resource Team Member, Mayor’s Institute on City Design, Syracuse University School of Architecture, Syracuse, NY. October 2014

“Designing Detroit: Top-down vs. bottom-up.” Boston Society of Architects, Boston. October 2014

“Legacy City Design Initiative.” Invited participant, Max Bond Center on Design of the Just City, City University of New York, June 2014

“The Urban Patchwork: reconciling architecture, planning, and urban design in the global city.” College of Urban Planning and Architecture, Tongji University, Shanghai, China. May 2014

“Learning from Detroit.” University of Michigan, Rackham Graduate School, Ann Arbor, MI. May 2014

“Contemporary Currents in Urban Planning.” Urban Planning lunch lecture series, Sasaki Associates, Watertown MA, February 2014

“Public/Private, Large/Small: Perspectives on Pluralist Urbanism.” *The Decent City*, Social Science Research Council, Brooklyn, NY. December 2013

“Consolidating Infrastructure in Shrinking Cities.” *Interwoven Purposes*, Center for Advanced Urbanism Fall 2013 symposium, School of Architecture + Planning, MIT. November 2013

“Shrinking Cities in the USA: Top-down and bottom-up Planning.” Technical University of Aachen, Germany, June 2013

“Design After Decline: How America Rebuilds Shrinking Cities.” Technical University of Kaiserslautern, Germany, June 2013

“Shrinking Cities in the USA: Top-down and bottom-up Planning.” Technical University of Stuttgart, Germany, June 2013

"Dealing With Declining Cities: Experience from the U.S." Promoting Sustainability in Russia's Arctic Cities, Washington, D.C. June 2013

"Obsolete Infrastructure." *The Infrastructural Monument*, Center for Advanced Urbanism Spring 2013 symposium, School of Architecture + Planning, MIT. April 2013

"Rebuilding Shrinking Cities: Top Down or Ad Hoc?" Cities and the Creative Economy Lecture Series, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, March 2013

"Pluralism and Urbanism in the American City." Keynote Speaker, Israel Society of Planners, Tel Aviv, Israel, February 2013

"Design after Decline." University of Michigan Spring Lecture Series, February 2013

"Design after Decline." Herbert H. Lehman Center at Columbia University Spring Lecture Series, February 2013

"Flint: Top Down or Ad Hoc?" Invited speaker, Flint Public Art Project Inaugural Conference, Flint, MI, October 2012

"Shaping Pluralist Space: The Promise of Planning", and "Shrinking Cities: the US Perspective." Invited speaker, Contemporary Challenges in Planning Education Working Congress, Gdansk, Poland, October 2012

"Design After Decline: Agendas for Planners." Columbia University Department of Urban Planning Fall Lecture Series, October 2012

"Design After Decline: Agendas for Planners." University of Illinois at Chicago Department of Urban Planning and Policy Fall Lecture Series, September, 2012

"Legacy City Design Assembly." Invited participant, Max Bond Center on Design of the Just City, City University of New York, September 2012

"Design After Decline: Formulating Research." University of Pennsylvania Department of Urban Planning Doctoral Seminar speaker, April 2012

"Risk and the Shrinking City." *RISK* Conference, Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, March 30, 2012

"Finding a New Form for America's Legacy Cities." Invited Participant, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy roundtable, Cambridge MA, February 7, 2012

"How to Build Community in A Networked Economy." Panelist, Solomon McCown and Microsoft NERD Center, Cambridge MA, May 2011

"Shrinking Cities: Realities and Potentialities." *URBAN FABRIC* lecture series, Sasaki Associates, Watertown MA, April 2011

Respondent, Massachusetts Historical Society Urban History Speaker Series, Boston MA, March 2010

"Global Pasts, Local Futures: Urban megadevelopments and market competitiveness in downtown Detroit-Windsor." *Rethinking Cities and Communities in the Context of Globalization and Transnationalism*, Center for Urban and Global Studies, Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, November 2008

"Art in the City." Concluding speaker, *Art In The Life of the City* conference, Harvard University Graduate School of Design, May 2008

“Historic Preservation, Cultural Heritage, and Neighborhood Revitalization: the case of North Lawndale.” With Charles Leeks. Imagining America National Conference, Columbus, OH, October 2006

“Valuing New Residential Development in Distressed Neighborhoods: does design matter?” With Rachel Weber. Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge MA, April 2006

“Sprawl: A Compact History.” Panelist, Chicago Architecture Foundation, Chicago, IL, February 2006

“A Civic Approach to Infrastructure Security.” The Infrastructure Security Partnership, St. Augustine, FL, October 2005

“Five Critical Urban Design Principles for Affordable Housing in the United States and China.” US-China Affordable Housing Exchange, Shenyang, China, September 2004

Presentations at Academic and Professional Conferences

“Public Space in Asian Megacities”. Respondent, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, October 2014.

“Urban Design Pedagogy.” Panelist, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, October 2014.

“Urban Design Regulation and Governance.” Convener/Respondent, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, October 2014.

“Shrinking-City Urban Form as a Determinant of Urban Policy: the case of Flint, Michigan, USA.” International Society of City and Regional Planners, Perm, Russia, September 2012.

“Rightsizing Shrinking Cities: A new approach to urban design for the U.S. city.” Association of European Schools of Planning, Ankara, Turkey, July 2012.

“Toward a New Historiography of Urban Renewal: State-sponsored neighborhood clearance in Detroit's Jefferson-Chalmers neighborhood, 1970-1990.” Society of Architectural Historians 65th Annual Meeting, Detroit MI, April 2012.

“The Demolition of Detroit.” With Daniel Campo. Urban History Association Biennial Conference, Las Vegas NV, October 2010.

“Can We Re-create Urbanism? Measuring place diversity in three HOPE VI communities.” Thirteenth National Conference on American City and Regional Planning History, Oakland CA, October 2009.

“Creativity in Planning: A future agenda.” Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Meeting, Crystal City VA, October 2009.

“The De-urbanization of Detroit: A history of the automotive industry, economic development, and demolition.” With Daniel Campo. Twelfth National Conference on American City and Regional Planning History, Portland ME, October 2007.

“Art, Culture, and Community Development.” Panel Moderator, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Meeting, Kansas City, MO, November 2005.

“Valuing New Residential Development in Distressed Neighborhoods: does design matter?” With Rachel Weber. Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Meeting, Kansas City MO, November 2005.

“The Chicago Greystone Initiative: historic heritage as economic development.” With Robert Bruegmann. Eleventh National Conference on American City and Regional Planning History, Coral Gables FL, October 2005.

“The Entertainment Zone: unplanned nightlife in the American downtown.” With Daniel Campo. Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Meeting, Portland OR, October 2004.

“Whose History? Conventional and Controversial Uses of “The Past” in Planning.” Roundtable Participant. Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Meeting, Portland OR, October 2004.

“The Entertainment Zone: architecture, nightlife, and the American downtown.” With Daniel Campo. Tenth National Conference on American City and Regional Planning History, St. Louis MO, November 2003.

“Suburban Imagery in New Inner-City Residential Developments.” Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Meeting, Cleveland OH, November 2001.

“Relationships between Planning Interventions in Providence, RI.” Ninth National Conference on American City and Regional Planning History, Philadelphia PA, November 2001.

“AlphaWorld: the urban morphology of a digital city.” International Seminar on Urban Form, Cincinnati OH, September 2001.

“Problems in the Definition of Urban Decline.” Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Meeting, Atlanta GA, November 2000.

Sponsored Research

“Mexico Abandonment and Urbanization Review.” MIT Center for Advanced Urbanism and Comision Nacional de Vivienda, Mexico. (Fall 2014) Principal Investigator. \$100,000. Under review.

“Singapore Public Housing Urban Design Futures.” SUTD-MIT International Design Centre, Singapore. (Fall 2014) Principal Investigator. \$36,000

“Baltimore Shrinking Cities Urban Design Studio.” Exxon-Mobil Environmental Services Group, Houston, TX (Spring 2013) Principal Investigator. \$25,000

“Singapore Parametric Urbanism Workshop.” Singapore University of Technology and Design, Singapore (Spring 2013) Principal Investigator. \$25,000

“Sauget/ East St Louis Urban Design Studio.” Exxon-Mobil Environmental Services Corporation. (2012). Principal Investigator. \$25,000

“Edgewater Community Design Charrettes.” State of Illinois. (2007). Principal Investigator. \$30,000

“Garfield Park Implementation Plan.” Local Initiatives Support Coalition, Chicago, IL (2007) Principal Investigator. \$15,000

"In the Spirit of Massive Change: A charrette focusing on sustainability and social responsibility." Design Exchange, Toronto, CA (2006) Principal Investigator. \$1,500

"Green Neighborhood Design Studio." Shaw Environmental, Chicago, IL (2006-07) Principal Investigator. \$12,000

"Norwood Park Comprehensive Retail, Urban Design, and Implementation Plan." Northwest Highway Chamber of Commerce, Chicago, IL (2006-07) Principal Investigator. \$18,000

"Ford Heights Industrial Redevelopment Area Plan." Cook County Department of Planning and Economic Development, Chicago, IL (2006-07). Principal Investigator. \$20,000

"Garfield Park Comprehensive Urban Design and Retail Plan." Local Initiatives Support Coalition (LISC), Chicago, IL (2006-07). Principal Investigator. \$25,000

"Chicago Historic Greystone Initiative Program Evaluation." Driehaus Foundation, Chicago, IL (2005-07). Co-principal Investigator.

"Privately-Financed Housing in Distressed Urban Neighborhoods." Fannie Mae Foundation, Washington, D.C. (2004-05). Principal Investigator.

"Valuing Private Development in Distressed Urban Neighborhoods: Does Design Matter?" Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge, MA (2004-05). Principal Investigator.

"Burnham Comprehensive Retail Plan." Village of Burnham, IL (2005). Principal Investigator.

"Whiting, Indiana Commercial Development Plan." City of Whiting, IN (2004-05). Principal Investigator.

"Rogers Park Comprehensive Retail Study." DevCorp North, Chicago, IL (2004-05). Principal Investigator.

"Historic Chicago Greystone Initiative: Planning Phase." Driehaus Foundation, Chicago, IL (2004-05). Principal Investigator.

"Washington Park Planning Project." Chicago Housing Authority and Windows of Opportunity, Chicago, IL (2003-05). Principal Investigator.

"North Lawndale Heritage and Economic Development Initiative." Driehaus Foundation, Polk Brothers Foundation, and Woods Foundation of Chicago (2004). Principal Investigator.

"Worth Comprehensive Retail Plan." Village of Worth, IL (2003-04). Principal Investigator.

"Design Matters: US-China Affordable Housing Exchange." Shenyang Construction Committee, China (2003-04). Co-principal Investigator.

Professional and Public Service

Commissions

Commissioner, Cambridge Public Art Commission, 2010- 2013

Boards of Directors

ArchitectureBoston (2014-)

Member, Board of Directors, Friends of Downtown (2003- 2007)

Treasurer, Board of Directors, GrandFamilies Program of Chicago (2003- 2007)

Steering Committees

Member, "Let The Public Play" Steering Committee, Cambridge MA, (2010- present)

Member, Chicago Design Initiative (2005-2007)

Member, Chicago Historic Greystone Initiative Steering Committee (2004- 2007)

Advisor, Center for Neighborhood Technology Blue Island District Plan (2004-2005)

Member, North Lawndale Culture and Heritage Steering Committee (2003- 2005)