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Steve Mannheim

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Steve Mannheim : Walt Disney and the Quest for Community (Design the Built Environment) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Walt Disney and the Quest for Community (Design the Built Environment):

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During the final months of his life, Walt Disney was consumed with the world-wide problems of cities. His development concept at the time of his death on December 15th, 1966 would be his teams conceptual response to the ills of the inner cities and the sprawl of the megalopolis: the Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow or, as it became known, EPCOT. This beautifully written, instantly engrossing volume focuses on the original concept of EPCOT, which was conceived by Disney as an experimental community of about 20,000 people on the Disney World property in central Florida. With its radial plan, 50-acre town center enclosed by a dome, themed international shopping area, greenbelt, high-density apartments, satellite communities, monorail and underground roads, the original EPCOT plan is reminiscent of post-war Stockholm and the British New Towns, as well as today's transit-oriented development theory. Unfortunately, Disney himself did not live long enough to witness the realization of his model city. However, EPCOT's evolution into projects such as the EPCOT Center and the town of Celebration displays a remarkable commitment by the Disney organization to the original EPCOT philosophy, one which continues to have relevance in the fields of planning and development.

"This is exactly the sort of research and writing about my father and his work that he deserves." --Diane Disney Miller"Disney's broader theme park vision ... did find its way into urban planning in the real world.... [His] vision fed into New Urbanism." --Esther Leslie, Oxford Journals"Rare combination of solid academic historical research and a 'great read' about one of the most fascinating people of our century." --Richard Peiser, Harvard University"The book is the first to reveal Walt Disney's deep personal concern for the urban 'crisis' of the time, and his effort to focus the creative genius of his design team on the condition of cities." --Gerald Gast, University of Oregon/Stanford University"A prescient insight into what Walt was thinking about.... [He] was deeply involved in trying to articulate EPCOT.... [This book is] the first definitive assessment of this context." --Harrison "Buzz" Price, original EPCOT team memberAbout the AuthorSteve Mannheim's professional background includes real estate economics, commercial development, real estate investment and finance, and public planning. He has also served as an adjunct instructor. Mannheim holds degrees in History and Urban Studies from Stanford University, Architecture and Urban Planning from the University of California, Los Angeles, and Urban Planning and Development from the University of Southern California.Walt Disney and the Quest for Community is the first, groundbreaking work on the subject of Walt Disney's experimental city. Mannheim combines archival research with fascinating original interviews with many of Walt's colleagues and family members. The book has won praise from academics, students, Disney fans and alumni, and professionals. Routledge released a new paperback edition in May 2017.