



The Top 100 Urban Thinkers

results of Planetizen's 2009 poll

The poll was active for one month, from August 7th to September 7th, 2009. We would never claim that this is a definitive list; voters were given free reign to submit and vote for whomever they liked. Our only caveat is that we cleared out a couple of submissions that were clearly in jest, such as "Jesus" (although I'm sure someone could make a legitimate argument for his influence on urban planning).



The other significant issue with this list that will surely be raised is the lack of women: only 9 out of the top 100 are female. This is countered somewhat by the impossibly wide lead by which Jane Jacobs takes the top spot. Those women who are included are an impressive crew, but of course, their are a significant number of women making a big difference in urban planning issues that aren't on the list.

The thinkers that are here are a fascinating bunch, ranging from planners of the past like Baron Haussmann, the civic planner that changed the face of Paris in the 19th century, to active thinkers of today like Scott Bernstein, President and Co-Founder of the Center for Neighborhood Technology. And to be honest, there were a handful of names that we didn't know. We hope that you'll also find a lot to chew on in these biographies, and we invite your comments.



As of now, we've only just begun filling in these biographies. Check back for more over the next month, and in another year, we'll start the poll up again and see who makes the cut.

For updates on our next poll, and for all the latest urban planning news, views, and jobs, sign up for the Planetizen Newswire, our twice-weekly news email.

Top Urban Thinkers

- 1: Jane Jacobs
- 2: Andrés Duany
- 3: Christopher Alexander
- 4: Frederick Law Olmsted
- 5: Kevin A. Lynch
- 6: Daniel Burnham
- 7: Lewis Mumford
- 8: Léon Krier
- 9: William H. Whyte
- 10: Jan Gehl
- 11: Nikos A. Salingaros
- 12: James Howard Kunstler
- 13: Ian McHarg
- 14: Enrique Peñalosa
- 15: Donald Shoup
- 16: David Harvey
- 17: Bill Hillier
- 18: Ebenezer Howard
- 19: Peter Calthorpe
- 20: Jaime Lerner
- 21: Pierre-Charles L'Enfant
- 22: Baron Georges-Eugène Haussmann
- 23: Robert Moses
- 24: Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk
- 25: Camillo Sitte
- 26: Le Corbusier
- 27: Scott Bernstein
- 28: Henri Lefebvre
- 29: Richard Florida
- 30: Manuel Castells
- 31: Bruce Katz
- 32: Janette Sadik-Khan
- 33: Robert J. Gibbs
- 34: Patrick Geddes
- 35: Dan Burden
- 36: Frederick Law Olmsted Jr.
- 37: Peter Hall
- 38: James Rouse
- 39: Kennedy Smith
- 40: Edmund Bacon
- 41: Mike Davis
- 42: F. Kaid Benfield
- 43: John Nolen
- 44: Ildefonso Cerdá Suñer
- 45: Stefanos Polyzoides
- 46: Fred Kent
- 47: Earl Blumenauer
- 48: Thomas Jefferson
- 49: Carol Coletta
- 50: Richard Sennett
- 51: Edward Glaeser
- 52: Allan Jacobs
- 53: Christopher B. Leinberger
- 54: Frank Lloyd Wright
- 55: Norman Krumholz
- 56: Saskia Sassen
- 57: Donald Appleyard
- 58: Walter Benjamin
- 59: Walt Disney
- 60: Buckminster Fuller
- 61: James Rojas
- 62: Henry George
- 63: Wendell Berry
- 64: Roberta Brandes Gratz
- 65: Rem Koolhaas
- 66: John Gilderbloom
- 67: Walter Kulash
- 68: Donovan Rypkema
- 69: Herbert J. Gans
- 70: Harvey Molotch
- 71: Charles, Prince of Wales
- 72: Jacob Riis
- 73: Peter M. Haas
- 74: John Friedmann
- 75: Paul Davidoff
- 76: Sir Raymond Unwin
- 77: Richard M. Daley
- 78: Julianne Hanson
- 79: Vitruvius
- 80: Ernest Burgess
- 81: Richard Rogers
- 82: Colin Rowe
- 83: William Penn
- 84: Emily Talen
- 85: Guy Debord
- 86: Myron Orfield
- 87: Paolo Soleri
- 88: Anthony Downs
- 89: Larry R. Ford
- 90: William McDonough
- 91: Reid Ewing
- 92: William Levitt
- 93: Joel Garreau
- 94: Paul Crawford
- 95: Saverio Muratori
- 96: Timothy Beatley
- 97: Georg Simmel
- 98: John Norquist
- 99: William Fulton
- 100: Henry Ford