

Cities and Planning

Perspectives on Urban Design

Hyungun Sung, Sugie Lee, and SangHyun Cheon, 2015. Operationalizing Jane Jacobs's Urban Design Theory: Empirical Verification from the Great City of Seoul, Korea. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 35(2) 117–130.

Michael Mehaffy, 2011. The Power of Jane Jacobs' "Web Way of Thinking," www.planetizen.com/node/53128

Jane Jacobs's *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* was one of the first books to criticize the dominant planning paradigm of the latter half of the twentieth century, which primarily consisted of large-scale redevelopment and highway construction

She argued that these forms of development were the primary culprits in the loss of a vital urban life that many cities had experienced



Jacobs noted that if planners wanted to maintain a vital urban life, they should pursue gradual, small-scale, voluntary civil efforts instead of large-scale, capital-supported redevelopment projects

She insisted that to restore, maintain, or promote a vital urban life in large cities, the physical environment should be characterized by diversity at both the district and street levels

Diversity in this sense required four essential conditions:

- 1) mixed land uses,
- 2) small blocks,
- 3) buildings from many different eras, and
- 4) sufficient building densities

