



BOOK 1: THE INTERCULTURAL CITY READER edited by Phil Wood

Throughout history great cities have attracted people in all their variety, searching for a better life. This diversity in turn has provided a source new thinking, energy, inventiveness and wealth, which have driven the cities to even greater heights.

Or so the theory goes.

But if diversity really is such a boon for cities, do we really understand how it translates into economic growth and community good. How does difference and convergent thinking lead to urban innovation? What are the processes and who are the key actors and how can they be better understood and planned for? How can cities balance the innovative potential of diversity with the needs to create cohesion and common purpose? And how can we move beyond the idea of urban diversity as exotica and into a pragmatic appraisal of intercultural exchange as a resource and an asset?

Gathering together 30 texts from an eclectic selection of sources, this Reader brings an unprecedented multiplicity of perspectives on this important issues. Works by major urbanists such as Jane Jacobs, Peter Hall, Richard Florida and Leonie Sandercock sit alongside texts from the fields of economics and innovation, anthropology and cultural studies, management and communication as well as polemics from all sides of the debate on national identity, immigration and hybridity.

ISBN 1 873667 92 2 - (2004) - 372 pages - £15.00

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