

## Reading Tips and Study Questions: Session 12

### Required reading:

1. Bruce Katz and Andy Altman, "An urban renaissance in a suburban nation," *Ford Foundation Report* (Spring/summer 2005), pp.32-33.  
[http://www.fordfound.org/publications/ff\\_report/view\\_ff\\_report\\_detail.cfm?report\\_index=575](http://www.fordfound.org/publications/ff_report/view_ff_report_detail.cfm?report_index=575)
2. John Logan and Harvey Molotch, pp.1-4, 50-98 in *Urban Fortunes: The Political Economy of Place* (Berkeley: University of California, 1987).
3. "The Anacostia Waterfront Initiative Framework Plan." Planning brochure, The Anacostia Waterfront Initiative, Washington, DC (2003).  
[http://planning.dc.gov/planning/cwp/view,a,1285,q,582200,planningNav\\_GID,1708.asp](http://planning.dc.gov/planning/cwp/view,a,1285,q,582200,planningNav_GID,1708.asp)
4. Fred Bernstein, "Revitalizing the banks of Washington's 'Forgotten River,'" *The New York Times* (March 27, 2005).
5. Hedgpeth, Dana, "Altman's Departure Has Developers Sighing," *Washington Post* (October 10, 2005).
6. Gillette, Howard, pp. 2-3, 151-169 *Between Justice and Beauty: Race, Planning, and the Failure of Urban Policy in Washington, D.C.* (Baltimore : Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995).
7. Photographs of Anacostia

### Tips and questions

DUSP programs best highlighted in this case: HCED, CDD, EPG.

This first session of the case will introduce it via lecture by Andy Altman (MCP '88), who was, until he stepped down last week, Director of the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation and former planning director for Washington, DC. The session will familiarize you with the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative and the historical context of comprehensive planning in the nation's capital. The second session will offer a counterpoint, with alternative narratives and challenging gaps in the Initiative that the city's political leadership, residents, businesses, and civic groups must somehow bridge. As usual, our assignment will revolve around both the positive potential and the gaps or dilemmas.

*Case background.* As we saw in the case of Narmada, large-scale redevelopment unavoidably poses large risks and large potential rewards, as well as difficult

questions about whether development can be achieved with some measure of social, economic, and political equity. The Anacostia Waterfront Initiative is an ongoing experiment in these questions. It proposes to transform the most neglected area of the U.S. capital city into a vibrant, mixed use, mixed income and racially diverse waterfront community—a place that is both an engine of growth and a model of livability. The project faces several dilemmas on which we will focus: How to be comprehensive in development planning when political and managerial factors, as well as some aspects of economic self-interest, tug constantly in the direction of incrementalism and fragmentation; how to promote “equitable development” within the bruising and unequal “growth machine” that cities can become, especially in market-driven societies; and—as we saw in the public housing case—how to leverage the power and also address the limits of physical design, or “placemaking,” as a tool for creating the good society.

1. **Katz and Altman** provide a brief case for “comeback cities.” Be sure you’re clear on which forces, according to the authors, are driving revitalization now. **Logan and Molotch** describe city development through the lens of a “growth machine,” in which the various forces that compose local power structures battle about the form of city growth without challenging that such growth should occur. Does the local government have a responsibility to foster the market growth of a city? Have other forces successfully entered local power structures, and what values do they represent?
2. Based on the planning brochure and **Bernstein** and **Hedgpeth** articles, what institutional forces form the basis for the **Anacostia Waterfront Initiative (AWI)**, and how do they compare to the forces highlighted by Logan and Molotch? What aspects of the AWI plan seem most aimed at ensuring social and economic equity in the process of revitalization? In what ways can physical design and land use promote such equity?
3. Historical context: Who had influence in the redevelopment of Southwest DC, according to **Gillette**? Does it seem possible to provide equitable development through a top-down approach? Both the redevelopment of Southwest DC (decades ago) and the Anacostia Waterfront (now) are examples of comprehensive planning. The redeveloped section of Southwest is now a stable, mixed-income community. Does that mean we should consider the redevelopment plan a success?