

Editorial

In the search for a clarification of the legitimate boundaries of the professional's sphere of expertise, is an underlying conviction that the profession could and indeed should, within the ambit of the accepted holistic view of planning, be concerned with social form and norms. As planning does not occur in a vacuum it is clear that societal issues are an integral part of environmental planning. The "Generalist/Specialist" dichotomy can be explained to an extent by what can be regarded as a degree of 'diffusion' taking place in our traditional rôle in society: a rôle which previously placed great store on resolving problems in terms of the physical attributes of Space and Place. However, change and the scale and rate of change have necessitated a strengthening of the third component of the planner's rôle, namely the study of Process.

Knowledge of how social institutions function, the decision making process, organizational structures and management systems, is an integral part of the planning process – as these provide the means through which planning action is realized.

Whatever one's preferences or predilections the diffusion of the traditional rôle of planning is inevitable: as the profession shifts its perspectives in accordance with changing social needs. Whatever stance we may adopt as individuals it should be remembered that unless we are good at our job we are of no use to anybody.

C. TOD WELCH

Redaksioneel

In die soeke om duidelikheid te verkry oor die ware grense van die professionele beroepsterrein, is 'n onderliggende oortuiging dat, binne die raamwerk van die aanvaarde holistiese beskouing, die beroep met maatskaplike stelsels en standarde kan, en inderdaad behoort, gemoeid te wees. Aangesien beplanning nie in 'n lugleegte geskied nie, is dit duidelik dat gemeenskapsake 'n onafskeidbare deel van omgewingsbeplanning uitmaak. Die "Algemeen/Gespesialiseerde" tweeledigheid kan tot 'n mate verklaar word as 'n soort 'diffusie' wat in ons tradisionele rol in die samelewing plaasvind: 'n rol waar voorheen groot waarde geheg is aan die oplossing van probleme volgens die fisiese bepalings van Ruimte en Plek. Verandering, en die skaal en tempo van verandering, noodsaak egter die verstewiging van die derde komponent in die rol van die beplanner, naamlik die studie van Proses.

Kennis oor die funksionering van sosiale instellings, die besluitnemingsproses, organisatoriese strukture en bestuurstelsels, is 'n integrale deel van die beplanningsproses, aangesien dit die middele verskaf waardeur beplanningsaksie tot stand kom.

Wat 'n mens se voorkeure of vooroordele ook al mag wees, is die diffusie in die tradisionele rol van beplanning onvermydelik, aangesien die beroep se perspektiewe saam met veranderende sosiale behoeftes verskuif. Watter standpunt ons ook al as individue mag huldig, behoort dit altyd in gedagte gehou te word, dat, tensy ons knap in ons werk is, ons vir niemand van enige nut is nie.

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