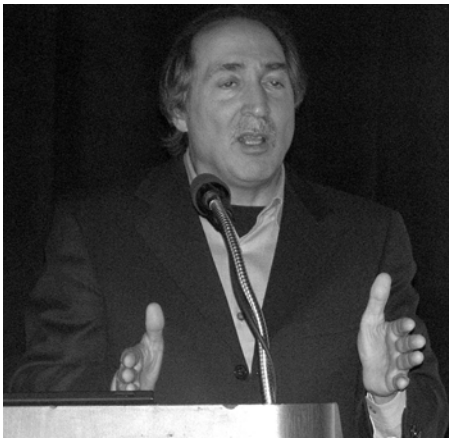


Communities By Design, a
nonprofit 501c(3) training and education
organization, in cooperation with the
City of Redwood City,
is pleased to present:

The Forum *at Redwood City*

A CONTINUING CONVERSATION ON CITY DESIGN



New Year's Resolution: **Building a Healthy & Inclusive City**

2007-08 SEASON: FORUM #4
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2008
HISTORIC LOBBY OF THE FOX THEATRE
2215 BROADWAY
REDWOOD CITY
6:00 P.M. - 7:45 P.M.

On January 2, 2008, the City of Redwood City and the nonprofit "Communities by Design" held the fourth presentation of the 2007-2008 Forum season. The Forum featured a presentation by **Daniel Iacofano, Ph.D., FAICP**, Principal of Moore Iacofano Goltsman, Inc. (MIG), on "New Year's Resolution: Building a Healthy & Inclusive City."

Mr. Iacofano began his presentation by talking about what it takes to become a great city and how our cities and regions are currently established. Successful cities have to attract and retain creative people, innovators, and intellectual capital. Globalism forces cities to compete for ideas and human capital with other cities around the world. Our American cities have, in effect, become mega-regions and mega-economies.

"Physical development - coupled with economic, social, and cultural development - creates inclusive cities."

-Daniel Iacofano

Using the example of the southeast mega-region that encompasses New Orleans, he mentioned how New Orleans has fallen short of achieving inclusive city objectives. The destruction and aftermath of Hurricane Katrina exposed the harsh realities of the cities' failures to adequately serve the poor and most vulnerable. Mr. Iacofano said that while our cities have brought about great innovations, we haven't included everybody in the process, and there are those whose needs are still not being met. Planners and designers – and city leaders - need to think beyond conventional planning strategies to truly create cities that are functional for everybody.

Mr. Iacofano went on to review city planning history, touching on influential concepts, projects, and legislative acts that shaped American cities and city planning. He discussed the shifts in thought relating to urban planning and architecture, and ended with the revival of urban design concepts and The New Urbanism movement.

Mr. Iacofano critiqued New Urbanism and form-based planning for not doing enough to appeal to all cultural and income groups, and for falling short of true inclusive design. Physically, there are well-designed and attractive projects in many communities. But all too often, many of these projects do not connect to the community in which they are located. Projects still are usually designed around the automobile, with poor pedestrian and transit connections. The housing is usually expensive, and the people who live there usually do not work there. The shopping is usually expensive and does not meet the day-to-day needs of the community.

Mr. Iacofano presented the example of “Legacy Village,” a retail complex in Lyndhurst, Ohio, as an example of development that fell short of truly serving the community. The design for the retail center claimed to be designed around New Urbanist principles, but nevertheless was surrounded by a sea of parking, included shops that did not serve the daily needs of the community, and competed with another retail center across the street from it. Thus, Mr. Iacofano argued, physical form, or even a superficial adherence to New Urbanist principles, is not enough to result in inclusive cities.

Mr. Iacofano mentioned the recent riots in Paris as a consequence of a city – even a great city such as Paris - not adequately meeting the needs of all of its residents. As city designers trying to create more inclusive cities, we need to acknowledge these conflicts and both consider and address other dimensions such as lack of adequate health care, lack of quality affordable housing, lack of economic and educational opportunities, crime and violence, pedestrian and bicycle safety, and global warming.

Relating the needs of people to their urban environment, Mr. Iacofano argued that you can create inclusive cities by providing something for everybody. Healthy human habitats need to be designed to meet human needs for physical comfort and safety, community and connections, stimulation and discovery, fun and joy, and meaning. The physical environment should address basic ecological requirements for sustenance, diversity, adaptability, complexity, range, and connectivity.

According to Mr. Iacofano, we need to ensure that our cities provide:

- *Economic Development* – Opportunities for everyone to participate fully in the economy of the city, with access to a variety of quality jobs;
- *Housing and Neighborhoods* – Safe neighborhoods with a range of housing types and price levels to accommodate diverse socio-economic backgrounds and lifestyle choices;
- *Education* – Full access to quality education choices;
- *Access and Mobility* – Viable, multi-modal and interconnected public transit systems;

- *Habitat Protection and a Safe Public Realm* – Connected, safe, functional and green communities;
- *Community Facilities and Gathering Spaces* – Well-maintained and usable open space;
- *Cultural Meaning* – Spaces and places to create and display social and cultural rituals and symbols that have meaning for all residents.

According to Mr. Iacofano, inclusive design projects must meet three criteria: functionality, context sensitivity, and equitable impact. Designs must fulfill functional needs, emerge from the context of the community, and mitigate their own impacts. Through many examples, Mr. Iacofano showed how these inclusive design criteria can be applied to create places that meet the needs of its inhabitants.

“The child is the indicator of success of the inclusive city.”

-Daniel Iacofano

In Davis, CA, Central Park is a community space that demonstrates inclusive design by providing something for all ages, including an adult-powered carousel, farmer’s market, horseshoe pits, open lawn area, interactive fountain, and teen center. The Fruitvale BART station in Oakland, CA, provides people with services and facilities they really need, accommodates bicycle parking, and is designed at a scale people can relate to. Pioneer Square in Portland, OR, allows for multiple modes of transportation with light rail, reduced vehicular speeds, and the elimination of curbs to facilitate pedestrian crossing. Mr. Iacofano went on to discuss other projects in Denver, Boston, Spokane, Crockett, Berkeley, and Washington DC that exemplified inclusive design.

In conclusion, Mr. Iacofano advised city planners to go beyond physical design to create inclusive cities. Discrimination, poverty, and restrictions that keep people from participating, need to be addressed, as do solutions that provide equitable access to food and transportation such as farmers markets and public transportation.