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Walkable City: How Downtown Can Save America, One Step at ...

Walkable City is an energetic, feisty book, one that never contents itself with polite generalities. Sometimes breezy and anecdotal yet always logical and amply researched, this is one of the best books to appear this year. Speck deserves the widest possible readership. --Philip Langdon, Better! Cities & Towns.

Walkable City: How Downtown Can Save America, One Step at ...

I can't help but think of this book now when I walk downtown or when I speed down horrifyingly designed streets. I think my favorite This book outlines ten steps to making a city more walkable, and what it so fascinating is that many of the principles and their side effects are the opposite of what you would think.

Walkable City: How Downtown Can Save America, One Step at ...

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Making downtown into a walkable, viable community is the essential fix for the. typical American city; it is eminently achievable and its benefits are manifold. Walk-able City—bursting with sharp observations and key insights into how urban change. happens—lays out a practical, necessary, and inspiring vision for how to make American

Walkable City: How Downtown Can Save America, One Step at ...

Jeff Speck ' s new book, Walkable City: How Downtown Can Save America, One Step at a Time, is worth a read for its acerbic wit, alone. The author fits a remarkable collection of data and anecdotal evidence from his long career in urban design (which included a four-year stint at the helm of the National Endowment for the Arts ' design department) into a mere 260 pages while maintaining a tone that is both punchy and urgent.

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EARNER Walkable City: How Downtown Can Save America, One Step at a Time (Audio Download):

Amazon.co.uk: Jeff Speck, Jeff Speck, Audible Studios: Books

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In this job, I helped run a program called the Mayors' Institute on City Design, which puts city leaders together with designers for intensive planning sessions.

Walkable City : NPR

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Walkable City: How Downtown Can Save America, One Step at a Time Audible Audiobook – Unabridged Jeff Speck (Author, Narrator), Audible Studios (Publisher) 4.7 out of 5 stars 298 ratings See all formats and editions

Presents a plan for American cities that focuses on making downtowns walkable and less attractive to drivers through smart growth and sustainable design.

Jeff Speck has dedicated his career to determining what makes cities thrive. And he has boiled it down to one key factor: walkability. The very idea of a modern metropolis evokes visions of bustling sidewalks, vital mass transit, and a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly urban core. But in the typical American city, the car is still king, and downtown is a place that's easy to drive to but often not worth arriving at. Making walkability happen is relatively easy and cheap; seeing exactly what needs to be done is the trick. In this essential new book, Speck reveals the invisible workings of the city, how simple decisions have cascading effects, and how we can all make the right choices for our communities. Bursting with sharp observations and real-world examples, giving key insight into what urban planners actually do and how places can and do change, Walkable City

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lays out a practical, necessary, and eminently achievable vision of how to make our normal American cities great again.

Presents a plan for making American cities work that focuses on making downtowns walkable and less attractive to drivers through smart growth and sustainable design.

Looks at how the architectural evolution of four major cities changed the lives of ordinary citizens, examines the influence of George Haussman and Jane Jacobs on city planning, and explores current ideas for transforming cities into friendly environments for pedestrians.

Examines how cities of various sizes on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean are making walkability improvements a part of their overall urban revitalization strategy. Walkable precincts have become an important component of urban revitalization on both sides of the Atlantic. In *Walkable Cities*, Carlos J. L. Balsas examines a range of city scales and geographic settings on three continents, focusing on the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal), Latin America (Brazil and Mexico), and the United States (Phoenix and New York City). He explains how this “pedestrianization of Main Street” approach to central locations (downtowns and midtowns) has contributed to strengthening various urban functions, such as urban vitality, pedestrian and bicyclist safety, tourism, and more. However, it has also put pressure on less affluent, peripheral, and fragile areas due to higher levels of consumption and waste generation. Balsas calls attention to the need to base urban revitalization interventions on more spatially and socially just interventions coupled with sustainable consumption practices that do not necessarily entail high growth levels, but instead aim to improve the quality of city life. Carlos J. L. Balsas is Assistant Professor of Urban Planning at the

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University at Albany, State University of New York.

Everyone is calling for smart growth...but what exactly is it? In *The Smart Growth Manual*, two leading city planners provide a thorough answer. From the expanse of the metropolis to the detail of the window box, they address the pressing challenges of urban development with easy-to-follow advice and broad array of best practices. With their landmark book *Suburban Nation*, Andres Duany and Jeff Speck "set forth more clearly than anyone has done in our time the elements of good town planning" (*The New Yorker*). With this long-awaited companion volume, the authors have organized the latest contributions of new urbanism, green design, and healthy communities into a comprehensive handbook, fully illustrated with the built work of the nation's leading practitioners. "The *Smart Growth Manual* is an indispensable guide to city planning. This kind of progressive development is the only way to fully restore our economic strength and create new jobs, new industries, and a renewed ability to compete in the first rank of world economies." -- Gavin Newsom, Mayor of San Francisco "Authors Andres Duany, Jeff Speck, and Mike Lydon have created *The Smart Growth Manual*, a resource which not only explains the overarching ideals of smart growth, but a manual that takes the time to show smart growth principles at each geographic scale (region, neighborhood, street, building). I highly recommend [it] as a part of any community participant's or urban planner's desktop references." -- LocalPlan.org Planetizen Top 10 Books – 2010 On the ninth annual list of the ten best books in urban planning, design and development: "The goal of *The Smart Growth Manual* is clear from page 1: to create a guidebook for smart growth following the pattern of the Charter for New Urbanism. Duany, Speck and Lydon have achieved that in spades (the Charter is included in the appendix, in case we missed the connection). It even clears up some of the architectural arguments that attach themselves to New Urbanists, such as this segment of Section 14.1, Regional Design; 'While new buildings should not be compelled to

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mimic their historic predecessors, designers should pay attention to local practices regarding materials and colors, roof pitches, eave lengths, window-to-wall ratios, and the socially significant relationship of buildings to their site and the street; these have usually evolved in intelligent response to local conditions.' In addition to making the old 'traditional vs. modern' argument irrelevant, Duany, Speck and Lydon have truly managed to boil down the best parts of current practices into a highly readable, portable book."

For more than forty years Jan Gehl has helped to transform urban environments around the world based on his research into the ways people actually use—or could use—the spaces where they live and work. In this revolutionary book, Gehl presents his latest work creating (or recreating) cityscapes on a human scale. He clearly explains the methods and tools he uses to reconfigure unworkable cityscapes into the landscapes he believes they should be: cities for people. Taking into account changing demographics and changing lifestyles, Gehl emphasizes four human issues that he sees as essential to successful city planning. He explains how to develop cities that are Lively, Safe, Sustainable, and Healthy. Focusing on these issues leads Gehl to think of even the largest city on a very small scale. For Gehl, the urban landscape must be considered through the five human senses and experienced at the speed of walking rather than at the speed of riding in a car or bus or train. This small-scale view, he argues, is too frequently neglected in contemporary projects. In a final chapter, Gehl makes a plea for city planning on a human scale in the fast-growing cities of developing countries. A “ Toolbox, ” presenting key principles, overviews of methods, and keyword lists, concludes the book. The book is extensively illustrated with over 700 photos and drawings of examples from Gehl ’ s work around the globe.

Thirty years after its publication, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* was described by *The New*

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York Times as "perhaps the most influential single work in the history of town planning....[It] can also be seen in a much larger context. It is first of all a work of literature; the descriptions of street life as a kind of ballet and the biting satiric account of traditional planning theory can still be read for pleasure even by those who long ago absorbed and appropriated the book's arguments." Jane Jacobs, an editor and writer on architecture in New York City in the early sixties, argued that urban diversity and vitality were being destroyed by powerful architects and city planners. Rigorous, sane, and delightfully epigrammatic, Jacobs's small masterpiece is a blueprint for the humanistic management of cities. It is sensible, knowledgeable, readable, indispensable. The author has written a new foreword for this Modern Library edition.

As seen on The Fine Living Channel's, Radical Sabbaticle TV program. The delightfully refreshing true story of one mans walk across America. The book tells of his adventures along the way, as well as reviews some of the historical sights he passes.

Reading is a revolutionary act, an act of engagement in a culture that wants us to disengage. In *The Lost Art of Reading*, David L. Ulin asks a number of timely questions - why is literature important? What does it offer, especially now? Blending commentary with memoir, Ulin addresses the importance of the simple act of reading in an increasingly digital culture. Reading a book, flipping through hard pages, or shuffling them on screen - it doesn't matter. The key is the act of reading, and it's seriousness and depth. Ulin emphasizes the importance of reflection and pause allowed by stopping to read a book, and the accompanying focus required to let the mind run free in a world that is not one's own. Are we willing to risk our collective interest in contemplation, nuanced thinking, and empathy? Far from preaching to the choir, *The Lost Art of Reading* is a call to arms, or rather, to pages.

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