

New Urbanism

Architecture

A 1980s return to traditional town form, and the criticism it draws.

It proposes

- Walkable neighbourhoods, mixed uses
- A defined centre and clear edge
- Streets as public space, not conduits
- Building form coded, not use zoned
- The transect: rural to urban gradient

It is criticised for

- Building greenfield suburbs in practice
- Nostalgic and prescriptive aesthetics
- Producing expensive, exclusive places
- Coding form while ignoring who can afford it

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

The Charter of the New Urbanism dates from 1996; Seaside, Florida, from 1981, is the first built demonstration.

The diagnosis of sprawl is widely accepted. The remedy, and especially its aesthetics, remains genuinely contested.