



Stefanos Polyzoides

Stefanos Polyzoides received his Bachelor and Masters in Architecture from Princeton University. From 1983 through 1990 he was on the Advisory Board for the School of Architecture at Princeton. From 1973 until 1997, he was Associate Professor of Architecture at USC and has been Visiting Professor at several prestigious schools of architecture. He is also the author of two books, *Los Angeles Courtyard Housing: A Typological Analysis* and *R.M. Schindler, Architect*.

Mr. Polyzoides prominent career covers many areas of architectural and urban design theory and practice. Besides being one of the co-authors of the Ahwahnee Principles and co-founder of the Congress for the New Urbanism (www.cnu.org), he founded Moule & Polyzoides, Architects and Urbanists in 1982 through which he has led town-planning projects from New Jersey to Texas and from Guatemala to Dubai. He has been acknowledged for his work as a *Seaside Award* recipient, the nation's most prestigious award in the field of urbanism. Current projects include master plans for downtowns in Santa Ana, Whittier, Ventura and Newhall. Following the ravages of hurricane Katrina in Mississippi, Mr. Polyzoides was asked by Governor Haley Barbour to participate in a national charrette to provide emergency urban design and planning services to the communities that were devastated and to lead the reconstruction efforts of Biloxi.

Charter of the Congress for the New Urbanism

The following are excerpts from the Charter of the Congress for the New Urbanism. CNU members ratified the Charter of the New Urbanism at CNU's fourth annual Congress in 1996. Applying valuable lessons from the past to the modern world, it outlines principles for building better communities, from the scale of the region down to the block. To view the entire Charter visit cnu.org

The Congress for the New Urbanism views disinvestment in central cities, the spread of placeless sprawl, increasing separation by race and income, environmental deterioration, loss of agricultural lands and wilderness, and the erosion of society's built heritage as one interrelated community-building challenge.

We stand for the restoration of existing urban centers and towns...the reconfiguration of sprawling suburbs into communities of real neighborhoods and diverse districts, the conservation of natural environments, and the preservation of our built legacy.

We recognize that physical solutions by themselves will not solve social and economic problems, but neither can economic vitality, community stability, and environmental health be sustained without a coherent and supportive physical framework.

We advocate the restructuring of public policy and development practices to support the following principles: neighborhoods should be diverse in use and population; communities should be designed for the pedestrian and transit as well as the car; cities and towns should be shaped by physically defined and universally accessible public spaces and community institutions; urban places should be framed by architecture and landscape design that celebrate local history, climate, ecology, and building practice.

We are committed to reestablishing the relationship between the art of building and the making of community, through citizen-based participatory planning and design.

We dedicate ourselves to reclaiming our homes, blocks, streets, parks, neighborhoods, districts, towns, cities, regions, and environment...Many activities of daily living should occur within walking distance, allowing independence to those who do not drive, especially the elderly and the young. Interconnected networks of streets should be designed to encourage walking, reduce the number and length of automobile trips, and conserve energy.

Within neighborhoods, a broad range of housing types and price levels can bring people of diverse ages, races, and incomes into daily interaction, strengthening the personal and civic bonds essential to an authentic community...