

## "Urban Design As a Collaborative Process: Making Communities More Livable "

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Community design has been defined by AIA President John Anderson, as design that takes into account and deliberately reflects the aspirations and goals of a community. Thus defined, "design" becomes a perspective from which to approach community livability. How then, can we work through design to approach the challenges and problems of creating livable communities, and discover opportunities for improving the quality of life in them?

Formerly Dean of the College of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Washington, and the Graduate School of Fine Arts at the University of Pennsylvania, Lee Copeland has been active in advancing the level of design for academic and civic facilities through private practice and his public and academic involvement. In recognition of his leadership and achievements nationally, Lee received the AIA Seattle medal in 2000 and the 2001 Topaz Medallion awards by the American Institute of Architects and Associations of Collegiate Schools of Education.

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## About the Northwest Center for Livable Communities...

Recognizing a fundamental web linking people's quality of life to ecology, long-term economic vitality and affordable housing, social vibrancy, diverse transportation options, and a coherent and integrated built environment, the Northwest Center for Livable Communities seeks to promote awareness of these connections and affect the creation of more livable communities through applied research and community initiatives.

Some of the projects underway in the Northwest Center include:

- Developing a resource bank of information on livable communities, including books, research papers, case studies, and articles.
- Making available tools and best practices used and developed by design and planning professionals.
- Developing a neighborhood scale set of indicators with which to evaluate community livability.
- Organizing conferences, colloquia, and symposia to bring together academics, political leaders, planning professionals, and the public to promote dialogue on livable communities as well as shape policy towards enhancing livability in the Northwest.

The Northwest Center for Livable Communities is housed in the **Department of Urban Design and Planning** in **College of Architecture and Urban Planning** at the **University of Washington**. The Center is co-directed by Professors Hilda Blanco and Fritz Wagner.

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