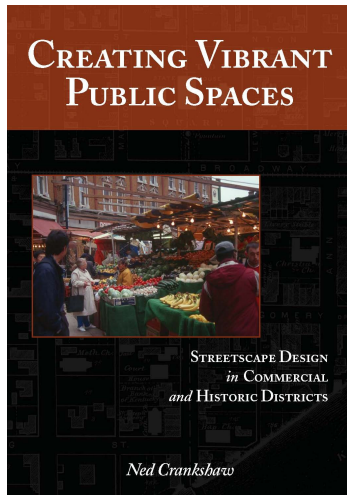




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PRESS RELEASE

Creating Vibrant Public Spaces

Streetscape Design in Commercial and Historic Districts

By Ned Crankshaw

“This is truly a book for these times. Crankshaw’s approach, recognizing and relishing each building, storefront, sidewalk, park or square space as an individual expression of the local people, opens the door to a new sustainability.” –Fred Kent, president, Project for Public Spaces.

(WASHINGTON, OCTOBER)—Restoring elements of historic districts and enhancing public spaces help cities become more accessible, dynamic and sustainable. In *Creating Vibrant Public Spaces: Streetscape Design in Commercial and Historic Districts* (published September 30, 2008 by Island Press, cloth: \$70.00, ISBN: 9781597264822, paper: \$35.00, ISBN: 9781597264839), author Ned Crankshaw looks at the ways that historic urban centers can be revitalized in order to build more attractive, livable towns and cities.

“Streetscape design can be trivialized as a decorative effort, but it is the design of the system that connects people and places and in fact creates many of the places that make a town memorable,” writes Crankshaw.

With clear examples and explanations enhanced by photos, Crankshaw describes the history of planning for urban centers, showing how aspects such as green spaces and pedestrian walkways became integrated into design. The book also provides guidelines on designing downtown elements such as pedestrian paths, parking, lighting, trees, and public art.

Crankshaw argues that design and planning efforts should focus on renewing authentic city centers in ways that are compatible with the city’s character and contemporary design—instead of on “compact town centers” located in the suburbs. Restoring these public spaces will help to restore the health and vibrancy of streets and public spaces by reducing commutes and building more cohesive communities.

Ned Crankshaw is an associate professor of landscape architecture at the University of Kentucky. He has written about streetscape design in historic commercial districts in numerous journals and magazines.

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