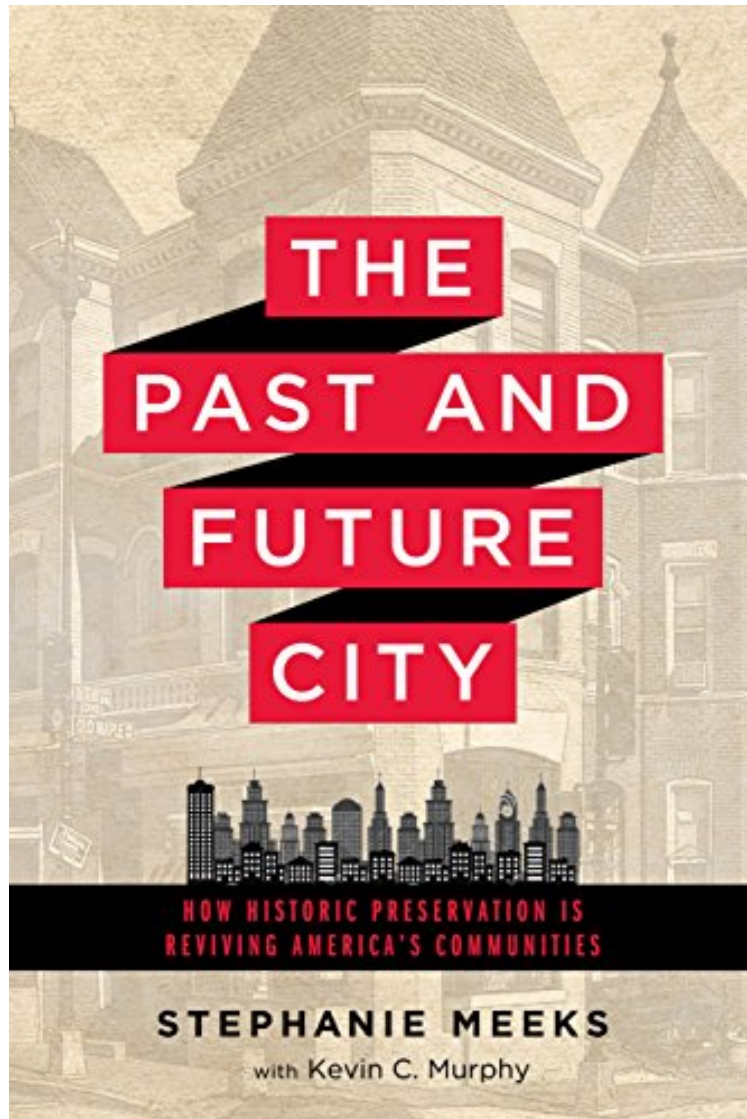


(Download) The Past and Future City: How Historic Preservation is Reviving America's Communities

The Past and Future City: How Historic Preservation is Reviving America's Communities

Stephanie Meeks, Kevin C. Murphy
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Stephanie Meeks, Kevin C. Murphy : The Past and Future City: How Historic Preservation is Reviving America's Communities before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Past and Future City: How Historic Preservation is Reviving America's Communities:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Historic preservation preserves stories, drives economies, and values the earth.By barefootmegHistoric preservation holds the seeds of renewal. By rehabilitating and restoring buildings that are already imbued with history, character, and a deep sense of place, a community can reinvigorate a flagging

economy, create a hub of pedestrian activity, reduce overall energy expenditures, and retain local dollars which in turn creates more jobs, more activity, and more of a sense of ownership throughout the community. Stephanie Meeks drills down into the overwhelmingly positive economic impacts that historic preservation and building reuse can have in American cities. She explains the energy savings that come from reusing an older building rather than scraping it and rebuilding with newly harvested materials. She also cautions preservationists to guard against ignoring cultural sites of value that lie outside the usual focus of rich, powerful, white guys. She encourages communities to involve neighborhoods and property owners at the grassroots level. And she wades headlong into the debate about whether historic preservation leads to gentrification and a loss of affordable housing. This is a very well rounded book that looks at historic preservation from multiple angles. It's rich with data points, real-world examples from across the United States, and encouragements for how preservationists should move forward. I highly recommend it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good ReadBy Customer Stephanie Meeks does a good job articulating the arguments for preserving historic buildings within our urban cores. Historic preservation is a critical component to growth within our cities and adaptive reuse of existing real estate is one of the most environmentally friendly endeavors to expand our housing stock. I applaud her book, though wish it focused more on the good economics related to the Historic Tax Credit. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This book belongs in every Historic Preservation Commissioner's library. ...By Nancy J Morton This book belongs in every Historic Preservation Commissioner's library. It is a contemporary reference for viable urban living today and tomorrow.

At its most basic, historic preservation is about keeping old places alive, in active use, and relevant to the needs of communities today. As cities across America experience a remarkable renaissance, and more and more young, diverse families choose to live, work, and play in historic neighborhoods, the promise and potential of using our older and historic buildings to revitalize our cities is stronger than ever. This urban resurgence is a national phenomenon, boosting cities from Cleveland to Buffalo and Portland to Pittsburgh. Experts offer a range of theories on what is driving the return to the city—;from the impact of the recent housing crisis to a desire to be socially engaged, live near work, and reduce automobile use. But there's also more to it. Time and again, when asked why they moved to the city, people talk about the desire to live somewhere distinctive, to be some place rather than no place. Often these distinguishing urban landmarks are exciting neighborhoods—;Miami boasts its Art Deco district, New Orleans the French Quarter. Sometimes, as in the case of Baltimore's historic rowhouses, the most distinguishing feature is the urban fabric itself. While many aspects of this urban resurgence are a cause for celebration, the changes have also brought to the forefront issues of access, affordable housing, inequality, sustainability, and how we should commemorate difficult history. This book speaks directly to all of these issues. In *The Past and Future City*, Stephanie Meeks, the president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, describes in detail, and with unique empirical research, the many ways that saving and restoring historic fabric can help a city create thriving neighborhoods, good jobs, and a vibrant economy. She explains the critical importance of preservation for all our communities, the ways the historic preservation field has evolved to embrace the challenges of the twenty-first century, and the innovative work being done in the preservation space now. This book is for anyone who cares about cities, places, and saving America's diverse stories, in a way that will bring us together and help us better understand our past, present, and future.

"With passion, conviction, and clarity, this book underlines the importance of celebrating all of America's rich and diverse history and makes a compelling case for preservation as the key urban planning tool of the twenty-first century. In Birmingham, we've seen firsthand how historic buildings rejuvenate neighborhoods. Here, Stephanie Meeks takes the case nationwide."