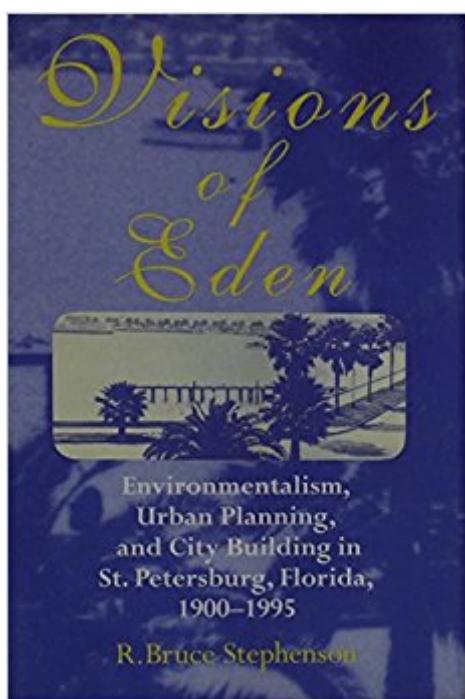


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# **VISIONS OF EDEN: ENVIRONMENTALISM, URBAN PLANNING, AND CIT (URBAN LIFE & URBAN LANDSCAPE)**



## **Synopsis**

Since the turn of the century, the opportunity to design a city nestled in a subtropical garden has attracted the nation's preeminent planners to St. Petersburg. The most ambitious plan was developed in 1923 by John Nolen, who believed that an interconnected system of preserves and parks would enhance the city's development and attract tourists for generations. His initiative failed miserably at the polls, however, because it threatened the conflicting notion of paradise held by hundreds of investors, who were profiting from the greatest real estate boom in the nation's history and feared that planning would curtail speculation. As Stephenson points out, a half century would pass until a series of ecological disasters in the 1970s finally compelled city officials to adopt an environmentally sound development plan that reflected Nolen's original vision. Stephenson carefully explores St. Petersburg's slow awakening to ecological responsibility - to the importance of designing a community that meets both human needs and economic demands. As the debate over the "New Urbanism" moves forward, this book will serve as a useful guide for those who will plan, build, and inhabit the cities of the twenty-first century.

## **Book Information**

Series: URBAN LIFE & URBAN LANDSCAPE

Paperback: 246 pages

Publisher: Ohio State University Press; 1 edition (April 1, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 081420726X

ISBN-13: 978-0814207260

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #658,029 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #106 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Public Affairs & Policy > Regional Planning #652 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Urban & Land Use Planning #709 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Public Affairs & Policy > City Planning & Urban Development

## **Customer Reviews**

I read this book for a college class. If you live in St. Petersburg or Pinellas county this is a must read. I also met Mr. Stephenson during a presentation. Very smart, friendly, and knowledgeable

man.

The book was hard to put down. An indepth history of what happened as people discovered sunny St. Petersburg and moved in. Greed reigned over sensible planning and now people are paying the price for uncontrolled growth and urban blight. Dr. Stephenson did excellent research and shows us that John Nolan was right. The people of St. Petersburg should have listened to him.

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