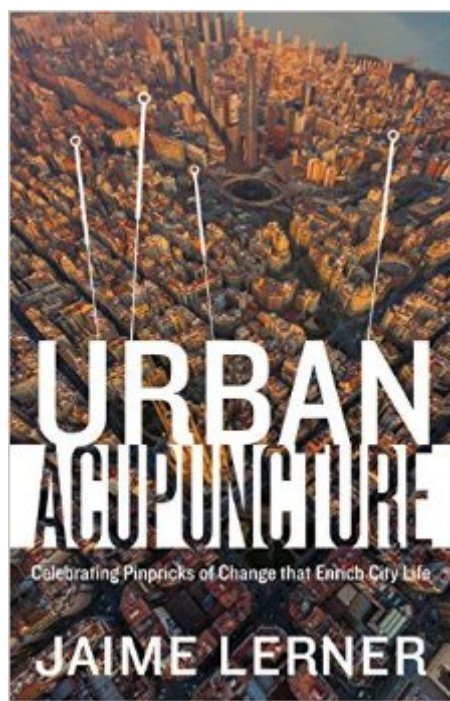


The book was found

Urban Acupuncture



Synopsis

During his three terms as mayor of Curitiba, Brazil in the 1970s and '80s, architect and urbanist Jaime Lerner transformed his city into a global model of the sustainable and livable community. From the pioneering Bus Rapid Transit system to parks designed to catch runoff and reduce flooding and the creation of pedestrian-only zones, Lerner has been the driving force behind a host of innovative urban projects. In more than forty years of work in cities around the globe, Lerner has found that changes to a community don't need to be large-scale and expensive to have a transformative impact—in fact, one block, park, or a single person can have an outsized effect on life in the surrounding city. In *Urban Acupuncture*, Lerner celebrates these "pinpricks" of urbanism—projects, people, and initiatives from around the world that ripple through their communities to uplift city life. With meditative and descriptive prose, Lerner brings readers around the world to streets and neighborhoods where urban acupuncture has been practiced best, from the bustling La Boqueria market in Barcelona to the revitalization of the Cheonggyecheon River in Seoul, South Korea. Through this journey, Lerner invites us to re-examine the true building blocks of vibrant communities—the tree-lined avenues, night vendors, and songs and traditions that connect us to our cities and to one another. *Urban Acupuncture* is the first of Jaime Lerner's visionary work to be published in English. It is a love letter to the elements that make a street hum with life or a neighborhood feel like home, penned by one of the world's most successful advocates for sustainable and livable urbanism.

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Customer Reviews

I was surprised to see this book published in English, as I have read it Portuguese not too long ago. Jaime Lerner was the mayor of my city and the governor of my home state, Paraná. His administrations, especially as a mayor of Curitiba, where he was able to implement many of his ideas and gained international renown almost immediately. His mayorship was, and is to this very day, recognised as one of the bests in Brazil's recent history. It gave Curitiba an outlook that distinguishes it from the typical scenario of major Brazilian cities: utter chaos, to put it bluntly. He was not only a very innovative, but rather perceptive and agile. He was able to implement his solutions, which were, at times, surprisingly simple and intuitive, with a great political acumen. In Brazil, if you only have good ideas, but no political acumen, hardly ever will you be able to put them into practice. Lerner is today criticised, especially by the left-wing, on account of the way he did things in his administration, as well as because he may have not have given the proper attention to social aspect of the city. While this is truth in parts, it is easy to criticise him in hindsight. Today, one of the best known symbols of Curitiba, is a pedestrianised central street, which was done in a weekend, something rather hard to achieve in a democracy. I do not give much credit to most of these criticisms, because they miss the big picture of Brazilian politics. In some cases, Lerner was merely wise enough to pick the right people and put them in the right places, so there was a lot of cohesion in his administration, something which enabled him to implement his plans.

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