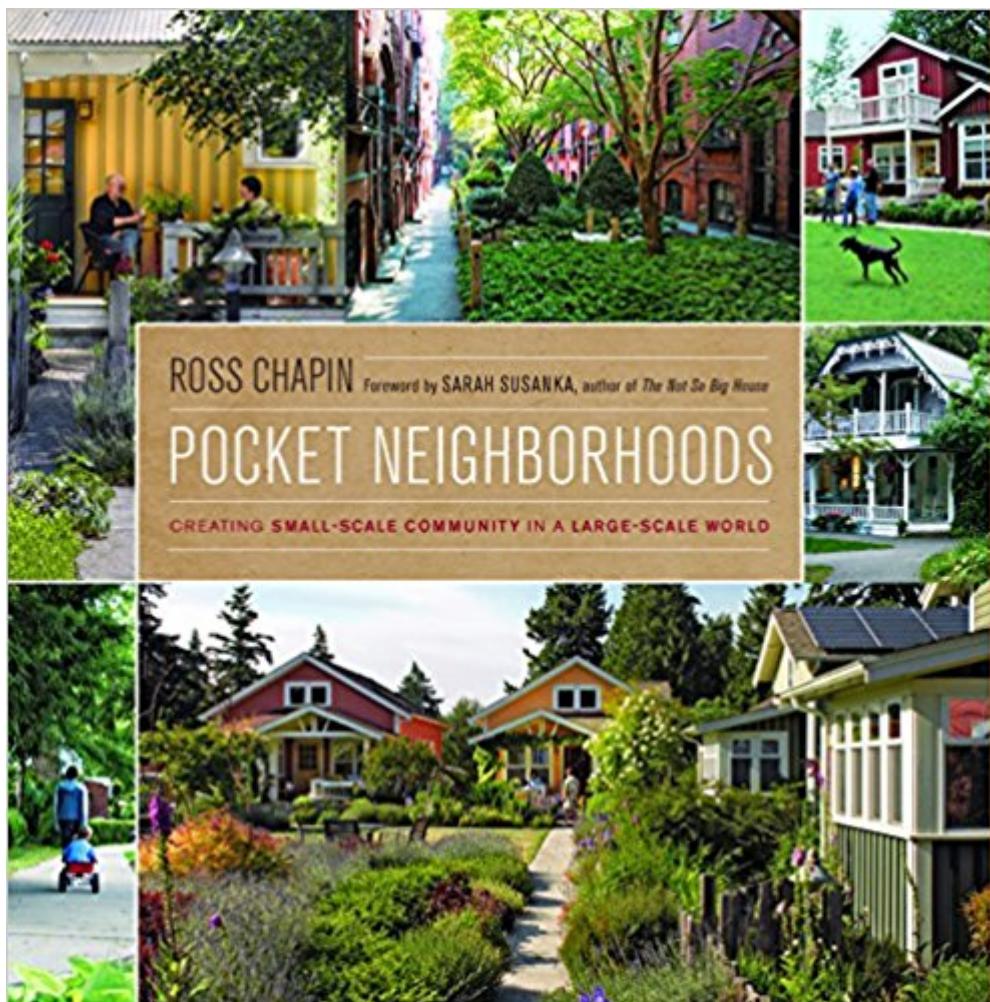


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Pocket Neighborhoods: Creating Small-Scale Community In A Large-Scale World



Synopsis

AA 2012 Nautilus Silver Award Winner "Pocket Neighborhoods: Creating Small Scale Community in a Large Scale World" introduces an antidote to faceless, placeless sprawl -- small scale neighborhoods where people can easily know one another, where empty nesters and single householders with far-flung families can find friendship or a helping hand nearby, and where children can have shirt-tail aunties and uncles just beyond their front gate. The book describes inspiring pocket neighborhoods through stories of the people who live there, as well as the progressive planners, innovative architects, pioneering developers, craftspeople and gardeners who helped create them. Sarah Susanka, author of the best selling "Not So Big House" series, wrote the Foreword to the book, placing pocket neighborhoods within context of the contemporary trends in housing and community. Ross Chapin begins the book by outlining the shifts in the scale of community and the American Dream over several generations, leading to super-sized houses in a sea of development, then describes a solution to help restore healthy, livable communities. The first section of the book looks at historic precedents of pocket neighborhoods, from 15th century hofje almshouses in the Netherlands, to a 19th century Methodists Camp Community on Martha's Vineyard, to early 20th century Garden City models and Southern California Cottage Courtyards. The second section covers a wide range of contemporary pocket neighborhoods, including New Urban communities, affordable housing, houseboat communities, eco-neighborhoods, and Ross Chapin Architects' own pocket neighborhood examples. The third section focuses on 'cohousing' communities, from Danish origins in the 1960s, to examples across America, Australia and New Zealand, including a chapter on senior cohousing. The fourth section looks at retrofitting pocket neighborhoods within existing communities. Throughout the book are series of "Design Keys" that highlight the essential principles of pocket neighborhood planning and design, and short stories about "Pocket Neighborhood Pioneers" who blazed new trails. The book is filled with rich photographs, drawings, illustrations and site plans, and a Resources section at the end provides leads for the reader to explore the topic in further detail.

Book Information

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Taunton Press (March 29, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 160085107X

ISBN-13: 978-1600851070

Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 1 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars (60 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #73,147 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Sustainability & Green Design #43 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Urban & Land Use Planning #84 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Buildings

Customer Reviews

Anyone who's looking for a way to live both simply and beautifully will love Ross Chapin's notions about creating community. If you've enjoyed the "Not So Big House" series, you'll also love this book.--SARAH SUSANKA, author of "The Not So Big House"Ross Chapin possesses a Christopher Alexander-like ability to show how all the pieces of a house and a neighborhood can fit together, composing a profoundly satisfying environment.

--PHILIP LANGDON, author, "A Better Place to Live: Reshaping the American Suburb," and editor of *New Urban News* The phrase "think globally, act locally" takes on new meaning in this book,

which shows what is possible when residents in close proximity share a commitment to community.

"Pocket Neighborhoods" includes an extensive list of resources and organizations related to urban design and eco-friendly neighborhoods, but this is not a how-to book. It is information and inspiration, a timely discussion as regions grapple with housing density and look for ways to build a

sense of community along with every new house, apartment and condo. --Jeffrey Head, LOS

LOS ANGELES TIMES This revolutionary book will change the way North Americans view new home developments and will help home buyers realize that community is often as important as the house. TORONTO STAR After decades of living large — mini-mansions in sprawling subdivisions

the size of cities—some Americans are retrenching and showing a new appreciation for small, cozy

and neighborly. Architect Ross Chapin has coined a term for these new compact communities: pocket neighborhoods. His new book -- "Pocket Neighborhoods, Creating Small-Scale Community

in a Large-Scale World -- documents a surprisingly broad array of such developments across the USA, from urban neighborhoods to suburban and rural areas.--USA TODAYSuperb and sublime -- Ross Chapin has described the future of neighborhood-making with his book, "Pocket

Neighborhoods." --CHARLES DURRETT, architect, author of "Cohousing: A Conte

Ross Chapin, AIA, is the principal of Ross Chapin Architects, located on Whidbey Island, north of Seattle. He has focused on "sensibly sized" custom residences, "pocket neighborhood" developments, and mixed-use projects since 1982. His partnerships with developers, city planners, and builders have created innovative housing and neighborhood prototypes that have received significant national attention and are shifting the way we think about our homes and communities. His projects have won numerous design awards, including the 2005, 2007, and 2009 AIA Housing awards, and have been published in Architectural Record, Builder magazine, The New York Times, Boston Globe, Fine Homebuilding, Metropolitan Home, This Old House, Sunset, and more than 25 books, including Creating the Not So Big House, Home By Design, Patterns of Home, The Good Green Home, The New Cottage Home, and Blueprint Small. Ross lectures on housing at conferences and universities throughout the country. Visit his website at www.rosschapin.com.

What a fantastic book! I believe the idea of Pocket Neighborhoods addresses an unfulfilled desire in a lot of folks who have become dissatisfied with the standard suburban island fortress home. The need for community with adequate and intentional allowances for privacy. A place that encourages building friendships and relationships, and informal gatherings with neighbors on front porches and in a shared community building. A place where the car is not the focus, but kept out of the way, and out of sight. Much of the current development of pocket neighborhoods is happening along the West Coast, and I am hoping to re-introduce this idea to some smaller towns in the Midwest. I recommend this book to anyone who is exploring alternatives to standard suburban developments, with cheaply built overly large homes on large lots with fenced back yards.

I am a practicing architect and live and work in Seattle. I've had the opportunity to see several of Ross Chapin's projects illustrated in this fine guide to pocket neighborhoods and small scale communities. Mr. Chapin has been well in front of the planning curve for decades here in the NW, spearheading a movement for smaller scale, lower impact, green communities. I admire his work greatly. With this book, I have been able to dig a bit deeper into what was behind the planning, design, construction and eventual tenant use of his and similar projects, via informative narrative, well done illustrations and beautiful photography. We live in a time of excess. The automobile has dominated the planning strategies in most city and suburban planning offices and neighbor to

neighbor contact has often become fleeting or non-existent. Our streets are vacant as we head to the backyard for our privacy. The fences become taller. There are many however, who long for a sense of community they experienced growing up in small towns or vibrant urban neighborhoods. As the book's forward notes, "Ross Chapin marries the key elements from the Not so Big House ((Susanka), New Urbanist, and Co-Housing movements to shed light on how to foster a strong sense of place through small, close-knit communities." There's much to digest in the book's 200 odd pages. I find myself re-reading much of the content both for practical planning inspiration and simple reading pleasure. It works on both the technical and non-technical level.

This book by Ross Chapin has to be one of the most thorough on the topic of Pocket Neighborhoods and creating "Community". In an era when sprawling suburbs often end up keeping neighbors locked up in their individual homes engaged with electronics instead of other members of their community,....this book is a must read for those seeking a different experience.

This beautifully written and photographed book is blueprint to bring an awesome paradigm shift to what and how we construct new, livable communities. Be an agent of transformation where you live by sharing this with your city planners, builders, neighbors and policy makers. We are all missing out when something this good is available...but relatively rare and undiscovered. Spread the word!

We love the book, but when we received the book we were really disappointed with the packaging. The small square book, about 10 in x 10 in came in a box that was about 3 ft tall! and a ft wide! With hardly any filler inside the box besides a few pieces of butcher paper. Because of this, the front cover of the book got completely destroyed. If you order this book, make sure to request for adequate packaging!!

This is a great book, I hope all the city planners and architects out there are reading it. Pocket Neighborhoods are 12-15 cottages or homes located around a green courtyard area where neighbors can gather for weekend picnics or social gathering with the kids. You KNOW your neighbors and know if someone comes around who doesn't belong. The book discusses and shows ideas for layouts of neighborhoods and shows the community feeling returning to certain areas around the country. We need in this country to get back to the sense of "neighborhood safety and security" feeling of knowing our neighbors rather than staying huddled in our homes on 1/2 acre lots never knowing who lives next door. Neighbors use to get together for coffee, barbeques, and

baseball or touch football and holiday parties. I grew up in a neighborhood like that, and as a kid it was a sense of having family all around. I recommend this book to anyone looking for an area to build a pocket neighborhood for ideas and anyone looking for this type of community in different areas of the country, they are mentioned in this book.

Unlike most of the reader's here I currently do not and have never lived in a Chapin neighborhood. I am, however, a student who enjoyed this book for an entirely different reason than most: I study Theology. What interests me is how people live in community in an increasingly secular world. How can we be certain that we won't lose our common threads of humanity when we become more connected digitally but have less human contact? I think Chapin neighborhoods are the perfect solution to such concerns. The photography is stunning (and Chapin's architecture speaks for itself) in this book. Additionally, it is easy to read and the anecdotal history of the different neighborhoods and of neighborhoods in general is fascinating. This book is a must-read for anyone who is interested in communities and is looking for something more than a superficial sense of being "together."

Forget cul de sacs, grid patterns and other suburban design standards of the past. Pocket neighbourhoods are the perfect compliment to smaller houses. Their time has come.

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