

Preface

Regeneration strategies, styles and modes of operation change from decade to decade, but most discussions of theory and practice simply offer a snapshot in time. Paul Stouten has done a great service in going beyond the normal single episode and offering a comprehensive assessment of the changing regeneration agenda in Rotterdam.

Another commendable feature of this book is that it does not confine itself solely to a discussion of regeneration in Rotterdam. Rather, it does what all place-specific assessments should do, and offers a strong contextual framework for the particular case which is the focus of attention.

Equally, at the conclusion of the detailed case study of Rotterdam, the author develops some more generally applicable messages and lessons. These lessons reflect on the failures, as well as the successes, and they add considerably to a growing international repository of knowledge and understanding that can help us to avoid the mistakes of the past.

This is a well-crafted, thoughtful and valuable contribution to our collective capability. It deserves our attention and can teach us many things.

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