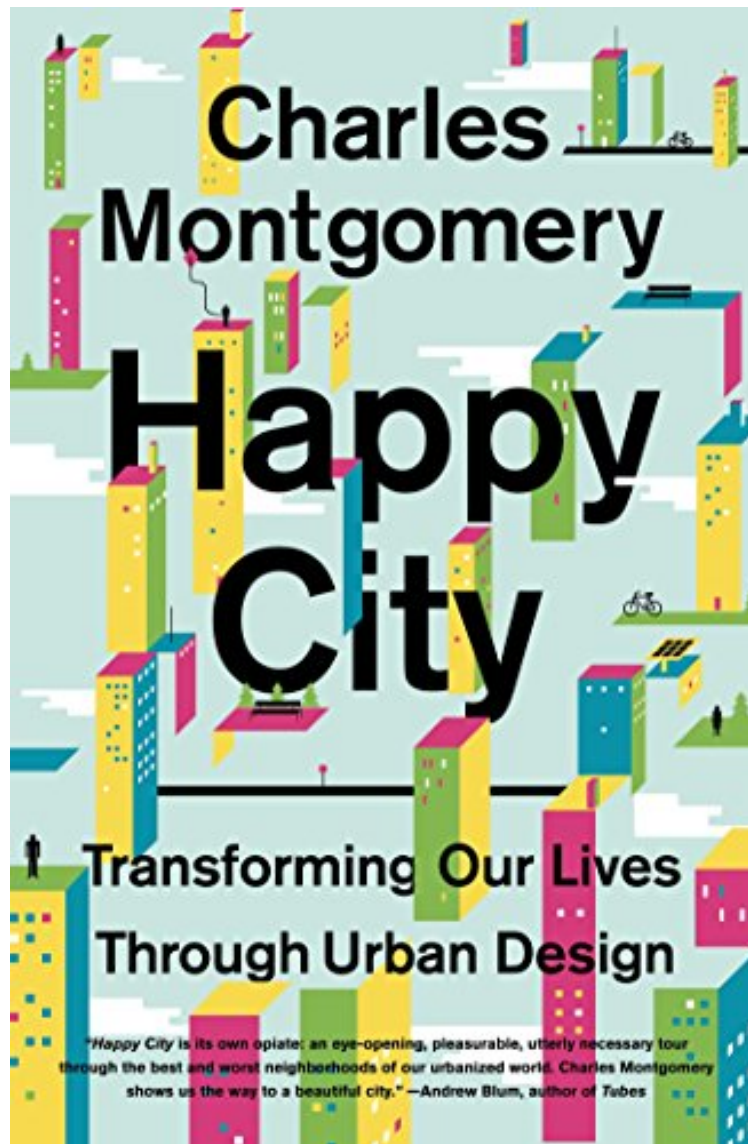


[Read free] Happy City: Transforming Our Lives Through Urban Design

Happy City: Transforming Our Lives Through Urban Design

Charles Montgomery

audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#224745 in eBooks 2013-11-12 2013-11-12 File Name: B009LRWHPY | File size: 58.Mb

Charles Montgomery : Happy City: Transforming Our Lives Through Urban Design before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Happy City: Transforming Our Lives Through Urban Design:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book!!!By Claire C. GretherThis is such an important book to read I have recommended it for San Luis Obispo's City Wide Read for 2018. The book covers so many aspects of urban living but most important--how getting out of our cars and traveling on foot or by bicycle makes us happier. Montgomery shows how organizing our housing and neighborhoods to be social and trusting (convivial) rather than

isolated and fearful will make us happier. He also demonstrates that disincentivizing car ownership can have a very positive effect on life satisfaction and make life safer for all of us, particularly children. If nothing else, read about the mayor of Bogota, Enrique Penalosa promoted bike ways in his city. Inspiring. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Must read for all city dwellers By Ross You have to read this so you can discover the city you didn't know you must have. Cities, as currently designed, cannot survive and we must redesign them so they will work for the people. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Summary: Bikes are good, Cars are bad By Meghan H. Recommended by Mr Money Mustache. A bit repetitive. Would have preferred if it was written by an authority on City Planning rather than a journalist.

A globe-trotting, eye-opening exploration of how cities can dash; and domdash; make us happier people Charles Montgomery's *Happy City* will revolutionize the way we think about urban life. After decades of unchecked sprawl, more people than ever are moving back to the city. Dense urban living has been prescribed as a panacea for the environmental and resource crises of our time. But is it better or worse for our happiness? Are subways, sidewalks, and tower dwelling an improvement on the car-dependence of sprawl? The award-winning journalist Charles Montgomery finds answers to such questions at the intersection between urban design and the emerging science of happiness, and during an exhilarating journey through some of the world's most dynamic cities. He meets the visionary mayor who introduced a "sexy" lipstick-red bus to ease status anxiety in Bogota; the architect who brought the lessons of medieval Tuscan hill towns to modern-day New York City; the activist who turned Paris's urban freeways into beaches; and an army of American suburbanites who have transformed their lives by hacking the design of their streets and neighborhoods. Full of rich historical detail and new insights from psychologists and Montgomery's own urban experiments, *Happy City* is an essential tool for understanding and improving our own communities. The message is as surprising as it is hopeful: by retrofitting our cities for happiness, we can tackle the urgent challenges of our age. The happy city, the green city, and the low-carbon city are the same place, and we can all help build it.

From Publishers Weekly Can cities make us better people? Is the suburban American Dream really a nightmare? In this lively and accessible book, journalist Montgomery (*The Shark God*) marshals decades of interdisciplinary research into an effective argument against what he calls the dispersed citydash; the modern city/suburb designed around the automobile. The result is a succession of arguments meant to debunk individualism and show how citizens thrive on contact with others. In Montgomery's hands, urban design proves not only exciting, but integral to our future. He persuasively demonstrates that designing cities with social beings in mind can make them more pleasant places to live, and shows why suburbs are experiencing higher crime, as well as a significant happiness deficit. Furthermore, this passionate jeremiad argues that urban design often reinforces inequality, and Montgomery includes useful prescriptions for creating what he calls the fair city, as well as addressing issues like gentrification. For Montgomery, the city is a happiness project that exists in part to corral our conviviality and channel it productively. Though Montgomery's argument may seem strange at first, the book will likely make you a believer. 68 bw illus. Agent: Rebecca Gradinger, Fletcher Co. (Nov.) From Booklist What is considered the happiest city on earth? Improbably, it just might be Bogota; Colombia, where drug lords ruled, bicycles now roll, and pedestrians stroll in a city with a mayor committed to transforming his town's image and its people's lives. What's the secret to his success? Not surprisingly, restricting traffic plays a huge part in Bogota's livability, but banning cars isn't the be-all and end-all to urban bliss. As Montgomery illustrates through vibrant discussions of the physics, physiology, and psychology of urban, suburban, and exurban dwellers, multiple factors must coalesce before a city, large or small, can achieve perfection. All of which may become terribly muddled as climate change and resource depletion stress urban centers to an untenable tipping point. Touting extensive research tempered by anecdotal examples, Montgomery enumerates the mistakes made not only by the people who plan and govern cities but also by the people who live in them, and he offers cautious reassurance that it's not too late to turn things around for all cities. --Carol Haggas Praise for *Happy City*: "A brilliant, entertaining and vital book. Montgomery deftly leads us from our misplaced focus on money, cars and stuff to consider what makes us truly happy. Then everything changes--the way we live, work and play in humanity's major habitat, the city." David Suzuki "Montgomery should be praised for both the breadth of his research as well the virtues of most everything he argues." *The Globe and Mail*