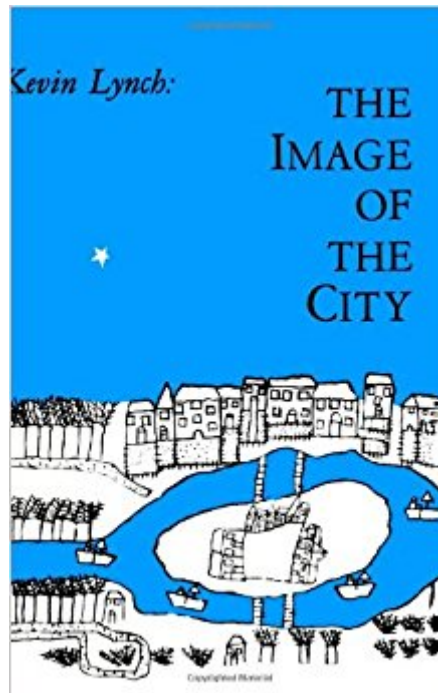


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# The Image Of The City



## Synopsis

What does the city's form actually mean to the people who live there? What can the city planner do to make the city's image more vivid and memorable to the city dweller? To answer these questions, Mr. Lynch, supported by studies of Los Angeles, Boston, and Jersey City, formulates a new criterion -- imageability -- and shows its potential value as a guide for the building and rebuilding of cities. The wide scope of this study leads to an original and vital method for the evaluation of city form. The architect, the planner, and certainly the city dweller will all want to read this book.

## Book Information

Paperback: 194 pages

Publisher: The MIT Press (1960)

Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 33 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

...a readable, tautly organized, authoritative volume... (Architectural Forum) This small and readable book makes one of the most important modern contributions to large-scale design theory. (David A. Crane Journal of the American Institute of Planners)

What does the city's form actually mean to the people who live there? What can the city planner do to make the city's image more vivid and memorable to the city dweller? To answer these questions, Mr. Lynch, supported by studies of Los Angeles, Boston, and Jersey City, formulates a new criterion--imageability--and shows its potential value as a guide for the building and rebuilding of cities.

Lynch's methodology is really fascinating- he was basically the pioneer of mental mapping and this

research method shows up quite well in his piece. His claims about what makes cities legible to citizens can have huge implications in the way we arrange the urban fabric- from huge cultural monuments down to individual house numbering. My one complaint? Why is the text in this book SO SMALL!? Who thought it would be a good idea to include disproportionately large margins and (maybe smaller than) 8pt text? Thanks MIT. Other than that, a really fascinating look into normative planning strategy.

A must read for any student of urban planning and urban design. You cannot really participate in discussion of contemporary urban planning without it. It is clear and easy to read. It's not impossible to finish reading the book in a few hours. Also of interest for anyone interested in the human perception, especially of large, time-scale objects.

Good book, had more markings than expected. But they were helpful for studying, so I kept it.

I'm about a quarter of the way through this book now and it's a very interesting read. Though by now it's a bit dated (published in 1960), and it's not as well-known as Jacobs' 'Death and Life,' it's a relatively short and simple read that can add to one's knowledge of the city. From a planner's perspective, this is a good qualitative research work that relates many lessons about aesthetics and efficient layouts of some famous US cities. They are the kinds of lessons that don't perish over time. For anyone who's into city planning, this is a good reference.

Very interesting read, sets a good foundation for understanding urban planning. It can be dry at times, but is otherwise very easy to understand.

Interesting and useful insights.

Best Urban planning book!

This book was in the best condition imaginable!

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