

# New Urban Post

# I

A COMPILATION OF ONLINE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE NEW URBANISM

AUGUST 2001



The Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) does not currently certify its members or their works. This discussion on certification, sparked by Andrés Duany's observations on exam questions, took place in the spring and autumn of 2000. The topic quickly changed to a debate over the wisdom of, and need for, certification of CNU members. Compelling points were made for both pro and con positions, and both laypersons and practitioners were divided on the issue. The discussion then lay fallow for several months and was reconvened by Lucy Rowland in an effort to generate proposals for a certification process. Sev-

eral detailed proposals were put forward by the participants, which in turn generated additional suggestions. A number of participants responded with opposition to certification in any form.

The CNU Board took up the issue of certification briefly in the autumn of 2000 before turning to the broader question of the CNU's strategic direction. The 15 Charter Award winners announced in May 2001 represented the first official judging of New Urbanist plans and developments. As of this writing (Summer 2001), the topic of certification remains open, and no official statement of intent has been made by the CNU.

Laurence Aurbach  
Editor, Issue I



## Half-Wits at the Helm

Andrés Duany  
04/21/00

The following is, verbatim, the coverage that is given to the New Urbanism in the Study Book for the American Institute of Certified Planners' exam (the curious grammar is original):

"What kind of planning do you practice?' is a theoretical construct, as it has seldom, if ever, been directly asked. Neo-traditional town planning may have attracted some general public interest. Seaside, the planned community in Florida, designed by Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk and Andrés Duany, has had wide exposure outside the planning press. And Rousification may, perhaps, have lent some visibility to planners on the public's viewing screen."

"Rousification' named for John Rauch (sic) of the Rauch (sic) Corporation the planner-promoter, on the east coast, of 'festival marketplaces', such as those along the harbors of Baltimore, New York and Boston. These present the city to tourists as preserved/petrified and historically flavored marketplaces, as a gussied up, and tremendously successful place to buy a t-shirt and eat an ice cream cone, all the while being serenaded by mimes (sic!!!). While front porches at home where neighbors are in hailing distance, and excursions to crowded city-malls are popular, planning is more than this."

Good Lord! What are we to do when such half-wits are in charge of certifying planners?



## Re: Half-Wits at the Helm

Steven Van Gorp  
04/21/00

While preparing to fail the AICP exam for the first time on 5/13, I too am woefully embarrassed by the pathetic lack of information on the entire last generation of urban planning. To read the green bible and AICP materials, you would think that we were all modernist zoning administrators and subdivision plan processors. The APA [Ameri-

can Planning Association] and AICP need to take us seriously, because we are the generation who will have restored and saved urban planning as a noble public profession.

I continually question why I chose to even bother attempting to gain AICP certification. The CNU needs to step up to the plate and establish a CNU certification method in the immediate future to combat this old planner mentality, and for the reasons outlined in previous threads (on false NU [New Urbanist] practitioners claiming to be experts who are, at best, reasonable copycats). I for one proudly list "CNU" after my name on all professional documents that I have controlled and developed, the same as my cohorts list "AICP." Validate my presumptuousness with certification.



## Certification

Andrés Duany  
06/09/00

Steven Van Gorp is on to an interesting idea: CNU certification. Why not generate an exam based on the key texts: "The Charter Book,"

"The Next American Metropolis," *The Lexicon* and a half dozen others?

The initials "CNU" after one's name could easily become as significant as "AICP" given the quality of the respective examinations.

Professionals apparently gain credibility when they have initials following their names. And, regular people, who are often better urbanists than the trained professionals, becoming certified would gain the confidence to assert themselves. This is quite possible, as Planning is not a licensed profession. The CNU could realistically certify with an authority equal to that of the AICP.

And there would be the additional benefit. Those who are calling themselves New Urbanists would actually know what it meant, and they might even know what they are doing. Right now there is a spotty correlation between the self-designation and any sort of competence. All that it takes to become a New Urbanist is the small membership fee.

If nothing else, this is one way to get the

AICP, terrified of competition, to become serious about presenting the New Urbanism in their curriculum and examination.

Let's try to do this, to see if it works, rather than try to think up reasons why not to do it.



## Questioning NU Theology and NU Certification

Ellen Dunham-Jones  
04/26/00

I [along with others] am amazed at how often this list returns to theological subjects

- but, I'm not so enthusiastic about it. The not uncommon characterization of NU as a new religion with zealous converts is a big turnoff to a lot of people, especially those who see our claims as myths, nostalgic appeals for transcendence, and imbued with a certitude that - like religion - hardly invites debate, improvement, or adaptation to a changing world. I'm not dismissing the parallel interests or good works of faith and NU in community-building and in reminding people (and property owners) that they belong to an order larger than themselves and that such belonging brings both opportunities and constraints. Nor am I dismissing that religious doubt and adaptation certainly do occur - but the degree to which NU itself becomes regarded as a religion, suggests to many that it is ONLY a discussion amongst the converted and that one has to already commit to the faith to even enter into a dialogue.

That said, I find myself equally nervous about making NU a matter of certification. While much of NU's value is in clarifying terms, types, processes, standards, etc., much of its value ALSO lies in the constant multi-disciplinary engagement, critique and evolution of those ideas at the congresses. More than just a formula, NU is a fabulous forum. Certification risks turning it into a debased rubber-stamp.

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**Re: Questioning NU Theology and NU Certification**

Ed Brenegar  
04/27/00

Ellen, New Urbanism isn't a religion. But it could be considered a religion by its critics whether there was ever a theological out-break on this list or not. I think these are separate issues.

Theological discussions make people uncomfortable for a variety of reasons. My concern is, if there is to be a conversation then it should be relevant to New Urbanism. But then relevance is in the eye of the beholder. Frankly, I didn't join this list to talk theology. But that dimension suggests to me that there is a real diversity of thought happening here. And I'm willing to discuss it if it has application.

The larger problem is that NU practitioners have already been too successful to keep tight controls on the discipline. I perceive the need for order behind the drive for certification. Certification is the theological confession of the NU religion that the priests/designers-town planners commit to serving. The reality is that New Urbanism is moving beyond the boundaries of design and town planning to become a social movement. My sense is that the social aspects of urbanism are what drive the creativity to think differently about design and town planning. These are not separate entities. But if New Urbanism loses its core relationship to design and town planning, then we are back to where we started. I think we have to keep the design and the social issues fully integrated because that is the genius behind this movement.

New Urbanism is bigger than the built culture because it aspires to take seriously the social environment that exists where people work, live and play. And people like myself who come from that sociological/theological framework believe that we have something to offer designers and town planners that will enhance the ability for New Urbanism to transform North American society.

So the differences that are here are not about New Urbanism per se, but about our personal philosophies, whether religiously based or not, that create both ideological conflict and the richness required to bring the kind of insight needed to solve the huge problems that face us.



**Re: Certification**

Patrick Condon  
06/09/00

The down side of certification is that it presents a target for the "forces of evil."

Remember how George Bush (senior) called the hapless Gov. Dukakis a "card carrying member of the ACLU" back in '88?

Just a thought.



**Re: Certification**

R. John Anderson  
06/09/00

If you are worried about people saying mean things about your professional credentials, don't take the test. No guts, no glory. :-)



**Re: Certification**

Richard Nunes  
06/09/00

All of you NU advocates who have participated here speak loud and clear of your passion to leave this world a better place upon your depar-

ture from it. There is no need for this certification; it is absurd! If the passion and enthusiasm you bring to this listserv is equal to that which you bring to your professions every morning (not to mention an account of your success with the NU ministry under which you preach and practice), then there is no need to have the initials "CNU" after your names.



**Re: Certification**

Ed Brenegar  
06/09/00

I hate to be obtuse. But is a CNU certification the same thing as AICP certification? Are we talking apples and apples or apples and fence posts? If its purpose is to solidify the movement into a professional discipline, I think that is a good idea. But is not NU more than just planning? Is it not a community that crosses multiple disciplines? So my question is why merely duplicate what is already being done (though without the concepts or values of NU). Why not create something new, more innovative and ultimately more effective because it provides a quantitative method for uniting various disciplines.

Just a thought.



**Re: Certification**

Brian M. Cacchiotti  
06/10/00

I am a long-time list lurker but am compelled to add my two cents to this debate.

I think that creating an US vs. THEM mentality is only counterproductive to the overall mission of creating better living spaces. Instead of bringing new ideas into the mainstream, this will only serve to further isolate CNU practitioners and our ideas. And while it is interesting to think that all of us are speaking with one voice, the heated "discussions" that take place here amongst "true-believers" makes me wonder if we agree on anything more than wanting something better than we have now.

It also seems somewhat self-serving and congratulatory to conduct "coronation" ceremonies to bestow (with apologies to Monty Python) the HOLY LETTERS... C N U on to the chosen few who 1) have read, 2) memorized and 3) agree with the more [vocal/talented/publicity minded/opinionated/you-fill-in-the-right-word-for-yourself] CNU leaders who tell us what we should be thinking.

Having said that, please understand that I DO agree with many of the opinions expressed here on this list, and in other NU contexts as well, concerning the necessity for alternatives to our current choice-restrictive society. But I also disagree with many of these same people on a broad range of issues. So how exactly would we determine what IT is that we all agree is CNU?

I say skip the test. Let our actions, ideas and work speak for themselves.

I hope that this opinion only further fuels the lively discussion that is presented here daily.



**Re: Certification: Limitation of Awarding a Project "CNU Approved"**

Lee Sobel  
06/10/00

I do not favor certification for many reasons. One example is that "certified" CNU members are then free to promote their work and ideas that may not qualify as NU -- in fact or principle -- under the Charter Book or any other model. Then a need arises for certification/licensure review, a hearing board for "certified member" action, in-

action, etc. -- oligarchy.

To keep members true to the mission, I would suggest awarding finished plans or projects at certain stages a "CNU certified project." This keeps the players in line according to the standards of the movement, or else subjects them to "certification" revocation.



**Re: Certification**

Rob Dickson  
06/10/00

When one joins CNU, the introductory letter in the packet states:

"Let's start with the responsibilities. There is only one: Participating members will note that by signing the membership card, they are pledging to endorse the Charter of the New Urbanism ... More important than the act of affirmation, we want CNU members to incorporate the principles of New Urbanism into their ongoing professional activities."

In my view, this is all that is necessary and sufficient. We must assume that CNU Members will take this responsibility seriously and carry it out.

If we want the AICP certification to become based upon knowledge of Traditional Town Planning and Traditional Architecture, then we must reform that organization. CNU is a "broad-based citizenry," not a planning organization. As we must change the engineering manuals, so we must change the curriculum and the testing of the planning profession.

This is said with complete respect for Andrés's original posting -- we should encourage brainstorming on the list, and I'm glad he opened the subject for discussion. We will profit from the exercise.

I continue to maintain that CNU should have 150,000 members, not 1,500. The only way we are going to achieve that, if it becomes the wish of the Board and the membership, is to acknowledge that some of the "unwashed masses" (which I used to be -- I had no clue about New Urbanism after 12 years in the real estate business) are going to convert from their waywardness.

We should encourage anyone to join CNU who will take the pledge. They may ultimately become our most effective members.

P.S. In addition, boosting our membership numbers is going to require a local chapter policy in my view. This is where the real work of CNU will get done -- locally in metropolitan regions. To quote the Charter, they are "the fundamental economic unit of the contemporary world."



**Re: Certification**

Michael Lewyn  
06/11/00

Maybe instead of certifying individuals (which seems kind of elitist, but more importantly risks having CNU identified with any stand any certified person takes), CNU should certify developments.



**Re: Certification Comments:**

John Massengale  
06/11/00

In response to Michael Lewyn --

We all agree on the importance of community involvement, but do you think it's elitist to say that some people are better urban designers than others?

Is it elitist to say that Thomas Jefferson was a better political philosopher than Franklin Pierce?

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*"If this were an acupuncture discussion list, would we oppose certification?"*

--John Massengale

*Continued from page 2*

Do you research the qualifications and skills of surgeons before you go to one?

If this were an acupuncture discussion list, would we oppose certification?

In response to Rob Dickson--

Let's start with your last point first, Rob. As you admit, you were once very naive about New Urbanism. And once upon a time, in your early days of calling yourself a New Urbanist and evangelizing for NU, you said things about urbanism that weren't quite right, and that you wouldn't say today.

Is enthusiasm enough?

Anyone can rightfully call him or herself an urbanist, but can that person cause problems for New Urbanism in public forums by naively misrepresenting it while appearing to be a New Urbanist? And what about those who intentionally misrepresent it for personal gain -- as in Andrés's post, NU As A Cover For Bad Development?

Would it be useful to have New Urbanists with the additional right to put "CNU" after his or her name, so that in a PROFESSIONAL situation they could be at an advantage against other professionals who don't have that?

This is part of another debate that's coming. It relates to your characterization of the CNU as a "broad-based citizenry" rather than a planning organization.

The CNU, in fact, started as a professional organization, consisting of urban designers and their consultants. It was by invitation and was intended to have four congresses and then end.

It was apparent before the CNU existed and New Urbanism even had a name that it was part of a bigger movement towards community, Smart Growth, and getting past the increasingly tired dogma of Modernism. Peter Katz, Stefanos Polyzoides, [Elizabeth] Moule, Andrés Duany, [Elizabeth] Plater-Zyberk, Peter Calthorpe and many others invented the name "New Urbanism" as a way of promoting their brand of urbanism. Note that they neither invented the movement that was already percolating nor the larger movement towards community. But they were among the most successful and talented practitioners in a small field, and they successfully pushed New Urbanism forward by thinking up a name for it and inventing a trade organization called the CNU.

Once the CNU existed, it quickly became clear that A) others wanted to join, and B) it would be more successful if it worked with others. Membership was opened to all, and people who could help it -- policy types, government officials, developers, etc. -- were actively courted. The Board was more than doubled in size, to add influential people from other fields.

From that point on, there has always been an element of friction. No one disputed the benefits of growth for the CNU, but the designers hadn't realized how many people who couldn't care less about design were going to join. Plain and simple, good design and beauty were central to the original CNU, and many of the later members didn't share that belief.

Then there are others who do care, but who really haven't given much thought to the contradictions between what makes traditional urbanism and contemporary ideas about good design in general. Those ideas primarily come from the same culture of Modernism that presided over so much urban destruction. (See "BoBos in Paradise" for an interesting take on these -- it's also interesting that the author points to "The Death and Life of Great American Cities" as one of the first expressions of the meritocratic, educated elite that he says is the new anti-elitist establishment.)

I have had conversations at congresses with the nicest developers in the world, who talk about how much they love New Urbanism and the importance of changing suburbia. Then they roll out plans they'd like advice on, and they are nothing but slightly modified sprawl, or plans with the right basic ideas but incompetently designed. Once, I was with one of the most talented New Urbanists, who is very good at leading public par-

ticipation in charrettes. We both were dumbfounded by the quality of the plans in front of us in the lobby in San Francisco and couldn't think of a thing to say.

And to be blunt, most people are bored by many of the concerns that are central to urban designers. This is the main reason that the pro-urb list eventually split off from the CNU list -- although urbanists must be generalists, they do have areas of professional interest that others have limited interest in.

In my opinion, this has helped the original CNU members to focus on what they believe to be the importance of good design. Maintaining that in an organization of 1,500 people of diverse interests is difficult. It would be immensely more difficult in an organization of 15,000.

Is the CNU going to grow to 15,000? Should it? Should it be another Nature Conservancy or Sierra Club?

If it does, I think you will find many of the original members starting a splinter organization or organizations, in order to promote their original concerns. There has already been a lot of talk about that.

I don't think that is elitist. Thinking about how to best accomplish the goals of your own profession does not mean that you are not successfully participating in a larger, more popular movement.



**Re: Fw: Current Situation**

*Diane Dorney*  
08/14/00

Andrés Duany writes: "The CNU can clarify the difference for environmentalists."

Yes, as long as the CNU can first clarify the difference for themselves. It seems there is a lot of conversation about currently-built TND projects and whether or not they are even worthy of the name "new urbanist." It seems to me we better get our act together first before convincing the environmentalists that they should promote all new urbanist projects only to have it come back to haunt someone. When are you going to do that certification thing?



**CNU Certification Revisited**

*Lucy Rowland*  
10/30/00

A few months ago, we had a brief, but very focused discussion on the advantages that certification for CNU professionals would bring. I think John Massengale pointed out that one RFP he'd heard of recently had required that respondents belong to CNU. While that's a sign that the field has achieved some serious recognition, and municipalities want to use elements to achieve smart growth, getting a dues paying-member of the Congress isn't the same thing as hiring a qualified team of New Urbanists.

Victor Deupi and Mark Schimmenti informally compiled a list of architecture programs in the United States that are to some degree promoting New Urbanism, and there have been comments that others should be added (and perhaps 1 or 2 removed). Their observations bring in some valuable insight into what formal education -- United States or otherwise -- and training should be expected.

In light of this and some other threads, such as Steven Bodzin's response to the "New Urbanism/NOT" discussion about just how large and complex NU is -- buildings, blocks, neighborhoods, cities, region, retrofit, new towns, etc. -- I would like to reconvene the discussion on certification. In particular, I would open the door to discussions of what requirements should be considered and how to establish a process.

Here at University of Georgia, NU has become very high profile among students in the last 12-14 months. Several are in the process of starting a campus-sanctioned student group that would certainly draw from several disciplines, not just environmental design. Future certification would be very attractive to these individuals, who include both undergraduates and graduate students. Many subscribers to the Pro-Urb listserv should be able to provide some solid suggestions and talking points

The parallel that I would use is board certification for medical specialties that would include some sort of relevant education and work experience, written and oral presentation, and some sort of practical. I'm throwing that out for discussion purposes, particularly to those on the list who have been leaders in New Urbanism since the beginning and have a stake in the creation of suitable standards.

Let's hear from the experts.



**Re: CNU Certification Revisited**

*Steve Mouzon*  
10/30/2000

I had made a proposal to the CNU a month or two ago concerning certification. I never heard from anyone on it, but since you've raised the issue, I've attached the text of the proposal in case anyone else has any comments.

**CERTIFICATION**

**SUMMARY:**

NU communities will never become mainstream as long as NU practitioners are limited to a very small group of high-profile firms.

**INTRODUCTION:** I suspect that the majority of CNU members who are designers of one type or another are proponents such as myself rather than practitioners. Meanwhile, NU projects remain a tiny fraction of all new developments.

**NEEDS ASSESSMENT:**

It is obviously foolish to hope for help from academia. Even if every opposing faculty member across the country had a change of heart and started teaching the principles of NU, it would be a generation before a significant number of architects and planners had established themselves and were designing good communities and neighborhoods. Meanwhile, another decade or two of sprawl would have taken place essentially unabated.

It is also unrealistic to expect that most proponents would suspend their careers in midstream and go back to school at Miami for a few years. Most of us have a number of employees whose livelihood depends on us, and we're not likely to walk away from them no matter how strongly we believe in something. Neither can most of us afford to walk away from businesses we've worked years to build at our peak earning years.

**OBJECTIVES:**

So what can be done to get the cheerleaders off the sidelines, get them prepared and then onto the field? I don't expect much sympathy from DPZ [Duany, Plater-Zyberk & Company], because we're all aware of the legend of Arquitectonica's first major Miami project. (Is that really true, by the way?) But for most of us that are mere mortals, getting that first neighborhood design project is a huge leap. Let's face it: Today's clients are increasingly attuned to "specialists."

Meanwhile, many of us out there have read the books and are quite familiar with the principles, but our only "qualification" for doing a project is the assertion that "we really believe in this stuff." Most clients would just as likely entrust their project to us as they would sit back in the chair of a person who, absent a diploma but drill in hand, attests to the fact that "I really believe in good dentistry." So there is a huge need

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*"So what can be done to get the cheerleaders off the sidelines, get them prepared and then onto the field?"*

*--Steve Mouzon*

*Continued from page 3*

for some sort of certification or assurance or blessing or whatever you want to call it that could give a prospective developer some level of comfort that they're contracting with someone who knows what they're doing.

There are also a host of issues having to do with the mechanics of doing a project that have nothing whatsoever to do with the principles of NU. For example, I've heard that market surveys are an integral part of any neighborhood design process. Is that true? If so, who are some of the quality providers? At what point do you get them involved? (Obviously, it would be early, but is it pre-charrette or does it continue through the charrette process?) These are the sorts of issues that can trip up or even derail a project that you wouldn't know about until you've done it before. These are not marketing issues, but rather pieces of information that new practitioners need to know to avoid a potential train wreck.

**METHODS:**

So what's the solution? I don't have all the answers, but the process should not exclude principals of existing firms. In other words, it should be available in "bites" of 2 to 7 days. The town planning symposium at Seaside last December would be a good model. I'd also suggest that some of the more mundane elements be available on a remote or even a digital basis rather than requiring a classroom experience for everything.

There are two immediate suspects for potential education providers. CNU is obvious. It would be a major effort since formal education isn't central to what CNU does right now. But who should have a greater interest in this process than CNU? It might make more sense in some ways to work with an existing educational institution since they would have a built-in infrastructure and would possibly carry a level of authenticity with prospective clients that a professional organization might not. Miami would be an obvious choice, Notre Dame would be another.

**EVALUATION:**

This initiative will be a success when it swells the ranks of the practitioners of NU.

**BUDGET:** I am entirely out of my league with this question.

**TIMELINE:** Time is obviously not on our side, as the unabated tide of conventional development will attest, so this needs to happen as soon as possible. I would like to hope that it could happen in a year or two, but I don't realistically have any good feel for how long it takes to set up an academic program.



**Re: CNU Certification Revisited**

*Shelley Poticha*  
11/01/00

The board started to take up the issue of certification and other activities that might help assure that learning continues to take place within CNU at our September meeting. Though there was agreement that more needs to be done to facilitate deeper discussions among members about technique and some concrete suggestions about ways to do that, the group decided that it needed to take a broader view of CNU's activities before launching forward. Thus, the board will be engaging in a strategic planning effort between now and the February board meeting.

If you have specific suggestions about where CNU ought to be going, what we're doing now that is helpful/unhelpful, and new activities that are needed, I would appreciate your suggestions.

*Tell us what you think!*

E-mail us at  
lrowland@arches.uga.edu.



**Re: CNU Certification Revisited**

*Lee Sobel*  
10/30/00

How does this Certification proposal affect prospective new or existing members to the CNU who are not architects or planners, etc.? In my case, I anticipate joining the CNU in 2001. I am a non-practicing lawyer in investment real estate brokerage with no architectural training. I am attempting to build a NU team (not officially sponsored by the company at this time) to work with developers and lenders who need assistance in development, financial analysis, multi-housing, retail leasing, office leasing, financing, etc. In effect, I'm creating a NU overlay for services my firm currently provides for existing national clients. Am I prohibited from joining the CNU? Could I get a CNU certificate in my field of practice the way, say, land use attorneys may want to advertise business by announcing that they are CNU certified to handle a TND project?



**Re: CNU Certification Revisited**

*John Massengale*  
11/01/00

The CNU made the decision a long time ago that it needed to expand and diversify in order to be successful. The upside of that decision is obvious.

Sobel's point is that certification might make non-designers feel excluded. In fact, designers are now a minority in the Congress, and the CNU is bending over backwards to make everyone else feel welcome. Almost conversely, Mouzon wants the CNU to certify designers in order to help new people break into the field.

The downside to the diversification is that the interests of many of the 200 original participants are getting lost in the crowd. And what they can best contribute to the movement is thereby being watered down and even lost. The answer, I think, is to acknowledge the diversity of the expanding CNU and figure out how best to deal with it.

There hasn't been a good detailed design discussion at the CNU in seven or eight years. There have been interesting conceptual discussions about new ideas like the transect, but the advancement of urban design as an art has been lost, despite the fact that one of the core ideas was for the designers practicing in isolation around the country to share their self-developed knowledge with others grappling with the same problems.

Sometimes we seem like babies learning how to walk -- that's how much we've forgotten compared to our predecessors like Parker & Unwin and the Olmsted Brothers. At other times, we see that knowledge regularly growing by leaps and bounds. We need a place to share that knowledge, and that place should be within the CNU.

In fact, it should be central to the CNU, so that it can be shared with everyone, including the old guard and the new seekers like Mouzon.

Exclusion and staking proprietary rights are not the point of certification. Maintaining the importance of making good places is. It's clear to anyone who visits many NU projects that we haven't had enough of that so far.

There is an assumption that design will always be central to the CNU because of the founders and original members. But although one can overemphasize the degree to which the following is true, other issues like policy and finance have received more resources the last few years. The quality of NU work suggests that we need to explicitly add design to the list of CNU priorities and allocation of resources.



**Re: CNU Certification Revisited**

*Andy Kunz*  
11/02/00

I am all for certification, but at the same time, I look at the other design professions, architecture and landscape architecture, which both have very strict certification yet still continue to produce a lot of bad work (and a lot of sprawl) while they both continue to ignore or discount New Urbanism.

It seems there needs to be a massive p.r. and education campaign to the general public and to the other design professions of what NU really is, and what it is not.

Maybe the solution would be to have different levels of certification:

1. Education in NU
2. Allied professions (finance, legal, etc.)
3. Non-professional (those without educations, but with knowledge)

I don't see how "one certification fits all" will ever work with this diverse movement and group. The idea is to spread it as far and wide as possible, to change as much as possible, and to include as many people and groups as possible, while at the same time establishing strict standards of practice.



**Re: CNU Certification Revisited**

*G. Matthew Bulley*  
11/02 /00

I am with Andy on this one but would take it one step further than a public awareness campaign.

It seems like the chief component of the argument for certification is desire to assure that the end consumer of professional design services would receive a product that maintains/builds the reputation of the NU community. With this in mind, I would offer a model of behavior that works in the government-contracting arena.

Let's say the IRS needs assistance in creating a global, secure, web-based data environment. They would need to let a contract and would need to float a Request for Proposals. So the IRS turns to a trusted contractor who knows information security and web-based data environments, looking for guidance in what should be in the RFP, since the IRS doesn't know diddly about such.

By law, the trusted contractor cannot write the RFP. The contractor CAN, however, listen to the IRS's needs and provide a comprehensive list of qualifications and recommendations to the IRS that, if applied in the RFP, would eliminate unqualified providers from the bidding process.

My thought is this: Not only should we (CNU and Pro-Urb listserv communities) promote the ideas/concepts of NU, but we should also offer a list of qualifications or recommendations that developers and municipalities should demand in order to receive an experienced NU practitioner. This should be a simple two-to-three-page Acrobat or Word file with:

- a bullet list of minimum qualifications,
- a list of "smart questions to ask of a potential bidder", and
- answers to frequently asked questions.

The document (or at least a link to it) should be available universally on NU architects and planners websites.

Finally, it would need to be on an update schedule, perhaps bi-annually, and ONE person/organization would need to be the owner.

Having this document out there universally would go a long way toward sorting out the bidding/designing riffraff and promoting the expertise of the field.

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*"Why not have certifications of the projects themselves?"*

*--Louise Brodnitz*

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**Re: CNU Certification Revisited**

Steve Mouzon  
11/02/00

The two primary points of certification, in my opinion, are to:

1. Assure that the person leading a community design process is adequately equipped to do so.
2. Formalize that assurance into a marketable certificate.

As such, I don't see everyone who's now in the CNU ever needing certification. It would be pointless. Only those individuals who intend to lead a design effort would need or want certification, I would think.



**Town Center Thought...Could CNU Cert. Resolve This?**

Lee Sobel  
11/03/00

This morning I received several OFF LIST requests for the "Weston Town Center" photo. I'm not sure that the list allows posting photos to the list, so I am only sharing my thoughts on these types of projects with the list (see below). I think it applies to many projects we are seeing around the country.

Here is the Weston Town Center photo. This "town center" is surrounded by a lake, and it is in the center of a PUD/sprawl community (Weston). Driving to the project is required, and it is surrounded by arterial roads. There are so many other food-anchored centers in Weston that I can't see the convenience of this place. There is no movie theater, and I'm not sure what the draw is. The project probably only satisfies a portion of the "lifestyle center" concept and will most likely harm NU's reputation if/when it fails, as it markets itself with live/work philosophies and other NU principles. The larger problem may be the fact that developers make these projects and promote them as NU. This may be the community's only example of "NU," AND OF COURSE IT'S NOT NU! When the design life or useful life (or recession) kills the strip center (that's all this really is), people may remark that the NU fad is over and start looking for the "next big thing." Not even CNU Certification can stop the damage already done.

P.S. Weston Town Center is also 100 percent pre-leased except for a 5,000-square-foot restaurant outparcel (which is not a use I would dedicate to a NU "main street").



**Re: CNU Certification Revisited**

Louise Brodnitz  
11/02/00

How about this idea. Rather than risk: a) certifying people who then go on to produce the wrong stuff (budget/time constraints being just two reasons they might), and b) adding even more complexity to the task of understanding people's experience levels, why not have certifications of the projects themselves? That way a person who has done 12 certified NU projects can easily be compared to someone who has only one, and the CNU can maintain a photographic index showing each certified project so that clients can easily check them out.



**Re: CNU Certification Revisited**

Steven Bodzin  
11/02/00

We currently use the de facto "certification" of the New Urban News project list. In the longer term, I think both CNU members' abilities and NU projects might best be rated by a peer review process among other members. We discussed my ideas for it on this list a couple months ago. The short version of the idea is to start by giving CNU members a bunch of "kudo" points to hand out as they please. Maybe founders and/or board members and/or task force chairs should be given extra points to start out. Everyone who gets kudo points in turn gets to pass them on to others. That way, the best designers and developers and elected officials and, of course, NU projects all get kudos, and the people involved in them are given the power to give kudos to others.

This is the rating system currently used at slashdot.org, and it seems to be a good way of maintaining standards while diffusing power throughout the membership.

I've already started talking about this idea with our web development team, and they think it could work on-line. But it will be a good year before we can develop it; we're still struggling to get pictures and descriptions of the New Urban News list of projects up on-line.



**Re: CNU Certification Revisited**

Steve Mouzon  
11/04/00

The problem with both of these ideas is that they tend to exclude new practitioners.

As such, I don't see the value, because everyone knows who the stars are anyway. What would it accomplish for Andrés to accumulate 12,307 "kudo points," for example?

One of the most pressing needs of NU today is to pass from a fringe movement to mainstream acceptance. This cannot happen if there are not enough practitioners to do the work. I feel very strongly that the thrust of certification ought to be that of 1) preparing more people for the work of NU, and 2) giving them something (the certificate) to market with in the early years before they have a huge portfolio of completed work.



**Re: Easton: Not Mixed-Use ... Help Me CNU!**

Bruce Liedstrand  
11/28/00

In response to Steve Bodzin: I think it would be better if CNU restricted its awards to built projects, not just plans. Awarding prizes to unbuilt plans puts too much emphasis on design and not enough on improving the built environment.



**Re: CNU Certification Revisited**

Ellen Dunham-Jones  
11/06/00

I like Louise's ideas of certifying projects instead of practitioners VERY MUCH. They could be submitted to a CNU Task Force/Initiative set up for that purpose. Submissions would document how the project complies with the various principles set out in the charter. We've been trying to get people to submit their projects to the CNU database in

this format anyway. This would provide the incentive AND it would allow for some degree of scoring projects, distinguishing those that do a great job of addressing all of the principles from those that only address a few principles -- even if they do a great job on those few. It would also allow for the fact that not EVERY single project done by NU-oriented firms deserves certification. For instance, DPZ admit that Windsor is NOT NU because it is gated. There might have to be a category for as yet unbuilt projects called preliminary certification or some other distinction between a certified design and a certified final project, but that shouldn't be hard to do.



**Re: CNU Certification Revisited**

Bruce Liedstrand  
11/09/00

Ellen, If projects are to be reviewed, do we have the courage to disapprove of projects by CNU leaders that are not good projects by CNU principles? I am aware of some such projects, but I am skeptical that the reviewing group would have the courage to say "not good enough" to one of the founders of CNU. Whether or not CNU principles have been well-implemented in a specific project is still a judgment call that may be influenced by the reputation of the designer. Is a "blind" review possible, like a blind wine tasting?



**Re: CNU Certification Revisited**

Ellen Dunham-Jones  
11/13/00

Bruce, that will certainly be the case with the Charter Awards, a new CNU awards program. I'm not really that worried about our not being willing to critique each other. The roots of CNU lie in presenting and critiquing each other's work, all in the interest of continual improvement. I like the idea of putting the burden on the group submitting a project to make a case for how it demonstrates the principles. Different projects will inevitably do better on some principles than others. Their different contexts will influence just how that principle can be addressed. We might even ask them to rank themselves on each of the principles (from 1 to 5 or something.) I don't think it will be so hard to distinguish those that are really doing a good job, from those that aren't -- including projects by the founders. To me, the more interesting and possibly difficult thing will be deciding whether to award/certify a good intention vs. the actual result. Both are valuable, but time can unexpectedly alter intentions.



**Standards & Such**

Andrés Duany  
11/09/00

On the subject of standards: Rather than arguing over abstractions, let us look at some real life situations:

1. Other design organizations have membership standards (AICP, AIA, ASLA), as well as dues. Are we so populist-minded that just by the paying the tiny CNU membership fee a person can say that he/she is a New Urbanist? Can he/she, for example, print a calling card that states their name followed by the initials CNU, just as I do? Why should our standards be lower than those of the AICP?

2. Diane Dorney is an expert on the New Urbanism. She has lived and participated in the building of Kentlands for eight years where she was the association president. She has attended

“... it is evident that we need to do something.”

--Andrés Duany

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dozens of seminars and charrettes and read everything. She writes expertly on the subject and edits a very good, popular newspaper on the New Urbanism (*The Town Paper*). Should she not have access to standing higher than someone who has paid to attend one Congress and read nothing? What if Diane, herself, wants some sort certification to be able to confront a "professional" planner?

3. Who thinks that because the CNU won't establish them, New Urbanist standards aren't being applied by others? Standards are set by Rob Steuteville for the inclusion of projects in his New Urban News list. Could we not use his criteria? And, in any case, should the CNU not have vetted them?

4. There is a New Urbanism advocate who is currently writing editorials attacking Rem Koolhaas for a West Coast paper. When I spoke to him to explain that attacking modernist buildings was not a New Urbanist principle, I found that he did not even know there is a Charter Book. Should he be allowed to represent the New Urbanism in so public a forum? How many other people, with good intentions but great ignorance, validated their opinions in public by saying, "I am a member of the Congress for the New Urbanism"? Shouldn't we assure that they have at least read the Charter? Should there be any standards at all?

5. There is a project in Columbia, N.C., that advertises itself as "New Urbanist." It consists of a single, 4-story, glassy office building surrounded by a sea of parking within which sits a single wooden gazebo. It was shown to me by a local person (who is not stupid) wanting to know: "Is this New Urbanist?" This was asked without irony; he just didn't know. Is there to be no way of excluding such travesties?

6. How about a developer like Nate Bowman, who is going through the drill of building a thoroughly New Urbanist project that is mixed-use, mixed income (including Habitat houses), with live-work units, elementary school, traffic-calmed roads, alleys, multiple entrances, drive-fronted greenways, etc. Should he not have available certification for his project to differentiate his community from a nearby development that has a few porches and a gazebo and presents itself as New Urbanist in its sales pitch? What if Nate requests certification to protect him from the simulacra? Do we tell him that he is on his own? I know that there are now awards available; but if his project doesn't get one do we leave him hanging?

7. If a municipality issues a competitive Request For Qualifications calling specifically for a New Urbanist planning firm (there have been several recently and there will be more of them), should not firms like Thadani/Hetzel, John Massengale's, or Dover/Kohl -- firms that have been New Urbanist since the beginning -- have credentials available to present against other firms that have just designated themselves "New Urbanist" on Monday morning? What if the old-line firms request certification for such an eventuality?

8. On a similar vein, should Nate Bowman enter a public/private developer's Request For Qualifications specifically looking for a New Urbanist developer and then lose it to another developer who does not know the first thing (not even the first thing) about it, but who shows pictures of charming, high-end houses that look traditional and so the equally ignorant selection committee is snowed by them? Should he not be disappointed that the CNU did not have certification available for him?

9. How is it that those CNU members who bemoan that porches and picket fences have somehow become tokens sufficient to signify New Urbanism are the same as those who warn against the establishment of standards? What are they afraid of? That they will not pass a test? That a test will leave people out? That it will create an elite? That it would ossify the New Urbanism? That it would make a non-relativist distinction

between right and wrong practices? Are they perhaps afraid that some of their projects will not meet the certification criteria? Well, I hope that the standards are high enough that many of ours won't either. It will make some of our clients more careful about compromise.

10. Does anyone remember that the establishment of standards to prevent the dissipation of New Urbanist concepts was THE ONE STATED REASON that the First Congress assembled? By insisting on this issue, are we not being consistent with our origins and purpose? Does anyone think that this is not a substantive issue? Who thinks that it can ultimately be avoided? Is this not a logical next step for a maturing organization?

11. Could it be that the half dozen most prominent New Urbanist designers don't need certification because they are elevated above the competition by their brand names? Certification would level the playing field; what could be wrong with that?

12. If it really is enough that one buys a membership to the CNU to become a New Urbanist, why should I belong to an organization where the general level of discussion is lowered because its members don't have to the incentive to read (as they would for a test)?

I could go on ... but why, when it is evident that we need to do something.

"One could conceivably read a handful of NU-related books and pass an exam on basic principles, but this does not necessarily make them capable practitioners."

--Kevin Klinkenberg



**Re: Standards & Such**

Diane Dorney  
11/09/00

I don't care if I'm certified. I JUST WANT PEOPLE TO READ THE TOWN PAPER!



**Re: Standards & Such**

Laurence Aurbach  
11/09/00

Standards are important to the maturation of CNU and to the credibility of NU as a whole. I hear of these RFPs that include NU requirements and jobs that are won on the basis of supposed NU design and management ability. It seems that as NU becomes more established and popular, these phenomena will increase. Rest assured that if large sums of money are involved, someone will come up with a certification program.

Any number of organizations could do it. AIA, APA, ULI or NAHB could institute a continuing education requirement or token exam -- whatever suits their members' purposes. If another organization takes the initiative on this, CNU will be trivialized, and the certification itself may not embody the principles of the Charter.

There are many issues and questions to discuss before a satisfactory certification program can be instituted. For instance, should certification be awarded to people or to projects? Ideally both, but we have to start somewhere and project certification is more attainable in the short term. We have *New Urban News* criteria, and certainly the Charter Awards winners would be certified. The Charter Awards could be expanded: one classification for winners, and one for projects that simply meet basic Charter principles. The judging process should be self-supporting through entry fees. Judging standards should be as clear, objective and easily communicated as possible.

All sorts of questions arise. Professional judges must be paid for their time, mustn't they? How are the judges chosen? How does one appeal a decision?

The CNU currently has six membership categories. Following the nonprofit model, they are simply based on money contributed. Some of these could be scrapped (the partner and sponsor levels) and replaced. One new category could

be called "Certified Member." This would be a member who passes an exam to demonstrate broad knowledge of NU issues, concepts and techniques. It would be useful for planners, developers, real estate agents, financiers, and anyone else who needs to be conversant with the concepts. It would be useful in debates for setting standards of fluency.

More questions arise. Who designs and administers the exam? What is the most appropriate format? What topics and questions should be covered? Could it be given remotely?

The second new category would be "Professional Member." This would be a member who demonstrates the ability to design NU plans and projects. Possibly, this could be lead designers on already-certified projects. Professional membership should be practice-based rather than exam-based, because NU has always been about pragmatic action. Exam-based memberships are too theoretical for municipalities and developers to rely on. Academic skill does not imply real-world ability or even sympathy for NU's goals.

Questions: How many designers should be allowed per project? X number per acre? How to ensure that the named designers actually contributed significantly to a project? Are there better ways to demonstrate ability?

These schemes are parallel to the existing membership structure. They would allow the Board to lower the price of a regular membership, or create a Basic Membership, to attract more casual urbanists and lay supporters. CNU could pursue the twin tracks of 1) a broad-based nonprofit advocacy organization and 2) a focused professional organization with gatekeeping functions.

Question: Is this too schizophrenic or ambitious for a small, 8-year old group? Must CNU choose one track or the other?



**Re: Standards & Such**

Kevin Klinkenberg  
11/09/00

These are very interesting thoughts; thanks for sharing them. I really like the idea of both-and, instead of either-or. I've been trying to

get my arms around the certification idea as well. Here are some random splatterings:

One thing I feel the need to do is overstate the obvious a little bit in regards to exams -- they really don't mean anything for most professional organizations. Since I am an architect, and fairly young, I've been through the exam/licensure process in the last few years, and can clearly state that the NCARB [National Council of Architectural Registration Boards] exam reveals very little about one's ability to be a competent or even qualified architect. For a variety of reasons, it says more about one's ability to take a test rather than one's ability to be an architect. Did you know, for example, that the average first-time passing rate on the exam is now about two-thirds? Several colleagues of mine passed the exam easily and are people who I would never retain for services for even the most basic building. I don't say this out of jealousy, as I, too, passed the exam easily. NCARB has so tortured the process that the great barrier to licensure now has nothing to do with ability; it has entirely to do with saving enough money to take the test.

For my own sake, I've even considered taking the AICP exam, as some form of alphabet-soup legitimacy. Some have even suggested this to me, as a way to add credentials to a start-up operation. But, alas, I'm not convinced that doing so is meaningful or worth the effort. Clients concerned about AICP credentials, after all, are probably not going to be the kind eager to break new ground with new urbanist work. I'm not sure it even merits discussion how worthless AIA credentials are.

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So, I guess the point of that rant is to tread thoughtfully into the area of exams. One could conceivably read a handful of NU-related books and pass an exam on basic principles, but this does not necessarily make them capable practitioners. What should the demonstrated level of capability be and how should that be demonstrated? I don't have any idea at this point. NU has thrived by encouraging a different development process as well as a different product; perhaps that wisdom and attitude should be carried into the certification arena.

Also, one concern is not to lock out younger practitioners who are eager to practice NU. We all know how difficult it is to break the hold of the large planning firms for certain types of work; it would be a shame if a monoculture of NU firms were the by-product of this effort. I HIGHLY doubt that this would happen, given all of you who are involved, but it seems like one of those unintended consequences that we should be aware of. I have certainly benefited from involvement with many of you (and continue to), and it would be a shame to shut the door behind us, even if unintentionally.



**Re: Standards & Such**  
Steven Ressler van Gorp  
11/13/2000

I still lobby that members be certified, not projects: Those who lobby for certifying projects miss the whole point of certification, IMHO.

Again I say, follow the way APA members are certified to receive their AICP credential. First one must join the APA, which demonstrates your professional interest in planning. Preparing for the AICP exam (four months of reviewing planning principals, ethics, case law, history) and sitting for the exam (four hours) demonstrate your willingness and ability to be a certified planner. I am proud that I passed the AICP exam this year and joined the ranks of some 16,000 planners nationally who are certified that they are competent to practice and will honor our code of ethics. I am next preparing to become a licensed architect (with a M.Arch and 16+ years experience) but have been an Associate Member of AIA for years.

I urge the CNU Board to resolve this matter in the near future. The fact that some folks now put "CNU" after their names professionally, and that some RFPs are now requiring CNU membership (which anyone can buy for \$150) demands it.



**Standards & Such II**  
Andrés Duany  
11/10/00

Here is a proposal for a system of certification, with a comprehensive range of levels as well as a distinction between persons and projects.

projects.

**A. CERTIFICATION FOR INDIVIDUALS:**

A1. Membership: This is the lowest level, available by paying the standard yearly CNU membership fee, just as it is done now.

A2. Charter Membership: This is available as an automatic upgrade in several ways: A2.1 Qualifying by having attended the first three Congresses, which were selective. A2.2 By having attended no less than half the Congresses -- a progressive number. This is justified under the assumption that one would have picked up a certain level of expertise and demonstrated a substantial commitment by attending the Congresses. A2.3. By taking a multiple choice test based on a short reading list\* three to five books --nothing too strenuous, but assuring some level of knowledge. This last method would allow new members to "catch up."

A3. Certified Urbanists. True certification is possible because planning is not a licensed profession. This is the first "professional" level. It

would involve substantial directed reading\*\* and the attendance at two or three seminars (like the Seaside and the ULI ones, rationalized). A seriously demanding multiple-choice test would assure that CNU Certification actually represented expertise. Anyone, whatever their background, not just designers, would be able to take and pass this test.

A4. Certified Urban Designers. These would be the Certified Urbanists above (A3) but with design skills as a modular addition. The applicant could submit design work to a committee. Those who don't yet draw would have available a short, intense, course. This course may be something that we (or the ITA; or the Knight Fellowship) should offer anyway, for the thousands of current planners who were not taught to draw in school and thus cannot practice New Urbanism. We could teach more-than-serviceable drawing for planners in two weeks.

A5. Fellowship: This would be an honor to be accorded by the Board to assorted worthies such as the principals of committed NU firms and their key employees; developers who maintain high standards; and that group of authors, elected officials, lawyers, and marketing people, who would not be expected to take the technical certification texts. The criteria for Fellowship would be developed by vote of the Board to suit the individual circumstance. CNU Fellowship would be an honor like the AIA Fellows.

\* The "short" Charter Membership reading list would include: "The Charter Book," "The Next American Metropolis," "The New Urbanism," "New American Urbanism" and the "Best Practices Guide."

\*\* The "long" Certification reading list would include, in addition: "The Wealth of Cities," "The Lexicon," "Suburban Nation," "The Geography of Nowhere," "The Elusive City," "The New Civic Art," "Planning the Regional City" and "The Smart Growth Manual" (due soon).

Anyone who knows these books would be aware that they represent a comprehensive education -- the best there is, in fact. It would be a shame not to make it formally available.

**B. CERTIFICATION FOR PROJECTS:**

B1. Charter Project is the certification for projects that meet certain checklist criteria, similar to the EPA Index, or the various energy efficiency ratings etc. The standards must carefully conceived to be parametric, to accommodate the variety of projects. There could be a few grades available that would accommodate excellent projects and those less so.

B2. Project Awards are the newly instituted awards for design excellence.

**CONCLUSION**

Certification, the process and the substance, will undoubtedly raise the level of discussion in the Congresses and the Internet, raise design standards, foster the esprit of being a New Urbanist, and generally put an order into what have been disconnected initiatives: literary, social, technical and educational.

I really don't see a meaningful downside. That this is elitist and exclusivist? Hardly. Everyone is welcome to respond to the challenges. And those who don't have the wherewithal? Well, they can continue to be members. For them, nothing changes.



**Standards and Such II**  
Vince Graham  
11/30/00

I don't mean to be a Barney Balloon Buster here. However, I find half the battle in building high quality neighborhoods to be overcoming the mindset

of many AIAs, AICPs, CPAs, MBAs, JDs, ASLAs, realtors and other certified "experts" who are educated beyond their intelligence. The other half of the battle involves overcoming the political and regulatory gauntlet set up and administered by such "experts."



**Standards and Such II**  
Andrés Duany  
11/30/00

It is precisely because they have some form of certification and you don't that these nitwits have a standing superior to yours. If you were

a CNU certified planner you would have a better chance of "overcoming that political and regulatory gauntlet." You could then fight back with authority as well as with right reason.

**About the New Urban Post:**

The New Urban Post (NUP) is a series of publications devoted to topics related to New Urbanism. The content of the NUP is drawn primarily from Pro-Urb listserv postings, with additional supplementary material included as appropriate. (A listserv is an on-line discussion conducted by e-mail.) An editorial board is responsible for compilation, publication and distribution of the NUP.

The audience of the NUP is similar to the subscribers of the Pro-Urb listserv -- professionals, academics, public officials and activists. NUP readers will get a glimpse into the minds of respected New Urban professionals and leaders. The wide range of subject matter highlighted in the papers is ongoing food for thought as the principles of New Urbanism continue to grow and evolve. As Andrés Duany has said, "Quite a lot of amazing material has transpired [on the Pro-Urb listserv] over the last couple of years." The editorial board believes it is time to share that material with a broad audience.

**How to participate in on-line discussions about New Urbanism:**

The Pro-Urb listserv is a moderated discussion of New Urbanism. It is aimed at practicing professionals and has no official connection to the Congress for the New Urbanism. Subscribe by sending a note to [listserv@listserv.uga.edu](mailto:listserv@listserv.uga.edu) with a message body reading: SUBSCRIBE PRO-URB (your first name) (your last name)

The CNU listserv is a free-ranging discussion of all aspects of New Urbanism. It is aimed at a general audience and has no official connection to the Congress for the New Urbanism. Subscribe by sending a note to [LISTSERV@LSV.UKY.EDU](mailto:LISTSERV@LSV.UKY.EDU), with the words "SUBSCRIBE CNU" in the body of the message.

**Tell us what you think!**

E-mail us at  
[rowland@arches.uga.edu](mailto:rowland@arches.uga.edu).

Please put the name of the issue in the subject heading (i.e. "Certification). Letters to the Editor will be considered for publication in the next issue.

*Letters to the Editor on CERTIFICATION will be considered for publication in the next issue of the New Urban Post.*

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## Knight Program in Community Building

Pushing the boundaries of New Urbanism and Smart Growth.

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation was established in 1950 as a private organization independent of the Knight Ridder publication company. The non-profit organization is dedicated to furthering the founders' ideals of community service, high standards of journalistic excellence and a free press. The *Knight Program in Community Building* extends the Foundation's commitment to community service with a mid-career program of professional development.

### Fellows

Each year, the Knight program selects 12 mid-career professionals from diverse fields to take part in intensive community-building workshops, seminars and a charrette, while pursuing individual projects. Fellows are selected from fields such as architecture, planning, housing, community development, real estate, journalism, transportation and human services.

### Scholars

The Knight Program offers scholarships to promising students entering the University of Miami School of Architecture graduate program in Suburb and Town Design. This unique program provides cutting edge training in the techniques of New Urbanism. Scholars take part in seminars, workshops, research and publications produced by the Knight Program.

### Publication

A variety of publications on topics of community building, smart growth and New Urbanism are sponsored by the Knight Program. These include the quarterly *New Urban Post*, a semi-annual *Design Council Report*, books, journals and other material. The Knight Fellows' projects are published in case studies, research and journal articles on a variety of related topics.

### Symposia/Charrettes

The Program sponsors seminars and conferences and an annual charrette in a Knight city. The "Transect Seminar" took place at Yale University in April 2000. Upcoming conferences include "Community Building and the Media" (December 2001) and "Civic Art 2002" (April 2002). This year's charrette will focus on the revitalization of a neighborhood in Macon, Ga.



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Key West Rooftops. Drawing by Martha de Quesada, Miami School of Architecture.

### New Urban Post

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Publisher

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