

Authorities," offers more than twenty suggestions for shelter field trips, their rationale and execution, as well as the use of community, physical, human, and social-institutional resources.

Of the capsule packages of information on the various industries in Part II, the chapters on materials of construction and sources of power relate to housing. In Part III, the classroom experiences emphasize simple, basically historical processes that elementary school children can understand. Instructions for model homes of log, sod, and adobe are given, as are fashioning household tools, homemade construction materials, and supplementary activities. There are also experiments with power. References are divided into For Children and For the Teacher.

Although written from an industrial arts viewpoint, Scobey's book appears to be one of the essential bases for anyone planning housing curriculum development for the younger set.

—B.J. White

Abrahamson, Mark. *Urban Sociology*. (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc.) 1976 Prentice-Hall Series in Sociology.

In the preface, the author calls his ". . . a comparative urban book," borrowing from both the ecological and nonecological perspectives of urban sociology, as well as urban economics, geography, political science, and history. Of twelve chapters, only a few are devoted explicitly to American phenomena. Titles of interest to the houser include the following: "Conceptual Approaches to Urbanism," "History of Cities," "Population, Specialization, and Location," "Urbanization in the United States," "Urban Residential Patterns," "Metropolitanization," and "Fiscal Aspects of City-Suburban Relations."

"Urban Residential Patterns" is about neighborhoods—ways of defining, studying, and comparing them. The continuum from defining neighborhoods in terms of arbitrary geographic delimitations (Census Tracts), to natural areas, to

levels of social interaction, and now increased social relationships stemming from work places and relationships not geographically confined is noted. He discusses the question of whether we can classify city neighborhoods according to attitudes and behaviors of residents. Cross-cultural comparisons are made of the "salient dimensions of residential stratification": socioeconomic and family status, and ethnic segregation.

In "Metropolitanization," Abrahamson contrasts dormitory suburbs with employing suburbs. He discusses transportation, expansion, and integration starting with the bicycle boom on through the 1970s energy crisis and computerized mass transit systems. Cities are classified by degree of metropolitan integration: national, regional, average city, or nonintegrator.

The book is written for students. It is short (275 pp) but a comprehensive introduction to the topic. Footnote citations provide additional sources for the diligent. It is written in a personal manner with an occasional first person. Sociological terminology, theories of growth, central place theory, indexes of residential segregation, etc. are mixed with the long arm of the job, bureaucratization, and the Southern belle. The book is organized with topic headings, a prospectus is given at the end of Chapter I, and in some cases chapters are tied by summaries and lead-ins to the following chapter. The same examples and case studies are reused to make points in different chapters. Photographs have been used to increase interest and probably make social commentaries: picture of a government-placed sign on a wall in Mexico which translates as, "To want a child is to educate him" or a shot of a San Diego back porch with garbage plus scores of liquor bottles. Finally, the author has included an Appendix containing data on a sample of thirty-three American cities and SMSAs, giving as one purpose for it, a quick and sufficient source of information for student research papers. A glance at the ten table headings shows that this author's topic is equally as interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary as is our topic of housing.

—B.J.W.

Joint Center for Urban Studies of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University. *Two-Year Report: July 1973 through June 1975*. (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Joint Center for Urban Studies) February 1976. 37 pp.

The Joint Center for Urban Studies, founded in 1959, is a research center of MIT and Harvard. Its purpose is to stimulate and facilitate research in urban problems at the two universities and to encourage interdisciplinary research on issues that do not fit within conventional departmental boundaries. Since 1970, the research program has been focused primarily on housing policy in the United States, although research is also being supported in other areas.

The report lists the Center's recent research accomplishments and current studies in housing policy: national housing needs (one result being publication of *America's Housing Needs, 1970 to 1980*); designing a direct cash assistance program for housing; instability in residential construction; home financing; the impact of environmental law, the role of the states in housing; blacks in suburbia; extensions of America's housing needs; metropolitan housing markets; building standards; and designing to reflect preferences of different social and ethnic groups.

Topics studied in the secondary research areas include the delivery of public services (revenue sharing, the politics of street-level bureaucrats, municipal employee unions) and changing patterns and images of social stratification and social policy.

Based on a 1975 evaluation of the Center's program, the two universities determined that the research focus should be broadened; already attention is being given to problems of housing finance, changing patterns of housing demand, and the costs to society of instability in the construction industry. In addition, there will be two new, though related, research focuses: land use, urban growth, and the impact of environmental regulations; and problems of state and local

economics and state and local decision making.

The report includes a complete list of publications: 1973-1975; a financial report; and a complete list of research projects undertaken, 1973-1975.

—B.J.W.

Campbell, Carlos C. *New Towns: Another Way To Live*. (Reston, Virginia: Reston Publishing Co., Inc.) 1976, 283 pp., \$12.50.

The author, formerly a high official in HUD's division of Community Planning and Management, and a resident of Reston for more than six years, visited twenty-four new town developments, interviewing developers, planners, organizational administrators, professional staffers, government officials, volunteers, and residents representing different ages, races, sexes, income levels, and life styles in order to research this book. In this introduction, which is entitled, "On America's Bicentennial" (and which could be paraphrased, "The City at the Bicentennial"), Campbell concludes that, "Because of the wealth that exists in the United States, it seems to me that we have a special obligation to set the example for the rest of the world insofar as bringing about those conditions that are necessary to provide for a favorable quality of life for all of our citizens is concerned. In this regard, we must assess quality in biological, cultural, physical, and psychological terms—in addition to the economic yardstick. Accordingly, light, air, space, shelter, and the provision of services must be weighted in terms of how and what they contribute to human growth and potential."

New towns, in the contemporary sense, are defined as "developments that are planned initially to provide for a broad range of social, economic, and physical activities within a defined area of land and within a predetermined time period." A brief history traces new towns from Miletus, Greece (Fourth Century, B.C.), to Reston, Columbia, and almost thirty others now being developed in the United States.