

# STRATEGIC SPATIAL PROJECTS

CATALYSTS FOR CHANGE



EDITED BY  
STIJN OOSTERLYNCK,  
JEF VAN DEN BROECK,  
LOUIS ALBRECHTS,  
FRANK MOULAERT AND  
ANN VERHETSEL



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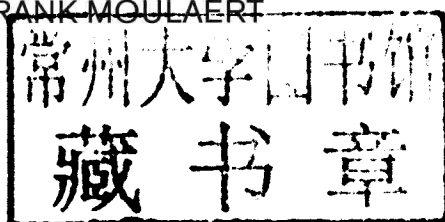
ROUTLEDGE

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## STRATEGIC SPATIAL PROJECTS

How can spatial planning and design better contribute to fundamental changes and transformations of the spatial organisation of society that are at once qualitative, sustainable and socially inclusive?

Western society is facing major developments, challenges and opportunities. Governments are being urged to adopt a more proactive style in order to enhance the vitality and resilience of their cities and regions. The challenges they are faced with cannot be tackled adequately with purely market-based solutions or traditional land-use planning. This book starts from the position that spatial planning urgently needs to adopt a more strategic approach, combining the aim of socio-spatial transformation with a concern for action and implementation. Through a number of theoretical contributions and empirical case studies, it explores strategic spatial projects as a catalyst for socio-spatial change.

Theoretically and empirically, the book analyses three interrelated challenges for strategic spatial planning and the potential of strategic spatial projects to address these. How to make planning through projects socially innovative, how to mobilise design in strategic projects to communicate and bring about improved spatial quality and how to operationalise sustainability for strategic spatial projects and work through the land-use conflicts often associated with them.

Unique in its focus on the transformative potential and action-orientation of strategic projects, this book explores the potential role of design in communicating about and pursuing spatial quality in strategic projects. The book is for academics, students and practitioners in spatial planning and design, community development, human geography, public administration and policy studies and urban sociology.

**Stijn Oosterlynck** is Lecturer in Urban Sociology at the University of Antwerp and Post-doctoral Research Fellow of the Fund for Scientific Research – Flanders in the Department of Architecture, Urbanism and Spatial Planning and the Institute of Social and Economic Geography at K.U.Leuven, Belgium.

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## **PREFACE**

This book presents the results of four years of case study research and theoretical discussions on strategic spatial projects and planning. The cases have been examined within a large-scale Flemish research project called SP2SP (Spatial Planning to Strategic Projects), coordinated by Jef Van den Broeck and Louis Albrechts, and financed by IWT (Flemish Institute for Innovation, Science and Technology). The SP2SP research consortium consisted of the Department of Architecture, Urbanism and Spatial Planning (K.U.Leuven), the Centre for Sustainable Development (Ghent University), the Department of Transport and Spatial Economy (Antwerp University) and the two private consultancy, planning and design agencies IDEA Consult and OMGEVING. A group of stakeholders (regional and city planners, planning organisations, different public administrations, etc.) was guiding the research process (for instance by giving input on the research topics, questions and case studies, by giving feedback on the scientific results), thus helping to forge a strong link between academic research and planning, design and policy practice.

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