



WT - Neighborhood Pattern and Design

An important aspect of architecture that is often overlooked is that of planning. Planning is the study of how spaces should be laid out to interact with each other. For example, urban planning deals with infrastructure, buildings and services and where they should be located within a city. Architecture and planning are subjects that are often looked at separately but should be considered together for true sustainability.

Decisions such as whether to include a garage in a building design can be directly affected by a building's surroundings: a garage would most likely be necessary in the suburbs, but not for a building in walking distance of common needs, such as grocery stores and public transportation lines. During planning, it is equally important to consider, architecture.

Planning dictates lot size and distribution in cities, taking into account the solar orientation of lots can be a great boon to architects when designing buildings. A poorly oriented lot can make for a huge headache when it comes to designing a building, but conscious planning can create blocks of well oriented parcels which can reduce energy needs significantly for everyone involved.