

## **Reflections on *Community Architect: The Life and Vision of Clarence S. Stein***

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Clarence Stein's iconic new town of Radburn, New Jersey is now a historic landmark. Many of his ideas, particularly the "modernization" of the Garden City in the late 1920's and early 1930s for the "motor age", are relegated to the history books. Yet critical elements of Stein's community proposals resonate with planners, landscape architects, architects, and developers today, whether they know it or not! The low income housing tax credit program integrates elements of what Stein called "investment housing" – quality design at a reasonable return targeted at working class residents. His signature community designs, weaving together private gardens with a hierarchy of public parks represent a sophisticated understanding of open space design evident today in green infrastructure. From new mortgage instruments to broaden home ownership to public-private partnerships, Stein's influence endures. This presentation elaborates on themes from the recently published *Community Architect: The Life and Vision of Clarence S. Stein*.