

Master Plan

A

A Master Plan is a report written by city planners and various experts after examining some land, in order to describe how they think it should be organized, taking the existing facilities into account. It is a document describing current and future development proposals. It identifies the themes, aspirations and structures for an integrated approach to design through analysis and consultation.

Here is an example of the aims of a Master Plan:

- To create a structure for the best quality City Centre;
- To create the best possible environment for all users;
- To find key problem areas
- To treat improvements as priorities;
- To create an attractive area for business;
- To develop existing resources.

Bio-architecture

B

ESTRATA

The aim of architecture has always been to create 'healthy' buildings with little ecological impact, but many materials used for construction have not followed this objective since the Industrial Revolution and consequent mass production. Energy consumption and the limited amount of non-renewable resources have recently had an impact on architecture. The aim of sustainable architecture is to create harmony between buildings and nature. For this reason two basic principles have to be followed:

- Using the natural presence of the sun, good thermal insulation and natural ventilation to reduce energy consumption;
- Using renewable energy resources (solar, wind, water and geothermal) to achieve energy autonomy.

Town planning

C

Planning is a balancing act between constructing modern communities and conserving our natural and built heritage to create sustainable places where people can live, work and play. It implies decisions about transport, facilities, the development of new shops, schools, dwellings, parks, etc. It supports our ongoing use of the environment. Some of the things the planners do include:

- Developing and creating affordable houses;
 - Regenerating socially-deprived areas;
 - Requalifying historic buildings;
 - Creating policies for managing the traffic and improving energy efficiency;
 - Discussing with communities about how to improve their quality life.
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