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Knowledge traditions and professions in urban planning

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Abstract

In this article the roles and knowledge of different professions and is explored, focusing on the imprint of different professions in the 19th and 20th Century in Norwegian urban planning. At the beginning of the 20.th Century, three professions were involved in urban planning; medical practitioners/hygienists, engineers and architects. Architects strengthened their position in urban planning profession in the post-war years, due to increasing demand for extensive urban plans and large scale housing development in Oslo and other larger cities. Today, a majority of planning propositions (like zoning plans) are prepared by private actors. Moreover, local authorities increasingly seem to depend on private funding to accomplish housing and infrastructure projects, which give property developers, land owners and other private actors wide-ranging influence on where to build, when and how. In order to a address problems and opportunities in urban areas, there will be an increasing need to bring different forms of knowledge together from a variety of disciplines and across different sectors.

Key words: knowledge traditions; professions; urban planning.