

This I believe! - Dense Communities

I believe that creating a sustainable world is something that can never be obtained. Sustainability is an idea, and the idea of one person is something completely different than the idea of another. These ideas stem from personal growth, beliefs, and subconsciously from family upbringing.

I grew up in a small town and I enjoyed having space between my home and the one adjacent to it. When I moved here to Charlotte, it was the first time that I had really taken note of all the densely populated neighborhoods in larger cities. It's not that I haven't been to larger cities before I came here; I had just never realized the amount of people that live so close to one another until I became one of those people.

The typical city's comprehensive plan usually consists of many densely populated communities with designated open space. I believe that the current idea of more densely populated areas will create more problems than it solves. The designated open spaces are not enough to keep sustaining a growing population, which is what I feel these comprehensive plans are unconsciously creating.

When a lot of cities begin to adopt this type of planning, sooner or later the cities will be spread out over vast areas of land. You will not be able to tell where one city begins and the other ends, as you can see now even around Charlotte. These types of neighborhoods are very attractive to builders and developers as they bring in large amounts of income. This is where you have to think ethically and decide on if the consequences later are worth the income now. The larger footprint a city has the greater amount of area that its pollution will cover.

I believe that there is a need to have densely populated areas as to alleviate some of the more widespread pollution that occurs. But the way that things are done now does not seem to be providing any solutions to the problem. Tokyo's proposed "Sky City" would be a great example of how we could condense the population of people that want to live in larger cities by reducing the footprint of the overall city. This type of city also shows promise for an enormous reduction in pollution from transportation as the entire population can live and work only minutes apart.

Cities that would be able to take on this kind of transformation would be able to reclaim land and provide more area for farming to provide food and other resources for the city. This would not by any means provide an ultimate solution to the problem. There is still the problem of providing the energy necessary to sustain this type of city, however, I believe this type of city would be more adaptable to solar and wind as a means of power. This is what I believe to be a step in the right direction towards a more sustainable future.

Go from This ↓



To This ↓

