Regional Planning is planning for a geographic area that transcends the boundaries of individual governmental units but that shares common social, economic, political, natural resource, and transportation characteristics. A regional planning agency prepares plans that serve as a framework for planning by local governments and special districts.” (6-5)

reasons for regional planning: provision of TA to local governments, providing a forum to discuss and resolve intergovernmental issues, to direct, guide, and/or coordinate local planning, to articulate local interests to other levels of government, create better communication between local govs and other agencies (6-5)

provides model legislation for creating regional planning agencies, also includes some case studies of existing regional plans, strongly reflects coordination model of late ACIR, McDowell, etc.


Do scenario-building when significant change is likely and outcomes are not obvious, when the time frame is medium to long-term (10 to more than 20 years), and where the community is heterogeneous and reflects different values and views of the future

Best practice principles: get support from the top early on; keep the leaders involved; seek diverse opinions; define a clear mission; set basic limits in time, space, and scope; use SWOT productively (strengths and weaknesses of the current plan, opportunities and threats from the external environment); get max info from interviews; highlight commonalities and differences; establish evaluation criteria early; recognize there is more than one way to build scenarios; test storylines for plausibility through quantification and role playing; limit the number of scenarios and clearly differentiate them; don’t go public prematurely (proceed through SWOT, STEPE analysis(five driving forces: society, technology, environment, politics, economics), development of storylines and graphics, and initial quantification to answer basic questions about growth allocation; evaluation should include fiscal testing; allow enough time and resources

…note similarity with Ringland lessons…

“The authors of this book do not see regions as areas filled with a certain kind of cultural ether, but rather as places where discrete, though related, structures intersect and interact in particular patterns. The region is climate and land; it is a particular set of relations between various ethnic groups; it is a relation to the federal government and economy; it is a set of shared cultural styles. But each of these elements, even the influence of land and climate, is constantly changing. Accordingly, their relationships with one another also are constantly changing. The result of these changing relationships is regional history. Present-day Southerners, Westerners, and New Englanders, we believe, can best connect with their pasts not so much through some unbroken and unsullied heritage but rather by, as it were, comparing notes, experiences, with those who came before, with those who lived on the same land when it was something different.” (5)

“...the key issue for students of regionalism is to explain why some cultural distinctions come to matter, while so many do not, in the construction of collective identities...Regional idiosyncrasies would only become conspicuous with a national framework as they rode to the level of self-conscious reflection and manipulation...Regions defined one another in a nation of regions.” (8) ...not similarity here to Hough on regional identity...

“If region had not had reason on its side, then region would not have had much. In the twentieth century, the idea of regionalism has made few pulses race; passion had not been its instant ally. In truth, for much of the last century regionalism’s appeal has rested on an exactly opposite property. In times of harried and disorienting change, the theory went, regions stabilized the pulse, slowed down the heartbeat, and made life seem manageable again. If the word region had consistently aroused strong emotion, it would have undermined its own promise of a grounded, healing, stable arrangement of loyalties.” (83)


symptoms of new problems in urban america: gridlocked streets, jobs at fringe, more hours behind the wheel, disparities between rich and poor communities, loss of irreplaceable farms and forests due to urban expansion...sprawl...new national conversation occurring in communities about these issues... “Sustainability is the most important issue relating to city and regional planning at the beginning of this new century.” (3) ...book proposes achieving global sustainability incrementally, a region at a time

“Ethical land-use policy acknowledges that no political jurisdiction is free-standing; ethical obligations exist to other jurisdictions, particularly those which are adjacent or surrounding. At a minimum, ethical land use requires one jurisdiction to consult with and coordinate with other jurisdictions, and to consider the impacts of its land-use policies on communities and citizens beyond its borders. Ethical land-use policy implies that jurisdictions have obligations to minimize the imposition of harms on other jurisdictions and have regional fair share obligations, such as to provide minimum levels of affordable housing, waste disposal, transportation, open space, and recreation.” (271)


“A planner’s tasks are to understand a place by revealing its human and environmental aspects, to establish clearly where conflicts and cooperation occur, and to find techniques to solve conflicts and help create as healthy an environment as possible for present and future residents.” (22)...note emphasis on revelation, making invisible visible, echoes MacKaye and Hough (know the place)...relies on both insider and “scientific” knowledge, the more the better, yields a more informed and democratic approach to planning and policy making

Proposes five propositions for sound planning and implementation: (156)

1) Maintain regional control but decentralize the planning process through relevant public participation. Base the designation of subregional areas for local planning on contemporary and historical patterns of use.
2) Select when possible management strategies best adapted to the social, economic, and ecological arrangements in a subregion. A knowledge of the balance among family, technology, resources and markets provides the necessary insights.
3) Recognize landscape patterns of use and tradition as a basis for siting new uses. Landscape analysis based on the themes of love of place and the switching seasonal economy provides the necessary interpretation for these siting guidelines.
4) Incorporate local skills and actors into site management. Mix these skills and ideas with applied science. Anticipatory research on the seasonal cycle and the collective memory reveals these skills and patterns.
5) Recognize local and subregional aesthetic norms in site design and management. Data from each theme contribute to this understanding.

“We recommend that the planning process begin not with a zoning map, but with the designation of policy regions based on the patches of the mosaic, the socionatural systems.” (160)...echoes Dramstad, Olson, and Forman

“The basic assumption behind the work that led to the present volume is that resource management is necessary but that it requires fundamentally different approaches, not mere tinkering with current models and practices. The volume seeks to integrate two streams of resource management thought that fundamentally differ from the classic utilitarian approach. The first is the use of systems approach and adaptive management, with their emphasis on linkages and feedback controls…The systems approach is replacing the view that resources can be treated as discrete entities in isolation from the rest of the ecosystem and the social system….The second stream of thought is that improving the performance of natural resource systems requires an emphasis on institutions and property rights. A people-oriented approach which focuses on the resource user rather than on the resource itself is not a new idea; many have pointed out that ‘resource management is people management’. However, tools and approaches for such people management are poorly developed, and the importance of a social science of resource management has not generally been recognized.” (2)

“Adaptive management differs from the conventional practice of resource management by emphasizing the importance of feedbacks from the environment in shaping policy, followed by further systematic (i.e. non-random) experimentation to shape subsequent policy, and so on. The process is iterative; it is feedback and learning-based. It is co-evolutionary…in the sense that it involves two-way feedback between management policy and the state of the resource.” (10)

“Resilience has been defined in two very different ways in the ecological literature….The first definition concentrates on stability at a presumed steady-state, and stresses resistance to a disturbance and the speed of return to the equilibrium point. This is the conventional, equilibrium-oriented, linear, cause-and-effect view of a predictive science as used by many in ecology, economics, and other disciplines….By contrast, the second definition of resilience, and the one used in the present volume, emphasizes conditions in which disturbances (or perturbations) can flip a system from one equilibrium state to another. In this case, the important measure of resilience is the magnitude or scale of disturbance that can be absorbed before the system changes in structure by the change of variables and processes that control system behaviour. This is a fundamentally different view of science, in which determining causal effects and making predictions are not simple matters at all. Rather, systems are seen to be complex, non-linear, multi-equilibrium and self-organizing; they are permeated by uncertainty and discontinuities. Resilience in this context is a measure of robustness and buffering capacity of the system to changing conditions.” (12)

….discusses “traditional ecological knowledge” versus “western science”, links to Levi Strauss notion of “savage knowledge”, and goes on to present own version of Rose’s compartment model, though focused more on outcome than on actually pinning down culture as discrete component…hypothesizes that maintaining resilience important for both social institutions and ecological systems, that successful knowledge and resource management systems will allow disturbance at a scale that does not disrupt ecosystem and services it provides, and that there will be social mechanisms behind management practices based on local ecological knowledge as evidence of co-evolution of local institutions and ecosystems….again, Rose, Berger and Sinton, Bennett updated but not necessarily expanded
“Where the ‘tragedy of the commons’ does occur, it does not do so as a result of ‘human
greed’,...but as a result of institutional failure.” (354)

“Thus, at the heart of sustainable development is renewal and the release of opportunity, both
social and ecological, and at relevant temporal and spatial scale in the panarchy of nested
adaptive cycles. That is why the phase sustainable development is not an oxymoron. The
problems are not amenable to solutions based on knowledge of small parts of the whole, nor on
assumptions of constancy or stability of fundamental ecological, economic and social
relationships. Such assumptions produce policies and science that contribute to a pathology of
rigid and unseeing institutions and increasingly brittle natural systems.” (359)

social-ecological practices and mechanisms for resilience and sustainability (from Table 16.1,
p418): 1) Management practices based on ecological knowledge (monitoring, total protection
for certain species, watershed management, management of landscape patchiness, etc.) 2) Social
mechanisms behind management practices a) generation, accumulation and transmission of
ecological knowledge b) structure and dynamics of institutions c) mechanisms for cultural
internalization d) worldview and cultural values

principles drawn from local social-ecological systems for building resilience (from Table 16.2, p
430): use management principles based on local ecological knowledge, design management
systems that flow with nature (allowing disturbances and feedback), developing local ecological
knowledge for understanding cycles of natural and unpredictable events, enhancing social
mechanisms for building resilience, promoting conditions for self-organization and institutional
learning, rediscovering adaptive management, developing values consistent with resilient and
sustainable social-ecological systems

Branch, Melville C. 1988 Regional Planning: Introduction and Explanation Praeger
Publishers, New York

“A region can be defined unambiguously as a sizeable space with one or more common
characteristics established by nature or delineated by humans for descriptive, analytical,
managerial, or other purposes.” (6)

distinguishes between physical and institutional regions, notes problems of interjursidictional
coordination and interaction, sees regional planning on a broad scale by business and military but
lagging to nonexistent among governments, distinguishes between comprehensive planning,
subsystem planning, and functional planning...mostly very descriptive, extensive description of
region types, and what the author has declared to be “successful” regional planning efforts

Calthorpe, Peter and William Fulton 2001 The Regional City: Planning for the End of
Sprawl Island Press, Washington DC

Robert Fishman in Forward...1920’s regionalists versus Calthorpe/Fulton/today:
“...the 1920s regionalists perceived the giant city with its slums and congestion as the overwhelming problem, and they looked eagerly to its decline and fall...By contrast, Calthorpe and Fulton’s regionalism recognizes the crucial role of a robust central city, and they focus particularly in this book on ways to rebuild the inner city...Secondly, the early regionalists believed that the self-contained New Town represented the single ideal physical form for an advanced civilization, and they looked forward to the time when the bulk of the American population lived in one....Instead of New Towns on greenfield sites, Calthorpe and Fulton concentrate on suburban infill and redevelopment, the steady work of upgrading the suburban fabric to provide for walkable town centers, mixed-use neighborhoods, and public space....Finally, the earlier regionalists were still caught up in the great wave of modernist optimism that saw radical innovation as salvation. Only by discarding all past urban forms and embracing the newest technology could the Regional City emerge. The 1920s regionalists were particularly enamored of the automobile, a perspective that Lewis Mumford, especially, lived to regret. Calthorp and Fulton turn to older urban forms not out of nostalgia or preservationism, but precisely to activate that wisdom as a resource for future innovation.” (xvii-xviii)

“A landscape of isolated land uses became a landscape of isolated people.” (4)

“In many unseen ways, urban design and regional form set the physical order of our social structure, the dimensions of our economic needs, and the extent of our environmental impacts. Although it is true that changing the physical form of our communities will not address all our social and ecological challenges, it is also true that economic vitality, social stability, and environmental sustainability cannot be achieved without a coherent and supportive physical framework.” (5)

“The successful evolution of each--region, suburb, or city--is tied to the others. Taken together, these three trends shape the outlines of a new metropolitan form, what we call the “Regional City.”” (6)...regional city as a network, not dominated by just urbanism, nature, culture, or economy but by all in combination... “...regionalism is a reality about to be born, the suburbs are rapidly maturing, and many inner-city neighborhoods are primed for rebirth. The three are connected by a common design ethic: that communities at the regional or neighborhood scale should have active centers, should respect their history and ecology, and should husband diversity. The challenge is to clarify the connections and shape both neighborhood and region into healthy, sustainable forms--into Regional Cities.” (8) ...regional cities about “intensifying places and intensifying connections”...sprawl and inequity linked, can’t end inequity by ending sprawl, but must end sprawl to end inequity

region as basic economic, ecological, and social unit...clusters, proximity, networks, etc., watersheds, airsheds, habitat planning, infrastructure, regional social compact (mostly unarticulated)... “To sustain both the metropolitan region and the neighborhoods within it, we must alter our entire approach. We must leave behind our notion of the metropolis as a series of disconnected places. We must cease viewing problems of suburban sprawl and urban decay as individual problems with no relationship to one another. We must instead think of the metropolitan region as a series of interconnected places--a Regional City--that will not function effectively unless it is consciously designed.” (30)
“At the heart of creating concrete visions of the Regional City is the notion that they can be ‘designed.’ We use the term ‘design’ not in the typical sense of artistically configuring a physical form both to imply a process that synthesizes many disciplines. Regional design is an act that integrates multiple facets at once: the demands of the region’s ecology, its economy, its history, its politics, its regulations, its culture, and its social structure. And its results are specific physical forms as well as abstract goals and policies...Too often we plan and engineer rather than design. Engineering tends to optimize isolated elements without regard for the larger system, whereas planning tends to be ambiguous, leaving the critical details of place making to chance...Again and again we sacrifice the synergy of the whole for the efficiency of the parts....The idea that a region or even a neighborhood could or should be ‘designed’ is central to creating the Regional City.” (43)

makes point that there is a design out there today, but it is the wrong design based on flawed principles... “Against this modern alliance of specialization, standardization, and mass production stands a set of principles rooted more in ecology than mechanics. They are the principles of diversity, conservation, and human scale. Diversity at each scale calls for more complex, differentiated communities shaped from the unique qualities of place and history. Conservation implies care for existing resources whether natural, social, or institutional. And the principle of human scale brings the individual back into a picture increasingly fashioned around remote and mechanistic concerns.” (45) ...note the language: Mumfordian, civilization and/in opposition to the machine

“Seen as this integrated whole, the region can be designed in much the same way as we would design a neighborhood. That the whole, the region, would be similar to its most basic pieces, its neighborhoods, is an important analogy. Both need protected natural systems, vibrant centers, human-scale circulation systems, a common civic realm, and integrated diversity.” (49)

dealing with the region’s physical design requires attention to two policy areas that lay the foundation for the region’s physical design: the creation of regional boundaries and the integration of land use and transportation. Dealing with social and economic equity requires attention to three other policy areas: regional fair-share housing (deconcentrating poverty), regional tax-base sharing, and urban educational reform.” (63)

case studies of regional design in Portland, Salt Lake, and Seattle... “These cases studies, then, reinforce one of our most basic tenets about the Regional City: that in order to succeed it must be shaped through a conscious process of design that uses the art of configuring a physical form as a
means of integrating the vast array of issues that must be addressed at a regional scale—ecology, economics, culture, social equity, and even a region’s history and its political orientation.” (106)

also provides case studies of “superregions”...NYC and Chicago

comments: wisdom in the physical form/physical form as the catalyst is the prevailing theme...longest section is on regional efforts that Calthorpe has been connected with...sections on regenerating suburbia and revitalizing cities are much shorter and sketchier...answers libertarian critics that promote sprawl in conclusions, though not conclusively...doesn’t include Downs on lack of link between urban form/sprawl and disinvestment...acknowledges that each region needs to proceed in its own image, but offers no specifics on what to do other than to engage in a regional design process...interesting to note regional examples proceeding from outside, in, but no regional efforts to complement suburban and central city examples, which tend to really be about new urbanism...doesn’t acknowledge fact that regional efforts all started as urban structure plans that required neighborhoods to be certain things to resolve urban structure challenges/serve urban structure goals...what would a regional plan look like if it started with neighborhoods/small towns, going up to larger scale, where regional structure emerges in service to widely articulated neighborhood aims? would region scale results be different here in Portland?...in many ways, the book is organized in mirror image to the Charter of the New Urbanism, which appears as an appendix...despite total lack of attention to why things happen and how they happen, this book is a very good summary of the pro-metropolitan planning position with some handy case studies...

Carlson, Daniel and Ellen Loy Schroer 2001 “Turning Regional Visions into Real Results” Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

surveyed regional planning efforts in US to identify examples of institutional arrangements, programs, and tools that could be helpful for implementing “Envision Utah”...has a terrific table that illustrates examples of voluntary, encouraged/enabled, and required institutional arrangements and programs, and regulatory versus market-based tools...would be great addition to section on implementation

City Club of Portland 1924 “Simplification of Local Government Sought” Portland City Club Bulletin, Portland, Oregon, IV(39), July 11, 1924

“The main argument for consolidation is not so much the waste arising out of duplication of overhead offices...as it is the lack of complete jurisdiction over the entire urban area and the many diversities in methods and jurisdiction where there ought to be uniformity. Both of these facts are serious obstacles to the quick and efficient solution of our city planning and other problems, and are a handicap to the government of our community.” (3)
Congress for the New Urbanism 1998 “Charter of the New Urbanism” San Francisco

a call for restoration of urban centers within “coherent metropolitan regions”

sees metropolitan regions as “finite places” with boundaries derived from “topography, watersheds, coastlines, farmlands, regional parks, and river basins”...metropolitan region is fundamental economic unit and planning must reflect that...a “necessary and fragile relationship” with agrarian hinterland and natural landscapes... “Farmland and nature are as important to the metropolis as the garden is to a house.” ...development patterns shouldn’t “blur or eradicate” the edges of the metropolis...development and redevelopment should echo “historical patterns, precedents, and boundaries”...neighborhood, district, and corridor are essential elements of development and redevelopment

echoes Hough on history and identity, insists on hard boundaries while invoking Mumfordian view of city and hinterland, unclear about relationship to the whole

Derthick, Martha 1974 Between State and Nation: Regional Organizations of the United States The Brookings Institution, Washington DC

study of statewide or interstate regional entities through federal action, focused on questions of organizational form and function

“There has never been a sustained movement for regional organization that left its impress across the United States. Regionalism...is one of those ideas that grips a few minds or much of an academic discipline, as it gripped sociologists and planners in the 1930s and economists and planners in the 1960s, but then disappears for a while. It has been much subject to intellectual fad and fashion.” (3)

“Whereas interest in regional forms has been intermittent and visionary, confined ordinarily to a few who have a taste for reform and refuse to be discouraged, opposition is ubiquitous if often inarticulate.” (4)

“The principle thing that experience suggests is that pragmatism is the best policy: it leads to the most effective regional organizations. It is no accident that the leading cases of regional organization are accidents....To win the fight for existence and a significant share of public functions, (a regional organization) must have extraordinary constituency support or extraordinary means of self-support. These conditions can be met, if at all, only in very special circumstances, when there is a fortuitous coming together of opportunity, leadership, and political backing, so that it becomes possible to go against the institutional grain and create a genuinely new form. If the conditions for such an act of organizational innovation develop at all, they may persist long enough to enable the new organization to get well established.” (226)
“Ecology is generally defined as the study of the interactions among organisms and their environment, and a landscape is a kilometers-wide mosaic over which particular local ecosystems and land-uses recur. These concepts have proved to be both simple and operationally useful. Thus landscape ecology is simply the ecology of landscapes, and regional ecology the ecology of regions.” (12)

“The principles of landscape and regional ecology apply in any land mosaic, from suburban to agriculture and desert to forest....The object spread out beneath an airplane, or in and aerial photograph, contains living organisms in abundance, and therefore is a living system. Like a plant cell or a human body, this living system exhibits three broad characteristics: structure, functioning, and change. Landscape structure is the spatial pattern or arrangement of landscape elements. Functioning is the movement and flows of animals, plants, water, wind, materials, and energy through the structure. And change is the dynamics of alteration in spatial pattern and functioning over time.” (14)

structure composed of patches, corridors, and matrix, combine to form mosaics on the earth...key concepts for land use planning since “spatial pattern strongly controls movements, flows, and changes.” (14)

“The whole landscape or region is a mosaic, but the local neighborhood is likewise a configuration of patches, corridors, and matrix.” (15)

..spatial pattern matters

“This book has a simple thesis: place matters. Where we live makes a big difference in the quality of our lives, and how the places in which we live function has a big impact on the quality of our society. The evidence shows that places are becoming more unequal.” (1)

good summary of the concentration of poverty/gap between rich and poor communities evidence and ideas...remarks on role technology has played in enabling folks to get things without regard to place, but states emphatically that place matters for rich and poor alike...for poor, place has lots to do with services available and prospects for work and family...for rich notes that people care deeply about where they live...cities far from dead or irrelevant, cites agglomeration economies and locational preferences for certain services and financial institutions...reinforces old adage: location, location, location
documents rise of inequality fueled by federal policy and limits of localism...reviews and endorse city-suburban interdependency research, roles for clusters...notes need for regional response and reviews “new regionalist” responses, especially in Mpls and Portland, which have made accomplishments for environment, efficiency, and economy but not inequality and economic segregation

“In short, inequality among regions is increasing in the United States as the rich regions prosper and the poor regions fall behind. This troubling fact alone calls for new national policies...The larger inequalities, however, are within regions, not between them. As many analysts have observed, Third World conditions prevail in many urban American neighborhoods, even in the most prosperous metropolitan areas.” (36)

“Could suburbs prosper independently of central cities? Probably. But would they prosper even more if there were part of a better-integrated metropolis? The answer is almost certainly yes.” (66)

reviews public choice arguments and role that federal policies for transportation, homeownership, military spending, and desegregation have played in promoting suburbs, notes that public choicers saw rising prices as means for focussing attention back on lower priced places but experience has been of rising not falling inequality (note that public choicers failed to anticipate infinitely elastic supply in most metro areas...see Atlanta)

“As urban problems spread to thousands of suburbs, it will be more difficult to blame lazy urban poor people or incompetent and corrupt city governments for those problems. Better-off suburbs will discover that they cannot fix traffic gridlock, long commutes, environmental degradation, or skyrocketing housing costs without simultaneously addressing the interrelated problems of inner suburbs and central cities.” (132)

notes efficiency, enviromental, economic competitiveness, and equity arguments for regionalism countered by rampant localism and tendency to avoid extraterritorial problems...notes that most success for efficiency and environmental concerns especially associated with new infrastructure

“To be truly effective, metropolitan cooperation must develop a broad, democratic base and the organizational capacity to articulate the common good, not merely to sum up the aims of the individual parts of the metropolis. Cooperation of the region’s constituent elements must be secured through consent, not through unwanted mandates imposed on resistant local jurisdictions. To achieve this consent, the new regional form must provide tangible benefits to its constituent jurisdictions, and its actions cannot be subject to the veto of an exclusive “favored quarter.”” (200)

recaps arguments against organization of metropolitan areas/place as the key to the inequality issue...identifies and rebuts the following: free markets are the answer, culture of poverty causes the problem, the solution is jobs, the answer is community development, the real issue is race rather than class or place...point to urgent need for metropolitan policy agenda to “improve economic, social, and environmental conditions in our urban areas and can marshal sufficient political support from voters in a majority of congressional districts.” (208)
they propose at the Federal level:
--a limit to bidding wars through removing tax incentives, cap mortgage subsidies in tax code and dedicate new revenues to housing, encourage tax base sharing;
--federal government to implement all grant programs on a metropolitan basis, condition availability of FHA funds on the existence of regional fair-share housing agreements and tax base sharing, require transportation funds to further alternative modes and transit;
--promotion of metropolitan cooperation and governance, feds to set up infrastructure to promote expanding on Portland and MPLS experiences;
--linking community development to the regional economy by requiring/encouraging a regional perspective;
--strengthening public schools;
--making work pay by expanding the earned income tax credit, raising minimum wage above poverty level, expanding health insurance and child care;
--deconcentrating urban poverty by moving people out/providing the means to move and making poor neighborhoods desirable for other income groups

“In a metropolitan landscape characterized by economic segregation and sprawl, a rising tide does not lift all boats.” (260)

optimistic about coming regional politics due to growing diversity in suburbs, growing recognition of need for new coalition of urban and suburban to solve problems

“With the right leadership, sufficient dialogue, and new institutional settings even many privileged suburbanites will come to believe that our proposals are in their self-interest “rightly understood” (as de Tocqueville put it)....Although the present rules of the game encourage many suburban jurisdictions to act selfishly by excluding the poor or even preventing multifamily rental housing from being built, upon reflection, residents of these areas may realise that the resulting high levels of economic segregation and sprawl harm the overall competitiveness and success of their metropolitan areas. They certainly understand that the resulting traffic congestion, lack of planning, and pollution undermine their quality of life.” (232-233)


proposes “connectors” (transportation, sewer, water, utilities, telecommunications) and “spacers” (open space, parkways, parks, rivers, forested areas, industrial areas, commercial centers, major residential developments) as “key to more integrated development of everything else...” Also reports on paper by Harvey Perloff and Lowdon Wingo at RFF “...in which they picked out transportation lines (which can be both connectors and spacers), water and sewer lines (which, I think, are connectors), and open spaces (which are obviously spacers) as the three keys to physical planning in a metropolitan area. Concentrate on these, they argued, arrange them properly, and all the rest will follow along.” (12)

Surveyed urban historians to determine top 10 influences on American metropolis in last 50 years, and most likely top 10 influences in next 50 years:

Past 50 years: single most important message is impact of federal policy at metropolitan level
1) 1956 Interstate Highway act and dominance of the auto
2) FHA mortgage financing and subdivision regulation
3) deindustrialization of central cities
4) urban renewal: downtown redevelopment and public housing projects (1949 Housing Act...actually worsened plight of cities through bad design and poor implementation)
5) Levittown (the mass-produced suburban tract house)
6) racial segregation and job discrimination in cities and suburbs
7) enclosed shopping malls
8) sunbelt-style sprawl
9) air conditioning
10) urban riots of the 1960s

Next 50 years: more disagreement about future than past, most foresaw “continuation and even intensification of the urban crisis that has characterized the past 50 years” (207), hope for smart growth vs inevitability of inertia of forces in motion
1) growing disparitites of wealth (leading to greater isolation and segregation, favored quarter, etc.)
2) suburban political majority
3) aging of the baby boomers
4) perpetual underclass in central cities and inner-ring suburbs
5) smart growth: environmental planning initiatives to limit sprawl
6) the internet
7) deterioration of the “first-ring” post-1945 suburbs
8) shrinking household size
9) expanded superhighway system of “outer beltways” to serve new edge cities
10) racial integration as part of the increasing diversity in cities and suburbs


reviews history of regionalism, tension between metropolitanists and regionalists, notes important role played by Jane Jacobs by drawing attention to in attention of planning to complexity/diversity of healthy cities, notes twin contribution by McHarg who drew attention to need for recognition of complexity of ecology and requirement to design with and in nature, hence 1960’s time of important reassessment of planning and regional planning doctrine
“These new coalitions (between environmentalists and urbanists) reflected what was perhaps the major lesson of the 1960s: although the major trends of decentralization and suburbanization were destructive both to urbanity and open space, careful regional planning could counter both trends by simultaneously strengthening regional centers and limiting growth at the edge.” (118)

“These lessons of the 1960’s could be summarized as follows: distrust the “grand design”; recognize regional diversity and accept local jurisdictions and local concerns; plan as a “regional conversation” rather than as a top-down exercise of power.” (119)


Patch-corridor-matrix structure for landscape…based on what you see, operates at all scales…“A region is a broad geographical area with a common macroclimate and sphere of human activity and interest…Regions often have diffuse boundaries determined by a complex of physiographic, cultural, economic, political, and climatic factors. A region is tied together relatively tightly by transportation, communication, and culture, but often is extremely diverse ecologically. A landscape, in contrast, is a mosaic where the mix of local ecosystems or land uses is repeated in similar form over a kilometers-wide area. Familiar examples are forested, suburban, cultivated and dry landscapes. Whereas portions of a region ecologically are quite dissimilar, a landscape manifests an ecological unity throughout its area….Thus, a repeated cluster of spatial elements characterizes a landscape.” (13)

“Ecology is generally defined as the study of the interactions among organisms and their environment. A landscape was described as a kilometers-wide mosaic over which local ecosystems recur. Thus, landscape ecology is simply the ecology of landscapes, and similarly, regional ecology is the ecology of regions. The spatial elements within landscapes have been called landscape elements, local ecosystems, ecotopes, biotopes, biogeocoenoses, geocomplexes, sites, and more…The spatial elements within regions are landscapes.” (19-20)

“Indeed, on average a region is a better bet for attaining sustainability than a landscape. This is because of its larger area, greater complementarity of resources, and slower rate of change.” (27)

Key principles and issues based on landscape and regional ecology that could usefully appear in every plan (page 449 and onward): context…putting the landscape in question in appropriate and broad context, it is unethical to evaluate an area in isolation from its surroundings or from its development over time; whole landscapes…constituted via four indispensable patterns…maintaining a few large patches of natural vegetation, wide vegetation corridors along major water courses, maintaining connectivity for movement of key species among large patches, maintaining heterogeneous bits of nature throughout human-developed areas; key locations within a landscape…unusual features, places with species diversity, large nodes in networks, gaps, flux centers, areas sensitive to human impact, strategic points; targeting ecological characteristics…function as the focus; targeting spatial attributes…structure
Provides examples of planning for different purposes...discusses planning for sustainability, planning a sustainable environment: take a very long view (as long as you can get away with but at least 1-2 generations); scale needs to be large (local ecosystem in a landscape mosaic is not a promising scale for achieving sustainability); paradox of management...easier to do at a small scale but must be effective at large scale for sustainability; patches, corridors, and grain size; need for cohesion socially/culturally; anticipate dynamic linkages with other areas; consider built environment in same frame as natural, as another kind of landscape; understand and build on values; focus on attributes that vary up or down at the time scale of human generations or longer; seek ecological integrity (near natural conditions for productivity, biodiversity, soil, and water); meet basic human needs

“...a sustainable environment is an areas in which ecological integrity and basic human needs are concurrently maintained over generations. The theory is testable, the variables are subject to refinement, and the specific linkages remain to be worked out. Furthermore, the wide range of ways of combining attributes is compatible with the idea that there is more than one trajectory to, or scenario of, a sustainable environment.” (519)

“...planning, conservation, and management need to focus on a number of concurrent variables rather than one. This is optimization rather than maximization.” (520)...note parallel to 3Es

“Landscapes and regions, i.e., large spatial areas, are a ‘surrogate for the long-term.’ When we plan, when we conserve, when we design, when we manage, and when we make wise decisions for landscapes, and especially for regions, we manifest sustainable thinking and act for human generations.” (524)

Foster, Kathryn A. 2001 “Regionalism on Purpose” Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge, MA

Four challenges to regionalism: Philosophical challenge (how to realize common good while safeguarding interests of individual); Political challenge (where to find constituents for acting regionally); Governance challenge (lack of institutions capable of acting regionally); Empirical challenge (lack of info on costs and benefits of regionalism) (5)

Politics of regionalism... “As with other political efforts involving nonmandated, status-quo-changing possibilities, achieving success in regionalism requires the hard work of forging political alliances, negotiating mutually beneficial bargains, persuading skeptical publics and policy makers to support the program and, often, a dose of good timing and luck. Realizing regional outcomes also requires coming to terms with five particular political challenges of regional action: the Challenge of Regional Identity (without ties that bind, there is little pressure or constituency for regional efforts; regional identity is notoriously weak in comparison with other allegiances)...the challenge of political strategy (incremental versus the bold move)...the challenge of a big tent (getting broad coalitions together)...the challenge of consensus (bias towards relatively uncontentious issues of economic regionalism over the knottier goals of equity and growth-based regionalism)...the challenge of state and federal policy (inconsistent policy from above).” (24-25)
“While there are no systematic studies linking models of leadership to regional outcomes, the observations of scholars and the experience of metropolitan areas undertaking metropolitan agendas yield some insights about the importance of the following characteristics: clear focus and compelling purpose for regional action; perspective that policies and organizations are means to specific ends, not ends themselves; quantified, measurable and widely publicized goals and outcomes; commitment to and skills to accomplish collaborative and inclusive processes; commitment to shared leadership and mutual gains; early successes to build momentum and trust; close relations with media to foster regional understanding and action; flexibility to adapt as new problems and opportunities arise and others fade away; long-term, future oriented perspective on regional change; commitment to recognize and develop new leadership.” (28)


“Regional planning is fundamentally concerned with the where of economic development. ...regional planning strives to achieve a better integration of spatially organized economies on a basis of interdependence (and reciprocity) rather than dependence (and exploitation). This general purpose of regional planning, however, encompasses a number of concrete goals and objectives that tend to sort themselves out according to whether the concern is with industrially advanced or developing countries. In the former, the emphasis tends to be on the following kinds of problems, among others, which are responsive to spatially oriented policies:

economically backward or depressed regions
economically declining or obsolescing regions
inequalities in the indicators of social and economic development among culturally defined or political regions
spatial reorganization of settlement and economic activity patterns necessitated by internal migration, changes in major transport technologies, common market policies, etc.
accelerated outward movement of central city population into “urban fields”
major environmental problems associated with large-scale and densely populated urban settlements” (803)

goes on to note that US , though sharing many of the problems of all industrialized societies, has only been half-hearted and largely ineffectual in its use of regional planning compared to other comparable nations....reasons hard to point to...notes that Americans value mobility over place, have no significant self-contained cultural regions, committed to political pluralism, committed to belief in individual, and inevitability of individual progress exacting a social toll

traces history of regional planning and development, primary focus on competing themes for development, territorial integration sought until 1950, functional integration from 1950-1975, return to territorial integration in 1975, new utopianism

propose agropolitan development as a means of developing locally appropriate strategies for regional (rural and urban) development, territory described by overlap of politics, economy and culture, primary goal is strengthening territorial economy according to following principles:
--development should seek economic diversification
--development should seek maximum utilization of physical assets consistent with conservation goals
--development should encourage expansion of regional and interregional markets (import substitution)
--development should result in recirculating funds within the community
--development should promote social learning (198)

promoted return of territorial integrity as means for interceding in global capital flows, actions of transnational corporations, envisioned strong role for state in controlling corporate decisions...in this respect, harkens back to Markusen’s description of the “economic coordination” sought by the National Resources Committee/National Resources Planning Board


“Planning assumes that modern industrial society requires public intervention to achieve national goals; assumes that such intervention must touch all fundamental social developments; must be goal-oriented, and effectively coordinated at the center; must be anticipatory rather than characterized by ad hoc solutions and timing dictated by crisis.” (xii)

distinguishes between planning, the attempt to serve goals, and Planning, national social and economic planning, comprehensive and coordinated (30)...chronicles rise of planning idea throughout 30’s, failures of Planning and inability to achieve sweeping goals... “government by whirlpool”, notes that planning post-1940 much harder due to discrediting of planning in 30’s, disillusionment and opposition combined...moderating of migration to cities believed due to depression, other dynamics, and not to policy...concludes that barriers encountered by Roosevelt have declined with time, great acceptance of managerial approaches in 60’s and 70’s

“In the grip of economic depression and grave social unrest, the untried Planning idea of the 1930’s had a major and also untried rival which proved in the end more attractive. This was the Broker State, a middle course between laissez-faire capitalism and socialism, broad social intervention without a Planning capacity. This, in the end, was what the reforms of the 1930’s produced.” (296)...result was the “socialization of risk” but not of industry or society, powerful interests able to see their needs met by government

“Where do we go from here? In the 1930’s, people argued for five systems: communism, socialism, Broker State liberalism (even if they did not call it that), Planning, laissez-faire
capitalism. Forty years later, having made our decision and run the Broker State non-Planning system out to the end, we are narrowed to four.” (301)...observes that forces pushing for laissez-faire but that it wouldn’t succeed because of entrenched interests, saw nation on brink of new Planning era


“It is not accidental that many of the most desirable urban areas are cities with active planning efforts. Improving the parts of the city that have declined or have evolved in haphazard ways will require more, not less, planning. Locality and region are the dual necessities of every urban resident. The next century will require a policy framework that recognizes these as critical aspects of modern life and that creates an accommodation between them.” (45)

“1) Every metropolitan region needs a regional plan....Eventually every region will need an effective regional government, or at least a group of regional implementing agencies, but just the existence of a regional plan is a major step forward.

2) Every city and county has to give more decision-making power to local districts. ...the increase in planning and governmental power for regions has to be balanced by more neighborhood control over matters, like planning, where local citizens have the best insights.”

(45)


“The global economy poses four major challenges to every region:

1) Develop your human resources because people will be the basis of comparative advantage in the future.

2) Lower the cost of your goods and services because the global economy is characterized by fierce competitiveness.

3) Use your scarce investment capital wisely, which, among other things, means reducing or eliminating the costly redundancies and waste created by suburban sprawl.

4) Stabilized the core city of each region because in no place is there evidence of regions doing well when their core city has deteriorated.” (16)

...note tie here between regional economy and regional planning...regional planning different because economy matches region, not city
“After a decade of exploration, we have observed a recurring pattern that offers the best explanation for why regions succeed. The communities that are most optimistic and ready for the new world practice “collaborative advantage.” They enjoy tight relationships at the intersection of their business, government, education, and community sectors, which provide regional resiliency and a unique ability to set and achieve longer-term development goals...At the center of every one of these collaborative communities, we observed a team of civic entrepreneurs. Civic entrepreneurs provide collaborative leadership to bridge the economy and the community.” (xvi)

“A “New Globalism” finds companies searching worldwide for the best regional habitats for value-adding activities and creates unparalleled opportunities for subnational regions to participate in growing global industries.” (6)

“It is becoming common wisdom that globalization promotes regionalization. What is yet unclear is how well American regions will ultimately respond to their new role.” (10)...globalization, information technology (rise of the networked economy), changing demographics (increasing diversity in all aspects of community and corporate life), and devolution are forces giving rise to “economic communities” characterized by unprecedented links between economy, community, and society

“As the public sector decentralizes and shrinks and the private sector goes global, a major challenge for communities becomes managing the space in between--the civil society. The civil society (or civil sector) is the arena of voluntary associations and networks that stands between the world of markets and business and the domain of government and politics.” (16)

“Dramatic, related shifts in all four arenas--economics, technology, demographics, and government--are shaping a fundamentally different kind of environment form the one that dominated America during much of the twentieth century. A global economy rooted in regions worldwide is superseding a national economy dominated by national industries. Industrial technology and vertically integrated mass production are giving way to information technology and specialized production networks.” (18)...comment: note similarity here with post-modern views of Calthorpe and Fulton...

“Economic communities are places with strong, responsive relationships between the economy and community that provide companies and communities with sustained advantage and resiliency. They are marked by mediating people and organizations that help interests come together to deal constructively with forces of change...Economic communities have three basic features: engaged clusters of specialization; connected community competencies; civic entrepreneurs linking economy and community (linking community assets and clusters to promote economic vitality and community quality of life).” (22)
“In effect, the web of personal networks in economic communities acts as a virtual system of governance. Distinct from government, governance in these communities means people, firms, and institutions working across sectoral, organizational, and jurisdictional boundaries to anticipate and meet the needs of their economy.” (29)...comment: sounds like the new old boy network...when has there NOT been an informal network of folks making connections to make the economy happen?

brings in work of Putnam and Fukyama to point to role that social capital/trust plays in economic health, concludes that social capital can be created in “high performing economic communities”.... “The catalyst for creating and connecting collaborative networks between business, government, education, and the community is a new type of leader--the civic entrepreneur. Civic entrepreneurs create social capital by creating opportunities for people to work together on specific projects to advance their economic community.” (31)

civic entrepreneurs have five traits: see opportunity in new economy, entrepreneurial personality, provide leadership to link economy and community, motivated by enlightened long-term interests, work in teams

four stages of building the economic community: initiation (networking and motivating change, creating sense of interdependence and need for change, call to arms), incubation (setting shared priorities, creating shared understanding, introducing new language, enforce process discipline), implementation (mobilizing resources to get things done, securing commitments, managing leadership transition, recruiting implementation teams, presses for measurable results), improvement or renewal (building a culture of continuous improvement and continuing collaboration, always raising the stakes)...specific roles for civic entrepreneurs in each stage

Hiss, Tony 1991  The Experience of Place Vintage Books, NYC

“Until recently, when people spoke about a vivid experience of a place, it would usually be a wonderful memory, a magic moment at one of the sweet spots of the world...These days people often tell me that some of their most unforgettable experiences of places are disturbingly painful and have to do with unanticipated loss.” (xiii)...recalls Pyle's “extinction of experience” idea


presents standard planning process as approach for making “urban and regional plans”...eight steps: identify issues, opportunities, and assumptions; formulate goals; collect and analyze data; revise goals and determine objectives; develop and evaluate alternative plans; select and adopt the preferred plan; implement the general plan; monitor and amend the plan and return to beginning...with citizen participation and intergovernmental coordination and environmental
review at every step, most explicitly after revision of goals/determination of objectives and before development of alternatives

planning process applied to different problems, but what planning is left to inference

Hough, Michael  1990  Out of Place: Restoring Identity to the Regional Landscape Yale University Press, New Haven

“The development of a design philosophy that recognizes diversity and the differences between places is, as Odum suggests, central to the maintenance and enhancement of social and environmental health, since diversity and health are linked. Yet, while traditional vernacular landscapes usually represent the diverse character of different places, conscious planning and design tend to negate those differences.” (2)

“...today capitalism and economics seem to be the primary sources of inspiration for urban form, unenriched by past traditions of urban design. Irrespective of the civilizing influences of cultural tradition, however, it is the native landscape that is a primary determinant of regional identity.” (19) ...where identity stems from what is “peculiar” in and to a place

“The vernacular forces that created functional towns and countrysides have close parallels to the processes of nature. They occur, for the most part, from and inherent drive to fill a niche, to seize an opportunity to flourish, or to enhance one’s chances of survival or success. Consequently, vernacular landscapes, whether urban or rural, are the product of necessity and limitation. In other words, there are few options. Regional identity is based on the limitation of technology, on limited options or choices to effect changes to the environment, or on one’s ability to move freely from one place to another. As long as the need to work within the limits of environment and society exists, the sense of regional identity is maintained. Regional identity has to do with where one stays, where one’s roots are, and consequently with where long-standing social traditions can develop.” (57-58)

“The sense of place is organic, changing with time. As new human needs and technologies exert themselves on the landscape, new landscapes emerge in response to the imperatives of changing conditions....Regional identity is perceived as an aesthetic primarily by visitors to places that have it. For the people who live there, it is their work and investment in the place that create it...Beauty is the consequence of technological limitations which force adaptation to the land.” (58)

Regional design principles: (180) ...note strong correspondence with basic community organizing principles...

1) Know the place...natural and social processes that have created what's there... “In effect, regional identity is the collective reaction of people to the environment over time.” (180)

2) Maintaining a sense of history...something is always already there, design builds on what is there in the process of change
3) Environmental learning and direct experience... “Environmental literacy lies at the heart of understanding the places with which we are familiar, and thus at the heart of the issue of identity.” (188) ...using environmental knowledge coupled with direct experience to imbue ordinary places with meaning...note that this echoes Michael Pyle’s notion of the “extinction of experience”

4) Doing as little as possible...stems from notion that from minimum resources and energy, maximum environmental and social benefits are available...economy of means... “The greatest diversity and identity in a place, whether a regenerating field or urban wetland, or a cohesive neighborhood community, often comes from minimum, not maximum interference. This does not mean that planning and design are irrelevant or unnecessary to a world that if left alone would take care of itself. It implies, rather, that change can be brought about by giving direction, by capitalizing on the opportunities that site or social trends reveal, or by setting a framework from which people can create their own social and physical environments and where landscape can flourish with health, diversity, and beauty.” (190)

5) Sustainability...contributing to the integrity of environments and natural systems

6) Starting where it’s easiest... “Successes in small things can be used to make connections to other larger and more significant ones...In design terms, the regional imperative is about the need for environmental ideals that are firmly rooted in pragmatic reality.” (194)


“A new era has dawned in intergovernmental relationships. Many observers of contemporary urban affairs have noted that the old paradigm of federal, state, and city is being replaced by a new one: global, regional, and local.” (35)

“Regionalism is the attempt to think and act in metropolitanwide terms. It is a spirit as much as a structure of governance--formal and informal, public and private, mandated and voluntary, organic, not static....Cooperation on a regional basis will be a key to survival in the 21st century.” (39)

“The trick for regionalists is to satisfy simultaneously two public goods seemingly conflict--namely, local control of quality of life versus the value of cooperating together across local lines....The key question: Will we act like scorpions in a bottle or bees in a beehive?” (48)


collection of essays to help examine the state of the field in conjunction with the ongoing evolution of the regional planning program at University of North Carolina...very optimistic
about emergence of models and regional science...regional planning as scientific and pragmatic versus utopian city planning...extensive discussion of whether planning students should be educated as specialists or generalists, concludes that need broad theory and history and generalist orientation and specialist skills

Katz, Bruce, editor 2000 Reflections on Regionalism Brookings Institution Press, Washington DC

“The fundamental premise of regionalism is that places have relationships and connections to other places that should not be ignored...Regionalists (or metropolitanists--the terms are interchangeable in current use) argue that many pressing environmental, social, and governance problems cannot be solved by independent jurisdictions acting alone....Their conclusion is that cross-jurisdictional problems demand cross-jurisdictional solutions.” (3)

Kelbaugh, Douglas 1997 Common Place: Toward Neighborhood and Regional Design University of Washington Press, Seattle

values: community, sustainability, order

“Regionalism is an ambiguous term. To an urban planner it means thinking bigger--planning at the scale of a region rather than at the scale of the subdivision or municipality. To an architect, regionalism means thinking smaller--resisting the forces that tend to homogenize buildings across the country and around the globe in favor of forces that are local. Critical regionalism is a term invented by architects that means thinking regionally in ways that are wary and nonsentimental.” (51)

comment: raises an interesting point though he is wrong...regional planning is not just about bigger, but about qualities and quality

“Critical regionalism is actually more of an attitude that a theory. It is an attitude that celebrates and delights in what is different about a place.” (52) ...postmodern, focus on unique attributes, echoes Hough

Five characteristics or attitudes of critical regionalism wherever it arises: (73)
1) Sense of place...love of place, liberating the genius loci, without sentimentality
2) Sense of nature
3) Sense of history
4) Sense of craft
5) Sense of limits...“A sense of limits is about the need for finitude and for physical and temporal boundaries to frame and limit human places and activities.” (82)

“Although there are “regional planning commissions” in a number of metropolitan regions and in other areas, these are largely ineffectual in land use matters. In a few areas, one or more local governments have entered into agreements to plan jointly for land areas of mutual interest, and such agreements can work well. In virtually every growing metropolitan region, however, many local governments make decisions that do not form part of a logical and comprehensive plan.” (10)

...note the notion here that there should be a logical and comprehensive plan at the regional level.

“Planning for growth is always a good idea. Planning for growth on a regional basis, rather than a local one, is always a good idea. Identifying priority areas for growth and for preservation is an important part of local planning. Carefully managing infrastructure investments—particularly those for arterial roadways, interceptor sewer lines, and major water lines—to reinforce desired patterns of growth is a good idea for any community under any circumstances. Ideally a community should coordinate that process with providers of other facilities—for example, the local school board and the state transportation department.” (210)

“A system of regional planning must provide a modest amount of flexibility both to address defects in the original process and, more important, to respond to changing demographic trends. It must, however, be sufficiently permanent to be taken seriously. That is a delicate but perhaps not impossible balance to achieve.” (213)

“Is growth management a good idea? Yes, if it is based on good planning and a solid understanding of the costs and benefits of different growth management techniques. The strongest message of this book is the need for effective regional planning in our nation’s metropolitan areas. Such regional planning must originate with the state, as it has in Hawaii and Oregon.” (223)

Langdon, Philip 1994 A Better Place to Live: Reshaping the American Suburb The University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst

“The great urban areas are undergoing a destructive fragmentation whose scale dwarfs the divisions of the past.” (208)...What to do? A: restrain municipalities from grabbing development at expense of neighbors (tax base sharing as example); have a state or regional government exercise more power over certain planning decisions (Oregon statewide LUP goals, Metro UGB); understand the whole region’s assets (natural systems, infrastructure)...striking a balance between regionalism and local power...; revise zoning codes; don’t let developers choose sites for towncenters


essays on each of the elements of the Charter of the New Urbanism...Calthorpe identifies five regional strategies: making the land use/transportation connection, fair share housing and
deconcentrating poverty, greenlines and UGBs, regional tax-base sharing, better schools... “The region, much like a neighborhood or street, can and should be “designed”.” (21)

Calthorpe in Afterword: “The aspect of New Urbanism that addresses the issues of where growth is most appropriate is its call for regional design. Beyond regional policies for tax equity or fair-share housing, New Urbanism proposes to create a definitive physical map of the metropolis; its boundaries, open spaces, connections, and centers. This idea of “designing” the region, much like one could design a neighborhood or district, has been passe since the time of Danile Burnham, the great Chicago planner of the early 20th century. But it is central to addressing the issues of where development should happen and how it fits into the whole. Without regional form-givers like habitat and agricultural preserves, urban growth boundaries, transit systems, and designated urban centers, even well-designed neighborhoods can contribute to sprawl. Infill and redevelopment, although a high priority for New Urbanism, cannot accommodate all the growth in many regions. A regional plan is the necessary armature for the placement of new growth as towns, neighborhoods, or villages.” (180)


Combines literatures on metropolitanism, new regionalism, and urban/regional economics to assess impact, if any, of regional approaches on economic development...can regional planning and coordination generate higher levels of economic prosperity? …concludes that there is no “hard” answer to this question in the literature, but many solid theoretical reasons for believing that the answer is yes

“…research suggests that citizens of metropolitan regions may be better off economically with regional entities than without. This constitutes a powerful suggestion that regional planning, too, may enhance regional economic prosperity. Such planning is the first step in the regional collaborative process; it is based on open dialogue designed to pinpoint areas of mutual concern and potential action; and it strives to be holistic with respect to the same unit of analysis that concerns urban economics, the metropolitan area. Metropolitan planning often addresses concerns that are significant to businesses…Hence it seems reasonable to include regional planning, as a measure of regional coordination, among the factors that positively affect the economic welfare of the metropolis.” (198)


“The need for planning comes down to two words, interconnectedness and complexity. ...To generalize, it is the fact of interconnectedness, whether we are discussing land use or other questions, which helps to justify public planning efforts. Complexity is the condition that justifies planning as a separate profession and as a separate activity or government.” (1-2)
“The key problem in planning for a metropolitan area is the political one. By themselves, city
governments are generally too small to address adequately metropolitan area problems. Yet it is
at the municipal level that much of the poser and responsibility lies....Metropolitan planning
organizations succeed only to the extent that the local and state political establishments--elected
officials and their constituents--see the regional organization as useful in meeting their needs.”
(257)

planning issues that demand a regional approach: transportation, water supply, sewers, sewage
treatment, solid waste disposal, air quality, parks, outdoor recreation, open space, economic
development, housing

Lim, Gill C., ed. 1983  **Regional Planning: Evolution, Crisis, and Prospects** Allanheld,
Osmun, and Co., Totowa, New Jersey (HT392.F418 1983)

regions defined based on functional, homogeneous, and management/administrative
characteristics

“In the broadest sense, a region is a geographical entity which cuts across existing jurisdictional
boundaries.” (8)

“Thus, regional planning can be broadly defined as public sector activities encompassing
economic, social, and physical elements to formulate and implement appropriate public policy in
an area covering more than one existing local jurisdiction.” (9)

description of functional planning and regional agency practice (Denton Kent on Metro...Metro
born of an intellectual exercise, so no constituency...also, waning interest in and support for
statewide LUP makes LUP less of a focus for Metro...positive role that a nonprofit watchdog
could have played in CRAG history)...little on regional planning per se, much more on
governance and institutions, lots of consternation about the Reagan budget cuts

Lucy, William H. and David L. Phillips  2000  **Confronting Suburban Decline: Strategic
Planning for Metropolitan Renewal** Island Press, Washington DC

“With what kinds of goals should regional strategic planning be concerned? Both quantity and
quality goals are important. Quantity issues involve how a region can attract more jobs and how
a region can grow faster. The bias in quantity planning is usually that more is better. Quantity
planning interacts with quality planning through concern about being competitive. Quality of
life has a vast impact on attracting and retaining highly skilled, mobile employees in the
contemporary era of footloose businesses that are not tied to natural resources, rail, and water
transportation, or the hometown of the founder.” (24)

“The term “regional strategic planning” may seem internally contradictory. Strategic planning
should aim at priorities, action steps, implementation, and coping with opposition, as well as
environmental scans of strengths, weaknesses, dangers, and opportunities in competitive
contexts. But setting priorities, taking actions, and implementing plans requires governments willing to perform according to plans and to modulate their plans in reaction to changing circumstances. Regions, however, are notoriously lacking in regional government systems that lead directly to action and implementation....Still, it is undeniable that governance within regions, if not by regions, does occur.” (24)


“This essay focuses on those sensory qualities of large, complex areas that can be most effectively managed at the scale of a city or a substantial urban district, a metropolitan region or rural countryside. Urban and rural areas will not be separated here. They are part of the continuous spectrum of human habitats and are now becoming progressively more difficult to distinguish. This is the scale at which we live our lives today, the scale at which certain important sensory qualities are perceived and can most easily be influenced....Our senses are local, while our experience is regional.” (9-10)

“Regional agencies can provide a coordinating framework for local action and can equalize disparities in quality between different groups. They are able to collect, analyze, and disseminate sensory information as no others can....Care for regional sensory quality should be the concern of regional government....In an ideal sense, my recommendations would be most apt for the planning arm of a strong regional executive.” (13)

“A region can be analyzed to see if it seems accessible to its people...A “good” region, in this regard, has no large, continuous areas of exclusion, and there are only small inequalities of access between different groups.” (22-23)

“Since any region is constantly being modified by thousands of private efforts, and most of them are only very partially under public control, how can a regional planning agency affect the sense of its region? One useful device in an pluralistic situation is diagnosis, since better information will in itself influence (and presumably improve) the actions of others....A diagnosis of the sensory state of the region will become the basic data for public action, for private development, for education, and for political agitation. It will also generate support for improving quality.” (41)...note link to Hough

“So far, except in reference to those peculiar abstract instruments called framework designs, or to that unfamiliar art of specifying future character by means of analogues, patterns, and performances, nothing has been said about design itself--the direct specification of form--the activity that most people automatically associate with a concern for sensory quality. The reason is that the ordinary design process is a dubious business at the regional scale. “Urban design” carries a dangerous germ of grandiosity: behind the concept of big architecture is a wish for big control. A hunger for the control of large-scale form is all the more dangerous because it coincides with strong contemporary trends toward large-scale investment....The familiar result is a coarse-grained, inexpressive maladapted habitat.” (49)
...however, envisioned regional planning agencies using diagnosis/evaluation, regulation, design (system design, TA, small scale pilot projects, simulation), and policy formulation for regional sensory management

“An agency, like a person, learns by doing....Correctly stating the problem and negotiating that statement with the decision makers concerned will often take more time and skill than developing a solution.” (56)...warned against tendency to open problem up and expand it to incorporate all concerns, could lead to the “unanalyzable, insoluble Grand Question”, noted risk of taking too long to answer questions, “Recommendations risk being reasonable answers to vanished problems.” (57)

“Design is a confused word in environmental planning. It oscillates between two misconceptions: either that it is concerned solely with appearance or that it is a matter of planning buildings. On the contrary, design has a much more general meaning: it is the imaginative creation of possible form, together with a way of achieving it, that will carry out some human purpose....Design does not focus on appearance or, indeed, on any single factor affected by form.” (78)

MacKaye, Benton 1928(1990) The New Exploration: A Philosophy of Regional Planning Appalachian Trail Conference, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia and The University of Illinois Press, Urbana-Champaign, IL

“Cultured man needs land and developed natural resources as the tangible source of bodily existence; he needs the flow of commodities to make that source effective; but first of all he needs a harmonious and relate environment as the source of his true living. These three needs of cultured man make three corresponding problems: a) the conservation of natural resources; b) the control of commodity-flow; c) the development of environment. The visualization of the potential workings of these three processes constitutes the new exploration – and regional planning.” (29-30)

…note contrast of “cultured man” with “pioneer man”…like Mumford, the expectation is that their time marked a transition from a less-developed to a more-developed society and culture, social and cultural evolution as the starting point/headwaters for regional planning, a new kind of planning…contrast that with where we are today, where regional planning is not associated in any way with a sense of society or culture evolved

writes of forests, for example, as complex combinations of resources requiring the “coordinated visualization of several kinds of specialists or “engineers.”” (34) (civil engineers, town planners, landscape architects, silviculturalists, etc.) … “The various plans and visualizations of these specialists must then be integrated in a plan for the whole valley, or region, whereby the highest use is secured from its natural resources as a whole. A plan of this kind may be called a regional plan. It is the product of the “composite mind” of several engineers; it is the product, that is, of a single engineering. Thus we may call it “regional engineering,” or by the more usual name of “regional planning.”” (35)
indigenous view (from the landscape) versus metropolitan view (from the city), three elemental environments: primeval (environment of life’s sources, common living ground of all mankind), rural (environment of ag, local common interests, all-round human living), and urban (environment of manufacturing and trade, specialized living)… “A city, to be an individual, must first of all have unity; to be an interesting individual, it must to some extent be cosmopolitan (adding ideas, part of a world wide whole).” (64) …then comments on “metropolitan flood” that is homogenizing places and making cities indistinct, conflict between indigenous world and metropolitan flow as the great challenge for the new exploration and regional planning

writes living as “man’s part in evolution” and as the goal of regional planning…broadening mental and spiritual horizons…“When we remember the goal of living, even our work takes on a different character: we seek constantly to diminish the sphere of animal toil and to widen that of art; so that finally work and art and recreation and living will all be one. Regional planning is the effort to arrange the environment in such a fashion that this goal may be effectively and eagerly pursued.” (133)

“Here we have the function of every sort of “planner”: it is primarily to uncover, reveal, and visualize—not alone his own ideas but nature’s; not merely to formulate the desire of man, but to reveal the limits thereto imposed by a greater power. Thus, in fact, planning is two things: 1) an accurate formulation of our own desires—the specific knowledge of what it is we want; and 2) an accurate revelation of the limits, and the opportunities, imposed and bequeathed to us by nature. Planning is a scientific charting and picturing of the thing (whether logging railroad or communal center) which man desires and which the eternal forces will permit. The basic achievement of planning is to make potentialities visible. But this is not enough. Visibility is only part of revelation. The mold must be rendered not only visible but audible. It must be heard as well as seen. The regional planner, in revealing a given mold or environment, must portray not alone for the sense of sight, but for that of hearing also. Indeed he must portray in terms of all the senses.” (147)

“Planning is revelation—and all-round revelation. The function of planning is to render actual and evident that which is potential and inevident.” (148)

“The metropolitan environment, taken as a whole, is a sort of modern inorganic siren. She is the mistress of our outreaching yet befuddled senses.” (151)

“The indigenous mold seems to be fundamentally desirable for the reasons which we have previously cited—that it provides for certain fundamental human contacts, viz.: The contact of man and nature, as provided in the primeval setting; the generalized contact of man and man, as provided in the rural village community; the specialized contact of man and man, as provided in the urban and cosmopolitan groupings….The term “regional city” has been applied to this conception of a grouping of villages or small cities within an area, for it combines the attributes of the natural region and the true city: it provides all three elements of the indigenous environment and dissipates the congealed massings which form the substance of the metropolitan environment.” (164-166)
“Our particular problem in regional planning (and in the New Exploration) deals with the distribution of a given population within a region. Our particular goal is to guide the flow of population into some form of the indigenous mold (the environment of real living) and to deter it from any form of the metropolitan mold (the environment of mere existence).” (167)

“Regional planning,” as Mr. Walter Prichard Eaton said at a recent planning conference, “is a hand on the rudder of evolution. It is an acid test of how far we are the captains of our fate.” How far we are such “captains” depends upon our vision; upon our powers of revelation; upon our ability to see ourselves in the perspective of evolution and within the plans of nature. The plans of physical nature might be put into two great classes—those which are permanent and inherent, and those which are temporary and (of a sort) cataclysmic. Plans of the first class may be called indigenous; those of the second class, intrusive.” (168)

“This metropolitan invasion is, I believe, in the nature of an interruption, but whether it will amount actually to this or to our permanent undoing depends on what we are going to do about it. The attitude of the regional planner, as conceived in this particular Philosophy of Regional Planning, is to view this phenomenon as an interruption, and to cope with it as a distinct intruder, and to proceed with the development of an indigenous America as something belonging to the future as well as to the past.” (169)


a Marxist analysis of American regionalist experience

“...the construction of regions as socioeconomic, often conflictual, collectivities of people, rather than...as inert, natural chunks of territory.” (xi)...societal units based on foundation provided by economy

Sources of regionalism (2): economic antagonisms, accelerated growth or decline, territorial antagonisms embodied in the US constitution, economic linkages, cultural ties, class identity, economic cohesion, one dominant or several week parties, regionalism nearby, economic goals...reads more like sectionalism than regionalism, doesn’t buy distinction made by Odum and Moore, doesn’t buy notion that regionalism arises with no inter-regional antagonisms, uses “regionalism” to refer both to regionalist and sectionalist ideas

“A region is an historically evolved, contiguous territorial society that possesses a physical environment, a socioeconomic, political, and cultural milieu, and a spatial structure distinct from other regions and from the other major territorial units, city and nation....The category “region” connotes territorial units with unique physical and cultural traits, whereas the category “city” connotes a special form of human settlement that exhibits regularities of function and spatial structure regardless of location. The category “nation” applies to a special type of region which possesses political sovereignty.”(16-17)

“Regions are products of material forces in history.” (17)
comment: note that she retains relational definition of regions ala Odum and Moore, regions defined by what they are part of, and in this case regions arising because of what they are a part of and how they are a part of it, while rejecting regionalism/sectionalism distinction...she also identifies role of internal dynamics as definers

Sources of regional economic differentiation (26): class segregation, differential source of surplus, segregation of production and realization activities, sectoral specialization, maturation of class conflict

“...successful regional organizing efforts must be able to rely upon a relatively strong economic base, find a way of building inter- and intraclass unity, bridge internal social and cultural differences, and marshall political powers equal to its aspirations.” (233)

“Geographical areas of the earth are uniquely marked by differential endowments in nature. They become regions when societies build distinct economies and political systems within their boundaries. Regions are thus built environments, rather than strictly natural ones, and they change over time in size, shape, and significance. Regionalism is the consciousness of a resident population about its commonalities across a geographical space and in distinction to groups in other regions.” (238)

booming regions adopt an internally oriented regionalism to deal with challenges of development, declining regions are more apt to appeal to national bodies for redistribution, regional cleavage is a persistent theme of American politics

regionalism can be conservative or progressive... “...a progressive regionalism is one which transcends the simple formula of them-us and creates links between progressive interests in distinct regions without destroying the legitimacy of uniquely regional claims...Indeed, a savvy progressive movement in our own times might take advantage of cleavages among regional capitals and fashion a cooperative national program which might encompass the following: Western environmentalists, ranchers, and communities would be assured of orderly, ecologically respectful methods of energy extraction even if it costs energy consumers and user a bit more. Eastern and midwestern unionized workers would be guaranteed an industrial policy which would forcefully stem capital flight and experiment with new forms of work ownership and control, even if it were to cost western consumers of manufactured products a bit more. Southern workers would be guaranteed the right to organize and to a social wage equivalent to that in more developed regions, even if it cost consumers in other regions a bit more.” (245-246)

“A national program could be built around these regionally initiated demands. It would have as its common theme the stability and preservation of community, counterpoised against the hypermobility of capital and waste of human and physical resources left in its wake. It would respect and champion the uniqueness and diversity of individual communities and regions.” (246)
Much of the recent new regionalism and new economic geography scholarship is surprisingly devoid of concrete planning and economic development counsel. Even when its proponents prescribe, they do so in a way that abstracts from the messy real world politics of place.” (294)

McHarg, Ian L. and Frederick R. Steiner, eds. 1998 To Heal the Earth: Selected Writings of Ian L. McHarg Island Press, Washington DC

Planning is an absolutely ancient process and it’s an indispensable one. It is the device by which man confronts the future. I define planning as the ability to understand the dichotomy between man and nature with sufficient perception to predict the consequences of contemplated acts, and to select those alternatives likely to guarantee survival.” (136) ...need to first know more about the environment, then understand region in terms of dynamic and interacting processes (an “interacting biophysical system”), then need to understand why people are where they are and doing what they are doing (layer cake plus ethnographic history), then make predictions for future and meld with people’s desires/needs/expectations for their environment...must make data publically available, must take into account and reveal values of the problem solver

“I prefer to think of planners as catalysts. The planner suppresses his own ego and becomes an agent for outlining available options. He offers predictability that science gives him about the consequences of different courses of action. He helps the community make its values explicit. He identifies alternative solutions with attendant costs and benefits. These vary with different constituencies, as do their needs and values. This sort of planning might be called ecological....Ecological planning addresses itself to the selection of environments. Ecological planners help institutions and individuals adapt these and themselves to achieve fitness.” (140)

ecological planning method: know the region!


the advent of the automobile has enabled the development of metropolitan areas within which different locations and different institutions play differentiated roles: “By reducing the scale of local distance, the motor vehicle extended the horizon of the community and introduced a territorial division of labor among local institutions and neighboring centers which is unique in the history of settlement....This new type of supercommunity organized around a dominant focal point and comprising a multiple of differentiated centers of activity differs from the metropolitanism established by rail transportation in the complexity of its institutional division of labor and mobility of its population. Its territorial scope is defined in terms of motor transportation and competition with other regions. Nor is this new type of metropolitan
community confined to the great cities. It has become the communal unit of local relations throughout the entire nation.” (6)

documented migration to metropolitan regions and deconcentration of population in both rural areas and historical smaller urban centers: “The population of the United States is tending to concentrate in large regional aggregates. In every such aggregate, the population tends to subdivide and become multinucleated in a complex of centers that are economically and socially integrated in a larger regional unity. The extent of the areas of concentration is determined by the operation of geographical and economic forces and therefore bears little relation to the political units into which the country is divided and according to which census enumerations are made.” (48)

concentration due to fact that securing raw materials was becoming a smaller portion of the effort needed to produce finished goods and advances in mass communications which enabled resource extraction activities to centralize, also increase in college-educated population, increase in service occupations, greater leisure time

motor vehicle and mass communications have led to functional integration of city and countryside: “The metropolitan region thus considered is primarily a functional entity. Geographically it extends as far as the city exerts a dominant influence. It is essentially an expanded pattern of local communal life based upon motor transportation. Structurally this new metropolitan regionalism is axiate in form. The basic elements of its pattern are centers, routes, and rims...In other words, the modern metropolitan community, unlike the pre-motor city, obtains its unity through territorial differentiation of specialized functions rather than through mass participation in centrally located institutions.” (70)

documented that general patterns of settlement, economic and social organization associated with older more “mature” part of country also becoming evident in “younger belts of settlement and the rural South”, nation becoming more uniform in economic and cultural characteristics and patterns of settlement (124)

railroads worked against sectionalism by creating new functional links surmounting distance and physical barriers, metropolitan regionalism originated in “star” pattern of railways, with gateway cities supported by chains of towns and villages, motor transport did not change this pattern, no major cities arising because of it: “They have, however, effected modifications in local relations which, in the aggregate, are perhaps quite as significant as those introduced by the railroads.” (140)

“It thus appears that one of the important functions of motor transportation has been to fill in gaps existing in the railroad structure. In so doing, the motor vehicle has had the effect of rounding out the city’s hinterland and of intensifying local relations. In a word, this new form of transportation has made for the development of modern city regionalism.” (142)

“Accordingly, the interdependent economic region replaced the self-sufficient geographic section as the territorial unit of American settlement....By multiplying the avenues of contact within the
local area, motor transportation has brought groups of formerly independent towns and villages into a single functioning unit, thereby creating the metropolitan community.” (143)

discussed nation turning to its coasts and world trade, resulting decline of North Central and Mountain states (Montana lost population during 1920’s)

documented “centrifugal drift” within metropolitan areas, wealthier households moving to margins, acceleration of blight in central city, new incorporations on edge (173 and onward)...also identified speculation at edge, development of new density without adequate services, need for concurrency or some lid on speculative development (211-212)...correlation of property values and public investments, movement outward of highest value land (239)...concentration of race/segregation in cities (249)...impact of traffic congestion on business location encouraging peripheral locations (291)

“Because city planning is by definition limited to the obsolescent political city, it is now being rapidly superseded by regional planning. But regional planning on a scale commensurate with actual needs is thwarted by the large number of politically independent communities with which planning bodies have to deal. The development of the new supercity points, therefore, to the need of some sort of supermetropolitan government.” (316)

“The outstanding fact to be kept in mind is that our great metropolitan communities are products of the operation of economic and cultural forces that are world-wide in scope. While each metropolitan aggregate is tending to become a more complete economic and social unit, the interdependence among these supercommunities is becoming more sensitive and more extended in space. To attempt to adjust this complex mechanism by reversion to old techniques is analogous to trying to repair a motor car with a crowbar and hammer.” (317)


planners have special relationship to future because a focus on the future is unique to planning’s mission and identity...purpose of a plan is to prepare for and create future states and activities, concept approved today can only be realized in the future, decisions/investments made today bind those that follow...big gap between future aspirations and meaningful efforts to achieve future states, social science orientation has also been backwards looking, planner focus on spatial analysis also ignores evolutionary quality of plan implementation (snapshot versus dynamic states)...notes that future is not disconnected from past and present, but should be viewed as a “continuous unfolding rooted in both the past and present”...past, present, and future all make up the future

what’s needed is a better understanding of the dynamic processes that create the future, and the roles that plans and planners play in those processes over time

points out that projections are not predictions, and that forecasts are best guesses...plans require evaluation of forecasts but too often simply accommodate either forecasts or projections
notes that time frame and spatial scale of forecasts are positively related... longer-range forecasts are constructed for broader geographic areas, most distant views of the future tend to be global while smaller scales--localities, subareas--call for shorter horizons

future is result of multiple nested processes in time, not the end of a single historical timeline, things begin and end at different points, overlap at a point in time called the future, not one great endpoint or starting point for all dynamics

points to visioning, scenario writing (ala Hirschhorn), and persuasive storytelling (ala Throgmorton) as means for representing future meaningfully in planning


reviews reasons why sprawl is a problem and why it exists, concludes that sprawl promoted by existing policies, especially at federal level...urban exodus due to more than market forces alone...identifies four “shopworn” and largely ineffective approaches to changing the prevailing patterns of metropolitan development: urban revitalization, investments in mass transit, metropolitan growth management, and metropolitan reorganization

makes eight suggestions for policy interventions that might matter: tax reform to tax consumption, “what we take versus what we make”; abolishing the highway trust fund and engaging in road pricing; reducing urban crime; improving urban schools; removing barriers to (zoning, fees, tax structures) and promoting small business development; removing unfunded mandates and expanding revenue sharing; promoting, encouraging, and requiring energy conservation; liberalizing immigration policies


push of concentrated poverty in central cities and inner-ring suburbs and the pull of resource-rich suburban and exurban enclaves, need for new metropolitan coalitions to address needs in declining areas and stop flow of regional resources to areas that don’t need them

lessons in coalition building:
1) Understand the region’s demographics and make maps
2) reach out and organize the issue on a personal level
3) build a broad, inclusive coalition
4) the inner and low-tax base suburbs are the pivot point in American politics, and critical allies
5) reach into central cities to make sure message is understood
6) seek out the region’s religious community
7) seek out the philanthropic community, established reform groups, business leaders
8) link interests with common issues... “regionalism is a multifaceted gemstone”
9) seek out the media through the coalition, publicize the vision
10) prepare for controversy
11) move forward on several fronts and prepare to compromise

**Pastor, M., P. Drier, J.E. Grigsby, and M. Lopez-Garza 2000 Regions that Work: How Cities and Suburbs can Grow Together University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis**

Based on earlier “Growing Together” Study.

“While cities are the location of many of our nation’s problems, they are not necessarily the cause of them.” (2)

Asks why suburbs should care about cities: “A more compelling argument, one we develop here, suggests that the fate of cities and their suburb is increasingly linked. In this view, two trends are important: (1) central cities and many suburbs are becoming more alike, and (2) their futures are inextricably interdependent.” (3)...poverty in city or elsewhere can drag down whole region, no suburban islands of prosperity in a sea of poverty, the “new regionalism” is founded on the notion of metropolitan economies (Barnes and Leduc and citistates (Peirce)

“What actually attracts business is the entire geographically based infrastructure of skills, markets, and expertise.” (4) ...goes on to state that these assets along with stable public policy encourage businesses to accept higher costs, these assets often found at the regional scale, points out that when speaking of the new economy, most identify regions or subregions rather than cities (Silicon Valley, Northern Italy, Silicon Forest, etc.), notes that region is geography of clusters and that regions become known because of their clusters, region as scale at which relationships and trust can be built (6)

Identifies three “variants” of regionalism: efficiency regionalism attracts support from those seeking lower costs, better resource utilization (business leaders, industry associations), environmental regionalism attracts support from those concerned about environmental quality, livability, and Q of L, transportation and land use, equity regionalism views region as unit for achieving equity goals, metropolitics involving big city mayors, inner-ring suburbs, CDC’s, and labor...complicated by fact that jurisdictions must cooperate to make things work regionally (9)...most often regionalism driven by efficiency and environment, equity much trickier but all three work together for regional health and sustainability (11)

three central arguments: first, regional economies would benefit from better incorporation of concerns of the poor, second, poor communities would benefit from better incorporation into the regional economy, third, it is possible to do better...“Community developers and regional leaders must see a clear set of reasons for coming together.” (96)...suggests that poverty can only be alleviated at the regional level and regional economies can only flourish if poverty is addressed and decreased...continue to describe regions that “work” where “work” means increases in income and decreases in central city poverty (Boston, Charlotte, San Jose)
“high road to economic development”...three inter-related goals: fostering economic growth, encouraging environmental sustainability, strengthening the region’s social fabric (155)...regional growth and community revitalization are a two-way street...proposes two major ingredients to success (157): Working together (thinking regionally, mapping the region, creating a forum, telling the story of the region, building bridges among leaders and communities, challenging CDC’s to think and link to the region) and Growing together (growing clusters, reducing bidding wars, (re)building infrastructure with an eye to equity, workforce development for a regional economy, linking affordable housing to jobs and providing greater mobility for low income households, living wages, supporting entrepreneurship, building neighborhoods)... “...the challenge is to combine place- and people-based approaches, to stress neighborhood livability and regional job connections.” (174)

Also focusses on federal role in encouraging regionalism, starting with federal agencies promoting intraregional collaboration (176)

Ringland, Gil 1998 Scenario Planning: Managing for the Future John Wiley and Sons, New York City

Provides a history of scenario planning and examples of methods and applications…primary focus is business planning but some public sector examples…case studies of both methods and scenarios

“What is a scenario? Think of a scenario as a fairy tale. Michael Porter defined scenarios in 1985...as: “an internally consistent view of what the future might turn out to be—not a forecast, but on possible future outcome.” We have defined scenario planning as: that part of strategic planning which relates to the tools and technologies for managing the uncertainties of the future.” (2)

Two aspects of a successful model: “the ability to anticipate real world behavior—which may be unexpected—through exploring the constraints or changes in the external environment, or the relationships between forces; the creation of a mental model which allows the user to look for early confirming or disconfirming evidence.” (10) ... “It could be said that scenario planning is a set of processes for improving the quality of the educated guesses and also for deciding what the implications are, and when to gamble.” (11)

“Good planning requires a view of the future. Forecasts based on current trends, or estimates of growth based on history, will be dangerous to organizations if their environment is changing fast. With these forces at work, the emphasis for planners has moved from forecasting to foresight. As Slaughter...points out, “Foresight pushes the boundaries of perception in at least four major ways by: consequence assessment (assessing the implications of present actions, decisions, etc.), early warning and guidance (detecting and avoiding problems before they occur), pro-active strategy formation (considering the present implications of possible future events), normative scenarios (envisioning aspects of possible or desired futures).” This book is about a way of thinking, scenario planning, for encouraging and harnessing foresight.” (47)
lessons from constructing scenarios: take time and do enough research to make sure right questions are being asked; combine discipline (strong leader, shared vision) with free-thinking, and principle that no one is right or wrong; group should be made up of broad range of interests from whole territory; scenarios must be relevant to nature of enterprise; name the scenarios to aid understanding; develop a rich storyline to add depth the scenarios and to emphasize that they are not forecasts

“Scenarios are about ideas, and ideas are notoriously difficult to communicate. The techniques which will work depend on the intended audience and the environment in which they are operating. The methods used to communicate the scenarios will depend on who is going to use the scenarios and for what.” (111)


“Dealing effectively with the environmental problems in any city requires a holistic or ecosystem approach to managing human activities. There are certain key characteristics of an ecosystem approach: includes the whole system, not just parts of it; focuses on the interrelationships among the elements; understands that humans are part of nature, not separate from it; recognizes the dynamic nature of the ecosystem, presenting a moving picture rather than a still photograph; incorporates the concept of carrying capacity, resilience, and sustainability--suggesting that there are limits to human activity; uses a broad definition of environments--natural, physical, economic, social, and cultural; encompasses both urban and rural activities; is based on natural geographic units such as watersheds, rather than on political boundaries; embraces all levels of activity--local, regional, national, and international; emphasizes the importance of species other than humans and of generations other than the present; and is based on an ethic in which progress is measured by the quality, well-being, integrity, and dignity it accords natural, social, and economic systems.” (xxi)

“Each city region in the world will have to develop its own institutional adaptations in order to implement an ecosystem approach to planning. Each adaptation will reflect the history, culture, traditions, habits, and customs unique to that city. But it is also possible to see that cities will discover some common features in their new approach: the recognition of the primacy of natural boundaries and processes; the integration of land use with environmental planning in public process and law; the integration of urban and rural planning to link the city with its region; the creation of concurrent, rather than consecutive, planning processes; the integration of capital budgets of all government departments and agencies to ensure coherence, economies, and financial strength; and the recognition of the increasing importance of designing places and spaces that allow people to feel a part of nature while they take advantage of the immemorial human pleasures that only cities can offer.” (xxii)

principles for regeneration: clean, green, connected, open, accessible, useable, diverse, affordable, attractive (56-60)

contrasts inside game (revitalizing cities from the inside) and outside game (connecting revitalization to metropolitan dynamics)...documents role of federal policies, redlining, and disinvestment in creating unfavorable conditions for cities...notes that community-based efforts are not reversing poverty or concentration of poverty, points to outside game as necessary for curing urban ills, prescribes regional planning to control sprawl, fair share housing policies to deconcentrate poverty, and regional revenue sharing as the basis for the outside game


“Paradoxically, regions offer an important source of competitive advantage even as production and markets become increasingly global. Geographic proximity promotes the repeated interaction and mutual trust needed to sustain collaboration and to speed the continual recombination of technology and skill. When production is embedded in these regional social structures and institutions, firms compete by translating local knowledge and relationships into innovative products and services; and industrial specialization becomes a source of flexibility rather than of atomism and fragmentation.” (161)

“Regional policymakers will face the challenge of creating institutions that promote a decentralized process of industrial self-organization without sacrificing individual autonomy and flexibility. Unlike either traditional top-down intervention or laissez-faire approaches, regional policy can be organized locally and designed to catalyze and coordinate--rather than directly manage--relations among the myriad public and private actors that populate a regional economy.” (165)

“The starting point for regional industrial strategy is fostering the collective identities and trust to support the formation and elaboration of local networks. By providing public forums for exchange and debate, policymakers can encourage the development of shared understandings and promote collaboration among local producers.” (167)

“Regional planners and policymakers thus have an important leadership role to play in promoting collaboration among fragmented and often jealous city and local governments. Just as individual entrepreneurs must recognize and institutionalize their interdependencies, so too must individual political jurisdictions overcome narrow self-interest in order to define and advance a common interest. The creation of such institutions is an intensely political process--one that requires continuing debate and compromise, but that offers the possibility of sustained industrial and regional prosperity.” (168)

“A truly imaginative regional plan requires something more than present behavior as a guide to what people will want.” (11)...hence need for public involvement to learn more about what folks really care about than can be revealed only through an analysis of statistics

“...there are two parts to regional planning: constructing a long-range comprehensive plan and translating it into specific projects or advice on projects.” (12)

“All of this, we think, explains the role of public response machinery in regional (metropolitan) planning. It doesn’t substitute for the usual democratic process when decisions on actual projects are made. It raises for conscious attention the basic values to be considered when the long-range plan is evolved because the plan will carry special weight when projects are considered.” (13)

So, F.S., I. Hand, and B.D. McDowell 1986  The Practice of State and Regional Planning
American Planning Association, Chicago

“As indicated in this brief review, local governments have the broadest set of public service action responsibilities matched by a commensurate set of planning processes. In contrast, most regional organizations, excepting certain single-purpose authorities, have significant planning responsibilities and very little implementation authority....Increasingly, emphasis has been placed upon the need for a solid connection between planning and implementation. State and local governments have been moving in this direction by incorporating their planning agencies into their top policy and budgeting offices, thereby “operationalizing” the planning process. At the same time, most regional planning remains outside any operational government body. The extent that a regional plan is simply an aggregation of local plans, it may be linked fairly closely to implementation activities. To the extent that it seeks to resolve area-wide controversies upon which local governments cannot agree, it may be left with little access to the needed implementation powers. The main exception has been in a very limited number of federal aid programs--especially urban transportation and sewage treatment facilities--where federal approval of project funding has been largely dependent upon consistency with a regional plan. The largely advisory role of most regional plans makes it more difficult for regional planning organizations to “deliver” results.” (18)

provides comparison of local-regional-state planning...lots of studies and data gathering at the regional level

“...regional planning is faced with the most complex of intergovernmental problems, and given few if any governmental powers to apply. It works mostly in an advisory capacity, relying largely upon its powers of persuasion to move a broad array of governmental units--none of which is directly responsible for the total geographic region addressed by the region’s planning process--toward common goals.” (61)

regions are: “geographical areas with problems of public policy or administration for which no existing unit of government is organized” (151); “The region (an area big enough to encompass
whole problems) should have a clear organizing concept which sets the theme for planning.”
(151)

“The regional plan attempts to visualize a better future for its geographical area and recommend steps to achieve it.” (152)

“Organizing the region is an effort to provide the political visibility, accessibility, responsibility, and accountability necessary to deal with regional problems as public policy issues. Proper representation in the regional planning organization helps to ensure that decisions with interjurisdictional consequences will be made jointly by those jurisdictions affected. This, in itself, is a goal to be valued highly.” (152)

“If ordering activities and facilities in space and time is the core of regional planning, as Perloff has emphasized, then allocating resources to a region and within the region is the prime concern. At least three basic principles lie behind regional allocation decisions:

1) Regionwide systems should be effective and efficient regardless of how local boundaries or state lines intervene.
2) The region should take advantage of available economies of scale.
3) Opportunities and burdens should be distributed equitably throughout the region (or among regions).” (153)

...efficiency, economy, equity

three modes of operation: provide info, give politically significant planning advice to policy makers, allocate regional resources (154)...mode chosen depends on authority, skills required are research and analysis, negotiation, management

discusses different kinds of planning activities, management of regional agencies, implementation tools

a dated description of the field...little differentiation, “it’s political”


“Planning has been defined as the use of scientific and technical knowledge to provide options for decision making as well as a process for considering and reaching consensus on a range of choices....Comprehensive planning involves a broad range of choices relating to all the functions of an area. Resolution of conflicts, often through compromises, is the inherent purpose of comprehensive planning.” (4)

“There is a need for a common language, a common method among all those concerned about social equity and ecological parity. This method must be able to transcend disciplinary territorialism and must be applicable to all levels of government. It is imperative that this
approach incorporate both social and environmental concerns...What is needed is an approach that can assist planners to analyze the problems of a region as they relate to each other, to the landscape, and to the national and local political economic structure. This might be called an applied human ecology.” (8)

“What is meant by ecological planning? Planning is a process that uses scientific and technical information for considering and reaching consensus on a range of choices. Ecology is the study of the relationship of all living things, including people, to their biological and physical environments. Ecological planning then may be defined as the use of biophysical and sociocultural information to suggest opportunities and constraints for decision making about the use of the landscape....The ecological planning method is primarily a procedure for studying the biophysical and sociocultural systems of a place to reveal where specific land used may be best practiced.” (9)

11 steps in process: identification of planning problems and opportunities, establishment of planning goals, regional landscape analysis, local landscape analysis, detailed studies, planning area concepts, options and choices, landscape plan, ongoing citizen involvement and citizen education (echoes Hough), detailed designs, plan and design implementation, administration...note similarity to trad planning processes...he points to incorporation of design as key differentiating element


problems are regional, metropolitan planning is growing, issues overlap state lines and follow watersheds and other economic assemblages, consequently the Federal government should encourage and direct attention to regional planning both to address issues and to encourage local-minded officials and staff to think more broadly, cites local conflicts with natural systems, interstate compacts, metropolitan regionalism, Federal agency operations as evidence that problems are in need of new approaches and institutions, regions are important units and that the Federal Government needs to do more to recognize and promote their use

“...the “Regionalism” here discussed is not a Balkanization of the United States , but a better organization of our American national purposes -- a more effective promotion of the public welfare.” (VIII)

“A regional organization, whatever its varied form, should not be considered as a new form of sovereignty, even in embryo. It need never develop to the stage where it will have elected officers, a legislative body, and the power to tax. Consequently the region need not have fixed boundaries....One advantage of having variable rather than fixed regional boundaries is that each specific problem can be handled by the regional planning office with regard to the actual area affected....Another advantage of having no fixed regional boundaries is in the welding effect of interlocking regions upon the national structure....a series of interrelated regions, closely cooperating with the Federal establishment, would tend to cement the union and to promote the
national solution of intersectional maladjustments. This relationship, important even in ordinary times, becomes vital in periods of rapid change.” (IX)

recommended creation of state planning boards, regional planning commissions, encouragement of interstate compacts, use of Federal corporate authorities, advance planning, continuous national planning, a permanent national development administration, use of a range of regional development tools at the Federal level, Federal administrative centralization...aware that most Federal regional planning to that point stemmed from natural systems, but argued for a broader view incorporating natural and social in same frame

regions as definite subnational units as evidenced by common usage of “south”, “north”, “midwest”, etc.

two regional planning objectives: socioeconomic advancement (requires large regions to attain self-sufficiency) and “The second idea, and one which is probably more commonly held, is that regional planning should, in the main, confine itself to dealing with the physical resources and equipment out of which socio-economic progress arises. If this be the major objective, then sectional autonomy and economic balance cease to occupy the center of attention. In their place, comes a desire to find an area within which physical resources naturally group themselves in such a way that human adjustments and maladjustments to them can be readily isolated and dealt with. To achieve such an end, the planner needs, not a large and varied area, but one as specialized as possible--one within which planning problems are segregated into a few types so as to allow for expert treatment.” (156)...focus becomes comparative advantage which ultimately makes regions more interconnected as each expresses its specialties, leads to greater national cohesion

planning regions should exhibit the following physical characteristics: contiguous and compact territory, maximum degree of homogeneity where boundaries become transition zones rather than sharp lines, unity, organic interrelationship, and cohesion, all territory containing a major combination of resources, whole problem areas, a total pattern of culture and works, conforming to existing regional consciousness and sentiments, possessing regional identity, of fairly large size

“To the planner, the region should be a convenient device to keep planning problems and functions within manageable dimensions.” (157)

“To construct regions which would adhere to cities rather than to the broader aspects of resources, economic patterns and regional interests is to place the emphasis upon one factor rather than the total region. Upon such a basis regional planning tends to become an expanded form of city planning. On the other hand, it is by no means certain that planning has not arisen at least in part out of the necessity of preserving local rural culture and resources against chaotic economic and social forces emanating from the city. Even were cities themselves carefully planned, this would still be true, for the city is an organism whose very nature places its nutritive processes above larger regional considerations.” (159)...foresaw 17 planning regions with central city administrative centers, also identified 12 “composite” regions as an alternative, merging natural/administrative/economic/metropolitan concerns, mapped Ecotopia precisely!
“It may not be too much to anticipate that the growth of regional planning will lead to the
discovery of the regions, lead to greater regional expression and regional culture, lead to wiser
and more useful development, lead to the emergence of true regional plans constituting
coordinate parts of national programs. Meanwhile, as centers of collaborative planning work and
as centers of information, the regional planning offices can be sources of stimulation to the
creative forces of the regions and of the Nation.” (196)

organizational form for regional planning should conform to problem being addressed, nature of
area involved

Warren, Mark R. 2001 Dry Bones Rattling: Community Building to Revitalize American
Democracy Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ

“Revitalizing democracy, then, requires community building, but also something more: creating
institutional links between stronger communities and our political system....I present a four-part
framework that can help specify the necessary components of the process of building social
capital to revitalize democracy...First, the process of building social capital needs to start with
the institutional life that still exists in local communities...Second, since these institutions and the
social fabric of communities are weak, an effective strategy is needed to develop cooperative ties
and enhance the leadership capacity of community members. Third, strong local communities
can be isolated, inward looking, even antidemocratic. In order to develop broader identities and
a commitment to the common good, we need a strategy to bridge social capital across
communities, especially those divided by race. Finally, building strong communities with
diverse connections may not matter if they lack the power to shape their own development.
Effective power requires mediating institutions capable of intervening successfully in politics
and government.” (19-20)

...note link here with Fishman’s “lessons of the 1960s”...

Weitz, Jerry and Ethan Seltzer 1998 “Regional Planning and Regional Governance in the
12(3):361-392 February

Reviews literature on regional planning and regional governance published after Friedmann and
Weaver’s Territory and Function in 1979. Provides 168 annotated entries. Little on specific
practice though many case studies. Also noted ongoing opposition to and suspicion of regional
approaches in some metros.

Wheaton, William L. C. 1969 “Metropolitan Allocation Planning” in Hufschmidt,
Maynard M., ed 1969 Regional Planning: Challenges and Prospects Praeger Publishers,
New York, pages 207-219 (HT391.R34)
ineffectiveness of planning, bad on city level but miserable on regional level... “The distribution of power in metropolitan areas is almost totally diffused. A multiplicity of cities, towns, townships, counties special districts, and state agencies, often wholly lacking in even regular communication systems, each weak in its own domain, each characterized by internal divisions, is wholly incapable of planning for action. As a result, metropolitan planning agencies are largely powerless. They are undertakings for planners who have the time sense of geologists and a studied indifference to prevalent local earthquakes.” (211-212)

goes on to suggest looking at what ought to be of metropolitan concern... “The first proposition, then, is to exclude the purely local from metropolitan planning--especially the irrelevant and almost purely symbolic maps.” (213)

then suggests that what is done as local planning should also be excluded from metro planning... “A second proposition, then, is that metropolitan planning should not include the power to zone, as now defined, or to map local streets or to plan or approve subdivisions or to do other local things.” (213)

goes on to suggest that a new political institution be developed to allocate new funds to support local actions in conjunction with the “nonplan planning choices” of metropolitan concern, a set of performance measures for pop and emp targets, education expenditures, retail development, jobs/housing balance by job and income class...

Britton Harris points out that this scheme rests too heavily on predictive power and desirability of separating functions, but applauds manner in which it creates a market in externalities which are now largely ignored...

Lowdon Wingo lauds Wheaton for recognizing political realities, states that “Planning for the metropolitan region, then should focus on processes of technical assistance, of research and analysis, or information and communication, of negotiation, and of coordination....The regional planner is not the city planner writ large; he is a new kind of corporate animal skilled in mobilizing institutions and wise in the knowledge of what problem situations call for and of what is possible.” (226-227) Focus for regional planning first on region-wide service systems, includes alleviation of poverty (!), then calls for focus on problem definition “The core of any metropolitan planning operation will be a powerful information/analysis/research organ.” (227)...not more data but more and better analysis useful for decisionmaking. Finally, a focus on institutions, new relationships critical

Stanley Tankel... “The key to effectiveness in regional planning is to resist being comprehensive and to concentrate on things that are regional in their impact.” (230)

comparative study to attempt to identify common success factors in three regions, found 5 common factors for regional planning success:
1) Higher-level government support, can help establish planning institutions, assist with funding, break through political inertia, enforce big picture/long-range view, most important reason
2) Strong regional institutions
3) Supportive political coalitions
4) Lack of regional fragmentation and polycentrism
5) A communicative and cooperative planning style

White, Richard 1995 The Organic Machine: The Remaking of the Columbia River

In a sense the Columbia River dams made the Pacific Northwest a region. The lines of the Bonneville Power Administration marked the region’s boundaries. Where interties with other transmission systems occurred, there the Pacific Northwest encountered other regions...Planning was critical to the river, but plans for the Columbia rarely regarded it as anything more than an abstraction, a prime mover providing potential kilowatts. Planners reduced the essential river to a statistic--42 percent of the country’s total hydropower capacity. Only at rare moments did the actual river break through. Those moments--when its beauty astonished, when its power destroyed, when the life it supported changed--challenged the planners, who, nonetheless, never lost faith in a fully rationalized river, an organic machine.” (64)

“Planning is an exercise of power, and in a modern state much real power is suffused with boredom. The agents of planning are usually boring; the planning process is boring; the implementation of plans is always boring. In a democracy boredom works for bureaucracies and corporations as smell works for a skunk. It keeps danger away. Power does not have to be exercised behind the scenes. It can be open. The audience is asleep. The modern world is forged amid our inattention.” (64)


“Good science, good laws, good economics, and good communities come together in the idea of sustainability....A working policy of sustainability encompasses a practical and phased-in, but still rigorous and comprehensive, program of conservation so that consumption can be reduced. But the obligation to provide for the next generations also includes the duty to maintain a vital economy. Sustainability, then, affirmatively recognizes the need for development. Indeed, a program of sustainability ought to include the knowledge, technology, and planning needed to increase the productivity of the land.” (298)

“Sustainable use, through rigorous, is not impractical....How, then, might sustainable use work in the West? After identifying all economic, environmental, cultural, and abstract--call them spiritual--elements that need to be sustained, it seems to me inevitable that westerners increasingly will turn to various forms of planning. When I say planning, I mean it in the
broadest sense: the process of a community coming together; identifying problems; setting goals--a vision--for a time period such as twenty or forty years; adopting a program to fulfill those goals; and modifying the program as conditions change.”…sensible and visionary planning “can open our minds to the possibilities for our communities--our neighborhoods, schools businesses, environment, and culture--so that we can build flexible arrangements for trying to achieve and sustain those possibilities. All across the West, stresses have built to the point where it is hard to imagine a sustainable future without some form of planning.” (300)


“To recapture the promise of the region, RPA has produced a plan to reconnect the region to its basic foundations. RPA calls these interlocking foundations the “Three E’s”—economy, environment, and equity, the components of our quality of life. The fundamental goal of the plan is to rebuild the “Three E’s” through investments and policies that integrate and build on our advantages, rather than focussing on just one of the “E’s” to the detriment of the others….With all our diversity, sometimes it is hard to see how each of the “E’s” unites us: we all inhabit the same landscape, breathe the same air, and drink the same water; however and wherever we earn our living, the economies of our cities and suburbs are interdependent, and they succeed or fail as one; our lives are embedded in far-reaching networks of neighbors, family, friends, and colleagues that stretch across all social, racial, economic, physical, and political boundaries.” (6)

….note: Gardner Church identified in acknowledgements as source for 3Es Venn diagram

“The Third Regional Plan also makes a critical distinction between real growth and “pseudo-growth.” If we add people or jobs dot do so at the expense of the other “E’s,” that is not true growth—it is a form of decline, postponed for the moment perhaps, but all the more inevitable when it comes. Because anything that further undermines the region’s environment or equity will eventually drive away the global businesses that now—in a post-Cold War, deregulated, Internet and inter-linked world—can pack up shop any time and head for some place that has not already been fouled up.” (9)

“Five initiatives anchor the plan—Greensward, Centers, Mobility, Workforce, and Governance. Together they have been designed to re-energize the region by re-greening, re-connecting, and re-centering it. The Greensward safeguards the region’s green infrastructure of forests, watersheds, estuaries, and farms, and it establishes green limits for future growth. Centers makes the region’s existing major employment and residential areas the focus for the next generation of growth. Mobility transforms our transportation network to knit together the re-strengthened centers. Workforce provides groups and individuals living in these centers with the skills and connections needed to bring them into the region’s economic mainstream. Achieving these ends will require new ways of organizing and energizing our political and civic institutions, as outlined in Governance. Collectively, all of these strategies underpin the region’s quality of life and competitiveness, and they can guide us to sustainable growth as we enter the 21st century.” (13)
contrasts defacto sprawl plan with third plan…always a “plan” in motion…might as well be a good one
What I’ve learned from compiling the bibliography:

1) There is plenty of stuff out there on the current urban/metropolitan challenge, the nature of metropolitan economies, the need for thinking regionally/metropolitanly, and themes for achieving greater regional success…Calthorpe, Pastor, Langdon, Barnett, Hershberg, Henton, etc…

2) These are not new themes…McKenzie, City Club of Portland, US National Resources

3) Nonetheless, regionalism/regional planning has not fared well despite the fact that there remains great logic in regional approaches to some things…Ayers, Derthick, Dramstad, Friedmann, Kelly, Wheaton, McHarg, Orfield, Nivola, three e's

4) However, regional planning today is different than it was in the 20s and 30s…Calthorpe, US National Resources, Markusen, Graham

5) Regional planning concerns itself with issues that cross boundaries and/or require collaborative approaches…Henton, Calthorpe, McHarg, Wheaton, So, Lim, Beatley

6) The focus needs to be local and regional, both have to work well…Hack, Calthorpe, Hudnut, Congress of the NU, Pastor, Orfield, Kelbaugh

7) There is zero out there besides maybe Wheaton that focuses on differences between regional and local/jurisdictional planning. All use the same rational planning process (7 to 8 steps) though there is no explicit comment on how to make it work at a region scale. Henton goes for creating "collaborative communities" to take on regional approaches to new economy. Hough has regional design approach that kind of bridges design and planning. Kelbaugh and Calthorpe go directly to regional design, finding salvation for all scales only through physical design

8) Lots of talk of governance not government…Henton, Lucy, Foster

9) Two major schools of thought: regional planning as a design problem (Calthorpe, Lynch, McHarg, Hough, Kelbaugh, Forman, etc.) and regional planning as a community organizing/constituency mobilization problem (Pastor, Lucy, Dreier, etc.)

10) Contrast the idealism of MacKaye and early regionalists with that of Calthorpe and others today. Note the sense that regional planning was addressing issues of societal evolution, the perfection of human settlements in many dimensions. Today there is a little bit of that in Calthorpe’s book, but by and large the view of regionalism today has more to do with problem solving associated with existing structures rather than the more sweeping creation of structures that don’t exist.

There is more to be mined from the bibliography, and a few more titles to be added. However, the basic message is that no one has really put together anything that specifically outlines how to do regional planning. So and company just depend on the rational method and then turn to topics in regional planning. Steiner and McHarg provide useful insights for how to do ecological planning, but it is not grounded in the range of regional issues that make regional planning in metropolitan areas compelling. Calthorpe, Kelbaugh, and Hough provide useful info on thinking of metropolitan areas as design problems, but without really digging into how you do it. Wheeler has isolated some success factors, but they focus almost exclusively on the environment for planning, not planning itself.
The rational method is here to stay. However, our approach to regional planning would have folks think about different things and would suggest that limited things are possible if certain conditions aren't met. Might look something like the following set of questions:

1) What kind of regional effort is this (mandated, self-interested, organic…Carlson)? Must be able to answer this and to completely characterize the problem at hand. Makes effort real for all participants. Characterizing the problem in planning terms. We should speak to what can be done to create regional consciousness and awareness. Note that Hough, McHarg, and Steiner provide insights here. Purpose of planning is to create a vision, propose specific changes to urban structure, and enact explicit program for getting it done. Regional community building is a key byproduct, and can be the primary product in the event that sufficient implementation relationships don't or won't exist.

2) What are we collectively capable of? Ladder of regional cooperation, Henton on collaboration, Joint Venture Silicon Valley on diagnosing readiness for collaboration, Pastor on working together/growing together. Need to be explicit about roles.

3) What do we know? What makes this a region? Is there an explicit or de facto vision? Know the region, as emphasized by McHarg and Hough. What is shared in common as emphasized by Pastor and Orfield. The need for shared vision as emphasized by Calthorpe and others, and the requirement that you get it early in the process. Understanding the base case using the backdrop provided by what you know about the region.

4) What are the alternatives? Regional design principles ala Calthorpe, CNU, Hough, Kelbaugh, 3rd Plan.

5) What do we want? Distilling the vision if none exists. Identifying preferred and explicit changes to urban form and structure. Deciding takes more than a motion. Henton again. Branding the region, Hough. What to do if no decisions can be reached. Need for leaders and regional stewards.

6) How do we make it real? Implementation. Investment and mutual accountability, keeping the vision alive, Hough and Henton. Keeping your eye on the long term. Avoiding the zoning trap/more than just regulation. Finding resources that cross boundaries. What to do if it's not working.

7) Is it working? Monitoring and feedback…when to plan again, when to assess success or failure.

Note that the first two steps/questions require clarifying what would be there if a single institution had authority at the regional level. Note that even in Portland there is no shortcut around these questions, and that local governments don't routinely answer them in the course of city/county planning. The first two also begin the process of clarifying goals and objectives. The third, fourth, and fifth deal with generating alternatives and selecting a preferred path. It's not so much that regional planning proceeds differently here, as much as the nature of regional problems require a focus that is explicitly not just like doing another comprehensive plan.
The last steps are absolutely crucial…making it real is what it's all about. Note that our current outline points to "good" regional plans as having three key elements: vision, explicit additions to urban structure, and action to make it happen. Monitoring is or should be about learning, where feedback helps identify when the plan needs adjusting, recognizing that starting with the first questions again is unavoidable. I've incorporated these comments in a revision of our outline. In conclusion, the literature is full of the "why you should plan regionally" stuff, but devoid of the "how you should plan regionally".