

JEFF SPECK, AICP, CNU-A, LEED-AP, Honorary ASLA
Principal

Jeff Speck is a city planner and urban designer who, through writing, public service, and built work, advocates internationally for more walkable cities. He leads Speck & Associates, a private consultancy offering design and advisory services to North American municipalities and the real-estate development industry. As Director of Design at the National Endowment for the Arts from 2003 through 2007, Mr. Speck oversaw the *Mayors' Institute on City Design* and created the *Governors' Institute on Community Design*. His recent book, *Walkable City: How Downtown Can Save America, One Step at a Time* is exerting a profound impact on the design of communities nationwide. Recent work of Speck & Associates includes downtown master plans, waterfront visions, urban and suburban infill plans, transit-oriented designs, street plans, and walkability studies for communities including Memphis, Tennessee; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Tulsa, Oklahoma.

REGISTRATIONS

- American Institute of Certified Planners—License 147134.
- Congress for New Urbanism—Accredited
- Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design—Accredited Professional, U.S.G.B.C.
- Honorary Member of the American Society of Landscape Architects

EDUCATION

Scholar in Residence, the American Academy in Rome, spring 2011; summer 2017.

Master of Architecture *with Distinction*, Harvard Graduate School of Design. American Institute of Architects fellow. Twice a recipient of the Derek Bok Award for excellence in undergraduate teaching.

Master of Fine Arts Degree in Renaissance Architectural History. Florence Graduate Fellow, Syracuse University, Florence, Italy.

Bachelor of Arts degree with Honors, *Magna cum Laude*, Williams College. *Phi Beta Kappa*.

RECENT EXPERIENCE

Downtown Master Plans

Speck & Associates specializes in completing plans for small to mid-size downtowns. Since managing DPZ's landmark plans for Baton Rouge and Fort Myers in the late 1990s, Jeff Speck has refined a technique that integrates conventional New Urban practice with a focus on walkability, urban cycling, transportation/parking management, and spurring development. This technique, which has been published in the textbook *Sustainable Urbanism and Beyond* (see Publications, below), has been brought to bear on plans including:

- *Lowell, Massachusetts, Downtown Evolution Plan*: Completed in 2010, this plan rationalizes a convoluted street network, introduces cycle facilities, and proposes a broad range of short-, mid-, and long-term infill projects, some already complete. The proposed comprehensive reversion of downtown streets from one-way to two-way has recently been funded.
- *Ada Township, Michigan, Downtown Village Master Plan*: Nearing completion, this plan includes the restriping of all thoroughfares in the downtown to better support walking and biking, the creation of a central public green, the introduction of several new thoroughfares connecting the Village to MI-21 and to its riverfront, the reconfiguration of a conventional strip shopping center, and the design of a new residential hamlet on adjacent property.

Transit Oriented Development Plans

Speck & Associates has produced both vision plans and detailed design for the development and redevelopment of sites surrounding rail stations, most notably for two stops along the Long Island Rail Road in Babylon, NY. The firm's vision plan for Wyandanch contributed to the Town receiving a \$1,500,000 grant from the State of New York, and a subsequent plan (by a team including Speck & Associates) has led to the sale of the site to a developer. Construction is underway, with Jeff Speck designing the monumental stair tower. Speck & Associates has also led the urban design surrounding two new stations to be built along the MBTA's Green Line in Somerville, Massachusetts.

Downtown Street Plans

Often, it is the configuration of downtown streets that proves the greatest impediment to revitalization. Many American cities have streets that contain more lanes than traffic volumes demand, wider lanes than speed limits suggest, fewer cycle facilities than residents desire, sidewalks that are unprotected by on-street parking, and one-way systems that confuse visitors, confound locals, and deter shopping. Speck & Associates has completed efforts to transform such street systems in cities including:

- *Oklahoma City*: Jeff Speck was responsible for the curb-to-curb redesign of all streets in the city's 40-block urban core. This effort, called *Project 180*—and spurred by a Speck & Associates *Walkability Study*—is rebuilding the entirety of this system in five years. It is reverting a one-way system to two-way, doubling the amount of on-street parking, introducing a comprehensive cycle network, and welcoming a new downtown streetcar. (“An 180-Degree Turnaround” in *Planning* magazine, May/June 2011.)
- *Cedar Rapids, Iowa*: Not every city has Oklahoma City's mineral wealth, and most street reconfigurations can be accomplished using only paint and signals. Speck & Associates' plan for Cedar Rapids, now in engineering review, requires no reconstruction, and transforms a mostly four-lane, half one-way downtown to a mostly two-lane, all two-way downtown, with greatly enhanced parking and cycling. It also proposes the removal of eleven (out of fifteen) traffic signals in favor of four-way stop signs, and introduces seasonal dining parklets, some already installed.

Urban And Suburban Infill Plans

Aside from downtown plans, the majority of Speck & Associates' master planning work consists of projects for neighborhoods, districts, and corridors within cities and suburbs. Recent efforts of this type include plans and design codes for three large districts in Carmel, Indiana—Midtown, Merchants' Square, and Grammercy—as well as a proposals for several key corridors in downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Urban Waterfront Studies

Given their histories as shipping ports, transportation corridors, energy sources, and trash disposals, most urban American waterfronts fall short of properly amenitizing their adjacent downtowns. Since 2007, Speck & Associates has provided plans and recommendations for the water's edge in eight different communities, most recently developing a comprehensive vision for downtown Memphis.

Downtown Walkability Studies

Speck and Associates has completed walkability studies for eleven cities: Grand Rapids, MI; Oklahoma City, OK; Memphis, TN; Davenport, IA; Bethlehem, PA; Fort Lauderdale, FL; Norwalk, CT; Boise, ID; West Palm Beach, FL; Albuquerque, NM; and Lancaster, PA. These efforts vary based on need, but all include detailed recommendations for the reconfiguration of streets, the development of key private and public properties, and the provision and management of transit and parking, all towards the stated goal of quickly increasing the amount of walking and biking downtown.

New Neighborhoods

In his decade as Director of Town Planning at DPZ, Jeff Speck led or managed the design of some of the most influential New Urbanist new towns, villages, and neighborhoods yet built. These include Rosemary Beach, FL; Middleton Hills, WI; Loreto Bay, Baja Sur, Mexico; and Heulebrug, Knokke-Heist, Belgium.

Buildings

Many plans produced by Speck & Associates include the schematic design of prototype buildings. Additionally, Jeff Speck occasionally designs civic buildings within his projects, several of which have been constructed. Most recently, he designed the monumental stair tower for the T.O.D. parking garage at the LIRR train station in Wyandanch, New York.

Lectures/Teaching

Jeff Speck has been giving public lectures on design for more than twenty years, most actively since the publication of *Walkable City*. A list of recent keynote lecture venues, including TED and the Aspen Ideas Festival, can be found ahead. Mr. Speck also leads an annual Executive Education course at the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE**National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, DC**

Director of Design, 2003 – 2007.

A presidential appointee, Jeff Speck was responsible for federal grant making in the fields of planning, urban design, architecture, landscape architecture, interior design, product design, graphic design, and historic preservation. He directed two NEA leadership initiatives, the *Mayors Institute on City Design* and *Your Town*, both of which teach design skills to community leaders nationwide. He also founded a new leadership initiative, the *Governors' Institute on Community Design* to teach state executives about smart growth. In his role overseeing the Mayors' Institute, Mr. Speck worked closely with more than 150 U.S. mayors on the most pressing design challenges facing their cities.

Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company, Miami, Florida

Director of Town Planning, 1993 – 2003.

Led or managed over fifty town planning projects, about half of which are under construction or complete. These efforts included downtown master plans for Baton Rouge and Fort Myers, and new town plans for Middleton Hills, WI; Rosemary Beach, FL; Mt. Laurel and Providence, AL; Liberty Harbor North, NJ; and Heulebrug, Belgium.

The First Boston Corporation, New York, NY

Investment Banking Analyst in Public Finance, 1985 – 1987.

Structured and coordinated bond issues raising capital for low-income housing programs.

SERVICE

- Board of Advisors, the Coalition for Smarter Growth, 2010 – present.
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Task Force on Sustainability, 2009 – 2014.
- Board of Directors, National Charrette Institute, 2007 – present.
- Board of Directors, Miami Beach Design Preservation League, 2002 – 2003.
- Board of Directors, Miami Beach Development Corporation, 2000 – 2002.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- *Walkable City Rules: 101 Steps to Making Better Places*. Washington, DC: Island Press, 2018.
- "The Simplest Way to Avoid Bad Street Design," *CityLab*, April 22, 2016.
- "Why 12-Foot Lanes are Disastrous for Safety," *CityLab*, October 26, 2014.
- *Walkable City: How Downtown Can Save America, One Step at a Time*. NY: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2012.
- "Best Practices in Downtown Revitalization, New Urban Style," in Tigran Haas, ed., *Sustainable Urbanism and Beyond*. NY: Rizzoli, 2012.
- *The Smart Growth Manual*, co-authored with Andres Duany. NY: McGraw Hill, November, 2009.
- "Ten Design Resolutions for Mayors," syndicated op-ed, January 2005.
- *Suburban Nation: The Rise of Sprawl and the Decline of the American Dream*, co-authored with Andres Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk. NY: North Point / Farrar Straus & Giroux, 2000.

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

- MSNBC's The Cycle (11.15.13).
- NPR's Weekend Edition with Scott Simon (11.17.12).
- APM's *Marketplace*: "Big Book" (1.03.13).
- *Atlantic Cities* with Richard Florida: "Toward the Walkable City" (1.07.13).
- *U.S. News and World Report*: "How American Cities Can Thrive Again" (12.13.12).
- *Christian Science Monitor*: "Walkable City" (11.19.12).
- *Los Angeles Times*: "Walkable City a recipe for vibrant street life" (12.07.12).

SELECTED PLENARY LECTURES

- Built Environment Meets Parliament, Sydney, Australia, August, 2016.
- Green Building Council South Africa, Johannesburg, July, 2016.
- The Menil Collection, Houston Texas, April, 2015.
- University of Helsinki, Finland, April, 2015.
- Aspen Ideas Festival, June 2014.
- Exploraciones para una Megalopolis, Mexico City, February, 2014.
- Adelaide Festival of Ideas, Australia, October, 2013.
- Virginia Commonwealth University: First Annual Morton Gulak Lecture, Richmond, October, 2013.
- TED City 2.0, New York City, September, 2013.
- National Main Streets Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, April, 2013.
- Annual Colombian Real Estate Conference, Cali, Colombia, October, 2010.
- National Building Museum, Washington DC, May, 2010.
- New York City Planning Commission, January, 2010.
- Canadian Institute of Planners, Winnipeg, Manitoba, July, 2008
- Mayors' Hemispheric Forum, Miami, Florida, September, 2006.
- National City Planning Conference, Glasgow, Scotland, October, 2005.

SELECTED AWARDS

- *Bicentennial Medal*, Williams College, Williamstown, MA, 2016.
- Congress for New Urbanism New England, *Urbanism Award*: Gilman Square TOD, 2015.
- American Institute of Architects, Tampa, FL. *President's Award*: The Water District, 2015.
- American Institute of Architects, Washington DC. *Merit Award in Urban Design*: Wyandanch Rising, Babylon, NY, 2015.
- Congress for the New Urbanism. *Charter Award*: Wyandanch Rising, Babylon, NY, 2015.
- 2014 *Community of the Year*, National Association of Homebuilders *Best in Living Awards*: Providence, Huntsville, AL.
- 2013 Green Prize in Sustainable Literature—Urban Renewal: Walkable City.
- First Place, Walkable Neighborhoods Category, *National Making Cities Livable Conference*: Fort Myers Downtown Streetscape, 2010.
- *E.U. Rottier Prize for the Reconstruction of the City, Best Garden City in Europe of the Past 25 Years*: Heulebrug, Knokke-Heist, Belgium, 2008.
- Congress for New Urbanism. *Charter Award*: Johannisviertel, Berlin, Germany, 2003.
- American Planning Association, New Jersey. *Best Redevelopment Plan*: Liberty Harbor North, 2001.

AWARD JURIES

- Jury Chair, Congress for New Urbanism, Charter Awards, 2014.
- ArtPrize, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2010.
- American Planning Association, Annual Awards, 2009.
- Congress for New Urbanism, Charter Awards, 2008.