

Review of: "On the Resilience of Urban Real Estate Development"

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Potential competing interests: I have developed and promote the circular economy villages concept. No other potential competing interests to declare.

This article raises some important questions, particularly related to the relevance of resilience to the “density vs. dispersion” debate. Certainly it is agreed that “the densification ideal was not seen as the default option anymore”. Yet I felt there were a number of gaps and lack of clarity in the argument in the following areas:

1. Did dispersion relate to movement from dense urban areas to the suburbs or to rural areas outside the cities? The author notes that “the currently popular principle of densification of the built environment with the model in historical cities should not be followed uncritically as long as suburban – and indeed, exurban - living is preferred by the masses.” Suburban and exurban are very different preferences and should not be conflated. Whether either of these are “preferred by the masses” is also contested.
2. I would challenge the author's assertion that “‘sustainability’ is generally accepted concept”.
3. That the concept of resilience is contested is agreed. The author offered a definition and suggested that resilience is more developed in rural areas. This difference needed to be discussed in more detail to build on the density vs. dispersion debate. For example, in rural areas people may have more direct access to food produce and connection with a supportive community. These points--connection to community and access to basic necessities such as food--could help define resilience. Has the author considered innovative urban forms, such as [circular economy villages](#), that incorporate food, water and energy systems as a way to build-in resilience?
4. The author mentioned in passing a paper that examined economic resilience by reference to complex adaptive systems. Resilience is a characteristic of such systems as they are able to respond to shocks and adapt to maintain the integrity of the system. This is an important perspective from which to examine resilience.
5. The author spoke of community resilience as “the trick is to be constructive, yet in constant preparation for the next existential crises.” An alternative to this crisis-driven approach is to better understand the various [global mega-trends \(also here\)](#) and plan strategically to relocate populations where necessary into more resilient urban forms.
6. Scale is also an important question related to resilience. Are we talking about resilience of a country when global supply chains are not operating? Are we talking about a city with millions of people, or are we talking about a neighbourhood community? This needs to be explored in more detail.

I hope these comments are of assistance.

