defining rationality, and thus a challenge for democracy. Flyvbjerg argues that the notion of rationality which is deemed context-independent in Enlightenment ideals, is actually context-dependent and the context of rationality is power.

This book is an excellent example of rich and detailed narratives that is derived from detailed content analysis of documents and in-depth interview of related parties. Although highly unusual, the easy flowing style of story-telling makes it easy to read, and familiar everyday atmosphere found in the story makes it quite an enchanting reading in itself.

My criticism for this book is that it is not clear how Flyvbjerg derived the grounded theory which is given in the ten propositions. The propositions he suggested may constitute more of a hypothesis than a grounded theory, because it lacks the supporting explanation from factual evidence. Furthermore, it is widely acknowledge that the context-dependent interpretation of a social phenomenon makes it difficult for generalization, which will be different according to different actor experiencing it.

Even though the case study of this book is The Aalborg Project, the power struggle described here can happen, will happen and is happening everywhere. And whether or not this book has something to do with it, in March 1995, The City of Aalborg is awarded The European Planning Prize by The European Union in Brussels for its new approach in planning that ensure the participation by the community (the Danish version of the book was first published in 1991). This is what makes the contribution of the approach of this book unique, because it narrows the gap between planning academia with its actual practice.

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Security and Site Design: A Landscape Architectural Approach to Analysis, Assessment, and Design Implementation


This book was written by an expert author team led by past ASLA (American Society of Landscape Architects) and LAF (Landscape Architecture Foundation) president Leonard Hopper. Currently he is a faculty member at the City College School of Architecture and Environmental Studies, Columbia University, and SUNY (State University of New York) Farmingdale in New York.

A back cover blurb of this book is written as follows: "A handy source of the latest information on the assessment and design of site security”. So, it is written for the design professional, this book offers basic concepts for site security design and risk management, and their relationship and integration into the overall site design projects.


Chapter 1: Security Site Design

This chapter gives explanations which are extremely important that the landscape architects know the anticipated threats based on thorough analysis of the threat, the site, and its context. Moreover, this chapter presents the GSA (General Services Administration)’s security guideline and the
security zones. Each of these zones, ranging from the building’s interior to the public streets around the buildings. According to a section of 'THE GOAL OF GOOD SECURITY DESIGN', the most successful implementations consist of a combination of many design elements rather than any one element, resulting in a rich streetscape as well as enhanced security.

Chapter 2: A Framework for Understanding Site Security

At first, this chapter describes security professionals and designers should understand important security basics with professional responsibilities. So there is no formula of security features and program that ensure 100 percent safety. And when a designer incorporate security into a site plan, it is important to consider the wide range of potential threats to the site and its users. The range of threats could include any of the following: ‘Health, safety, and welfare threats’, ‘Nonviolent crime’, ‘Internal or workplace’, ‘Chemical, biological, and radiological attacks’ and ‘Violent crime from external sources’.

Nonviolent crimes, such as theft, can be deterred through good lightning, surveillance, visual access to the site, and by programming the site for lively uses that deter crimes. The basic principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) seek to deter crime through a strategic use of these basic site design elements.


Chapter 3: Site Security Design Concepts

Without going into detail, there are six basic concepts on the site security: Site survey, Threat analysis, Site security countermeasures, Risk management, Designing to the threat level and Designing to performance standards. Whatever the reason, security professionals should create performance standards for security recommendations that can be achieved through a variety of creative means.

Chapter 4: Case Studies

This chapter reports the seven case studies about streets, public/office buildings and parks in the United States. The case studies offer a variety of successfully integrated security site designs.

This chapter covers 7 case studies as follows:
- Southwest Federal Center, Washington, D.C.
- Washington Monuments, Lincoln Memorials, and Jefferson Memorial
- Pennsylvania Avenue at the White House
- City Hall Park, New York City
- California State House, Sacramento
Chapter 5: Conclusion

Conclusion is expressed best by last sentence as the following: “The environment we build in response to our security concerns will reflect the values and ideals of the free and democratic society we are committed to protect and preserve”.

This book offers coverage of security design for the site, rather than for the building design. The designer has the responsibility to create a safe space on a public realm. This means that they must understand what ‘physical security’ is about, and how it can be integrated with landscape design. It provides landscape architects, other design professionals and architectural researchers/students with the fundamental knowledge they need in order to work with clients and security consultants.

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How to Live a Low-Carbon Life: The Individual’s Guide to Stopping Climate Change

Goodall, C. (2007)
London, UK: Earthscan
319 pp.

The capacity to realize low-carbon society composed of three social actors: government, firm/company and citizen/individual, making use of available capital assets (including natural capital, physical capital, financial capital, human capital and social capital). Those actors deal with low carbon emission problems towards sustainable life through the learning process under the influence of actor’s co-existence and future uncertainty.

The book tries to show the contributions of individuals rather than government policies or companies to be the driving force behind reductions in greenhouse gases. Individually, of course, individuals are powerless, but the actions and their life-style influence much around us. This book provides information and practical suggestions that will be enable individuals’ concern to do the best they can to reduce greenhouse gasses emissions from our daily life activities. This book was written based on many case studies in United Kingdom and the author was chair of telecommunication software’ company and also a candidate of Green Party’s parliamentary for Oxford West and Abingdon. Therefore, many data provides in this book deal with life-styles in United Kingdom and other unit measure in British unit’s system.

This book consists of seventeen chapters, from global driving force to the micro scale of household energy consumption in our house. For the first part, the extraordinary cheapness of fossil fuels and its impact on greenhouse gasses emissions written in Chapter 1. The second part, the responsibilities of society, starting from the responsibility of