Architecture as an action for The Good Life
What is the life worth living?
The Good Life
Quality of life
Eudaimonia

Hedonia
Quality of Life indexes
### The Economist's World's Most Livable Cities 2010 (Top 10)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Rating</th>
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<td>Canada</td>
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<td>6. Helsinki</td>
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<td>7. Sydney</td>
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### Monocle's Most Livable Cities Index 2009

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<td>(03)</td>
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<td>(07)</td>
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<td>7. Vienna</td>
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<td>(06)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Paris</td>
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<td>10. Berlin</td>
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### Mercer's Quality of Living Survey 2009

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<tr>
<td>10. Sydney</td>
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</table>
1. Health
2. Family life
3. Community life
4. Material well-being
5. Political stability and security
6. Climate and geography
7. Job security
8. Political freedom
9. Gender equality
1. Safety/crime
2. International connectivity
3. Climate/sunshine
4. Quality of architecture
5. Public transportation
6. Tolerance
7. Environmental issues
8. Access to nature
9. Urban design
10. Business conditions
11. Proactive policy developments
12. Medical care
1. Political and social environment
2. Economic environment
3. Socio-cultural environment
4. Health and sanitation
5. Schools and education
6. Public services and transportation
7. Recreation
8. Consumer goods
9. Housing
10. Natural environment
This or that?
Prosperity

Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress

Professor Joseph E. Stiglitz, Chair, Columbia University

Professor Amartya Sen, Chair Adviser, Harvard University

Professor Jean-Paul Fitoussi, Coordinator of the Commission, IEP
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Why has this report been written?

1) In February 2008, the President of the French Republic, Nicholas Sarkozy, unsatisfied with the present state of statistical information about the economy and the society, asked, Joseph Stiglitz (President of the Commission), Amartya Sen (Advisor) and Jean Paul Fitoussi (Coordinator) to create a Commission, subsequently called “The Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress” (CMEPSP). The Commission’s aim has been to identify the limits of GDP as an indicator of economic performance and social progress, including the problems with its measurement; to consider what additional information might be required for the production of more relevant indicators of social progress; to assess the feasibility of alternative measurement tools, and to discuss how to present the statistical information in an appropriate way.
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Developer’s Panacea

1. Pleasure
2. Wealth
3. Honour
4. Virtue
Pleasure?

Living with eudaimonia is the most pleasurable life. Although that does not mean that the pleasure seeker’s life is the good life. On the contrary, those who seek pleasure in the wrong places are usually being distracted from leading the good life. Pleasure is good, and the pleasure that consists in the highest activity is the good. All admit that happiness is pleasant. Bodily pleasures are not the only pleasures.

EN VII.13.1153a39

Wealth?

As a means to a further end, wealth cannot be want per se. Nevertheless, the virtues of a liberal generous man require it in his political life’s development. As for the money-making life, it is something quite contrary to nature; and wealth evidently is not the good of which we are in search, for it is merely useful as means to something else. So we might rather take pleasure and virtue or excellence to be ends than wealth, for they are chosen for their own account.

EN I.5.1096a6

RELATS, Marta: Why should a developer read Aristotle, MONU Magazine On Urbanism, Feb 2010
Honor?

Men of refinement with a practical turn prefer honour: for I suppose we may say that honour is the aim of a statesman’s life. But it seems too superficial to be the good we are seeking: for it appears to depend upon those who give rather than upon those who receive it; while we have a presentiment that the good is something that is peculiarly a man’s own and can scarce be taken away from him.

EN I.S.1095922

Virtue?

Virtue or excellence also appears incomplete to be what we want: for it seems that a man might have virtue and yet be asleep or be inactive all his life [...] EN I.S.1095631 Which leads us to the conclusion that eudaimonia is an activity, a virtuous permanently creative behaviour yet not likely a possession.
IN SEARCH OF PROSPERITY AFTER THE GROWTH AND DECLINE OF CITIES

M. Relats Torante* & J.J. Wilbers**

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ABSTRACT:
Urban plans’ implementations are highly dependable on the economical and political context in which they are carried out. However, urban visions are usually created as if there were constant and favourable conditions of present and future prosperity. Our aim is to analyze specific urban growth processes in relation to diverse economic situations, under thriving and scarcity conditions, extracting patterns which are recurrent in history. We focused our research in three types of rises and declines of cities: the first one caused by a boom-bust economical period, with a flourishing interval in between; the second one is the mega-event as a blast strategy for success and internationalization impulse of a city or a country; the third one precipitated by a disaster phenomenon (natural or human) and the subsequent recovery, with a promising end. With this in mind we question whether today’s model of consumption-driven economic growth will ensure sustainable, equitable and worthy lives for 9 billion people between now and 2050, the 70% of which will live in cities. What are the political tools to palliate and stabilize the economic ups and downs when it comes to city planning?

KEYWORDS:
Reform; Stakeholders’ participation; Governance; Human flourishing; Economic growth; Shrinking cities; Regeneration; Urban growth; Migration flows
The Academy for Builders

responsible (industry) development
responsible (industry) development

The Academy for Builders
What would you say, if by the gradual adoption and diversified **application of this single principle**, you should see a **new scene of things spread** itself over the face of civilized society? - **morals reformed, health preserved, industry invigorated, instruction diffused, public burthens lightened, economy seated as it were upon a rock**, the gordian knot of the poor-laws not cut but untied - **all by a simple idea in architecture**?
Light
Sic vixit sunt
Hortani
Et manuells

Non rebus sunt
Sed arte
Nec enatus
Amicis amans ingenium
Architecture as an action for The Good Life
Thank you