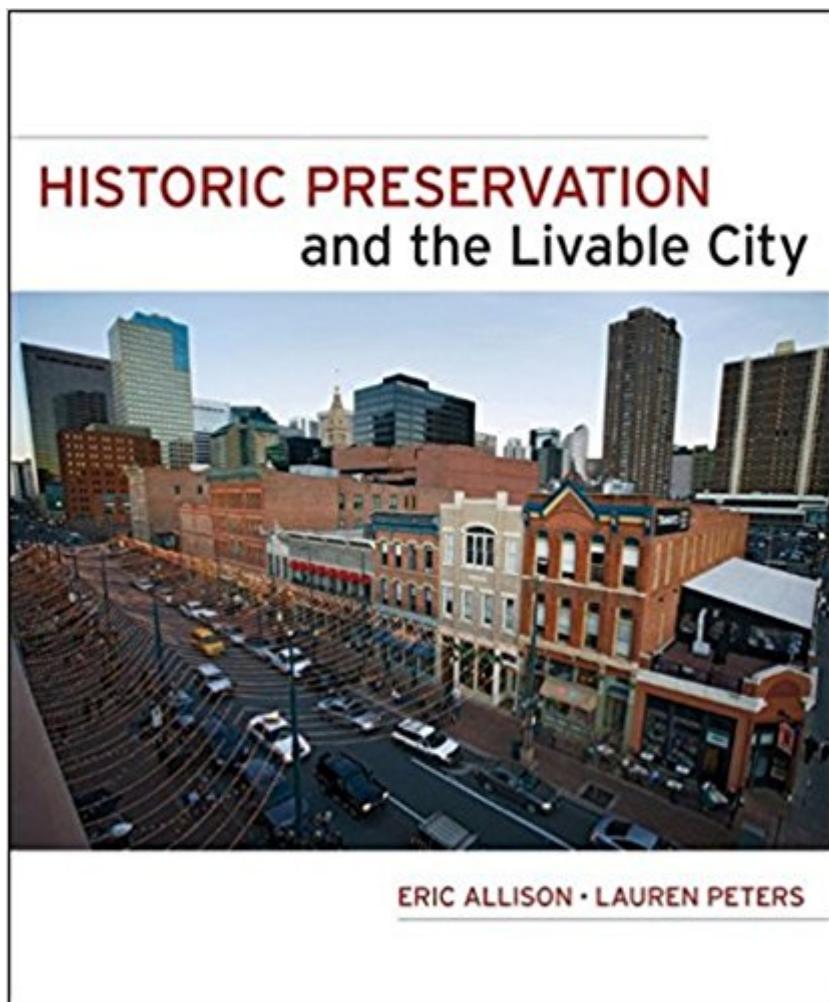


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# Historic Preservation And The Livable City



## **Synopsis**

For both the preservation professional and urban planner, this book shows how preservation is a key to the creation of livable cities. The author Eric Allison, the founder and coordinator of the graduate historic preservation program at Pratt Institute in New York City, offers tools and case studies that preservationists and planners can learn from in implementing preservation projects or plans in cities large and small. This book is a must read for anyone working in or interested in these fields and the creation and maintenance of livable cities.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The essential guide to creating livable cities through historic preservation for preservationists, planners, developers, architects, and other professionals. Preservation of individual buildings and historic districts is a key ingredient in the success of vibrant and thriving cities. *Historic Preservation and the Livable City* clearly shows how the preservation of a city's heritage supports the goals of the livable and sustainable city. The authors demonstrate the many ways in which historic preservation can benefit a community when included as part of a comprehensive planning and economic strategy. This book covers such issues as: Preservation's contribution to the economy of the livable city The economic and environmental benefits of restoring and reusing historic structures The link between affordable housing and historic preservation The importance of preserving our vernacular architecture and existing building stock Key features of the book include: A livable city checklist for the preparation of proposals and plans for preservation, planning, and urban design projects A robust set of illustrated recent examples, including the revitalizations of Lower Downtown (LoDo) in

Denver, Colorado, downtown Austin, Texas, and Downtown Eastside in Vancouver, Canada. The examples demonstrate that historic preservation is a key component in developing livable cities. Historic Preservation and the Livable City offers compelling evidence that cities, towns, and rural environments that implement historic preservation actually compete at a higher level economically and are more sustainable. They are more attractive to both prospective and current residents as well as visitors. In a world where cities must attract visitors and residents, historic preservation is an important and often overlooked tool.

ERIC ALLISON, PhD, AICP, is the founder and coordinator of the graduate historic preservation program at Pratt Institute in New York City, where he has taught city planning and historic preservation since 1996. He was president of the Historic Districts Council, a nonprofit organization dedicated to New York City preservation, from 1990 to 2000. In 1998, Allison was appointed by Mayor Rudolph Giuliani as a Centennial Historian of New York City. He is currently the Chair of the National Council for Preservation Education, the organization that certifies historic preservation programs in the United States. He holds a PhD in urban planning and historic preservation from Columbia University. LAUREN PETERS is an architectural designer and historic preservation specialist at Walter B. Melvin Architects, a New York-based, award-winning firm that specializes in exterior restoration. She received a bachelor of fine arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and holds both a master of architecture and a master of science in historic preservation from Pratt Institute in New York City.

nice book. lots of good ideas

Everything old is new again. This book tells us why. Not since Jane Jacobs' *THE DEATH AND LIFE OF GREAT AMERICAN CITIES* has a book so clearly drawn out the things that make a city livable. Turns out a lot of it has to do with a sense of time and place. I learned a lot about myself and where I live (Greenwich Village). Though I guess the target audience is also planners, economic development people, preservationists, housing people, etc. - professionals whose job is making a city work and thrive. But this book is a gift for curious and innocent city dwellers like me who half killed themselves restoring old housing stock because it felt more like a place to live than some modern sheetrock box. Now I understand a lot more about why I did it. The authors are also out to change opinions. The main argument is that heritage (historic) preservation needs to be integrated into the planning and upkeep of cities as an integral part of creating and maintaining livable

environments, not treated as an impediment. Turns out it's actually cheaper in many cases to restore existing sturdy housing stock than to bulldoze it for structural crap. (No wonder luxury Park Avenue housing always advertises itself as "pre-war," code for plaster, not quarter-inch sheetrock.) The book also provides a library's worth of case studies of cities across the country that have seen the light and renovated and saved their architectural heritage. This annotated catalogue (with a treasure trove of photos) is itself reason enough to include the book in any collection of record. It also convincingly argues for cities to include sustainability and heritage preservation in any comprehensive planning, cutting across all the different agencies involved. Given how historic preservation enriches us all, it should be a starting point, not an afterthought. This book tells us in detail where we've been. I hope it also tells us where we're going. Thomas Hoover[...]

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