‘The European Council of Town Planners (ECTP) is confident that in the 21st century Europe will advance decisively towards the goal of integration. Within this developing framework, the ECTP presents a common and widely shared Vision of the future of European cities’, so reads the introduction to the New Charter of Athens. The editors and contributors to this issue of Built Environment set out to evaluate the ECTP Charter, looking specifically at the underlying assumptions about how European society is developing and how according to the Charter spatial planning and spatial planners should respond.

CONTENTS

Evaluating the New Charter of Athens 2003
WIL ZONNEVELD and INA KLAASEN

Two Charters of Athens and Two Visions of Utopia: Functional and Connected
SIMIN DAVOUDI AND ALI MADANIPOUR

ICT and Spatial Planning in European Cities: Reviewing the New Charter of Athens
ANA MARIA FERNANDEZ-MALDONADO

Moving into the Twenty-First Century European City: Looking at the New Charter of Athens’s Connected City from a Mobility Point of View
REMON ROOIJ

The New Charter of Athens: Towards Sustainable Neighbourhoods?
PAUL STOUTEN

The Twofold Relation between Space and Time: Why the New Charter of Athens’s Connected City Needs a New Design Perspective and New Legend Units
INA KLAASEN

What can Spatial Planners do to create the ‘Connected City’? A Gendered Reading of the Charters of Athens
LIDEWIJ TUMMERS and BARBARA ZIBELL

EDWARD HULSBERGEN

The Transitional City: Post-Conflict Kosovo and the New Charter of Athens
FRANK D’HOND'T

Publication Reviews

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