Urban Planning

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To provide for
To allow for
To think through
To tap into
A back up plan
A bold plan
To be forward thinkkng
Futuristic
Well thought out
Well designed
Cleverly crafted
Skillfull
Impressive
To turn out
To turn into
To resolve
To leverage
To yield
The best way forward
In the near future
Before long
In the not too distant future
One of these days
We are bound to
We are on the brink of
We are heading for

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Urban Planning Is All About The Future

Let's review the future tenses in English:

Predictions/statements of fact

The auxiliary verb will is used in making predictions or simple statements of fact about the future.

We will see a big change in urban planning in the next few years.

Intentions

The auxiliary verb going to is used in talking about intentions. (An intention is a plan for the future that you have already thought about.)

We are going to replace all the light bulbs in the building with long lasting ones.

Arrangements

The present continuous tense is used in talking about arrangements. (An arrangement is is a plan for the future that you have already thought about and discussed with someone else.)

We will attend a conference in Brazil next month

Questions:

•Now talk about your plans for the future at work.

•Explain what impact you think urban planning can have on the future of our cities.

•How could climate change affect the way people live in future years and decades?

ARTICLE:

Sustainable well-being is defined as meeting "social, economic, and ecological" needs.

Sao Paulo has the hard problems facing many large developing world cities. "We have troubles with ecology, biodiversity, in an era of untrammeled growth," said Gonclaves, a landscape architect and educator. He's focused on what public universities can do to address these challenges — creating a human system or network to find new ways to do more environmentally-sensitive growth. Sao Paulo, is sprawling out, with new rich gated communities or poor favelas or slums taking over parks and building right up to the edge of its water reservoirs. Incredible traffic is one result. So is incredible inequality.

Gonclaves said there are hundreds of universities offering architecture degrees in Brazil, but just one — the University of Sao Paulo — offering landscape architecture and urban design degrees. As a result, "Brazilians can't talk deeply about ecology and landscape." To remedy this, Gonclaves said his university has formed a network of landscape and urban design professionals across Sao Paulo and other cities in Brazil. He says his university is the only one doing this.

Sao Paulo is the currently the 4th greatest recipient of investment worldwide. "So many people are putting money in the city." On top of all this investment, there are tons of new cars, which means more roads are being built. The result is a complete degradation of the stormwater management infrastructure. Remaining parks now close often because of flooding.

On top of this, many landscape architects working in Brazil are focusing on "closed, gated communities," where there's design work. "Design magazines all highlight the landscapes and buildings of gated communities."

Gonclaves has set up 30 workshops, with the goal of creating "local solutions" in Sao Paulo and other cities. This is because "cities have very different issues." He's involving both private and public universities in the mix. To date, "private universities have been focused on selling diplomas and no research." In contrast, "public universities are doing research but don't want to deal with real estate." He said "both approaches are wrong. We have to reconcile and produce good professionals who address public policy issues."

Sir Norman Foster's Masdar in United Arab Emirates. The city, said Olssen, is designed to be a "carbon neutral, livable community out in the desert." Interestingly, Olssen added that Masdar uses ancient Arabic city-making techniques but just updates them with modern technologies.

To create a livable environment, streets were purposefully kept narrow to keep sunlight off streets, like an old bazaar. Because the wind tops 100 degrees in the shade, wind was also designed to be kept out during the day, but maximized at night, when it's cooler.

Masdar, interestingly, has a "reverse urban heat island effect"; it's actually cooler in the city than the desert outside of it. The entire city will use 80 percent less energy than a comparable community in Abu Dhabi. Solar systems are embedded into all the buildings, while external shading systems are built into the external walls.

This is "district energy at all scales plus photovaltaic," said Olssen. Now, the goal is to "apply the lessons of Masdar to other cities." Already, Oman, Boston, Toronto,."

QUESTIONS:

- What did you learn about the future challenges and current issues in urban planning around the world from this article?
- What do you know about urban planning in France?
- What's the definition of urban planning and what does it involve?