Landscape Urbanism and Its Discontents: Dissimulating the Sustainable City

In contemporary Western society, urban development is rife with processes that are too often questioned. Despite the recent recognition of the need for sustainable development, the promotion of landscape design and its potential as a means to achieve this goal is still not universally acknowledged. The idea of landscape urbanism as a solution to the challenges of urbanization has become increasingly popular, yet the debate over its implementation and effectiveness remains polarized.

The authors of this collection of essays, Andres Duany and Emily Talen, argue that the concept of landscape urbanism is losing its way. They assert that the traditional framework of landscape design is being overshadowed by the more recent framework of urban design, which is more focused on the built environment. They criticize the current approach to urban design, which they believe is too focused on the aesthetic aspects of urban development, and instead propose a more comprehensive approach that takes into account the social and environmental aspects of urban development.

The book is divided into three parts: The Landscape Urbanism Reader, Landscape Urbanism vs. the New Urbanism, and Landscape Urbanism and its Discontents. The Landscape Urbanism Reader contains essays on the history and theory of landscape urbanism, while the Landscape Urbanism vs. the New Urbanism section explores the relationship between cities and the natural world. The Landscape Urbanism and its Discontents section contains a collection of essays that explore the debate over urban reform, now polarized between landscape urbanism and urban design.

The authors argue that landscape urbanism is a more ecologically based approach, while urban design is more concerned with the built form. They believe that landscape urbanism has the potential to address the social and environmental challenges of urbanization, while urban design focuses on the aesthetic aspects of urban development.

Overall, the book provides a comprehensive overview of the history and theory of landscape urbanism, as well as an exploration of the relationship between cities and the natural world. It is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the future of urban design and the development of sustainable cities.