Have no Little Perspectives: A Bird’s eye View on Daniel H. Burnham’s Value Leadership

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Daniel H. Burnham’s Value Leadership

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Presented at the Daniel Burnham and Jane Addams meet St Vincent DePaul - Roundtable Discussion

Cliff Dwellers Club: July 15, 2009
1. The Burnham Meets Vincent Series
2. It’s about Value Leadership!
3. Beyond borders – The Manila lessons
VALUE LEADERS BEYOND THE LABELS

Saint Vincent de Paul (1581-1660)
A conservative French Catholic and paternalist priest?

Jane Addams, 1860-1935
An idealist bourgeois and dangerous activist?

Daniel Hudson Burnham, 1846-1912
An American city planner with an imperialist style and elitist leadership?
Lunch meeting of key planners in D. H. Burnham and Company offices, with illustrations from the *Plan of Chicago* on walls (1908). Chicago History Museum, ICHi-03560
Dialogue with civil organizations

• Daniel H. Burnham was instrumental for making the American Institute of Architects committed to work on comprehensive urban planning in dialogue with civil organizations

• “Beginning in 1904, the Chicago Chapter of AIA shared the club room at the Art Institute with the Municipal Art League of Chicago and the Chicago Society of Artists,22 representing the increased interaction between the architects and civic groups in the early twentieth century.” Kathleen Nagle, AIA, Building the Profession: 125 Years of AIA Chicago
Have no little Perspectives!

A BIRD’S EYE VIEW

A paradigm behind Burnham’s leadership for the public good

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Daniel Burnham and Edward Bennett, Plan of Chicago prepared under the direction of the Commercial Club… edited by Charles Moore, 1909.
BURNHAM: A Purpose-Oriented City Planner?

“Good citizenship is the prime object of good city planning…”

Burnham and Bennett 1909 Plan of Chicago
Daniel H. Burnham’s value leadership (1846-1912)

- Burnham’s values and career were shaped by:
  1. The Swedenborgian religious belief that the sincerest form of worship is a useful life.
  2. The architectural “city beautiful” movement began in England in opposition to “inhuman” urban growing due to industrial revolution.

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Daniel H. Burnham’s rules of life

1. Often to read and meditate on the Word of God;
2. To submit everything to the will of Divine Providence;
3. To observe in everything a propriety of behavior, and to keep the conscience clear;
4. To discharge with fidelity the functions of my employments, and the duties of my office, and to make myself in all things useful to society.

Burnham's wife Margaret had a small card with "Rules for Life" on it, from the manuscript of Emanuel Swedenborg (Source: Burnham Papers, AIC).
What Burnham was all about...

"I am for the improvement, heart and soul. I want no money nor place, but see clearly that the best welfare of the City demands that the town should immediately put on a charming dress and thus stop our people from running away, and bring rich people here, rather than have them go elsewhere to spend their money."

D.H. Burnham to Father (father-in-law John Sherman), April 7, 1897.
Beyond City Beautiful: Quality of Urban Life

“"The people of Chicago have ceased to be impressed by rapid growth or the great size of the city. What they insist asking now is, How are we living?"”  Burnham and Bennett Plan of Chicago, 1909
INNER-OUTER BEAUTY: A plan for good citizenship

- Higher consciousness
- Effective circulation
- Cleanness and hygiene
- Artistic & Natural
The planned green and public spaces of forest preserves in metropolitan Chicago also called “The Emerald Necklace.”

The field house at Promontory Point on 55th and Lake Shore Drive. Burnham & Co. and Olmsted Bros. created unique designs of field houses with a variety of year-round public services (refectory, gym, showers, etc).
The Chicago Park System -- 100 years old legacy
On the importance of neighborhood parks

"[Neighborhood parks] conduce to association discussion, good manners and moderation on the part of all. In short they have a profound effect on good citizenship. There cannot be too many of these neighborhood parks, the more there are the safer and sounder our democracy will grow because they tend to cultivate those qualities which are the most important for a citizen to possess."

Daniel H. Burnham, Draft of the Plan of Chicago, The Art Institute
City Planning for the Common Good

“The hospital service should not be only for alleviating individual suffering, [it should be] in view of the betterment of citizenship.”


Philippine General Hospital in Manila, planned by Burnham and designed by Peter Parsons
“It may be broadly said that the experience of the last few years has shown that children brought up in sun-lit rooms have some percentage of better health and better moral tone, everything else being equal, than those who have lived the majority of their school lives in north rooms ... Oftener than may be supposed, perhaps, a life is successful both from the standpoint of the individual and of the state, because its vitality and moral tone is slightly above that of the average. “

Daniel H. Burnham, *Draft of the Plan of Chicago*, The Art Institute

"as much light and air as possible" [should be provided for schools], "where the children are trained, either for weakness or for strength, as physical conditions largely determine."

Burnham and Bennett Plan of Chicago, 1909

Normal University, Manila
1. Civic Center
2. Radiating arteries
3. Railway station
4. Shore road
Urban transportation, keeping in mind the socially disadvantaged.

Roxas Boulevard in Manila planned in Daniel Burnham plan of Manila, a similar plan took place in the Lake Shore Drive of Chicago.

The Paco Philippines National Railroad Station.

Manila Estero system of water transportation.

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Civic unity for urban migrants

Rendered elevation of the proposed Civic Center (not included in the final draft of the 1909 Plan of Chicago)

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HOMUS URBANUS

A slumdog millionaire?

or a billion of extremely poor people living in informal urban settlements?
Public Social Responsibilities

• “The slum exists to-day only because of the failure of the city to protect itself against gross evils and known perils, all of which should be corrected by the enforcement of simple principles of sanitation that are recognized to be just, equitable and necessary...”

Daniel H. Burnham, Draft of the Plan of Chicago, The Art Institute
Informal settlers children scavenging on waters of the Manila Bay
Positive Subsidiary

• ...It is no attack on private property to argue that society has the inherent right to protect itself against abuses. ... Chicago has not yet reached the point where it will be necessary for the municipality to **provide at its own expense** ... for **the rehousing of persons forced out** of congested quarters; but unless the matter should be taken in hand at once, such a course will be required in common justice to men and women so degraded by long life in the slums that they have lost all power of caring for themselves.

Daniel H. Burnham, *Draft of the Plan of Chicago*, The Art Institute
The Philippines National Housing Authority (NHA) has relocated 3,000 families along the old Philippine National Railways (PNR).
The DePaul-Adamson Manila Program

Participatory Poverty Assessments for Urban Poverty Reduction

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http://burnhammeetsvincentdepaul.blogspot.com/
It’s about social inclusion and sustainable cities – Informal settler child looking at the Rizal Park

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BURNHAM MEETS VINCENT and José Rizal

Roundtable Conversation on Urban Poverty Reduction through Vincentian Social Entrepreneurship and the Filipino National Identity

Friday December 4, 2009 9:00AM to 4:00PM
Adamson University – Ozanam Auditorium
900 San Marcelino st., Ermita, Manila

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