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## IMAGING THE CITY



### Continuing Struggles and New Directions

edited by

Lawrence J. Vale  
Sam Bass Warner Jr.

**T**hose who care about the future of cities must confront a salient reality: Cities are no longer just built; they are imaged. City designers, like others who observe the metropolis, image and re-image cities through the calculated use of media. Every classic urban proposal that has engaged the public imagination in the last century . . . has done so through the careful use and marketing of images.

— Introduction

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“For us, all city design, all constructions of the city, offer material that people may include in their images of their environment. The built and building city are a part of the experience of all city dwellers; thus, it is theirs to incorporate, interpret, or ignore. All urban imagery, however, is not a product of the built city. Social experience, historical events, human knowledge of all kinds are powerful influences, and they play upon the imagery of places. . . .

Today, the very term “image” has become a verb as well as a noun. To a greater extent than ever before, places no longer simply *have images*; they are continually *being imaged* (and re-imaged), often in ways that are highly self-conscious and highly contentious.”

Sam Bass Warner Jr. and Lawrence J. Vale  
“Introduction”



**LAWRENCE J. VALE** is associate professor and associate head of the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His research is devoted to interpreting the history, politics, and sociology of urban design. He is the author of three books and numerous articles examining government-sponsored environments, including *Architecture, Power, and National Identity* (1992) and *From the Puritans to the Projects: Public Housing and Public Neighbors* (2000). His work has been recognized with the Spiro Kostof Book Award for Architecture and Urbanism (1994), a Guggenheim Fellowship (1995), the Chester Rapkin Award from the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (1997), a Place Research Award from the Environmental Design Research Association and the journal *Places* (1999), and the Best Book in Urban Affairs prize from the Urban Affairs Association (2000).

**SAM BASS WARNER JR.** is an urban historian best known for his writing on the history of American urban development: *The Urban Wilderness: A History of the American City*; *The Private City: Philadelphia in Three Periods of Its Growth* (winner of the Bancroft Prize in 1968); and *Streetcar Suburbs: The Process of Growth in Boston 1870–1900*. He is currently a visiting professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning and was formerly William Edwards Huntington Professor of History at Boston University and Jack Meyerhoff Professor of Environmental Studies at Brandeis University. He is also past president of the Urban History Association. His most recent book is *Greater Boston: Adapting Regional Traditions to the Present* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2001).

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