

A prospectus for

The International
Garden Cities
Institute

A research, advocacy
and resource centre for
global Garden Cities

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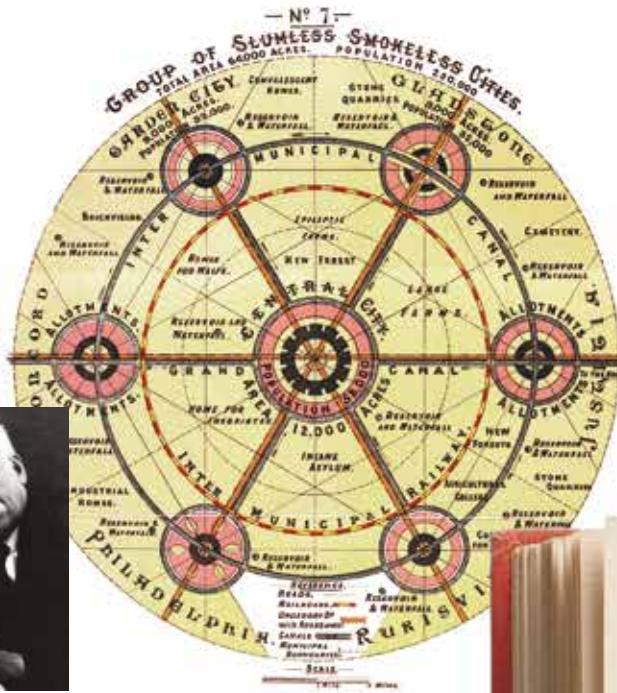
Foreword by Founding President the Marquess of Salisbury

The world is urbanising fast and we have a choice. We can either trust to luck and hope those flocking to the cities are not condemned to living with social dystopia in slums, or we can ensure that they will be housed in places where they will be proud and happy to live and work. The case is urgent and governments, international organisations, academics and, above all, the rest of us should get together to make such places and improve existing settlements.

The United Kingdom has a proud tradition of building such places. The first garden cities were built in Hertfordshire at Letchworth and Welwyn and, although much of the new urbanisation will not be in the form of Garden Cities, this kind of development will have a part to play.

Equally, every nation will want to build in a way that accords with its own culture and traditions. However, there are certain basic principles which seem to underpin most successful communities. The Garden City Institute has been founded to encourage discussion of those principles, to promote their adoption and to exchange views with practitioners and the general public worldwide. With its history of building successful communities, Hertfordshire is an entirely appropriate place to act as the hub of such a network. It is also the home of the University of Hertfordshire which for some years has taken a keen interest in these questions. With modern technology, ambitious projects of this kind have become practicable and I am sure that the Institute will make a timely and important contribution to one of the great challenges of our time.

I am honoured to be associated with this project and greatly look forward to its success.



History of Garden Cities

Garden Cities grew from one man's vision and inspired a movement for global change. Horrified at the urban squalor that followed rapid industrialisation in Britain, Ebenezer Howard envisaged a new form of settlement where everyone could enjoy fresh air and open space, alongside the opportunities for jobs and amenities found in cities.

His philosophy was outlined in 1898 in the book, *To-morrow: A Peaceful Path to Real Reform* (republished in 1902 as *Garden Cities of Tomorrow*), in which he suggested that out of a marriage of town and country would spring "a new hope, a new life, a new civilisation". This was to use a model of community governance, and capture the uplift in land value that arose from development for the community rather than individual land owners, investing it for the long-term benefit of all.

Bringing together philanthropists and idealists from far afield, Howard founded Letchworth Garden City in 1903 to breathe life into this dream. The town, and the global Garden City movement it inspired, revolutionised ideas about high quality planned towns. The experiment at Letchworth Garden City proved his model worked, and Howard's ideas were soon being shared more widely around the world.

CHAPTER VIII.

PRO-MUNICIPAL WORK.

"Only a proportion of each in one society can have nerve enough to grasp the banner of a new truth, and endurance enough to bear it along rugged and untrodden ways. . . . To insist on a whole community being made at once to submit to the reign of new practices and new ideas which have just begun to commend themselves to the most advanced speculative intelligence of the time—this, even if it were a possible process, would do much to make life impracticable and to hurry on social dissolution. . . . A new social state can never establish its ideas unless the persons who hold them confess them openly and give them an honest and effective adherence."—Mr. John Morley, "On Compromise," Chap. v.

There will be found in every progressive community societies and organisations which represent a far higher level of public spirit and enterprise than that possessed or displayed by such communities in their collective capacity. It is probable that the government of a community can never reach a higher tone or work on a higher plane than the average sense of that community demands and enforces, and it will greatly conduce to the well-being of any society if the efforts of its State or municipal organisations are inspired and quickened by those of its members whose ideals of social duty rise higher than the average.

And so it may be in Garden City. There will be discovered many opportunities for public service which neither the community as a whole, nor even a majority of its

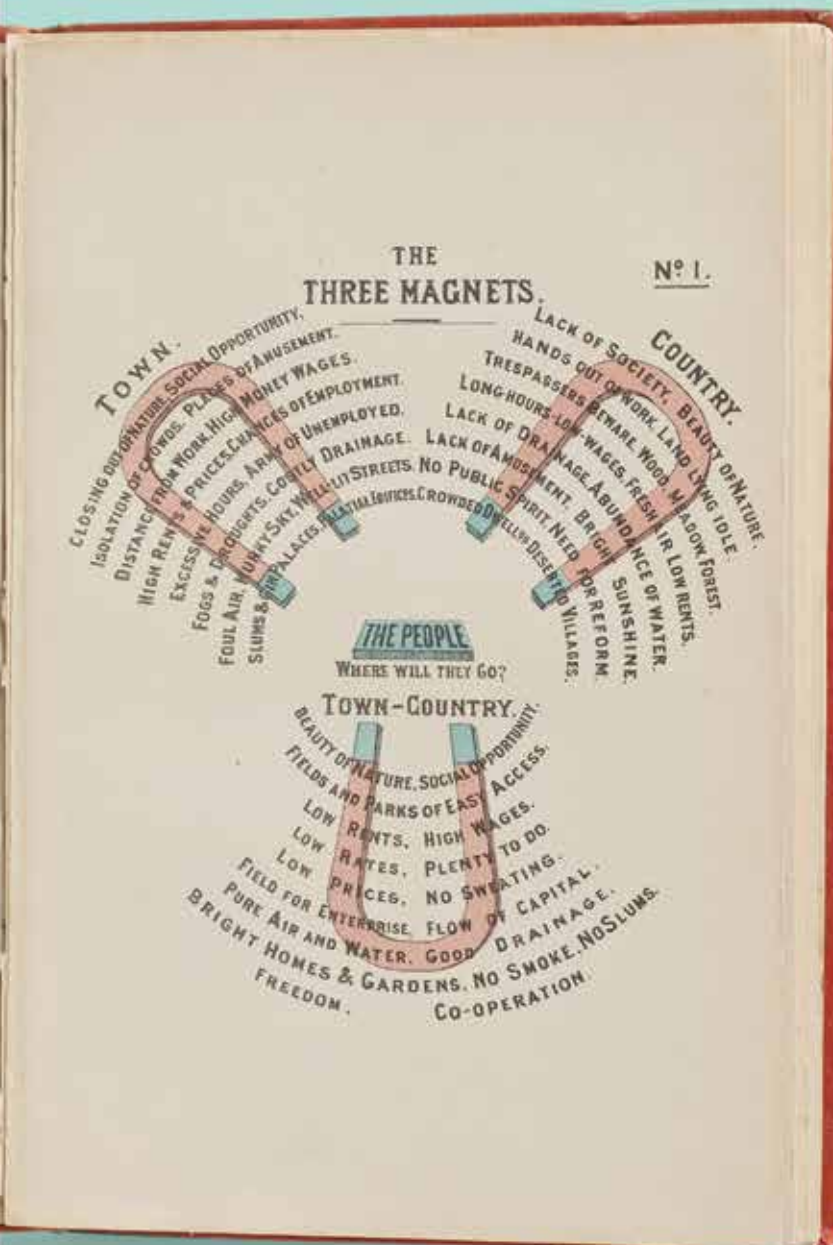
International influence

Garden City Principles have gone on to influence development all over the world, with large scale examples on every continent, such as Canberra, New Delhi and New Deal towns in the USA; and smaller settlements and suburbs in South Africa, France, Germany, Czech Republic, Poland, Brazil, Canada and Japan.

For example, Henri Sillier created a network of Cité-jardins around the perimeter of Paris; in Germany, several Gartenstadt were built, such as Hellerau.

In the USA today, many of the key design principles are associated with the New Urbanism movement, which has been involved in a number of new settlements, one of the most famous of which is Seaside in Florida.

More recently, interest has come from China, where the challenges of rapid industrialisation have brought new focus on planned satellite towns, as part of a low carbon solution for new settlements. Many new places incorporate key Garden City features, although they are often on a much larger scale than traditional Garden Cities.



Canberra, Australia

The work of the International Garden Cities Institute

The Institute's aim is to increase knowledge and understanding of the role of the global Garden City movement, and how its key principles can support growth needs across the world. This will be achieved by undertaking a series of workstreams under the following three themes:

A resource centre

By providing a compendium with details of the key features of more than 30 of the most important and relevant Garden Cities already completed, the Institute is a central resource for academics, professionals and individuals who share an interest in the Garden City movement. Our aim is to ensure it is the first place that anyone will wish to go to find out about Garden Cities across the world and where to go for further information.

The Institute brings together knowledge and experience, and celebrates the heritage as well as contemporary development of Garden Cities, and places inspired by them, across the world.

It is the home of the International Garden Cities Exhibition, which tells the story of Letchworth's legacy and influence on town planning across the world.



Advocacy

As an ambassador for new and existing Garden Cities, the Institute seeks to promote the delivery of places where people want to live and work, meeting as many of the Garden City Principles as possible including ownership, governance and stewardship models and encouraging the community to be at the heart of local decision-making.

Working with academics, professionals and community stakeholders in this field, the Institute seeks to develop understanding of modern interpretations of Garden City Principles and how these can be applied as part of the solution to today's worldwide urbanisation trends.



Brussels, Belgium



Greenbelt, USA



Welwyn Garden City

Research

As a centre for learning about Garden Cities, the Institute undertakes an increasingly wide range of high quality academic and applied research. It facilitates discussion and debate, with seminars and publications, to contribute to the wider study of planning, design, housing, communities, and consideration of the Garden City model as part of the solution.

Research is focused on several workstreams including learning from the past, communities, building technologies, delivery, and the stewardship of Garden Cities. Research and think pieces will be published regularly to help support greater understanding of the lessons from Garden Cities around the world.



A house in Podkowa Leśna, Poland



Community food gardens, Letchworth Garden City



Howard's Park, Letchworth Garden City

Research programme

The Institute's academically-robust research will enhance knowledge of Garden Cities and advance debate on future planned settlements and the retrofitting of existing places. There is a particular emphasis on the cultural, social, and community components of the Garden City model, to widen the focus beyond master planning.

Under the auspices of the Institute's Academic Director, Dr Susan Parham, from the University of Hertfordshire, the Institute is conducting or planning research on a wide range of themes: urbanism and architecture, heritage, sustainability including food resilience, stewardship, governance, social purpose and economics among others.

It is intended that the results of research will be widely disseminated, and contribute to the Institute's growing repository of information about Garden Cities worldwide: the International Garden Cities Compendium.

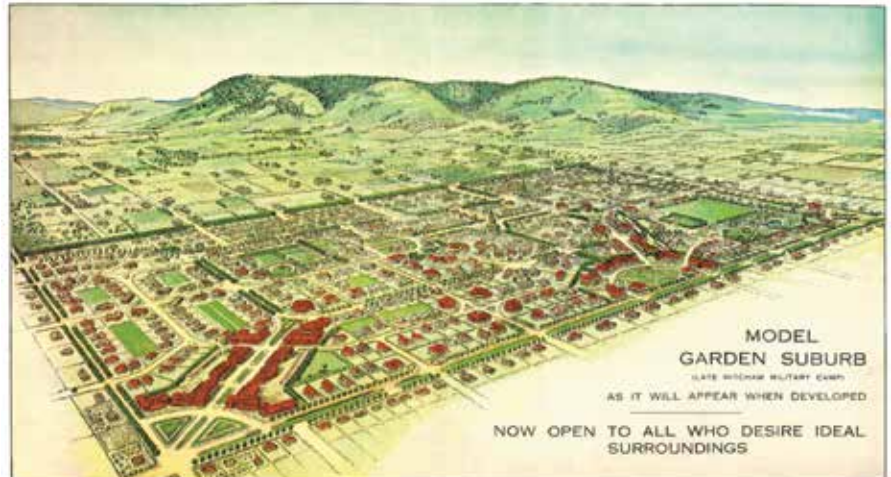


What is a Garden City?

Garden Cities were founded on a series of principles developed by Ebenezer Howard which remain relevant today:


- Strong vision, leadership and community engagement
- Land value capture for the benefit of the community
- Community ownership of land and long-term stewardship of assets
- Mixed-tenure homes and housing types that are affordable for ordinary people
- Beautifully and imaginatively designed homes with gardens in healthy communities
- A strong local jobs offer in the Garden City itself and within easy commuting distance
- Opportunities for residents to grow their own food, including allotments
- Generous green space, including: surrounding belt of countryside to prevent unplanned sprawl; well connected and biodiversity-rich public parks; high quality gardens; tree-lined streets; and open spaces
- Strong cultural, recreational and shopping facilities in walkable neighbourhoods
- Integrated and accessible transport systems

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT COLONEL LIGHT GARDENS



Zlin, Czech Republic





Principles in practice

In the world's first Garden City, Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation, a Community Benefit Society, ensures that land value is captured for the local community, while taking a long-term approach to managing and stewardship of the estate. It reinvests £4million a year back into the Letchworth community through charitable services for the community including a treatment centre, minibus service, cinema, gallery, landscaping and museum services, as well as grants for local groups and individuals.



IGCI Operations Team (left-right) David Ames, Anthony Downs, John Lewis, and Dr Susan Parham



Our vision

The International Garden Cities Institute is the realisation of a long-term ambition by founder Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation to bring together expertise to showcase Garden Cities from around the world as a solid model for new development, in recognition of their global influence. Homed in Letchworth, the Institute will benefit from the diverse knowledge and experience of our Academic and Founding Partners and President.

Academic partners

The Institute has a very strong focus on learning and understanding of Garden Cities and the wider context of planned settlements which is being pursued through our partnership with our lead academic partner, the University of Hertfordshire as well as through our other academic partners.

As lead academic partner, the University of Hertfordshire is governing its partnership through a management group led by Professor Jonathan Morris and is being represented by Dr Susan Parham who is the Institute's first Academic Director.

We also have academic partnerships with Sichuan University, China, Centre of Excellence in Architecture, Environment & Building Cultures, the Ecole Nationale Supérieure Architecture de Grenoble in France, and Cambridge University in the United Kingdom.

Who we are

Founding President:
Marquess of Salisbury

Founder:
Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation, represented by Chief Executive, John Lewis, and David Ames, Head of Heritage and Strategic Planning

Academic Director:
Susan Parham, Head of Urbanism, University of Hertfordshire

Founding Partners:

Janet Askew, University of the West of England & Past President of the Royal Town Planning Institute

Sir Nicholas Bacon Bt, President, Royal Horticultural Society, and Chairman, Prince's Council, Duchy of Cornwall

Keith Boyfield, Research Fellow, Centre for Policy Studies

Guy Butler, Glenbrook Property Limited

Andrew Cameron, Director of Urban Design, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff

Peter Clegg, Chief Executive, Gascoyne Cecil Estates

Anthony Downs, Director of Planning and Development at Gascoyne Cecil Estates

Jane Duncan, Jane Duncan Architects & President of Royal Institute of British Architects

Peter Freeman, Founder of Argent (Property Development) Services LLP

Catherine Harrington, Director of the National Community Land Trust Network;

Kate Henderson, Chief Executive of the Town and Country Planning Association

Gillian Hobbs, Director, Building Research Establishment

Neil Jefferson, Business Development Director, National House Building Council Federation

Dr Mervyn Miller, Independent Architect and Town Planner & Parker Scholar

Chris Pattison, Director of Planning, Turnberry

Trevor Saunders, Independent Planning Adviser, Board member LGCHF

Kim Slowe, Zero C Holdings Limited

Kerry Thompson, Executive Director, Inventa Partners Limited

David Waterhouse, Head of Strategic Development, Design Council Cobe

Ursula Howard, Great Grand-daughter of Ebenezer Howard

International Federation of Housing and Planning

The Prince's Foundation for Building Communities



Contact us

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