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Book Title: THE PLACEMAKER'S GUIDE TO BUILDING COMMUNITY

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The objective of Nabeel Hamdi in writing "The Placemaker's Guide to Building Community" was to share his experiences about making and sustaining the quality of settlements of poor and to share his knowledge about social responsibility of architects. The introduction of the book contains a criticism of the World Bank and housing applications in general and this part can easily be related to the criticisms in Mike Davis's "Planet of Slums." The first part derives lessons from existing examples of human settlements and explains the concept of vulnerability. The second part explains Action Planning methods and toolkits to improve a poor urban area through participation of people. Part three explains the relationship between Community Action Plans (CADs) and Strategic Action Planning (SAP). Part four focuses on architectural education and explains Hamdi's experiences about bringing the issue of place making practice into the classroom. The last part contains a code of conduct for placemakers. The author has achieved his objective especially because of the details given in the book and the strong sense of truth the book gives.

The book contains a large reference list as well as an index. It has fifty six photos, drawings or schemas, which help a lot to clarify the subject.

"The Placemakers's Guide" is useful for architects, who work in the field of urban design or who are interested in social responsibility of architects. The book can also be useful for sociologists. It is one of the rare books about social responsibility in architecture. Thus, it can also be useful for architects who undertake research about architectural theory.