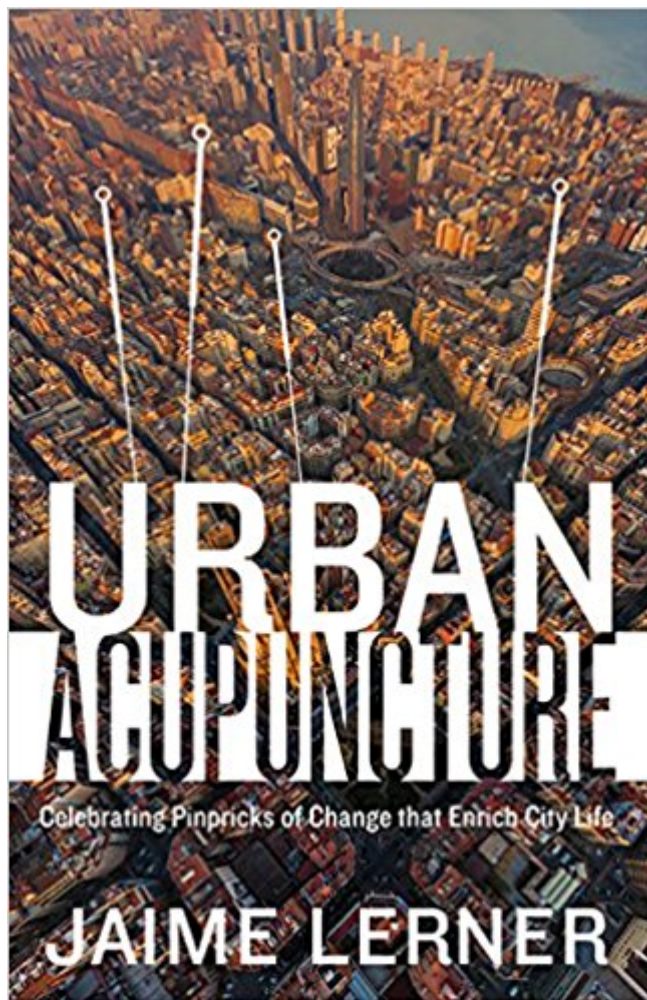


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# Urban Acupuncture



## Synopsis

During his three terms as mayor of Curitiba, Brazil in the 1970s and 1980s, architect and urbanist Jaime Lerner transformed his city into a global model of the sustainable and livable community. From the pioneering Bus Rapid Transit system to parks designed to catch runoff and reduce flooding, and the creation of pedestrian-only zones, Lerner has been the driving force behind a host of innovative urban projects. In more than forty years of work in cities around the globe, Lerner has found that changes to a community don't need to be large-scale and expensive to have a transformative impact—in fact, one block, park, or a single person can have an outsized effect on life in the surrounding city. In *Urban Acupuncture*, Lerner celebrates these “pinpricks” of urbanism—projects, people, and initiatives from around the world that ripple through their communities to uplift city life. With meditative and descriptive prose, Lerner brings readers around the world to streets and neighborhoods where urban acupuncture has been practiced best, from the bustling La Boqueria market in Barcelona to the revitalization of the Cheonggyecheon River in Seoul, South Korea. Through this journey, Lerner invites us to re-examine the true building blocks of vibrant communities—the tree-lined avenues, night vendors, and songs and traditions that connect us to our cities and to one another. *Urban Acupuncture* is the first of Jaime Lerner's visionary work to be published in English. It is a love letter to the elements that make a street hum with life or a neighborhood feel like home, penned by one of the world's most successful advocates for sustainable and livable urbanism.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This set of musings, a translation of the original Brazilian Portuguese book, pulls you in with its natural, intimate tone; it's like you are sitting and having a conversation with Lerner over a glass of wine in a cafe." (The Dirt)"Urban Acupuncture captures Lerner's philosophy, expansive mind, and his dynamic personality through a series of anecdotes, musings, even a poem. Most are short • think of them as haikus for the urban planner • and thought-provoking. An unusual book from an unusual thinker, but with lessons that have broad application." (The Nature Conservancy's Science Chronicles)"Urban Acupuncture is a book that enlightens and inspires through eloquent prose explaining common sense solutions. To this end, Lerner concludes the book with a guide to how each of us express our love for the city and some small steps or "pinpricks" we can take to apply urban acupuncture ourselves." (Spacing)"Joyful, uplifting book| As the author proves through his wonderful anecdotes, the heart of a city is made of individuals who know and love it, who care for it and work and live in it. With obvious fondness and even delight for the topic, this lovely little guide expresses the joy felt in cities, great and small, that stay human because of these small points of care." (San Francisco Book Review)"...a smart, quick read that urges urban residents to take a closer look at their everyday surroundings and find small but significant ways to improve the urban landscape..." (Oculus)"Jaime Lerner's Urban Acupuncture delves deeply into urban life and what makes cities tick. Drawing on his success as both a designer and politician, Lerner sets out a series of insightful concepts and practical recommendations for enriching urban life....Do not open this book expecting maps, formulas, and detailed instructions. Instead, look at it as a conversation with a wise, influential, award-winning thinker who reveals his hard-won secrets for improving city life...At its heart, this slim book is a love letter to the colors, sounds, sights, places, and memories of the quintessential city." (Urban Land)"[Readers] will come away from this read with their heads overflowing with ideas, inspired to do something themselves in the belief that a better world really is possible." (New York Journal of Books)"...treasure of a book... Informative and fun, it sparks the imagination for small ideas • "pinpricks" • that can spread and have large impacts on a city." (PublicCEO)"This is the best of Jaime Lerner, a lover of cities and as true an expert as there is in understanding what makes them tick and how to make them better. To read him is to hear him speak, with gusto, love, humor, deep caring, and inspiring ideas. Urban Acupuncture should be required reading for all students of city planning and for anyone who wants to make a difference in their city." (Allan B. Jacobs author of Great Streets and other books)"Urban Acupuncture is an ode to the city and its regenerative capacity as a site for social and convivial

life. Originally written in Portuguese, this English translation conveys the lyricism and enthusiasm in Lerner's voice as he addresses the city as a leaving and breathing being...Lerner's love for the city is infectious and Urban Acupuncture commendably conveys his message to the reader to love, learn, and contribute to transforming his or her own city." (Journal of Planning Education and Research)"In his first book in English, Lerner's brief essays consider successful or innovative urban interventions around the world." (Landscape Architecture Magazine)"An architect, planner, and politician of great skill, Jaime Lerner has another talent, on clear display in this lively book: a deep and hard-won understanding that architecture, planning, and politics do not alone make our cities great." (Jeff Speck author of Walkable City: How Downtown Can Save America, One Step at a Time)"This book is like having a dinner with a good friend where the conversation just flows, one story after the other, good examples that will stick with you when you go home. One of these evenings where you go home inspired to do something yourself, believing that change can happen." (From the foreword by Jan Gehl author of Cities for People and Founding Partner, Gehl Architects)"Jaime follows in the tradition of Jane Jacobs, William Whyte, and many other visionaries who have illuminated the world's thinking on cities. Urban Acupuncture is a work of fierce love for real, living, people-filled cities and cities for people." (From the preface by Carol Coletta VP/Community and National Initiatives, The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation)"Pragmatic, idealistic, poetic, and humane, Lerner's book is both a primer and a manifesto on the necessity and indispensability of the metropolis. The author poignantly encourages the reader to save, heal, and love cities." (Architectural Record)

A visionary of sustainable urbanism reflects on the innovative projects that uplift cities in this meditative journey through vibrant communities around the world.

Excellent book. Storytelling-driven to inspire and give different perspectives about urbanism. Likewise, it gives a lot of examples of urban innovations. Bom demais!

Lerner does well pointing out those small things that make urban living what it should be. A lively existence full of every day experiences. Thanks for reminding me why I choose to live in the city.

So many great insights into creating beauty in the city. By small and simple means, great things come to be.

The stories in this book are charming and inspiring. Each chapter is short with one example (from around the world) of an urban intervention that has made a difference. The colour photos are great.

Good and entertaining suggestions for focused ways to bring improvement in cities without spending billions. The title is rather odd, but makes sense when you read the book.

It is a retelling of stories, I expected a little more theoretical development.

Short and sweet

Perhaps it was my misunderstanding regarding the purchase, but I thought I was buying the book, not a 'proof' copy. Not what I was looking for.

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