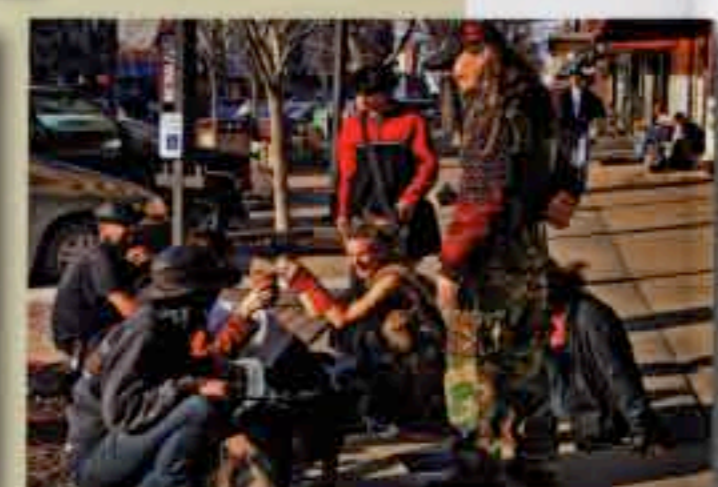


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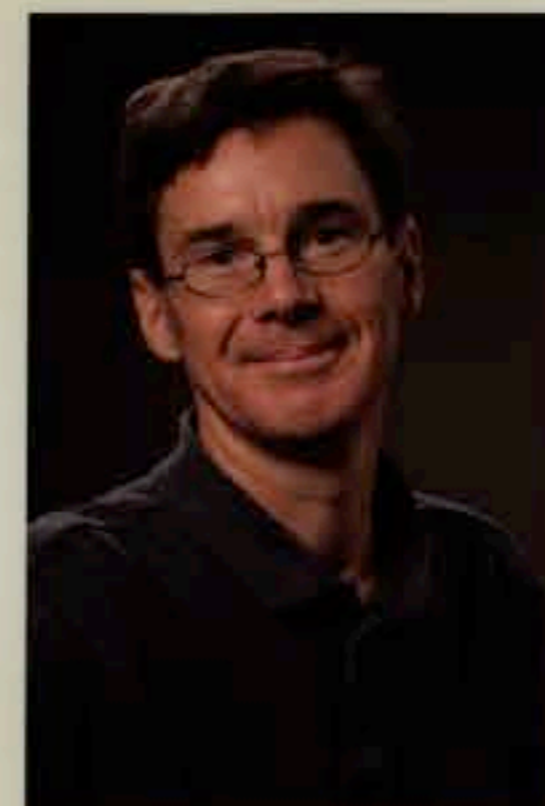
THE AMERICAN COLLEGE TOWN



The college town is a unique type of urban place, shaped by the sometimes conflicting forces of youth, intellect, and idealism. The hundreds of college towns in the United States are, in essence, an academic archipelago. Similar to one another, they differ in fundamental ways from other cities and the regions in which they are located.

In this highly readable book—the first work published on the subject—Blake Gumprecht identifies the distinguishing features of college towns, explains why they have developed as they have in the United States, and examines in depth various characteristics that make them unusual. In eight thematic chapters, he explores some of the most interesting aspects of college towns—their distinctive residential and commercial districts, their unconventional political cultures, their status as bohemian islands, their emergence as high-tech centers, and more. Each of these chapters focuses on a single college town as an example, while providing additional evidence from other towns.

Lively, richly detailed, and profusely illustrated with original maps and photographs as well as historical images, this is an important book that firmly establishes the college town as an integral component of the American experience.



Lisa Nugent, University of New Hampshire

BLAKE GUMPRECHT is associate professor and chair of the Department of Geography at the University of New Hampshire. His previous book, *The Los Angeles River: Its Life, Death, and Possible Rebirth*, won the J. B. Jackson Prize from the Association of American Geographers.

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"How amazing that this very first full-length treatment of the American college town should be so thoroughly satisfying! Blake Gumprecht has given us all we could possibly ask for: a keenly observed, richly documented, many-sided account of a critically significant part of the American scene, one too long ignored by its scholarly residents. A truly brilliant achievement."
— WILBUR ZELINSKY, author of *The Cultural Geography of the United States*

"College towns are a critical piece of America's changing geography. Blake Gumprecht provides a vivid insider's account of their growing importance to our economy and society. I can't imagine a better book on this subject."
— RICHARD FLORIDA, author of *Who's Your City?: How the Creative Economy Is Making Where to Live the Most Important Decision of Your Life*

"*The American College Town* demonstrates Gumprecht's knack for recognizing a great untold story. It also proves that it is actually possible to articulate that most elusive of geographical concepts, the sense of place, when the writer is a master of landscape observation, as Gumprecht unquestionably is. This book teaches readers how to see the meaning embedded in places we take for granted. Gumprecht's exhaustive, multi-dimensional research enables him to read landscapes better than any historical geographer writing today."
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"With a keen eye for telling details and examples and an easy writing style, both products of an earlier career as a journalist, Blake Gumprecht identifies, explains, and vividly conveys the characteristics that make American college towns distinctive places."
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"This book is well written, well documented, and thoroughly engaging. Gumprecht adeptly partners individual college towns with different themes relevant to all college towns. As someone who appreciates case studies and well-crafted vignettes, I find this work both fascinating and profoundly effective."
— COREY DOLGON, author of *The End of the Hamptons: Scenes from the Class Struggle in America's Paradise*

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