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Ave Maria and Celebration: An Examination of the Visionary Influences on the Design and Development of two New Town Intentional Communities in the State of Florida

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Document Type
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Degree Program
Regional Planning

Degree Type
Master of Regional Planning (M.R.P.)

Year Degree Awarded
January 2008

Month Degree Awarded
May

Abstract

The creation of new towns is a deeply rooted planning movement that is based on the human population's constant search for a better way to live. This is evident in the depth of the movement's history and the emergence of these towns today. Intentional settlements establish new towns in order to define a specific type of corporate, religious, political, or social community. Through a comparative case study method, the visionary influence on the design and development of two new town intentional communities, Celebration, Florida and Ave Maria, Florida, are examined in this paper. Celebration and Ave Maria each integrate the basic concepts of new town planning and the shared vision behind an intentional community through the vehicle of New Urbanism. The vision, land use, marketing, and governance are examined in each town. The nucleus of each community, the town center, is evaluated through the analysis and comparison of the character of use and architectural design. This in-depth

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analysis identifies specific connections between the vision for each town and the established identity.

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