

Catering to Cars Creates Complicated Community Conundrums

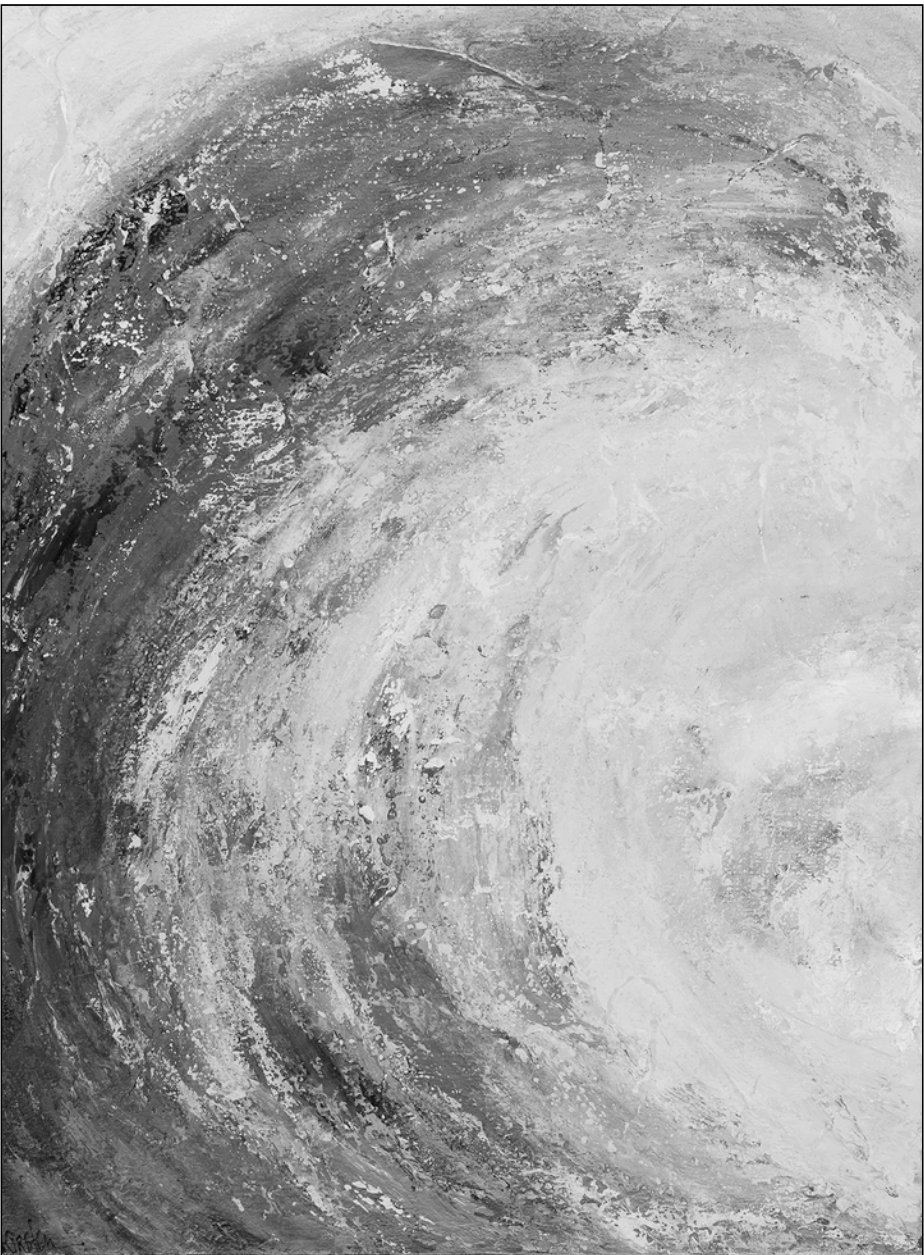
How New Urbanism prioritizes people

By Micah Davis

There appears to be a sort of seesaw effect between creating environments that cater to cars and those that are pleasing to people. As you give on one side, you take on the other. Take the road outside your house for instance. If your main priority was traffic flow, you might choose to widen the road, add lanes, and remove trees on the shoulder that might imperil drivers veering off course. However, in doing so you would make the traffic noise deafening, the sidewalk less shady, and the situation more dangerous for any person daring to cross the street. Similarly, if you want to make it ultra convenient for drivers to stop right in front of their desired destination, you might surround each individual destination with its own parking lot. But now you’ve created a problem where each building is spaced out from its neighbors to the degree that it’s no longer convenient to walk between them. On the other side, take 30A where it meets downtown Seaside. There is parallel parking on either side of the road, which always slows down traffic because of the risk of a door opening or a car pulling out. There also are numerous crosswalks, and many people who create their own. This situation puts every driver on high alert because they don’t know when a person or bicyclist will appear in front of them. The environment makes navigating Seaside stressful and slow for the drivers, but comfortable and secure for those outside of a vehicle. The



are forced to spend the majority of their time in and to educate them about the humane way of building towns and cities. Hopefully, we can convince them that walkable places aren’t just for vacationing. You can move to one or create one yourself. Eventually, we will reach a tipping point in which more people embrace this idea than don’t, and we will begin to see far more places that cater to people, not automobiles. Micah Davis currently serves as President of Seaside Community Development Corporation in Seaside, Florida. Born and raised in Seaside, Micah grew up in a New Urbanist community which afforded him the kind of childhood unheard of in today’s age. Micah attended St. John’s College and received a bachelor’s degree in the liberal arts, with a focus on philosophy and on the history of science and mathematics.




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Prize Party

The Seaside Institute celebrates Prize Weekend

By Christy Milliken
Marketing and Events Director,
The Seaside Institute

The weekend of Feb. 24-26, 2023, the Seaside Institute held the 29th Annual Seaside Prize honoring UC-LA's Distinguished Research Professor of Urban Planning, Donald Shoup.

The Seaside Prize is awarded annually to a deserving individual or groups who have made significant contributions through design that have changed the way we live. Prize winners are thought innovators in concepts, quality and character of their industry and considered leaders of contemporary urban development and education, who have made their vision a reality, and ultimately our lives better.

Shoup was celebrated for his life's work in parking policy as Seaside Founder and Developer Robert Davis presented him with the award. Shoup's books, "Parking in the City," and "The High Cost of Free Parking," along with his ongoing research and ideas, have made an impact globally and inspired and challenged many to rethink parking. Parking is the single largest land use in every city and affects our quality of life more than we realize.

Prize weekend kicked off with a reception at The Court. Light bites were prepared by Black Bear Bread Co. and sponsored by The Seaside Merchants, Odd Pelican Brewery, and Distillery 98. Symposiums were held in the Lyceum, featuring a keynote by Rick Cole, Chief Deputy Controller for the City of Los Angeles, followed by Henry Grabar of slate.com, M. Nolan Gray, Research Director, California YIMBY, Stefanos Polyzoides,



Seaside Founder Robert Davis welcomes Seaside Prize winner, Donald Shoup.

Architect and Partner at Moule Polyzoides, Norman Garrick, Professor Emeritus, Transportation and Urban Planning at UCONN, and William Fulton, AICP, William Fulton Group. Fulton is also a former student of Shoup.

A memorable awards ceremony at The Chapel at Seaside was followed by dinner at Bud & Alley's Waterfront Restaurant. The weekend closed with town tours in Seaside, Rosemary Beach and Alys Beach led by founding architect Andrés Duany, Partner at DPZ Co-Design. Each speaker brought Shoup's work full-circle.

Shoup has an expansive following known simply as "Shoupistas." If you did not come to Seaside Prize weekend as a Shoupista, you certainly left as one. Find more about Donald Shoup's work at shoupdogg.com and more about the Seaside Institute at seasideinstitute.org.



Prize weekend included walking tours of local New Urbanism towns. Photos courtesy the Seaside Institute

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