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REGULATING URBAN OFFICE PROVISION

A study of the ebb and flow of regimes of urbanisation in
Amsterdam and Frankfurt am Main, 1945 - 2000

This dissertation examines the relationship between the accumulation of capital through investments in the built environment, and the ebb and flow of urbanisation. It is assumed that this relationship is mediated by processes of socio-spatial regulation, on the platform of both the state and the economy. An understanding is required of three phenomena: office development, socio-spatial regulation, and urbanisation.

Bringing the institutional dynamics that steer the processes of urban change to centre stage, it is argued that economic, political, and spatial relationships co-evolve in a path-dependent manner. This process is brought to the fore by the use of the concept of a "regime of urbanization". The ebb and flow of such regimes is set out in two historic case studies: Amsterdam and Frankfurt am Main.

In both cities, over 50 years of office planning and office provision is analysed, and conclusions are put forward about the structural reorientations inside both multi-scalar urban development arenas. It is concluded that, even in a globalised world, urbanisation is a locally-produced process. Despite the fact that the conditions for urban planning have altered fundamentally, necessitating a different planning style, a carefully chosen local post-industrial development policy can make a difference in the international economic arena of criss-cross exchange of capital, information, products, and people.

Amsterdam

Frankfurt am Main