

# Episode 6 – Redesigning Cities: Gentrification without Displacement?

Perspective by Naomi Siodmok

Episode 6 was a discussion between Jess Zimbabwe, Principal of Plot Strategies, and Joseph P. Riley, former Mayor of Charleston (for 40 years) and founder of the Mayors Institute on City Design. The focus was on the approaches and resources for addressing and preventing gentrification and displacement as well as associated racial and class concerns. Riley provided compelling stories from his experience as mayor preserving and adding distributed affordable housing, while Zimbabwe provided humor and tools, resources, and policies pertinent to addressing gentrification. Though there were initial concerns from the audience about having two white speakers address the issues of gentrification, perceptions shifted as the experience and knowledge of the speakers relevant to gentrification was further unveiled during the conversation.

One comment during the conversation that caught attention was by Riley regarding the need to prioritize scarce resources in the city and promote governments

investing in affordable housing. He mentioned that it should not be a problem if the government owns the housing. This made me think of an article I recently read in my History of Urban Form course about Vienna called *Vienna's 'wild settlers' kickstart a housing revolution* by Rumpfhuber. The article discusses Vienna's struggles after the first world war with inflation limiting the ability to create new construction and address over population. With this, much of the population moved out to public land and established colonies. This self-help as well as taxation of luxury real estate supported a public housing program in Vienna, which produced over 400 housing projects by the end of the program in 1934 and housed a tenth of the population. Today, 62% of Vienna citizens live in well-designed public housing. Vienna shows that there can be quality public housing and that public housing does not have to be only for the poor but can be an option for everyone.



Jess and Joe in conversation.

## 系列6：重新设计城市——没有搬迁的士绅化可行吗？

撰文 Naomi Siodmok 翻译 Ruiyan Duan

“重新设计城市”的第6期，也是该系列本季的最后一期讲座，是土地战略（Plot Strategies）的首席负责人 Jess Zimbabwe与Charleston前市长（任期长达40年）、城市设计市长研究学院（Mayors Institute on City Design）的创始人Joseph P. Riley之间的讨论。讨论的重点是防止住房士绅化和居民流离失所的问题，以及这些情况所造成的种族和阶级问题的解决方法和相关资源。Riley以他作为市长的经历，讲述了他如何保留和增加分布式经济适用房的经验；而Zimbabwe通过幽默地讲述，向听众介绍了与解决士绅化问题有关的工具，资源和政策。虽然一开始，部分观众对让两位白人发言者讨论士绅化问题表示疑虑，但随着两位演讲者在谈话中逐渐展露出他们与士绅化问题相关深厚的工作经验和知识，这些疑虑也逐渐消减。

在他们的对话中，有一点格外引起我的注意，是Riley关于需要优先考虑城市中的稀缺资源并促进政

府投资经济适用房的观点。他提到如果政府只要拥有住房产权，这不是一个大问题。这让我想起了我最近在我的“城市形态史”课程中读到的关于维也纳的一篇文章，称维也纳的“野生定居者”（“wild settlers”）推动了Rumpfhuber的住房革命。文章讨论了维也纳在第一次世界大战后的斗争。通货膨胀限制了城市建造新建筑 and 解决人口问题的能力。因此大部分人口迁出城市到公共土地并建立了殖民地。这种自助式迁徙以及对豪华房地产的征税推动了维也纳的公共住房计划，该计划在1934年计划结束时建造了400多个住房项目，提供了十分之一人口的居住。今天，62%的维也纳公民仍住在精心设计的公共住房中。维也纳经验表明，城市是可以建造优质的公共住房项目的。公共住房不一定只适合穷人，而可以成为每个人的选择。



对话中的Jess and Joe