



# *The Evolution of Planning Thought*

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Struggling with New Left inspired criticisms of conventional rational planning at UCLA Hoch studied the ideas of American pragmatist John Dewey while tapping the theoretical insights of John Friedmann, Peter Marris and Ed Soja. Celebrating the insights of Marxist political economy he set out to discredit pragmatic ideas at their source only to become a convert. Hoch has spent three decades studying and proposing that we treat planning as an inherently pragmatic enterprise. It is no accident that he taught planning theory and the professional development seminar for 25 years at UIC. In the last ten years Hoch has focused on plan making. Inspired by the theoretical work of John Forester, Judith Innes, Patsy Healey and Lew Hopkins and the experience of practical collaboration conducting studio projects for the Chicago Housing Authority, Village of Oak Park and the UIC Campus he came to the following question. How do we identify and improve the quality of practical judgments used to conceive plans in collaboration with others? Together with his faculty colleagues he recast the core master's degree curriculum to focus on plan making that includes pragmatic hands on learning. Hoch plays an active role in the intellectual and institutional development of planning research and education as an active member of the American Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP): Nurtured the development of the Journal of Planning Education & Research as contributor, review editor and editorial board member. Helped coordinate, sponsor and deliver support for doctoral planning students in research universities in North America and abroad. Lead efforts to develop measures for assessing university planning school performance while also instituting outcome based evaluation as chair of the Planning Accreditation Board. Proudly followed the lead of Luigi Mazza, Patsy Healey, Seymour Mandelbaum, John Forester and others supporting the Planning Theory Newsletter that later became Planning Theory.