

cal coherence and general excellence of most of the contributions. Finally, Jerry Clouse's chapter on religious buildings, although the weakest chapter interpretively, boasts the most beautiful architecture.

Cleveland Institute of Art

CHARLES BERGENGREN

Chatham Village: Pittsburgh's Garden City. By ANGELIQUE BAMBERG. (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2011. 214 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$29.95.)

In the 1920s, a relatively small clique of housers, planners, and architects met in Clarence Stein's New York City salon to envision a better world of well-planned, human-scale, and affordable urban residential communities. Among those members of the Regional Planning Association of America (RPAA) who attended this gathering were Henry Wright and Frederick Bigger; they and Stein became involved in the planning and design of Chatham Village, one of Stein and Wright's three iconic "Garden Cities" built in the 1920s and early 1930s.

Bamberg and the University of Pittsburgh Press's beautifully designed, well-illustrated, and carefully crafted book traces the lineage of Chatham Village from the insemination of the Garden City ideal by British court stenographer Ebenezer Howard in the 1890s through antecedents such as John Nolen's Mariemont, Ohio, to the village today as an immaculately preserved and still highly livable Pittsburgh community.

Charles Lewis of Pittsburgh's Buhl Foundation originated Chatham Village in 1929 not as a philanthropic, limited-dividend housing development but as a model of an affordable—and potentially profitable—middle-class community. Despite Lewis's capitalistic proclivities, Bamberg places Chatham Village firmly within the context of iconic planned communities such as Letchworth (near London); Radburn, New Jersey; Greenbelt, Maryland; New Deal public housing projects of the 1930s; and World War II-era defense and war housing, all of which embodied Garden City planning principals, especially in their neighborhood unit and superb block design.

Buhl and Lewis planned Chatham Village for stable wage earners, teachers, clerical employees, and well-paid, skilled Pittsburgh workers. The community opened in 1932. The wooded, colonial-themed garden complex of 129 units (later 197) was impeccably appointed on a contoured, exquisitely landscaped, forty-five-acre site. Like its sister developments in New York, Radburn and Sunnyside, Chatham Village boasted a park-like setting with grassy interior courts and automobiles banished to the periphery. Protected from its working-class neighborhood by a wooded "Greenbelt," Chatham Village remained socially and physically isolated from the larger community.

Bamberg rejoices at the durability of Lewis's venture. With the exception of now-mature, dutifully maintained shrubs and trees, the village in the twenty-first century stands as it did in the '30s, a tribute to the community's strict management, rigorous maintenance, and regulations against architectural modification. It is also a tribute to Lewis's careful screening of prospective tenants, his rules against pets, and his encouragement of middle-class pastimes such as tennis and bridge.

More questionable is how Bamberg sees Chatham Village influencing subsequent American community planning, including developments such as Buckingham in Arlington, Virginia; Stuyvesant Town in Manhattan; Bedford Heights public housing in Pittsburgh; and even the modern New Urbanism. Not all thrived like Chatham Village. To be successful, contends Bamberg, architect planners must build for preservation—that is, they must erect well-planned projects designed, as Chatham Village was, for a prospective class of tenants, and they must place paramount importance on maintenance and amenities.

Clearly, Chatham Village's rise in 1931–32 was indicative of the emergence of a broader genre of planned neighborhood-unit communities whose economies of scale and efficient design (and, ideally, limited-dividend financing, but more likely federal dollars) would make them affordable for the masses. It was that vision of “modern housing,” not Lewis's, that between 1933 and 1974 produced the effulgence of government-financed communities, many of which succumbed to poor maintenance, poor design, and poor management. Sadly, there were more Pruitt-Igoes and Robert Taylor Homes than Chatham Villages. Bamberg has written and University of Pittsburgh Press has produced a beautiful and nicely written saga of what good planning and good management can accomplish in housing if all the stars—the vision, the resources, and the ideal circumstances—are aligned.

Muskie School, University of Southern Maine

JOHN F. BAUMAN

AFSCME's Philadelphia Story: Municipal Workers and Urban Power in the Twentieth Century. By FRANCIS RYAN. (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2011. 320 pp. Illustrations, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. \$59.50 cloth; \$27.95 paper.)

Francis Ryan has written a terrific and timely book that helps us understand how and why unionized public employees remain so controversial. This well-written, extensively researched, and—while pro-labor—well-balanced monograph provides an excellent overview of the major political, economic, and demographic trends in Philadelphia from the 1930s to the early twenty-first century.