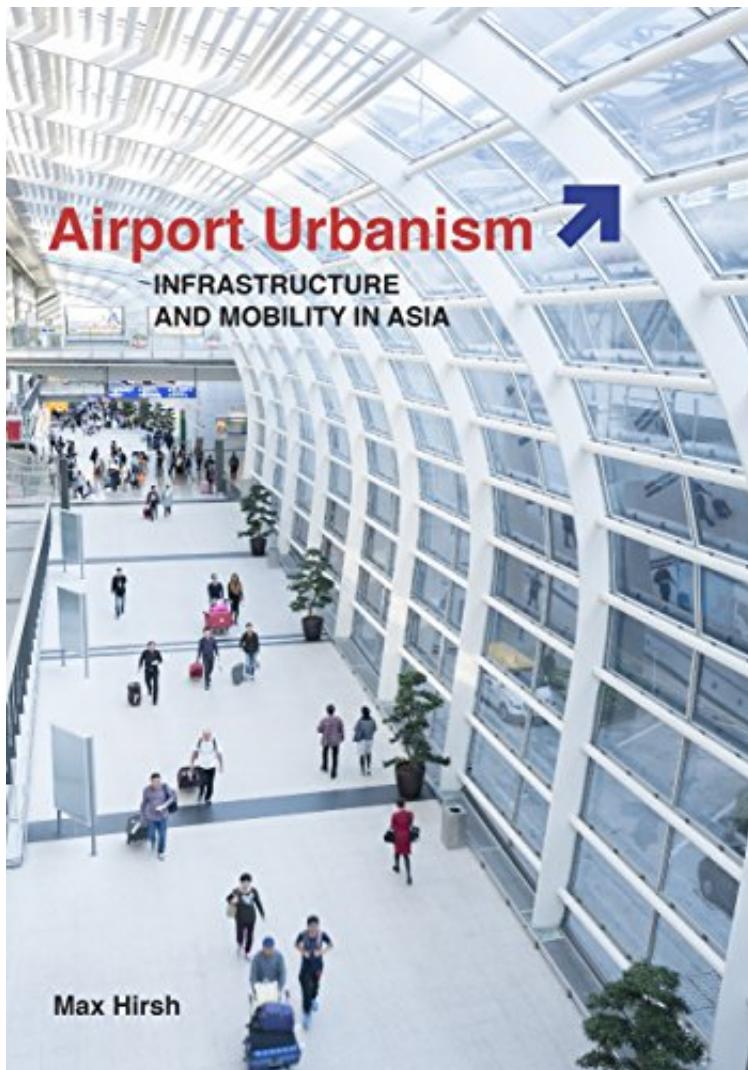


Airport Urbanism: Infrastructure and Mobility in Asia

Max Hirsh

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Dynamic Under-Reported Story of Rising Asia via Air Travel and Airports, Skillfully ToldBy Afshin MolaviThis is what all academics ought to do: First-rate, on the ground, experience-based reportage coupled with rigorous academic research toward a broader vision that tells an important story of how an under-studied group of people lives today. I learned a great deal about the world of budget travel in Asia, and how the rise of Asian airports and Asian carriers has re-shaped societies and economies in dynamic ways. The fact of the matter is that Asian mass air travel is fairly new and the author takes us on this journey skillfully and with an excitement that usually accompanies new travel.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Breaking new

groundBy CustomerWell-written, excellent command of the literature of the field, innovative research techniques, sensitive to the individual person's airport experience.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must read for everybody who wants to develop successful airports in the 21st century.By Tom BartaAirport Urbanism offers a completely new perspective on airport development and the air travel industry. Based on the author's extensive experience and research, he makes the compelling case that an airport's environment (i.e. local communities and cultural factors) determines the airport's development--not the other way around, as older airport theories suggest. The book surfaces previously hidden opportunities for how to tap into an airport's urban potential. It also gives important clues for the successful development of new airports. For an academic book it's a surprisingly easy read--balancing facts and personal anecdotes. Hirsh's book is a must read for everybody who wants to develop successful airports in the 21st century.

Thirty years ago, few residents of Asian cities had ever been on a plane, much less outside their home countries. Today, flying, and flying abroad, is commonplace. How has this leap in cross-border mobility affected the design and use of such cities? And how is it accelerating broader socioeconomic and political changes in Asian societies? In *Airport Urbanism*, Max Hirsh undertakes an unprecedented study of airport infrastructure in five Asian cities—Bangkok, Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Kuala Lumpur, and Singapore. Through this lens he examines the exponential increase in international air traffic and its implications for the planning and design of the contemporary city. By investigating the low-cost, informal, and transborder transport systems used by new members of the flying public—such as migrant workers, retirees, and Asia's emerging middle class—he uncovers an architecture of incipient global mobility that has been inconspicuously inserted into places not typically associated with the infrastructure of international air travel. Drawing on material gathered in restricted zones of airports and border control facilities, Hirsh provides a fascinating, up-close view of the mechanics of cross-border mobility. Moreover, his personal experience of growing up and living on three continents inflects his analyses with unique insight into the practicalities of international migration and into the mindset of people on the move.

"Airport Urbanism dissects issues in infrastructural design and aesthetics, physical mobility and social immobility, and the lived experiences of an emerging Asian urbanism—a remarkable achievement by a scholar who possesses the intellectual virtuosity to bridge realms in every direction."—Helen F. Siu, Yale University "Lucid and entertaining, Max Hirsh's account of airport infrastructure shatters the fiction of showpiece airports as the acme of international air travel. This highly perceptive reading of cross-border mobility and its role in shaping the urban landscape in Asia is a critical contribution to the emerging scholarship on infrastructure."—Swati Chattopadhyay, University of California, Santa Barbara