

**Michael A. Dobbins, FAIA, AICP**  
**Summary of Experience**

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**EDUCATION:**

Elementary and junior high schools: Denver Public Schools  
 High school: Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, N. H.  
 College: Yale University, B.A. 1960  
 Professional school: Yale University School of Architecture, Master of Architecture 1965

**PROFESSIONAL:**

American Planning Association  
 American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)  
 Congress for New Urbanism  
 Licensed Architect, Georgia #9657  
 National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) #20605  
 Fellow, American Institute of Architects (FAIA)  
 AIA National Regional and Urban Design Committee, (Chairman 1985 and 1986)

**EXPERIENCE:**

August 2002 – Present  
 College of Architecture, Georgia Tech: Professor of the Practice (from 2008),  
 Visiting Associate Professor, (2003-2008), Ventulett Visiting Professor (2002-  
 2003); (and part-time Instructor of Planning, fall 1996 – spring 2002)

April 2002 – June 2005  
 Advisory services contracts with the City of Atlanta for urban design,  
 transportation and land use programs and projects

June 1996 – April 2002  
 City of Atlanta  
 Commissioner, Department of Planning, Development and Neighborhood  
 Conservation (with responsibility for the City's planning, zoning, housing,  
 building permitting, inspections, code enforcement, human services, and HUD  
 programs, as well as coordination with the Atlanta Development Authority and  
 the Atlanta Housing Authority)

January 1993 – June 1996

University of California at Berkeley  
Director of Physical and Environmental Planning

January 1988 – January 1993

City of Birmingham  
Director, Department of Urban Planning

December 1978 – December 1987

Principal Urban Designer, Architect and Planner, Birmingham Community  
Development Department

February 1977 - December 1978

Architect/Planner, Jefferson County Office of Planning and Community  
Development,  
Birmingham, Alabama

August 1974 – January 1977

Private planning and architectural practice, Tuscaloosa, Alabama

August 1972 – July 1974

Assistant Professor of Architecture, Tulane University School of Architecture

September 1971 – August 1972

Technical Director, Comprehensive River Area Study, a transportation framework  
and bridge location study for metropolitan New Orleans, undertaken under  
various consultant contracts with the State of Louisiana.

April 1967 – August 1971

Deputy Director and Principal Urban Designer, Urban Design Group; Director,  
Office of Staten Island Planning; and Urban Designer, Urban Design Group;  
Department of City Planning, New York City.

November 1966 – April 1967

Job Captain, Desmond and Lord Architects, Boston, Massachusetts

April 1965 – October 1966

Job Captain, Caudill Associates, Architects, Aspen, Colorado

March 1964 – August 1964

Apprentice Architect, Bruce Arneill, Architect, New Haven, Connecticut

June 1963 – September 1963

Apprentice Architect, Paul Rudolph, Architect, New Haven, Connecticut

April 1961 – September 1961

Apprentice Carpenter, Amos Crosslin, General Contractor, Aurora, Colorado

August 1960 – January 1961

Apprentice Architect, Anders Berg Arkitektkontor, Stockholm, Sweden.

## **PROFESSIONAL, CIVIC, AND TEACHING ACTIVITIES:**

### **Planning and urban design assistance activities and speaking engagements**

(1996 – present, reverse chronological, illustrative)

Presenter for CityWorks, New Orleans Institute, dialogue on citizen engagement and the value of a planning culture, in the context of the adoption of the New Orleans Master Plan and preparation of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, New Orleans (2010)

Presenter for Student Planning Association fundraiser event, with past Atlanta commissioners of planning and development Leon Eplan and Steve Cover, moderated by Maria Saporta, Atlanta (2010)

Presenter for Pecha Kucha, on what the next mayor should do, Atlanta, (2009)

Presenter for Georgia StandUp Policy Institute on city comprehensive planning, zoning, and subdivision processes, Atlanta (2010 and 2009)

Presenter to Georgia State University Urban Fellows Program on ongoing citizens-guided studio work for communities around Fort McPherson, Atlanta (2009)

Presenter for Georgia Planning Association fall conference, on urban design for planners and on ethics, Athens, GA (2009)

Presenter for City and Regional Planning book forum on Urban Design and People, with panelists Charles Brown, Bill Gilchrist, Martha Porter Hall, Deborah Scott, and Jim Durrett, Atlanta (2009)

Presenter for College of Architecture Research Forum, on the differences between architectural design and urban design as disciplines, Atlanta (2009)

Various “book talks” on my book (2009)

Presenter for Partnership for Working Families on identifying and implementing Community Benefit Agreements (and on book) in the Atlanta context, Washington, D.C. (2009)

Presenter for Wiley Faculty, on book, webcast (2009)

Presenter for Greenprints conference, on Georgia Conservancy and Blueprints for Successful Communities program, Atlanta (2009)

Juror for Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence, Cambridge and Providence (2009)

Co-organizer and presenter for three part series on shaping and managing growth in the e Atlanta region (with Leon Eplan, Randy Roark, and Scott Bernstein) for the Sustainable Atlanta Roundtable (2008)

Presenter for “University as Civic Partner” conference on Georgia Tech + Midtown Atlanta (with Scott Levitan), Phoenix Urban Research Laboratory, Arizona State University and Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Phoenix (2008)

Presenter for Atlanta AIA annual meeting, celebrating 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, on findings of Westside Atlanta multidisciplinary urban design studios (2007)

Presenter for the Seaside Institute forum “Atlanta on the Cutting Edge,” on Atlanta regional transit dilemma (2007)

Presenter for AIA national Regional and Urban Design Committee on urban design education, Providence (2007)

Presenter for Georgia Stand Up Civic Policy Institute, on city planning and urban design processes, Atlanta (2006 and 2007)

Resource panelist for the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy conference on “The University as Developer” in Atlanta (2006)

Keynote speaker for “Taking Five Points South to the Next Level” conference for Operation New Birmingham, in Birmingham (2006)

Piedmont Park Advisory Committee, convened to advise Mayor Shirley Franklin on plans to expand Piedmont Park and Atlanta Botanical Gardens (2005)

BeltLine Transit Advisory Panel (with Catherine Ross, Mike Meyer, Tim Jackson, and William Millar), report on transit feasibility of the City of Atlanta’s BeltLine initiative, for the Atlanta Development Authority (2005)

Presenter for “Los Angeles and Atlanta, Comparative Polycentrism” (with William Fulton and Hattie B. Dorsey), Congress of the New Urbanism convention, Pasadena (2005)

Juror for the ULI national student urban design competition, Washington and Pittsburgh (2004)

Presenter on Atlanta’s Atlantic Station project for several conferences, including ULI

- nationally and in Charlotte and for an EPA brownfields redevelopment teleconference (2000 – 2005)
- Presenter on regional transit choices, Citizens for Progressive Transit, Atlanta (2005)
- Presenter on Places and Context Sensitive Design, forum on context sensitive design, Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development, Atlanta (2005)
- Presenter on transit and community health, Healthy Places Research Group, Atlanta (2004)
- Presenter on Paul Rudolph, Architect, a forum on his work, Museum of Design Atlanta (2004)
- Presenter (for Mayor Shirley Franklin) and panelist for Rail-Volution conference, Atlanta (2003)
- Transportation Advisory Committee, Midtown Alliance, Atlanta (2003 – 2007)
- Advisory Committee, Atlanta Streetcar, Inc., Atlanta (2003 – 2006)
- Blueprints Steering Committee, Georgia Conservancy, Atlanta (2002 – present)
- Resource panelist for “Ten Principles for Successful Development Around Transit,” published by the Urban Land Institute (2003)
- New Orleans: New Partners for Smart Growth Conference: Development Around Transit, presenter (2003)
- Tianjin, China: American Planning Association resource team member for regional planning technical assistance exchange with Tianjin Planning Institute (2002)
- Resource panelist for Workforce Housing Strategies, Urban Land Institute (2002)
- Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership, board member (1997 – 2002), member of Mixed Income Community Initiative (MICI) 2000 – present)
- Rotterdam: ULI – The Netherlands, Symposium on Following up the Big Event – Atlanta, Barcelona, Rotterdam: presenter (2001)
- Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Symposium on City Planning Practice – Atlanta, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, presenter (2001)
- Atlanta: Institute for Traffic Engineering: Transportation/Land Use Strategies in Atlanta, presenter (2001)

Berlin: ULI – Europe Convention: Atlanta since the Olympics, presenter (2001)

Resource panelist for “Reinventing America’s Suburban Strips,” published by the Urban Land Institute (2001)

Atlanta: Federal Transit Administration/MARTA Bus Rapid Transit Symposium: BRT and land use opportunities, presenter (2000)

Atlanta: Regional Leadership Institute, class member and subsequently member of the Regional Leadership Foundation (2000 – 2003)

Denver: “Changing Visions,” a symposium organized by The Gates Family Foundation for Denver’s regional leadership: organizer of Atlanta’s delegation and presenter (2002)

Atlanta: Harvard Club of Georgia: Atlanta – Past, Present and Future, presenter (with John Portman and David Crane, 1999)

Birmingham: Birmingham 2025 Symposium: Regional Land Use, Transportation and Environmental Development Strategies, presenter (1999)

Atlanta: HUD HOPE VI Convention: HOPE VI and Community Revitalization, presenter (1999)

Charlottesville: Mayors Institute on City Design: design team member (1998)

Boston: American Planning Association Convention: Transportation/Land Use Alternatives: presenter (with Larry Frank, Hank Dittmar and Brian Leary, 1998)

Chattanooga: Mayors Institute on City Design, South: design team member (1998)

AIA Alabama – design awards jury member (1997)

Atlanta: American Public Transit Association Conference: Prospects for Transit Oriented Development, presenter (1997)

Numerous other professional, civic, governmental, community and non-profit organization presentations and workshops in and around Atlanta and the southeast

## **Teaching**

Georgia Tech, 2002 – present, as Professor of the Practice (part time, School of City and Regional Planning, College of Architecture), teaching: :  
Urban Design Policy and Implementation

Urban Design and Comprehensive Planning Studio for city and regional planning students, usually including dual degree architecture and civil engineering students

Freehand Drawing for Planners

30 Option Paper Advisees in the City and Regional Masters Program

5 Doctoral Candidate Committees

Georgia Tech, 1997 – 2002 (part time):

Urban Design Policy and Implementation

University of California, Berkeley, 1995:

Urban design studio course for city planning students

Birmingham Southern College, MPPM program, 1988:

Seminar in Strategic Planning

Tulane University, 1972 – 1974:

Freshman Architecture Studio

Senior/Fifth Year Studio (supported by National Endowment for the Arts)

**(Earlier)**

**Planning and urban design assistance activities and speaking engagements**

(1992 – 1996, illustrative)

Charlottesville: Mayors Institute on City Design: design team member (1996)

Berkeley: Mayors Institute on City Design, West, design team member (1993 – 1995)

Berkeley: “Environmental Spirit” Symposium, “Place Making,” presenter (1995)

New Haven: “The Future of the American City” Symposium of the New Haven Arts Council, urban design presenter (with Alex Krieger, Fred Koetter and Alan Plattus, 1994)

Seattle: American Collegiate Schools of Architecture National Convention, “Poetics of Place,” responder (with Anne Vernez Moudon, 1993)

Portland, OR: Institute for Urban Design, “Urban Design in Unlikely Places,” presenter (1993)

Chicago: American Planning Association, “Using Local Assets in Neighborhood Planning,” presenter (with John McKnight, 1993)

New Haven: President’s Urban Advisory Council, Yale University (1993)

Birmingham: Presentation and tours on Birmingham neighborhood revitalization programs and practices for Atlanta Council members, neighborhood leaders and city staff (1992-3)

New Orleans: National League of Cities, Birmingham Urban Design Strategies, presenter (1992)

Chicago: American Planning Association: Steering Committee member, "Agenda for America's Communities" (1992-3)

Savannah: forum on downtown planning and urban design, for Mayor Susan Weiner and downtown development interests, supported by the Mayors Institute on City Design and National Endowment for the Arts, presenter (1993)

Florence, AL: program for Alabama, Tennessee, and Mississippi chapters of American Planning Association, presenter (1992)

Owensboro, KY: lecture and training program for Mayor David Adkisson, downtown development interests and city staff (1992)

Chattanooga: programs for Tennessee AIA and APA State Councils, presenter (1992)

Louisville: lecture and professional exchange for AIA Central Kentucky Chapter, and city and county elected officials and staff (1992)

Jackson, MS: lecture and downtown development program for Mississippi State University School of Architecture, Jackson Center, and downtown development interests (1992)

New Orleans: Mayors Institute on City Design, South, design faculty member (1991 and 1992)

**Other Professional and Civic Appointments** (pre-1992, illustrative):

Auburn University, Advisory Council member for both landscape architecture and city planning programs, 1990-1993; and urban studies and architecture program, 1992-1993

Leadership Birmingham, member, first class, 1983-1984; Steering Committee 1984-1993

Birmingham Campfire, Advisory Board, 1987-1993



Advisory Committee and instructor of strategic planning (1989) for Masters of Arts in Public and Private Management (MPPM), Birmingham Southern College, 1984-1993

Birmingham Public Schools, Community Schools, City-wide Advisory Council, 1983-1993, Vice-Chair 1985-1986; Chair 1986-1987

Alabama Urban Forestry Council, Board of Directors, 1989-1990

Design Critic, Auburn University Department of Architecture, Center for Urban Studies and Architecture, Birmingham, 1990

AIA Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team (R/UDAT) for Baton Rouge, Louisiana, October 1986

Urban Land Institute Panel Advisory Service member for Raleigh, North Carolina, February 1986

AIA Quality Urban Environment Study Team (QUEST), Alexandria, Virginia, Program Chair, 1985

AIA Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team (R/UDAT) for Albuquerque, New Mexico, November 1984

Architecture and planning school juries: Georgia Tech, University of California, Berkeley, Auburn University, Yale University, Columbia University, New York University, Tulane University

## **PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS** (illustrative)

Urban Design and People, James Wiley and Sons (2009),

Reviewer for Journal of the American Planning Association (2005 – 2007)

“Focusing Growth and Sprawl: Atlanta’s Livable Centers Initiative,” in “Places,” 2005 summer issue (peer reviewed)

Renaissance Policy Board Report (writer and editor, with David Sjoquist, GSU), City of Atlanta, 1998

“Sprawl Things Considered,” (with Margaret P. Dobbins), “American City and County,” September 1997

“Urban Design and Urban Life,” a panel paper given with Fred Koetter, Alex Krieger and Alan J. Plattus at “The Future of the American City” symposium,

- sponsored and published by the Alliance for Architecture, New Haven, Connecticut, February 1994
- “City Catalyst”, by Lynn Nesmith, about my role in Birmingham, “Architecture”, May 1992
- “In Birmingham, Design Counts” (with Margaret P. Dobbins) on the role of design in Birmingham’s planning process in Planning, published by the American Planning Association, January 1992
- “Birmingham Plans” - comprehensive plan for Birmingham, director and principal author, 1992
- “Baton Rouge R/UDAT”, team member and contributing author, 1986
- “Raleigh Downtown”, Urban Land Institute Panel Advisory Service, team member and contributing author, 1986
- “Central Avenue R/UDAT”, Albuquerque, New Mexico, team member and contributing author, 1984
- “Design is the Key” – a description of a neighborhood business revitalization program in North Birmingham in Planning, published by the American Planning Association (APA), March, 1983
- “An Emerging Urban Consciousness in Design Perspectives and Sources” - Rice Center, Joint Center for Urban Studies, MIT and Harvard, and the Center for Planning and Development Research, University of California, Berkeley, 1981
- “Development Issues Analysis” - Jefferson County Office of Planning and Community Development, Birmingham, author 1978
- “New Orleans and the River” - planning and urban design study, prepared under a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts to Tulane, project director, author, and editor, 1974
- “Saint Charles Avenue Zoning”, Tulane University, author, 1973
- “Comprehensive River Area Study”, technical director and editor, New Orleans, 1972
- “Plan for New York City – Staten Island”, the Staten Island volume of New York City’s master plan, chief planner, author, and technical editor, 1970
- “PUD” – Planned Unit Development”, Department of City Planning, New York: planner, designer, co-author and co-editor, 1968

“Perspecta 8: The Yale Architectural Journal”, co-editor with Jonathan Barnett and author, 1963

### **AWARDS AND HONORS** (illustrative)

American Institute of Architects, Atlanta Chapter, Ivan Allen, Sr. award, 2002

Proclamation from the City of Atlanta in recognition of service as Commissioner of Planning (2002)

Proclamation from the board of the Georgia Department of Transportation in recognition of service as City of Atlanta Commissioner of Planning (2002)

Phoenix Award for service to the City of Atlanta (1997 and 2001)

Numerous awards and recognitions from community, civic, non-profit and professional organizations in Atlanta (1996 -2002)

National Preservation Honor Award, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1993, (with others) for the creation of the Birmingham Civil Rights District

American Planning Association: Alabama Chapter award for Oxmoor planning process, including inter-jurisdictional and private-public collaboration and performance based zoning ordinance, 1992

Inducted to College of Fellows of American Institute of Architects, 1992

Birmingham Chamber of Commerce Award for Birmingham’s Urban Design Program (program director), 1991

Numerous awards and honors from neighborhood, community and civic organizations in Birmingham, 1980 – 1993

HUD Public-Private Partnership Awards (project coordinator); Five Points South Commercial Revitalization District, 1983; and North Birmingham Commercial Revitalization District, 1984

Partners for Livable Places Award:  
Five Points South Commercial Revitalization District, 1984

American Planning Association: Alabama Chapter awarded for Birmingham Commercial Revitalization program, 1983

### **EARLY PRIVATE COMMISSIONS:**

Planning Consultant for Council on Urban Economic Development, Evanston, Illinois neighborhood business revitalization program, 1982

Architect for own residence, 1980

Architect for expansion of Jefferson County Community Development Offices, 1978 (in association with Felton Collier, Architect)

Architect for the Underwood Residence, Irondale, Alabama, 1978

Architect for Community Building for Social Service Director, Woodmont Housing Project, Tuscaloosa, 1977

Planning Consultant for the West End Community committee for site selection and program analysis and development, Tuscaloosa, 1976

Architect for the George Washington Carver Playground and Theophile Elie Community Center, New Orleans, 1975 (in association with HBS Associates, Inc.)

Metropolitan land-use analysis, 1995 projections for Metropolitan New Orleans Transportation Study, for Curtis and Davis, Architects and Planners, prime consultant, 1975

Two-family house, Aspen Colorado, 1966

Vacation house, Aspen, Colorado, 1965

**REFERENCES AND FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON REQUEST**