This dissertation is concerned with racial
discrimination as a central issue in urban planning. Although
primarily concerned with black opportunities in housing, the study
investigates Negro opportunities in related areas (education, income,
and employment) in order to develop the linkages and
interdependencies between the various aspects of equal opportunity.
In each area, the opportunities available to today's black population
are determined by comparing: (1) opportunities in metropolitan (and
particularly central city) areas with those available elsewhere to
determine whether the urbanization of blacks is providing the means
for upward mobility; (2) opportunities available to blacks in earlier
decades with those now available to ascertain whether blacks are in
fact improving their absolute position over time; and (3)
opportunities afforded blacks and whites, it being recognized that
the term "inequality" is generally used in its racial context. In
analyzing the housing opportunities of metropolitan area blacks, the
dissertation explores housing quality, quantity, cost, and
overcrowding. Particular attention is devoted to residential
segregation. The purpose of the entire analysis is to establish a
suitable foundation for making recommendations designed to maximize
black opportunities and to relate these recommended policies to urban
planning. (Author/JM)
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND THE URBAN BLACK:
An Analysis of Public Policy and Its Implications for Urban Planning
(Abstract and Bibliography)

William Mitchell Cushman, Ph.D.
Department of Urban Planning
University of Washington
This dissertation is concerned with racial discrimination as a central issue in urban planning. By synthesizing and integrating material from several disciplines—law, economics, sociology and social work, education and others—the study analyzes opportunities available to urban blacks and relates them to public policy and the theory and practice of urban planning.

Although primarily concerned with black opportunities in housing, the study investigates Negro opportunities in related areas (education, income and employment) in order to develop the linkages and interdependencies between the various aspects of equal opportunity. In each area, the opportunities available to today's black population are determined by comparing:
Opportunities in metropolitan (and particularly central city) areas with those available elsewhere to determine whether the urbanization of blacks is providing the means for upward mobility;

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3) Opportunities afforded blacks and whites, it being recognized that the term "inequality" is generally used in its racial context.

From this three-way analysis, the following generalized conclusions emerge: (1) blacks in metropolitan areas have better access to adequate housing, education, income and employment than do blacks in non-metropolitan areas; (2) the opportunities of urban blacks has improved over time, with one important exception—residential segregation is increasing; (3) black opportunities are increasing more rapidly than white, but because of the sizeable gap obtaining between the races, equality of opportunity and of socio-economic status remains a distant goal.

In analyzing the housing opportunities of metropolitan area blacks, the dissertation explores housing quality, quantity, cost and overcrowding. Particular attention is devoted to residential segregation. First, the nature of residential segregation is examined and the widespread extent of this practice is established. Second, various theories on the cause of segregation are investigated, including attitudes of blacks and whites and the roles played by public and private institutions; the relative importance of each determined. Finally, effects of residential segregation on reducing black opportunities in housing, education, employment and income are analyzed. Conclusions reached pertaining to the extent, causes and effects of residential segregation are these:
1) Residential segregation is not only widespread but is increasing;

2) Though higher family income for blacks is a necessary requirement for significantly reducing segregation, it alone will not greatly facilitate integration because other important impediments remain;

3) White opposition to interracial neighborhoods is steadily diminishing;

4) Opposition to open housing by private institutions has not abated as much as opposition by white individuals; consequently, private institutional practices constitute effective gatekeeper mechanisms;

5) Whether by intent or effect, public institutional practices contribute significantly to segregation;

6) Although residential segregation clearly constitutes a denial of equal housing opportunity, it also indirectly deprives those segregated of equal educational, employment and income opportunities.

The purpose of the entire foregoing analysis is to establish a suitable foundation for making policy recommendations designed to maximize black opportunities and to relate these recommended policies to urban planning. The study advocated a policy combining residential integration and ghetto enrichment, in the belief that the two constitute a more productive approach than either alone by providing the greatest opportunities to the largest number of blacks.

In order that urban planning can contribute to integration and ghetto improvement, the study investigates methods for accomplishing these goals. Included are the reduction of exclusionary zoning, the role of metropolitan planning, prospects for planned unit developments and new towns and changes needed in the comprehensive planning process.


Buchanan v. Farley, 245 U.S. 60 (1917).


Calif. Const., art. 34.


Calif. Const., art. 34.


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