

## Welwyn Garden City, an international showcase

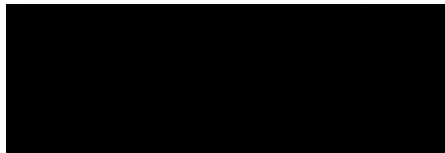
Dr. Heleni Porfyriou, is an urban historian, Senior Researcher of the Institute of Heritage Science of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR-ISPC), and founder and coordinator of the *Genealogy of Urban Design- GUDesign network*, <https://gudesign.org/>. The *GUDesign network* is a global, interdisciplinary network which promotes, through research and dissemination activities, awareness on the contribution of urban design history in identifying appropriate solutions to contemporary planning issues.

The importance of Welwyn Garden City to international town planning and urban design was and still is vital. From Latin America to China, Ebenezer Howard's second garden city is visited and considered as an example to be imitated for its environmental qualities and low-density character.

On these grounds Heleni Porfyriou, as coordinator of the *GUDesign network*, wishes to express support to the local community groups' efforts aiming to protect the authentic character of Welwyn Garden City. Urban density and quality design are two of the major factors distinguishing a good from a less so plan. Particularly so, when new developments are juxtaposed to historically unique contributions, such as the Welwyn Garden City, which following first World War represented an international show case of good housing in well planned environment.

Contemporary urban developments can learn from past experiences, by respecting past legacies both in character and densities instead of contrasting them, or even worse denigrating them.

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