

Jane Jacobs Quotes

*Cities, People, Thinking, Ideas, Real, Way, Running, America, Order, Want,
Trying, Different, Art, Government, Dark, Use, Development, Empires, Old
Buildings, Mean*

Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody.

~Jane Jacobs

Streets and their sidewalks-the main public places of a city-are its most vital organs.

~Jane Jacobs

Designing a dream city is easy; rebuilding a living one takes imagination.

~Jane Jacobs

There is no logic that can be superimposed on the city; people make it, and it is to them, not buildings, that we must fit our plans.

~Jane Jacobs

Intricate minglings of different uses in cities are not a form of chaos. On the contrary, they represent a complex and highly developed form of order.

~Jane Jacobs

While you are looking, you might as well also listen, linger and think about what you see.

~Jane Jacobs

The ballet of the good city sidewalk never repeats itself from place to place, and in any one place is always replete with new improvisations.

~Jane Jacobs

This is something everyone knows: A well-used city street is apt to be a safe street. A deserted city street is apt to be unsafe.

~Jane Jacobs

People must take a modicum of public responsibility for each other

even if they have no ties to each other.

~Jane Jacobs

This is what a city is, bits and pieces that supplement each other and support each other.

~Jane Jacobs

Lowly, unpurposeful and random as they may appear, sidewalk contacts are the small change from which a city's wealth of public life may grow.

~Jane Jacobs

All through organized history, if you wanted prosperity you had to have cities. Cities are places that attract new people with new ideas.

~Jane Jacobs

Cities are an immense laboratory of trial and error, failure and success, in city building and city design.

~Jane Jacobs

The point of cities is multiplicity of choice.

~Jane Jacobs

There is no new world that you make without the old world.

~Jane Jacobs

A region is an area safely larger than the last one to whose problems we found no solution.

~Jane Jacobs

But look what we have built ... This is not the rebuilding of cities. This is the sacking of cities.

~Jane Jacobs

You can't rely on bringing people downtown, you have to put them there.

~Jane Jacobs

Writing, printing, and the Internet give a false sense of security about the permanence of culture.

~Jane Jacobs

[Cities] are not like suburbs, only denser. They differ from towns and suburbs in basic ways, and one of these is that cities are, by definition, full of strangers.

~Jane Jacobs

New ideas must use old buildings

~Jane Jacobs

Old ideas can sometimes use new buildings. New ideas must use old buildings.

~Jane Jacobs

...frequent streets and short blocks are valuable because of the fabric of intricate cross-use that they permit among the users of a city neighbourhood.

~Jane Jacobs

Never underestimate the power of a city to regenerate.

~Jane Jacobs

The trouble with paternalists is that they want to make impossibly profound changes, and they choose impossibly superficial means for doing so.

~Jane Jacobs

Today barbarism has taken over many city streets, or people fear it

has, which comes to much the same thing in the end.

~Jane Jacobs

In our American cities, we need all kinds of diversity.

~Jane Jacobs

Not TV or illegal drugs but the automobile has been the chief destroyer of American communities.

~Jane Jacobs

One wonders at the docility of the students who evidently must be satisfied enough with the credentials to be uncaring about the lack of education.

~Jane Jacobs

Does anyone suppose that, in real life, answers to any of the great questions that worry us today are going to come out of homogeneous settlements?

~Jane Jacobs

To science, not even the bark of a tree or a drop of pond water is dull or a handful of dirt banal. They all arouse awe and wonder.

~Jane Jacobs

Virtually all ideologues, of any variety, are fearful and insecure, which is why they are drawn to ideologies that promise prefabricated answers for all circumstances.

~Jane Jacobs

The primary conflict, I think, is between people whose interests are with already well-established economic activities, and those whose interests are with the emergence of new economic activities.

~Jane Jacobs

Traffic congestion is caused by vehicles, not by people in themselves.

~Jane Jacobs

Unity, like so many good things, is good only in moderation.

~Jane Jacobs

There are still an awful lot of intelligent, clever constructive Americans and they are still doing clever constructive things.

~Jane Jacobs

observation of realities has never, to put it mildly, been one of the strengths of economic development theory.

~Jane Jacobs

Being human is itself difficult, and therefore all kinds of settlements (except dream cities) have problems. Big cities have difficulties in abundance, because they have people in abundance.

~Jane Jacobs

By its nature, the metropolis provides what otherwise could be given only by traveling; namely, the strange.

~Jane Jacobs

Just the way in Europe, Paris, Copenhagen, and Stockholm, and Frankfurt, possibly and Berlin, certainly, all had important roles, because of independence. Because they were depending on themselves.

~Jane Jacobs

We expect too much of new #â€Ž buildings , and too little of ourselves.

~Jane Jacobs

Redundancy is expensive but indispensable.

~Jane Jacobs

To seek "causes" of poverty in this way is to enter an intellectual dead end because poverty has no causes. Only prosperity has causes.

~Jane Jacobs

New ideas often need old buildings.

~Jane Jacobs

I have learned yet again (this has been going on all my life) what folly it is to take any thing for granted without examining it skeptically.

~Jane Jacobs

City diversity represents accident and chaos.

~Jane Jacobs

It may be that we have become so feckless as a people that we no longer care how things work but only the kind of quick, easy outer impression that they get.

~Jane Jacobs

Almost nobody travels willingly from sameness to sameness and repetition to repetition, even if the physical effort required is trivial.

~Jane Jacobs

(The psuedoscience of planning seems almost neurotic in its determination to imitate empiric failure and ignore empiric success.)

~Jane Jacobs

Erosion of cities or attrition of automobiles?

~Jane Jacobs

Sentimentality about nature denatures everything it touches.

~Jane Jacobs

Credentialing, not education, has become the primary business of North American universities.

~Jane Jacobs

Power is supposed to be so corrupt. I don't think it's so much corrupt, in the usual sense of the word, as stupid and unrealistic. The more power a person has, the further he gets from reality.

~Jane Jacobs

It is hopeless to try to convert some borders into seams.

~Jane Jacobs

Innovating economies expand and develop. Economies that do not add new kinds of goods and services, but continue only to repeat old work, do not expand much nor do they, by definition, develop.

~Jane Jacobs

I think that things are going to change just because people get too damn bored with what they have.

~Jane Jacobs

I am ambivalent about London because I am so ambivalent about England in general.

~Jane Jacobs

Nothing is so clear in history that is it happens for any one thing. It seems that a lot of things come together to make great changes.

~Jane Jacobs

Some men tend to cling to old intellectual excitements, just as some belles, when they are old ladies, still cling to the fashions and coiffures of their exciting youth.

~Jane Jacobs

I don't think of the New Urbanism as an economic or political train wreck. I think of it as one of these great generational upheavals that's coming.

~Jane Jacobs

There were lots of programs over the course of the two referendums and the general tenor of them was that if Quebec were to separate, then Canada would disintegrate.

~Jane Jacobs

In wretched outcomes, the devil is in the details.

~Jane Jacobs

You don't get new products and services out of sameness.

~Jane Jacobs

The best thing is not to think about [separatism]. [People in Alberta] don't even want to engage in talking pros and cons and why people feel this way.

~Jane Jacobs

I think it is fatal to specialize. And all kinds of things show us that and that the more diverse we are in what we can do, the better.

~Jane Jacobs

People who try to predict the future by extrapolating in a line of more of what exists - they are always wrong.

~Jane Jacobs

I was so grateful to be independent of the academic establishment. I thought, how awful it would be to have my future hinge on such people and such decisions.

~Jane Jacobs

Backward cities, or younger cities, or newly forming cities in supply regions, have to develop to a great extent on one another's shoulders. This is one of the terrible things about empires.

~Jane Jacobs

That was the fear that there would be no identity anymore, for Canada. It was foolish, because there are so many examples of separatism, and nothing has disintegrated, unless they went to war.

~Jane Jacobs

Maybe part of my animus against the English is the way they have always treated the Irish and the way they still think about the Irish.

~Jane Jacobs

Unfortunately [René] Lévesque had so little self confidence in Quebec and in the people themselves, that he fell for that and, yes, he'd say, you know, it might be ruinous for us economically.

~Jane Jacobs

[René Lévesque] didn't understand why things do collapse. It's usually a very banal reason why things do collapse. It's not a grand reason, why they collapse economically, at least in the West.

~Jane Jacobs

Americans have got it so dinged into them that they are the most fortunate people on Earth, and that the rest of the world - the sooner it copies what America is like, the better.

~Jane Jacobs

I get absolutely ruthless in my own way about not doing anything else when I am trying to concentrate on writing a book. I have to stick to it and concentrate.

~Jane Jacobs

I am not any hate-America person. I really came here for positive reasons.

~Jane Jacobs

The Victorian house and lots of other buildings weren't oppressive in themselves. They were often very airy and gingerbreaded and fancy. But they were associated with all this [Victorian] stuffiness.

~Jane Jacobs

The best part of a Reg Hartt presentation is what he has to say.

~Jane Jacobs

Privately run jails are a mark of American "reinvented government" that has been picked up by neoconservatives in Canada.

~Jane Jacobs

Advanced cultures are usually sophisticated enough, or have been sophisticated enough at some point in their pasts, to realize that foxes shouldn't be relied on to guard henhouses.

~Jane Jacobs

Throughout the world Dark Ages have scrawled finis to successions of cultures receding far into the past.

~Jane Jacobs

Detroit is largely composed, today, of seemingly endless square miles of low-density failure.

~Jane Jacobs

People who think of themselves as exiles, I find, can never really put their lives together, really.

~Jane Jacobs

All my life I have been hearing that the oil was going to run out. It never

happens. They keep discovering new oil fields. The world is apparently floating in oil fields.

~Jane Jacobs

Empires want [cities] only to trade with the empire, which doesn't help them at all. It's just a way of exploiting them.

~Jane Jacobs

It may be romantic to search for the salves of society's ills in slow-moving rustic surroundings, or among innocent, unspoiled provincials, if such exist, but it is a waste of time.

~Jane Jacobs

Americans don't really think that other places are as real as America.

~Jane Jacobs

[If Quebec became sovereign] there would be one level of government that would be missing, one less level of government. The municipality would become the second level.

~Jane Jacobs

Reactions [on my 1979 Massey lectures] were from Anglophones. I'm one. But I'm terrible at French. In fact, there was practically no reaction.

~Jane Jacobs

One of our troubles is that we try to make municipalities that are totally different from each other all act as if they were the same kind of creature, with the same kinds of possibilities.

~Jane Jacobs

Beneficent spirals, operating by benign feedback, mean that everything needful is not required at once: each individual improvement is beneficial for the whole

~Jane Jacobs

Cities never flourish alone. They have to be trading with other cities.

~Jane Jacobs

The notion that you could discard the old world and now make a new one. This is what was so bad about Modernism.

~Jane Jacobs

I think that intelligent people to a great extent are captives of their time or place.

~Jane Jacobs

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