

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910462584603321
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Titolo	The Anxious City [[electronic resource]] : British Urbanism in the late 20th Century
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Hoboken, : Taylor and Francis, 2013
ISBN	1-134-46743-5 1-283-96379-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (293 p.)
Disciplina	307.76/0942/0904 307.7609420904
Soggetti	Cities and towns - England - History - 20th century Cities and towns-- England-- History-- 20th century-- Case studies Urban policy Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Front Cover; The Anxious City; Copyright Page; Contents; Illustration credits; Foreword; Acknowledgements; 1. The anxious city; 2. The picturesque city; 3. The free city; 4. The mediterranean city; 5. The city in ruins; 6. The architecture of civility; 7. 'America, E14'; 8. The museum, the city and the space of flows; 9. The spectacle of pleasure; 10. Staging the city; Notes; Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	In the Western world, cities have arguably never been more anxious: practical anxieties about personal safety and metaphysical anxieties about the uncertain place of the city in culture are the small change of journalism and political debate. Cities have long been regarded as problems, in need of drastic solutions. In this context, the contemporary revival of city centres is remarkable. But in a culture that largely fears the urban, how can the contemporary city be imagined? How is it supposed to be used or inhabited? What does it mean? Taking England since WWII as its principal focus, this pr