Record Nr. UNINA9910463223803321 Autore Conn Steven Titolo Metropolitan Philadelphia [[electronic resource]]: living with the presence of the past // Steven Conn Philadelphia, : University of Pennsylvania Press, c2006 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 0-8122-0408-5 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (285 p.) Collana Metropolitan portraits 974.8/11 Disciplina Human geography - Pennsylvania - Philadelphia Region Soggetti Middle class - Pennsylvania - Philadelphia Region Electronic books. Philadelphia (Pa.) Civilization Philadelphia (Pa.) Social conditions Philadelphia (Pa.) History Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph Includes bibliographical references (p. 253-263) and index. Nota di bibliografia Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- Contents -- Prologue: The Naked City -- Chapter One. Echoes of William Penn -- Chapter Two. The Ghosts That Haunt Us --Chapter Three. The Delaware Valley Makes the Middle Class -- Chapter Four, Two Rivers Run Through It -- Chapter Five, In the Mind's Eve: Imagining the Philadelphia Region -- Epilogue: The Naked City and the Story of Decline -- Notes -- Index -- Acknowledgments As America's fifth largest city and fourth largest metropolitan region, Sommario/riassunto Philadelphia is tied to its surrounding counties and suburban neighborhoods. It is this vital relationship, suggests Steven Conn, that will make or break greater Philadelphia. The Philadelphia region has witnessed virtually every major political, economic, and social transformation of American life. Having once been an industrial giant, the region is now struggling to fashion a new identity in a postindustrial world. On the one hand, Center City has been transformed into a vibrant hub with its array of restaurants, shops, cultural venues, and restored public spaces. On the other, unchecked

suburban sprawl has generated concerns over rising energy costs and loss of agriculture and open spaces. In the final analysis, the region will

need a dynamic central city for its future, while the city will also need a healthy sustainable region for its long-term viability. Central to the identity of a twenty-first century Metropolitan Philadelphia, Conn argues, is the deep and complicated interplay of past and present. Looking at the region through the wide lens of its culture and history, Metropolitan Philadelphia moves seamlessly between past and present. Displaying a specialist's knowledge of the area as well as a deep personal connection to his subject, Conn examines the shifting meaning of the region's history, the utopian impulse behind its founding, the role of the region in creating the American middle class, the regional watershed, and the way art and cultural institutions have given shape to a resident identity. Impressionistic and beautifully written, Metropolitan Philadelphia will be of great interest to urbanists and at the same time accessible to the wider public intrigued in the rich history and cultural dynamics of this fascinating region. What emerges from the book is a wide-ranging understanding of what it means to say, "I'm from Philadelphia."