

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910780538403321
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Titolo	Indy dreams and urban nightmares : speed merchants, spectacle, and the struggle over public space in the world-class city // Mark Douglas Lowes
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Toronto, [Canada] ; ; Buffalo, [New York] ; ; London, [England] : , : University of Toronto Press, , 2002 ©2002
ISBN	1-4426-7022-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (169 p.)
Collana	Indy Dreams and Urban Nightmares
Disciplina	307.76/0971133
Soggetti	Automobile racing - British Columbia - Vancouver City planning - British Columbia - Vancouver - Citizen participation Public spaces - British Columbia - Vancouver Sports and tourism - British Columbia - Vancouver Case studies. Electronic books. Hastings Park (Vancouver, B.C.)
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	""CONTENTS""; ""FOREWORD""; ""PREFACE""; ""ACKNOWLEDGMENTS""; ""Introduction""; ""1 Spectacular Consumption Spaces""; ""2 Competing Visions""; ""3 Selling the Spectacle""; ""4 Resisting the Spectacle""; ""5 Spectacular Space and the Ideology of the 'World-Class' City""; ""APPENDIX: A NOTE ON METHOD""; ""NOTES""; ""REFERENCES""; ""INDEX""; ""B""; ""C""; ""D""; ""E""; ""F""; ""G""; ""H""; ""I""; ""L""; ""M""; ""O""; ""P""; ""R""; ""S""; ""T""; ""W""; ""Z""
Sommario/riassunto	What role do sporting spectacles play in the making of a 'world-class' city?Indy Dreams and Urban Nightmares reports on the conflict that arose between a Vancouver community and the civic boosters who wanted to move the Molson Indy Vancouver motorsport event to their neighbourhood park. Arguing that such events are simply a matter of economic and cultural 'common sense', the civic boosters promoted the Indy spectacle as a means of gaining 'world-class' status for the city.

Against this background, Lowes explores the complex relations among major league sport, urban landscape, and civic identity. He argues that the capacity to articulate a city's 'vision' for itself is an important manifestation of power and ideology, and a notable point of struggle in contemporary urban life. This encompasses much larger issues related to the struggle over urban public space and the legitimacy of a particular narrative of urban growth and civic identity - one that increasingly privileges the consumer over the citizen. Provocative and engaging, this study examines the impact of major sports events on urban centres, and shows how urban public culture is defined and shaped by competition for the right to conceptualize, control, and experience a city's public spaces.
