

1. Record Nr.	UNISALENTO991000814899707536
Autore	Abadir, Karim M.
Titolo	Matrix algebra / Karim M. Abadir, Jan R. Magnus
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge [etc.] : Cambridge University Press, 2005
ISBN	0521822890 0521537460 (pbk.)
Descrizione fisica	xxx, 434 p. ; 26 cm
Collana	Econometric exercises ; 1
Altri autori (Persone)	Magnus, Jan R.author
Disciplina	512.9434
Soggetti	Matrici <Matematica> - Esercizi
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Bibliografia: p. 423-425

2. Record Nr.	UNINA9910779472703321
Autore	Whyte William H., Jr., <1917-1999.>
Titolo	City [[electronic resource] ] : rediscovering the center // William H. Whyte ; photos by the author ; foreword by Paco Underhill
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Philadelphia, : University of Pennsylvania Press, c2009
ISBN	1-283-89827-6 0-8122-0834-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (408 p.)
Classificazione	MS 1750
Altri autori (Persone)	UnderhillPaco
Disciplina	307.7/6
Soggetti	Cities and towns City and town life City planning Sociology, Urban
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Originally published: New York : Doubleday, c1988. Small portions of this book appeared previously in The social live of small urban spaces, by William H. Whyte, published by the Conservation Foundation, Washington, D.C.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [367]-377) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- CONTENTS -- Foreword -- 1. Introduction -- 2. The Social Life of the Streets -- 3. Street People -- 4. The Skilled Pedestrian -- 5. The Physical Street -- 6. The Sensory Street -- 7. The Design of Spaces -- 8. Water, Wind, Trees, and Light -- 9. The Management of Spaces -- 10. The Undesirables -- 11. Carrying Capacity -- 12. Steps and Entrances -- 13. Concourses and Skyways -- 14. Megastructures -- 15. Blank Walls -- 16. The Rise and Fall of Incentive Zoning -- 17. Sun and Shadow -- 18. Bounce Light -- 19. Sun Easements -- 20. The Corporate Exodus -- 21. The Semi-Cities -- 22. How to Dullify Downtown -- 23. Tightening Up -- 24. The Case for Gentrification -- 25. Return to the Agora -- Appendix A. Digest of Open-Space Zoning Provisions in New York City -- Appendix B. Mandating of Retailing at Street Level -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index -- Acknowledgments
Sommario/riassunto	Named by Newsweek magazine to its list of "Fifty Books for Our Time." For sixteen years William Whyte walked the streets of New York and other major cities. With a group of young observers, camera and

notebook in hand, he conducted pioneering studies of street life, pedestrian behavior, and city dynamics. *City: Rediscovering the Center* is the result of that research, a humane, often amusing view of what is staggeringly obvious about the urban environment but seemingly invisible to those responsible for planning it. Whyte uses time-lapse photography to chart the anatomy of metropolitan congestion. Why is traffic so badly distributed on city streets? Why do New Yorkers walk so fast-and jaywalk so incorrigibly? Why aren't there more collisions on the busiest walkways? Why do people who stop to talk gravitate to the center of the pedestrian traffic stream? Why do places designed primarily for security actually worsen it? Why are public restrooms disappearing? "The city is full of vexations," Whyte avers: "Steps too steep; doors too tough to open; ledges you cannot sit on. . . . It is difficult to design an urban space so maladroitly that people will not use it, but there are many such spaces." Yet Whyte finds encouragement in the widespread rediscovery of the city center. The future is not in the suburbs, he believes, but in that center. Like a Greek agora, the city must reassert its most ancient function as a place where people come together face-to-face.

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