

introducing nature into the city. Mumford opposed to build metropolitans and advocated the construction of small and medium-sized cities in order to make the city better harmonize with nature.^[7]

4. Mumford's emphasis on communication and interaction

The eco-city is a caring environment in which interaction between people is encouraged in order to reduce the sense of loneliness and alienation. The main mode of care for the people in the city is to build communities, establish and improve the social services and the infrastructure to meet people's material and spiritual needs. Mumford in his *The Culture of Cities* repeatedly emphasized community building. Mumford spoke highly of the medieval city. Due to its small size, everyone can participate in all sorts of activities, for example, religious ceremonies. Therefore, Mumford advocates to treat communities as units, to establish a multi-centered city where a variety of municipal facilities, such as libraries, swimming pools, natural parks, green spaces can benefit the general public. Mumford suggests that urban planning should feature a number of community centers scattered over the entire city, rather than one dominant city center. Every community center, regardless of population size, should hold the same valency in the plan to become an independent unit, rather than subordinate to the large city center.^[7] Mumford emphasizes the function of neighborhoods, community centers, playgrounds, parks for people in fulfilling their civic democratic life, in nurturing their mutual assistance, mutual respect and friendship, in cultivating their sense of cooperation and belonging.^[8]

5. Conclusion

In summery, we can see that most of the ideas and principles of the modern urban ecology have long been put forward, explained and discussed by Mumford in the 1930s to the 1960s. Although he did not explicitly use the term "urban ecology", and his strands of thought are not as mature and complete as the modern urban ecology, this does not mean that in the narrative of the history of modern urban ecology, we should forget or ignore Mumford's early contribution.

6. Reference

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