COMPARATIVE STUDY

OF

100 AMERICAN TOWNS

DHIRU A. THADANI
TOWNS with POPULATIONS of 500 to 5,000
TOWNS with POPULATIONS of 500 to 5,000
TOWNS with POPULATIONS of 5,000 to 25,000
PRESTON, IDAHO  
SEWARD, NEBRASKA  
SPEARFISH, SOUTH DAKOTA

TOWNS with POPULATIONS of 5,000 to 25,000
TOWNS with POPULATIONS of 5,000 to 25,000
TOWNS with POPULATIONS of 25,000 and OVER
• Greater Center City Philadelphia, where walkable, bikable neighborhoods are thriving as they build on three historic advantages: compact rowhouse blocks; the mixing of residential, retail, and other uses; and a grid of narrow, inherently slow-speed streets;
• The East Rock section of New Haven, Connecticut, where entrepreneurs and community activists ushered into existence a series of “third places” that pull people together across the town/gown divide;
• Brattleboro, Vermont, where socially committed residents, civic organizations, and businesses have strengthened the center of town and made sure it serves people across the income spectrum;
• Little Village, a Mexican-American section of the West Side of Chicago, where the street grid helps immigrants find work and mobilize against gang violence;
• The Pearl District in Portland, Oregon, the most animated and inclusive American urban redevelopment of the last 30 years;
• The Cotton District in Starkville, Mississippi, where developer Dan Camp turned a rundown area into a quirky and charming collection of apartments, restaurants and shops that reflect regional building traditions.