This book began as a much more modest project. In the fall of 1993 Luigi Mazza, editor of the journal *Planning Theory*, invited me to serve as guest editor of a special issue devoted to the relationship between planning history and planning theory. On the grounds that nobody could agree on what constituted planning theory, I proposed instead to look at the importance of theory to planning history. Luigi graciously accepted my proposal.

The resulting special issue of *Planning Theory* (no. 13, Summer 1995) contained essays by James Holston, Clyde Woods, Moira Kenney, Gail Dubrow, and Barbara Hooper, with a long introduction in which I outlined what I see as shortcomings in the field of planning history, particularly in terms of who and what has been excluded from the “official story” and why it is important for planning historians to pay more attention to theory. My contributors produced such interesting essays that I decided that I had tapped into a rich lode. I talked to more scholars, commissioned more essays, and the result is this volume.

I would like to thank Luigi Mazza, not only for being the catalyst for this project, but also for permission to reproduce the original essays. The essays by Holston and Kenney are reprinted here, unrevised. Those of Dubrow, Woods, and Hooper have been revised for this volume, as has my original introduction. All other chapters have been specially commissioned for this volume.

I would particularly like to thank my Ph.D. and master’s students in the Department of Urban Planning at the University of California, Los Angeles, where I taught courses in planning theory and planning history from 1987 to 1996, for their enthusiastic responses and critical insights. Without them, this book would never have been conceived.
I am indebted to James Holston, whose concept of insurgent citizenship helped to crystallize my own thoughts about insurgent planning.

And to John Friedmann—who provides the music of my daily life and helpful in-house criticism—gracias por todo, siempre.

Leonie Sandercock

Los Angeles