

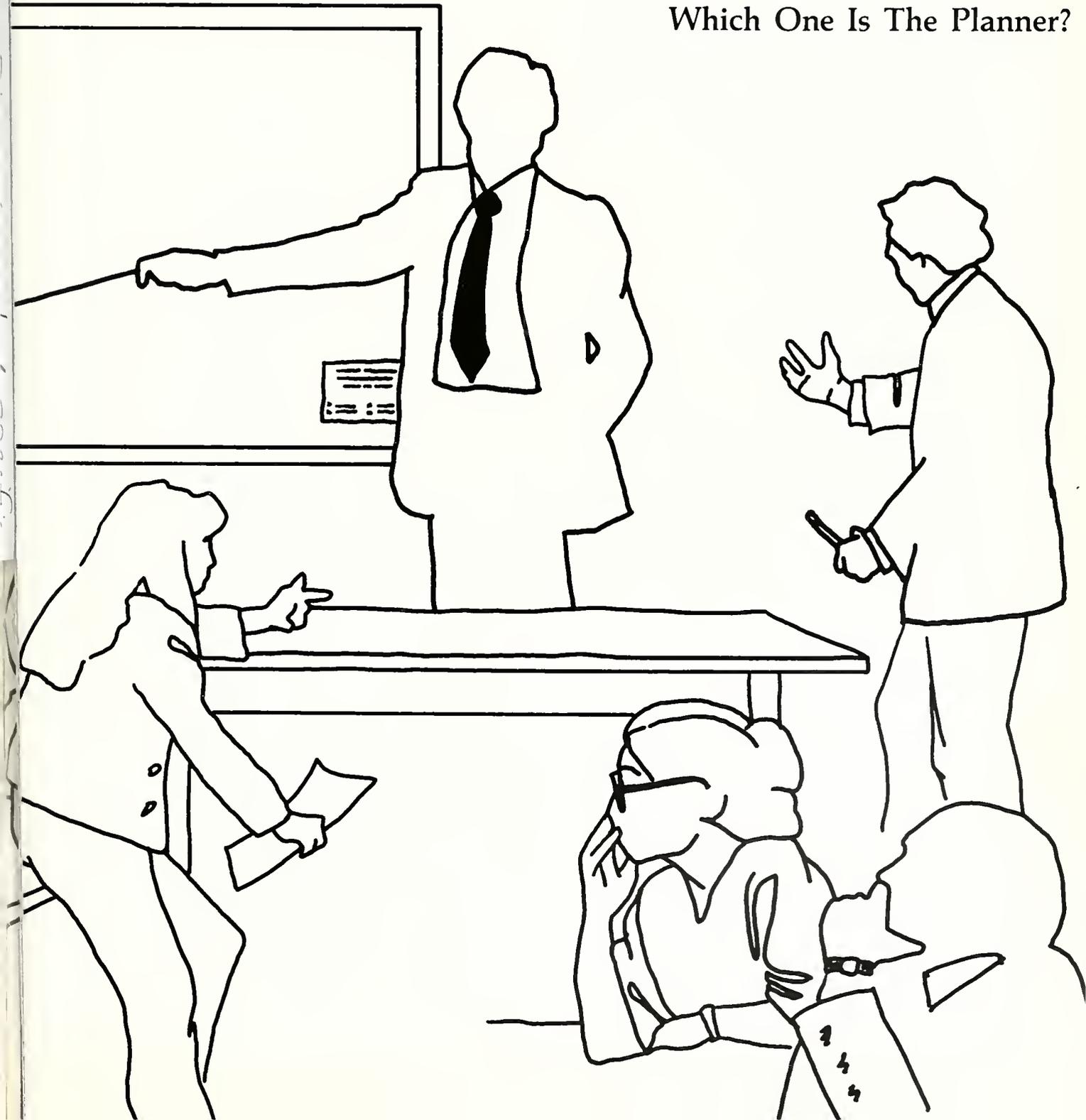
# carolina planning

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Development Dispute Resolution

Which One Is The Planner?





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## editor's note

It is well known by now in the profession that planners are very much involved in what has been coined "development disputes." Although nothing new, the planner's involvement in these common differences of opinion that arise between the parties involved in land development has become a major focus of concern. Despite the efforts so far, however, no one is quite sure what the planner's role *is*, let alone what it should be.

Sorting out the planner's role in development disputes is like trying to solve puzzles. You usually have some frame of reference, like the top of the box that the puzzle comes in. You try to identify the colors and patterns in the disjointed mass of pieces. And then you try fitting them together to form coherent linkages. With much patience and perseverance, a complete picture takes shape.

The only "catch" in solving these particular puzzles is that, like all human interactions, disputes are dynamic. They are three-dimensional puzzles with constantly changing contexts, roles, and linkages.

In this special issue, we present articles that attempt to solve the question of the planner's role in development disputes. The feature articles include a contextual piece on the evolution of the bargaining process in land development; two contrasting case studies of disputes about the siting of low income housing; and a step-by-step guide to recognizing a situation ripe for negotiated settlement. The Forum section offers a closer look at the developer's perspective in disputes, while "In the Works" and "Commentary" address the role of planners in development dispute resolution more specifically.

This special issue, devoted entirely to the topic of development dispute resolution, is one that I am particularly proud to present. My thanks go to David Godschalk and John Forester for their guidance and contributions. Also a special thanks to Marge Victor and Dan Moseley for the excellent graphics, to Roger and his staff at University Printing and Duplicating, and Stacey Ponticello for her constructive comments, hard work, and friendship.

Next year, the magazine will pass into the capable hands of John DiTullio and Russell Berusch. *carolina planning's* reputation as a superior student publication will, no doubt, continue.

Laura D. Bachle  
 Editor

*carolina planning* welcomes comments and suggestions on the articles published and will be happy to accept new material for future editions from interested persons. Such material should be submitted to the Editor type-written, double spaced, and not to exceed fifteen pages in length.

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