CITIES REIMAGINING THE URBAN

Ash Amin and Nigel Thrift

Polity

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements Introduction			vii	
			1	
1	The Legibility of the Everyday City		7	
	Introduction		7	
	The New Urbanism in Context		8	
	The Flaneur and Transitivity		10	
	Rhythms and Rhythmanalysis		16	
	Urban Footprints and Namings		22	
	A Basic Ontology		26	
2	Propinquity and Flow in the City		31	
	Introduction		31	
	The Nostalgie City		32	
	Near and Far		37	
	Distanciated Communities		41	
	The Restless Site		48	
	Conclusion		50	
3	Cities in a Distanciated Economy		51	
	Introduction		51	
	The Urbanized Economy		53	
	Cities as Sites		63	
	Conclusion	*	76	

VI CONTENTS

4	The Machinic City	78
	Introduction	78
	Circulation	81
	The City of Passions	83
	The Engineering of Certainty	93
5	Powerful Cities	105
	Introduction	105
	Diagrams of Power	106
	Escape Attempts	119
	But	123
	Conclusion	130
6	The Democratic City	131
	Introduction	131
	'Creating a Democratic Public'	133
	Political City	135
	Rights to the City: a Politics of the Commons	141
	A Mobile Politics	154
Afterword: Testing New Ground		157
References		160
Index		174