

My name is Mark Lu and I am CRE a small developer in Boston. My primary interest in New Century Cities is to get a window into the concerted efforts shaping the future of urban living. Primarily, it is of great value to understand which, of all the technologies that are currently evolving, are those that a consensus of city planners, university luminaries, business people, and governments have endorsed as ‘worthy’ of investment and implementation into these sites.

These technologies were chosen to enhance the built environment. Each technology that is chosen to be a part of a Century city has some expectation placed on it and some value expected to be derived from it. Understanding what these technologies are, how they are incorporated, and how they are to operate within the system offers not only a glimpse into the future of buildings and urban communities but the forward-thinking and integrated decision-making behind their selection. These are the same decisions and decision making processes I will need to navigate to add value in my own development and in my own community.

I hope to add to the technological attributes and thereby the longevity of my projects. In so doing I intend to introduce locally the global concepts in the Century city models. Historically, in technology obsolescence is generally a given, but if a developer’s perspective can always remain open and looking for towards the innovation and direction that developer will be equipped with the knowledge to differentiate themselves from others in the business and lead the growth of technology in buildings and thus by example encourage innovation.

The New Century cities are promoted by local and federal governments and endorsed by private corporations and universities but on some level they must be privately driven and have the collective enthusiasm of developers to succeed.

Primarily I am interest in learning about:

What cities and communities expect to gain from embracing century cities?

What is the cost?

What makes a successful century city?

What can be adopted on a smaller more fragmented scale that will best utilize lessons of century cities?

What are the pitfalls – what is the risk (cost)-reward equations that one must consider?

As a more specific topic I would be interested in focusing on how residential development is implemented in the New Century Cities.