The Municipal Art Society Planning Center
and Urban Center Books (New York City) present:

Learning from Disasters:
The Synergy of Law and Geography

An Illustrated Talk on May 10, 2005 by

Rutherford H. Platt

Professor of Geography, University of Massachusetts Amherst and
Author of two Island Press books:

Land Use and Society: Geography, Law, and Public Policy (Rev. Ed. 2004)

As natural disasters continue to batter coasts, flood river valleys, burn homes, and undermine steep hillsides, the United States seems determined to ignore geography and rebuild more lavishly in the same places. Why do national and local policies tacitly encourage such folly while giving lip service to hazard mitigation?

Dr. Platt—a geographer and lawyer—will discuss the history and policy framework of natural disasters drawing from his two Island Press books. Topics will include federal disaster assistance, the National Flood Insurance Program, and the “Takings Issue” in relation to land use regulation for hazard areas.

The talk will conclude with a glimpse of a new perspective on cities and nature that is arising in cities across the nation and around the world, as documented by the speaker’s Ecological Cities Project (www.ecologicalcities.org).

Location: The Urban Center
457 Madison Ave. New York
(between E. 50th and E. 51st Sts.)
Date: May 10, 2005
Time: 6:00 to 8:00 pm
RSVP: Maia Mordana (212) 935-3960