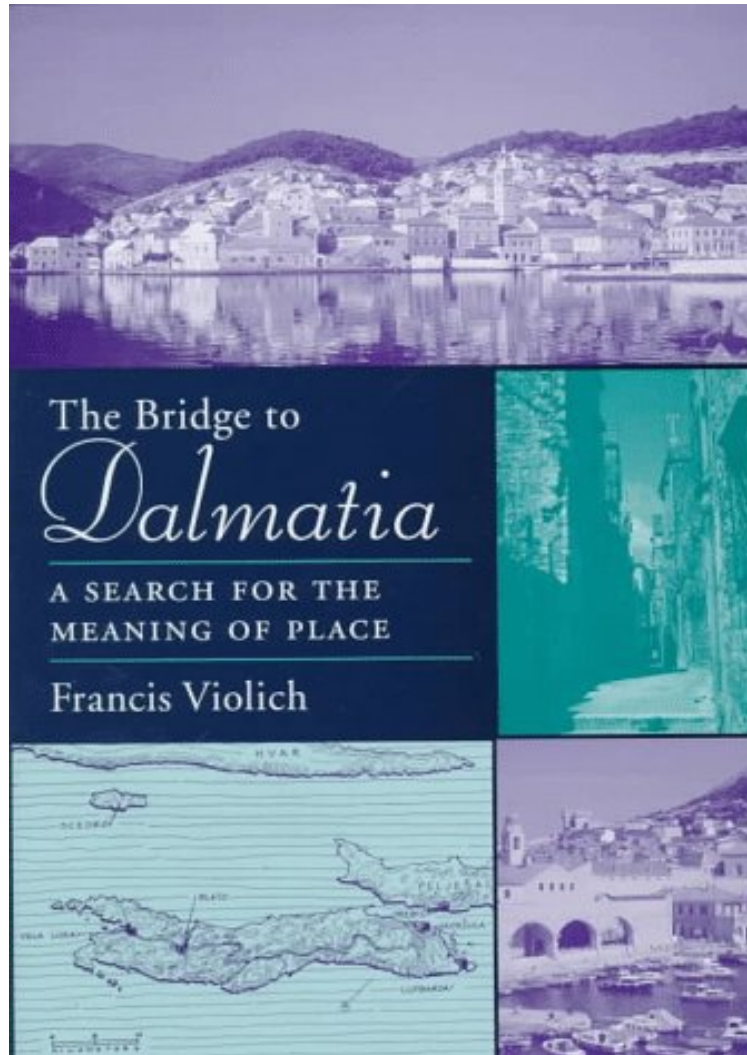


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## The Bridge to Dalmatia: A Search for the Meaning of Place

*Professor Francis Violich*

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**Professor Francis Violich : The Bridge to Dalmatia: A Search for the Meaning of Place** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Bridge to Dalmatia: A Search for the Meaning of Place:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Bridge to Dalmatia: A Search for the Meaning of Place By Jan Henning I have been wanting a copy of this book for some time and I am very pleased to receive it. The Book is as new if not NEW, and will be a fascinating in site to understanding the area and history of Croatia that I am interested PLUS the fact it was written by Francis Violich (whom is a distant relation) so he gives me allot of family history and antidotes of my roots from 'KUNA'. Regards Jan Henning

Accompanying Francis Violich on walks through the mainland cities of Zadar, Split, and Dubrovnik and the offshore towns and villages of Bra, Hvar, Korula, and Pelješac, readers of *The Bridge to Dalmatia* have the opportunity to discover the cultural and historical meanings hidden in the Dalmatian coastal centers -- and to explore the importance of humanistic concerns in environmental design in general. The book engages readers in a process of interacting with the place and its residents, creating mental images and maps, and reading the environment intuitively. Using original plans, maps, and drawings, as well as Croatian historical writings and archival materials rarely known in English, Violich weaves together text and images in field studies of a dozen Croatian cities, towns, and villages as he examines how personal heritage is tied to geography and place. Step by step, moving through these locales, general readers and design professionals alike may explore the evolving nature of identity with place and discover how urban connectedness is achieved through awareness of environmental identity and spatial form. The book's approach is much like that of Kevin Lynch's pioneering work, *Image of the City*. Violich's "search for the meaning of place" begins with the strong environmental identity that his forebears felt with their places of origin on the islands and peninsulas of the Adriatic coast of Croatia. Although these forebears immigrated to San Francisco, they maintained a strong connection to places left behind. His family's strong roots -- which became his bridge from California to Dalmatia -- are the basis for Violich's theory of identity with place, which he based on direct experience of the form and content of this region. "In my experience at both ends of *The Bridge*, Dalmatians readily express feelings of attachment and affection for their own particular home place and its superiority over other places. The vigorous sense of commitment to a physical place has reinforced a cohesion among members of families and larger social groups, an important human resource in the many periods of stress in Dalmatia's rugged history. This affection for native villages has expressed itself dramatically in response to their inimical attacks, damage, and destruction in the War of 1991-1995." --from *The Bridge to Dalmatia*

"The importance of Violich's book is, in part, his attempts to arrive at a suggested methodology of researching place, to understand more completely how cultural identity is shaped by it. His methods have clearly borne important results... *The Bridge to Dalmatia* is an important case study of the workings of place. No doubt planners and students of town space will find it an important model to draw upon in interpretations of how people's identity becomes bound up in the everyday spaces that surround them." -- *Environment and Planning*"Violich operates at several levels simultaneously, expertly combining a humanistic, historical interpretation of place and practical lessons in how to proceed... Here is one more example of the creative power of beauty and identity within an historical community living in hardship." -- Robert Mugerauer, *Journal of the American Planning Association*"Violich writes in a clear and logical way, sometimes with a sense of mild satire and with beautiful sparks of poetry. In every page his love and concern for Dalmatia is evident." -- Mirjana Randic, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*"This book is a labour of love and hope... a lyrical and evocative work which may eschew obvious politics, yet is a work of profound commitment and vision." -- K.S. Brown, *Urban History*About the AuthorFrancis Violich is professor of city planning and landscape architecture, emeritus, at the University of California, Berkeley. His previous books include *Cities of Latin America: Planning and Housing to the South*, *Community Development and the Urban Planning Process in Latin America*, and *Urban Planning for Latin America: The Challenge of Metropolitan Growth*.