

where riders on different transportation modes became pedestrians? Where was the thought on how such points could be related to a pattern of activities within the site and its buildings, and to access points to individual buildings? If these city-building patterns are not one generator of the design of the complex, how can it succeed?

In 1985, summing up these problems I wrote, “Designers at many levels, backed by their own clients, may feel they have rights in an individual project or urban area. . . . [T]angles occur because architects in both the public and the private sector have little idea of the nature and limits of their role or of due process (or indeed of fair play) in the on-going business of urban design for the city.”<sup>35</sup>

In short, the “thousand designers” were there, but where was the orchestration? And the “capital web” was a chimera. The issue is not whether the developer’s urban designer has put curb-cuts where they harm the public sector or overshadowed the park in which people used to sun themselves, but rather that there has been no countervailing force powerful enough, no plan sophisticated enough, and no process supportive enough to produce a more equitable outcome. The adjudication of territories and negotiation of areas of control should be based on the rule of law; and government, as the mandated planner for the whole, should sponsor the finding of equitable procedures, “but government instead appoints design review boards, showing itself thereby to be ignorant of the issue and unwilling to re-think the problem. In any case, avoiding unjust coercion and aesthetic enervation on the one hand and aesthetic libertinage on the other would require of the drafter of aesthetic regulations the wisdom of Solomon.”<sup>36</sup>

My writings on urban design since the 1960s have, to some extent, served as a bellwether for developments in the field. I hope they have conveyed that although I have criticized, my intention is not to pronounce urban design an unworthy endeavor, but to suggest that because it is difficult, its practice should be improved to reckon with its complexities, and its practitioners should acquire from their education a greater sophistication about urban life than they usually have and more philosophies than are written in architecture.

### **A Guide to the Bedeviled**

It is doubtful whether, for good or ill, the powers that the conference members were happily anticipating—those awarded to, for example,