

architecture schools in a great renaissance of ideas about the social and economic city. This was as good as it got, and the strength dissipated when the money dried up in Washington. But even at that time, even in schools that did their best to cover all aspects of urban development responsibly, we did not seem capable of evolving programs for training deeply knowledgeable and creative urban designers.

The University of Pennsylvania program gave a two-year master's degree in "Civic Design" by combining the required courses for degrees in architecture and urban planning and melding the requirements of one with the electives of the other. This was where I tried to help young architects get unfamiliar information in, for example, urban sociology and transportation planning under their belts. Sadly, we have seen neither much great urban design nor much theoretical development of the discipline emerge from this education. Perhaps one reason was that when they started, they were neophyte architects, without real experience of architecture. Their urban design training did not add to this experience, nor did the thin course offering of a joint degree give them a deep understanding of urban planning. And their planning training was not well incorporated into their architectural identities, partly because great translators, like Crane, are rare.

I think we would have to admit that ours was not a perfect way to educate urban designers. And it got worse, as planning departments lost their social thinkers and activists, and architects lost interest in social problems. So eventually most urban designers had training that was primarily in architecture, and I believe this continues today.

We rarely hire people with urban design qualifications into our firm. I prefer to find architects who have both visual and verbal abilities and three or four years of architectural experience. Then I train them in urban design. Granted this is not a full urban planning or urban design training, but it usually suffices for the work we do in urban campus planning and large-scale urban architecture.

### **Is Urban Design a Discipline?**

For me, urban design lacks a penumbra of scholarship, theory and principles, a set of generally recognized working methods, an institutional setting, and a mass of practitioners. These constitute a "discipline." Lacking them, urban designers tend to borrow precepts, methods, and concepts from architecture—but late in the game. They borrow theoretical hand-me-downs—architecture's old clothes—"the