most recent from Post Modernism, before that from the Athens Charter. They also borrow models from the European city. In any case, the ethos of the American city, with its strengths and its weaknesses, is seldom the basis for the promulgating of public sector urban design recommendations."[39]

I do not read much planning these days, but when I scan the urban design coverage in planning journals, it seems to be limited to the New Urbanism—what would Gans say?

The urban research and design Venturi and I have done seems of interest today to young architects and students from schools of architecture in the United States and Europe, including some from Harvard. They study our urban ideas, particularly those on Las Vegas. And architecture students and academics involved in urban communication and urban mapping turn to our work and thought on symbolism and on urban systems as patterns. But we do not hear from urban designers.

In my opinion, few great philosophical formulations on urban design, as I define it, have been made by urban designers since the writings of Crane, and to the extent urban design theory has been developed, it has been from a base in architecture. An example is Rem Koolhaas's work, including some at Harvard, that follows in the footsteps of our Las Vegas research, documenting the Strip twenty-five years later but also applying similar research methods to African urbanism—from Las Vegas to Lagos.

When it comes to discipline building, there could be a new construction team available to urban design—architecture's new scholars. Architectural education in the past twenty years has seen the enormous growth of the Ph.D., as academic streams have been introduced to parallel the traditional professional programs. In my experience, they have added depth to the field—built the discipline—enormously. How many will turn their attention to urban design? There are signs of this interest developing among academic architects in Europe. Energetic dissertation writers could help form a discipline of urban design.

What of the Future?

Not many of the prognostications of the 1956 conference have held up well, and mine may be no better. Perhaps it is wiser to discuss prerequisite attitudes rather than likely or hoped-for situations. A good stance for the future might be to see urban design as: