

be seen in Detroit and Los Angeles. At the same time, protected gated communities are spreading in cities throughout the country.

The physical formation and maintenance of community were core skills of urban designers. However, such skills are applicable only when urban residents share certain commonalities. This is increasingly rare in contemporary society, where everyone's circumstances are immensely varied. A skill applicable in one instance is inapplicable in another. That is also true in Japanese cities, which I will discuss in greater detail. In my view, the only successful examples of communities today are Singapore in Asia and perhaps Copenhagen and Barcelona among European cities. Given the expansion of the European Union, increased movement of the population between cities and regions, growing disparity in the level of education among inhabitants, and global mobility of employees, however, maintaining sustainable communities will be a difficult task even for those European cities considered successful. Their polar opposites are the enormous metropolises of an entirely different scale in developing regions that are divided into the haves and the have-nots. Then there is Shanghai, a city of sixteen million whose massive growth has been supported by a rural work force imported to the city, a work force that is, however, not afforded the same rights as those given to other residents.

On the other hand, excessive concentration of capital has led to increasingly skewed developments such as one-thousand-meter-tall skyscrapers in Dubai. These huge facilities can be considered heteromorphic cells that destroy the city by abnormally concentrating similar market demands (for office, retail, or hotel) in a single location. The excessive investment of capital in places where meaning has faded to zero produces hallucinatory visions suggestive of cities in science fiction. If the pursuit of a balanced spatial alignment between the central district and the community was indeed the objective of the urban design conference fifty years ago, then urban phenomena like these make a mockery of that effort.

Positive and Negative Aspects of Urban Design in Tokyo

Tokyo's morphology is probably unique among metropolises: it is like a mosaic. The individual pieces are extremely small and varied, their connections often hidden. There is no other metropolis of its size in