



Roma Design Group, Embarcadero Promenade, San Francisco, California, 2000. The plaza in front of the Embarcadero corrects the problems once created by an elevated freeway, as discussed at the Harvard Urban Design Conference in 1956. Photograph by Kim Steele.

includes transportation, streets, civic spaces, shopping, entertainment, parks, and recreation; and, third, it supports social interaction in residential neighborhoods, workplaces, and mixed-use downtowns.

The three major political constituencies for implementing urban design concepts are environmentalists who want to shape development to conserve the natural world and preserve its systems, civic promoters who seek to distinguish their city from its competition by its higher-quality urban and civic life, and community activists who want to preserve and restore the places where they live and who want new development to have the good qualities of traditional neighborhoods.

Cities today are designed by an intricate interplay of private investment, public subsidies and incentives for development, government regulations, public participation, and public protest. The professional urban designer needs to know how to work with and guide all these