

## Where and How Does Urban Design Happen?

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In 1956, José Luis Sert convened an international conference at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design with a determination to assemble evidence on behalf of a desired discipline he called *urban design*. An impressive number of people then engaged in thinking about the future of cities participated. Among them were a not-yet-famous Jane Jacobs, an already prominent Edmund Bacon, the Olympian figure of Lewis Mumford, several leaders of the soon-to-be-formed Team 10, prominent landscape architects such as Hideo Sasaki and Garrett Eckbo, urban renewal–empowered mayors such as David Lawrence of Pittsburgh, and innovators such as Victor Gruen, “the creator of the shopping mall.”

The participants seemed to concur that the widening midcentury intellectual split between the “art of building” and the “systemic nature of planning” was not helpful to city building or the rebuilding that the post–World War II era still demanded. Hopes and ideas for a new discipline dedicated to city design were in the air, both in the United States and in Europe, with CIAM (Congrès Internationaux d’Architecture Moderne), since the early 1940s, focusing more attention on urbanization. Conference participants were determined to share and further such thinking, hopeful that a new discipline could stem this perceived split between design and planning. Indeed, within