

Defining the Urbanistic Project: Ten Contemporary Approaches

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The work documented in the exhibition *Cities: 10 Lines: Approaches to City and Open Territory Design*, at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design in fall 2005, proposed a specific taxonomy that synthesizes the most salient lines of current urbanistic design work. The exhibition, based on a research project I conducted in collaboration with Felipe Correa, captures our current distinctive reality, in which cities, after having been ostracized by their deployment of functionalist urbanism in the postwar years, are experimenting with an unprecedented level of transformation and rehabilitation. In recent decades urbanism has been able to redeem itself from the general perception that urban transformation meant spatial and environment poverty.

Urbanism has now strongly reestablished its intellectual and professional abilities. I believe that it is useful, at this particular moment, to rediscover the different lines of work that have consolidated in the built environment and to articulate their particularities. The agency of the “urbanistic project” has achieved greater traction in the general form of the city and therefore has gained greater relevance in the disciplines that shape it, primarily urban architecture, landscape architecture, and urban planning and design.

The work in the catalog to *Cities: 10 Lines: Approaches to City and Open Territory Design* does not argue that all urbanism fits within