

and social aspirations of Modernist planning and its most successful models. This essay offers one potential counter-history as a narrative to illuminate the present predicament of urban design. In so doing, it proposes a potential recuperation of at least one strand of Modernist planning, the one in which landscape offered the medium of urban, economic, and social order.

The essays in this volume offer a significant and largely substantive contribution to our knowledge of the design disciplines, their histories, and futures. Among the many noteworthy contributions on the origins of urban design, Eric Mumford's location of urban design in the wake of CIAM (Congrès Internationaux d'Architecture Moderne) is due particular mention, since it extends knowledge on that topic of international significance for architects, urbanists, and academics across disciplines. Mumford's history provides useful background for several of the more contemporary accounts, including Alex Krieger's thorough overview of the field as a contemporary professional concern. Krieger's essay, "Where and How Does Urban Design Happen?" recounts Sert's multiple motives in formulating the field and reminds readers of the innumerable questions raised at the Harvard conferences on the potential relationships within and between the various design disciplines with respect to the city. Among those questions was the contentious one about the appropriate role for landscape within urban design, a topic of no small import today and of central significance to the origins of urban design as articulated at Harvard in 1956.

Nineteen fifty-six was also the year that one of North America's most successful Modernist planning projects was commissioned: Detroit's Lafayette Park urban renewal, the results of the "Detroit Plan." That plan, and the project it promulgated, offers an alternative history of city making at midcentury, one emerging from an understanding of urban form as shaped by landscape. Lafayette Park did not benefit from the efflorescence of academic attention that would come to be known as urban design. Rather it accrued from the site-specific application of long-standing theories of city planning as formulated by Ludwig Hilberseimer. Hilberseimer and his colleagues Mies van der Rohe and Alfred Caldwell conspired with Chicago developer Herbert Greenwald to produce a model of economic, ecological, and social sustainability in the context of Detroit's long-planned obsolescence and ultimate entropic decay. Hilberseimer's planning project for Lafayette Park offers an example of physical planning