must first of all believe in cities, their importance, and their value to human progress and culture. We must be urban-minded. In late years we have heard much about the evils of the city—of its being a breeding place for crime, juvenile delinquency, prostitution, disease, and, of course, traffic congestion. To leave the city and live outside it has become a goal; everything good and healthy has become sub-urbanite. To solve the problems of the cities, our earlier city plan-ners turned their backs to them. I should like to make a case for the city. We cannot deny that there is an American culture which is

Jaqueline Tyrwhitt, ca. 1950s.
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both civic and urban. The flowering of New England is inconceiv-able without Boston as a center. Had Philadelphia, Chicago, and San Francisco not become real cities—centers of culture and learning, as well as business centers—America would not be the great country it is today. Along with overcrowded slums and ruthless speculation, we have also inherited great centers of learning, museums, medical centers, entertainment centers, which are the result of an urban cul-ture. The younger generation in this country (perhaps resembling their grandparents rather than their parents) is less suburban-minded than its elders, as it has become aware that the uncontrolled sprawl of our communities only aggravates their problems, and that the so-lution lies in reshaping the city as a whole. The necessary process is not one of decentralization, but one of recentralization. I believe that there is going to be a reversal of trends in the coming years, as interest grows in the problems of the city proper. If we are going to coordi-nate all of our efforts toward these problems of making the city a bet-ter place in which to live, and if we do not want to make the central city simply a place of business or commerce or traffic movement, then we shall have to find in man and his needs and spiritual aspirations, the measure and guide to our designs. I should recommend that all of us concerned with the problems of urban design consider man as the center of this problem; that respect for all things human be taken