

alternative futures and more accessible ways to understand the data, planners are increasingly using digital software and visualizations to allow real-time explorations of the relationships between social, environmental, economic, and land-use data and built form proposals. Newer GIS-based programs, such as CommunityViz, allow walk-throughs of prospective environments where three-dimensional envelopes can be instantaneously related to an almost endless menu of planning criteria such as maximum vehicle trips allowed, optimal energy utilization, or desired tax streams. For the first time since the 1930s, planning, to communicate with the public, is becoming more form-based. With new visualization tools, planners are able to bypass the design professions at the conceptual stages of projects. It is just a matter of time before planners themselves are bypassed in this same regard by compulsive citizens who will insist on playing the virtual development and planning game, much as they already play *Sim City*. Still, the citizenry that is willing to manipulate the simulator will need active and ongoing support—in their support role the planning professional will play an expert role.

Even though they may no longer be the natural leaders for the initial conceptualization of planning ideas, as demands for visualization increase, architects and landscape architects, like planners, will also play key support roles in the New Planning. When it comes to the making of environments, professional designers will maintain a deeper knowledge and understanding of the relationships and differences between planning conceptualization and the actual craft and science of physical construction. Building, whether landscapes, structures, or cities, is not a visual activity alone, and the difference between amateur city makers and designers is that the amateurs rely more heavily on surface understandings of form. A continuing need will exist to integrate the knowledge and experience of licensed professionals with regard to building systems, sciences, codes, life-safety issues, and construction execution into the process of citizen-based generation of visual urban alternatives. While overlap exists between landscape architecture and architecture, each profession also has a specific history and legal responsibilities separate from planning or citizen processes, and as a result the design professions can maintain a clear and contributory role within the public planning process. What is not as clear is where this leaves urban design.

Urban design, as a perusal of most urban design curriculums at