

an enormous expansion in population size and territorial scope of urbanized regions, well beyond the old commuter confines of the modern metropolis. The polycentric and increasingly networked megacity-regions of the Pearl River Delta, greater Shanghai, and southern Honshu, for example, each contain at least fifty million people, many times more than the largest metropolis in 1956. Another stunning statistic reflecting the expansion of regional urbanism is the fact that the majority of the world's population now lives in just four hundred global city-regions of more than one million inhabitants.

The unbounding of the modern metropolis has also been taking place within the city-region, especially with respect to the once fairly clear border between the city and the suburb. What dominated the urban visions in 1956 and has continued to the present for many urban observers has been a view of the modern metropolis as consisting of two distinct worlds. The dominant central city represented urbanism as a way of life, filled with excitement, heterogeneity, culture and entertainment, skyscrapers, and industry, as well as crime, grittiness, drugs, and poverty. In contrast, there was suburbia, with its uniformity, open spaces, detached homes, automobile-based lifestyles, relative boredom, soccer moms, commuting breadwinners, culs-de-sac, and such political and cultural power as to define the United States (*pace* Duany) as a “suburban nation.” Over the past half century, however, there has been an extraordinary intermixture of these two worlds, creating a growing recognition that traditional definitions of the city and urban-suburban life need a major rethinking.

A key feature of mass regional urbanization has been the still expanding and almost entirely unexpected *urbanization of suburbia*, the transformation of dormitory suburbs into new outer cities, filled with (almost) everything traditionally associated with old central cities, including more jobs than bedrooms. Again, Los Angeles provides a clear example. Today, three or four of these outer cities surround the City of Los Angeles, the largest and in a way the oldest (perhaps in the entire United States) being Orange County, where nearly three million people live in an amorphous cluster of more than twenty municipalities of significant size. Nowhere in this cluster of “postsuburban” cities can one find what looks very much like a traditional downtown nucleus, but in almost every other way these dense clusters are cities or city-regions and must be treated as such.

As a result of these changes, the once classic suburbia of Los Angeles, against all expectations, is now more densely urbanized than