

the new opportunities to promote more democratic, multicultural, and socially and spatially just city-building processes.

That the urban designers of fifty years ago had almost no inkling of what was going to happen in the 1960s, when cities exploded with frustration over failures to deal with rising poverty and inequality, can be easily understood. That so many urban designers today, often with the best of intentions, are ignoring much of what has been happening to cities over the past five decades, is unforgivable, especially given the new urban explosions that are arising from growing urban, regional, and global tensions, such as the Justice Riots in Los Angeles in 1992, the antiglobalization uprisings in Seattle and Genoa, and the epochal tragedies of September 11 and the Iraq War. In the end, I can only repeat an earlier conclusion. If the city-building professions today, and urban design in particular, are to respond effectively to the urban problems of our times, they must address the actual new urbanism rather than some well-meaning simulacrum of it.