

was a colonial outpost well prior to the oil boom and massive civil strife; Detroit and St. Louis were relatively healthy industrial American cities; and the small towns of Italy's internal areas were almost uniformly backward, agricultural, and poor.

Another consequence of this variegation of relatively distinct, though shifting, urban circumstances is that they probably call for new and different frameworks and technical skills to enable design understanding. For instance, nongrowth, declining, and even negative rates of urbanization, with both a relative abundance and paucity of means, to be found in contemporary well-developed as well as underdeveloped urban circumstances, are significantly different conditions and trajectories than planners and designers were used to dealing with in much of the twentieth century. Coupled with this reversal of direction comes a greater emphasis on adaptation, reuse, and conservation of existing circumstances, which, in turn, often raises more pointed issues about cultural authenticity. Then, too, there are scales and forms of spatial organization that do not necessarily follow from accepted, usually Western or Westernized canons. Here, for instance, the absence of the usual "middle grounds" within the organic, self-similar contemporary patterns of urban assemblage in East Asia immediately come to mind. More anthropologically, manners of both requiring and rendering "community and privacy," "proprietary *versus* indiscriminate use," "ownership and usufruct" also can vary considerably, with very real and immediate ramifications for both planning and designing. In addition, massive scales of urban throughput, now being experienced in Asia if not elsewhere in the developing world, probably outstrip counterpart episodes at other times and in other places and, if nothing else, raise very real questions about the sufficiency of overarching frameworks—usually exogenously determined through "master," "strategic," or "framework" plans of some sort—and about indigenous, more familiar patterns of urban construction. In fact, judging from experience, there is often a fine line between overdetermination and subsequent economic underdevelopment and the reverse: underdetermination resulting in a free-for-all with downwardly spiraling environmental effects. Also, there is the contemporary if not earlier issue of the leftover spaces in-between, often married to infrastructure and land form, which seems to remain largely unresolved, despite poetic efforts ranging from Christopher Tunnard's pioneering work to recent landscape urbanism, and so the list could go on. To be sure, basic urban planning