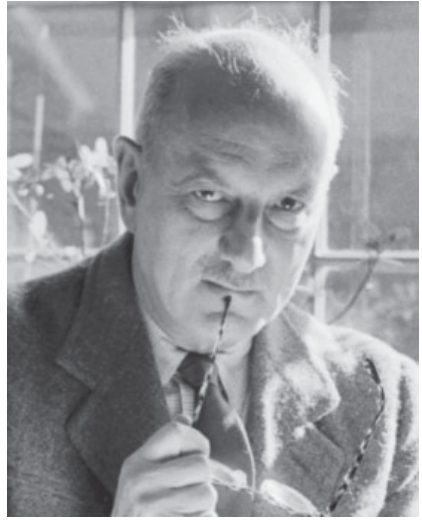


Lewis Mumford, December 1957.
Photograph from Bettman/Corbis.



population is middle income, like Stuyvesant Town, or low income, like East Harlem. Do you see what this means? Some very important sides of city life, much of the charm, the creative social activity, and the vitality shift over to the old vestigial areas because there is literally no place for them in the new scheme of things. This is a ludicrous situation, and it ought to give planners the shivers. There are degrees to which all this can be better or worse. Putting in shopping centers, defining neighborhood units in proper geographic and population scale, mixing income groups and types of housing, and being very sensitive about just where the bulldozers go are all basic. There is already thinking, if not much action, about these matters. I would like to add four suggestions. First, go back and look at some lively old parts of the city. Notice the tenement with the stoop and sidewalk and how that stoop and sidewalk belong to the people there. A living room is not a substitute; this is a different facility. Second, I think planners must become much more socially astute about the zoning of stores and the spotting of stores. Fortunately, in retail business, economic and social astuteness can make fine allies if given a chance. Third, architects must make the most out of such fortuitous social facilities as laundries, mailbox conglomerations, and the adult hang-outs at playgrounds. Much can be done to play up instead of play down the gregarious side of these seemingly trivial conveniences. Fourth, we need far more care with outdoor space. It is not enough that it lets in light and air. It is not enough that unallocated space serve as a sort of easel against which to display the fine art of the