

There is a wonderful space under Foster's Hongkong and Shanghai Bank in Hong Kong. The entry to the bank is at a higher level, and on a Sunday the belly under the bank becomes a huge picnic area for Filipino women. It's the kind of event that happens because of the condition of the space provided. Lots of retail interiors are also urban, including a great one in Singapore, Ngee Ann City, where again you find a subterranean square. So the distinction between the urban and the architectural handicaps us in planning or anticipating these interiors that are more urban than architectural.

SAUNDERS: What is the common ground of these places? In other words, what do you mean by *urban*?

MOUSSAVI: The urban is the space that allows for collective expression, for places where gatherings can happen that wouldn't otherwise happen, that don't cater only to the individual.

MARGARET CRAWFORD: I think it's really important to talk about actual urban circumstances and redefine urban design based on the way it's working in the world, not the approach of the Spring/Summer 2006 issue of *Harvard Design Magazine*, which is a narrowing down to the history of urban design, instead of opening up to the ways people are using urban space, self-consciously designed or not. Farshid is challenging the boundaries between architecture and urban design, putting more emphasis on architecture and the inside, productively challenging the categories of inside and outside, public and private.

SAUNDERS: We've started to define urban places as places that draw large numbers of people of diverse kinds into pleasurable proximity and activity.

MOUSSAVI: Lots of spaces designed to be urban are in fact very empty. My examples are less intentionally designed for collective spectacle, but they are highly alluring. What we need to determine is what makes them alluring. Is it because their premises are not as rigidly defined as the premises with which we conventionally design, which may limit their free and creative use? I love the Turbine Hall because the public has free access to it. You can get in all London museums for free. This sets up art and culture in a fundamentally different way than do most museums in America.