

MOUSSAVI: If design is to be an effective tool, it should not be introduced as a contingency. It has to be tied to the processes that belong to the urban—the social, political, economic, and digital—to produce a condition in which these transversal connections can become part of a design process. In academia, you can isolate landscape, planning, urban design, and architecture to develop expertise, but in reality they are connected, and it's important to make sure there is a common ground between them so one can bring them together. Architects practice with an operating system—AutoCAD, for example—that links the engineer to the architect to the contractor, etc., so that building is a single process. GSD departments (probably not unlike other schools with departmental divisions) seem to lack a common medium. The disciplines are taught quite differently; there is not enough convergence. So if you get a student from landscape coming to study in architecture, it's difficult to integrate them; they are not fully equipped to understand and work effectively in the other area, yet this ability is very important.

KRIEGER: You're restating Sert's objective of bridging the disciplines. His hope was precisely that through urban-minded thinking separated disciplines could be brought together. It does happen sometime; maybe it happened at Emscher Park. But if you believe that urban design is the singular agent through which the urban is produced, you're off track. Even the lonely bureaucrat keeping the gentrification of Central Square from tipping the balance to . . .

CRAWFORD: It's more market forces affecting that balance.

KRIEGER: No, you're discrediting the Cambridge Department of Housing and Urban Development, which is trying hard to not overwhelm Central Square with what happened in Harvard Square. Can we identify a few of the things that people calling themselves "urban designers" can do to produce urbanism?

CRAWFORD: I've spent time in the archives looking at the Urban Design Conferences at Harvard in the 1950s and 1960s, and how these formed urban design. I don't see those as having been useful. The attempt to make urban design an arena that these disciplines come together in to produce urbanism was actually Sert's territory grab more than his idealistic dream. In the first conferences Jane Jacobs, Lewis