



Jerzy Soltan, 1960.
From *The Struggle for Modernism*, by Anthony Alofsin. Photograph by Peter Papesch.

mentality; third, politics—that is, the elected officials making decisions based on the strongest pressure interests rather than on technical or professional judgments; fourth the “frontier mentality”; fifth (which underlies all of these) is the basic lack of cultural framework for urban design; sixth, the lack of traditional professional involvement in urban design (this is criticizing the AIA and AIP for not having come forward to take a strong stand on this issue as professional groups); last, and most important, the lack of mechanics for coordinating three-dimensional planning at the urban design level.

EDMUND N. BACON: The action of the Congress of the United States in appropriating one billion dollars to create a new urban environment places on all of us a responsibility we cannot duck. The question is: after we have so painfully cleared away the old environment, dislocating hundreds of thousands of families, and after we have spent our billion dollars, will the new environment that we create be worth the effort? When we look at our preparation for urban design both in terms of concepts and people, we must pause with some concern. We have the three principals: planning, architecture, and administration. What we lack is the capacity to function as a whole. Architects have fashioned almost the entire extent of their resources on the designing of individual buildings. The planners have tended to confine their efforts to the creation of broad and unmaterial concepts such as zoning, land-use control, density standards, and criteria. The administrators and policy makers, who really set the basic form of the urban environment, commonly regard the architectural aspect as something you purchase at the end. . . . I think we should admit that most of our efforts so far, in individual projects, have touched only a tiny portion of the total problem of blight. My proposition is that we use the greater part of the next half billion to create a disbursed series of open-space nuclei and greenways evenly distributed through-