

# The Emergence of Urban Design in the Breakup of CIAM

**Eric Mumford**

The development of urban design at Harvard in the 1950s and the Team 10 challenge to CIAM (Congrès Internationaux d'Architecture Moderne, 1928–56) are usually thought of as separate phenomena, the first often seen as mainly an academic exercise whose actual built outcomes remain unclear, the second the beginning of a major cultural shift that led directly into Pop Art and the countercultures of the 1960s. Although urban design still exists as a discipline whose exact content is continuously being redefined, it is Team 10, which ceased meeting in 1981, whose history has attracted the attention of scholars.

With glamorous European protagonists such as the Smithsons and Aldo van Eyck, Team 10 undoubtedly offers a more alluring subject of study. The history of urban design at Harvard is another story. While some of its chief proponents are well-known, in the American context figures like José Luis Sert (1901–83) and Sigfried Giedion (1893–1968) are often thought of as having made their most important contributions to architecture before the Second World War. Their Harvard activities may now seem to be of interest only to biographers and former students and colleagues. Yet an examination of the ideas about urban design put forward by Sert, arguably the field's "founding father," makes it clear that the seemingly divergent contexts in which both urban design and