

In these activities in the 1940s of Sert and Giedion, inspired in a general way by the work of Le Corbusier and perhaps by that of the Saarinens as well, a new approach to the architectural design of central cities was developed. At CIAM 7, held in Bergamo, Italy, in 1949, Sert, as CIAM's president, opened the event by comparing the "human scale" of Bergamo, the historic medieval city where the Congress was held, with that of "great modern cities, victims of the chaos resulting from their disorderly development and lack of planning." He defined the work of CIAM as the result of a "spirit of revolt" against this situation, which went along with an effort "to correct the confusion that reigns in the domain of architecture and urbanism."<sup>15</sup> In spring 1950 Sert and Wiener persuaded Le Corbusier to agree to the "Heart of the City" theme for the next CIAM, to be held in 1951. At the time all three were working on the Bogotá Master Plan.<sup>16</sup> Le Corbusier had already recommended that the British CIAM group, MARS (Modern Architectural Research Group), be the hosts for this congress, and under Jaqueline Tyrwhitt's guidance,<sup>17</sup> MARS then organized CIAM 8, held near London in July 1951, on "The Heart of the City."

In the unpublished version of Sert's CIAM 8 opening address, which differs from the more well-known published version, he observed that "the majority of people in the cities have gone suburban," corresponding to "the trend of decentralization in cities."<sup>18</sup> Therefore, "if we want to do something with our cities we have again to talk in civic and urban terms." For Sert, the only "real advantage of living in a city" is "to get man together with man, and to get people to exchange ideas and be able to discuss them freely." In the emerging suburbs, "news, or information, or vision, or images" comes from television (which had just become widely available in 1950) or radio; therefore "one sees what one is shown and hears what one is told." Sert found this "terribly dangerous," since in the future "the people in the suburbs would only see and hear" what those in control of the media would "want them to see and hear," interfering "very directly with our choice, and our freedom, of selecting one thing from another."

Since "the city has become a terribly over-extended monstrosity," his goal was for CIAM to establish a "network of cores" to recentralize large urban areas around pedestrian centers to bring people together. These cores, he believed, would allow for public gathering and discussion, to "talk on all the things that are extremely important for