

Western Europeans. Instead of the CIAM “four functions” of dwelling, work, transportation, and recreation, the Smithsons proposed an environmentally determined set of conditions to organize the comparative analysis of CIAM projects, ranging from the isolated house in the country to large projects in a dense urban environment.²⁸ Sert, Giedion, and Tyrwhitt responded to the Team 10 challenge to CIAM by further developing the concept of “urban design” at Harvard, establishing an internationalist urban direction that they seem to have kept separate from a CIAM membership increasingly influenced by Team 10 concepts in Europe.

In 1954 Sert had also asked Giedion to oversee his effort to teach more history at the GSD. The first appearance of the phrase *urban design* there seems to have been in Giedion’s History of Urban Design course in fall 1954, which was probably a further reworking of his Yale and MIT “civic centers” seminars and the material covered by his “Historical Background of the Core” lecture at CIAM 8.²⁹ Its approach was very likely related to Giedion’s writings from this time, in which he both reiterated the social need for civic centers and situated them within a historical genealogy extending back to antiquity. In his article “Space and the Elements of the Renaissance City,” Giedion emphasized how the Renaissance had mastered the shaping of urban space, exemplified by Michelangelo’s redesign of the Campidoglio in Rome.³⁰ In another essay, “The Humanization of Urban Life,” Giedion traced the development of the link between the “social and esthetic aspects of the housing movement” from Holland in 1919 to Le Corbusier’s Unité in Marseilles, which he called “as much a contribution to urban design as it is an agglomeration of family dwellings.” He then urged a “second stage of contemporary architecture” that would focus on the “humanization of urban life,” a synthesis of Corbusian housing types and pedestrian-centered urban public spaces such as those demonstrated in Sert and Wiener’s Latin American town centers such as Chimbote, Peru.³¹ In returning in his conclusion to the example of Michelangelo’s Campidoglio, a project Giedion saw as exemplifying civic democracy in its form but built by an autocratic regime, Giedion may have recognized a certain emerging contradiction between the social intentions of the new CIAM direction that was attempting to design a pedestrian-based urban framework for democracy and the actualities of the postwar world.

Once at Harvard, however, such doubts were put aside as Sert and Giedion began to create a basis for the new discipline of urban design.