



From *Can Our Cities Survive?* by José Luis Sert.

Sert's old life in Europe and his new life in the United States, which began in 1939. Within the text we see glimpses of budding ideas that would later flower and form the basis for his urban design teaching and practice. Throughout 250 pages, Sert lays out the CIAM conception of the urban problem, breaking the city into a series of discrete problem categories—dwelling, recreation, work, transportation, and large-scale planning—and clear solutions. Nothing seems to have changed in fifty years.

Even if some of us believe that we have *the* solution, why is it that the rest of society refuses to listen to us? We are the experts, after all. There must be something wrong with the rest of them, those poor wretches who prefer their cars and their suburban homes—they are all in need of education!

We see the emergence over fifty years ago of this attitude within the design professions. What Hudnut sees in *Can Our Cities Survive?* is fundamental to the faith that design professionals could claim an intellectual and practical territory—with the same authority as science—over the growth and form of cities. The *new faith*, as Hudnut referred to it, was really confidence in design's ability to influence fundamental