

of the conference as a way to see if there was a broad set of principles around which urban design might be founded. Faculty notes from the dean's archive from the period make it clear that Sert already intended on starting an urban design program at Harvard and was keen to see if there was a broad appeal to the idea among those architects, planners, and landscape architects practicing at the time.

The conference announcement invited the participants to explore “the role of the planner, architect, and landscape architect in the design and development of cities.”¹¹ In attendance were architecture professor Robert Geddes, mayor of Pittsburgh David Lawrence, Philadelphia planner Edmund Bacon, GSD professor Eduard Sekler, Dean José Luis Sert, Modernist architect and University of Michigan professor William Muschenheim, landscape architect Garrett Eckbo, architect Richard Neutra, city planner Charles Eliot, landscape architect Hideo Sasaki, Cincinnati planner Ladislav Segoe, policy intellectual and writer Charles Abrams, painter, designer, author, and founder/director of MIT's Center for Advanced Visual Studies Gyorgy Kepes, MIT professor of urban studies Lloyd Rodwin, MIT social scientist Frederick Adams, Harvard Law School professor Charles Haar, GSD professor and British landscape architect and city planner Jaqueline Tyrwhitt, mall-designer Victor Gruen, Lewis Mumford, Jane Jacobs (then an associate editor with *Architectural Forum*), and other notables. Extracts from conference speeches, published in *Progressive Architecture*, form the basis for the reflections here.¹² The extracts were carefully chosen and ordered by Jaqueline Tyrwhitt from taped presentations and notes.¹³ Despite the fact that there were thirteen urban design conferences, it was only the first that partially made its way into print. In looking at the original material in the Harvard archives, one gets a sense that Tyrwhitt was gifted in bringing a sense of commonality to a set of quite disparate discussions. The material that we read in *Progressive Architecture* is crafted to creating the momentum that Sert needed to forge ahead with his plans for the urban design program.

In his opening remarks, Sert articulates one of his primary concerns—the development of a “common ground” within the professions that requires professions to play unheroic roles:

Each of them [architecture, landscape architecture, road engineering, and city planning] is trying to establish a new set of principles and a new language of forms, but it also seems logical now that *synthesis* or *reunion* of progress in the different professions *be brought*