



Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, Lake Meadows and Prairie Shores housing projects, Chicago, Illinois, March 1966. Photograph from Bettman/Corbis.

States, social, political, and economic concerns outweighed any emphasis on form or aesthetics.

Overall, there was a tendency for the later conferences to become more abstract and general, perhaps as a reflection of one of urban design's inherent qualities—the elusiveness of its definition. The ninth (1965) and tenth (1966) conferences dealt with design education. The tenth again raised the issue of urban design's definition. On the panel “Changing Educational Requirements in Architecture and Urban Design,” there was still significant debate about exactly what urban design was. Benjamin Thompson, then chair of the Department of Architecture at the GSD, described urban design as “large-scale architecture.” Roger Montgomery, professor of architecture at Washington University, described it as “project-scale design.” Professors Serge Chermayeff and Jerzy Soltan, both from the GSD, stated in