

a joint declaration that “Architecture and Urban Design are but a single profession. Design is at the heart of these efforts.” Indeed, it certainly seems that Chermayeff and Soltan precisely articulate the emerging trajectory of urban design’s development within the school and perhaps in practice as well—as an extension of architecture, not something inherently different. Interestingly, Willo von Moltke, chairman of the Department of Urban Design at the GSD, in a move away from the other architectural definitions, stated that “Urban Design is not architecture. The function of urban design, its purpose and objective, is to give form and order to the future. As with the master plan, urban design provides a master program and master form for urban growth. It is primarily a collaborative effort involving other professions.”<sup>22</sup> It seems to me that in these two statements we see clearly the issue that urban design has yet to resolve, for while Chermayeff and Soltan clearly claim urban design as an extension of architecture, they fail to say *how* it is, and while von Moltke rejects their assertions, his own definition is likewise insufficient.

The last of the urban design conferences occurred in 1970. The conference was cosponsored by the GSD and the National Urban Coalition and dealt with the broad implications of mass-industrialized housing. This conference was strongly affected by significant changes in the life of the GSD as well as in American society at large. Maurice Kilbridge had replaced Sert as the dean of the GSD in 1969. The school was also undergoing social turbulence from an active student political movement, and the atmosphere of the conference was heavily politicized. Discussions of the nature of urban design had long given way to critiques of state and federal housing programs, and discussions about urban design as a disciplinary endeavor were displaced by what Sert had described as a “fog of amiable generalities.”

### The Enduring Problems of Definition and Role

In April 1957, the first issue of *Synthesis*, a journal published by GSD students to provide a platform for student views and work, appeared. It was devoted to urban design and included ten essays by students as well as faculty including Eckbo, Sasaki, Tyrwhitt, and planner William Goodman. Tyrwhitt’s “Definitions of Urban Design” recounts that shortly before Christmas in 1956, the editors of *Synthesis* wrote to thirty-two distinguished architects, landscape architects,