

aims at the creation of vibrant, desirable, and livable neighborhoods and town centers, integrated with their larger communities and preserving natural assets. In a world that too often seems enamored by the biggest or latest architectural trophy, this demands that urban designers focus on the well-being of inhabitants, on strengthening community, and on increasing civic engagement.

As I look out of my high window over the vast, variegated landscape of Shanghai, I look back with envy at the “frightful ills” of the city of 1956, and I wonder what future urban design can and will have as it engages with daunting new realities.

## Notes

1. José Lluís Sert, *Can Our Cities Survive? An ABC of Urban Problems, Their Analysis, Their Solutions; Based on the Proposals Formulated by the C.I.A.M., International Congresses for Modern Architecture, Congrès internationaux d'architecture moderne* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1942). Of the several common spellings of Sert's name, I am using the one in the proceedings of the First Urban Design Conference published in *Progressive Architecture* in 1956.

2. World Bank, 2006, [www.worldbank.org/urban/facts.html](http://www.worldbank.org/urban/facts.html).

3. Sert, *Can Our Cities Survive?* 229.

4. José Lluís Sert (1956a), Opening Remarks to the Urban Design Conference, April 9, 1956, Loeb Library, Graduate School of Design, Rare NAC 46 Harv 1956. Hereafter referred to as “Sert 1956a.”

5. Sert, *Can Our Cities Survive?* 222.

6. *Ibid.*, 224.

7. *Ibid.*, 234.

8. Jaqueline Tyrwhitt, José Lluís Sert, and Ernesto Rogers, eds., *The Heart of the City: Towards the Humanisation of Urban Life* (London: Humphries, 1952).

9. Sert, “Centres of Community Life,” in *The Heart of the City*, ed. Tyrwhitt, Sert, and Rogers, 3.

10. *Ibid.*, 11.

11. Urban Design Conferences, Proceedings of Spring 1956 Conference. Transcripts, Notes, etc. Harvard University Archive, 1956a, UA V 433.74, Subseries IIB, Box 19, containing transcripts from audiotapes, with notes from Tyrwhitt to Sert and drafts that Sert annotated. Hereafter referred to as “Harvard University Archive, 1956a.”

12. “Urban Design,” *Progressive Architecture*, August 1956, 97–112.

13. Harvard University Archive, 1956a.