

Feuille internationale d'architecture

Secrétariat :

24, rue des Fontaines, Sèvres

Tél. 566.52.00 Poste 1279

Directeur : A. Schimmerling

Comité de rédaction :

E. Aujame • J.B. Bakéma • G. Gandilis •

D. Cheron • D. Cresswell • J. Decap •

P. Fouquey • S. Girardot • Y. Schein •

P. Grosbois • L. Hervé • A. Josic •

A. Schimmerling • S. Woods •

3. 1970

urbanisme et échelle humaine dans l'environnement contribution au séminaire d'Helsinki

New ideas on urbanism in the U.S.

Alex Tzonis

Commentary

Jim Morey

Concepts central to the new city

Donald and Marja Watson
Alex Tzonis

Project for the new town of Espoo(Finland)

Donald Watson

Searching for ourselves in the ruins

Michael Mostoller

Architecture, politics and systems

C. George Benello

On meta-planning (extracts)

André Schimmerling

Traduction française, actualités

Prix de l'abonnement annuel : 20 F

Le numéro : 5 F

C. C. P. Paris 10.469-54

Collaborateurs :

Roger Aujame, Elie Azagury, Sven Backstrom,

Aulis Blomstedt, Lennart,

Bergstrom, Giancarlo de Carlo,

Eero Eerikainen, Ralph Erskine,

Sverre Fehn, Oscar Hansen,

Arne Jacobsen, Reuben Lane,

Henning Larsen, Sven Ivar Lind,

Ake E. Lindquist, Charles Polonyi,

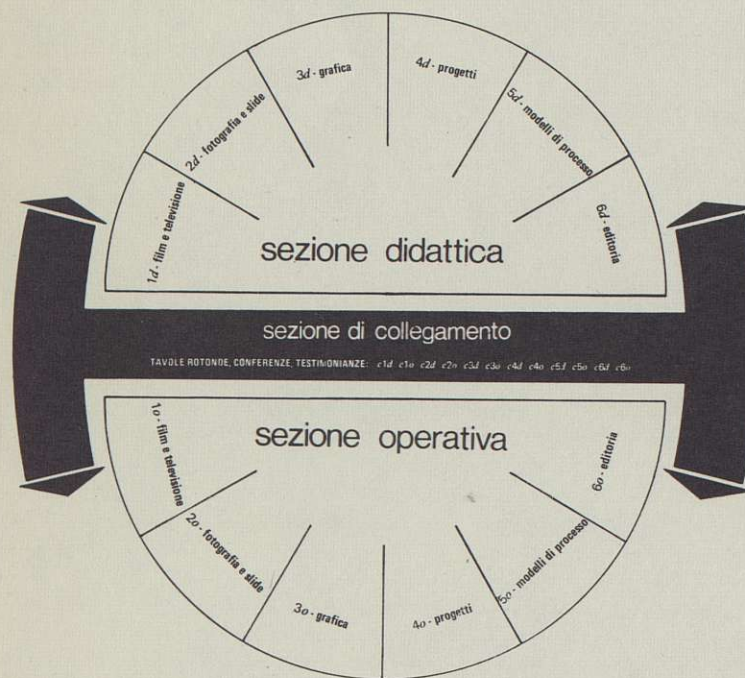
Keijo Petaja, Reima Pietila,

Aarno Ruusuvuori, Jorn Utzon,

A. Tzonis, Georg Varhelyi.

actualités

"A symposium on the means to improve quality in the realm of built environment will be held in HELSINKI between August 25 and September 4 this year. The meeting has been prepared by a special committee of the Association of the Finnish architects. Participants may obtain further information by writing to "Arkkitehtiiliitto, Bulevardi, HELSINKI."



Biennale internationale sur la méthodologie globale de la planification
physique et sur les formes de l'environnement humain
Rimini 20-30 septembre 1970

Les disciplines représentées au colloque
 Cette réunion est destinée à mettre en évidence le rôle des techniques de
 communication et d'information dans la création du milieu construit
Informations : Rimini – Palais des Congrès

SEMINAIRE SUR L'ARCHITECTURE, L'URBANISME ET LE DESIGN FINLANDAIS A HELSINKI

L'Association des Architectes Finlandais (SAFA) organise pour la seconde fois un séminaire sur l'architecture et l'urbanisme finlandais à l'intention des architectes, des urbanistes ou des personnes ayant une responsabilité dans la planification urbaine.

Ce séminaire se déroulera à Helsinki du 24 août au 4 septembre 1970 et aura pour thème principal la question "l'Urbanisme est-il une destruction organisée ?" qui s'insère dans le cadre du programme de l'année consacrée par l'Unesco à l'homme et son environnement.

La langue utilisée est l'anglais. Aucun droit d'inscription n'est exigé, mais les participants doivent prendre eux-mêmes en charge les frais de séjour. Le nombre des participants sera d'environ 50.

Aux mêmes dates, l'Association de l'Art Industriel Finalandais ORNAMO organise également un séminaire à Helsinki. Pour les deux séminaires, il y aura trois colloques communs sur les thèmes suivants : " Industrialisation et Aménagement du Territoire ", " Protection de la Nature et Urbanisme ", " Priorités et alternatives d'une économie planifiée "

Les horaires des conférences et discussions sont établis de sorte que les intéressés pourront participer aux deux séminaires à la fois. De nombreuses visites et excursions sont prévues dans le cadre de ces deux rencontres. Pour tout renseignement complémentaire, s'adresser à l'Association des Architectes Finlandais, Madame Riitta Skogström, Unioninkatu 30, Helsinki 10, Finlande.

SEMINAIRE SUR L'ARCHITECTURE ET L'URBANISME FINLANDAIS

Thèmes L'Urbanisme est-il une Destruction Organisée ?

Durée : 24 août - 4 septembre 1970

Lieu : Institut des Arts Industriels Ateneum, Kaivokatu 2 - 4, Helsinki, Finlande

Directeur du Séminaire : M. Egil Nordin, architecte
Secrétaire : Riitta Skogström, Association des Architectes Finlandais,
Unioninkatu 30, Helsinki 10, tél. 13 616

Programme préliminaire

Conférences et discussions sur les thèmes suivants :

- Répartition des centres urbains.
- Possibilités d'évaluer le volume de la circulation.
- Possibilités des citoyens de participer à une planification démocratique.
- Planification : replanification.

En guise d'introduction

Nous devons le présent numéro à notre correspondant aux Etats-Unis, Alex TZONIS, professeur à la Graduate School of Design de Harvard, qui s'est chargé de réunir les documents sur une approche nouvelle qui fait jour aux Etats-Unis et dont il est lui-même animateur. Depuis peu, cette tendance s'est cristallisée autour de la "Cambridge Institute" organisme réunissant des architectes, urbanistes, sociologues et économistes en vue d'une étude critique des milieux urbains. Ce groupe est également à l'origine d'une proposition pour une ville nouvelle dans le Connecticut, proposition qui tranche fondamentalement avec les études et projets courants aux U.S.A. Deux essais du numéro présent sont consacrés à cette initiative.

Nous avons opté dans ce numéro spécial de présenter les textes dans leur langue d'origine, c'est-à-dire l'anglais, et nous nous bornons à en résumer les idées directrices en français.

The present number was prepared by our American correspondent Alex Tzonis of the Graduate School of Design, Harvard. Several members of the recently formed "Cambridge Institute" have also contributed to this issue. Because of the length of the texts, we have decided exceptionally to publish this number in English with French résumés.

commentary

There is a common trend in the essays and projects that are included in this issue of C.B. which one can call neo-romantic. Like the romantics, the authors, most of them Americans, belong to a generation that tried to oppose the destructive processes of the technological state.

But while the romantic movement was more concerned with the "natural" condition of man as it was endangered by the upcoming bourgeoisie, the "new romantics" are concerned with the fact that technocrats, bureaucrats and financiers are steadily destroying the "urban" condition of man. The "urban" in that case should be considered as a synonym of "communal." Thus the designed environment is increasingly poorer in terms of its ability to sustain human contact physically, psychologically, or socially, a fundamental need. (In this issue the authors do not go beyond the phenomenon to analyse its causes.) Several designers relied on traditional means, that proved to be ineffectual or negative — visual configurations that had a "sense of place" and the authoritarian arbitrary assignment of places for "communal" activities.

One can disassociate the contributors in this issue and their investigations from the mainstream of traditional Modern Architecture. There are more common concerns to be found in the humanistic ideas of Lewis Mumford, Serge Chermayeff, Jane Jacobs (*Death and Life of Great American Cities*) or Arthur Glikson (see "Carre Blue" issues). The approach to the environment not as an object (no matter how excellent) but as a container of life. Beyond this general ground of agreement, the positions that are demonstrated by the contributors of this issue vary.

The Espoo project accepts that technology, appropriately applied, is able to create a humane environment supporting community. Its organisation carries several of the concepts that were proposed by Giancarlo de Carlo in the Dublin University competition and Shadrach Woods in the Frankfurt Center and the Berlin Free University (see Carre Blue issues no. 3/69, 1/64).

The project relies on the hypothesis of the conversion of technological means through a more rational approach to comply with humanistic ends. A similar position, is accepted by Donald Watson in relation to modern methodologies of design as well.

On the other hand there is a growing opposition to the idea of neutral technology and its ability to convert from its present practices. It is feared that such means as long as they operate within the existing power structure are achieving only the further concentration of power to a minority and not the improvement of the human condition. In actuality technology offers minor reliefs in return for major massacres. Professor Mostoller's paper and the proposal for a New Town in Vermont are derived from such a position.

There is a general acceptance that the professional responsibility of the designer should be to maximise the options of the user, limiting the traditional totalitarian position of the architect. But one feels such a position cannot have positive effects unless the contradictions between powerful and powerless, decision makers and the majority of the people, disappear, unless designers and users identify with the same community of objectives.

Alex Tzonis

Cambridge, Spring 1970

Jim Morey concepts central to the new city

There are two major distinguishing features of the New City we are proposing. There is, first, the characteristics we envision for the prevailing social, political, and economic institutions of the City, once developed. Second, there is the process of development itself. In both cases, what we are proposing differs radically from what now exists in cities and their ongoing development and what exists in most current planning with regard to new cities.

A. Institutional and Other Structural Characteristics

1. Community Ownership

The City will be owned by its residents in various collective arrangements in place of individual private ownership of homes, businesses, or automobiles. The precise cut-off point at which personal ownership will apply must still be determined; for clothes it's very likely but for major household appliances, possibly not. In some cases forms of communal housing may result naturally in appliances and most other furniture being jointly owned by small groups of families and individuals. In other housing arrangements, private ownership (or maybe leasing) of furniture may be the case. The overall institution for economic development will be the Community Development Corporation. The CDC will be non-profit and all residents above a certain age (16 possibly) will be able, and encouraged, to be members and participate in its policy formation and other decisions and activities. Individual economic enterprises, whether services or production of goods for export or internal consumption, will be organized as subsidiaries of the CDC. When surpluses are generated, they will be distributed in some proportion among the CDC for community-wide purposes, the local neighborhood unit in which it's located for social services, or other purposes, the enterprise creating the surplus, and possibly the workers as individuals.

2. Decentralized Participatory Institutions

As with the economic institutions just described, the social and political institutions will also be based on decentralization and broad participation of residents. To the greatest extent possible, municipal functions and neighborhood social services will be planned and carried out through "volunteerism" rather than by full-time bureaucrats. Most decentralized decision-making bodies will be open to the direct participation of those who wish to do so, provided they accept the obligation of being informed and of sharing in the work required to achieve the purposes of the body. In this case, it may be expected that participation will increase whenever the actions of a body displease a significant number of people affected by them. It will not be necessary for residents to establish the legitimacy of their right to participate in decision-making. In some cases, certain decisions may require affirmation by a majority or more of the residents of an area, the clientele of an institution, or the members of an organization. Such activities as day-care centers, nursery schools, and elementary schools, for example, will be developed and administered at the neighborhood level.

To the degree that neighborhood-based subsidiaries of the CDC provide either direct services or surpluses for acquiring neighborhood services, municipal functions will be reduced in

magnitude and scope. Certain city-wide services may also be performed by CDC subsidiaries. As a result, the usual split between the private and public sectors will be significantly altered.

3. Economic Autonomy

No existing cities in the United States have an explicit policy of maximizing their autonomy from the rest of the national economy. **That is the aim, however, of the New City.** Doing so will yield fewer dependent relations upon prevailing national economic structures and practices. Such relations limit the ability of the New City economy to structure itself differently. They also carry with them a vulnerability to economic reprisals from outside at a time when the differing economic and political organization of the New City may be perceived as a threat, however mild. This relative autonomy, and the consequent low level of exports, will also limit the degree to which the New City establishes exploitative relations with those living elsewhere. Finally, it will also help isolate the New City from the external price structure, thereby providing an adequate standard of living among its residents at a lower level of cash income. The latter's occurrence will depend upon the degree to which the differing institutional arrangements yield significant internal economies. As other New Cities or existing neighborhoods adopt institutional arrangements similar to those of the New City, facilitative and non-exploitative trade relationship can be established with them. Various means of achieving economic autonomy and stability will be described later.

4. Education

Education will be a central function within the New City, both for its permanent residents and as an "export industry." As mentioned earlier, young children's education will be the decentralized responsibility of neighborhoods. For older children, education may be a city-wide function, as in the Parkway "school" in Philadelphia where children involve themselves in activities throughout the city and have no central facility or it may be organized as a decentralized activity of several adjacent or "kindred" neighborhoods. Continuing adult education, both intellectual and skill training, will receive great emphasis. The goal of all education, beyond that of small children, will be to integrate learning with doing. Wherever possible, the "doing" will entail engaging in normal, socially useful activities of the City and its institutions, economic, social, political and cultural. Closely related to this focus is the central role to be played by the Community Education Corporation, described below, in supporting developing neighborhoods, economic enterprises, social agencies, and other new institutions in an ongoing process of self-planning and implementation.

5. Composition of the Population

As an implementation problem, our desire to attain a diverse population promises to be difficult. We seek, however, to attract those who vary widely with respect to age, race and ethnicity, occupation, previous income level, and social and educational background. An attempt will be made to integrate the elderly more fully into the life of the community. Related to certain economic enterprises of social significance, special efforts will be made to integrate sizeable numbers of mentally ill, foster children, and handicapped persons into community life. As described below, continuing education and upgrading of skills will be provided to all residents, especially those previously limited in such opportunities.

B. The New City Development Process

1. The Planning Process

Traditionally, the planning of new cities, particularly the physical planning, has been accomplished by the developers prior to occupancy. The process is parallel, therefore, to that of private builders, who design and build houses and then offer for sale in the expectation that someone will find the pre-designed article acceptable, even pleasing. Because new city development has typically been based upon private capital and entrepreneurship, one might justify the developer's exercising the prerogatives of planning and design as key means of protecting his investment. And, of course, since the new residents are usually yet to be identified at the time design occurs, the arrangement has seemed natural enough, if not inevitable.

There are sound reasons to believe, however, that the social formation of a new city, as a cohesive community, would be greatly facilitated by an alternate arrangement, in which resident participation in the planning took place. We propose such an alternative. It will provide a means whereby the New City will indeed be planned by its future residents. The planning and design, moreover, will apply to both the New City's physical layout and characteristics and its detailed economic, social, and political structuring and institutions. It seems necessary to us, however, to **pre-design** the process whereby planning itself occurs. We shall call this pre-design process **meta-planning**. As the proceeding description shows, meta-planning is not value neutral. In fact, the meta-planning does and will embody our particular values as much, or more, than the subsequent planning of the New City itself will embody the residents' values. This seems inevitable. It has a parallel to the private builder's situation, as well. Presumably only those who find the values underlying the meta-plan tolerable, or even pleasing, will be willing to come to the New City to help plan and implement it and make it their home.

2. Staging the New City's Development

It seems necessary for the meta-planning group, (ourselves and others yet to join us) to select the site of the New City and to design and implement "**Interim Village**," in which new residents will first settle. While they engage in productive activities related to the overall planning and building of the city, they will also group themselves together with others to constitute those who will later live in the same neighborhood. Such groupings will then proceed to choose the site and develop a design for their future neighborhood — its physical layout, the housing, common facilities such as schools, and the social and political institutions. As a group, they will participate with other groups and the meta-planning group in developing and modifying (where still possible and desired) the overall physical, social, political, and economic design of the city.

The same individuals may participate in several planning groups concurrently, for example, groups involved in starting a new factory, a new school, and a new theatre, as well as their future neighborhood.

It is clear that the kind of participation in New City planning proposed here will take much time and energy of the residents. Though the long-term cohesive effects may be of great value, the immediate economic costs will be extremely high. It is essential that the financing plan and economic development plan for the New City provide for the short-term costs of participative planning and implementation.

3. The Community Education Corporation

As a whole, the diverse set of new residents will certainly not have the previous training and experience necessary to participate in the New City's physical and institutional planning. Without large amounts of assistance from those having such planning skills, the residents could not possibly make a go of it. One major function of the "CEC" is that of acting as "**advocate planners**" to the residents. City planners, architects, economists, civil and transportation engineers, and social planners of different varieties (for schools, recreational programs, cultural facilities, vocational training, libraries, municipal government, and so on) will be on the staff of the CEC. While assisting in the planning process, they will also be training "students," consisting of the residents involved in the planning as well as persons who wish to gain broad enough knowledge to become CEC staff and advocate planners.

The CEC will also serve as a training center for the full range of **implementation** skills required to build and operate the City: bull-dozer drivers, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, masons, plasterers, accountants, elementary teachers, and many, many more. The orientation toward "**volunteerism**" in place of municipal mandarins to provide social and other municipal services, will also

require an extensive training program. In all cases, the intellectual and skill training would center **on-the-job**, with classroom work going hand-in-hand with direct application.

The policies and governing of the CEC would derive from open participative structures similar to those of the CDC and its many subsidiaries. The distinction of "**teacher**" and "**student**" will not apply in the decision-making process and will not be prominent in the educational process either. Individuals would be encouraged to shift roles so that, for example, the teacher of accounting might be learning stone masonry from his "student," both in on-job settings. Another major function of the CEC will consist of doing the serious intellectual work related to the design, implementation, and operation of the New City, with its many innovative structures and institutions. The range of basic problems to be dealt with, if not "solved," is stragging. Sound practice will require sound underlying theory, much of which is still either non-existent or only poorly developed.

4. The "Politics" of the New City

Both a municipal and an external politics should be considered. The former relates to the way in which decision-making in the City and its sub-units is structured and how power of decision-making is distributed across the population. By shifting the economic organization drastically, through eliminating private ownership of the means of producing goods and services and of certain other property, a major traditional determinant of political power will be gone. To what degree will this determinant be displaced by others (e.g., the degree of one's technocratic skills) **which still lead to a concentrated distribution of political power**? The attempt to structure the City's institutions to maintain a widely dispersed distribution of political power will require consummate skill if it is to succeed over the long-run. Only **major shifts in the value structure** of most New City residents are apt to create such a success. Our understanding of how values change is still dim indeed.

The external politics of the New City are quite different. They relate to the New City's ability to get along successfully (achieving its goals) with the political entities it is forced to deal with in its country, state, region, and nation. This process will involve matters of external taxation, of tapping government programs which provide needed resources, and of retaining as much freedom of action as possible within the confines of the New City. On this level, the politics can hopefully remain "practical".

At the same time, there will be a level of politics which is much more ideological in nature. It will focus upon the sharp differences in political, economic, and social structure which will exist between the New City and the nation in which it is embedded. Without question, the "**establishment**" in these United States is **capable of fully encapsulating** a divergent development like the

New City (even though it is internally successful) unless plans are carefully laid and executed to prevent it. We propose to take strong initiatives in **communicating** to the rest of the society the principles of **social ownership and decentralized participative government underlying the New City**. A major channel for such communication will be through close ties with other institutions of higher education throughout the country. The intellectual output of the CEC must include analyses of the New City experience and its implications for the basic political, economic, and social reorganization of the United States. Exchange of students and teachers will undoubtedly be at least as effective as publications.

Another important means of politically proselytizing will consist of offering technical assistance to other new cities and established communities throughout the country which are interested in developing some or all of the same institutions and structures created within the New City. Taking initiative to establish strong, continuing economic and political ties with such communities will be equally important. Possibly the charter of the CDC itself should provide for allocating some or all of the city-wide surplus (beyond the U.S. average per capita income, for example) to the task of establishing other new cities based on the pattern developed within our own New City.

It is apparent that the aims of the **practical politics** and the **ideological politics** of the New City will often conflict with each other. It is essential, however, that both be carried on vigorously from a relatively early stage in the New City's development. If the result should be the dissolution of the New City through external political defeat (a not unlikely outcome), one must hope that an initial experience of internal success will have planted **the seeds of future efforts toward institutional change** patterned after the New City.

5. Recruitment and Selection of New City Residents

How do we establish who "we" (the growing group of meta-planners and then initial residents) want as new residents? How do we ascertain that those we want are seriously interested in the development of the New City along lines conceived in the meta-plan? How do we weed out those we don't want to accept initially or after they've entered? But, do we want to consider exclusion at all of those who've been accepted? Probably not. Do we want to exclude anyone at any point?

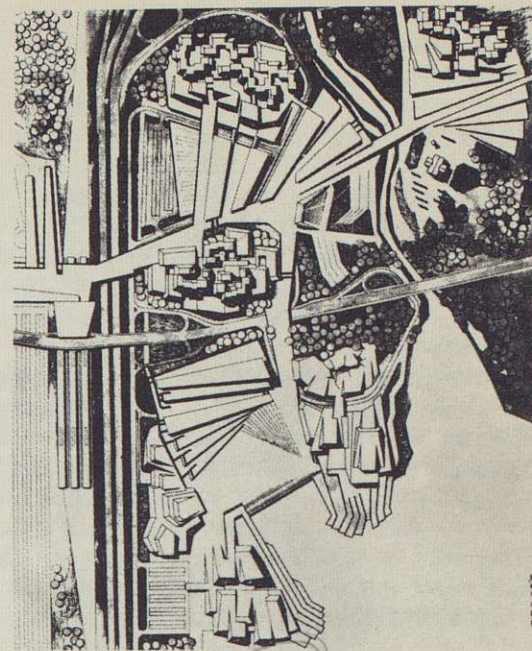
One approach to some of the problems just posed is for us to develop a statement of "conditions of entry" which specifies the principles which all persons are required to accept and practice if they are to enter and remain as New City residents. Such principles should include those which are centrally related to the basic structuring and institutions of the New City. Such principles might include, for example, the following:

- (a) No resident or other person shall own privately any real property or any economic enterprise within the New City.
- (b) No resident shall own a private automobile
- (c) No resident shall work gainfully outside of the New City without advance permission from the duly designated body within the New City; persons employed outside shall turn over all resulting income to the CDC and receive in return the standard income for a resident of his or her circumstances (age, marital status, etc.)

The problem of recruitment of new residents will be quite different. It will require an initial demonstration that the organizational and financial principles upon which the New City is based are sound. Once it is already in operation, it will be necessary to demonstrate that practice within the New City is sufficiently close to the stated principles, given the stage of planning and implementation and so on. Presumably one can make documentary films in which residents, including some who are similar in background to those you wish to attract, are given an opportunity to express their reaction to life in the New City. Such means will be most important for recruiting those who are not able financially to make a preliminary trip just to look around. In addition, written and, especially, word-of-mouth reports from those whom prospective residents trust will be crucial to recruiting efforts. One may also expect, eventually, to attract many desirable persons by virtue of the New City's having made the "right enemies" — those whose opposition will speak favorably for the New City's being "for real."

Providing of technical assistance to other communities, along New City lines, will also attract new recruits. The basic approach must be that of demonstrating by our existence and actions what we in the New City are about. This approach suggests that we should **not** spend time writing promotion materials **prior** to our having something underway. We should depend upon informal recruiting, principally through personal contacts of the meta-planning group, and not worry about those who can not yet believe in the reality of what we are attempting.

International competition for the center of Espoo, Finland
 First prize : Van Chmielewski, Janusz Kaubinski and Krzysztof (Varsovie) assistants J. Foka, S. Gzell and J. Cynke.
 5th prize ex aquo : Timo and Tuomo Suomalainen (Tapiola) assistants P et P Pürta, M. Kivelä, T. Arpalhti, T. Leppälä and J. Limme.



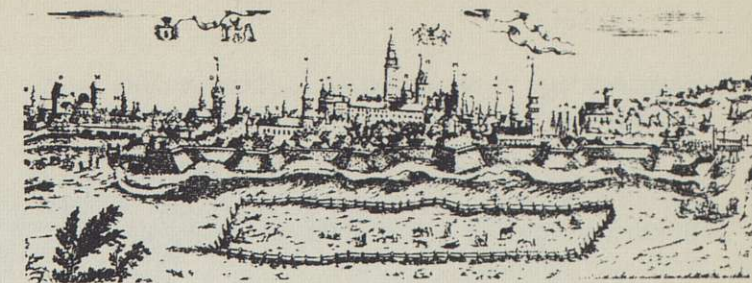
Alex Tzonis

commentary on the initial structure of Espoo

project of Donald and Marja Watson with Alex Tzonis,
 submitted to the International Competition for a Town Plan for
 Espoo, Finland (1961)

The Espoo river valley, crossing the competition area from
 northeast to southwest, is scenically and historically important.
 Location west of Helsinki 15 miles. Projected population 300.000
 (2.000 A.D.)

For details of the competition see "Arkkitehtuurikilpailuja",
 Journal Finnish Architecture Competitions. 1967-68 SAFA
 Helsinki, Finland.



The proposal for the Espoo New Town was developed from the
 following general objectives:

1. The maximization of human contact at all scales from the most intimate to the most communal.
2. The maximization of the balance mixture and variety of amenities, activities, and people throughout the urban fabric.
3. The minimization of conflict between amenities, activities, and people throughout the urban fabric.
4. The minimization of design controls imposed on the user.
5. The minimization of costs necessary for the satisfaction of the above objectives.

It was felt that such objectives could not be satisfied by any particular "visual" organization of the urban fabric, which could act as an unnecessary straight jacket on the user. We rejected the outdated hypothesis that the "sense of place" through visual organization alone has the power to generate desirable "events." We felt that this idea was violently of our time.

The specific design criteria that would implement the general objectives included:

- a. means of transportation achieved by maximizing the safety and continuity opportunities of the pedestrian paths.
- b. Uniform density throughout the whole urban fabric.
- c. Organization of transportation as a means to equalize opportunities for amenities and activities throughout the urban fabric. Mechanical movement is structured so as to equalize time and effort distances within the urban fabric. (The traditional solution, decentralizing activities throughout the urban fabric, so as to equalize opportunities across the urban fabric, resulted in a high degree of redundancy, repetition of services). Thus the configuration of the urban fabric — in a linear as concentric manner etc. — is irrelevant as a goal by itself as long as certain requirements concerning the structuring of time and effort distances are fulfilled through transportation.
- d. Rules of distribution of functions in space such that any service or activity which was considered to conflict with our objective of maximizing human contact was removed from the urban fabric.

1. consumed large pieces of land for few hours and few people.
 2. generated environmental by-products (pollution, noise, etc.) that could disturb human contact.
- e. Rules of microzoning would dictate how activities should be arranged within the urban fabric to satisfy our objectives. Activities were ranked within the following spectrum:

private — communal
 tranquil — active
 infrequent — frequent
 unipurpose — multipurpose

The

active
 frequent
 multipurpose

activities were considered spatially compatible. Since they should be most accessible to each other, they would tend to locate to the points where accessibility was maximized, e.g. paths, intersections, transit stops. Thus the traditional straight-jacket of zoning by function has been replaced by the flexible microzoning according to performance criteria of use.

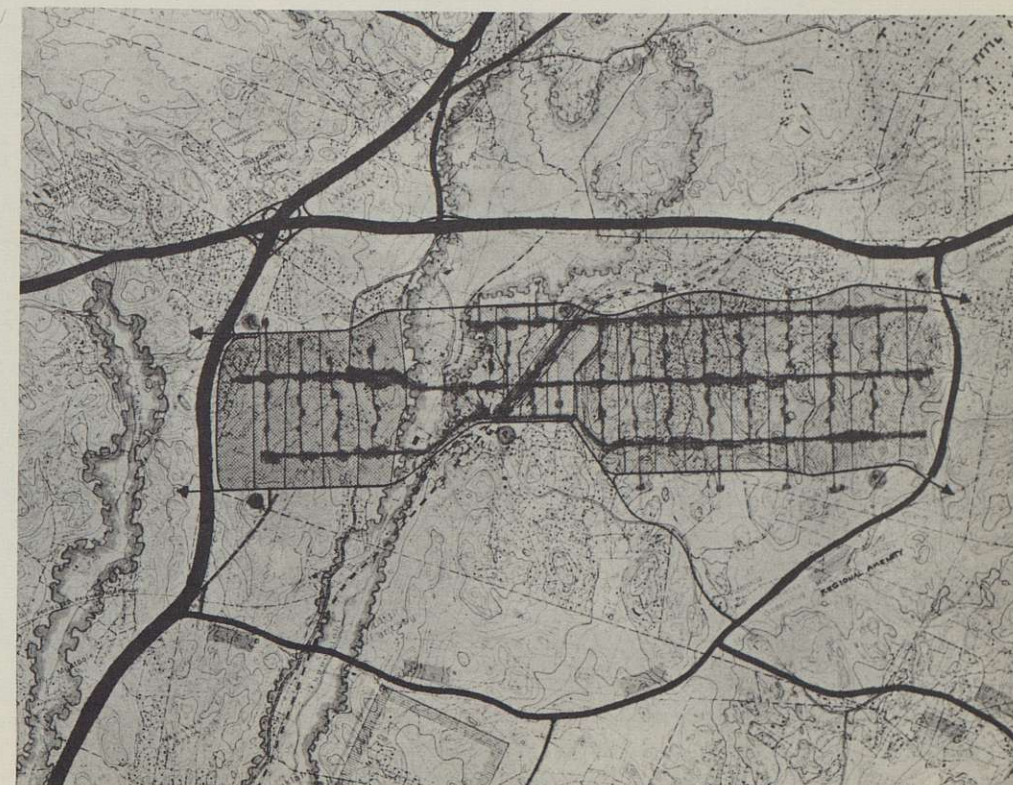
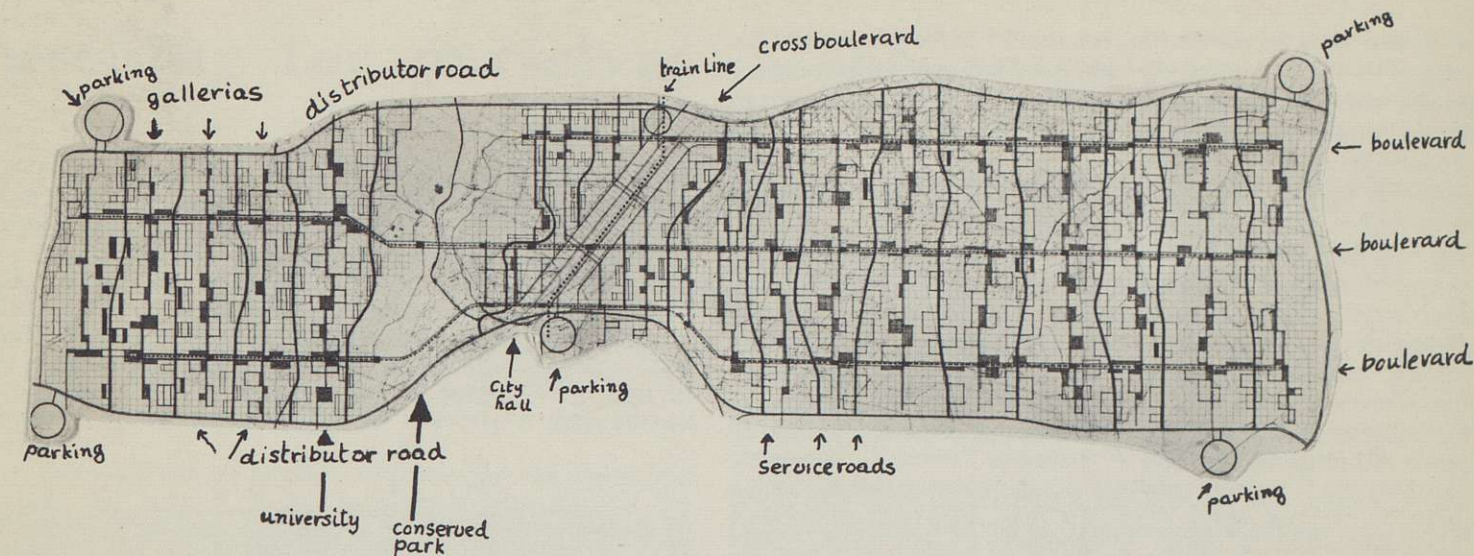
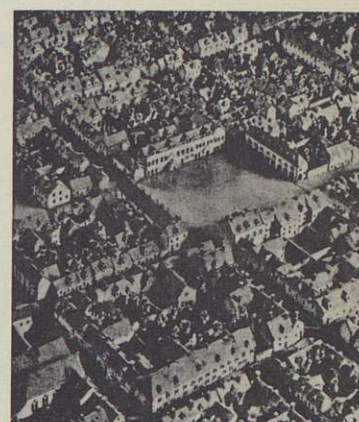
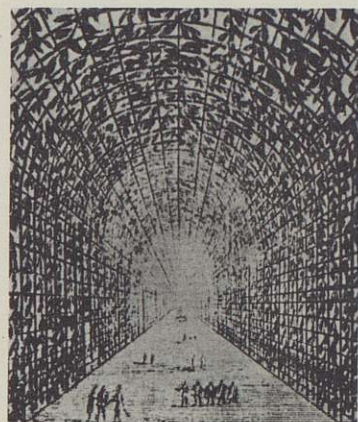
Designers usually compose by arranging already existing urban components, relying on their intuition that in the new assemblage such elements would perform with the same degree of success. Here, the fabric contains such elements (we intentionally even kept their names). Thier selection and their arrangement was based on the previously stated design criteria.

1. The boulevard is a continuous linear path of pedestrians combined with a transportation route (monorail) superimposed above it. This transportation system functions like a horizontal elevator, push-button safe, free, publicly owned, available for use 24 hours a day, stopping every 200 meters. This "boulevard" is covered with trees across its path, and the previously described objectives determine which activities and services should be located along its way.

The boulevards should be spaced at 400 meter distances between themselves. They are connected by

2. Gallerias, uninterrupted linear paths for pedestrians only, partly open or controlled climactically. They should connect the transportation stops, every 200 meters perpendicular to the boulevards.

3. Cross-boulevards connect the boulevards at approximately 2400 meter intervals. The intersections of the cross-boulevards and the boulevards are also the stops of express transit lines, stopping every 2400 meters along the boulevards.



4. Service lines for automobiles run parallel to the gallerias and the cross boulevards. Automobiles are permitted only for deliveries of goods, while the cars belonging to visitors or to the inhabitants of Espoo would be parked in lots located at the ends of the cross-boulevards.

Activities usually have a dual access on both service street and boulevard or galleria in order to reduce conflicts.

The city hall was planned as a series of "mini city blocks" and a system of accesses complying with all the criteria of microzoning. The double front orientation has another use: a place for demonstrations of solidarity on the front plaza where the major's balcony probably should be, and a place for demonstrations of opposition on the slope of the back hill in front of the windows of the bureaucrats. Thus the opposition will have the opportunity to picnic while they demonstrate.

The university was placed along a galleria, perpendicular to the transit lines and the boulevards, and can be reached by several lines of transit (in compliance with the criteria of equalising opportunities and maximizing variety).

The same principles was applied to the "Central Park of Espoo."

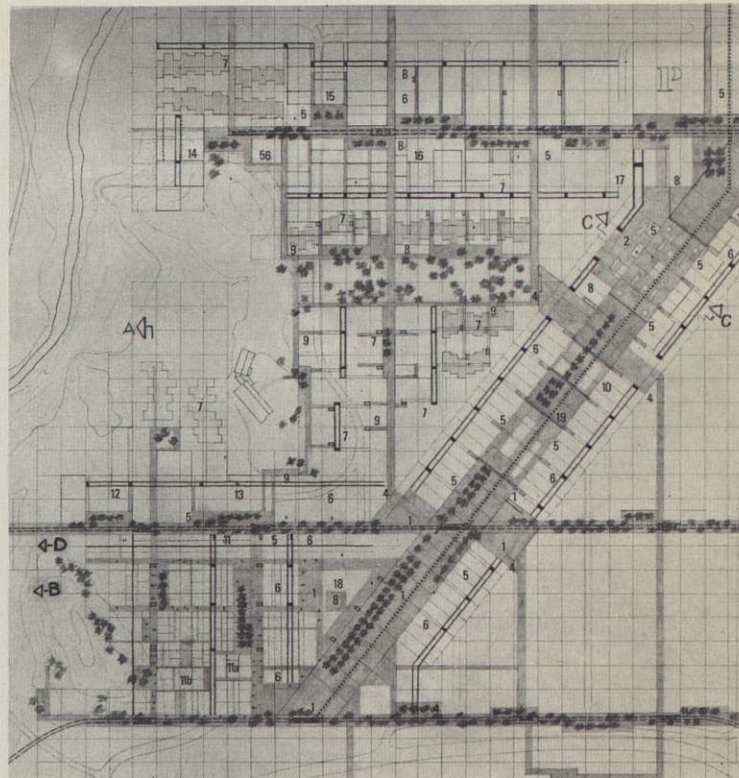
Housing is available throughout the city as an infill beside or on top of other activities. 75% of the units have direct contact with the ground (one, two and three-story dwellings). The density varies between 200-250 units per acre. In considering the units of housing, it was seen that the high supply of places for communal activities at a small distance would ease the demand for such places within each individual house unit.

The density is uniform through the whole fabric, like an eighteenth century town. Rarely do buildings exceed four levels or stories unless the slope of the ground dictates more.

The overall organization of the town had to comply with the following constraints:

1. The available activities and the transportation systems of the surrounding region.
2. The morphology of the terrain: the difficulties of building at certain points or the prohibition of construction for reasons of ecological or historical conservation.

Contrary to most of the solutions, we felt that the precious areas of the terrain should be left by themselves and that the alternate solution of dispersing high built volumes among them would end with the destruction of both natural environment and human contact.



Donald Watson

searching for ourselves in the ruins*

The physical patterns that we see in our cities – the massive scale, confusion, and anonymity – result from less easily perceived patterns of social disfunctioning and separations – work from play, youth from parents, learning from doing, employees from employers, fact from value, people from each other and even from themselves. Our urban institutions result from and reinforce the modern predicament of **alienation**. Planning decisions are made on a day to day basis, in terms of immediate and narrow goals – "first cost of construction," "maximization of profit," "efficiency of transport" – these are the decision rules for a dehumanized environment.

Out of this condition, we project a common goal, the opposite of alienation, but born of it, as the phoenix from the fire: the **community**, a coalition of individual needs and interests that can function together in an effective social pattern. It is a **therapeutic** community – people of all ages and social roles learn from and help each other; **democratic** – all individuals can have access to and can participate in decision-making; **pluralistic** – many groups can form and develop simultaneous experiments in social organization; and **adaptive** – future generations have the possibility of correcting and reforming their social institutions.

Urban designers have of course always created city spaces as metaphors of "community." But actual community is not achieved by physical design that ignores the complex factors that effect community organization. The notion here is more complex: human activity itself is a metaphoric and symbolic expression of social values, not simply in the narrow sense of overt and obvious "functions," but as rituals with hidden but important meanings, for which the design of physical places provides the stage.

The present preconceptions of urban designers simply replicate outmoded and alienating forms of social organization. Instead of remaining as "part of the problem," we can join with all people in reforming our urban institutions. More important than the rage for "adaptable" buildings, **social institutions themselves must be designed for adaptivity, spontaneity, and experimentation.**

To begin to do this, designers can go beyond their visual fixation and address these emerging areas of knowledge and action:

Design of Problem Solving Methods – Systems analysis provides a cross-disciplinary language and method of problem solving, encompassing the lessons of empirical research and of creativity. Goals are defined and tested operationally; prediction and systematic evaluation is made of alternate solutions; experience is accelerated through simulation, gaming, and modeling.

Design of Communication Patterns – The physical environment is the result of social and organizational patterns, including economic, legal, and cultural factors. Of these, the process of human communication, as effected by language, technology, and political systems, may be the generic pattern. Since traditional physical design usually determines subsequent social and communication patterns, why not turn it around and design the communication network, letting physical design follow?

Design of Decision Systems – One of the least designed or considered "systems" operating in urban planning is the actual process of decision-making – at one extreme very "authoritarian" if imposing a pattern from outside or above, and on the other hand, "democratic" if developed by groups of citizens who have review and approval power over the planning decisions that directly affect them. Neither extreme of itself guarantees the rights of minority views, the selection of the most rational choice, or a responsiveness to unpredicted change. Nonetheless, citizen participation is a key process in overcoming alienation. Here again, current experiments in communications and participatory decision-making reveal unexplored possibilities.

New Towns will be built, one supposes, to remove us from the present urban ruins. For the citizen who is not shown the chance to identify on his own terms with his new environment and to contribute to its development, relocation will just be another traumatic and uprooting experience. First, we need institutions based on the ideal of community. Without an analysis of this ideal and the processes by which it can be realized, new towns will be new places but old institutions that exploit and alienate its citizens.

* DONALD WATSON, is an architect in Guilford, Conn., and an associate of Woods, Weintraub/Associates, New York City.

Michael Mostoller

architecture, politics and systems

THE POWER OF ORGANIZATION

In the midst of rapid economic and social change characterized by the global confrontation of competing interests and the massive mobilization of instruments of subjugation a new form of organized capability has emerged. In order to accomplish the effective and efficient allocation of money, men and machinery necessary to maintain existing concentrations of economic and social power, the sciences of organization and information handling have assumed control of human institutions. This control is manifested in the practice of systems analysis in government and industry, which by the development of cost-effectiveness formulas, input-output techniques, simulation modeling, game theory, linear and non-linear programming, feedback theory, etc., has dealt with the problems of variety and uncertainty in the management of large systems. Through the organization of theory, technique and cybernetic instruments necessary to solve problems of immense scale systems practice has pre-empted all other forms of power and wealth. Without such organized capability government and industry would fail to meet their established commitments. This development of sophisticated techniques of problem solving and their application has led, in the words of one commentator, to a new class — “The New Utopians” — who, now indispensable, will lead man to an “advanced” stage of human development through the exercise of scientific methods of resource allocation, operations control and information distribution in social affairs. Because of the visible results of their work in space programming, national budgeting, industrial management and armaments production and scheduling, the “New Utopians” have begun to find adherents in those policy makers and financiers faced with the problems of habitat. Confronted with the staggering dimension of the massive reconstruction of our cities and the need to house and equip a doubling population in the next 30 years, systems practice must indeed hold a great fascination for government and industry. The May 1969 issue of *Progressive Architecture*, with sections entitled: “The New Environmental Professionals Challenge Traditional Practice,” “Construction Managers Set Design Parameters,” and “Corporations As New Master Builders of Cities” reveals for slumbering architects and builders how far in fact, the systems men are already active in the design, development and construction of habitat: “TRW Systematizes Urban Design... Government Stimulates Research... Financiers Sell Progressive Design... End of the General Contractor... Manufacturer Builds City With Its Products...”

THE CRISIS IN COMMUNITY

While the extensive commitment of global budgets to military, industrial and space programs provided for the emergence of the new techniques and managers, the simultaneous urbanization of the world's population into conglomerations of a new size created social complexities unsolvable by traditional forms of community. The result has been a disintegration of meaningful human associations and an alienation of man and habitat, neither of which seem to be solvable by known modes of personal or communal action. The alienation of man from his habitat and his society seems to be an unstoppable chain reaction toward destruction. No longer can an individual control his environment or his associations. No longer can the community maintain secure social organization and environmental quality.

THE FUTURE OF...

It may be that in such circumstances the practice of systems analysis will be a welcome answer to the problems of social complexity. Faced with the recent escalation of social disorder to proportions that now frighten most Americans centralized systems practice may seem to be the only way to salvage the existing order. However, the dangers are great. The use of systems analysis techniques by government and industry for their own ends has left and will continue to leave **the major questions in our society unanswered**; how can we maintain the arena of personal choice, how can we create a way of living and working in a system of respected order that is personally satisfying? By increasing the capacity of established institutions to deal with complex problems systems analysis does provide a way for the existing order to maintain itself — but does not provide a way for **the individual and community to participate** in decisions or to shape the nature of acceptable authority, including the replacement of the institutions themselves. Without such actions of the community, institutions control without respect, and rule without authority. The community is manipulated without representation or power of recall. Reviewing the disastrous application of systems control techniques to the relationship of the United States to the emerging nations, as evidenced in Viet Nam, Noam Chomsky states: “technologists who achieve power are those who can perform a service for existing institutions; and nothing but catastrophe can be expected from still further centralization of decision making in government and a narrowing base of corporate affiliates.” Given that only those centralized institutions can generate the

organization and money necessary to apply systems approaches, we must assume that it is not, practically speaking, a neutral instrument. Under such a problem solving system we may indeed conclude: “that scientific weapons may destroy all life; that technology will increasingly disfigure men who live in the city, just as it has already debased the earth and obscured the sky; that the ‘progress’ of industry will destroy the possibility of interesting work; and that ‘communications’ will obliterate the last traces of the varied cultures which have been the inheritance of all but the most benighted societies.”

THE DIALECTIC PROFESSIONAL

What can the architect do? Must we repeat the mistakes of the past decade as we now begin to tackle the problem of habitat? Let us list several alternatives to systems control.

1. Without a bureaucracy the profession of architecture has failed to generate the necessary organization of the use of sophisticated technology. However, by being outside of the bureaucracies that increasingly dominate our options, the architect and the profession may act in the interest of critical qualitative analysis, individual integrity and the variety of culture. Now, rather than be swept up in the self justifying mystique of problem-solving, the architect must combat the bureaucratic mode that serves the system of wealth and privilege. **Independent professional** organizations must be created to attack the system as Ralph Nader has done, probing the activities of industry and public institutions to insure that the public interest is being served. This may include exposes of the ties of building materials manufacturing to the war effort and the organized boycott of selected industries.

2. Control of the use of the environment must be based on agreed moral principles, just as the use of law is guided by principles of responsibility and fault held by the community. In law the study of jurisprudence examines those issues that relate moral concerns of the community to the structure of law — asking what the laws ought to be and what is the relationship of the laws to the moral principles of the community. We have now reached a period where the organization of the environment and the control of its use affects the opportunities and privileges of the urban resident as critically as the social structure. Yet we have developed no standards of environmental control — what may be controlled, for what and by whom. We desperately need a system of “laws” of

environmental control to establish on behalf of the community the moral basis of the use of the environment — the structure of responsibility and fault within which the individual acts. Either this or simply, we perish.

3. Architects in practice must recognize that without a commitment to political ends the use of the environment and the control of design will continue to be manipulated by politics of the powerful by default.

This system must be challenged. Specifically: rather than “industrialize” housing, we must strive to reorganize the system that now rewards the speculator, financier, developer and manufacturer rather than the user. We must also finally face up to the reorganization of land ownership systems, the last area of rugged individualism. Concerted advocacy of the interests of disadvantaged groups and the active resistance of the waste of resources on instruments of war and growth economics are necessary to prevent further deterioration of the environment or even its total destruction. Practice without politics is impossible. The choice is the perpetuation of the existing system of environmental exploitation or the creation of new institutions of community control.

RESOLUTION

The student strikes and the black rebellion are revolutions against the way problems are being solved and the ways of organizing to solve them. Allowing the new utopians to control the domain of habitat will only increase the power of centralized systems — further alienating the great number from the control of the environment. The choice of the professional can begin with the negation of repressive manipulation through a practice dedicated to **consumer justice, not the maximization of profit**; the foundation of a system of environmental jurisprudence, to replace the one based on privilege; each furthered through a political commitment to the service of the community, instead of an alliance with power through systemics. As with the blacks and students, is it not a question of “architecture” or revolution — the rationalization of the mechanism of affluence, or strategies of change?

Michael Mostoller (Assistant Professor of Architecture Graduate School of Design Harvard University Cambridge, Massachusetts.

C. George Benello

The approach to planning embodied in this proposal is fundamentally different from the way most new cities are planned. Usually, a rather extensive plan is set forth, and then representatives of citizens' groups are called in, at the most, for consultation. The approach used here, however, has as its objective maximum participation on the part of the citizens of the town to be in the planning process. As a result, the planning process is divided into two parts: first, meta-planning, and second, planning.

Meta-planning

Where the objective is to plan as little as possible ahead of time, the need then becomes one of planning broad structures — both institutional and physical — which can then be filled in in various ways by the citizenry of the town to be. The relationship of the structures to the "fill ins" is that of form to content, and the objective on the meta-planning level is to devise these structures in such a way that they open up as many options as possible on the planning level.

Social planning has never been able to adequately confront dichotomies of the following sort: The problem of where to decentralize and where to centralize; the problem of where to draw the line between the private allocation of resources and the public allocation of resources; the problem of how to build organizations which are not rigid, hierarchic bureaucracies on the one hand and anarchic, structure-less organizations on the other; the problem of building a system which is not Social Darwinist in espousing an ethic of unlimited competition on the one hand, or creating a system controlled from a central point, freedom which becomes anarchic and on the other hand ensuring the maintenance of norms by methods which are collectivist in subordinating the individual to the demands of the group or collective.

A second set of dichotomies which are on a perhaps more general level involve the relationship of manual work to intellectual work, the relationship of a rural to an urban life style, the relationship of work and of the work unit to community life, the relationship of private life to a shared public life. The small community has historically integrated these latter dichotomies, while the growth of an urbanized society has exacerbated them, creating situations where the work place is at a distance from the living place, where the centers of administration and political power are at a distance from the private life of the citizen, and a general condition wherein the citizen feels powerless to in any way affect the major forces — economic, social, and political, — which affect his life.

The Solution of dichotomies

There is no place here to go into an adequate analysis of how the above mentioned dichotomies have come into being. In general it may be said that the evolution of a high technology has created problems which a political system derived from a pre-industrial period has been unable to manage. The problem is by no means unique to the United States, but is shared in varying degrees by all

on meta planning (extracts)

advanced industrial societies. The traditional laissez-faire approach to political economy has proved inadequate without extensive governmental intervention — some point also to the centrality of a large socialized sector of the economy in the form of the military-industrial complex. Also, the political system has been unable to handle the concentration of large populations in the form of megapolitan complexes, or the concentration of extensive economic power and control over resources in the form of national or multi-national corporations.

The New City format provides an approach to only some of the dichotomies mentioned above, but it may be argued that they are the critical dichotomies. If we arrange them in order, ranging from the individual to the organizations which confront the technology most directly, since it is these organizations which contribute most directly to the wealth, standard of living, and overall power of the society. These organizations are represented most fundamentally by industry, and its feeder organizations engaged in the accumulation and distribution of capital, the education and training of manpower, the research and development of the technology. The use of resources and the channeling of productivity is at present determined by the built in goals and structure of the corporations that are the primary examples of this form of organization. It is here that we find the source of the dichotomy between the private and public sector, the failure to achieve participative forms capable of integrating at once the need for structure with the need for broad scale democratic decision-making. And here also we find the failure to achieve an integration between the work enterprise and its community environment which could speak to the need to make the enterprise accountable to its community and more generally to its social environment.

The Meta-planning Response

If the answer to the dichotomies created by our present social system are to be found primarily, although not exclusively, within the organizations that address the technology most directly, the need is to develop institutional innovation on this level in such a way that the dichotomies are bridged and integrated.

The basic problem is that of creating a constituency. Next, once such a constituency is found, it is necessary to find some way to bridge the gap between the variety of past experiences which have shaped the outlooks of that constituency along class, vocational, and ethnic lines at the very least, and the possibility of a coherent and feasible plan which will take into account these interests. This is where the problem of innovation versus conservation comes in. Involved also is the problem of indicating how innovation in the physical and social aspects of a planned community can create features, which though not experienced by the constituents, will nevertheless be understood to be beneficial.

The Constituency

New community planning has not as yet confronted the problem of how to involve an initially non-existent constituency in the planning process. It has generally laid out the basic physical plan and then — at least in the more advanced cases — concentrated on ways to achieve citizen participation in the ongoing governance of the community. It is of course more difficult to conceive of how people may be involved in the planning of the new community as well, but vital benefits derive from the solving of this problem. If people can have a real hand in planning the community they are to live in, it will be theirs in a way that no pre-planned community could possibly be. From this experience the commitment to ongoing governance of the community springs naturally.

It is possible to conceive of the method whereby people will be involved in the planning process if one adapts a system of staging, whereby the new community is planned in terms of neighborhood units by those who plan to live in the units. **There is experience with this method in Israel, and to some extent in this country.** In Israel, kibbutzim were planned by groups numbering around one hundred families. Here, the U.S. Office of Education has devised a system of planning called charettes whereby representatives of community groups are involved for an intensive two week session in which they are cloistered with resource people in order to plan education centers for their community.

For a new community, then, it is possible to conceive of broad involvement of prospective residents by having temporary quarters available, and then establishing a process whereby people work closely with resource people whose function is mainly to demonstrate a number of possible alternative plans for the prospective neighborhood, and in the process of coming to understand the people they are working with, develop a facility in translating their ideas and wishes into physical embodiments. In the process the initially diverse group of prospective residents also come to know each other and develop a community of interests which can serve as the basis for the creation of the physical plan. We shall come to understand this process further as we analyze the kinds of problems they are likely to encounter.

Bridging the Gap

A major issue which arises here, however, is the method of determining who shall constitute the residents of a given neighborhood. Given a society ridden with ethnic and class tensions, the ideal of creating a harmonious neighborhood out of a racial and economic diversity which would prevent the kind of stratification of existing new communities in America seems difficult to achieve. Yet to repeat the experience of middle income bedroom communities which has characterized most new community attempts in America would be irrelevant if not disastrous. Three approaches to the problem suggest themselves: firstly, ethnicity straddles the lines of income and social stratification, and could be a basis for some neighborhoods. Black neighborhoods could be created which would exist within a racially

and ethnically mixed larger community. Likewise Italian neighborhoods, Jewish neighborhoods, and so on. It is conceivable that if ethnic organizations were contacted, these organizations could create the basis for such neighborhoods, which while predominantly ethnic or racial, might still have a degree of variety, by the wish of the major group itself.

Secondly, a self-selecting process would be created by the very uniqueness of the innovations that characterized the new community. A new community that sought, through in its innovations in institutional and social planning to create a more humane living environment would attract those in the society who were dissatisfied with existing arrangements, with the existing anomic and fragmented life of large cities, and who believed in the possibility of creating something better. This idealism combined with dissatisfaction would constitute a unifying force that would draw people of diverse backgrounds, socio-economic status, and ethnic origin together, in somewhat the same fashion the peace and civil rights movements have appealed to a broad segment of the population. But it would probably exclude the poverty and underclasses, and special efforts to involve them would be necessary.

Thirdly, the welding of a diverse group into a coherent neighborhood unit would depend very heavily on the success of the planning process which involved the prospective residents in the creation of their own neighborhood community. In addition to the technical resource people, this would require resource people skilled in the methods necessary to achieve successful group process. The task functions of the group should not lead to a neglect of the processes whereby conflicts, rather than being smoothed over, were brought out into the open and examined. The process of planning the physical shape of a neighborhood would bring out fundamental differences in outlook and values, and would allow them to be dealt with within a context wherein there was a premium for successful resolution. The need here would be to create an intensive and sustained environment, capable of involving effectively all the prospective residents so that potentially divisive differences could be examined and either accepted or resolved.

Looked at one way, if such a planning process were effectively devised, and did in fact require significant participation from all those involved, its success in bringing forth a viable neighborhood plan would also constitute its success as a group. If the conflicts and divisions were too basic to be bridged, then no coherent plan would be brought forth, and the project would be a failure. Thus the success of the planning process would be a strong guarantee of the future cohesiveness of the neighborhood. And the experience of success at working out the difficult problems embodied in divergent life experience and viewpoints would give the group of prospective residents a significant common tradition and background to draw upon in the future, in much the same fashion that people are drawn together as a result of being faced with and having to master a natural catastrophe.

traduction

Commentaire
par Alexandre Tzonis

L'ensemble des essais du présent numéro pourrait être rattaché au courant néo-romantique. La raison en est que la plupart des auteurs, d'origine américaine en majorité, appartiennent à une génération qui s'oppose au processus destructif amorcé par l'état technocratique. A la différence des romantiques "authentiques" — particulièrement préoccupés de la condition "naturelle" de l'homme telle qu'elle a été menacée par des conceptions d'une bourgeoisie naissante, les "nouveaux" romantiques constatent que l'action concertée des technocrates, des financiers et des fonctionnaires provoque la désagrégation de la condition urbaine de l'homme d'aujourd'hui. Nous entendons sous le vocable "urbaine" la vie communautaire. En effet, l'environnement construit devient de plus en plus déficient en tant que support des contacts humains (cependant, dans le numéro présent on ne cherche pas à approfondir les causes de ce phénomène). Les auteurs du présent numéro se dissocient volontairement du courant principal de l'architecture moderne "traditionnelle". On peut retrouver chez eux des idées humanistes de Lewis MUMFORD, de Serge CHERMAYEFF, de Jane JACOBS (Death and Life of Great Americans) ou ceux d'un Artur GLIKSON (Carré bleu no 4/66) : une approche aux problèmes d'environnement non pas comme objet mais en tant que contenant de la vie.

Au-delà de cette base commune, les positions individuelles des auteurs varient.

Le projet de concours pour ESPOO (Finlande) suppose que la technologie, utilisée d'une façon appropriée, permet de créer le support d'une vie collective. L'organisation urbaine proposée s'inspire de certaines idées proposées par GIANCARLO DE CARLO dans son projet pour l'université de Dublin (Carré Bleu 2/68) ainsi que de celles exprimées par Shadrach WOODS (Equipe Candilis, Josic, Woods) pour le centre de Francfort et l'université libre de Berlin (nos 3/63 et 1/64 du Carré Bleu). La contribution de D. WATSON est orientée dans le même sens.

Nous assistons à une opposition croissante à une technologie soi-disant "neutre". On craint que l'utilisation de ces moyens par le pouvoir ne conduise à une concentration accrue de celle-ci entre les mains d'une minorité et non pas à l'amélioration de la condition humaine. Actuellement la technologie nous offre des répit mineurs en face de massacres majeurs. L'article du professeur MOSTOLLER et le projet d'une ville nouvelle à Vermont s'inspirent de ces prises de position.

L'ensemble de ces auteurs est d'accord pour considérer que la responsabilité professionnelle de l'architecte est de défendre les droits de l'usager des solutions autoritaires. Cependant il nous semble qu'une telle position ne peut avoir des suites pratiques qu'à partir du moment où ceux qui prennent les décisions et la majorité de la population s'aligneront tous les deux sur les mêmes objectifs.

Concepts de base de la ville nouvelle

La proposition pour une ville nouvelle dans le Vermont comporte deux caractéristiques essentielles : d'abord la conception des institutions sociales, politiques et économiques envisagées. Deuxièmement, le processus de planification lui-même. Les deux s'éloignent profondément de ce qui existe et de la pratique courante appliquée à la conception de villes nouvelles.

Caractéristiques des institutions envisagées :

- 1.- Propriété collective de toutes les installations et équipements de la cité, maisons, commerces, automobiles, jusqu'à certains appareils ménagers.
- 2.- La formation d'une société de développement économique réunissant (par exemple la population active) l'ensemble des habitants de la cité au dessus de 16 ans. Cette société sera le support d'unités économiques secondaires, de service ou de production pour la consommation directe ou pour l'"exportation".

3.- Des organes décentralisés de gouvernement. Toute personne apte à participer à la gestion des services publics aura la faculté de remplir un rôle dans le gouvernement de la cité. Autant que possible, les fonctions seront remplies par des bénévoles volontaires plutôt que des fonctionnaires rémunérés. Ces activités se dérouleront à différents niveaux : à celui de la cité et à celui des unités de voisinage, etc.

4.- Autonomie économique. Contrairement à toute les autres villes américaines, la nouvelle ville s'attachera à affirmer son autonomie. Cette politique tendra à réduire les liens de dépendance des organismes économiques de la cité des entités nationales alentours. Isolée de la structure des prix de l'économie nationale, la Cité Nouvelle pourra assurer un niveau de vie supérieur à ses résidents pour un revenu en liquide inférieur.

5.- Education sans but lucratif. L'éducation sera la responsabilité de l'organisme central. Les méthodes d'enseignement seront largement inspirées de l'éducation active. La formation des tout-jeunes se fera à l'intérieur des unités de voisinage, celui des plus âgés au sein d'institutions urbaines, la participation des élèves à la vie urbaine sera favorisée, comme à l'école "Parkway" à Philadelphie où l'enseignement est intégré aux activités économiques de la ville.

6.- Composition de la population. On prévoit qu'il sera difficile d'assurer une hétérogénéité.

Projet pour la ville nouvelle d'Espoo (Finlande)

Donald et Marja Watson avec Alex Tzonis

Ce projet a été présenté à un concours international en 1968. Il n'a pas été retenu par le jury.

Le site d'implantation — une vallée orientée NE-SW à 30 km de Helsinki possède des caractères paysagers remarquables. La population — prévue pour l'an 2.000 — serait de 300.000 habitants.

La proposition de l'équipe est basée sur les objectifs suivants :

- augmentation des rapports humains, des plus intimes aux plus urbains
- recherche d'un équilibre urbain fondé sur une variété de structures, équipements et population
- réduction des conflits entre équipements, activités et êtres humains
- réduction des contrôles et restructurations imposées à l'usager
- réduction des prix de revient de ces réalisations.

Les auteurs sont persuadés que toute approche "visuelle" de la trame urbaine constituerait une contrainte inutile à l'égard de l'usager. Ils ont également rejeté le concept selon lequel l'organisation visuelle de l'environnement puisse à elle seule favoriser des "événements". Ce postulat leur semblait être en contradiction avec la réalité.

Les moyens mis en œuvre sur le plan de la composition urbaine comprenaient :

- un système de circulation susceptible d'assurer la sécurité et la continuité du circuit des piétons;
- une densité uniforme de population;
- l'organisation de transports pour égaliser les possibilités culturelles et économiques sur toute l'étendue de la cité. Les auteurs ont écarté la solution traditionnelle de décentralisation des activités autour de noyaux fixés d'avance. Ils ont gardé en outre une position neutre vis-à-vis de structures linéaires ou concentriques — qui à leur avis n'occupent qu'une importance secondaire dans la mesure où les facteurs temps et distances ont reçu à l'intérieur de la cité une solution satisfaisante.
- le zoning fonctionnel a été abandonné car il s'avérait superflu dans la mesure où de larges portions de terrains devaient être affectées à des usages pour des périodes de temps fort limitées.
- le même zoning s'avérait facteur de pollution et de bruit;

- la séparation des activités a été étudiée sur le plan des micro-unités urbaines sur la base des critères :
 - privé — collectif
 - tranquille — actif
 - fréquent — rare
 - pluri ou monofonctionnelle

Les activités publiques, actives, fréquentes et plurifonctionnelles ont été réunies dans l'espace en tant qu'activités complémentaires et implantées aux lieux d'intersection des systèmes du trafic urbain.

Basée sur ces prémices, la structure urbaine d'Espoo comprend :

- 1.- les **boulevards** : combinaison d'un réseau pour piétons et de transports rapides (monorail). Des arrêts du système de transports urbains sont prévus tous les 200 m. Ce boulevard est aménagé pour recevoir un certain nombre de services sur la base des critères énoncés plus haut.
- les **galeries** (fig. 3) — des voies pour piétons continues partiellement ouvertes ou contrôlées sur le plan climatique;
- 3.- des **boulevards transversaux** reliant les boulevards tous les 2 400 m environ.
- 4.- des **réseaux de trafic collectif** (autocars) disposés parallèlement aux galeries — destinés aux livraisons de marchandises à certaines heures de la journée;
- 5.- l'**université nouvelle** a été disposée des deux côtés d'une galerie centrale perpendiculaire aux réseaux de transit et aux galeries et pouvant être atteinte à partir de plusieurs points. Le même principe a été adopté dans le cas du "parc central" de la ville.
- 6.- L'**hôtel de ville** (fig. 4) a été conçu sous forme d'une série d'enclos. L'orientation sur deux côtés (fig. 5) permet de polariser les réunions publiques "favorables" devant une des façades, celles de contestation du régime simultanément sur l'autre.
- 7.- Les auteurs se sont efforcés de concentrer l'aire urbaine sur une portion de terrain délimité pour préserver au maximum le caractère de la nature environnante — au lieu de disperser l'habitat au milieu des forêts — une solution bâtarde mais trop souvent appliquée dans les pays scandinaves.

La **planification** de la ville nouvelle constituera une application des idées exposées dans le précédent article (planification et villes nouvelles).

Dans cet ordre d'idées le groupe de planification composé des membres de l'association originale, choisira le site et préparera les plans d'un "village provisoire" où les nouveaux résidents auront la faculté de s'établir. Au cours de l'élaboration des plans et des structures de la nouvelle cité, ils pourront être rejoints par les usagers intéressés de former une première unité de voisinage. Ceux-ci choisiront à leur tour le site d'implantation de leur unité ainsi que sa forme, ses équipements, etc. L'ensemble de ces groupes déterminera ses propres structures d'accueil et collaborera, en liaison avec le noyau initial, à l'adaptation du "plan d'ensemble" de la cité aux exigences qui apparaîtront au fur et à mesure de sa formation.

La **fonction "éducation"** sera étroitement associée au processus de planification. Les techniciens : urbanistes, ingénieurs, économistes agiront en tant que consultants de l'organisme civique; ils s'occuperont également de la formation des cadres et des futurs agents chargés d'assurer les services publics. L'organisme économique sera appelé à installer un centre d'apprentissage pour tous les métiers qui concourront à l'édification et à la gestion de la cité. Cet apprentissage, théorique et pratique, sera dispensé "sur le chantier" avec les études dirigées en liaison avec la réalisation complète.

La **structure politique** de l'ensemble sera largement influencée par l'économie : l'élimination de la propriété privée des moyens de production. La centralisation du pouvoir sous toutes ses formes (technocratique par exemple) sera combattue par des mesures de décentralisation et de participation des citoyens à l'œuvre civique. Les liaisons externes de la cité avec son cadre administratif seront guidées par le principe empirique de la "coexistence" — voire de la coopération active — dans la mesure du

possible. Il ne faut pas éliminer l'hypothèse d'un échec de l'initiative du fait de l'emprise qu'exercera le milieu extérieur sur le noyau en formation. Pour contrecarrer cette tendance, les organismes de la nouvelle cité passeront à leur tour à l'offensive en diffusant leur propre expérience par les moyens d'information à leur disposition, ou en offrant leur coopération économique ou technique à d'autres entreprises du même genre aux États-Unis.

En vue d'affirmer les bases de l'initiative il y aura lieu de prévoir un certain nombre de conditions d'entrée pour les nouveaux résidents :

- aucun résident ne pourra être propriétaire d'une entreprise privée;
- interdiction de posséder une voiture privée;
- interdiction d'exercer un emploi à l'extérieur de l'unité sans accord des organismes compétents de la cité.

Donald Watson : A la quête de nous-mêmes parmi les ruines.

Un témoignage sur le même problème que Mostoller. A partir d'un constat de faillite en matière d'environnement l'élaboration d'une approche équilibrée avec comme objectif une forme coopérative de communauté urbaine libre. Il ne s'agit plus de concevoir des espaces urbains évocateurs de contacts sociaux d'une façon arbitraire, mais de représenter le cadre bâti en tant qu'expression directe et symbolique de valeurs admises et suivies par un groupe d'hommes. Pour ce faire, le praticien est appelé à s'intégrer dans un groupe et aider à la solution de ses problèmes d'environnement en tant que "membre" du groupe. L'informatique peut nous aider à rendre notre approche objective par :

- une classification des données quantifiables et normatives du comportement
- l'étude des moyens de communications contemporains qui influent sur les trames physiques et concrètes de l'environnement
- surmonter par l'emploi judicieux des moyens d'information la contradiction existant entre le pouvoir de décision unilatéral et autoritaire des bureaucrates ou des technocrates et le besoin de participation des usagers à la formation de leur cadre de vie.

Michel Mostoller : architecture, politique et systèmes.

L'application croissante de "systèmes d'organisation" dans les affaires et dans la recherche militaire, est un fait majeur de nos jours. Parallèlement à cette évolution nous assistons à l'apparition d'une confiance quasi absolue dans un accroissement du bien être humain, grâce à l'emploi des nouvelles méthodes. Le succès apparent des cas techniques pour l'exploration spatiale ou la fabrication d'armements suggère leur application au domaine de l'habitat et de l'urbanisme. L'édition de Mai 69 de "Progressive Architecture" a mis en évidence cette tendance ("les spécialistes de l'environnement contestent les pratiques traditionnelles").

L'auteur au contraire conteste les techniques en question. Il prétend qu'elles ne permettent pas d'opérer les choix fondamentaux qui sont de caractère essentiellement politiques. A son avis, l'architecte devrait assumer la défense de l'usager anonyme et son droit à l'élaboration de son environnement. Ce qu'on convient d'appeler "le contrôle de l'environnement" devrait être basé sur une éthique appropriée comme le droit l'est sur une morale des rapports humains. Nous sommes arrivés à un stade de l'évolution urbaine où la forme d'organisation de l'environnement affecte les droits et obligations du citoyen aussi radicalement que les structures sociales elles-mêmes. Il est indispensable que le praticien sache distinguer l'enjeu politique en matière d'environnement sinon ce dernier sera livré entièrement au bon vouloir des puissances économiques en quête de profits.



seul
vol
direct
sur
la
finlande
en
supercaravelle
correspondance
à Helsinki
avec
quinze
villes
finlandaises

FINNAIR 11 rue auber paris 9 . téléphone 772 35 11