CSU CONSORTIUM FOR SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION NEWS

Welcome to the Third Edition of CSU NEWS!

This edition follows the global observance of Urban October and Archtober in New York City. As part of these celebrations, I am pleased to share compelling articles reporting on our three virtual events: the 2020 World Habitat Day Conference in New York City under the theme "Post-Pandemic Cities," co-organized with UN-Habitat and the American Institute of Architects New York Chapter, the CSU 2020 Award Gala honoring four eminent personalities, H.E. Shaun Donovan, Helena Durst, Alexandria Villaseñor and Claire Weisz, and the inaugural Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Lecture "Millennial Thinking: Reflections on Our Designed Future" by Claire Weisz, FAIA and CSU Champion Award recipient.

These celebrations took place amid the second wave of the pandemic around the globe. From *Computer Aided Resilience Planning for Pandemics and Other Emergencies for Sustainable Urban Development* to the *Post-Covid-19 Urban Challenges in Africa*, CSU contributors present new actions *Accelerating the SDGs* and the New Urban Agenda.

As CSU President Lance Jay Brown reminds us in his message “Can Our Cities Survive Redux” — referring to José Luis Sert’s book and the International Congresses for Modern Architecture proposals during World War II — despite the unparalleled challenges facing cities today, they will transform, reorganize, and live on.

Take care and stay well,

Sincerely,

Ludivine Cornille
Director of Programs and Editor of CSU NEWS

Message from

Lance Jay Brown, FAIA

CSU President

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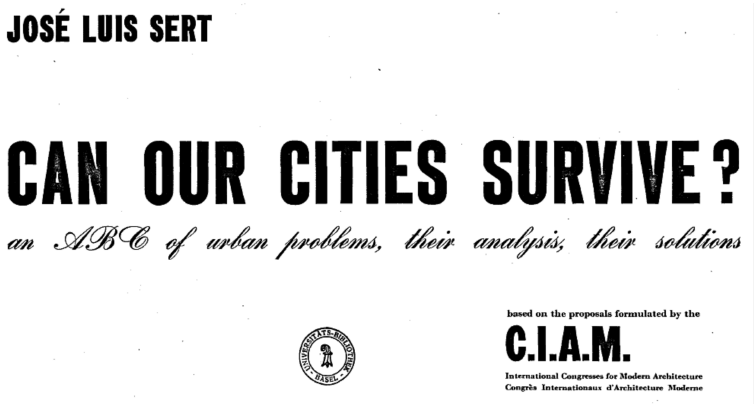
Can Our Cities Survive Redux?

In 1942 Jose Luis Sert, the Catalan architect who helped found C.I.A.M., the International Congresses for Modern Architecture, authored the book based on the proposals formulated by C.I.A.M. entitled “Can Our Cities Survive: an ABC of urban problems, their analysis, their solutions”. Imagine, in the midst of World War II the architectural profession and the planning and design professions, were pursuing remedies to what was thought to be the frightful conditions of ever-industrializing cities around the world. It was a creditable and comprehensive approach to the design of cities and its influence still resonates today.



Sert’s book was complimented by C.I.A.M.’s Athens Charter and the writings of the celebrated Swiss architect Le Corbusier. There is deep history here. The C.I.A.M. group was active since the 1920s and held numerous conferences in different cities, mostly in Europe, to discuss ways to improve the lives of people in cities around the globe. The approach was rich and profound and looked at the totality and the components of urban civilization. These books, these treatises, still deserve review. The issues identified are extensive and, in many cases, well researched and still relevant. In addition to Sert’s book, and Le Corbusier’s writings we can add the Ekistics institute of Constantine Doxiades, another heroic venture into understanding our urbanizing globe, not to mention Buckminster Fuller’s astute contributions.

Europe, war-torn from two world wars, was appropriately obsessed with its post-war reconstruction and the opportunity to build a better industrialized society. The war damage was extensive, the issues were serious, the opportunities were vast, the spirit was aspirational. If the problems caused to cities by industrialization and the advantage taken of the working class could be addressed; if improved housing could be provided for all; if mobility could be managed and pedestrians and automobile traffic separated; if green space, healthy space, could be incorporated; if land use could be rectified and functional conflicts eliminated. How better the world could be!
(read more).

Articles

Computer Aided Resilience Planning for Pandemics and Other Emergencies for Sustainable Urban Development

***Professor Amhad Umar**, Guest Contributor, and **Sarbuland Khan,** CSU Advisory Board Member*

During her Talal Abu Ghazaleh Lecture on " Millennial Thinking", organized by the CSU as part of the World Habitat Day celebration, Professor Claire Weisz pointed to some key challenges that need to be addressed in order to advance the UN SDG's Goal 11 on sustainable urbanization.

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Computer aided resilience planning, drawing upon a range of cutting-edge and emerging technologies, can be an important tool for professionals and policy-makers to meet some of these challenges and gaps... (read more)

The Post-COVID-19 Urban Challenges in Africa

***Daniel Biau,** Guest Contributor*

African governments and citizens are today facing head-on the risks posed by the pandemic in African cities (slums as potential transmission hotbeds) as well as the consequences (reduction of employment opportunities and food shortages in poor settlements). This article proposes alternative approaches for providing housing and public transit, revitalizing the economy, and feeding Africa's urban poor during and after COVID-19... (read more)

Accelerating the SDGs in Cities: 60+ Ideas for Action

***Anna Rubbo,** Guest Contributor*

In 2019 the Center for Sustainable Urban Development (CSUD) in the Earth Institute at Columbia University applied to host 'Accelerating the SDGs in Cities'. CSUD , in its various projects, addresses critical urban sustainability, equity, design and planning issues through a creative, humanistic, multi-disciplinary, and collaborative approach based on strategic systems thinking... (read more)

CSU News

“Civility and Idealism at CSU's 2020 Virtual Gala”, by Bill Millard, Guest Contributor (read here)

“Post-Pandemic Cities” 2020 World Habitat Day Conference in New York City, by Maxinne Leighton, PhD, Assoc. AIA, CSU Advisory Board Member (read here)

“Millenial Thinking: Reflections on Our Designed Future”, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Lecture by Claire Weisz, FAIA, CSU 2020 Champion Award Recipient (read here)

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