6-29-1979

"Lessons From the Landscape: Non-American City Building"

Christopher L. Salter

Follow this and additional works at: https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/orspeakers

Part of the Geography Commons, and the Urban, Community and Regional Planning Commons

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation
Salter, Christopher L., "Lessons From the Landscape: Non-American City Building" (1979). Special Collections: Oregon Public Speakers. 168.
https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/orspeakers/168

This Article is brought to you for free and open access. It has been accepted for inclusion in Special Collections: Oregon Public Speakers by an authorized administrator of PDXScholar. For more information, please contact pdxscholar@pdx.edu.
CHRISTOPHER L. SALTER: Thank you, David. Welcome back, for those that, in fact, were here and are back. Welcome aboard, for those who are newly arrived at this session. Let me make a couple of comments on things that happened this morning that were left unresolved. First of all, for those of you who would be interested in seeing a copy of “Scoring Los Angeles Landscapes,” which is the curriculum packet that I’ve just given my institute this Monday—this is our first week of our second year, now—I’d be pleased to send you a copy of this package of environmental educational materials relating to Los Angeles in a specific sense, but to urban environmental education in a generic sense, for only one request. If you send me a letter on your college or high-school or grade-school letterhead saying that you would like to make use of these materials for consideration of introducing environmental education into some part of the curriculum in your school, I would be happy to make available to you an edited copy upon completion of the summer institute, and then our rewriting it as we’ve tested it. Additionally, to those who don’t want to wait for that, I’m happy to say that I’ve been able to get money to fund five of the teachers that worked last summer with me in the first year of the institute to rewrite their curriculum packets.

The curriculum packets were the goal product of the institute last summer, for the teachers. They had to create class outlines that involve lecture outlines, behavioral objectives, handouts, and methods of evaluation, including field trip logs. These little packets are being produced now, being edited now; [by] July 31 I hope to get them, by mid-September I’ll have them edited and printed, and Rudy Schaefer has given us some money to disseminate these materials, primarily in California, but I’d be glad to slip a few into the mail through UCLA’s franking system to friends in Portland, if I thought it might introduce or help introduce urban environmental ed into your school systems.

Although they’re L.A.-specific, they’re only L.A.-specific so that the community focus can be comprehended by the people using them there. The themes, the guts, the basic infrastructure of the curriculum packets are talking about any urban landscape. I have one beginning biology
class that’s doing a packet; I have a social studies class, eighth grade; I have a tenth-grade urban ecology class; I have a ninth-grade history and geography class; and I have one secondary school overall packet all in the mill right now. So, write to C.L. Salter, Department of Geography, UCLA, L.A. 90024, and say “blah blah blah,” and I’ll be happy to make these things available to you as I have them ready. Salter, Geography, UCLA, L.A. 90024.

Secondly, I want to mention one theme that I just touched on in some of the discussions but didn’t parlay into any, I think, substantive comment this morning, and then we’ll turn... for those that are newly arrived, my apologies for this digression. I mentioned mental maps a few times, and at lunch time some of you questioned me, “What is a mental map?” And I wish I could say a mental map is really the product of creative geographers, it probably comes as many our verities through other disciplines, but it’s fundamentally an exercise in having somebody write down on paper—chart with pencil or pen and paper—their images of some movement through space, or space as it exists. I could have asked you at the outset, for example, to give me a mental map of Portland, saying, “I’m a new person in Portland, I need have some idea of what are the kinds of landscape markers,” or what are called environmental cues, C-U-E-S, and that would have been a mental map. If you would have given me some of the things that are common here, whether it’s a river or whether it’s a bridge, whether it’s the Lloyd Center, or whatever, those kinds of things would have told me more than just about the landscape; it would have told me about the kinds of things that you perceive as important as you make your route from beginning to end, from home to school, from school to the Lloyd Center, from the Lloyd Center to the bar, or whatever your path is.

And the mental map, it can be used at any age level. I’ve used it in third grade successfully, and I’ve used it with my graduate students at the university. It’s a nice shorthand to their environmental literacy, to their ability to see and recall and then describe landscape, and it can be... the scale can be as small as, when I worked with third grade for a semester, I had them start out making a mental map just of the table, what’s on the table, so they get into the mapping idea of being able to see and translate. And it can be as complex as “What route does your bus go, what route do you bike, what route do you walk from home to school?” And then you can tell, by the kinds of things they put down, something about the kinds of thoughts they have, the kinds of things they see. That’s what our goal is, trying to understand thoughts and things that they see.

Finally, one of you said... you sound as though you’re concerned about field trips a lot; can’t they just turn into larks, not particularly productive? The field trips that we use for the institute, “Scoring Los Angeles Landscapes,” or for the first and second year UCLA Urban Environmental Education Institutes, these summer sessions, the field trips are prepared by—that is they are prefaced by—considerable comment on the sorts of areas we’re going to be seeing, and then asking the students, “What are your goals? What do you want to see in that landscape?” If we’re going to the City of Commerce, for example, in downtown Los Angeles, what do you
expect to see in a place called City of Commerce? If we’re going to the San Fernando Valley, what kinds of things do you think you’ll see in the San Fernando Valley? Picking up again on mental maps, their images of that valley. And we try to organize those, include some in the trip, and then talk about them, and then relate them to the larger ecosystem of Los Angeles. Then finally, the trip itself is accompanied by the scoring sheet, they all have these scoring cards, so they score environment, they tally up the points in which they feel it is strong or it is weak, and that we discussed this morning a little bit. Then finally, after the field trip, the follow-up is spent reviewing, in both meanings of the word: reviewing the landscapes they’ve been through, and integrating what they’ve seen, what they’ve learned, with the overall curriculum goals of a certain timeframe. I’ll talk more about that in the discussion period if you want, because I find a field trip without some preparation, without some conclusion, has much less significance and impact than a field trip that is just winged. Although we’ve all winged trips, they’re better if you can prepare the people and follow them up.

All right. As David suggested, I’m going to change the format just a minor bit, because I have written these two short papers for the sessions, this morning’s session and this afternoon session, and my understanding was they would be the axis around which the morning turned, because you would have seen them, and then we would’ve talked about them. I was intrigued to find out that, in fact, you’ve not seen these. The one on this afternoon, Lessons From the Landscape: Third World City Building, I’m going to share with you now, and I know how dry-mouth and tight that makes you all feel, but I’ll read it with as much energy as I can, and just because something is read doesn’t mean it’s dumb. Don’t think that things that are read, necessarily, either, have to be dull or whatever. These are the ideas we’re after, we’re now trying to concern ourselves with experiments in urban packaging that are not American, that are coming from other countries, and I will then follow this up with graphics on Chinese city experimentation, and a short film that gives you a wholly different perspective, as Third World nations have on the urban container.

*Lessons From the Landscape: Third World City Building.* A decade ago, Stanley Meisler of the *L.A. Times* wrote of the process of African city growth in these terms:¹ “The African is drawn to the cities by more than economics. The city has become the only symbol of the modern world to the African brought up in his peasant world. In a sense, he can move from the Middle Ages...” [changing tone] Hey, I don’t care if you’re here, but if you’re here, give me the quiet, okay? You can wait in the room and play the game if you want, that’s cool, but let me just read. “The African is drawn to the cities by more than economics. The city has become the only symbol of the modern world to the African brought up in his peasant world. In a sense, he can move from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century by going to the city. If an African has had a few years of schooling, if his imagination has been excited by newspapers and the radio, if he feels a need to break from his traditional ways, if he wants to be modern, there is only one place he can go,

---

¹ Salter is reading [and paraphrasing] from an article by Stanley Meisler which began on page 1 of the *Los Angeles Times*, November 17, 1968.
and that is to the city. And he will go there even when it does not make economic sense to go there.” Although the phrase “he can move from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century by going to the city” overlooks the city, overlooks the influence the city has had on peasant communities with the telecommunication network of urban centers, the rest of the scenario is accurate. Pell-mell migration, from not only the countryside, but also smaller cities and towns has been the characteristic movement in the majority of third world countries since World War 2. The theme of this paper is to view the ways in which urban experiments outside the United States have dealt with such movement. Are there lessons from the landscape and the process of urbanization in the third world which might benefit our own urban scene?

Our approach to an understanding of this additional international aspect of the continuing urban enigma is focused upon three themes. The first perspective is a commentary on the current realities of contemporary urbanization in the Third World. The second one deals with an analysis of the most ambitious domestic mobility program ever tried. Speculations on yet additional experiments will characterize the third perspective. The trio of concerns: present reality, mobility management, and possibilities for the future will provide us with the ideas we need for better comprehending mankind’s rush to the city.

The first perspective: realities of contemporary urbanization in the Third World. In the initial rush to the cities in the mid-nineteenth century Europe, there was a strong influence worked on peasant societies by two primary forces: enclosure, a legal closing of many of the common lands that had traditionally afforded a farming and grazing base for marginal farmers, forced masses of farmers to abandon farming as a livelihood. The consequential and second influence was the establishment of ever larger textile mills. The combination of diminished access to one resource concurrently with the yoking of a wage-earning alternative for unskilled labor began the greatest domestic migration stream that the European world had ever known. It was in this era that the true process of urbanization began, even though the roots of urbanism stretched back to the ceremonial and trade cities of the Eastern reaches of the Mediterranean and South Asia. The significance in that dual shift in the forces of location meant that, in a general sense, there was a fundamental complementarity between the countryside and the cityside. Consequently, the demographic shifts that occurred to begin city building in an expansive manner were characterized by increases in productivity of the human populations. While the detailed chronicle of these massive migrations would take note of many economic and social dislocations, the overall process proved to be an efficient transfer of manpower from a rural setting to an urban setting. There has not been the same complementarity in the contemporary rush of peasants and farmfolk away from farmlands and hamlets to major metropolitan centers in the Third World.

Quoting again from Meisler’s observant article: “The attraction to the cities in the migrations today has very often been the high life: schools, bicycles, doctors, jazz, shoes, and cash.” The differences in the resulted urban patterns are the sources for many of the landscape images
created by Third World cities. One example is the street hawkers, trying to generate enough cash to live on by the sales of single cigarettes, small quantities of fruit, used clothing, flowers, or perhaps personal services such as car washing or myriad domestic tasks. Crowded squatter settlements, barrios, favolas, shanty towns with their associated high population densities, poor facilities, inadequate access to municipal services, relatively high incidence of disease and sickness come to mind as another of these commonly imagined scenes. Perhaps the more tragic and graphic among these associated images is the beggar, the destitute mother, the malnourished child or father who has been driven to petty crime in the face of continued and defeating unemployment. These are the street people who constitute a highly imageable minority in these cities that attract far more people than they can productively support.

Settings such as these have led to the worldwide concern over problems of population. In the case of United States urbanization, there has been a steady decline in the rates of fertility of city populations, as families react to higher space costs, diminished household usefulness of children—as opposed to the traditional chore-orientation of rural children—and the relatively widespread information on family planning. In the Third World, however, there has been a demographically significant lag in cultural adaptation to the city. Village patterns have been retained, particularly in the most densely crowded shanty towns, and the trend toward lower fertility has not been realized. At the same time, however, there have been marked decreases in mortality. The net result is higher, not lower, rates of population growth in many of the cities and urban areas of the underdeveloped world.

This phenomenon has made a crowded situation not only crowded, but young and crowded. This has been seen increasingly as explosive politically. To summarize this press of people into urban spaces, look at the following three tables. The phenomenon of urbanization in the Third World is outlined in these basic demographic facts. [through laughter] Here are the three tables that you can refer to. They basically show that the Third World—that is, the so-called underdeveloped countries or less developed countries or rapidly developing countries—have had an urbanization factor in the last several decades, three and four times the urbanization press in the primary world that we focus on, the American and Western European world. It also shows not only is there an urbanization trend that gives them pell-mell migration to the cities, but it shows that the migration to the cities in these Third World nations has been focused on several cities, or what Mark Jefferson calls the primate city, the major city. It’s not dispersed through a whole range of cities, each one absorbing a certain and accommodating percentage of the rural migrants, it’s rather the pushes toward Calcutta, the pushes toward Caracas, the pushes toward Barranquilla, the pushes toward Rio, giving them a special crowding, and it gives us then, also, a pattern of a very heavy role being played by recent migrants to the current urban crunch in Third World nations. These tables will be available to you who are taking the course by xeroxes I’ll leave with Dr. Clark, and you can pick them up.
The first perspective, then, points out that the same images of high density that we have for American cities are valid for other parts of the world. It is essential, however, to focus more on pedestrians than on automobiles in the foreign cities. It is essential to think in terms of 15-40% as being unemployed, instead of the 5-15% in the United States. And the pace with which these Third World urban landscapes are moving toward crisis is exacerbated by the unparalleled rapidity with which town and foreign populations are moving to the major cities, even if there is no certainty of being able to share in the high life of “schools, bicycles, jazz, shoes, and cash.”

As in the case of our own urban settings, struggle is built into the decision for the city. Let us turn to an example of a nation which has stopped this diseconomic flow of peasants to the city, and has tried to accommodate the millions who have already made the transition from peasant farmer to city wage laborer. And this is the second perspective: Chinese experiments in mobility management and urban space. In the years following the success of Mao Zedong and the Chinese communist party, there was considerable social experimentation in the countryside. By 1956, the communists had advanced along the road of communization in the agrarian sector so far as to unsettle literally millions of Chinese peasants. These farmers, who were not welcoming mutual aid teams, rural cooperatives, and the unprecedented calls for participation in village-wide agricultural campaigns, had begun to come to the cities. Motivated primarily by uneasiness over the uncertainty of the direction of innovation in the countryside, they came to the city with neither industrial skills nor knowledge of job opportunity.

Simultaneously, the Chinese government began an active campaign of expansion in the heavy industrial sector of the well-established cities along the eastern seaboard of the country. Responding to Russian experience in their own interior, the Chinese also promoted the growth of new industrial centers and the expansion of moderate-sized cities in the northeast, the northwest, and along major inland waterways. There was, therefore, a dual impetus to a significant increase in China’s urban population. As in the case of both the so-called undeveloped and underdeveloped world, the major cities received the great bulk of the migrants, while less dominant centers grew more modestly.

By the mid-1950s, the Chinese realized that the street people problem of Shanghai, Canton, Tianjin, and other large cities was growing too rapidly and too unproductively. It was with this realization that the Chinese introduced a major effort to stem the migration flow from the countryside to the city. There was a campaign called hsia fang, or “downward transfer”—H-S-I-A F-A-N-G, if you want a phonetic “hsia fang,” or really S-H-A F-A-N-G, “sha fang.” With the advent of this program, Chinese peasants were not allowed to move casually into the city, and people who had no productive urban niche were subjected to being sent back to the countryside. Additionally, urban bureaucrats who the party felt had grown too distant from rural realities were made to participate in hsia fang, and pass a tour of duty as a working, producing member of China’s peasant farm population. By these programs, not only were the cities freed of some of their unemployed people, but peasants quickly learned that unless they
had a potential job to accommodate them in the central city, in the city, they could anticipate being sent back to the rural world. Tens of millions of people have been moved by this program, and it has done a reasonable job of controlling spontaneous migration from the rural sector to the urban centers in the People’s Republic of China.

The second innovation in the management of urban spaces has been the Chinese effort to establish urban communes. Just as virtually all resources were brought under the jurisdiction of the commune administration in the 1958 initiation of rural communes, so too were their experiments with urban communes. That is, joint ownership of houses and even household goods in a variety of localized, urban, communal situations. While one obvious aspect of the communization of the forces of production in the city was the state management of factories, the urban commune movement was an effort to organize cities into coherent sectors by employment. Workshops were created to employ family members of factories—families—and those... [starts sentence over] Workshops were created to employ family members of factory populations, and these small furniture factories, boat repair sheds, waste retrieval groups and the like, were all located in the shadows of the major factories. Shops, cafes, mess halls, department stores, and repair facilities were not only linked through an economic interdependency, but they also served as the basis for social cohesion.

City people were bound together by location, as well as by vocation. The analog to this, obviously, is a mining company town, an Appalachian coal town, or a Butte, Montana mining community. In Chinese cities, this meant the breaking down of traditional courtyard walls, for example, to establish the communal nature of urban populations. What were once apartments, in a facetious but not totally inaccurate phrase, have now been described as “togetherments.” The Chinese were hoping to create a new unity within its urban population, so that groups would work more effectively and productively in the factory because of the social bond they felt in their newly organized urban setting. In a setting which had traditionally been so fragmented that there was little sense of community in the urban industrial population, this was an attempt to replicate some of the... farmers’... [stumbling over the words] harvest time comradery. That’s funny, it was just a small lunch, shouldn’t do all that... [laughter in background] ...Replicate some of the farmers’ harvest time comradery.

The third aspect of Chinese urban experimentation came in their totally new design of urban space. Because one of the primary social goals of Mao Zedong was the diminishment of class lines between rural people and city folk, the Chinese tried to modify away the traditionally clear markers of city space and countryside. In new cities founded after 1949, and especially in the 1960s, efforts were made to force factory workers to produce their own foodstuffs. At the same time, local farming populations were given tours of duty in urban factory settings, so that they also could see what the tasks of the other sector were. These new cities, or what I call “agripolitan centers” were an additional innovation in urban design. They resulted in reducing the impetus to migrate to the city, because many of the same tasks which made country life so
wearisome were required of new city dwellers also. At the same time, city people tended to better understand the rigors of rural living, and this potentially reduced this friction between the urban and rural sector. Like Ebenezer Howard’s English Garden Cities or New Towns, not enough of these agropolitan centers were established to determine the ultimate value of these new approaches to city design, but at least the Chinese focused their anxieties about random and unpaced city growth adequately to create social and governmental policy that changed the landscape.

Migration control, governmentally encouraged programs to return to the countryside, and short-term rural residence for urbanites and bureaucrats, and efforts at the creation of city centers to produce both crops and industrial goods are then three of the experiments which the People’s Republic of China has developed in an attempt to modify common Third World patterns of contemporary urban growth. Whether or not the United States can learn from these lessons in the landscape will be considered at the conclusion of the third perspective. And the third perspective is: design alternatives for new cities in the Third World.

Great demographic inequities have been created by the migrational flow of peasant peoples in the third world. Not only has the countryside been abandoned at an increasing rate, but large areas which have otherwise been developed, possibly, for farmland have been left un-pioneered. As the primate cities of the lesser-developed nations grow so large as to appear unmanageable, vast tracts of marginal and potentially arable land go underutilized or even unpeopled. Since cities have been the cause for such a pattern, some nations have attempted to use cities to modify such a phenomenon. In Brazil and Pakistan, for two examples, a great amount of development money has been expended in the creation of totally new urban centers. These major cities, both national capitals, have not been enlarged from modest-sized cities, but have been sculpted from raw space. In both cases, the new cities were designed to move people away from overcrowded, established capital cities and toward new urban centers. These centers, however, were sited in the midst of open lands, very distant from the traditional clusters of urban population. In such a siting and setting, it has been hoped that the peasant quest for the high life of the city could be met by these new centers.

If the migration streams which had traditionally flowed to long-established centers could be redirected toward these recent creations, there would be a number of benefits. The old cities, for example, would witness a slow-down in the in-migration of peasants and refugees from smaller cities as people began to turn to the new capitals, Islamabad and Brasilia. The new cities would gain some of the flash and excitement of the traditional primate cities because of the entertainment and high society that follows centers of national government. The whole universe of employment that springs up around a massive governmental center would attract potential cityward migrants, but in the case of these two cities, there would have been prior planning done to accommodate the inflows of such people. The common images of crowding, shanty towns, poor facilities, could be replaced by the site of a people arriving at a newly
constructed major city with a reasonable chance for shelter and employment for many, if not for all. Finally, an additional hope of this inland migration has been that the very process itself of movement toward the new capital would cause people to begin to fill up the interior spaces of Brazil and Pakistan. In the course of a migration toward a distant city, numerous people find haven in smaller cities, towns, hamlets, and even farms. Such a process would begin to populate, and hence make more productive, major areas of the nation that have not been heretofore developed.

Unfortunately, not all of the intentions of these innovations have been realized. Even with the construction of new cities, the worker sheds of cardboard and scrap metal have been maintained as the most inexpensive zone of transition to the new city. Migration flows to Islamabad in Pakistan and Brasilia in Brazil have been less than dramatic, in part because the government officials have themselves been loath to leave the well-established capitals of Rio and Karachi. Development of the empty spaces that lie between the old capital and new has not been especially productive, because peasant knowledge of farmland potentials has already told much of the agrarian population that these lands are idle because they need too much fertilizer, too much irrigation, or are plagued by pest and animal problems which make farming easier and more productive in the traditional zones. Patterns of the past, or so it seems, have a powerful hold on even the most adventurous.

There has been, however, a demographic shift of some consequence worked by these new capital cities. The new centers have been harassed by some of the same problems as the traditional capitals, but this Third World experiment does show a willingness to be innovative and exploratory in dealing with the crushing problems of what some call “the hyper-urbanization” of some sectors of the lesser-developed countries.

Final, additional experiments can be summarized in short, thematic fashion to suggest areas of innovation. The Chinese, for example, have two other urban policies that could have significant impact on not only the Third World, but on our scene as well. In the continued development of urban space, the private automobile will not be introduced in any significant scale. Public transportation built around busses and trolleys and some subways will move the people to and from labor. Some factories, in addition, run open trucks to pick up and return employees. The use of the automobile is limited primarily to governmental services for foreigners. Small, regional centers with industrial capacity for the production of chemical fertilizers, small gasoline engines, farm implements, furniture, have been tried in Cuba and in the PRC. These efforts to better supply local regions with the industrial goods which an agrarian and small town society has need of reduces some of the impetus to migrate to massive urban centers. Some of the benefits of urban proximity are brought to the countryside by the establishment of such local, mini industrial nodes.
The cultural ambiance of an area changes as even the most modest of urban influences are introduced into the rural landscape. Modular housing, rural recreation centers, broadly distributed rural health clinics, increased proliferation of educational facilities, and countless other attempts at changing the image of the countryside and the reality of the city are being experimented with in the Third World. Justification for these programs comes from the lessons that the landscape of the so-called developed world present to this third world. The chaos of our American cities serves as a guideline, even a headline, albeit negative, for innovation and experimentation in other countries. We are tutors through difficult examples.

The remaining question here, then, is: can we learn from other nations’ experiments? Do we have the flexibility in our planning, construction, and funding agencies to respond to creative and effective remedies to universal, urban ills? If we can look abroad and reverse the traditional role of host and donor, and see ourselves as benefitting from the innovative designs in urban space in the Third World, then we have significantly enlarged our choices in solving the urban enigma. These lessons from the landscape could radically redirect our own course of urban alternatives.

When I was in China last summer, we had as part of the official delegation of American geographers, ten of us for the month of August in China, had the responsibility of listening to talks. And the Chinese have not learned the importance of a thing called a lectern, which camouflages the thickness of a person’s paper, which is very critical, and so they’d get up with something like this and the fellow would start reading and after you’d heard about the first ten lines you start thinking, “My God, how far is he going to go in this thing?” and then by five minutes into the talk, there was no chance of listening to what the man was saying, you were just conscious that every page turned meant such a minor impact on the whole manuscript that was there; and when a man finally once said, I recall, literally after two hours of reading in difficult English and not much better Chinese from his paper, he said, “I’m only going to read four of my five essays,” the feeling was [exclamatory laughing] “All right!” That is all I’m going to read to you.

I have, however, one other aid that I want to turn to. A thing in mind again: go back to the morning, we’re looking at landscape, we’re looking at landscape in a personal way because our goal here is not just trying to either bury cities or honor cities, to praise cities or laud cities, it’s trying to understand “Can we learn cities, can we learn from cities?” And the environmental literacy that I’m trying to exhort you toward, learning environmental cues through using the landscape in either a nature sense, an historical sense, an artifact sense, a problem sense, a history sense, a wealth sense, an ideology sense, whatever system you want sense—that burden has to stay with you as you also look at Third World city building. The phenomenon of American urbanism is rather special, there are characteristics that are uniquely ours, or at least the Western industrialized world, because our urbanism comes out from basically changes in the latter part of the eighteenth century and first part of the nineteenth century.
What we talk about in Third World city building is really much more akin to a process of what is called by economists “the demonstration effect,” whereby through telecommunications, or through some kind of culture broker evident in a community, you can learn something that you can... you can learn a new set of needs. You see somebody with a digital watch in an American grade school, and right away your daughter or son comes home and says, “Gosh, this watch is hard to read. If I had digits, I could really read it a lot more easily. If I had numbers on it that just flashed on...” that demonstration effect then creates a sense of a new felt need, and supposedly in Western society we can pride ourselves as the guy showing his Timex digital, we can pride ourselves in having also the discipline requisite to generate the capital and the opportunity necessary to generate the capital, to achieve some of these things that are suddenly necessities through this demonstration effect.

What’s happened in the urban patterns that we seem to associate with the Third World—and by that I’m talking about primarily Latin American, South Asian, and... not Latin American, Mesoamerican... Latin American, African, and South Asian city building, primarily—is that there is all this sense of what the city demonstrates, whether it’s through movies, whether it’s through wrist watches or bicycles or transistor radios, whether it’s through government cars with government people with their special costumes and paraphernalia coming through a village community, or whether it, increasingly, is temporary seasonal employment in the city, or travels to the city, or visitation of kin that have gone to the city; all those things change these images of cities, and they tend to generally stimulate a boredom with the rural alternative and an anticipation and positive interest in the urban alternative.

However, this demonstration effect is not characterized by an associated either pattern of or availability to the wherewithal that makes it possible to sustain yourself in the city. You neither have the education nor the capital to underwrite yourself, to grubstake yourself for a while, so what happens is then the city stands as a beacon, bringing people in, but it does not at the same time train them to effectively deal with the city, so we have the rather peculiar and special patterns of Third World urbanization.

Now, the film I have for you, I’ve got it for two reasons. One is, it looks at the city, basically a Western city, in fact a West Coast city, primarily, although it’s never identified, from an alien point of view. It looks at the city from without a very specific context. You see it as a form of settlement, as a mode of ecologic adaptation that is foreign to you. And as this movie portrays the response to this urban space, it’s interesting to see how they read that landscape, and the inferences they make from that landscape reading. And the reason I’ve got the film is partly because it ties in with this morning’s stuff, and I think it has educational potential, maybe for you who are teachers, but also gives you not a bad parallel sense of how a peasant in a foreign scene might see the demonstration of a Western city. So let’s turn to that, and then we’ll
proceed with the other discussion of our Third World city building. Lights and film, if you would please. [background noises; showing of film is omitted from recording]

SALTER [resuming after film is shown]: I’m happy with this light, if you’re happy with it. It doesn’t matter, it’ll let those that are catching their Zs do it in more grace. [audience laughter] This film, though perhaps seeming curious given the context of our Third World lessons from the landscape, has validity in the sense that the images of the city, the things that propel and impell in a sense compel the migration from the countryside to the city are as fragmentary as the kinds of pro data assessments aliens would get from looking at the city just from the air like that, because you don’t perceive in that kind of a scale the true human interaction with urban space that does so much, I think, to characterize Third World city building. The concept just of street people, for example; anyone who’s been abroad in foreign cities knows this idea of street people: street people and rag pickers, what are sometimes called the bottoms in a population, the very lowest stratum of social class. They’re the ones that have no haven in the city, and yet they’re the ones that are also inclined to come in.

If you look back at Stanley Meisler’s opening lines: “If an African has had a few years of schooling, if his imagination has been excited by newspapers and the radio, if he feels a need to break from his traditional ways, if he wants to be modern, there is only one place he can go: the city, and he will go there, even when it makes no economic sense to go, to do so.” So we have then the problem of the city serving as a magnet, as an attractor, for a great sector of the population. This is not unlike the Western patterns of urbanization, except for one very critical difference: now as we see people leave the countryside and come to the city in American urban building, or Western European urbanization patterns, there is generally created a technology, a cost efficient technology, that will accommodate the tasks that person leaves behind as he leaves the rural sector.

This is not the case, necessarily, in a Third World, peasant-based nation—that when someone leaves the workforce at the village level, two things happen. One is that the peers with whom he has worked, usually kinfolk, may or may not pick up the work tasks he leaves undone by departing. That’s one very real possibility. The second thing is, that is even more likely, when he arrives in the city, he will in fact certainly have food needs, food and material needs. So we have a double negative worked on the population by a diminishment in the labor force of the residual rural population that remains agrarian, and we have an increment, an increase, in the demands on the urban support systems.

Now, that flick pointed out probably as its primary impact on you this critical nature of transportation, this movement, this orchestration, if you will, of resources from a tremendously broad network in a smooth harmony presenting the city daily and nightly, dawnly and continuously, with the wherewithal to support these unproductive, consuming people—unproductive in an agrarian sense, and consuming in an all kinds of sense. The analog in the
Third World nations is that as the man leaves, or the woman leaves, the countryside, the
country, the changeover has to be supported by changes in education, changes in attitude toward
innovation, changes in the availability of an energy-costly pesticide, insecticide, and machine-
operated farm implement help, and it’s got to be associated with a very smooth market road
system and a transportation network.

These things have not happened in the same kind of a sequence that we say we had. I don’t
know—sometimes when you read history you get the terrible feeling that... not terrible feeling,
perhaps—but you get the sense that we’ve glossed over so much that really the analogs are
closer than we think of them as being. The reality, we can say, is that from what we see right
now—not looking at American and European patterns in the 1820s—from what we know right
now, there is not the effective infrastructure created in the countryside in most Third World
countries to accommodate the departure of these agrarian workforce peoples, nor is there, in the
city—through either large scale industrialization or the development of tertiary sector, the
service sector—nor are there positions to employ these people in adequate numbers. So you
then get this broad population of street people, of shanty town people, of hangers-on, and you
have what is called by people like Oscar Lewis a sort of village in the city, or Herbert Gans, a
village in the city situation, where you have a rural setting that’s been left, but you carry with
you as you go in, because you go in as a clan or you go in and become part of a clan structure,
you take village attitudes and village mores to the city with you.

Now, the impact of this: if you live as a villager in the city, and by that I mean two or three
workers will support eight or nine adults—in the city ordinarily, you have a much tighter ratio
between workers and adults—but in a Third World city, you can have two or three wages
coming in to support eight or nine adults, which then diminishes the per capita money available
for necessary consumption, and it also creates then that potentially politically unstable
situation that is always the anxiety of city leaders. The other result of that is, when you have
village mores being maintained in an urban setting, you deny one of the most critical factors in
what we call the demographic transition that has really saved what little optimism Harrison
Brown still has about future population growth. That is, as you come from the countryside to
the city, you become involved in city ways through education, through job opportunity, through
new patterns of consumption, through new patterns of entertainment and recreation, through
retarding your marriage age, so that the net result of all of this is that you make a personal
decision to have a smaller family or a later family or no family at all. This is a sociologic aspect of
the demographic transition.

When you find real changes in patterns of fertility in human populations, they relate primarily
to that transition affected by a move from the countryside to the city. This is based on the very
simple reality that in the countryside, the more children you have in a peasant society, the
more wealth you have, because since you may use land really title-free, if you’ve got the
manpower for it, the more manpower you have, the greater access you have to land; land is the
primary resource; the products of the land are yours and your workers’, your family, so that the wealth relationship between child number and family prosperity is a fairly high correlative. In the city, in a bona fide urban situation, you have a higher cost for space, hence children are expensive, you have a diminished chance for children to work, because of labor laws and employment situations, hence children are expensive, and you have mechanisms that give you very quickly, information on birth control, contraception, family planning, and they facilitate or fortify cultural attitudinal changes. If the village ambiance is maintained, what happens? You still have some sense of using the kids to go out as street hawkers, using the kids to go out as beggars, using the kids to work as petty thieves, using the kids to play some role and just pack them in, so you don’t get the same kind of impact on personal decision-making for changed fertility. The net result of all of this, you’ve probably seen from Harrison Brown yesterday, mortality goes down because the city provides better health facilities, better sewage facilities, better water delivery systems, better medical facilities; but the fertility maintains, in many ways, a lot of its peasant traditional high pattern, so that the net gap, that is net population growth, goes on a pace. You can’t diminish mortality rates and maintain constant fertility rates without realizing, of course, heavy population increase—or drop the adjective—population increase. The thing that’s made the cities work is that while mortality has gone for an additional 25 to 35 per thousand in the peasant world and down to 10 or even 7 in an urban world, fertility, because of this demographic transition, has also gone from a 25 to 35 to 38 to 40 per thousand down to a 20 per thousand, or less, and that gives you then a net diminishment in population growth.

All right, let me show you for the final graphics of the day, and then we’ll turn for a second to some other final comments, the Chinese examples I have, because I see the Chinese case as being the one case where we have a nation of some demographic significance, some magnitudinal significance—what a dumb phrase—a big nation [audience laughter] yeah... really a try, really attempt to change patterns of urbanization. From ‘57 to ‘77, 22 years now, they have worked rigorously on trying to control this, what I call the casual flow, the spontaneous flow of folks from the countryside to the city by turning them around. Let me show you these slides with two things in mind. One, some evidences of this, but more largely, a nature of what a city looks like in a society where you have some control mechanisms working but you still have the blatant evidence that nature as artifact, as it were, nature as history, of—excuse me—urban patterns that go back three and a half to four thousand years.

STAFF: [off mic] These were left over.

SALTER: Okay, let me show you the one slide I wanted to show you from the morning, that I would hope you would look at, is this one. Talking about landscape as ideology, this is the cover of a magazine produced in Los Angeles some years ago, and I’ve always wanted to show it to an Oregon audience. [audience laughter] I got a slide of it because it was so great, and I wonder if you can perceive what it is. [audience chattering] Yeah, it’s the Oregon-California border, isn’t
it. Isn’t that a magnificent graphic? And it… look at it: it’s got your images of your people, people and their sort of material culture, the Mickey Mouse hat, the sunglasses, the motorbike, the motorcycle, this great, golden, bare, heavy, grinny friendliness; but just stomping down the pal… yeah, bags of money… stomping down the palisades with a duck quacking feebly away and two beavers, wondering, “What is this, what is this strange program?” on a rather pristine landscape, and I think in terms of trying to utilize landscape and geography for ideology, for culture, for history, this is one that every Oregon teacher should have access to at some point to work with. Sorry, I’m…

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Is that one going to be included with your packet?

SALTER: I think… that’s a good question. My answer is yes, I think that went into the mother packet; if it didn’t, I’d be happy to get copies made for anybody who writes to me, and I’ll send it up to you at, say fifty cents a slide. These slides aren’t quite as impressive; it’s hard, in China, to get slides.

STAFF: Do you want the rest of the morning ones?

SALTER: No, no, let’s go on… okay, thank you. It’s good to leave them hungry, you’ll have to wonder what it is you’ve missed on those last morning slides. Yes, this is… this is better. Chinese, you see, were doing a… [audience laughter] doing a pun here on Chinese graphics. [laughter erupts] If you dig a hole through the earth… all right, okay.

Think for a second, a minute here about the general flow that we’re talking about in this theory of rural-urban migration. The whole phenomenon that underlies all of our concerns about urbanism, whether it’s this morning’s urban enigma, or whether it’s this afternoon’s lessons from the landscape, it all relates to this process of people deciding not to be on the farms, rather people deciding to go to the cities.

Let me give you an example from my own fieldwork. When I was teaching English in Taiwan for a couple of years after college in the early 1960s, I got to know a number of students who were the children of farming families, and were studying English at […], a little school that I taught at outside of […], Taichung. And I went back four or five years later to finish up some Ph.D. fieldwork, and I found out that the farmlands where my friends’ parents had lived were now factory lands. The city had grown out and eaten up the lands. I was able to find the parents of one of my students, who was then doing a doctorate at Princeton, and I sought them out in the city of Taichung, and went to them saying, “Hey, what a shame,” because they had farmed that land, it was classed double-A paddy land, they let me plant part of a rice paddy one time to sort of learn the process, and I went in feeling very sympathetic to this urban push demanding that they turn to something else. And I learned more in three minutes than I had learned in the prior three years, because they said, “Why are you feeling sorry for us? We are so glad to be out of
the muck, so happy to not be farming any longer. The freedom of being able just to run a bicycle repair shop”—which is what they were doing—“and we close on Sundays now, we close on Wednesdays, we close when we want to, we close during Chinese New Year, we’re making more money, we get up at seven as opposed to five, we have our... the folks hang around at night when we’re doing work and it’s all very comfortable.” And I had sort of this Pearl Buck image of the “Good Earth” and the tenacity of the earth and the people and the wonders of their joy with it, bam, right out the window in a beautiful bit of learning.

I think this is, perhaps in response to your speculative question this morning, what we’re able to extrapolate from the last three thousand years: if you give a farmer an alternative, if you give a farmer an alternative, by and large, he’ll get out of farming and into the city, or into the suburb. And the farmers who remain today, with exception in America, say the Appalachian farmers and some Mormon farmers and some people that do it almost in a Thoreauian sense, the farmers that remain are really urbanites working the factories—to use Carry McWilliams’ term—the factories and the fields. They’re using corporate technology, they all have CPAs... they don’t all have CPAs... many of them have CPAs working for them, the children have degrees out of ag extension schools, and they are really urbanites just in a rural setting, rural in the sense that it’s food-producing.

This is the dynamic that we’re talking about. Look at our environment here. We have a cluster of four things—and you can make this up almost in any way—this is an article by a man named [...] in which he’s just saying that migration flow works within an environment of technology, transportation, communications, and mechanisation on one side, and the most important aspect there is the idea of communication, because... I remember you said there was a... [aside, to someone nearby] that thing, eh? Okay. That’s wonderful. [audience laughter] Did you guys... okay, alright. That’ll take care of your children. [audience laughter] The thing that’s important here is communication, because it’s the feedback mechanism; it’s the person who makes the first move is the person that’s the most exciting. Christopher Columbus is important not because he floated across with three leaky ships from the Iberian Peninsula to wherever he landed, but because he was the first one to basically try it, as far as we know. He got history’s position as the first. Who knows who came within the second time, who knows who the people were who came in the trips two, three, and four, before Columbus died? No one knows, very few care, very few care and no one knows. It’s the first move, because once you get there you send back the news of what you’ve seen. If you read Columbus’s first letter, to complete the example, it’s filled with wonderful prevarications, wonderful dishonesty about the things he’s seen, because he knows the impact of the feedback of what he’s seen will fund or not fund what happens next year when he goes to Queen Isabella and to Ferdinand again and tries to organize route two or trip two.

The environment also, governmental policies, ag practices, mechanization, population movement, that is, the kinds of things that come through an educational system, an
administrative system, those have impact on the decision. The environment and the social welfare, development, education, and health, what does the person know about how the city will accommodate him is important in this Third World migration, and finally, the environment in terms of economic conditions: wages, prices, et cetera. These are the kinds of variables that play in the decision making process. You know the process yourselves, because if you’re urbanites, you’ve thought about moving to Camas Swale, or to Drain, or to Dorena Reservoir, to Cottage Grove; and if you live in Cottage Grove, or Camas Swale, or Drain, or Dorena Reservoir, you think about maybe coming to Salem. If you’re an Angelino, you think about coming to Oregon, if you’re Oregonian you think, “I wish the freeway went around the state and up to Washington.” All of these things, there’s always thought about the migration thing, this shows some of the mechanisms. The various things that work inside this decision-making system relate basically to positive and negative feedback channels: positive, there is a job, negative, the police bust us every night here.

STAFF: Push the button and you have your light.

SALTER: Thank you, I just... alright. The light shows positive feedback and negative feedback. If you keep your eyes open, you can see those things without my instruction. The migration channel is the axis, they form the axis of this kind of a scheme, simply meaning that people will know where to go when they come into town. By word of mouth, they’ll know where they can get grubsteak, they’ll know where they can get the cheapest food. The whole mechanism has a very social, and hence village-like, expression of communication that leads to a decision to migrate, and if migrating, the decision to stay at a certain place. This could be—when you get this out of your little packet—this can be turned into any city that you want, any situation that you want, trying to role play what would happen as different people play different positions in this scheme. All right.

This is the kind of scene that they’re fleeing from. Here’s a Northern Mexico village, on a summer afternoon, it’s this kind of environment—and I don’t mean this in any specific, pejorative way—but it’s this general sense of the lethargy, the quietness of the rural scene that seems to lead toward a looking for the high life, looking for shoes, jazz, school, and cash. This is the outer ring, or sometimes the inner ring, into which the migrant first is accommodated: that moving into the city, he seldom—because he’s coming from either a subsistence economy or even perhaps a virtually non-cash economy—he finds himself little able to, because of education level or urban opportunity, to pay for his way, so he locates in the shanty towns that are put together by catch-all stuff that comes away from what we call “midnight auto supply” in American culture, what is otherwise known as just “catch as catch can,” in terms of organizing a landscape.

You have this as one of the networks of news about what’s happened from other migrants as they’ve gone into the city: here’s a village washing facility in a Third World country, and it’s at
places like this, people will talk about a sister that’s gone into work at a textile factory in the capital city, or that’s gone in to be a prostitute, or a man that’s gone in to get a job in a noodle restaurant, and may in fact have enough money soon to get his own mobile noodle stand, that makes him an independent broker and hawker. News goes back and forth this way about opportunities in the city. And then you have this again: you have marginal operations that require almost no capital input to sustain these street people as they try to locate themselves. Here’s a doctor’s office… oh wait, no, this isn’t a doctor’s office at all. Here’s a little meat market, a simple operation with a scale and a stand and a few hooks and some conversation, enough money to buy a side of pork in the morning. And you get this thing, this same scene that is not unlike a Western city, and it has all that can be used, I could just give you that slide in the morning session and say, “Now, give me the litany of all the things that are wrong with urbanism,” and you could use that slide as a guideline.

In the same sense, though, this is the corpus—no pun intended—this is the corpus that does attract so many of the Third World migrants. And you find, if you study it more carefully, it has softer edges to it: one of the rooftops in that Canton landscape has a little garden complex to it, it was used, one of the days that I saw it, for a dance troupe to practice dancing on it, you could hear the music coming up. There are amenities that are evident upon further exploration. You look down and you can see a variety of little gazebos and sort of Marlon Brando “On The Waterfront”-like spaces in the top of the city.

This is for the research that you’re going to do after today, as is that, too.

All right, let’s talk. I’m more concerned with images because images… you’ll think more on, graphs you just close up on. Look at them though, and study them yourself, make someone learn them. The city has this kind of a duality. Here’s a shot of Peking, and you have in the foreground the regular one-story, two-story brick, galvanized tin, sometimes tile, sometimes even thatch housing, you have some tree greenery. That’s one mode of a city. That generates one image, that’s thought of in terms of economics, primarily in the Third World, but you also have as the catalyst for much of the migration and perhaps the catalyst for the beginnings of cities, this great, imperial, majestic, and absolutely unusual mode. That is the forbidden city. Excuse me… that lies in the middle there with the gold tile roofs, which suggest that a city always has two sides to it, at least two. One of them, the mundane, pedestrian, somewhat fearful one; and the other is the awe-full, A-W-E hyphen F-U-L-L, the awe-full aspects of the city. The great, monumental architecture, the ceremonial centers, the sacred centers. These are the things that give you that little extra feeling about what mankind has done, and those function very actively, constantly, in the decision to come to a city.

It’s this kind of thing that represents part of the grandeur of an imperial city, and most all cities have some little evidences of such grandeur, whether it’s a local cathedral, a church, or whether it is a especially nice hotel and the gardens out in front of it, or whether it’s a very nice
teahouse and coffee house. You get some sense of there being amenities beyond the other horrors. You get this kind of social electricity.

This is a... in Peking, a card display. That’s a crowd of tens of thousands of people there displaying their cards, and the synchronized way you have dancers in the middle, swaying back and forth, creating a sort of vicarious thrill at the organization of man, the power that man has in not only organizing cities’ hardware, the space, the concrete aspects of the city, but organizing himself and being organized himself into that kind of unison.

You have, sometimes, a funny lag factor of the present and the past. Here’s an old palace in Southwest China. Inside the palace grounds, where you have one of the old, great stone animals guarding a guardhouse down here, and the grain is just next to it, and in the foreground you have a girl carrying out two buckets of night soil in the morning, one going back to an imperial past, the other going back to a neolithic past, when night soil was initially seen as a tremendous human resource for making these cities pay for themselves, making these cities sustain themselves.

One of the things I was pleased to see in trying to compare Taiwan and the mainland: in Taiwan, many street corners in the cities have concrete pill boxes about six feet tall and about five feet in diameter with two entrances, and they’re maybe five-inch-thick concrete. They’re just like silo sections, if you had a very sharp knife and went through a silo and then put them around the city with a lid on, you’d have the idea. They were there for air raid shelters. However, there has not been an attack since ‘57, and I was there in ‘61 and then ‘69, and in the interim they’ve been used primarily as privies, and the decision you always had to make as you’re standing by them was if you saw a MiG-17 coming straight at you strafing, you would decide whether to step inside there and shield yourself, or take your chances with the machine gunner. In the mainland you get the same kind of thing: here’s an old Ming dynasty guard house, and you’d rather deal with that animal than deal with the inside of that. Alright, more of the same thing.

A city trying to deal with the problem of sewage, a contemporary problem in all urban centers. The Chinese, almost unique in the world, now, handling it in a more productive way than any other culture, and that’s night soil being poured into a barge, being collected, because the reality that Chinese servants face in this agropolitan goal they have of trying to make countryside and cityside appear the same, is to sustain themselves not by transport linkages that go hundreds and thousands of miles away to bring food in, but to seldom go even scores of kilometers away. Shanghai, with between nine and eleven million people, is allegedly supported by a truck farming industry that falls 95% within a fifty kilometer radius. Nine to eleven million people, bigger than any city in our country except one, supporting itself by a radius that’s less far than from here to Salem. Whereas we pump lettuce into the New York
metropolitan dawn markets daily in California, and it’s a different kind of concept. This is one of the reasons: highly productive truck farming right on the margins of the city.

And you have, then, also the resources being utilized more fully in this water body; rather than drain it away and asphalt it, it becomes kind of like a Venice, and the barges that work on it are like three-wheeled trucks or four-wheeled trucks that move the goods to the city with no pollution at all, of an airborne sense, and the water is no better... no worse than the Cuyahoga river in Cleveland; it doesn’t burn, anyway. The city itself is free of cars, by and large, but nothing is simple in life. Where they don’t have cars, they put in bicycles, or they put in trolleys. The curious street pattern in China is that they’ve been able to handle in many cases the large scale difficulties with pollution-generating sources, the point source generations of say, stacks, that they can easily cleanse and scrub. But they have the ubiquitous hibachi, or the little cooker there; and most of the families of Shanghai will step out at dawn, as they will in Suzhou and Changyuan and Beijing and everywhere else, and they’ll cook their breakfast with soft coal tablets on these things, which creates a horrible pall in the first fifteen feet of the atmosphere, from ground level to about the crowns of the trees, so you’re walking through this grit. And the perception, then, is that the air is much worse in the Chinese cities than it is in Los Angeles, and yet China gets a much better press on its environmental controls because it has cleaned its scrubbers, or scrubbed its cleaners, and in reality you have this kind of a problem which is very hard to solve. Natural gas is not a part of the Chinese urban scene.

You get also the problem of drays, the technology revolution that makes us move as that movie has shown with such effectiveness, on our goods transport. In China, you’re still involved with a great deal of hand-pulled carts, or trucks that take up most of the space, or animal-pulled carts, or bicycles, all of which can clog up a street just as badly as two thousand cars, one person each, between the Crenshaw and the Western off-ramp.

Looking down at some of the landscape on a larger scale, you get some of the ironies that make up a Third World landscape. Here we’re looking out of a twelfth-century temple down on a bomb shelter being built right now, under what will be, future, an urban park, and you wonder about the resources. That resource is made even more complex by the fact that part of the stone going into that bomb shelter is derived from the Great Wall, and the Great Wall was built defensively some two thousand years ago to close out the enemy, and that same rock which so futilely tried to close out the Mongolian hordes, the Genghis and Kublai Khan and their ilk, is now being recycled, as it were, into Peking air raid shelters. Here’s the wall, in fact... You may say you can see, wait’ll you see these things somewhere else, you’ll get double your money. This is the Great Wall as it really exists, that is, in disrepair and collapsing. The linkages you always see are like this, and behind this man along the five-kilometer strand that has been very nicely maintained, and accommodates a tremendous tourist rush in China.
But this wall idea is important because it represents a use of local resources that goes back to what California, and certainly Oregon even before California, has been concerned with, not only in urban terms but in social terms, and that is appropriate technology, the idea of utilizing local resources and utilizing them at a scale that involves human labor and human satisfaction in the process of such activity. The walls of China are wonderful comment on using local mud and stone to create a sense of internal city strength and internal city pride, and it did have some obvious manifestations for defense. These exist today as relics of a past and continue as city walls, sort of landscape as artifact. And the Chinese, as they rebuild their cities, which literally they’re doing bit by bit, take down some of this block, leaving some of the walls for museums—living museums—and use much of the other block to redo parts of the urban landscape to accommodate some of the new populations that have been moved into the city or have grown into it.

Here’s an outside market, still a part of a Third World city scene. Just something to suggest that even the Pearl River is... it has not been so highly organized, and well communized, that it doesn’t serve in an aesthetic sense, as well as this old man, as many Chinese still having the leisure to just ponder the flow of time and water below a new bridge put in by the communists over the Pearl River. We get, then, in regular street scenes, in a Third World, the images that you get would probably, if I had you do a mental map of Third World city scenes, would have narrow streets, you might not have the power lines that are, in fact, very important in the Third World scene. Notice here the bamboo poles pushed from one side of the street to the other with clothes hung through them, so they can blow in the wind without falling off, or be stolen. You get the same kind of confused architecture and cluttered sense that you get in most city space.

The real problem the Chinese face, and aggressively dealt with, is this street people population, this hanging-around population. Here’s the Bund in Shanghai, the wall along the Huangpu Creek that conflues later on with the Yangtze River, the great river in China, and there is just this sense. I don’t know if any of you are, or were, Star Trek fans, if you were you’ll recall immediately, because Star Trek was like this, the image of one of the series, when Captain Kirk fell in love with a woman that was transported on board, who was very lovely and wanted to get infected by him, so she could return to her planet and spread a plague through her planet because... and the portal opened, you looked down, and there was just total people, just total people milling around, just lots of folk. And you get some of that sense in the Chinese city, and this is after hsia fang and migration control, giving you a sense of “it is no minor problem.” And China is certainly not unique in it, the thing that China is unique in, although Indonesia has tried this, too, and some countries to a much lesser degree, China has stopped, basically through the control of people by the ID card, which if they are not where they should be, disallows them their monthly rice ration, cotton ration, peanut oil ration, nor are they easily able to get either employment or residence. So the migration is very tightly controlled.
We end up then with a city like Daxing, a new city, a refining city built around oil resources in Manchuria, or what is called Dongbei, the far northeast; you get a city like this that has all of its land between factories given over to farming so that you get a sense of both rural activity and urban activity, an interfacing of the two. You see, if you were going to—ach, sorry—if you were going to stop the migration flow between the countryside and the city—not between—from the countryside to the city in the Third World, you've got to stop the cultural appreciation of the city as being the better place to be. China's trying to do this by having the burdens happen in an equal sense in both places. We end up with a cartoon like this, then, that represents ideal Chinese space, where you have a city laid out totally in a human grid, taking us back to the first point of this morning’s lecture; we’re talking about the most artificial environments man has ever created. We’re talking about the very pinnacle of human planning as we look at cities today, because they represent an accretion of individual human decisions. The Chinese have tried to make this decision a little differently, by having... follow the light... farmland, nursery beds, crop land, tree crops, street plantings, transportation linkages, water storage, more tree plantings, more crop land, and basically a factory and residential grid, all within one new center. That is, as I say, I call the agripolitan center—"agri" as in agricultural, "politan" as in metropolitan—the agripolitan center, representing the ideal culmination of a philosophy of classlessness, and a spatial geometry of diminished, if not disappearing, class differentiation. The classes being rural folk and city folk.

All right, I’m going to stop there, and I have a handout I’ll give you at the beginning of our discussion time. I’d be happy to entertain any questions then, after your break.

[distant background noises; about 90 seconds of silence on tape before program ends]