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Places,
and the concept of place
need continual renewal.

Renewal takes place
through the reinvestment
of thought.

Places in our cities — the spaces that we hold in our minds and that lend structure to our lives — are renewed through human actions. People take part. They reinvest in places through cycles of maintenance, through the discovery of new uses for existing forms and through the generation of fresh information that prompts us to see things differently.

Places are renewed by the people who inhabit and use them, as well as by those who alter structures and add equipment, signs and furnishing, or those who build anew to take advantage of perceived opportunity. The economic value of goods and activities fluctuates, creating a dynamic, often relentless, pressure for reconsideration of the places they define.

Places change, too, through the daily, seasonal and cyclical actions of the climate. The inexorable alteration of materials over time and the organic growth of vegetation change how places appear and affect how they endure. The types of control exercised over these forces often sets the perceived quality of places — decay induces flight; care begets care.

To turn inevitable change into renewal requires the investment of thought. It requires thinking, during the conception of buildings, about how forms and materials will accept the transformations of time and the dimensions of human use. It requires being alert to changing circumstances and being able to accommodate the unexpected. It requires having the courage to welcome change and the ingenuity to direct it in ways that will contribute to, rather than destroy or discard, existing characteristics that are valued. Often, it requires the political will to resist frivolous change, to articulate multiple interests and enduring values, and to give them creative force.

Places are changed by how we think about them. This issue reports on the Place Design and Place Research Awards that we sponsor jointly with EDRA, the Environmental Design Research Associ-

ation. It demonstrates the range of thought that pertains to place — illustrating research that is especially well conceived and executed, showing the results of ingenious and attentive design thought that has been applied to places in various parts of the world and at differing scales and uses.

In accordance with the rules of the program, the jury selected only three awards for design and three awards for research. They are presented here, and jury comments on each have been included. There were many more projects submitted that were worthy. Indeed, the collection of seventy-eight entries from more than twenty countries gives compelling evidence of the care and insightful attention that has been instrumental in the renewal of many places throughout the world. Short essays by two jurors and an observer reflect on some of the issues that are raised by this array of projects. With all this, our second issue reporting on the EDRA/*Places* awards program is an encouraging and stimulating survey. We look forward with eagerness to the results of next year's awards program, with its deadline posted for February.

The additional articles, dispatches and forum pages in this issue provide reports on other competitions, discussions and exploratory design research, as well as an account of the patient, persistent (and sometimes political) efforts that are necessary to bring the fruits of design research into the body politic of the city. The portfolio offers points of meditation about the manifestation of concerns for safety, security and territoriality in our urban environment.

Together the elements of this issue reveal the varieties of disciplined thought and creative exploration that are so badly needed for the renewal of places. If we are to turn the spaces of our world into good places, places that support community and enliven experience, we must foster the proliferation of vigorous thought.

— *Donlyn Lyndon*