

THE END OF BOURGEOIS PLANNING

An evolutionary culture would seem to bring about the end of planning and the beginning of interpretation and social action. The only problem is that we do not yet have any mechanics of interpretation or of dissemination that would allow every individual the opportunity to act socially and without a mechanics there is nothing upon which to act.

What we have are recondite, normative and innovative cultures whose continuation is assured for so long as the means of dissemination and integration remains beyond our grasp. It seems sometimes as if communications and ICT technology is moving towards some kind of cultural platform for inter-subjectivity and yet the exploitative mechanics of the existing cultures work for money rather than quality of life. We must also rely on the aspirations of the have-nots to wish to become haves and ensure that in struggling to have they directly support the needs and activities of existing haves so that the evolutionary culture will be that much longer in coming.

Until then we can pretend that planning is rational and that the paradigmatic rationality and blind faith of existing cultures includes meaning as natural science. From the architectural point of view this paper suggests that architecture and urban design should be preparing itself for a transformation from that idiosyncratic and/or rational design role to design as a function of social cooperation based on varying framed intensities of subjective and ecological intercommunication. That some moves are already underway can be seen in the intuitive responses of those trying to cross disciplines and tear down barriers to communication with those whom recondite, normative and innovative cultures perceive to be beyond the pale – just as moves to badge such radical

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attempts as part of some new paradigm of reason, if successful, render the evolutionary culture stillborn.