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New Century Cities: Creating Extraordinary Value.

One definition of value, in this case, would be **economic**; cities as real estate. Another definition of value could be social and cultural; cities as a means for **social** and **cultural** fulfillment. Cities are very complex spatial patterns of places; places for living, places for work and a third place for interaction. **Technology** is touching our lives and changing it in dramatic ways, more so than electricity, telecommunications and cars. We are being forced to reevaluate our interaction with the places that was once second nature to us. The manifestation of technology is real and it is virtual. The physical translation of this phenomenon fascinates me and, at the same time, perplexes me. I am attempting to understand the implications on the physical environment at different scales. The scales combine and overlap with each other and also create interactions between physical and socio-cultural environments.

People interact with other people and places primarily in a sensory and/or tactile way, sometimes skewed by memory and nostalgia. By proposing alternatives to direct person to person and person to place interactions, technology is forcing us to probe inwards to see what these interactions means to us. Is this value added, lost or displaced? What are the implications for architectural design and urban design in the context of New Century Cities?

Places, specifically public places, have always been a reflection of society and culture; places for interaction & recreation. The public face of society has been it's public institutions and the value of some of these institutions, like post offices, banks and museums, is being diminished by the existence of virtual counterparts. Also, technology comes packaged with the notion that it is free of any social and cultural bounds. Is this value added, lost or displaced? What is the program for public places in New Century Cities and what is their role in defining the culture/image of a society?

Cities that survive time and change, have done so by being flexible and accommodating.

Technology, it's ethereal nature and it's impact on cities, is stretching this paradigm even more. New

Century Cities, “new generation of very large-scale projects, deliberately located at the intersection of technology, urban design, and real estate development”, need to be catalysts in inducing change in a more pervasive way. Surely, certain places will be left behind as has been the case with any major shift in history. It totally depends on the meanings these places, socially and culturally. Is this value added, lost or displaced? What does this mean for planning & design in cities, at this time, to help them weather the transformation?

\*(I suspect the answer to the question about value will be displacement in economic terms, in socio-cultural terms. The implication of this displacement of value could be the creation of proxies, the creation of placeholders that maintain our connections to the time gone by but allow us to move along with time and change. The question is what and how??)