

TF 200 R  
New School for Social Research  
Jacobs

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF  
CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING  
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

August 5, 1958

Mr. Chadbourne Gilpatric  
The Rockefeller Foundation  
49 West 49 Street  
New York 20, N.Y.

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Dear Mr. Gilpatric:

SEP 16 1958

I'd back Jane Jacobs if I were you. She's already proven her effectiveness in promoting what has been a highly unfashionable viewpoint on the brutalities and banalities of present-day large-scale civic design. She's a good writer, ~~much~~ sensitive and imaginative, with real personal concern for the qualitative visual and social aspect of modern American cities. So I'd recommend giving her her head for a period to see what happens.

Here is one possible qualification, however. Don't let her get bogged down with academic theorizing or too much would-be-scientific research. That isn't her game and she probably knows it, but strange things sometimes happen to good creative popular writers when they get a Foundation grant! Her book should be sharp and lively reportage, for the general public or at least for the "intelligent interested layman". If she does any systematic reading at all, it might well be with the idea of debunking the various classifications of urban development expert. I'd hope to get a book roughly comparable in style and weight ~~to~~ Russell Lynes' "Taste Makers", but of course related to ~~present-day conditions~~ the urban physical environment that is at present reshaping itself.

Thanks for seeing J.B. Jackson: I gather you were more interested in his magazine than in his ~~flamboyant~~ venture into vernacular architecture in the Middle East.

For a number of reasons I must postpone my Indian trip from this Fall until after Xmas. So I'll probably see you at the conference on urban criticism.

Sincerely,

Catherine Bauer

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