

TF 2200 R  
New School for Social Research  
LEWIS MUMFORD: AMENIA: NEW YORK Jacobs

1 August 1958

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Dear Mr Gilpatric:

SEP 16 1958

Your inquiry about Mrs Jacobs' project evokes a very willing response from me: for there is no one among the younger generation whose work, in housing and planning, seems to me more promising. Indeed, she has already opened various fresh lines of investigation on matters that have been singularly ignored or misinterpreted by both planners and urban sociologists.

I first came across her at a conference a few years ago: she there made a brief address so pointed and challenging and witty, so merciless to the accepted clichés and so packed with fresh ideas that I felt like cheering; and did in fact cheer when called upon to make a few remarks at the end of the conference. Her direct, first-hand method of attack, and her common-sense judgments are worth whole filing cases of what is sometimes too respectfully called research. I have naturally followed her writings since, and find no reason to modify my first favorable impression; quite the contrary.

She has written me at some length about the nature of her proposed investigation; and I regard her purpose as important and her competence to carry it through indisputable: all the more because I am confident that her results will challenge a good deal of current practice. You will look far before you find a more worthy applicant in this field.

Faithfully yours

Lewis Mumford