

(Dr. Bronk left the meeting during consideration of this item.)

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Univ. of Pennsylvania
Community planning

It was, on motion,

RESOLVED that the sum of Sixty-six thousand dollars (\$66,000),
RF 56109 or as much thereof as may be necessary, be, and it
hereby is, appropriated to the UNIVERSITY OF PENN-
SYLVANIA for use by its School of Fine Arts, in
studies of the history of town and country develop-
ment and of current trends in landscape design, during
the three-year period beginning September 1, 1956.

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The above action was taken after an oral presentation of the project by Mr. Marshall and following discussion.

Among the considerations presented were:

Humanities: The Visual Arts

Previous Interest: None to this institution. In 1954, \$85,000 was appropriated to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for a three-year study of the aesthetic aspects of city planning.

General Description: In architecture, city planning, landscape design, and history of art, the School of Fine Arts in the University of Pennsylvania ranks high for the quality of its faculty. There are about fifty full- and part-time members of its staff in these four departments, including Professors G. Holmes Perkins, Dean, and with him in architecture, Louis I. Kahn and Robert LeRicolais; in land and city planning - Robert B. Mitchell, Lewis Mumford, Martin Meyerson and William L. C. Wheaton; in landscape design - Ian L. McHarg; and in history of art - David M. Robb and George Tatum. Close cooperation among these men in teaching extends into a varied research program in landscape design and community planning. The current annual budget for research exceeds \$130,000, with \$30,000 provided by the university and the balance from contracts with such agencies as the

City of Baltimore, the Pennsylvania State Planning Commission, and the Commission on Race and Housing. To insure interflow of ideas and skills among the four fields and coordination of planning and publication, research activities are administered by the Institute for Urban Studies, directed by Professor William L. C. Wheaton.

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Since there is no comprehensive literature on the international history of town and city development, the School proposes a program of research on how the physical environment in the past and in major regions of the world has been reshaped to provide social, cultural, and aesthetic satisfactions. Mr. E. A. Gutkind, who is the author of several volumes on city and regional planning, (e.g. Revolution of Environment and Our World from the Air) and who is well qualified for the task, would give full-time direction to the work with two research assistants over a three-year period. In order to make use of existing but scattered knowledge and secondary sources, studies would first emphasize analysis and later move into comparisons and evaluation. Mr. Gutkind or his assistants would make brief trips here and abroad to collect and check materials. The selection of regions and periods in which man's transformations of his physical environment are to be studied would be guided by a continuing committee consisting of Professors Wheaton, Perkins, Mumford, Meyerson, one representative of history of art, and two from other departments in the university. The committee would advise on methods of investigation and interpretation and, as the need arises, draw in experts from oriental studies, history, social sciences and other university programs. The committee would also review materials prepared for publication under a plan for brief monographs on principal countries, three descriptive volumes on major regions, and a concluding volume analyzing styles, trends, and achievements with evaluations of their present interest. The School has university funds to subsidize publication. The resulting books should give historical depth and broader international

perspective to the work of architects and city and development planners; they would also provide needed literature for professional training and open promising new lines of inquiry. Through participation in the program, a few able young historians of city planning would receive training not otherwise obtainable.

Work in landscape architecture during the last twenty-five years has shifted from concern mainly with private estates to open spaces in communities, as in parks and parkways, housing developments, and shopping centers. New forms of expression and design have been evolved which reflect aesthetic and social values and, particularly, some of the major advances in architecture and city planning. The development of models, standards, and theory in landscape design, and its closer relations to architecture and community planning, have been retarded, however, by lack of organized experience and criticism in written form. Accordingly, the School of Fine Arts proposes as a second project, related to the first, to make a descriptive survey and evaluation of distinguished examples of landscape design in the last thirty years. Attention would be centered on various types of landscape design such as expressways, gardens, or national parks in the United States and abroad. A series of monographs, with publication financed by the School, would provide a basic reference source, essential materials for teaching, and a critical guide to significant trends and notable achievements.

Finances: Apart from salaries, publication funds, and other support from the University of Pennsylvania, the proposed grant of \$66,000 would provide approximately

(a) for historical studies of town and country development over a three-year period:

Salary for Mr. E. A. Gutkind . . .	\$30,000	
Two research fellowships	9,000	
Clerical assistance.	4,500	
Travel and purchase of materials . .	<u>10,500</u>	\$54,000

(b) for studies of trends in landscape design over a two-year period:

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To free part of Professor McHarg's		
time for supervision	\$ 2,500	
Four research assistantships . . .	6,000	
Purchase of books and materials. .	1,500	
Clerical assistance.	1,500	
Travel	500	12,000
Total		\$66,000

Comment: This proposal is presented as an enterprise in the Humanities because its primary emphasis is on the aesthetic factions the urban environment can provide. For the most part urban planning and development in the United States has emphasized what has aptly been called "surface survival" through improved transport, access to essential facilities, zoning, etc. The ensuing preoccupations have led to a disregard in practice for other considerations which have often prevailed in the growth of communities in other parts of the world. The primary aim of Mr. Gutkind's study will be to bring into American thinking on this subject achievements and values which have led man elsewhere to reshape his urban environment in ways that make it yield greater satisfaction.

This same emphasis on "surface survival" has tended, as Christopher Tunnard has remarked, to make urban planning and development two, rather than three dimensional, with a corresponding disregard of how planned developments look. The possibilities of landscaping, in the broad sense of the term noted above, have still to be embodied as an integral component in urban design. The analysis and appraisal of the existing literature of the subject by Professor McHarg and his assistants will constitute a first move in this direction.

Future Implications: There is no commitment to further support for these particular studies in the Pennsylvania School, but the officers hope to submit other proposals in the aesthetics of urban planning and development.