

Newsletter

CENTRAL ATLANTA PROGRESS, INC.

Temporary Address is: Suite 1211, 615 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, 30308, Tel. 873-6983
SUITE 2740 ■ 2 PEACHTREE STREET ■ ATLANTA, GA. 30303

NUMBER 3

TELEPHONE 577-3976

JANUARY 19, 1967

What It Takes to Make Great Cities

*Excerpts from
FORTUNE
Jan. 1967*

An attack on slums isn't enough.

Cities need middle-class residents—and downtowns that are “cathedrals.”

FORTUNE January 1967

by Edmund K. Faltermayer

Two characteristics, however, are common to all great cities. They all have an exciting downtown filled with a great variety of shops, theatres, museums, and other attractions, and laid out as a place of great beauty—designed, in the words of architect Louis Kahn, to be “the cathedral of the city.” Equally important, they have a large middle-class population residing near downtown, possessing the purchasing power and the tastes to help sustain its activities.

The anti-city bias shows in the limited aspirations of most recent city building. Urban-renewal funds available each year have been only a fraction of what the country spends on farm subsidies or space exploration. And they have been employed mainly for only two purposes, to revitalize central business districts—mostly through face-lifting rather than true “cathedral” designing—and to eradicate the worst slums. It takes more than that to achieve greatness.

Despite the high-sounding rhetoric used to promote it, the demonstration-cities program passed last year by Congress is not going to create great cities, either. It promises a stepped-up attack on the slums, with physical reconstruction and social services closely coordinated. While this kind of effort is commendable and long overdue, the program will do nothing directly toward rebuilding downtowns or making cities attractive places for middle-class citizens to live.

Robert C. Weaver, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, argues that the new legislation will help middle-class neighborhoods by removing the blighting effects of slums that adjoin them. “There is nothing inconsistent in working on the cancerous part and improving the whole city,” he says. But many authorities on urban affairs are sharply critical of the one-sided emphasis on the slums. “For political reasons,” as one of them puts it, “we have decided to throw most of our resources into the deficient areas of the cities, and let the others fend for themselves.”

The middle-class citizen who prefers the city's sidewalks to suburbia's lawns is the forgotten man in today's city-building efforts. Cities have devoted only the scantiest of resources to making urban living appealing to him, and federal housing programs are tailored mainly to the suburbanite and the slum dweller.

City planners, surprisingly, are not clear on what causes a neighborhood to start renewing itself, or how the process can be encouraged. Research is needed here. A selective form of urban renewal, in which only the worst eyesores and hopelessly run-down buildings are demolished, unquestionably has helped encourage the middle-class people who are refurbishing houses on Philadelphia's Society Hill and on Baltimore's Bolton Hill.

*Read the entire article
if you have time. RWB*

6 THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION, Thursday, Jan. 12, 1967

It's Just Carl And Betty Again

By ACHSAH NESMITH

The guard had changed quickly early Tuesday night and ex-Gov. and Mrs. Carl E. Sanders were free to go home to their new town house in Ansley Park before the final official duties Wednesday.

“I got up about 7 after sleeping in my new bed in my new house, drank some orange juice and looked out the window saw television cars on the street.”

*Close-in,
convenient living
is one of Atlanta's
most exciting trends.*

The difference between a living city and an urban cadaver is its heart.

----- Bob Bivens