Preamble

The New Age of Migration accentuated by the collapse of the USSR at the end of the 20th Century is beginning to crystallize with the expansion of the European Union towards the Continental Eastern States at the beginning of the 21st Century. The post 9/11 events in the Middle East are compounding issues of safety and security in host countries of Western Europe and North America, and the globalization of outsourcing work of the G7 in guest countries of India and China is adding suspense regarding the future of this age. If the flow of migration further accelerates due to international conflicts in the former Soviet Republics, Indian Sub-continent, Indo-chinese Peninsula, Central Africa and South America, it will have tremendous consequences on world’s host cities and neighborhoods. They will eventually be accommodating the ethnic-social, religious-cultural, and political-economic multiplicity of newcomers. Then, as the question has always been, how could the dwellers coexist – in all of guest-host differences – in these increasingly transnational cities? And what should the mission of city authorities be in articulating public policy pertaining to architectural design and urban planning in sustaining such cities?

The global intercultural exchange for the educated first generation new citizens has been emphasizing on working together, exchanging views and collaborating on joint projects, but not integrating in the wider society. Even sharing a political agenda for multicultural community is still isolationist in action oriented thinking. Indeed, transforming the focus from the nation-state to cities and neighborhoods where a transnational society is in the making has had many challenges. The emerging society has been raising issues pertaining to architectural design and urban renewal by revitalizing urban planning, social policy governance, and sustainability. Democratic Governments, Independent Private Institutions, and Universities representing all levels of civil society have long been struggling to make the integration issue less painful for the newcomers since the host and guest divide has remained the sour point in the accommodation of multicultural community.
**The Symposium Intention**

The intention of this symposium is to articulate issues of designing for urban revitalization and social sustainability from the transnational or transcultural perspective. It will inquire beyond protecting the genuine character of the architectural content for host dwellers and ethno-cultural identities for the newcomers.

At present the inquiry of city core transformation is the foundation of world's integration project. It aspires to be the collective endeavor of host society and newcomers, transnational politicians and multicultural policy analysts -- yielding a new civil society. To develop a common ground for an attitudinal shift toward host and guest cultures for critical understanding – is unquestionable. However, a transcultural dimension must be added to the inquiry to make the complementarity integration a mutually enriching enterprise. This will eventually yield a new model of identity for the individual in a transcultural city setting. It will enhance, promote and signify the personal and the spiritual, beyond the cultural, where the invisible divide will be a mark of distinction.

**Focus of the Symposium**

This special focus symposium will provide a forum for high quality discussion of recent advances in architecture and urbanity pertaining to designing for urban revitalization and social sustainability. Of particular interest are papers referring to case studies that investigate new pedagogical models, innovative application methods, and integrative design processes of the historic city-core transformation to produce indicators and parameters for the selection and management of urban revitalization projects. Papers are invited combining novel approaches to historic district sustainability, functionality and adaptivity to provide creative solutions to important and complex challenges of gentrification, globalization, and urbanization.

**Topics include (but are not limited to):**

- Models of Social Sustainability in Historic Districts
- Globalization and Urbanization of City-core Architecture
- Cooperative Design Methods in Urban Revitalization
- Gentrification Issues and Academic Curricular Planning
- New Content of Transnational Urbanity in Historic City-Core Context
- New Social Perspectives in Downtown Spatial Setting
- Artificial Intelligence and Social Infrastructure Projects
- Information Space in Historic District Re-modeling
- Interactivity & Inclusivity in Systems Design of Social Survivability
- Simulated vs. Augmented Reality of Historic Architecture
- Genetic Algorithms & Infrastructure Sustainability
- The Visual, the Physical and the Virtual in Historic Architecture
- Redesigning the Historic Urbanity for Globalized Virtuality
- New Spatial Layouts for Digital Lifestyles in Historic Districts
- Green Architecture in Historic Urban Environment
- The New Media & the Language of New Architecture of Social Sustainability
- Ethics and Morality of Sustainable Architecture in Historic Districts
- Heritage Development and Urban Conservation
Who should be interested?
Architects and architecture educators, urban designers and city planners, sociologists and public policy specialists, transnationalists and multiculturalists, systems design theorists and neighborhood survivalists, politicians and technocrats and others should be interested. This includes those who realize that democratic inclusivity of stakeholders in the integrative process of urban revitalization of city core historic sites is the modernizing factor and that, to fully understand the transnational issues in historic settings, we must develop comprehensive criticality based on advanced scientific and literary knowledge.

Call for Papers
Papers within the scope of the focus symposium are welcome. Abstracts of approximately 200 words should be submitted for evaluation. All proposals will be judged based on scholarly quality, originality and potential for further discourse. Papers must be written in English. Abstracts may be submitted electronically (Microsoft Word preferred), by mail, or by fax by March 30, 2005 to:

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Review Process and Conference Proceedings:
All submitted papers and abstracts will be peer reviewed. Final papers should not exceed 5 single-spaced typed pages. Conference Proceedings will be published and selected papers may be published in book format.

Important Dates
- March 30, 2005 Abstract due
- April 9, 2005 Notice of Acceptance
- May 9, 2005 Final Paper due

General Chair
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