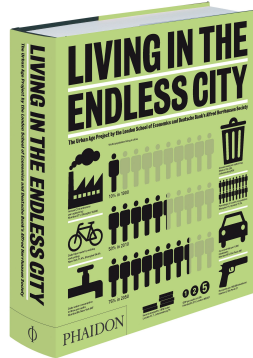


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# LIVING IN THE ENDLESS CITY

The Urban Age Project by the London School of Economics and Deutsche  
Bank's Alfred Herrhausen Society

Edited by Ricky Burdett and Deyan Sudjic

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**A New Report Reveals the Dynamics of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century City.**

*"The last decade has witnessed a major international re-evaluation of the importance of cities. With their rigorous studies of world cities like Istanbul, Mumbai and Sao Paulo, the editors Ricky Burdett and Deyan Sudjic have been at the forefront of this change. Living in the Endless City is a brilliant analysis of the social and political problems we face today and the importance that design plays in making cities more liveable. Read it now"*

**Richard Rogers, Architect**

Combining smart writing, remarkable photographs and incisive research conducted by the Urban Age Project, *Living in the Endless City* is an investigation into the physical and social aspects of the modern urban condition, written by esteemed thinkers from

all around the globe, under the leadership of Ricky Burdett of the London School of Economics and Deyan Sudjic of the Design Museum, London.

With reports and data on vital themes including security, climate change, density and globalization, *Living in the Endless City* focuses on three of the most vibrant and fastest growing mega-cities in the world; Mumbai, India's economic powerhouse known as the 'Maximum City'; São Paulo, Brazil's most populous and dynamic city; and Istanbul, Europe's largest city and one of the most resilient urban economies in the world.

*Living in the Endless City* incorporates a wealth of research and analysis which has emerged from a sequence of conferences held by the Urban Age Project (organised by the London School of Economics and Deutsche Bank's Alfred Herrhausen Society) for influential figures in the field of urban development – such as mayors, planners, architects, scientists and community groups – to study the growing, and in some cases shrinking, cities of the twenty-first century.

Clearly organised into separate sections for each city, the book makes detailed scholarly reporting accessible. Striking images of each city accompany the discussions presented in the text providing a visual, as well as an intellectual journey into the heart of the cities. The Data section later in the book compares and contrasts the three cities with the six from *The Endless City* (Phaidon, 2008): Berlin, Johannesburg, London, Mexico City, New York and Shanghai.

**50% of the world's population currently live in cities.  
By 2050 it will be 75%.**

But why cities, and why now? To put it very simply, cities, and their design, matter. With half of the seven billion people on earth living in cities, a substantial proportion of global GDP will be invested in energy and resources to accommodate new city dwellers over the next decades. The cities of the twenty-first century will see new waves of urban construction, and the shape of our cities will have profound impacts on the ecological balance of the planet, and on the human conditions of people growing up and growing old in cities.

*Living in the Endless City* sets out to address pressing issues by asking questions city-dwellers rarely, if ever, consider themselves. Why are so many cities continuing to grow? What is the complex relationship between urban form and city life? How can we intervene at all levels to bring about positive change? Has the model for the western city become redundant in the face of globalization?

**33% of city dwellers currently live in slums.  
By 2050 half of the world's population will live in slums.**

The investigations of the Urban Age Project have found that cities are becoming more spatially fragmented, more socially divisive and more environmentally destructive. These are the challenges and threats faced by the next generation of urban leaders who are tasked with steering their cities through what will be complex and difficult

times. But, the narratives also suggest that cities are uniquely placed to harness their human and environmental potential, guiding urban growth towards greater social and environmental equity. This will be the main task for the mayors, governors and city leaders of the emerging cities of the future.

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **Contents**

The book is divided into three sections: 'Cities' contains visual essays and analytic texts which mirror the content of Urban Age conferences held in the three core cities from 2007 to 2009; 'Data' is a compendium of vital statistics of all nine Urban Age cities, accompanied by a critical narrative and the results of opinion polls carried out among local residents; 'Reflections' collects the thoughts of scholars and practitioners who have followed our project, offering their perspectives on the lessons learnt for the twenty-first-century city.

### **The Urban Age Project**

Urban Age is an investigation into the future of cities organised by the London School of Economics and Political Science with Deutsche Bank's Alfred Herrhausen Society. This investigation extends across continents with an international and interdisciplinary network of national and local policy makers, academic experts and urban practitioners. Urban Age aims to heighten awareness of the links between physical form and the social characteristics of cities. Research has focused on New York City, Shanghai, London, Mexico City, Johannesburg, Berlin, Mumbai, São Paulo and Istanbul.

### **London School of Economics and Political Science**

As an international centre of excellence, the LSE has a long-standing commitment to an innovative understanding of urban society. LSE Cities, an international centre supported by Deutsche bank, carries out research, education, outreach and advisory activities in the urban field. The centre builds on the interdisciplinary work of Urban Age, studying how the built environment has profound consequences on the shape of society in an increasingly urbanised world where over 50% of people live in cities.

### **Deutsche Bank's Alfred Herrhausen Society**

A centre of independent thinking that seeks to identify traces of the future in the present, and thereby raise public awareness of the directions in which society is moving. Through its broad range of activities, the Alfred Herrhausen Society analyses the critical issues, the need for reform and trends in international civil society, and initiates debates on proactive and reactive response options. At its core lies the belief that the immense and complex problems confronting today's society are blind to national borders and that solutions can be sought only through cross-border dialogue.

### *About the Editors*

**Ricky Burdett** is Director of LSE Cities and Urban Age and Professor of Urban Studies at the London School of Economics. He has been adviser on architecture to the Mayor of London, the BBC, Tate, and to the London Olympics. He was also Director of the 2006 Venice Architectural Biennale.

**Deyan Sudjic** is Director of the Design Museum, London and a former Dean of the Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture at Kingston University. He was previously

editor of *Blueprint* and *Domus* magazines, and Director of 'Glasgow 1999: UK City of Architecture and Design' and the 2002 Venice Architectural Biennale. Former architecture critic for the *Observer*, he has written several books, including *The 100 Mile City* (1992), and *John Pawson: Themes and Projects*, *John Pawson Works* and *Future Systems*, published by Phaidon.

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