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This year's volume of *Agora*, "Divisions," explores the complicated lines that demarcate social, economic, racial, and ideological barriers in urban environments across the globe. The diversity of the material selected speaks to the complexity of the issues: full-length essays and shorter symposium pieces are presented alongside spatial analyses, photojournalism, and design. What the works collected here have in common is that each piece exposes how these divisions have tangible, physical manifestations; and more importantly, how divisions are caused, reinforced and sustained by the physical reality around us. *Agora 9* exposes spaces and buildings as agents that directly impact inequity, segregation, and even violence, with planning as a protagonist in understanding, addressing, and sometimes causing the dramatic disparities of our time.

Authors explore a wide range of case studies. Some articles analyze how social inequity is exacerbated in places such as Karachi, Nicosia, Jamaica, Detroit, or Los Angeles by their infrastructure and urban fabric. For example, violence and insecurity in Karachi cannot be severed from the morphology of its urban spaces with pockets of high density and archipelagos of secure enclaves. Access to water in Detroit can be thought of in parallel to access to transportation in Los Angeles, not only as a sign of inequity, but as its enabler. Along the same lines, the essays resulting from the symposium address the implicit and explicit roles that planning and planners have played in enabling police brutality in American cities. At the heart of these pieces is the argument that planning must do more and that silence is beyond complacency and equals complicity. Several articles examine the intersection between housing and inequity in the United States, evaluating the relationship between government policies, financing, legislation, and the physical reality of housing. In these essays, eminent domain is recast as an imaginative tool to prevent

foreclosures; shared equity homeownership is presented as a means of providing affordable housing to low income families and still allows for wealth accumulation; and the disparate-impact test is argued for as a means of proving a violation of the Fair Housing Act.

As a whole, this issue of *Agora* also argues for the power of planning and design to enable change. Every essay contains a call to action. By imagining alternative realities, planners have the ability not only to expose inequities, but also to advocate and construct better futures.

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