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The question of the city is today formulated in a new way

Today, over half of the world's population lives in towns and cities - an ever-growing proportion that obliges us to envisage another urban system. The nostalgic black-and-white opposition between town and country is no longer relevant. The city must be designed and planned as an overarching landscape that reconciles the natural and the man-made. It must become a non-oppressive world where technology works for humankind, not the other way around. What is needed is a new humanist revolution: just as the Renaissance replaced a civilization based on religious ideology with one centered on the ideal human, so today's hyper-technological dominance needs to be transformed into a realm of technology and techniques that are both more sophisticated and more humane, and entirely geared to the needs of the urban citizen.

It is not just a matter of reducing energy consumption. Above all, it is about asking the only truly important, fundamental question: is our aim to save limited resources in order to maintain this old world for as long as possible, or are we entering a period of forced transition toward a different world? Our work as architects and urbanists quite clearly lies in this second option: in our projects, the questions of energy and parsimony of materials have never been goals in themselves. Frugality in the use of materials, which has always been the rule in my projects, is motivated by a desire for pared-down, economical aesthetics. For me, as someone who has always been fascinated by the infinite possibilities in terms of usage and transformation offered by simple, straightforward constructions, less architecture is better architecture. Constructive minimalism is not a standpoint based on asceticism, but an essential condition for architecture that is as unobtrusive as possible and which is capable of blending seamlessly into its surroundings in the various scenarios that the building will face during its lifetime. It is a freedom that brings the pleasure of architectural experimentation at the forefront, while eschewing any formalism.

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