



## The scope of the problem

In this issue of *Architectural Design* we present some examples of popular housing developments in South America and an illustration of the typical background against which should be seen everything to do with contemporary affairs in most Latin American countries. Scarcely any of the material used has been published except in technical reports of limited circulation within the countries of origin. We think this a disgrace to the professions of those who are, or should be, responsible.

The content of this issue is of far more than local or regional importance; the themes which these projects and achievements illuminate are of universal significance. Yet they have been almost wholly ignored—with the partial exception of the sensational squatter settlements, and these have been seriously misrepresented, both in their own countries and abroad.

The subject, and questions it raises, are significant, not only because no-one can afford to ignore his neighbours' problems—Lima is now only 24 hours away from London—but also because they throw light on the problems of the 'developed' nations. Latin American countries, of which Peru is typical in all essentials, are going through upheavals and crises which all nations have been, or are about to go through. Urbanization is one of them, one of the most important and universal. In Britain as in many other countries, we have almost forgotten about it, but we are still far from solving the subsequent urban and social problems of which we are the heirs. We cannot afford to ignore the opportunity of enlarging our knowledge and of deepening our understanding of our own situation, any more than we can afford to lose the opportunity of helping our neighbours with our own hard-won experience. We cannot avoid this responsibility as our own future depends on the rapid and peaceful development of countries like Peru—far more typical of the world today than those like Britain already urbanized and industrialized.

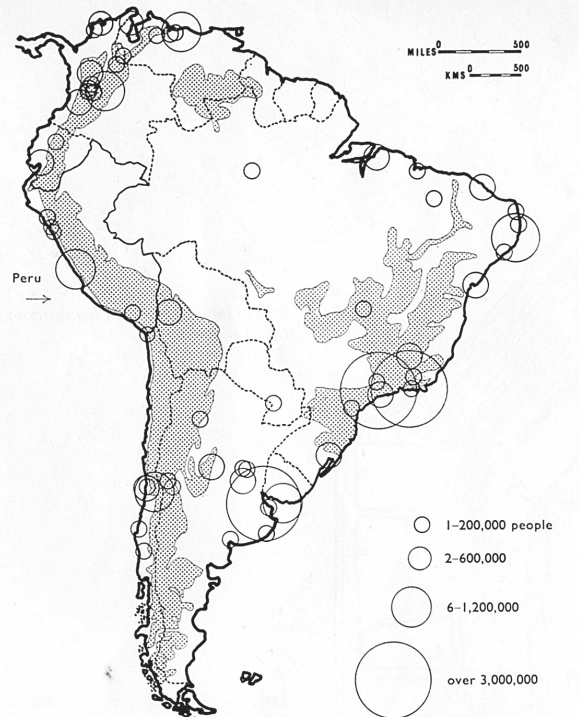
The projects presented have been chosen, *not* to show what architects and planners are doing in South America (and in most other parts of the world) but what they *should* be doing. Those actually engaged on the kind of project shown are only a tiny, though fortunately growing, minority.

The issue is intended as a contribution toward discussion of the planner's, architect's and executive's place and responsibilities in the underdeveloped world. Those who have contributed to its preparation are very much involved in the questions raised and feel very strongly about them. The reader, therefore, is not entirely free to form his own judgment on the basis of what is presented; the only way of compensating for this inevitable limitation is to define the criteria which have determined the selection and presentation of the subject matter.

It has been assumed that the orderly improvement and development of the local community's and family's environment—houses, streets and meeting places above all—is an integral and necessary part of economic development. In any case, discussion of this question is beyond the terms of reference of this journal. The three subsequent questions are, however, highly relevant at any time and in any place: what, first of all, are the functions and responsibilities of the professionals involved? What *policies* should the corresponding specialized agencies pursue? Second, what *forms* should those policies take? And, finally, how can those forms be realized? What procedures or *methods* should be employed?

Though not always clearly defined, these are the main topics of discussion among those directly concerned, at all levels—from the board rooms of international agencies in Washington to the sites of local projects all over the continent. If clear statements on all these points have been made, they are not widely known.

We hope that this issue will provoke discussion among those with other experiences and points of view which might complement those presented in this issue.



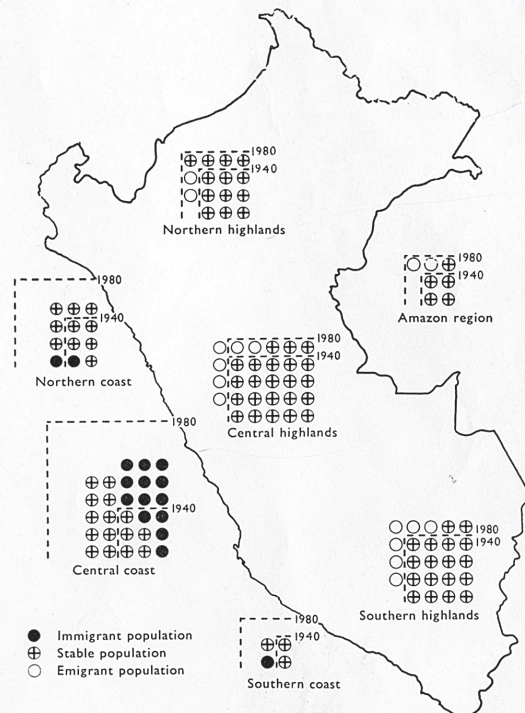
Above: urban populations of South America. (Land over 1000 m. altitude shown dotted)

Total population 1940: 90,000,100  
Total population 1961: 140,000,000  
% Increase 1940-61: 55.6  
Urban population 1940: 19,917,000  
Urban population 1963: 31,361,000  
% Increase 1940-63: 57.4  
Per capita income product: \$175

Right: migrations between regions of Peru. (Each circle represents 100,000 people)

Population (given in 1000's) and average income:

	Metro-politan	Urban	Rural
1940	614	512	5,905
1963	2,079	1,340	6,955
% Increase	239%	162%	18%
Average Income	\$234.8	\$61.92	



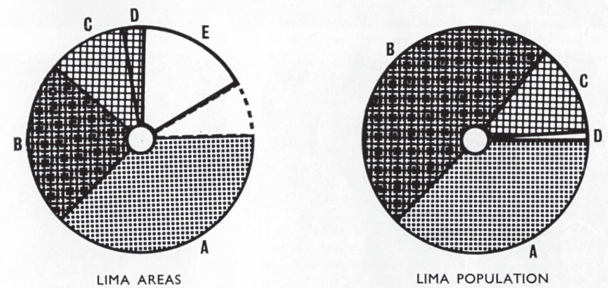




Above : map of Lima showing different classes of land use

Below : diagrams showing comparative distribution of areas and population for different sectors of Lima

Key: A normal built-up areas B slums C squatter settlements (barriadas) D legal urban-expansion areas (with public services but under-populated) E new government and Alliance for Progress development areas



Below : comparative rates of population growth in rural and urban environments in Peru, showing rapid urbanization

