NEW CENTURY CITIES
REAL ESTATE VALUE IN A DIGITAL WORLD

About 150 people convened at MIT in January to spend two days exploring a new generation of development projects at the intersection of social policy, technology, urban design and real estate development.

A symposium included traditional city-builders—developers, planners and builders—alongside high-tech and media firms, historians, educators and artists. Some of their ideas came from emerging neighborhoods (as in lower Manhattan and entire cities in Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Helsinki, Copenhagen, Seoul and Singapore) to developing entirely new towns (as in Crossroads Copenhagen, a new community of students, workers and residents in the Ørestad district of Copenhagen, providing a control to support new kinds of places, activities and lifestyles, making them living laboratories in which people can experience and test the ways in which they combine these characteristics.

• They provide living facilities that promote creativity, activity and emerging lifestyles and urban experiences.
• They integrate the latest technologies into the environmental and commercial face of the community.
• They are guided and managed by partnerships between governments, real estate developers, educational or research institutions, and businesses.
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• They include and provide housing, amenities, and services to their inhabitants.

The event in January was preceded by a semester-long faculty/student seminar that introduced and analyzed relevant projects in the US and abroad, including:

—Arabiansara, a research and culture sector in Finland's capital city that is both the site of Helsinki's original cultural and the home of the former Arabia-pottery factory.
—Crossroads Copenhagen, a new community of students, workers and residents in the Ørestad North port of Copenhagen, providing a control group for the study of new technology applications in society.

Among the events at the symposium was a cross-disciplinary faculty/student trip to Asia, the first of its kind to focus on urbanism and the future, including visits to major urban projects in Hong Kong, Seoul Digital Media City, serving the nation's larger goals of transitioning from a manufacturing to an innovation economy and promoting Seoul as an east-Asian hub for commerce, and an east-Asian hub for commerce.

The seminar was led by Frenchman, Geltner and Mitchell, Head, Program in Media Arts and Sciences; and William Mitchell, Director, Center for Real Estate; Michael Joroff, Senior Lecturer, Department of Urban Studies and Planning; David Geltner, Design, Center for Real Estate; Joseph McRobie, Senior Lecturer, Department of Urban Studies and Planning; and William Mitchell, Head, Program in Media Arts and Sciences.

For more information about the symposium, its work or how to participate in future symposiums, including summaries of the projects, visit web.mit.edu/cre.