Urban progress is necessary in cities, but at what cost to the people? At what point is it the city’s responsibility to accommodate those that are removed from their neighborhoods due to developments? Economic isolationism, preventing low-income citizens from benefiting from developments in urban areas, is growing out of control. Urban development often negatively impacts a population, no matter the intentions. Historically based on a “haves” and “have nots” identity, these populations are not included in the new identity a city creates. What does it say about a city’s identity that only a certain demographic can enjoy the spoils of the city? At what point is it an architect’s responsibility to design for the client, while also prioritizing the ethical dilemma that faces many designers of the built environment today?

The urban renewal projects attempted to help the city bring itself out of the depression through The New Deal. Intended to help the “have nots” enough to make a living, these projects did not benefit the “have nots.” The central issue of the Great Depression was the need to increase job opportunities for the “have nots.” This issue was exacerbated by the rise of the creative class, tech startups, and gentrification. The Great Migration of African Americans to urban areas during the 1940s and 1950s was a significant contributor to the growth of the cities. The segregation and discrimination faced by African Americans in urban areas led to the creation of ghettos and the development of new urban areas.

The rise of the creative class, tech startups, and gentrification in urban areas is continuing to grow. The urban renewal projects of the past are being reevaluated to ensure that the “have nots” are not left behind. The new urban areas are being designed to be more inclusive and to benefit all members of the community. The “have nots” are being included in the planning process, and their voices are being heard. The urban renewal projects of the past are being reevaluated to ensure that the “have nots” are not left behind. The new urban areas are being designed to be more inclusive and to benefit all members of the community. The “have nots” are being included in the planning process, and their voices are being heard.