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 “white flight,” urbanization is not inclusive. These populations are not included in the city’s identity or cultural assembly. The intent of this endeavor is to investigate the removal of urban populations, and what can be done to bring the culture, economics, and social forces to coexist in cities across the country.

Historically, The Great Depression compounded social and economic issues in urban areas. President Franklin D. Roosevelt created a plan to help the country bring itself out of the depression through The New Deal. Intended to help the “haves” and the “have nots,” the plan included social reform and public works to help those in need. In areas of the country that were affected, this plan helped to bring the country out of the depression. Unfortunately, those historical urbanization issues continue to negatively impact cities today. Richard Florida, author of The New Urban Crisis, suggests that recently cities have begun welcoming new types of development, at the detriment to lower-class, service-class, and blue-collar citizens. The rise of the creative class, tech startups, and venture capital has driven new types of developments. In many cases, these new developments are replacing the were once deemed undesirable with expensive residential and retail spaces. The gentrification of urban neighborhoods has caused young residents to move in, while lower-income people move out, leaving these neighborhoods to face new challenges.

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?

1. **Bazaar** | Interchangeable areas for local makers, creators, and sellers
2. **Skyline Athletics** | Outdoor athletic zone to promote healthy activities
3. **Cultural Combine** | Covered event space for the community to showcase culture
4. **Theological Adjacency** | Space for various religious groups to meet, practice, and engage
5. **Urban Pedagogy** | Education hotspot for the young population of the growing urban area
6. **Urban Spectacle** | Performance venue for various member groups in the community
7. **Fitness Chambers** | Indoor athletic zones for adults and children to engage in healthy lifestyles
8. **Forgotten People** | Displaced peoples will find a home in their old neighborhood
9. **Natural Amenities** | Engaging the riverfront and the existing greenway to connect the urban area
10. **Essential Hall** | Local restaurants and cafes bring satellite eateries to the Germantown area
11. **Alchemical Chamber** | Space for people in the neighborhood to meet, congregate, and discuss
12. **Cultural Showcase** | Outdoor amphitheater for community concerts and speeches
13. **Urban Connectivity** | Community transit hub for connections to downtown and the suburbs
14. **Urban Sustainability** | Existing grocery store renovated to improve food options for area