Response Paper "Contested Cities: Social Processes and Spatial Form''

In Harvey's ''Contested Cities: Social Processes and Spatial Form'' he emphasizes the importance of urbanization in broader political discussions. As modernization thrives, massive urbanization happens that will impact the activities and the way of living of the people. Consequently, planning and designing takes place in order to create a better community wherein natural and built environments incorporate.

An example mentioned in the text is gated communities. While living in a gated community may bring solidarity between people belonging there, it may also separate them from people outside with different statuses. This can be a form of discrimination considering that the people who have characteristics not preferred are being pushed away. Moreover, they are in a disadvantage due to the process of identification wherein they are judged and defined according to their ethnic background and financial status.

A mere design will not build a community; hence it will only improve the aesthetics of a place. What there should be are proper plans, processes, and maintenance. If there will be a well-implemented design with the focus of uniting people within scope while not entirely secluding them from the other, the plan will do better as long as there is no stain of judgment. Also, the new urbanism principle will still likely create a community. These will bring numerous benefits such as shorter drives to particular areas. The commendable fact about this the diversity wherein residents will include various characteristics like races and income levels. In addition, natural and built environments should meet in the middle. These two should be partnered in terms of urban planning and design.

It is undeniable that good design with proper implementation wherein adequate processes are being considered can bring great impact to the quality of living of the residents. When this is established, there will be less immoral or illegal acts occurring. Urbanization has been growing and must be part of our discussion already wherein we should include its negative impacts and our mitigation measures. We should still take note, however, of the positive results it has brought. Urbanization propels the country's business areas by giving more opportunities for work and a more diverse economy. A tremendous organization of labour and products has created current business foundations and trades that have enabled the development of metropolitan territories.

Turning areas into cities is often seen as a negative occurrence. While being aware of the impacts, however, we should consider the point wherein it is more beneficial to us than it does bring harm. Furthermore, one must acknowledge the voice of the residents to address

social struggles. This usually expresses discontent which indicates the way of living they are currently experiencing is not their preferred way.

We have to ask ourselves questions and find loopholes to our proposed solutions to find answers to these probing issues. We must debate within ourselves and to others, meet in the middle, and finally reach conclusions afterward. With this, solidarity and a greater standard of living of the residents will be attained regardless of social status and colour.