In this issue we present an extended PlaceViews section examining the transformation of San Jose, California. For the last two decades, this self-proclaimed "capital of Silicon Valley" has engaged in an exemplary effort to rebuild and redefine its downtown. After years of neglect during the post-World War II era of suburban dispersal, this effort both tapped into the high-tech boom and was spearheaded by talented and dedicated designers and managers. As a "best-case" scenario, the San Jose experience offers valuable urban design insights especially when viewed from differing vantage points. This issue also provides two offerings of Research and Debate, both of which carry on a discussion started by the late Michael Brill in our Fall 2002 issue. There are twelve pages of Portfolio by one of America's foremost architectural photographers; a provocative Speaking of Places; and a Dispatch from a conference which helped improve the research base for both the New Urbanism and Smart Growth movements. We conclude with a Forum section looking into two innovative courthouse spaces created by GSA.

—DM

A college of views looking north along First Street in San Jose, 1920s and 2002. Photos courtesy of San Jose Redevelopment Agency (SJRA).