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**Smaller cities and towns represent a significant market opportunity.**

**Some states are encouraging revitalization through legislation.**

**Planning and design "charettes" are being used by many municipalities.**

**Canadian firms should try to join the AIA's R/UDAT teams in the U.S.**

and regulatory viability of revitalizing downtown cores and aging building stock of historic value. Tax credits remain in place, public and private development linkages are on the rise, and a wealth of experience is being accumulated and shared by groups such as the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Attention is now shifting to intermediate cities and small towns: for example, Rouse's Enterprise Development Co. is planning revitalization projects in Portland (Oregon), Flint (Michigan) and Toledo (Ohio).

Some states are beginning to address revitalization and urban design issues directly through legislation. For example, Florida enacted a State and Regional Planning Act in 1984 and a State Comprehensive Plan and Growth Management Plan in 1985. Under this legislation, municipalities are required to analyse their current condition and examine how future growth will affect land use, traffic, housing, sewers and water supply, recreation and open space. Although urban design and historic preservation goals are optional in the growth management plan, many jurisdictions are expected to include them. All municipalities are required to submit their plans to the state by the early 1990's.

A planning and design technique gaining increasing popularity in the U.S. is the use of advisory panels or "charettes" by local municipalities. An expert team is parachuted into the municipality for 2-4 days to help resolve planning problems that often deal with downtown revitalization. Organizations conducting such charettes include the American Institute of Architects (Regional/Urban Design Assistance Teams - R/UDAT), the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Urban Land Institute, the Institute for Urban Design, International Downtown Association, the National Main Street Centre, and the Project Public Spaces.

The AIA recently conducted a R/UDAT in conjunction with the RAIC in Edmonton on the theme of Livable Winter Cities. Although no Canadian architects have yet participated in R/UDATs in the U.S., interested firms should contact the AIA directly. Despite the provision that participating firms must undertake not to solicit work resulting from