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The nation's inner cities have often been the subject of public debate and moral politicking. Their ability to prosper is often hampered by an inefficient and often neglected planning policy. Milwaukee is one of the 20th largest cities in the country and a cradle for GIS technology. Past and ongoing projects have helped to shape the landscape and the people of this midwestern metropolis. GIS and its visualization components have helped the residents of inner city Milwaukee realize that renewal is no longer an election buzzword and that some things can grow out of the concrete. The multi-scalar approach to urban renewal projects is the subject of an article by Rina Ghose an Assistant Professor of Geography at Illinois State University and William E. Huxhold a Professor of Urban Planning at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Their methods for using GIS-based indicators in conjunction with traditional planning policy to garner widespread community support, highlight this issue of the *URISA Journal*.