



(Image: The Automobile: In North America, cars, more than any other cultural artifact, determine the structure of communal space. They also to a remarkable extent condition our experience of sound, rhythm and time.)

Vision at the end of the tunnel . . .

Even if its waste emissions were reduced to zero today, the automobile would remain one of the most insidiously destructive inventions of all time.

Destructive, because it breaks apart our connection with our bodies, with each other, and, in a most profound and unprecedented sense, with the Earth itself.

Insidious, because, just as an addict refuses to see the distortions of reality caused by his addiction, we, seated within the secure illusion created by the car's comfortable interior, have become oblivious to the foul wave of terror and pollution we leave in our wake.

Right or wrong, the truth of this assertion can only be properly tested by stepping out of the car's tunnel-like metaphysical construct and observing freely in a sustained and serious way the long-term difference.