

## The Suburban Environment

Likely you grew up in a suburb because most Americans today grow up in suburbs. Although you may have been bored in your hometown, and suburban critics see only the dark side of suburban sprawl, suburbia defies easy stereotyping. After hundreds of years of history there actually exist many different types of suburbs, each fulfilling different concepts of the good life. This class explores both the history and the contemporary form of suburbia with particular attention paid to the suburban integration of planning, architecture, and landscape design. A significant amount of time will be devoted to discussing the relationship between the lived experience of suburbia and the conceptions of designers.

This class is very simply organized. Each class meeting will be split between a short slide lecture and discussion of a reading section. You will be asked to evaluate your participation at the end of each class. You must bring the readings to class in order to be able to evaluate your participation. There are no exams or papers but you must complete three reviews of course books by the end of the semester (due dates TBA).

There is one final project. You will be asked to develop a short, illustrated guidebook to your suburb of origin (or one of your choice with consultation with the professor). You will want to include descriptions of your suburb's social, political, and cultural features as well as its history. You will need to provide maps, illustrations (and analysis) of housing types, commercial districts, and parks. The final week or so will be available for presentations.

60% Participation  
10% Reviews  
30% Final Project

There are five course books required for this class:

Joel Garreau, *Edge City*  
Robert Fishman, *Bourgeois Utopias*  
Greg Hise, *Magnetic Los Angeles*  
Tom Martinson, *American Dreamscape*  
John Stilgoe, *Borderland*

Recommended but also on Reserve at Architecture:

Nicholas Bloom, *Suburban Alchemy*

A short copy packet is also required from Metro Copy on Calhoun Street

## **January**

### Week 1

9 Introduction

11 Compact Suburbs I: British Squares // *Robert Fishman, 3-38*

### Week 2

14 Compact Suburbs II: American Squares // *Packet: Kenneth Jackson, "Suburbs as Slums," 12-19*

16 Elite Rowhouse Suburbs // *Packet: Kenneth Jackson, "The Transportation Revolution," 20-33, Robert Fishman, 116-121*

18 Great Estates // *John Stilgoe 93-106; Robert Fishman, 39-51*

### Week 3

23 The Romantic Movement and English Landscape Tradition // *John Stilgoe, 22-48 // Tom Martinson, 3-32*

25 Cemeteries and Parks // *John Stilgoe 107-120, 186-206*

### Week 4

28 Clapham, Park Village and Victoria Park // *Robert Fishman, 51-102 /John Stilgoe, 48-55*

30 Llewellyn Park/Chicago Suburbs // *John Stilgoe 56-64, 139-149/Robert Fishman, 121-133*

## **February**

1 Roland Park/Country Club District // *John Stilgoe, 239-251/Robert Fishman, 134-154*

### Week 5

4 Streetcars and Transportation Innovation // *Packet: Kenneth Jackson, "The Transportation Revolution," 33-44*

6 Streetcar Suburbs: Chicago, Boston, and Baltimore // *John Stilgoe, 129-138, 151-161*

8 Planned Industrial Communities // *John Stilgoe 252-268*

Week 6

No Class

Week 7

18 Rebel in Suburbia, Frank Lloyd Wright and the Prairie School // *Tom Martinson, 67-100*

20 Broadacre City// *Packet: Robert Fishman, "Broadacre City," 122-141*

22 California Arts and Crafts Suburbs // *John Stilgoe 271-275*

Week Eight

25 Garden Cities: Ebenezer Howard // *Packet: Robert Fishman, "Design for Cooperation," "The Peaceful Path," and "Building the Garden City," 40-75*

27 Forest Hills and Radburn // *John Stilgoe, 221-238 and Greg Hise, 14-55*

### **March**

1 Greenbelt and Baldwin Hills // *Greg Hise, 86-116*

Week Nine

4 Automobiles and Suburbia // *Joel Garreau, 103-138; Kenneth Jackson, "The New Age of Automobility," 157-189*

6 Levittown, New York // *Greg Hise, 153-185; John Stilgoe, 301-308*

8 Reston, Virginia // *All Reston Sections in Suburban Alchemy*

Week Ten

11 Columbia, Maryland // *All Columbia Sections in Suburban Alchemy*

13 Irvine, California // *All Irvine Sections in Suburban Alchemy, Joel Garreau, 265-301*

15 English Turn and Common Interest Developments // *Joel Garreau, 183-208*

Week Eleven

18 Traditional Neighborhood Design // *Tom Martinson, 140-153*

20 Transit Oriented Development // *Tom Martinson, 103-124*

22 Smart Growth/Cluster Development // *Joel Garreau, 347-422*

**April**

Week Twelve

1 Urbanization of Older Suburbs // *Packet: David Contosta, "Community Organization," 197-230*

3 Diners, Drive-Ins, Motels, and Gas Stations

5 Strip Malls to Shopping Malls // *Joel Garreau, 209-259*

Week Thirteen

8 Modern Office Parks and Edge Cities // *Joel Garreau, 21-68, 307-342*

10 Amusement Parks and Cultural Centers // *Packet: John Findlay, "Disneyland . . . "*

12 Suburbanization of the City // *Packet: John Findlay, "The Seattle World's Fair of 1962"*

Week Fourteen

15 The Suburban Critique // *Packet: William Whyte, "Classlessness in Suburbia" 330-364; Jackson; "Federal Subsidy and the Suburban Dream," 190-218; Martinson, 49-66, 125-139*

17 The New Multicultural Suburb // *Joel Garreau, 143-178*

19 Imagining the Suburban Future // *Tom Martinson, 197-243*

Week Fifteen

22 Guide Reports

24 Guide Reports

26 Guide Reports