



ReFormInG SubUrbIA

THE PLANNED COMMUNITIES OF IRVINE, COLUMBIA, AND THE WOODLANDS



ANN FORSYTH



Reforming Suburbia

Thomas Healy



Reforming Suburbia:

Reforming Suburbia Ann Forsyth, 2005-03-14 The new community movement of the 1960s and 1970s attempted a grand experiment in housing It inspired the construction of innovative communities that were designed to counter suburbia's cultural conformity social isolation ugliness and environmental problems This richly documented book examines the results of those experiments in three of the most successful new communities Irvine Ranch in Southern California Columbia in Maryland and The Woodlands in the suburbs of Houston Texas Based on new research and interviews with developers designers and residents Ann Forsyth traces the evolution the successes and the shortcomings of these experiments in urban innovation Where they succeeded in areas such as community identity and open space preservation they provide support for current smart growth proposals Where they did not in areas such as housing affordability and transportation choices they offer important insights for today's planners designers developers civic leaders and others interested in incorporating new forms of development into their designs *New City Upon a Hill* Joseph Rocco Mitchell, David L. Stebenne, 2007-03-31 Published in anticipation of Columbia's fortieth anniversary in 2007 this book showcases the history of one of the nation's leading new towns Built from the brilliant plan developed by visionary designer James Rouse Columbia's innovative design is the foundation for a unique community that has thrived for decades and flourishes today *The Death and Life of Main Street* Miles Orvell, 2012-10-01 For more than a century the term Main Street has conjured up nostalgic images of American small town life Representations exist all around us from fiction and film to the architecture of shopping malls and Disneyland All the while the nation has become increasingly diverse exposing tensions within this ideal In *The Death and Life of Main Street* Miles Orvell wrestles with the mythic allure of the small town in all its forms illustrating how Americans continue to reinscribe these images on real places in order to forge consensus about inclusion and civic identity especially in times of crisis Orvell underscores the fact that Main Street was never what it seemed it has always been much more complex than it appears as he shows in his discussions of figures like Sinclair Lewis Willa Cather Frank Capra Thornton Wilder Margaret Bourke White and Walker Evans He argues that translating the overly tidy cultural metaphor into real spaces as has been done in recent decades especially in the new urbanist planned communities of Elizabeth Plater Zyberk and Andres Duany actually diminishes the communitarian ideals at the center of this nostalgic construct Orvell investigates the way these tensions play out in a variety of cultural realms and explores the rise of literary and artistic traditions that deliberately challenge the tropes and assumptions of small town ideology and life **Desert Visions and the Making of Phoenix, 1860-2009** Philip VanderMeer, 2010-12-16 Whether touted for its burgeoning economy affordable housing and pleasant living style or criticized for being less like a city than a sprawling suburb Phoenix by all environmental logic should not exist Yet despite its extremely hot and dry climate and its remoteness Phoenix has grown into a massive metropolitan area This exhaustive study examines the history of how Phoenix came into being and how it has sustained itself from its origins in the

1860s to its present status as the nation's fifth largest city. From the beginning, Phoenix sought to grow, and although growth has remained central to the city's history, its importance, meaning, and value have changed substantially over the years. The initial vision of Phoenix as an American Eden gave way to the Cold War Era vision of a High Tech Suburbia, which in turn gave way to rising concerns in the late twentieth century about the environmental, social, and political costs of growth. To understand how such unusual growth occurred in such an improbable location, Philip VanderMeer explores five major themes: the natural environment, urban infrastructure, economic development, social and cultural values, and public leadership. Through investigating Phoenix's struggle to become a major American metropolis, his study also offers a unique view of what it means to be a desert city.

Prairie Crossing John Scott Watson, 2016-01-30. Carved out of century-old farmland near Chicago, the Prairie Crossing development is a novel experiment in urban public policy that preserves 69 percent of the land as open space. The for-profit project has set out to do nothing less than use access to nature as a means to challenge America's failed culture of suburban sprawl. The first comprehensive look at an American conservation community, *Prairie Crossing* goes beyond windmills and nest boxes to examine an effort to connect adults to the land while creating a healthy and humane setting for raising a new generation attuned to nature. John Scott Watson places *Prairie Crossing* within the wider context of suburban planning, revealing how two first-time developers implemented a visionary new land ethic that saved green space by building on it. The remarkable achievements include a high rate of resident civic participation, the reestablishment of a thriving prairie ecosystem, the reintroduction of endangered and threatened species, and improved water and air quality. Yet, as Watson shows, considerations like economic uncertainty, lack of racial and class diversity, and politics have challenged and continue to challenge *Prairie Crossing* and its residents.

Building Home Eric John Abrahamson, 2013-02-28. This book is not only a biography of Howard F. Ahmanson but also the story of the financing of the postwar housing boom and the tremendous growth of Los Angeles. Americans have long believed that homeownership is fundamental to the strength of our democracy and the character of our people. Victory in World War II combined with new government policies designed to stimulate mortgage lending sparked a tremendous surge in rates of homeownership in the 1950s. With savings and loans providing more than half of the mortgages for these homes, the industry enjoyed a golden era in its history, especially in southern California. Among its peers, the Home Savings Loan Association of Los Angeles was a giant. By 1954, it had more customers and assets than any other thrift in America. Through its real estate development entities, the company played a leading role in the postwar suburban explosion that made LA the quintessential postmodern city. As the crown jewel among a handful of mortgage-related businesses launched and controlled by Howard F. Ahmanson, the company generated philanthropic capital to build LA's cultural centers and finance the campaigns of the region's leading politicians. As a sun-tanned yachtsman and a cigar-smoking financier, the Omaha-born Ahmanson was both unique and representative of many of the business leaders of his era. Like many elites, Ahmanson shared a fundamental confidence in his ability to lead the nation to

prosperity His death in 1968 came just as the era of deregulation was beginning In this new era the central role of the savings and loan in financing the American dream diminished and Home Savings was sold to help create one of the biggest branch banks in America Washington Mutual

California Exposures: Envisioning Myth and History Richard White, 2020-03-17 Winner of the 2021 California Book Award Californiana category A brilliant California history in word and image from an award winning historian and a documentary photographer This is the West sir When the legend becomes fact print the legend This indelible quote from The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance applies especially well to California where legend has so thoroughly become fact that it is visible in everyday landscapes Our foremost historian of the West Richard White never content to print the legend collaborates here with his son a talented photographer in excavating the layers of legend built into California s landscapes Together they expose the bedrock of the past and the history they uncover is astonishing Jesse White s evocative photographs illustrate the sites of Richard s historical investigations A vista of Drakes Estero conjures the darkly amusing story of the Drake Navigators Guild and its dubious efforts to establish an Anglo Saxon heritage for California The restored Spanish missions of Los Angeles frame another origin story in which California s native inhabitants civilized through contact with friars gift their territories to white settlers But the history is not so placid A quiet riverside park in the Tulare Lake Basin belies scenes of horror from when settlers in the 1850s transformed native homelands into American property Near the lake bed stands a small marker commemorating the Mussel Slough massacre the culmination of a violent struggle over land titles between local farmers and the Southern Pacific Railroad in the 1870s Tulare is today a fertile agricultural county but its population is poor and unhealthy The California Dream lives elsewhere The lake itself disappeared when tributary rivers were rerouted to deliver government subsidized water to big agriculture and cities But climate change ensures that it will be back the only question is when

The Routledge Companion to the Suburbs Bernadette Hanlon, Thomas Vicino, 2018-09-03 The Routledge Companion to the Suburbs provides one of the most comprehensive examinations available to date of the suburbs around the world International in scope and interdisciplinary in nature this volume will serve as the definitive reference for scholars and students of the suburbs This volume brings together the leading scholars of the suburbs researching in different parts of the world to better understand how and why suburbs and their communities grow decline and regenerate The volume sets out four goals 1 to provide a synthesis and critical appraisal of the historical and current state of understanding about the development of suburbs in the world 2 to provide a forum for a comprehensive examination into the conceptual theoretical spatial and empirical discontents of suburbanization 3 to engage in a scholarly conversation about the transformation of suburbs that is interdisciplinary in nature and bridges the divide between the Global North and the Global South and 4 to reflect on the implications of the socioeconomic cultural and political transformations of the suburbs for policymakers and planners The Routledge Companion to the Suburbs is composed of original scholarly contributions from the leading scholars of the study of how and why suburbs grow decline and transform

Special attention is paid to the global nature of suburbanization and its regional variations with a focus on comparative analysis of suburbs through regions across the world in the Global North and the Global South Articulated in a common voice the volume is integrated by the very nature of the concept of a suburb as the unit of analysis offering multidisciplinary perspectives from the fields of economics geography planning political science sociology and urban studies *Lone Star Suburbs* Paul J. P. Sandul, M. Scott Sosebee, 2019-10-10 How is it that nearly 90 percent of the Texan population currently lives in metropolitan regions but many Texans still embrace and promote a vision of their state's nineteenth century rural identity This is one of the questions the editors and contributors to *Lone Star Suburbs* confront One answer they contend may be the long shadow cast by a Texas myth that has served the dominant culture while marginalizing those on the fringes Another may be the criticism suburbia has endured for undermining the very romantic individuality that the Texas myth celebrates From the 1950s to the present cultural critics have derided suburbs as landscapes of sameness and conformity Only recently have historians begun to document the multidimensional industrial and ethnic aspects of suburban life as well as the development of multifamily housing services and leisure facilities In *Lone Star Suburbs* urban historian Paul J P Sandul Texas historian M Scott Sosebee and ten contributors move the discussion of suburbia well beyond the stereotype of endless blocks of white middle class neighborhoods and fill a gap in our knowledge of the Lone Star State This collection supports the claim that Texas is not only primarily suburban but also the most representative example of this urban form in the United States Essays consider transportation infrastructure urban planning and professional sports as they relate to the suburban ideal the experiences of African Americans Asian Americans and Latinos in Texas metropolitan areas and the environmental consequences of suburbanization in the state Texas is no longer the bastion of rural life in the United States but now for better or worse represents the leading edge of suburban living This important book offers a first step in coming to grips with that reality *Design for a Vulnerable Planet* Frederick Steiner, 2011-04-01 We inhabit a vulnerable planet The devastation caused by natural disasters such as the southern Asian tsunami Hurricanes Katrina and Ike and the earthquakes in China's Sichuan province Haiti and Chile as well as the ongoing depletion and degradation of the world's natural resources caused by a burgeoning human population have made it clear that business as usual is no longer sustainable We need to find ways to improve how we live on this planet while minimizing our impact on it *Design for a Vulnerable Planet* sounds a call for designers and planners to go beyond traditional concepts of sustainability toward innovative new design that fosters regeneration and resilience Drawing on his own and others experiences across three continents Frederick Steiner advocates design practice grounded in ecology and democracy and informed by critical regionalism and reflection He begins by establishing the foundation for a more ecological approach to planning and design adopting a broad view of ecology as encompassing human and natural urban and wild environments Steiner explores precedents for human ecological design provided by architect Paul Cret landscape architect Ian McHarg and developer George Mitchell while discussing their

planning for the University of Texas campus the Lake Austin watershed and The Woodlands Steiner then focuses on emerging Texas urbanism and extends his discussion to broader considerations beyond the Lone Star State including regionalism urbanism and landscape in China and Italy He also examines the lessons to be learned from human and natural disasters such as 9 11 Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil spill Finally Steiner offers a blueprint for designing with nature to help heal the planet s vulnerabilities *Flights of Imagination* Sonja Dümpelmann,2014-09-19 In much the same way that views of the earth from the Apollo missions in the late 1960s and early 1970s led indirectly to the inauguration of Earth Day and the modern environmental movement the dawn of aviation ushered in a radically new way for architects landscape designers urban planners geographers and archaeologists to look at cities and landscapes As icons of modernity airports facilitated the development of a global economy during the twentieth and early twenty first centuries reshaping the way people thought about the world around them Professionals of the built environment awoke to the possibilities offered by the airports themselves as sites of design and by the electrifying new aerial perspective on landscape In *Flights of Imagination* Sonja Dümpelmann follows the evolution of airports from their conceptualization as landscapes and cities to modern day plans to turn decommissioned airports into public urban parks The author discusses landscape design and planning activities that were motivated legitimized and facilitated by the aerial view She also shows how viewing the earth from above redirected attention to bodily experience on the ground and illustrates how design professionals understood the aerial view as simultaneously abstract and experiential detailed and contextual harmful and essential Along the way Dümpelmann traces this multiple dialectic from the 1920s to the land camouflage activities during World War II and from the environmental and landscape planning initiatives of the 1960s through today *Soul City* Thomas Healy,2021-02-02 A New York Times Book Review Editors Choice 2021 Hooks National Book Award Winner The fascinating forgotten story of the 1970s attempt to build a city dedicated to racial equality in the heart of Klan Country In 1969 with America s cities in turmoil and racial tensions high civil rights leader Floyd McKissick announced an audacious plan he would build a new city in rural North Carolina open to all but intended primarily to benefit Black people Named Soul City the community secured funding from the Nixon administration planning help from Harvard and the University of North Carolina and endorsements from the New York Times and the Today show Before long the brand new settlement built on a former slave plantation had roads houses a health care center and an industrial plant By the year 2000 projections said Soul City would have fifty thousand residents But the utopian vision was not to be The race baiting Jesse Helms newly elected as senator from North Carolina swore to stop government spending on the project Meanwhile the liberal Raleigh News Observer mistakenly claimed fraud and corruption in the construction effort Battered from the left and the right Soul City was shut down after just a decade Today it is a ghost town and its industrial plant erected to promote Black economic freedom has been converted into a prison In a gripping poignant narrative acclaimed author Thomas Healy resurrects this forgotten saga of race capitalism and the struggle for

equality Was it an impossible dream from the beginning Or a brilliant idea thwarted by prejudice and ignorance And how might America be different today if Soul City had been allowed to succeed **Metroburbia, USA** Paul L. Knox,2008

Decades of economic prosperity in the United States have redefined the American dream Paul Knox explores how extreme versions of this dream have changed the American landscape Increased wealth has led America s metropolitan areas to develop into vast sprawling regions of metroburbia fragmented mixtures of employment and residential settings combining urban and suburban characteristics Upper middle class Americans are moving into larger homes in greater numbers which leads Knox to explore the relationship between built form and material culture in contemporary society He covers changes in home design real estate the work of developers and the changing wishes of consumers Knox shows that contemporary suburban landscapes are a product of consumer demand combined with the logic of real estate development mediated by design and policy professionals and institutions of governance Suburban landscapes not only echo the fortunes of successive generations of inhabitants Knox argues they also reflect the country s changing core values Knox addresses key areas of concern and importance to today s urban planners and suburban residents including McMansions traffic disasters house design homeowner s associations exclusionary politics and big box stores Through the inclusion of examples and photos **Metroburbia USA** creates an accessible portrait of today s suburbs supported by data anecdotes and social theory It is a broad interpretation of the American metropolitan form that looks carefully at the different influences that contribute to where and how we live today Planning Ideas That Matter Bishwapriya Sanyal, Lawrence J. Vale, Christina D.

Rosan,2012-07-06 Leading theorists and practitioners trace the evolution of key ideas in urban and regional planning over the last hundred years Over the past hundred years of urbanization and suburbanization four key themes have shaped urban and regional planning in both theory and practice livability territoriality governance and reflective professional practice Planning Ideas That Matter charts the trajectories of these powerful planning ideas in an increasingly interconnected world The contributors leading theorists and practitioners discuss livability in terms of such issues as urban density land use and the relationship between the built environment and natural systems examine levels of territorial organization drawing on literature on regionalism metropolitanism and territorial competition describe the ways planning connects to policy making and implementation in a variety of political contexts and consider how planners conceive of their work and learn from practice Throughout the emphasis is on how individuals and institutions including government business professional organizations and universities have framed planning problems and ideas The focus is less on techniques and programs than on the underlying concepts that have animated professional discourse over the years The book is recommended for classroom use as a reference for scholars and practitioners and as a history of planning for those interested in the development of the field **The Land-Grant Colleges and the Reshaping of American Higher Education** Roger L. Geiger,2017-07-05 This work provides a critical reexamination of the origin and development of America s land grant colleges and universities

created by the most important piece of legislation in higher education The story is divided into five parts that provide closer examinations of representative developments Part I describes the connection between agricultural research and American colleges Part II shows that the responsibility of defining and implementing the land grant act fell to the states which produced a variety of institutions in the nineteenth century Part III details the first phase of the conflict during the latter decades of the nineteenth century about whether land colleges were intended to be agricultural colleges or full academic institutions Part IV focuses on the fact that full fledged universities became dominant institutions of American higher education The final part shows that the land grant mission is alive and well in university colleges of agriculture and in fact is inherent to their identity Including some of the best minds the field has to offer this volume follows in the fine tradition of past books in Transaction's Perspectives on the History of Higher Education series

Landscape Performance Bo Yang, 2018-10-26 Ian McHarg's ecological planning approach has been influential since the 20th century However few empirical studies have been conducted to evaluate the performance of his projects Using the framework of landscape performance assessment this book demonstrates the long term benefits of a renowned McHargian project The Woodlands town development through quantitative and qualitative methods Including 44 black and white illustrations Landscape Performance systematically documents the performance benefits of the environmental social and economic aspects of The Woodlands project It delves into McHarg's planning success in The Woodlands in comparison with adjacent Houston developments which demonstrated urban resilience after Hurricane Harvey in 2017 Lastly it identifies the ingredients of McHarg's ability to do real and permanent good Yang also includes a number of appendices which provide valuable information on the methods of assessing performance in landscape development This book would be beneficial to academics and students of landscape architecture and planning with a particular interest in Ian McHarg

The Oxford Handbook of Urban Planning Randall Crane, Rachel Weber, 2015 Why plan How and what do we plan Who plans for whom These three questions are then applied across three major topics in planning States Markets and the Provision of Social Goods The Methods and Substance of Planning and Agency Implementation and Decision Making

Iconic Planned Communities and the Challenge of Change Mary Corbin Sies, Isabelle Gournay, Robert Freestone, 2019-07-19 In the history of planning the design of an entire community prior to its construction is among the oldest traditions Iconic Planned Communities and the Challenge of Change explores the twenty first century fortunes of planned communities around the world Drawing on interdisciplinary perspectives the editors and contributors examine what happened to planned communities after their glory days had passed and they became vulnerable to pressures of growth change and even decline Beginning with Robert Owen's industrial village in Scotland and concluding with Robert Davis's neotraditional resort haven in Florida this book documents the effort to translate optimal design into sustaining a common life that works for changing circumstances and new generations of residents Basing their approach on historical research and practical on the ground considerations the

essayists argue that preservation efforts succeed best when they build upon foundational planning principles address landscape architecture and social engineering together and respect the spirit of place Presenting twenty three case studies located in six continents each contributor considers how to preserve the spirit of the community and its key design elements and the ways in which those elements can be adapted to contemporary circumstances and changing demographics Iconic Planned Communities and the Challenge of Change espouses strategies to achieve critical resilience and emphasizes the vital connection between heritage preservation equitable sharing of the benefits of living in these carefully designed places and sustainable development Communities Bat ovany Partiz nske Cit Frug s Colonel Light Gardens Den en Ch fu Garbatella Greenbelt Hampstead Garden Suburb Jardim Am rica Letchworth Garden City Menteng New Lanark Pacaemb Radburn Riverside R merstadt Sabaudia Seaside Soweto Sunnyside Gardens Tapiola The Uplands Welwyn Garden City Wythenshawe Contributors Arnold R Alanen Carlos Roberto Monteiro de Andrade Sandra Annunziata Robert Freestone Christine Garnaut Isabelle Gournay Michael Hebbert Susan R Henderson James Hopkins Steven W Hurtt Alena Kubova Gauch Jean Fran ois Lejeune Maria Cristina a Silva Leme Larry McCann Mervyn Miller John Minnery Angel David Nieves John J Pittari Jr Gilles Ragot David Schuyler Mary Corbin Sies Christopher Silver Andr Sorensen R Bruce Stephenson Shun ichi J Watanabe *The Religious Dimensions of Shared Spaces* Paul D. Numrich,2023-02-28 Space sharing by groups and organizations is widespread in the United States from commercial partnerships to government and private sector joint use agreements to the use of public facilities and commons and more Drawing upon a variety of historical examples and contemporary cases *The Religious Dimensions of Shared Spaces* offers a focused and systematic analysis of space sharing involving religious groups or organizations All space sharing arrangements are similar in most respects so what difference does it make when religious groups or organizations are involved How do they invest meaning in the spaces they use and share including sacred space When and why do they enter into space sharing arrangements with other parties religious and or secular How do religious space sharers structure and maintain their arrangements including handling tensions that arise What can secular space sharers learn from their religious counterparts and vice versa The book also teases out when religion does not matter in space sharing even when religious groups or organizations are involved Case studies include internal congregational groups that negotiate the use of shared facilities arrangements between congregations and external groups or organizations multifaith partnerships and shared spaces in secular venues **Practicing Utopia** Rosemary Wakeman,2016-04-01 The typical town springs up around a natural resource a river an ocean an exceptionally deep harbor or in proximity to a larger already thriving town Not so with new towns which are created by decree rather than out of necessity and are often intended to break from the tendencies of past development New towns aren t a new thing ancient Phoenicians named their colonies Qart Hadasht or New City but these utopian developments saw a resurgence in the twentieth century In *Practicing Utopia* Rosemary Wakeman gives us a sweeping view of the new town movement as a global phenomenon From Tapiola in Finland to

Islamabad in Pakistan Cergy Pontoise in France to Irvine in California Wakeman unspools a masterly account of the golden age of new towns exploring their utopian qualities and investigating what these towns can tell us about contemporary modernization and urban planning She presents the new town movement as something truly global defying a Cold War East West dichotomy or the north south polarization of rich and poor countries Wherever these new towns were located whatever their size whether famous or forgotten they shared a utopian lineage and conception that in each case reveals how residents and planners imagined their ideal urban future

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