

# Celebrating Discovery: Our Past and Our Future

Honoring Minnesota's 150th Anniversary

## Suburbia—a selected bibliography

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- Fishman, Robert. *Bourgeois Utopias, The Rise and Fall of Suburbia*. New York: Basic Books, 1987.
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- Jackson, Kenneth T. *The Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1985.
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## The Arts and the Built Environment

Changing Suburban Lives, 1850s to 2050s  
April 3, 2008, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

**Presenters:** John Archer, chair, Cultural Studies, College of Liberal Arts; Robert Bruegmann, professor of art history, architecture, and urban planning, University of Illinois at Chicago; Katherine Solomonson, associate dean, College of Design; and Becky Yust, head, Design, Housing, and Apparel, College of Design

**Moderator:** Thomas Fisher, dean, College of Design

## Changing Suburban Lives: 1850s to 2050s

A look back a century and a half and forward another 50 years at the changing forms of suburbia and suburban housing and how these forms engage some of the basic currents of American identity, citizenship, aesthetics, and values; at the intersection of design, demographics, lifestyle, and dwelling; and at the evolution of a new mode of living, that of the suburbanite.

### Host

**E. Thomas Sullivan**, senior vice president and provost, University of Minnesota

### Moderator

**Thomas Fisher**, professor and dean, College of Design, previously served as editorial director of *Progressive Architecture* magazine in Stamford, Connecticut. He has lectured or juried at many schools and professional societies, and has published two dozen book chapters and over 250 major articles. He is the author of *Designing for Designers: Lessons Learned from Schools of Architecture* (coeditor); *In the Scheme of Things: Alternative Thinking on the Practice of Architecture*; *Salmela Architect*; and *Lake Flato Buildings and Landscapes*.

### Presenters

**John Archer** is chair of the cultural studies department and professor of art history and American studies, College of Liberal Arts. His research as an architectural historian explores the ways the built environment serves to shape (and limit) who we are and who we aspire to be, both personally and as part of broader social and cultural frameworks. He has written on topics ranging from colonial urbanism in India and Indonesia, and eighteenth-century English landscape gardens, to spatial theory and the aesthetics of twenty-first-century American suburbia. His award-winning book *Architecture and Suburbia* (Minnesota, 2005) traces the evolution of the single-family house and the modern residential suburb as artifacts central to the growth and advancement of Anglo-American culture over the past three centuries.

**Robert Bruegmann**, historian and critic of the built environment, is a professor of art history, architecture, and urban planning at the University of Illinois at Chicago. His fields of research and teaching are architectural, urban, landscape, and planning history and historic preservation. He is the author of numerous books and articles, including the award-winning volume *The Architects and the City: Holabird & Roche of Chicago 1880-1918* published in 1998 and, most recently, *Sprawl: A Compact History* published by the University of Chicago Press in 2005.

**Katherine Solomonson** is associate dean for academic affairs, College of Design, and professor of architectural and urban history. Her teaching and scholarship focuses on the complex roles built environments (and the processes involved in shaping them) play in the production of values, identities, and social relations. She has a particular interest in the ways in which histories of cultural landscapes intersect with contemporary planning, policy, and historic preservation. Her recent book, *The Chicago Tribune Tower Competition: Skyscraper Design and Cultural Change in the 1920s* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001), examines the ways in which the competition and resulting building became engaged in the growth of consumer culture and the production of national identity.

**Becky Yust** is professor and head of the Department of Design, Housing, and Apparel, College of Design. Her area of expertise in teaching and research is housing studies. Her teaching focuses on (1) the household level, examining housing norms, decisions, and constraints in finding appropriate housing, and (2) multifamily housing development, finance, and management in the private and public sectors. Her research has investigated housing adequacy and affordability particularly related to homeownership opportunities, household energy consumption and conservation, and the relationship between housing activity and economic vitality in rural communities.

For more information on the other April panel discussions in the Minnesota sesquicentennial series, go to [www.umn.edu/sesqui](http://www.umn.edu/sesqui)