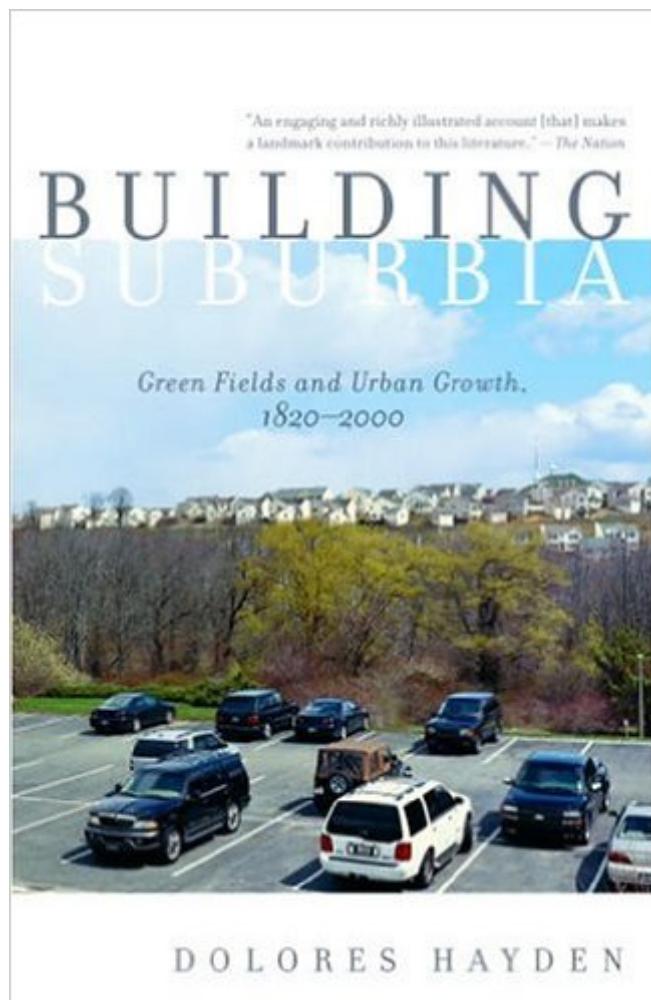


The book was found

# Building Suburbia: Green Fields And Urban Growth, 1820-2000



## **Synopsis**

A lively history of the contested landscapes where the majority of Americans now live, *Building Suburbia* chronicles two centuries in the birth and development of America's metropolitan regions. From rustic cottages reached by steamboat to big box stores at the exit ramps of eight-lane highways, Dolores Hayden defines seven eras of suburban development since 1820. An urban historian and architect, she portrays housewives and politicians as well as designers and builders making the decisions that have generated America's diverse suburbs. Residents have sought home, nature, and community in suburbia. Developers have cherished different dreams, seeking profit from economies of scale and increased suburban densities, while lobbying local and federal government to reduce the risk of real estate speculation. Encompassing environmental controversies as well as the complexities of race, gender, and class, Hayden's fascinating account will forever alter how we think about the communities we build and inhabit.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Vintage; Reprint edition (November 9, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375727213

ISBN-13: 978-0375727214

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #104,740 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Landscape #73 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Urban & Land Use Planning #75 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Public Affairs & Policy > City Planning & Urban Development

## **Customer Reviews**

*Building Suburbia* is a capable synthesis of historical and recent scholarship on the development of the suburbs in America. Hayden, a professor of architecture and urbanism and professor of American Studies at Yale, knows what she is talking about. It was clear to me that this book is written for a general, rather than specialized audience. Hayden's writing style is easy to understand, and she provides multiple in text illustrations and photographs to illuminate the text. The book tracks the historical development of suburbs in time (the subtitle is "Green Fields and Urban Growth

1820-2000.) She starts with "Borderlands", then covers "Picturesque Enclaves", "Streetcar Buildouts", "Mail-Order and Self-Built Suburbs", "Sitcom Suburbs", "Edge Nodes" and "Rural Fringes". This historical approach is book ended by an introduction with two chapters and a conclusion with two chapters. Hayden includes excellent end notes and a selected bibliography that is worthwhile to have on your shelf. Since this book was written in 2003, the bibliography is chock full of RECENT books on urban studies that allow the student or casual reader to follow up in any number of directions. Worth checking out.

This is a readable and enlightening history of the American phenomena of suburbia, from the mid-1800s to the 1970s. It clearly shows how the government and communities subsidized builders and developers, who, in turn, left it up to taxpayers to support the cost of new streets, sewers, schools, and all the other infrastructure needed to support ever-expanding suburbs. The book could have done a more thorough job of explaining how the funds that went to suburbs ended up leaving cities impoverished, with the result that schools, security, and infrastructure suffered. Also, the author could have described the terrible environmental toll as thousands of square miles of McMansion ghettos devoured farms, deserts and forests. The housing orgy of the 2000-2007 era was an extreme manifestation of the trend that has been ongoing since the 1800s.

The author did in an excellent job in presenting a variety of issues. In my opinion though, her stronger suit is the historical aspect rather than some of later subjects she delves into in the text. It was refreshing to have a feminist critique, but this is more developed in the first part of the text and less interesting or less confined to the latter chapters. Paraphrasing another reviewer, there are parts of the text which begin to feel mechanical, again the latter part of the text. Despite stylistic critiques, I believe the text to be very good and importantly, recent in scope.

Super easy read, even if you're not studying the history of American suburbanization. It's written for both a popular and academic audience, though it's not the most academic text I've read on the matter. Hayden draws some great conclusions at the end and pulls the narrative to present day American housing habits. Overall, it's a great text if you're building a body of work on housing, urbanization, and suburban culture.

especially now when hurricane sandy has destroyed so many homes and lives, it is important to remember who planned what, how and why. This non-fiction book gives a blow by blow of how the

developers acquired the land, who they worked with in government, and how inadequately it was developed. Homes without piping for gas or water lines-- and building bungalows in flood prone areas are just some of the issues explored.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Building Suburbia: Green Fields and Urban Growth, 1820-2000 Building Green, New Edition: A Complete How-To Guide to Alternative Building Methods Earth Plaster \* Straw Bale \* Cordwood \* Cob \* Living Roofs (Building Green: A Complete How-To Guide to Alternative) LEED GA MOCK EXAMS (LEED v4): Questions, Answers, and Explanations: A Must-Have for the LEED Green Associate Exam, Green Building LEED Certification, ... Green Associate Exam Guide Series (Volume 2) LEED v4 Green Associate Exam Guide (LEED GA): Comprehensive Study Materials, Sample Questions, Green Building LEED Certification, and Sustainability (Green Associate Exam Guide Series) (Volume 1) Mrs. Fields Cookie Book: 100 Recipes from the Kitchen of Mrs. Fields If You Didn't Bring Jerky, What Did I Just Eat: Misadventures in Hunting, Fishing, and the Wilds of Suburbia Was It Something I Said?: Misadventures in suburbia Tales From Outer Suburbia LEED Green Associate Exam Guide: Comprehensive Study Materials, Sample Questions, Mock Exam, Green Building LEED Certification, and Sustainability, 3rd Edition Track and Road: The American Trotting Horse, A Visual Record 1820 to 1900 from the Harry T. Peters America on Stone Lithography Collection Toyota Tundra (2000 thru 2006) & Sequoia (2000-2007): All 2WD and 4WD Models (Haynes Repair Manual) A History of US: Liberty for All?: 1820-1860 A History of US Book Five The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Vol. A: Beginnings to 1820 The Print Before Photography: An Introduction to European Printmaking 1550 - 1820 Sound the Trumpet, Beat the Drums: Horse-Mounted Bands of the U.S. Army, 1820&#150;1940 German Immigrants, 1820-1920 (Coming to America) Peterson's Private Secondary Schools 2000-2001 : The Smart Parents' Guide to Private Education (Peterson's Private Secondary Schools, 2000-2001) Dodge Durango & Dakota Pick-ups: Durango 2000 thru 2003 Dakota 2000 thru 2004 (Hayne's Automotive Repair Manual) Growth Hormones and Growth Factors in Acromegaly and Beyond: 4th International Workshop on "Highlights in Basic and Clinical Neuroendocrinology", Athens, November 2005: Proceedings TOP 101 Growth Hacks: The best growth hacking ideas that you can put into practice right away

[Dmca](#)