

Suburbia Beyond Housing: Supporting Community Through Social Connection, Identity, and Adaptability in the Modern Suburb

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Abstract : As the suburban landscape has evolved over time, it has been slowly stripped down to the absolute bare essentials of housing. This has resulted in the loss of core elements of the built environment which previously supported community no longer being present in most neighborhoods. As a result, this work will explore how current and past designers have successfully introduced these concepts in similar settings, in an effort to re-implement them into the contemporary subdivision. Ultimately, this will result in a reimagining suburban design through elements like identity, adaptability, place, and social spaces to improve community interaction and cohesion. Overall, this thesis asserts that contemporary subdivisions don't support the growing need for community in daily life and should be improved through the implementation of historical neighborhood design and select modern urban concepts to better suit living needs.

Keywords : suburbia, community, social connection, identity, adaptability, neighborhood, place, unity, leisure, social ties, third place, learning from history

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