

The Decline of Inner Suburbs: the New Suburban Gothic in the United States

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, we critically examine transformation and decline in US suburbs. We identify four distinct, chronological phases of development:

- suburban utopias;
- suburban conformity;
- suburban diversity;
- and suburban dichotomy.

An element of this new suburban dichotomy is what we term suburban gothic. We theorize that the forces of an aging housing stock, land-use planning, and deindustrialization contribute to the divergent realities of US suburbs.

Key Words: suburbs, inner suburbs, decline