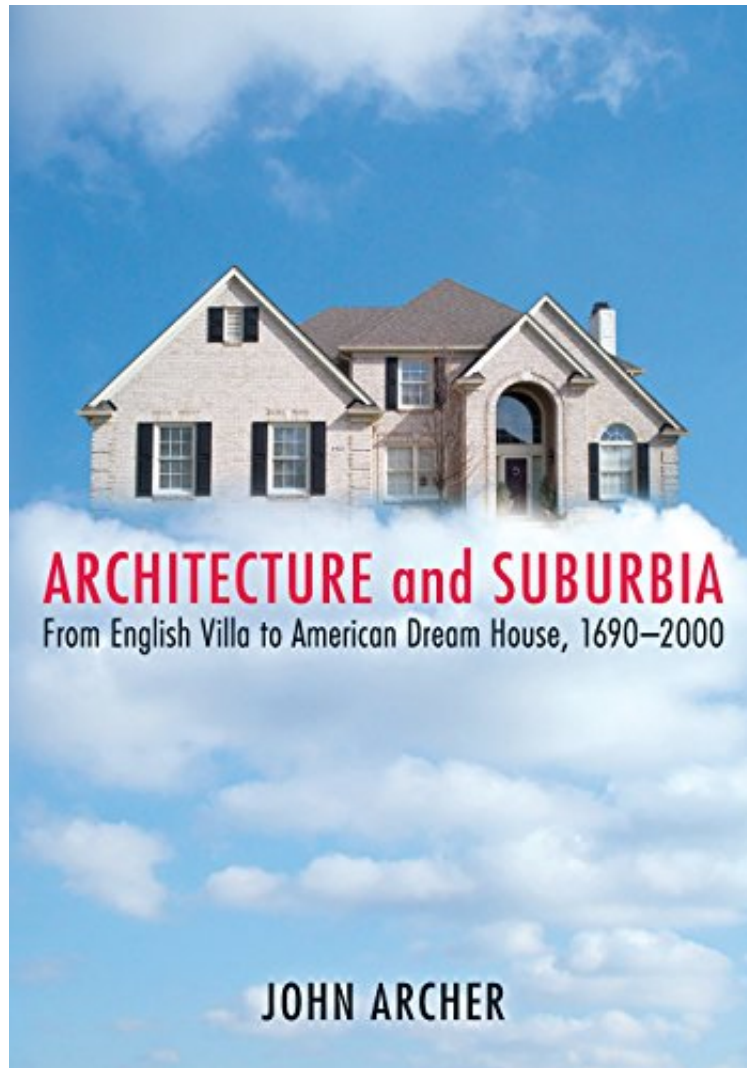


(Download) Architecture and Suburbia: From English Villa to American Dream House, 1690-2000

Architecture and Suburbia: From English Villa to American Dream House, 1690-2000

John Archer

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#1669571 in Books Univ Of Minnesota Press 2008-04-12Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 10.00 x 1.00 x 7.00l, 1.89 #File Name: 0816643040496 pages | File size: 30.Mb

John Archer : Architecture and Suburbia: From English Villa to American Dream House, 1690-2000 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Architecture and Suburbia: From English Villa to American Dream House, 1690-2000:

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. beginnings of suburbiaBy Henry BerryArcher puts suburbia into historical context, going back to before it was even known as this. Its beginnings were in the "nascent bourgeoisie...philosophical, economic, and political circumstances" of late seventeenth century England. Especially,

the "new architectural type [of] the compact bourgeois villa" came to be seen as an ideal residence by the nascent bourgeois public. This architecture type allowed for a "new settlement pattern" different from the traditional ones of dense urban development and sprawling manors--namely, suburbia with its homes surrounded by lawns clustered in country-like areas. Along with laying out the cultural and philosophical origins of suburbia, including the developing concept of the self, Archer presents both sides of the assessment of suburbia. In modern-day America, where the majority of the population now live in suburbia, there has for many decades been an ongoing debate over whether suburbia is the acme of the American dream of prosperity and upward mobility or an illusion entailing the stifling of individuality and cultivation of materialism. Archer's book is substantive enough to be a text in college courses on suburban studies, while also being accessible and engaging enough as a timely work of cultural studies for the general reader. The author is a professor of cultural studies and comparative literature at the U. of Minnesota. With material ranging from Enlightenment English philosophy to portrayals of suburbia in recent movies, from architectural plans of the "compact bourgeois villa" to inventions such as lawnmowers and economic changes such as new banking practices associated with suburbia, the work demonstrates how fertile this subject is while bringing it into focus and drawing the avenues for further exploration of it.

The American suburban dream house--a single-family, detached dwelling, frequently clustered in tight rows and cul-de-sacs--has been attacked for some time as homogeneous and barren, yet the suburbs are home to half of the American population. Architectural historian John Archer suggests the endurance of the ideal house is deeply rooted in the notions of privacy, property, and selfhood that were introduced in late seventeenth-century England and became the foundation of the American nation and identity. Spanning four centuries, *Architecture and Suburbia*

"Archer shows that the creation and evolution of the suburban house and the suburban landscape raise the most profound issues of 'self, identity, gender, and relation to family and society.' . . . Archer is both a compelling theorist and an adventurous researcher." -Robert Fishman, University of Michigan