AHST 3322-001 (27125)
History of Modern Architecture

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University of Texas at Dallas

Spring 2019
Tu-Th 1:00-2:15
AD 2.232

Tuesday April 9

Urban Renewal, Housing Projects, and W(h)ither Modernism?
-- A Discussion of *The Pruitt-Igoe Myth*

Directed by Chad Freidrichs, released in 2011

American Urban Renewal

- land redevelopment to ameliorate urban decay
- demolition of blighted areas and slum districts
- catalyzed in part by public funds
- creating opportunity for private development of higher class housing
- privately owned properties within a designated renewal area are purchased or taken by eminent domain by a municipal redevelopment authority, razed and then sold to selected developers who devote them to other uses
- **Housing Act of 1949**
  - federal financing for slum clearance programs associated with urban renewal projects in American cities (Title I)
  - increased authorization for the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) mortgage insurance (Title II)
  - extension of federal money to build more than 800,000 public housing units (Title III)
  - funding for research on housing and building techniques (Title IV)
  - financing of "dwelling and other farm buildings on ... farms" (Title V)

“urban amelioration”

conflation of poverty, race, and morality

hygiene + cleansing – cleaning the city

white walls of modern architecture translated into urban ethos and urban scale

Urban renewal wreaked an enormous human toll. An estimated 1 million people in 993 neighborhoods across the U.S. were forced to relocate by urban renewal policies, most without any compensation. A disproportionate number of them were poor and/or minority.

Boston City Hall, Kallmann, McKinnell & Knowles (architects) with Campbell, Aldrich & Nulty (architects) and Lemessurier Associates (engineers), 1968

Boston City Hall, Kallmann, McKinnell & Knowles (architects) with Campbell, Aldrich & Nulty (architects) and Lemessurier Associates (engineers), 1968

Boston, Scollay Square Before and After

Wallace Harrison, Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza (known commonly as the Empire State Plaza, and also as the South Mall), 1965-76

Wallace Harrison, Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza (known commonly as the Empire State Plaza, and also as the South Mall), 1965-76

- The 98-acre area was made up of several distinct neighborhoods.
- To the south, clustered around Madison and Grand streets was the heart of Albany's Italian American community.
- Although only about half of Little Italy was seized by the State, the demolition and subsequent noise and dirt associated with the construction of the Empire State Plaza led many residents to move, even if their homes were not appropriated.
- To the north lay Albany's rooming house district, centered on Jay, Lancaster, and Hudson streets between Eagle and S. Swan.
- About 10% of the buildings torn down for the Empire State Plaza were rooming houses. In them lived over 1,000 single men, often elderly and poor.
- They made up about one third of all households and at least 15% of the take area's population.
- The eastern part of the take area, where the South Mall Arterial is now, was Albany's "Gut", an area of cheap hotels, flophouses, and dive bars.
- The take area also boasted elegant homes, particularly on State Street at the northern end and Elm Street below Madison

The Cabrini-Green public housing development was built over the course of 20 years as part of the Chicago Housing Authority's approach to the "urban renewal" philosophy sweeping the nation. Begun in 1942 as the Francis Cabrini Rowhouses, the Cabrini Extensions North and South were added in 1958, followed by the William Green Homes in 1962. The complex totaled 70 acres on Chicago's near North Side.

Left: High-rise apartment buildings at Cabrini-Green Homes, Chicago, Illinois, 1958

GOOD
TIMES

St. Louis urban erasure and transformation

St. Louis urban erasure and transformation

St. Louis urban erasure and transformation

The housing stock in St. Louis had deteriorated between the 1920s and the 1940s, and more than 85,000 families lived in 19th- century tenements. An official survey from 1947 found that 33,000 homes had communal toilets. In 1947, St. Louis planners proposed to replace DeSoto-Carr, a run-down neighborhood, with new two- and three-story residential blocks and a public park. This plan fell through. After the Federal Housing Act of 1949, the St. Louis Land Clearance and Redevelopment Authority was authorized to acquire and demolish the slums of the inner ring and then sell the land at reduced prices to private developers, fostering middle-class return and business growth. Another agency, St. Louis Housing Authority, had to clear land to construct public housing for the former slum dwellers. By 1950, St. Louis had received a federal commitment under the Housing Act of 1949 to finance 5,800 public housing units.

Minoru Yamasaki, The Wendell O. Pruitt Homes and William Igoe Apartments or Pruitt-Igoe Housing Projects, St. Louis Missouri, 1954

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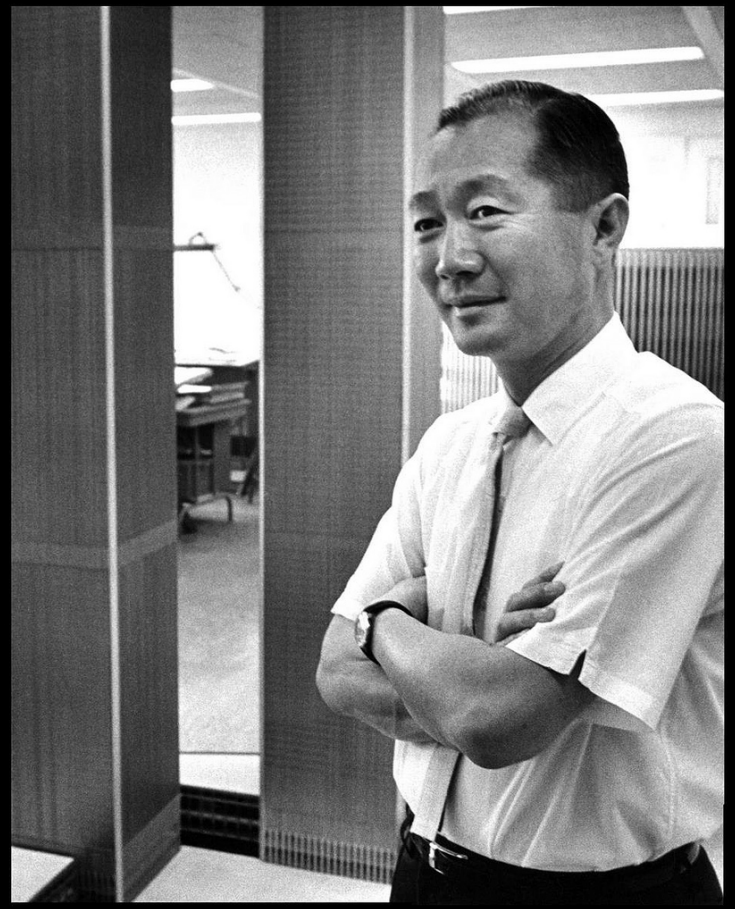
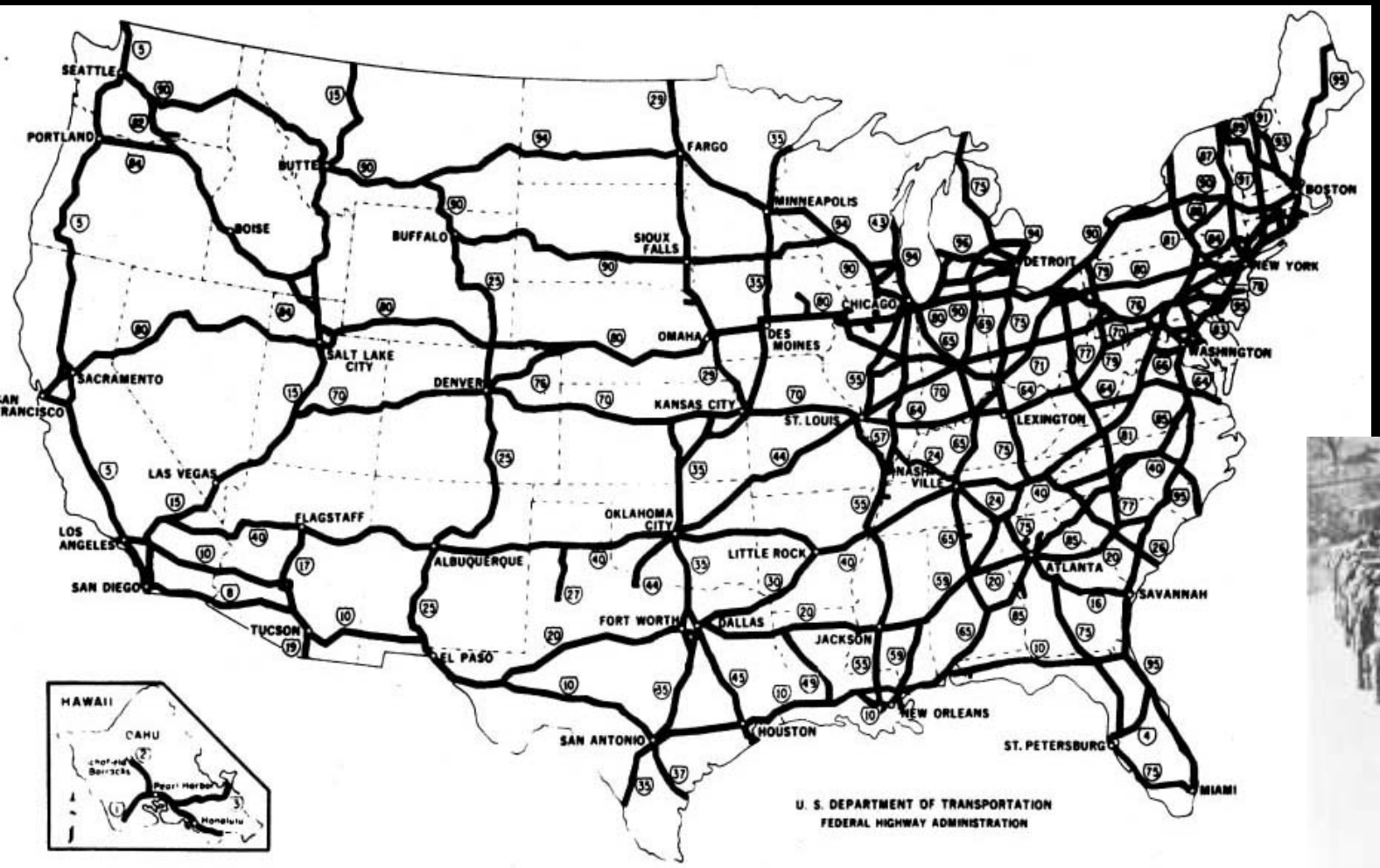


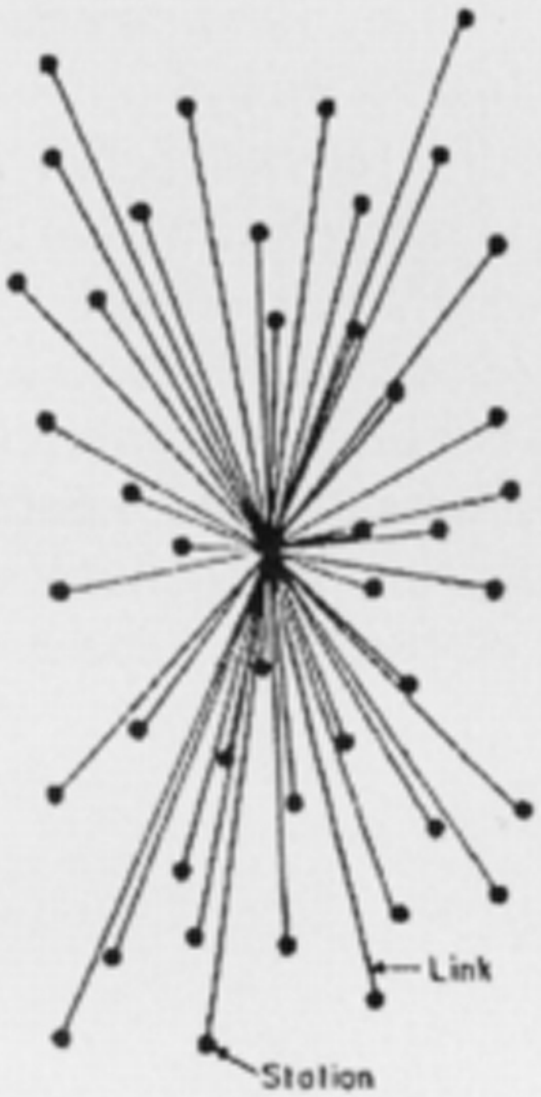
Minoru Yamasaki, The World Trade Center, New York, 1970-71



Such roads as this one hamper rapid movement of mechanized units of the Army and must be widened and realigned for National Defense

Highways for National Defense

By C. H. PURCELL, State Highway Engineer



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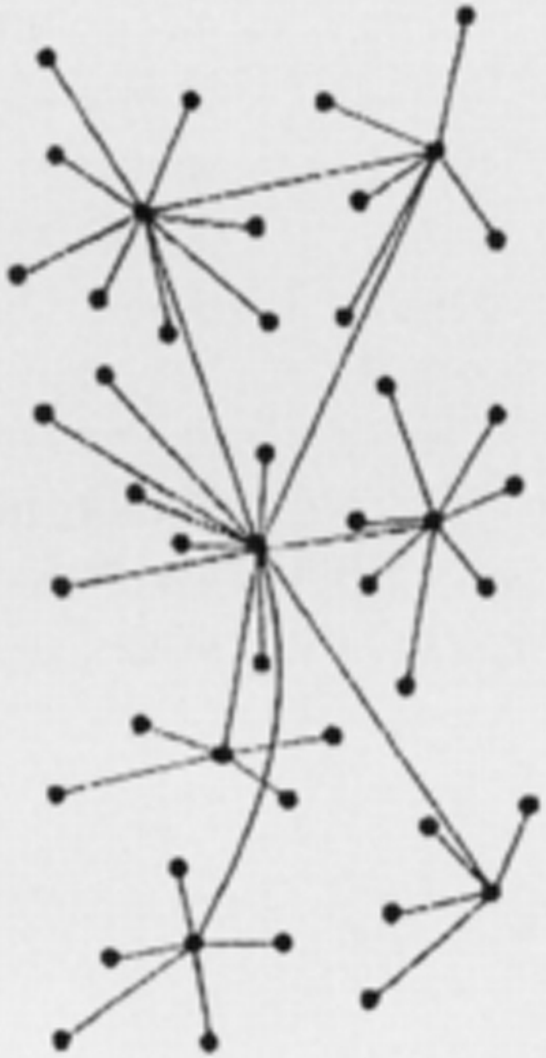

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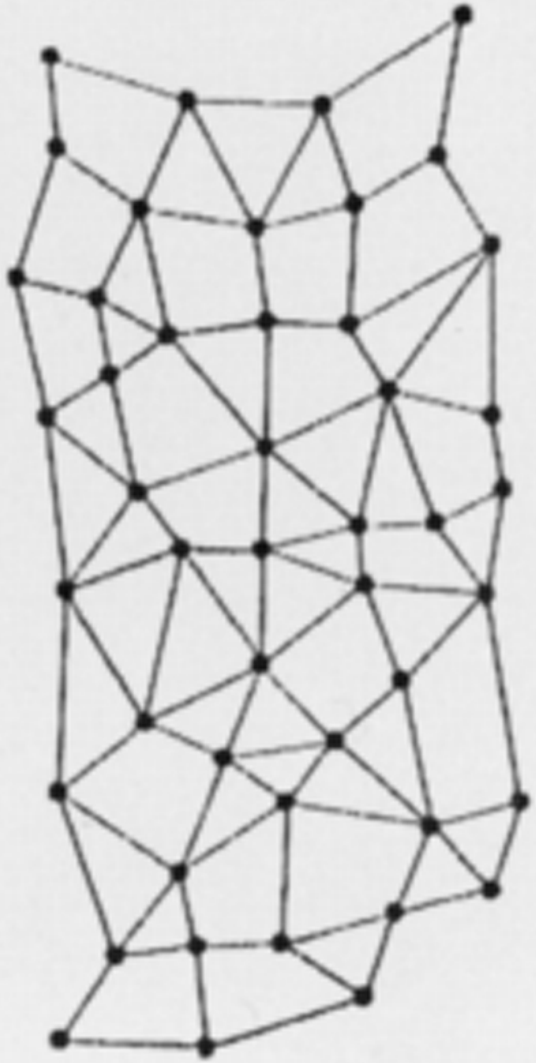


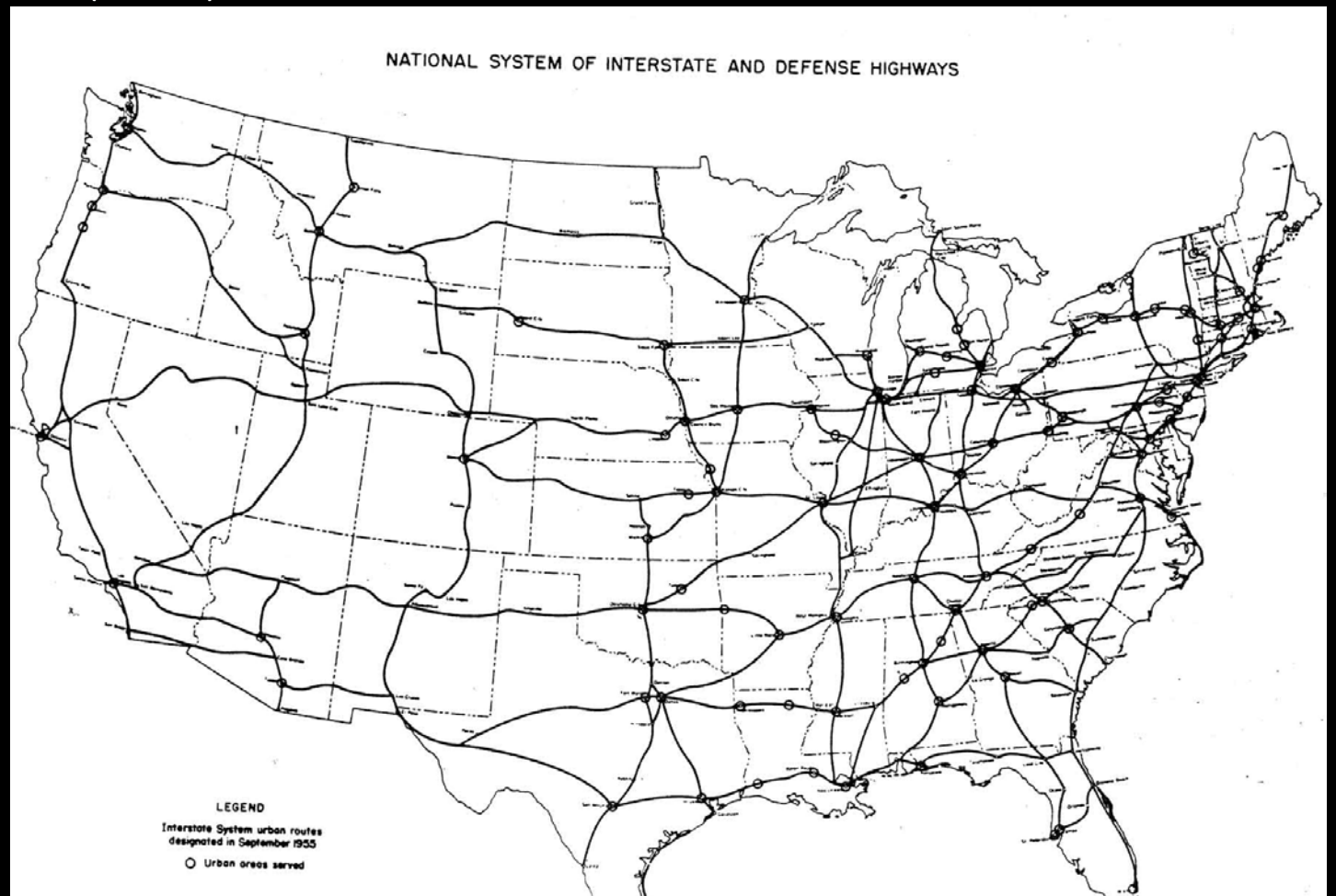
DISTRIBUTED
(C)

Such roads as this one hamper rapid movement of mechanized units of the Army and must be widened and realigned for National Defense

Highways for National Defense

By C. H. PURCELL, State Highway Engineer

The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956, popularly known as the National Interstate and **Defense** Highways Act (Public Law 84-627), was enacted on June 29, 1956, when President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the bill into law. With an original authorization of $25 billion for the construction of 41,000 miles (66,000 km) of the Interstate Highway System supposedly over a 10-year period, it was the largest public works project in American history through that time. Today this system consists of over 160,000 miles of roadways. All urban areas with a population of over 50,000 and about 90% of America's population live within five miles (8.0 km) of the network.



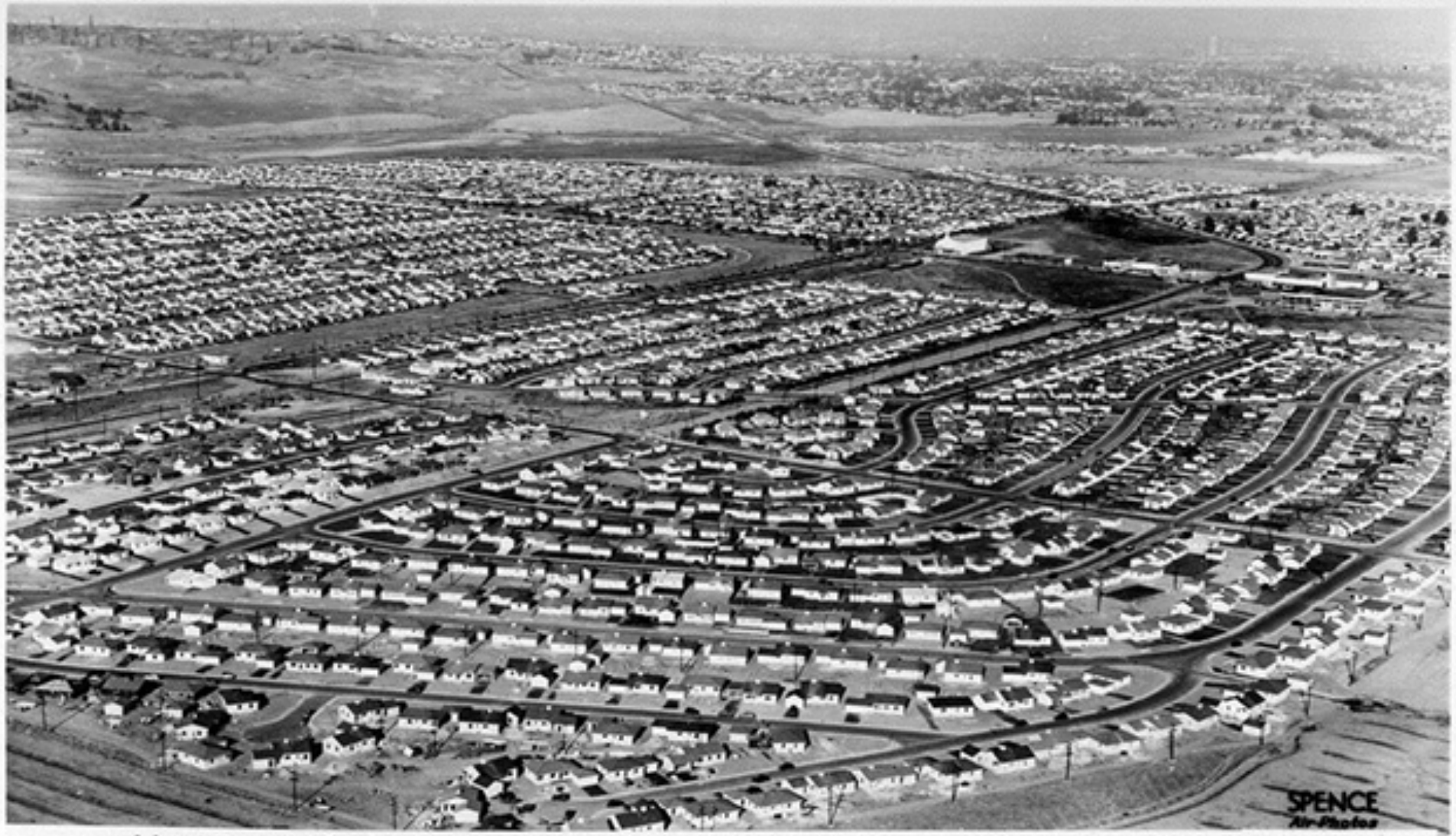
Solid circles show cities where dispersal plans have been approved. Dotted circles show communities where plans were being prepared in late 1955.

INDUSTRIAL DISPERSAL, 1956*

WHITE FLIGHT AND MID-CENTURY SUBURBANIZATION

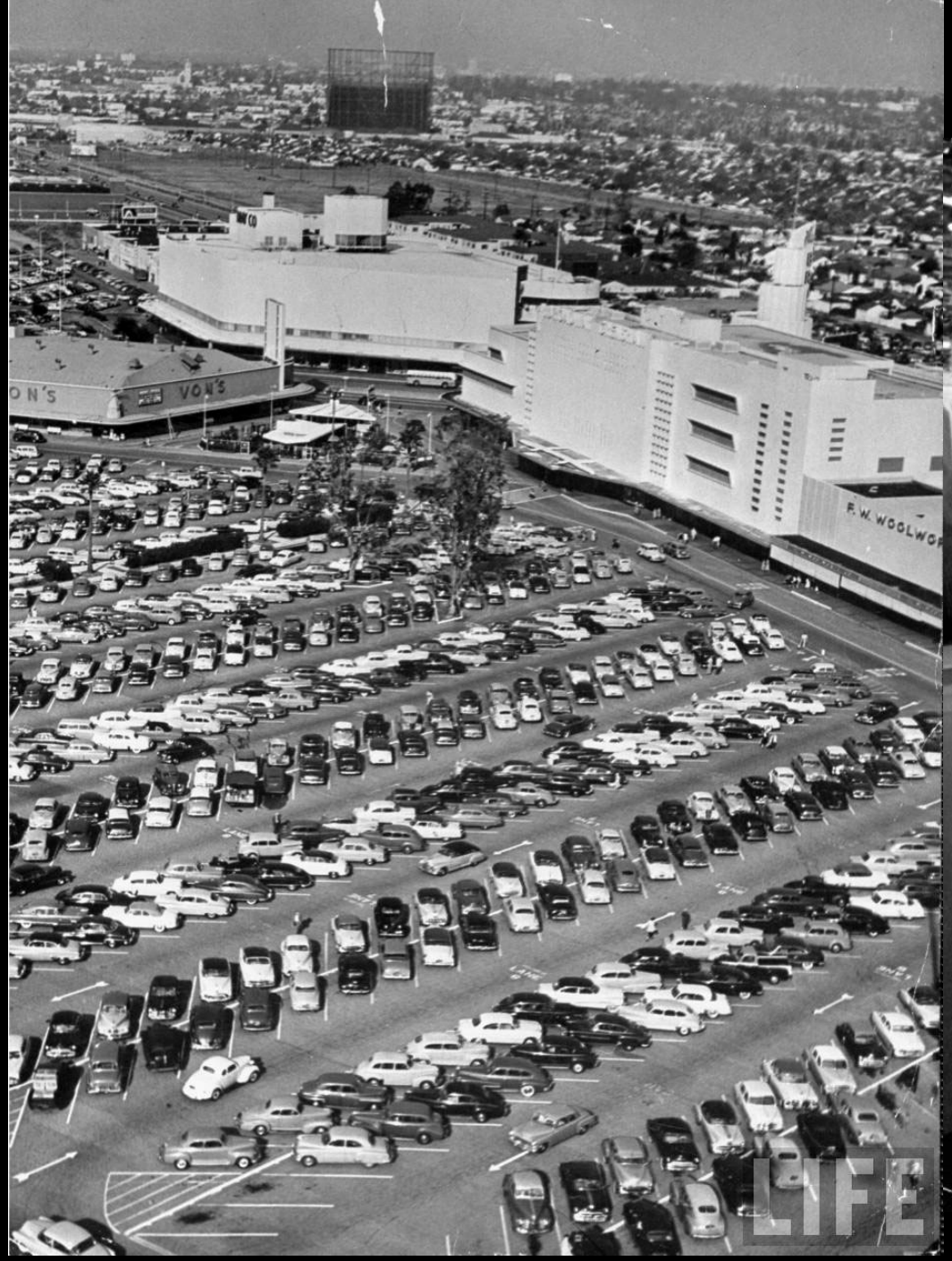
- New Deal policymakers realized that restoring the economy depended on restoring the housing sector. In 1934, they created the **Federal Housing Administration (FHA)** with two key mandates:
  - Revive the housing market, and
  - Make homeownership attainable for more Americans.

- By making an offer lenders couldn’t refuse, the FHA exercised tremendous power over residential design. Mortgages had to meet an opinionated set of criteria to qualify for the federal insurance. Lenders could invest in mortgages not covered by the program, but they had a strong preference for homes that conformed to the guidelines. Compliance was mandatory for the insurance, so lenders pressured developers to follow the rules. By 1959, 25 years after it was formed, the FHA had helped three out of every five American families purchase a home.
- FHA rules had implicit and explicit hierarchies of what homeowners ought to want. They had two key purposes: to stimulate the economy, and to constrain the market to only good investments. These goals — plus social assumptions of the time — were reflected in the FHA’s evaluation of a mortgage. The standards included:
- Large, new homes were given a higher score, because they increased demand for labor and materials. Older homes with small spaces didn’t create demand for new furniture. Features like long hallways and steep staircases lowered the rating, because they prevented easy moving of furniture.
- Homogeneity of neighboring housing stock was believed to indicate stable housing prices. To get the max score on the FHA evaluation, the manual preferred that a house be a part of “a sparsely developed new neighborhood … completed over the span of very few years.”
- The ideal house had “sunshine, ventilation, scenic outlook, privacy, and safety”, and “effective landscaping and gardening” added to its worth. The guide recommended that houses should be set back at least 15 feet from the road, and well-tended lawns that matched the neighbors’ yards helped the rating.



Air View of the New Westchester District, Los Angeles, California

Courtesy of Marlow-Burns Development Co., 6000 West Manchester Boulevard, Los Angeles, California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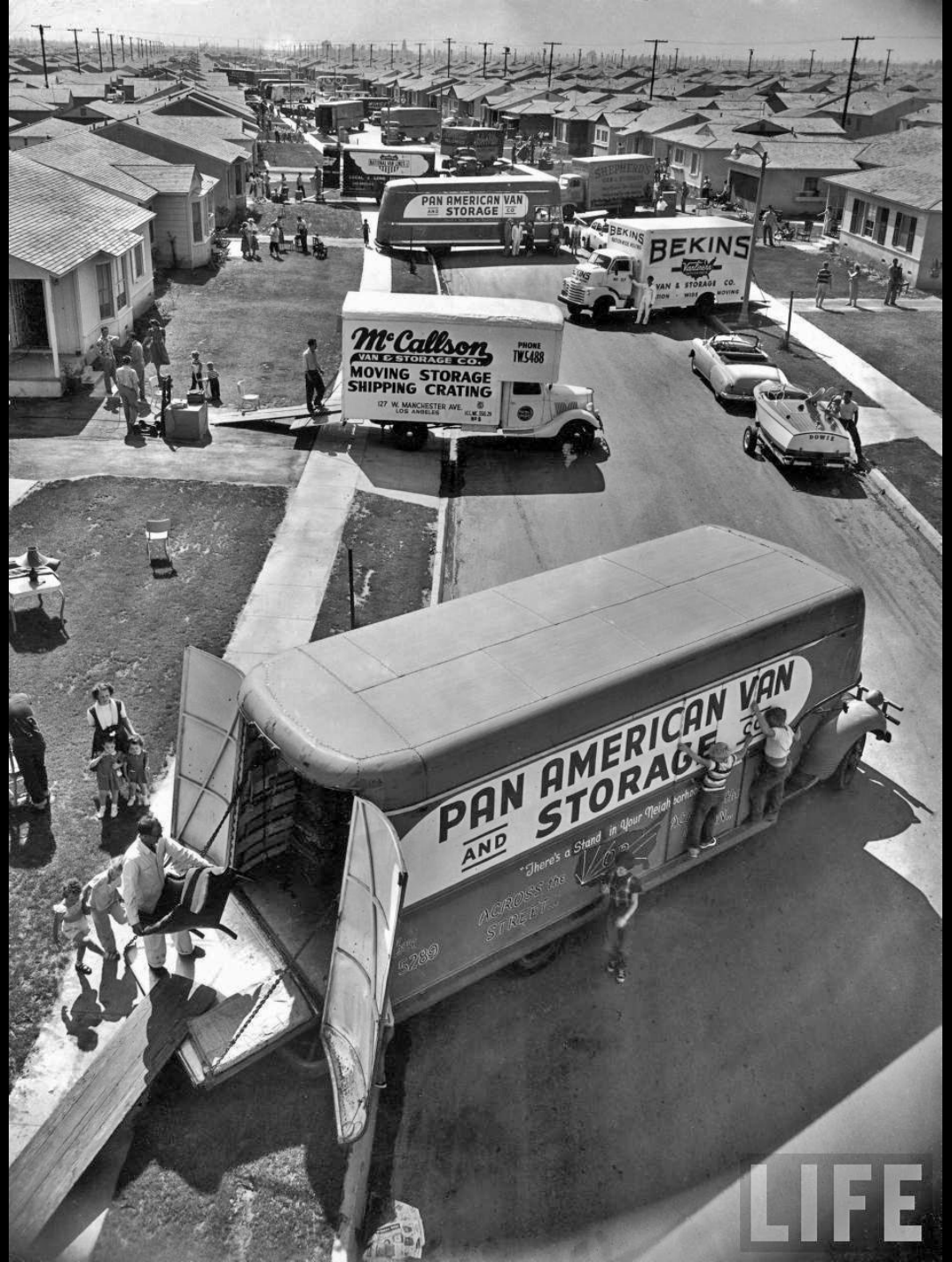
PAN AMERICAN VAN AND STORAGE CO
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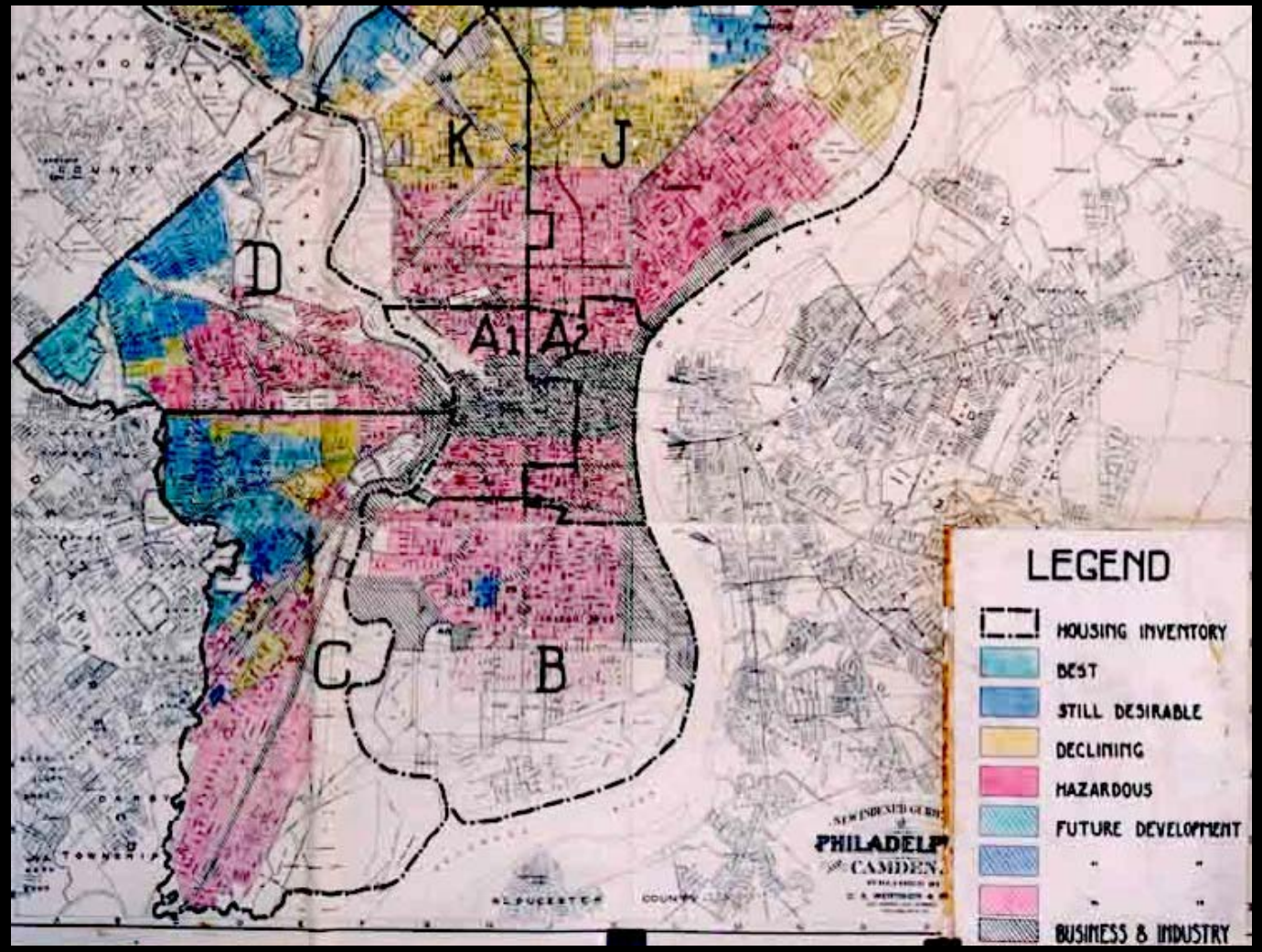
VAN & STORAGE CO.
PHONE TW5488
MOVING STORAGE
SHIPPING CRATING
127 W. MANCHESTER AVE. LOS ANGELES
PAN AMERICAN VAN AND STORAGE
LIFE

Mountain View Dairies
LIFE

Meanwhile back in the city center…

RED-LINING



Red-lining: the systematic denial of various services to residents of specific, often racially associated, neighborhoods or communities, either directly or through the selective raising of prices.

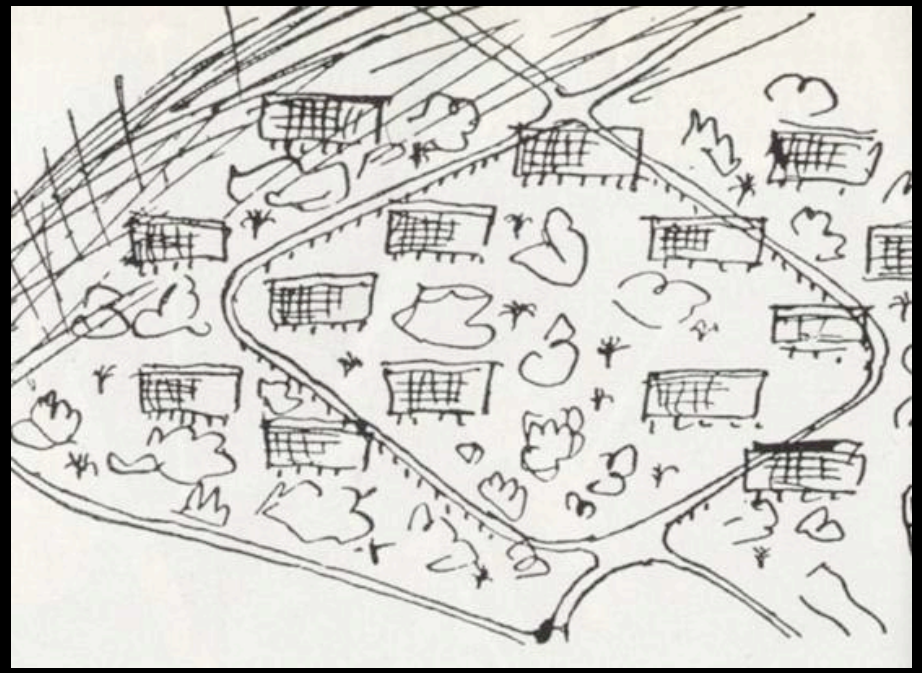
Left: A Home Owners' Loan Corporation 1936 security map of Philadelphia showing redlining of lower income neighborhoods

MORTGAGE DISCRIMINATION

Mortgage discrimination or mortgage lending discrimination is the practice of banks, governments or other lending institutions denying loans to one or more groups of people primarily on the basis of race, ethnic origin, sex or religion.

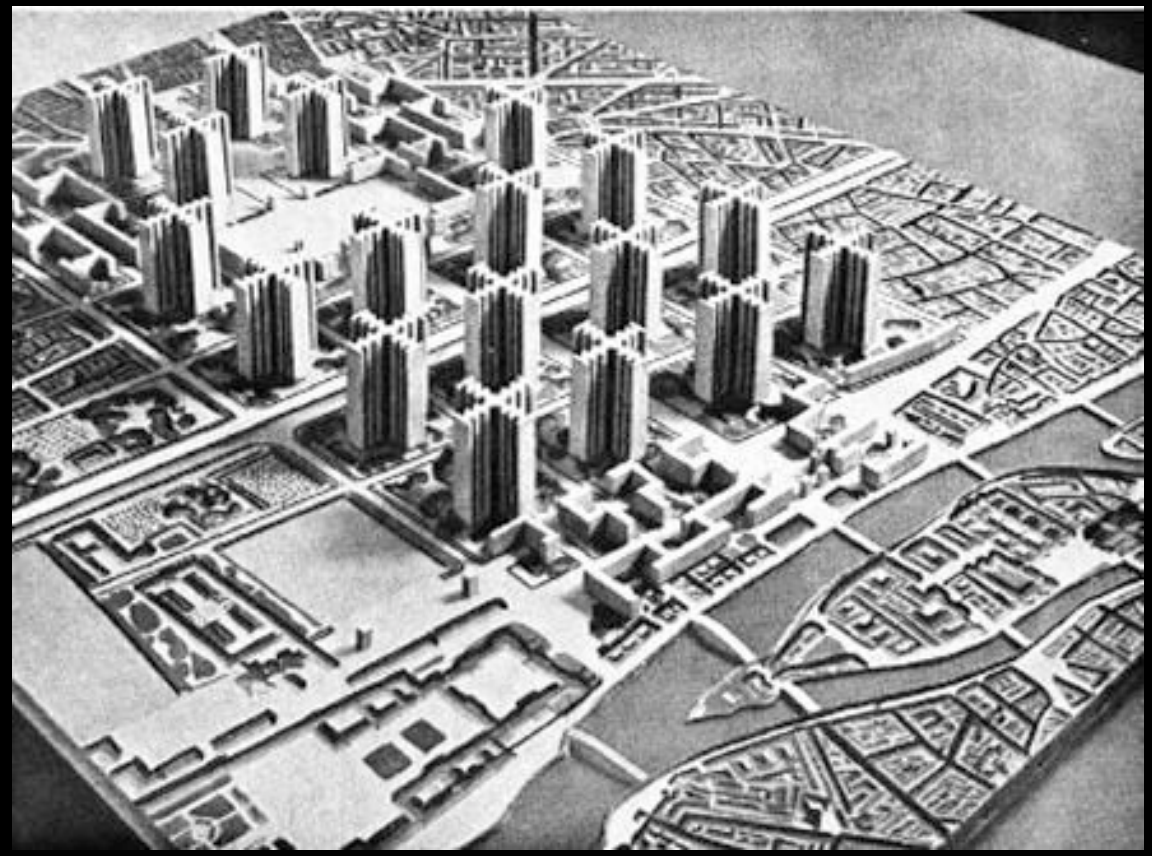
Left: Sign with American flag "We want white tenants in our white community," directly opposite the Sojourner Truth homes, a new U.S. federal housing project in Detroit, Michigan. A riot was caused by white neighbors' attempts to prevent African American tenants from moving in.

Minoru Yamasaki, The Wendell O. Pruitt Homes and William Igoe Apartments or Pruitt-Igoe Housing Projects, St. Louis Missouri, 1954



Athens Charter 1943
(1930-43)
Congrès International
d'Architecture
Moderne [CIAM]

-rationalization of movement within an urban zone
-separation of pedestrians from vehicles
-skyscrapers instrumental in dividing live-work space from recreational space
-towers for live-work leaving open ground space for recreation
-open green space



Plan Voisin, 1925

What is the connection here?

Is modern architecture inherently dehumanizing, racist, and discriminatory?

Le Corbusier, Villa Savoye, Poissy, 1928-31

Are skyscrapers inherently bad -- dehumanizing, racist, and discriminatory??

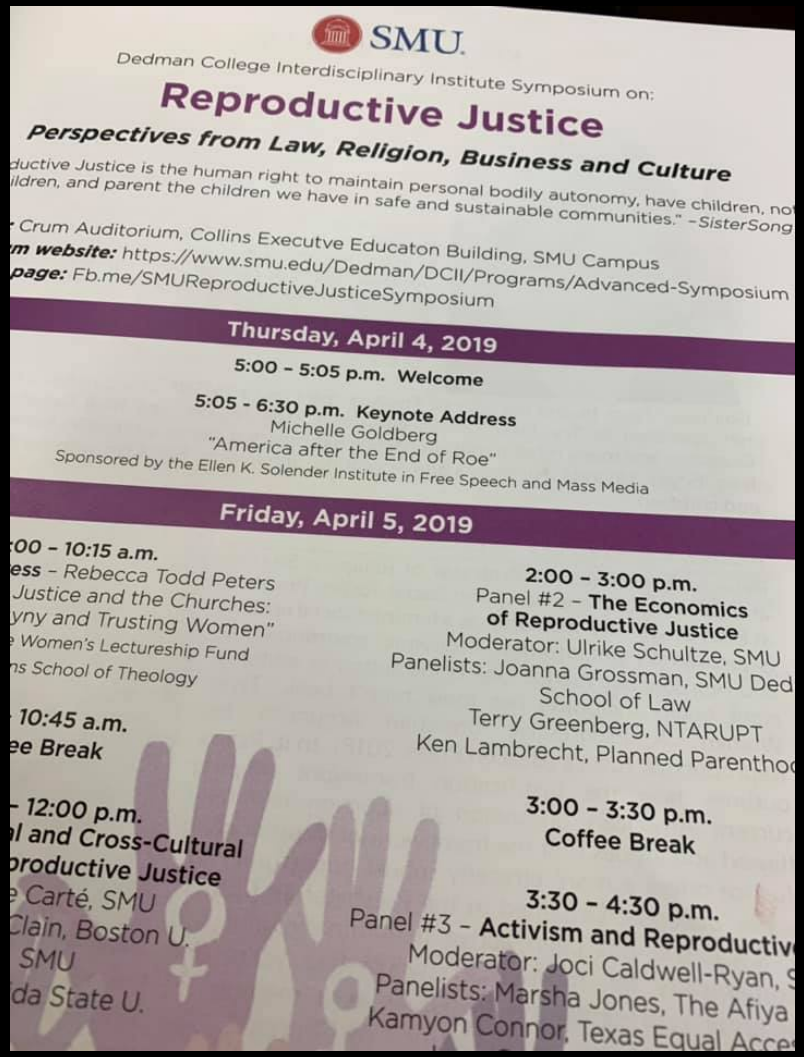
Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Project for an Office building in the Freidrichstrasse, Berlin, 1919-1921

Urban disenfranchisement
vs.
Suburban enfranchisement

Where do the urban designs of Frank Lloyd Wright sit within this debate?

How does a related urban-rural dyad (urban versus rural) work it self out in contemporary politics?

“We give more political power to land than to people in this country.” Michelle Goldberg



SMU

Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute Symposium on:

Reproductive Justice

Perspectives from Law, Religion, Business and Culture

ductive Justice is the human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, no
ildren, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities." –*SisterSong*

Crum Auditorium, Collins Executve Educaton Building, SMU Campus
m website: https://www.smu.edu/Dedman/DCII/Programs/Advanced-Symposium
page: Fb.me/SMUReproductiveJusticeSymposium

Thursday, April 4, 2019

5:00 – 5:05 p.m. Welcome

5:05 - 6:30 p.m. Keynote Address
Michelle Goldberg
"America after the End of Roe"
Sponsored by the Ellen K. Solender Institute in Free Speech and Mass Media

Friday, April 5, 2019

:00 – 10:15 a.m.
ess – Rebecca Todd Peters
Justice and the Churches:
yny and Trusting Women"
Women's Lectureship Fund
ns School of Theology

10:45 a.m.
ee Break

12:00 p.m.
l and Cross-Cultural
roductive Justice
Carté, SMU
Clain, Boston U.
SMU
da State U.

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Panel #2 – **The Economics of Reproductive Justice**
Moderator: Ulrike Schultze, SMU
Panelists: Joanna Grossman, SMU Ded
School of Law
Terry Greenberg, NTARUPT
Ken Lambrecht, Planned Parenthoo

3:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Coffee Break

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Panel #3 – **Activism and Reproductiv**
Moderator: Joci Caldwell-Ryan,
Panelists: Marsha Jones, The Afiya
Kamyon Connor, Texas Equal Acce

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

MICHELLE GOLDBERG

Michelle Goldberg is a columnist for the The New York Times, where she was part of the team that won the Pulitzer Prize in 2018 for public service for reporting on workplace sexual harassment issues. She is the author of three books: "Kingdom Coming: The Rise of Christian Nationalism," "The Means o Reproduction: Sex, Power, and the Future of th World," and "The Goddess Pose: The Audacious Lif of Indra Devi, the Woman Who Helped Bring Yoga the West." Her first book was a finalist for the Hele Bernstein Award for Excellence in Journalism, a her second won the Ernesta Drinker Ballard Bo Prize and the J. Anthony Lukas Work-In-Progr Award.

oldberg is a co-host of the podcast The Argument and an MSNBC contributor. Her w
as appeared in The New Yorker, Newsweek, The Nation, The New Republic,
uardian and many other publications. She has reported from countries including Ir
q, Egypt, Uganda, Nicaragua and Argentina. She lives in Brooklyn with her hus
d children.