

GUIDE TO PRIMARY & SECONDARY SOURCES ON THE SUBURBANIZATION OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

FINDING AID

University of Maryland Department of American Studies

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Name of archive/collection/records: N/A

Date Range of archive/collection/records: N/A

Language of archive/collection/records: English

Background Information: The Department of American Studies at the University of Maryland centers its research around two large themes: the cultures of everyday life and cultural constructions of identity and difference. These themes simultaneously focus and connect the individual research programs of both faculty and students. On the periphery are several “lenses” through which we explore the central themes. Each of these lenses is comparable to an area of concentration with a particular set of questions and methodology. Faculty member Dr. Mary Corbin Sies publishes and teaches on the subject of suburbanization.

Summary and scope of archive/collection/records: N/A

Special Collections: N/A

Format of materials in archive/collection/records: N/A

Suburbanization Subject Terms within archive/collection/records: See publications and courses taught by Dr. Mary Corbin Sies

Access and Use: By appointment only

Open: Mon – Fri.

Contact: Mary Corbin Sies, PhD, Assistant Professor & Director of Undergraduate Studies

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Area of Expertise: Material culture studies, planning history, architectural history, urban/suburban history, and cultural and social history of the U.S. in the 19th and 20th centuries. Dr. Sies is an authority on American suburbs from 1850 to the present, particularly planned, exclusive suburbs and the material and cultural landscapes, values, and everyday lifeways established by their upper-middle class white residents. She has undertaken a collaborative project with historian Andrew Wiese of San Diego State University to investigate and map the relationships between black and white suburbs in North American metropolitan areas between 1900 and 1950. Professor Sies is interested in theorizing and studying issues of race, gender, class, space, and the domestic built environment and processes of community-building. She is actively rethinking the theory and practice of historic preservation to center on the tangible and intangible heritage of marginalized subgroups in the United States and on community-engaged scholarship.

Degrees: Ph.D. American Culture (University of Michigan, 1987), A.M. American Culture (University of Michigan, 1977); A.B. European History (Michigan State University, 1974)

Publications:

- “Greenbelt, Maryland: Beyond the Iconic Legacy” (with Isabelle Gournay), in Richard Longstreth, ed., *Housing Washington: Two Centuries of Tradition and Innovation*
- “The Modern Movement in Maryland: research contexts, issues, and methodologies” (with Isabelle Gournay). Forthcoming in *Proceedings of the VIIIth International DOCOMOMO Conference, Import-Export: Postwar Modernism in an Expanding World, 1945-1975*.
- “Regenerating Scholarship on Race and the Built Environment.” in *Proceedings, Reconceptualizing the History of the Built Environment in North America*, Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, Harvard University, <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/%7Ecwc/builtenv/papers.html>. November 2005.
- “North American Urban History: The Everyday Politics and Spatial Logics of Metropolitan Life,” *Urban History Review/Revue d’histoire* XXXII (1), (Fall 2003): 27-41.
- “Letting Our Guard Down: Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality in Planning History,” with Gail Dubrow, *Journal of Planning History* 1(3), (forthcoming September, 2002): 201-212.
- “Using a Virtual Museum for Collaborative Teaching, Research, and Service.” With Jo Paoletti and Virginia Jenkins. *Electronic Collaboration in the Humanities: Issues and Options*. Ed. James A. Inman and Cheryl Reed. (forthcoming book from Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.)
- “North American Suburbs, 1880-1950: Cultural and Social Reconsiderations,” *Journal of Urban History* 27 (March 2001): 313-346.
- “Moving Beyond Scholarly Orthodoxies in North American Suburban History,” *Journal of Urban History* 27 (March 2001): 355-361.
- *The American Suburban Ideal: A Cultural Strategy for Modern Middle-Class Living, 1877-1917*. (In final revisions for Temple University Press)
- *Planning the American City Since 1900*. Ed. Mary Corbin Sies and Christopher Silver. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001 (Second Printing).
- *Planning the Twentieth-Century American City*. Ed. Mary Corbin Sies and Christopher Silver. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996.
- “George W. Maher’s Planning and Architecture in Kenilworth, Illinois: An Inquiry into the Ideology of Arts and Crafts Design.” *The Substance of Style: Perspectives on the American Arts and Crafts Movement*. Ed. Bert Denker. Hanover: University Press of New England, 1996. 415-445.
- “Toward a Performance Theory of the Suburban Ideal, 1877-1917.” *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture IV*. Ed. Thomas Carter and Bernard Herman. Columbia, Mo: University of Missouri Press, 1991. 197-207.
- “‘God’s Very Kingdom on the Earth’: The Design Program for the American Suburban Home, 1877-1917.” *Modern Architecture in America: Visions and Revisions*. Ed. Richard Guy Wilson and Sidney K. Robinson. Ames, IA: Iowa State University Press, 1991. 2-31.
- “The Domestic Mission of the Privileged American Suburban Homemaker, 1877-1917: A Reassessment.” *Making the American Home: Middle Class Women and Domestic Material Culture, 1840-1940*. Ed. Pat Browne and Marilyn Ferris Motz. Bowling Green, OH: The Popular Press, 1988. 192-209.

- “The City Transformed: Nature, Technology, and the Suburban Ideal, 1877-1917.” *Journal of Urban History* 14 (November 1987). 81-111.

Courses Taught:

- American Suburbia (undergraduate)
- Material Aspects of American Life (undergraduate)