

CULTURE AND THE CITY

Anthropology 3500

Fall 2018

Assignment #3: Retrofitting the City

This assignment relates to New Urbanism as it is being practiced in Denver. Your task is to visit three suburban mall “infill” retrofits:

Belmar in Lakewood (<http://www.belmarcolorado.com/>). Formerly Villa Italia Mall.

The Streets at SouthGlenn (<http://www.shopsouthglenn.com/>). Formerly Southglenn Mall.

CityCenter Englewood (<http://www.engagewoodco.gov/home>). Formerly Cinderella City Mall.

Your assignment is to:

1. **Summarize** how each of the three retrofits exemplify “New Urban” values and ideals (be sure to consult the New Urbanism Charter). What specific design features of each retrofit (or, aspects of its “materiality”) are especially noteworthy in this regard?
2. **Critically evaluate** how well each retrofit seems to be working (in a human, social sense) based on what we’ve read and seen (in course videos) so far. Which retrofit is closest to realizing Good Urbanism goals as you have previously defined them? If they don’t seem to be doing so well now, can you see them “growing up” into something that looks and feels distinctively urban? Or, are they destined to always feel suburban? To what extent do the retrofits have the potential to become inclusive “Urban Villages?” Or, do they promise greater exclusivity? What would improve them?
3. **Identify** the one retrofit that you would choose to live in if given a choice, and why. What do you like about it? Include a discussion of materiality, sociability, and overall “soul.”

The following readings are relevant to this assignment and should be incorporated into your analysis:

- Charter of the New Urbanism.
- Marcuse’s critique of New Urbanism
- Davis on the Fortress City (many *potentially* useful concepts).
- Wood and Landry on the Intercultural City.
- Qadeer on Multicultural Planning.

Some previous readings are also relevant: Howard and Jacobs. Plus, the TED Talk by James Howard Kunstler.

Format: Your essay should be typed, double-spaced, 1 inch margins, 12 point Times New Roman font, with pages numbered. *Single space* any lengthy direct quotes that are incorporated from the readings. **Expected length is 8 pages for undergraduates, and 10 pages for graduate students.** Feel free to illustrate your essay with photographs and other illustrations (these do not count toward the page total).

Your analysis is due in class on Tuesday, November 6.