

At Home in the Modern World

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THE FUTURE

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26

Letters

31

The Future of Design Education

Design-build programs, like URBANbuild at Tulane University in New Orleans, are sweeping the nation, giving students hands-on experience and in the process proving that a pretty house doesn't have to cost a pretty penny.

40

The Future of Luxury

The old adage of quality over quantity is resurfacing as the new face of luxury—whether it's the simple pleasure of a walk in the woods or the work of a super-skilled craftsperson.

42

The Future of Driving

San Francisco-based design team Mike and Maaïke wave goodbye to the driver's seat with their concept car, the ATNMBL (the "Autonomobile"). Consider it a high-tech living room on wheels.

46

The Future of Play

A group of Columbia University students have a good time reinventing the playground as a place to harness all that youthful energy.

50

The Future of Lighting

We've come a long way from gas lamps and candlesticks. Though CFLs have recently taken the spotlight, the future of lighting truly lies in LEDs. In this product roundup, we take them to task (lamps).



42

54

The Future of Design Activism

Three designers who dream big talk about the small steps it takes to make a difference through design.

56

The Future of Groceries

Though tricked-out supermarkets are losing their foothold to no-frills farmers' markets, technology is helping to pave a new, shorter road from the pastures to our plates.

60

The Future of the Past

The seasons will continue to change—fall, winter, spring, construction—and buildings will continue to go up, but which will come down and how will modern designs fare in the process?

64

The Future of Prefab

Peter Jon Pearce may be the greatest designer you've never heard of. With the Pearce Ecohouse, this former Eames employee and Biosphere 2 skinner puts a lifetime of ingenious exploration to use.

68

The Future of Timeless Design

It's been more than 50 years since the first Bertoia chairs and Nelson clocks left the factories, but our love for them has yet to fade. We asked four design minds to weigh in on which objects from the last ten years will stand the test of time.



102

The Future of Space Living

Welcome to your new home: the International Space Station. Science fiction author Bruce Sterling prescribes what to pack for—and what to expect of—this out-of-our-world experience.

110

The Future of Home Furnishings

Toss out those La-Z-Boys and lose the loungers. We asked our friendly neighborhood design superstars at Council to imagine a future without chairs.

126

The Future of Suburbia

Mansions become water-treatment facilities and parking lots are planted for the harvest. Dwell teamed up with Inhabitat for the 2009 Reurbia Contest to see how concerned citizens and design enthusiasts could make suburbia sublime.

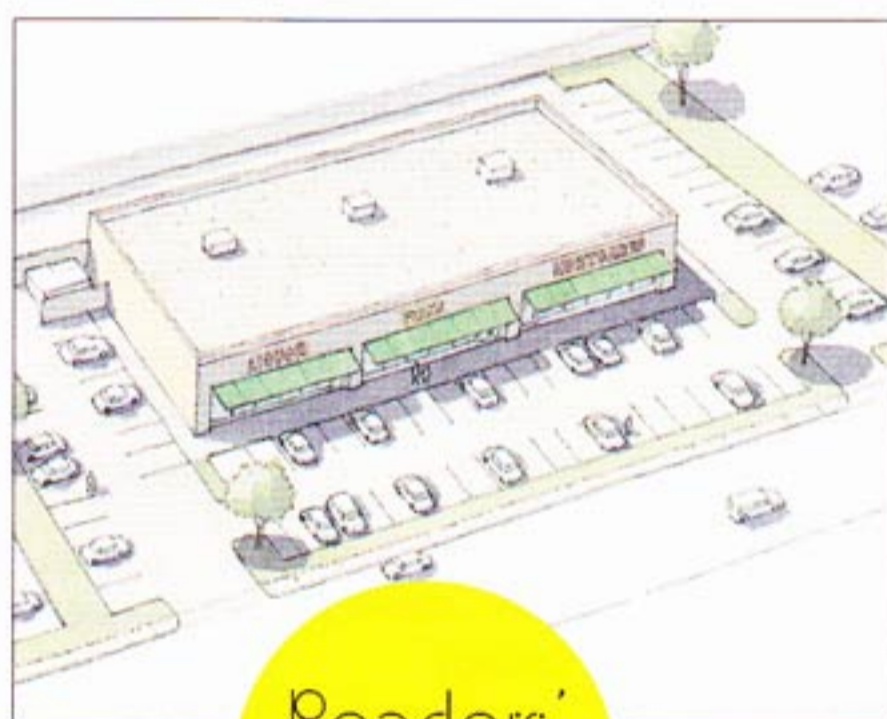
"No little kid has ever been in outer space. Without children, there's no future."

Bruce Sterling

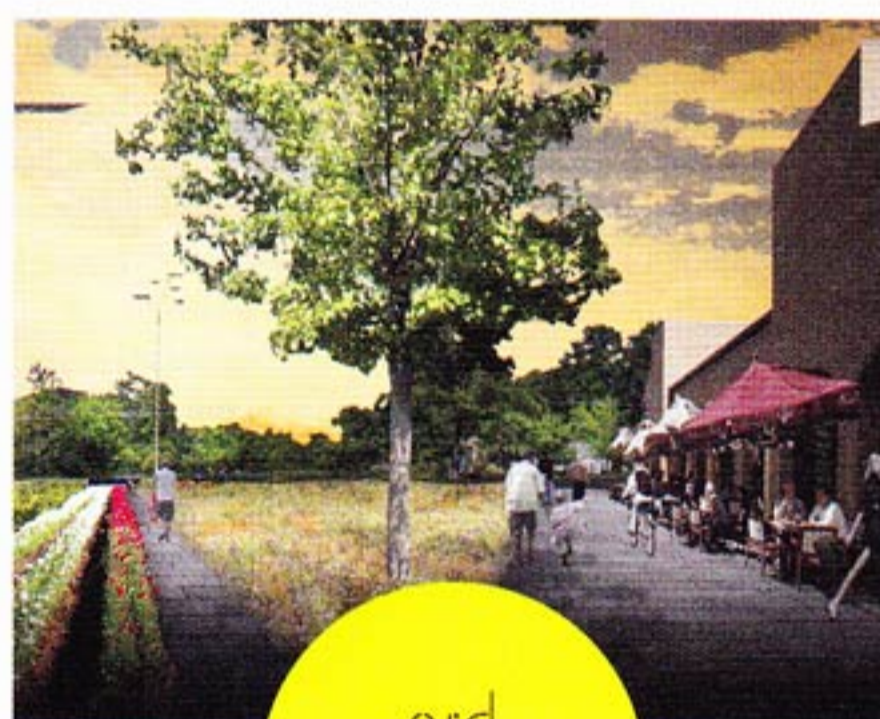
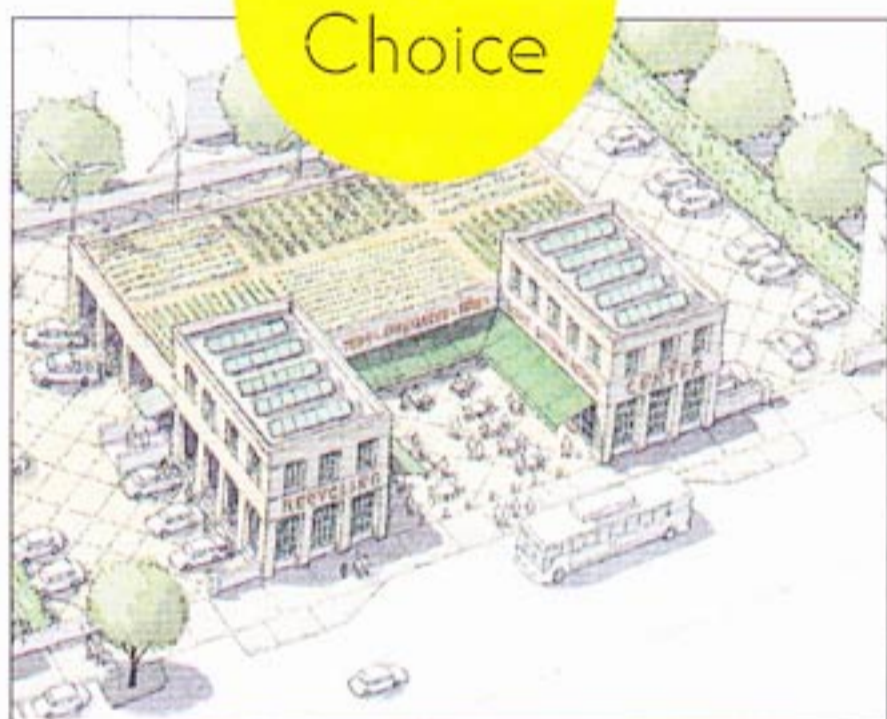
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Tract Stars

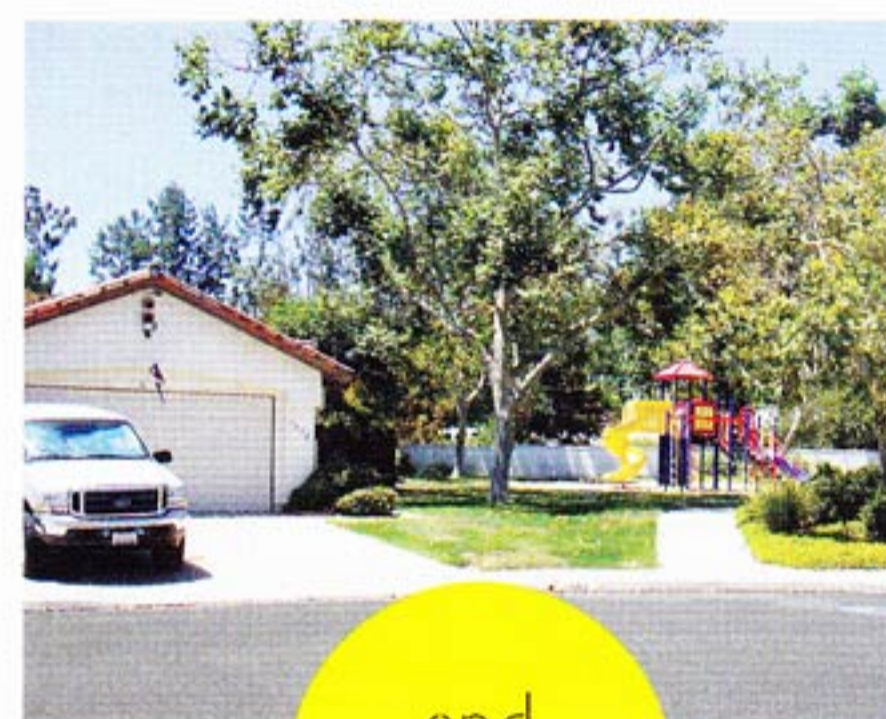
For decades, suburban sprawl has contributed to environmental destruction, but current economic and environmental factors demand that we rethink suburban development. Dwell and Inhabitat teamed up for the 2009 Reurbia competition, in which we asked designers to propose sustainable solutions for the future of the 'burbs. Hundreds of entries came in; thousands of people voted. And the winners are...



Readers' Choice



3rd Place



2nd Place



Sprawl Repair Toolkit

by Galina Tahchieva and Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company

This set of simple infill techniques can be used to retrofit five typical suburban building types, either by repurposing or adding on to existing structures. All use renewable technology and energy-efficient practices, often taking advantage of suburbia's excessive setbacks and parking lots. These modest interventions can create a more diverse, cohesive, walkable urban fabric. In the example pictured here, a strip mall becomes a recycling center with a green roof and two wings with solar panels that frame a courtyard, which stretches to the sidewalk.

Big Box Agriculture

by Forrest Fulton

As suburban big-box stores either close down or relocate, we're left with the opportunity to reclaim these vast spaces for productive activity. This proposal reverses the function of a typical mega-supermarket from food retailer to food producer: The parking lot becomes a farm, and space inside the store becomes a greenhouse and restaurant. A portion of the roof is used for growing food. Members of the community push their shopping carts through the suburban farm, picking their produce straight off the vine, then take it inside to the chef, who will prepare a fresh meal on the spot.

Entrepreneuria

by Troy Silva

Eschewing an additive approach to solving the problem, Entrepreneuria simply abolishes poorly conceived zoning laws that segregate residential and commercial structures, attracting small businesses and start-ups into traditionally domestic areas. This model transforms inefficient single-family dwellings and decorative landscaping into intelligent enterprise zones. Eventually, the needs of the neighbors are met within walking distance of their homes, reducing car dependency and fostering self-sustaining communities. Better public transit will enable easy trips into the urban core. ▶▶

Story by Sarah Rich

With the Sprawl Repair Toolkit (left), the rooftop of a strip mall becomes a productive landscape. In Big Box Agriculture (middle), the interior of the store transforms into a

restaurant serving local food, much of it grown in the parking lot-cum-garden outside. In Entrepreneuria (right), old McMansions have turned into shops.