

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910777785203321
Autore	Fogelson Robert M
Titolo	Bourgeois nightmares [[electronic resource]] : suburbia, 1870-1930 / / Robert M. Fogelson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven, : Yale University Press, c2005
ISBN	1-281-74059-4 9786611740597 0-300-12699-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (272 p.)
Disciplina	307.76/0973
Soggetti	Suburbs - United States - History Real covenants - United States Suburban life - United States - History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 213-253) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Suburbia, 1870-1930 : the quest for permanence -- Bourgeois nightmares : fears of almost everyone and everything.
Sommario/riassunto	The quintessential American suburbs, with their gracious single-family homes, large green lawns, and leaf-shaded streets, reflected not only residents' dreams but nightmares, not only hopes but fears: fear of others, of racial minorities and lowincome groups, fear of themselves, fear of the market, and, above all, fear of change. These fears, and the restrictive covenants that embodied them, are the subject of Robert M. Fogelson's fascinating new book. As Fogelson reveals, suburban subdividers attempted to cope with the deep-seated fears of unwanted change, especially the encroachment of "undesirable" people and activities, by imposing a wide range of restrictions on the lots. These restrictions ranged from mandating minimum costs and architectural styles for the houses to forbidding the owners to sell or lease their property to any member of a host of racial, ethnic, and religious groups. These restrictions, many of which are still commonly employed, tell us as much about the complexities of American society today as about its complexities a century ago.

2. Record Nr.	UNINA9910962225003321
Autore	Isenberg Alison
Titolo	Downtown America : a history of the place and the people who made it // Alison Isenberg
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chicago, : University of Chicago Press, c2004
ISBN	9786612504266 9781282504264 1282504266 9780226385099 0226385094
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (461 p.)
Collana	Historical studies of urban America
Disciplina	307.76/0973
Soggetti	Cities and towns - United States - History Central business districts - United States - History City and town life - United States - History Community life - United States - History Inner cities - United States - History Urban renewal - United States - History City planning - United States - History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [321]-419) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- CONTENTS -- ILLUSTRATIONS -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- Introduction. Beyond Decline: Assessing the Values of Urban Commercial Life in the Twentieth Century -- Chapter 1. City Beautiful or Beautiful Mess? The Gendered Origins of a Civic Ideal -- Chapter 2. Fixing an Image of Commercial Dignity: Postcards and the Business of Planning Main Street -- Chapter 3. "Mrs. Consumer," "Mrs. Brown America," and "Mr. Chain Store Man": Economic Woman and the Laws of Retail -- Chapter 4. Main Street's Interior Frontier: Innovation amid Depression and War -- Chapter 5. "The Demolition of Our Outworn Past": Suburban Shoppers and the Logic of Urban Renewal -- Chapter 6. The Hollow Prize? Black Buyers, Racial Violence, and the Riot Renaissance -- Chapter 7. Animated by Nostalgia: Preservation and

Sommario/riassunto

Downtown America was once the vibrant urban center romanticized in the Petula Clark song-a place where the lights were brighter, where people went to spend their money and forget their worries. But in the second half of the twentieth century, "downtown" became a shadow of its former self, succumbing to economic competition and commercial decline. And the death of Main Streets across the country came to be seen as sadly inexorable, like the passing of an aged loved one. Downtown America cuts beneath the archetypal story of downtown's rise and fall and offers a dynamic new story of urban development in the United States. Moving beyond conventional narratives, Alison Isenberg shows that downtown's trajectory was not dictated by inevitable free market forces or natural life-and-death cycles. Instead, it was the product of human actors-the contested creation of retailers, developers, government leaders, architects, and planners, as well as political activists, consumers, civic clubs, real estate appraisers, even postcard artists. Throughout the twentieth century, conflicts over downtown's mundane conditions-what it should look like and who should walk its streets-pointed to fundamental disagreements over American values. Isenberg reveals how the innovative efforts of these participants infused Main Street with its resonant symbolism, while still accounting for pervasive uncertainty and fears of decline. Readers of this work will find anything but a story of inevitability. Even some of the downtown's darkest moments-the Great Depression's collapse in land values, the rioting and looting of the 1960's, or abandonment and vacancy during the 1970's-illuminate how core cultural values have animated and intertwined with economic investment to reinvent the physical form and social experiences of urban commerce. Downtown America-its empty stores, revitalized marketplaces, and romanticized past-will never look quite the same again. A book that does away with our most clichéd approaches to urban studies, Downtown America will appeal to readers interested in the history of the United States and the mythology surrounding its most cherished institutions. A Choice Outstanding Academic Title. Winner of the 2005 Ellis W. Hawley Prize from the Organization of American Historians. Winner of the 2005 Lewis Mumford Prize for Best Book in American Planning History. Winner of the 2005 Historic Preservation Book Price from the University of Mary Washington Center for Historic Preservation. Named 2005 Honor Book from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.