

## 11.329 Social Theory and the City

Session 11: "Inventing the Modern Suburb in California and Denmark: *Sunset* and *Bo Bedre*, 1960-1970" and "Note Toward a Theory of Enclosure"

### Summary:

The class discussed a draft work-in-progress written and presented by Thomas Oles. His main work, "Inventing the Modern Suburb in California and Denmark," examines the differences in how two places embraced Modernism in very different terms during the 1960s and how the major magazine of each place prompted and shaped its development of Modernist suburbia. The second essay, "Note Toward a Theory of Enclosure" tackles the more elusive question of how to design an enclosure typology that embraces differences amongst members of a community. The class discussion focused primarily on the second essay and the question of how patterns of enclosure can stifle a community's ability to absorb and support population diversity.

### Theoretical issues underpinning the content:

- Enclosure vs. Boundary
- Biological: Border vs. Boundary (Stephen J. Gould)
  - o Active edges
- Inside vs. Outside
  - o Who is trying to enter?
  - o Who is inside?
  - o The child in space
- The Democratic Enclosure
- Transparency and Opacity
- Liminal Boundaries
  - o John Randal McDonald: Postorino/Erickson Houses; Racine, WI, 1953.
  - o Does this create a sense of liminal difference?
- The hedge as social contract