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Design Quarterly

SPRAWL



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aerial photographs of
suburban sprawl courtesy
Landslides, Boston

Editor's Notes

We have recently moved our offices into a small building that we bought and renovated. It has gone through a succession of owners and uses—a grocery store, a meat market, a triplex—and now a design consulting firm (and a magazine) and a rental apartment. Our neighbors are a great bakery, two accountants, an upscale flower and antique store, a place that paints cars, and apartment buildings and single family houses.

In short, we now reside in the kind of neighborhood Andres Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk campaign for so passionately. The architecture of our neighborhood is not remarkable, but in its diversity, richness of experience, and pedestrian scale, our neighborhood is.

This issue of *Design Quarterly* presents a range of responses to the phenomenon of urban sprawl. It is a topic that cannot be ignored by anyone. Sprawl is changing our physical world—rapidly and for the rest of our lives. RAJ

Sprawl
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with photographs by:
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Christopher Faust
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*Small Town Sprawl:
Wal-Mart Distribution Center*
Menomonie, Wisconsin
Christopher Faust,
Suburban Documentation
Project, 1993

Covering over 40 acres, this building—with its loading docks, paved surfaces, and fueling stations—serves the Wal-Mart stores recently built in Minnesota. Though 50 miles east of St. Paul, towns such as Menomonie are rapidly growing as bedroom suburbs and distribution points for the neighboring Twin Cities.