

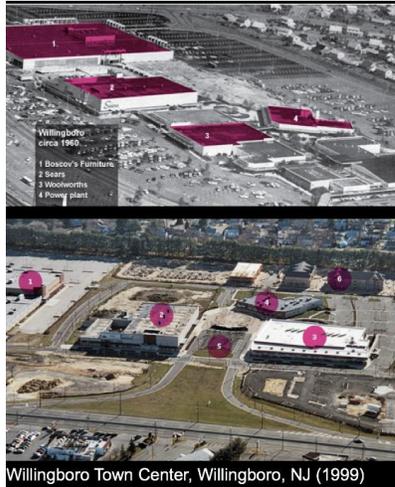
## ***Retrofitting Suburbia/Theory of Architecture 2***

COA 6120/Arch 6352/Arch 4803

Spring 2017: Thursdays, 6:05-8:55pm

Location: Arch East 309

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*Home to over 50% of the US population and 80% of jobs, how can suburbia be retrofitted to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges? Suburban development patterns contribute to high per capita energy, water, and carbon footprints. They increase vulnerability to climate change, declining public health, and rising household and municipal transportation costs while consuming peripheral land at voracious rates. However, demographic changes, expansion of transit, the need for alternatives to “drive ‘til you qualify” affordability and the proliferation of newly centralized “underperforming asphalt” sites are driving the reinhabitation, redevelopment, and greening of suburbia. At a time when 50 dead malls have already been rebuilt as new downtowns, 75 office parks are trying to integrate urbanism as the new amenity, but not enough such properties have been converted into stormwater parks, how should we reimagine new suburban futures?*

**Course Overview:** This course examines real examples of retrofits of dead malls, dying office parks, aging subdivisions, decaying commercial strip corridors, etc., into more sustainable, more resilient places. Readings and discussions will focus on the forces driving retrofitting, redevelopment processes, demographic changes, building type changes, the urban design and green infrastructure techniques employed, performance measures, and the theoretical implications of conflicted views of the American Dream.

**Learning Objectives:** In addition to gaining knowledge about suburban redevelopment history, processes, case studies, and design strategies at multiple scales, students will develop the ability to:

- Integrate strategies of adaptive re-use, densification and ecological repair
- Operate in multi-disciplinary discussions
- Inter-relate strategies at the scale of the building, the street, the neighborhood, and the region

**Readings:** The primary text is *Retrofitting Suburbia; Urban Design Solutions for Redesigning Suburbs* (Dunham-Jones & Williamson, updated edition 2011). Additional contemporary readings from a variety of perspectives, including public health, real estate development, and ecological design will add to the discussion.

**Evaluation:** Grading will be based on participation in class discussions, submission of weekly written summaries of the readings, and a final paper.

**Format and Enrollment:** The subject is inherently multidisciplinary and I welcome a range of students from across Georgia Tech. However, the course runs as a series of seminar discussions with enrollment by permit only. **Please email me at [edj@gatech.edu](mailto:edj@gatech.edu), tell me about your interest in the course and your degree so I can achieve a mix of backgrounds for the discussions and issue permits accordingly.**