

NFB Films

★ SUBURBAN LIVING — SIX SOLUTIONS

Black & White 60 minutes

Produced by the National Film Board of Canada, 1960



THE FILM

A comparison of solutions to the problems of suburban living as found in England, France, Holland, Sweden and Canada. Here are six suburban neighborhoods to delight, amaze, and even provoke you. All but the Canadian example offer light, airy homes in park-like settings at rentals of about one-sixth of income. Included is Marseille's famous community on stilts — *L'Unité d'habitation*, designed by Le Corbusier.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The film attempts to compare the environments of the six suburbs surveyed rather than the standards of housing. In doing so, it focuses attention on the planning of the community: the kinds and spacing of housing; the provision of parks, playgrounds and green belts; the location of shopping areas and schools; the separation of traffic; landscaping; architecture. Perhaps the most obvious question raised by the film is: "Where do we stand in Canada in respect to community development?"

INTRODUCE THE FILM

In a short introduction (1 minute or so) try to give the audience a 'focus' for thinking. This will make it easier for them to follow the film and discuss it afterwards (time permitting).

AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE IN FILM USE

Contact your local NFB representative for:

- (a) A demonstration on "film use."
- (b) A workshop to train you and/or your members.

SOME QUESTIONS TO STIMULATE DISCUSSION

- (a) What factors strongly influence the shape and development of our towns? Is enough consideration being given to environment?
- (b) James Murray says in the film: "Two things are troubling our towns; first of all, they've grown too fast . . . and secondly, I really believe that until our people can be persuaded to take an interest in their total towns, no matter how much and how skillful the planners and the architects, those concerned with design, may be, their endeavors will come to nothing until people can raise their eyes beyond the limits of their own backyard." Do you agree?

RELATED MATERIALS

Books: *Cities in the Motor Age* by Wilfred Owen.
Crestwood Heights by John R. Seeley and others.
Suburbia: People and their Politics
by Robert C. Wood.

Films: TOWN PLANNING (NFB — 15 minutes)
PLANNING CANADA'S NATIONAL CAPITAL
(NFB — 21 minutes)
A CAPITAL PLAN (NFB — 11 minutes)

Let's Discuss



When the film ends...

Here are some suggested plans for discussion of this film in your group:

★ (a) INFORMAL DISCUSSION:

1. Encourage people to talk to each other; this is easier in an informal, comfortable atmosphere.
2. Let the "conversational ball" start to roll by permitting members of the group to react to the film.
3. If seats can be moved, arrange the group members so that they are face to face.
4. Try to develop an exchange of ideas, drawing out people in the process.

★ (b) IF THE GROUP IS LARGE:

Try dividing into smaller groups -- in "buzz-session" style. Each small group can discuss a topic or a question briefly, and then report to the entire group.

★ (c) AN "IMPROMPTU" PANEL:

Three or four members might start discussion, with you as leader inviting participation, discussion and comment from other group members.

★ (d) WHEN YOU HAVE AN "EXPERT" OR RESOURCE PERSON PRESENT:

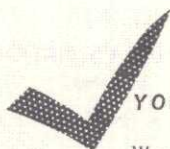
You might prepare the expert ahead of time to answer questions (or to comment, contribute facts or opinions) but be aware of the dangers of "making a speech" or dominating the discussion.

SOME FURTHER HINTS FOR LEADERS:

1. Try not to force agreement.
2. Try not to give "answers."
3. Don't put members "on the spot."
4. Encourage participation.
5. Be sympathetic.

Would you like further help in leading a discussion?

Why not get in touch with the District Representative of the National Film Board, or representatives of your Adult Education department, Community Programs Branch or University Extension Department? For books on the subject, visit your Public Library.



YOUR ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED . . .

Was this film helpful to your group?

You are invited to share your experiences with other film users by giving us your comments on the value of the film to your group. Please complete the space on the reverse side of the NFB Showing Report Card.