



Variations on a Theme Park: The New American City and the End of Public Space

By -

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, United States, 1992. Paperback.
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New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.America s cities are
being rapidly transformed by a sinister and homogenous
design. A new Kind of urbanism--manipulative, dispersed, and
hostile to traditional public space--is emerging both at the
heart and at the edge of town in megamalls, corporate
enclaves, gentrified zones, and psuedo-historic marketplaces. If
anything can be described as a paradigm for these places, it s
the theme park, an apparently benign environment in which all
is structured to achieve maximum control and in which the
idea of authentic interaction among citizens has been
thoroughly purged. In this bold collection, eight of our leading
urbanists and architectural critics explore the emblematic sites
of this new cityscape--from Silicon Valley to Epcot Center,
South Street Seaport to downtown Los Angeles--and reveal
their disturbing implications for American public life.

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