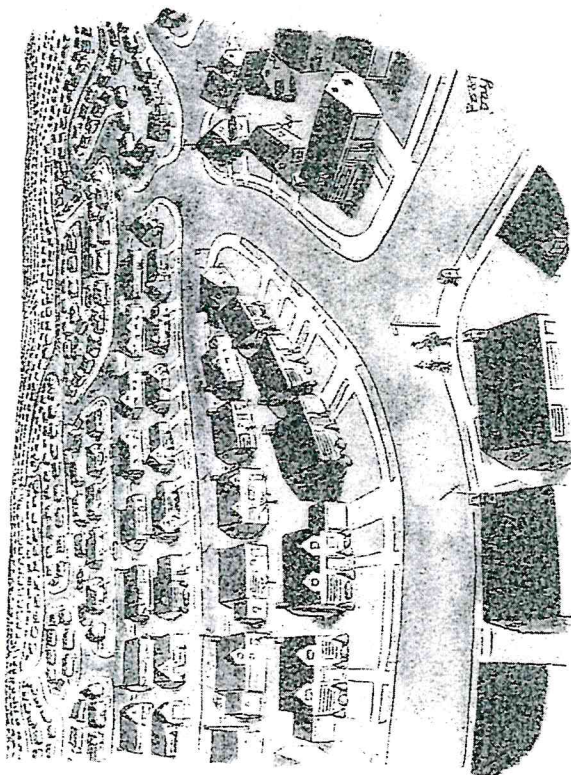


This cartoon spoofs the housing developments of the 1950s that gave Americans the cookie-cutter homes and neighborhoods they craved. According to the cartoon, what was one negative aspect of postwar suburban developments?



"I'm Mrs. Edward M. Barnes. Where do I live?"

1. In the cartoon, what post WWII development is being attacked?
 - a. big cities
 - b. rural communities
 - c. suburbs
2. Based on the cartoon, why is Mrs. Barnes having so much trouble?
 - a. Her car broke down
 - b. All of the houses look the same
 - c. There aren't any street signs
 - d. There isn't anyone around to help her
3. Look at the cartoon, what word could be used to describe the housing development?
 - a. individuality
 - b. planned obsolescence
 - c. conformity

4. Based on the cartoon, what were the first types of these neighbors called? What was the negative aspect of this type of community?

Looking at the Suburbs through the Lens of Song: Little Boxes

Notes: Words and music by Malvina Reynolds; copyright 1962 Schroder Nuste Company, renewed 1990.

Malvina and her husband were on their way from where they lived in Berkeley, through San Francisco and down the peninsula to La Honda where she was to sing at a meeting of the Friends' Committee on Legislation. As she drove through Daly City, she said "Bud, take the wheel. I feel a song coming on."

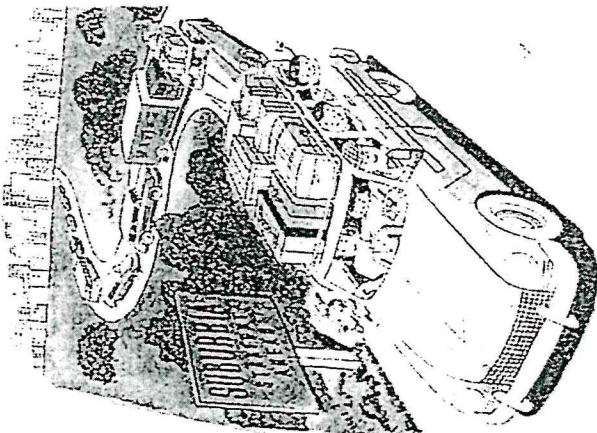
-- Western Kentucky University

Little boxes on the hillside,
Little boxes made of ticky tacky,
Little boxes on the hillside,
Little boxes all the same.
There's a green one and a pink one
And a blue one and a yellow one,
And they're all made out of ticky tacky
And they all look just the same.

And the people in the houses
All went to the university,
Where they were put in boxes
And they came out all the same,
And there's doctors and lawyers,
And business executives,
And they're all made out of ticky tacky
And they all look just the same.

And they all play on the golf course
And drink their martinis dry,
And they all have pretty children
And the children go to school,
And the children go to summer camp
And then to the university,
Where they are put in boxes
And they come out all the same.

And the boys go into business
And marry and raise a family
In boxes made of ticky tacky
And they all look just the same.
There's a green one and a pink one
And a blue one and a yellow one,
And they're all made out of ticky tacky
And they all look just the same.



1. What are the benefits of living in the suburbs?
2. What are the "costs" or disadvantages of living in suburbia?
3. What criticisms of suburbia can you find in the song?

4. Would you choose to live in suburbia? Explain