

Right to Shelter



AT PARSONS SCHOOL OF CONSTRUCTED ENVIRONMENTS

CENTER FOR
ARCHITECTURE

BLACK NEIGHBORHOODS MATTER



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With support from Parsons SCE, this program complements the "Decolonizing Suburbia" installation in "Reset: Towards a New Commons", on view at the Center for Architecture through 03 September 2022.

04 May 2022 • 07:30–09:00 pm EST
Register for the Zoom discussion ([Insert link](#))

The "Decolonizing Suburbia" installation, now on view at the Center for Architecture, explores the architectural typologies that can result in a new, more accessible commons in a historically African American neighborhood in Cincinnati, Ohio. In a companion investigation, "Black Neighborhoods Matter" zeroes in upon preventing the current displacement of long-time residents from these types of neighborhoods nationwide. It identifies community-responsive architectural, social, and policy mechanisms for honoring the historical marginalization and resistance that shaped the distinctive culture of these communities.

"Black Neighborhoods Matter" is a collaboration between graduate design and policy students in the "Right to Shelter" housing seminar at Parsons and four national experts in grassroots community renewal. The experts, who work in four regions of the country, span four generations and thus have differing lived experiences of race-based housing discrimination and inequality. They will draw from their portfolios of housing activism to propose approaches to claiming space in historically African American neighborhoods that simultaneously reckon with the past and move toward a viable future.

In an interactive dialogue with the students, panelists will elaborate the themes of "history and memory," "design justice," "cultural wealth," and "regenerative economies" that they interrogated during the seminar. The audience will acquire tools for stemming the erasure of African American enclaves, for repairing their infrastructure without displacing existing residents, and for positioning the next generation of designers to become the guardians of their cultural wealth.

AIA members will receive 1.5 LU/HSW credits