



The New Metropolis

A two-part documentary series about
America's First Suburbs



A Crack in the Pavement

Rebuilding America's First Suburbs

Narrated by Peter Coyote

The New Neighbors

How one town created a vibrant, integrated suburb

Narrated by Ruby Dee

by **Andrea Torrice**

THE NEW METROPOLIS documentary series:

A CRACK IN THE PAVEMENT and **THE NEW NEIGHBORS**

2 x 27 minute films on one DVD, Closed Captioned and Scene Selection
Produced and Directed by Andrea Torrice • Grades 7-12, College, Adult, Professional
Public Performance Rights Purchase \$295, Rental \$95

America's "first" suburbs, those suburban communities built next to America's urban centers, were once the birthplace of the American Dream. Driven by a desire to escape the smokestacks of the central cities, and a housing shortage following World War II, thousands of suburban homes were rapidly constructed and middle class families flocked to fill them.

Sixty years later, many of these original suburbs are facing a crisis: a dwindling tax base, population and business loss, decaying infrastructure, increased racial tensions and white flight. Lacking policies to help reverse these trends, many towns are looking for strategies for revitalization.

Two new half-hour documentaries use compelling, personal stories to highlight these important issues. **A CRACK IN THE PAVEMENT**, narrated by Peter Coyote, features two first suburban officials struggling to fix their crumbling infrastructure and argues for regional cooperation. **THE NEW NEIGHBORS**, narrated by Ruby Dee, tells the inspiring story of two ordinary people, one black and one white, who have successfully made racial integration the centerpiece of revitalizing Pennsauken, NJ.

Free preview for purchase evaluation.

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Urban & Regional Planning,
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"All communities, old and new, will find the challenges and opportunities raised in these films informative and useful."

Rob Puentes, Metropolitan Policy Program, Brookings Institution

"This remarkable documentary series by award-winning filmmaker Andrea Torrice is suitable for academic, public education, and community organizing use. It takes us inside the older, inner ring suburban communities, often overlooked by policy makers, and special interest groups, as a key to building healthy cities, suburbs, and sustainable regions."

Carl Anthony Founder, Earth House Center

Airing on PBS starting September 2009.

Check local PBS station listings for airdates.

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"These concise, touching films are just perfect for the history, sociology, politics, or social policy classroom."

Matthew Lasar, History and Politics, UCSC

"The New Neighbors really resonated with me. I saw the strengths and challenges of my own community in the film, and was surprised to learn that such important work was being done."

Frank De Lucca, Mayor, Linwood, NJ