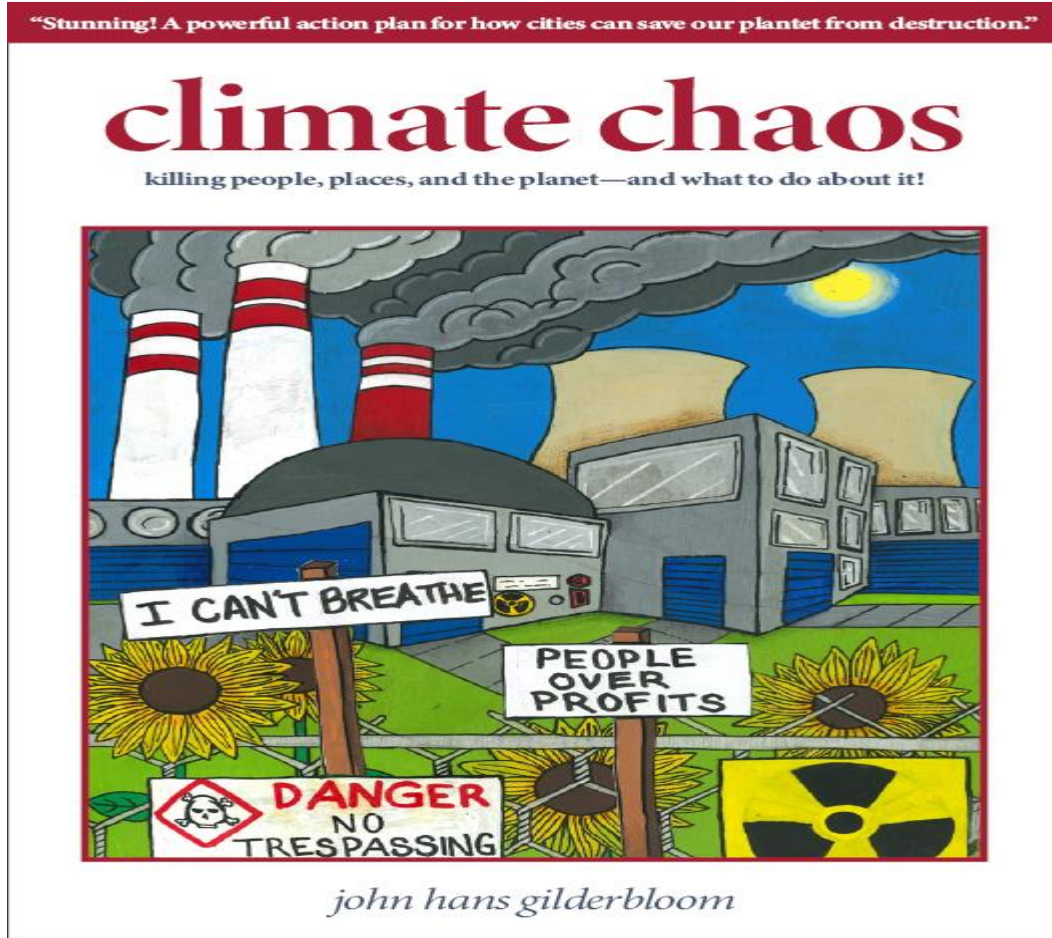


Book Reviews



Climate Chaos: Killing People, Places, and the Planet

Book review by Arif Ullah in *Social Policy*, Winter 2025

“Gilderbloom’s passion for the subject is evident from the opening pages. He launches into the book in streetfighter mode, bare knuckles, directing his fists at the culprits and perpetrators of the climate crisis: from fossil fuel companies, electric utilities, and petrochemical conglomerates to heavy industry, industrial agriculture, plastics manufacturers, and the financial institutions that bankroll them These villains have been perpetrating a decades-long, well-funded campaign to delegitimize and undermine rigorous science that proves the existence and growing threat of a warming planet, peddling outright lies to the general public. Meanwhile, they’ve known all along that the science was real, that their activities were causing climate change, destroying lives, and ravaging the environment.”

“The book is full of similarly anxiety-inducing and upsetting statistics about the impacts of the crisis on people’s lives—for example, living in an area with high levels of air pollution can reduce life expectancy by up to 13 years (196) and decrease cognitive functioning in children (247), resulting in poorer academic performance and diminished life opportunities.”

“Kentucky, especially Louisville, is used throughout much of the book to illustrate the many problems causing and caused by climate change. This is not surprising given Gilderbloom’s history there. He and his collaborators offer the city as a representation and microcosm of both the larger pollution epidemic and as an example of egregious environmental injustice.”

“The authors expound on the impacts of pollution on people’s lives, in Kentucky and beyond, listing harrowing and unnerving facts, including on the correlation between pollution and infant mortality, cardiac and respiratory health, cancer, pulmonary diseases, and more.”

“Places like West Louisville have been turned into sacrifice zones, and the people living there are considered dispensable.”

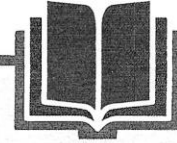
“The authors go beyond merely diagnosing the devastating consequences of the climate crisis. They devote a significant portion of the book to exploring possible solutions: regulation of pollution and tougher enforcement, clean-up of brownfield sites, green schools and housing developments, transition to renewable energy, and smarter, more sustainable cities with mixed use neighborhoods (common in the “developing” world), increased walkability and bike access, historic preservation, better and more accessible public transportation, multi-unit residential developments, and community-based planning.”

“The authors also offer hope that the crisis can be managed. They contend that cities in particular are fertile ground for innovation and policies to combat, if not reverse, the devastating impacts of climate change on everyday residents, noting that the majority of the world’s population now lives in cities and that trend will only grow in the coming decades.”

“I particularly enjoyed chapters 16, 17, and 18 on Portland, Amsterdam, and historic preservation. These chapters highlight the significance of smart urban planning, forward-thinking public policies, strong leadership, and an entrepreneurial spirit in creating sustainable cities.”

“We are in uncharted territory for the climate crisis and environmental justice. In this reality, Gilderbloom and his colleagues’ focus on cities takes on a new significance; for at least the next few years, it is at the local level where any meaningful progress is possible.”

Climate Chaos: Killing People, Places, and the Planet **BY JOHN HANS GILDERBLOOM**



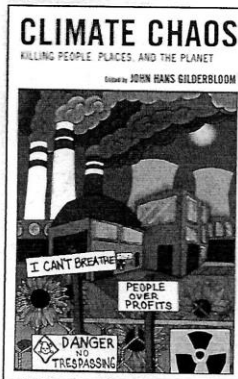
**BOOK
REVIEW**

Can We Restore the Planet and Repair our Social Fabric?

REVIEW BY ARIF ULLAH



Photo: University Press of Kentucky



influential figures in urban affairs with an emphasis on sustainability, housing, health and transportation.

John "Hans" Gilderbloom (pictured above) is a Professor in the Graduate Planning, Public Administration, Public Health, and Urban Affairs program at the University of Louisville, where he also directs the highly lauded Center for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods. He is considered one of the most

A couple of months ago, I visited Reserve, Louisiana as part of my job—a community in St. John the Baptist Parish. The parish (essentially the equivalent of a “county” in most other parts of the US) sits along the Mississippi River between New Orleans and Baton Rouge. It’s dotted with farms (especially sugarcane fields), squat single-family homes, lakes, and wetlands. Big blue skies above. But don’t mistake this scene as picturesque. Something sinister also fills the landscape: more than 200 petrochemical plants and oil refineries, many the size of college campuses, making the very air that people breathe poisonous. Residents are dying of cancer at alarming rates, earning the region the tragic moniker of “Cancer Alley.”

I was there with colleagues on a “toxic tour” led by Robert Taylor and his daughter Tish, a powerful father-daughter duo who lead Concerned Citizens of St. John, a community group advocating for better health outcomes and environmental protection. As they spoke with us, they rattled off the names of people in just their one family who had died of, or are afflicted with, cancer. It was disturbing. Equally upsetting was how the petrochemical companies had bought off local elected officials and even some community leaders. Though unique in its distinction of having the highest rate of environmental cancer of any census tract in the country, the story of communities being devastated by pollution connected with the fossil fuel economy goes far beyond the St. John Parish region, playing out in every corner of the US.

Climate Chaos: Killing People, Places, and the Planet
Edited by Dr. John Hans Gilderbloom, with chapter 16 co-authored by Garlynn Woodson

Climate Chaos is a bold and uncompromising collection of essays that expose the interwoven crises of environmental degradation, systemic injustice, and the industries profiting from planetary destruction. With contributions from over thirty visionary thinkers, including Pope Francis, Al Gore, and frontline advocates, this book serves as both indictment and invitation: a deep dive into the damage being done, and a powerful call to build something radically better.

Garlynn Woodson, Managing Director of Woodson Associates, co-authored Chapter 16, *Portland: The Best Livable City in America*, alongside Dr. Gilderbloom and Porter Stevens. This chapter presents a case study of Portland's climate-forward urban planning legacy, candidly assesses where progress could be bolstered, and offers a roadmap for how mid-sized cities across the U.S. can lead the way on climate action, equitable development, and regional coordination.

The book pulls no punches, linking the fossil fuel and petrochemical industries to mass displacement, chronic illness, and lost years of life in frontline communities. Yet it also centers hope, grounded in real, actionable strategies for neighborhood and city-scale transformation. It calls for walkability, multimodal transit, regional e-bike access, and investment in dense, mixed-use communities that can restore the planet and repair the social fabric.

Published by Rowman & Littlefield, Climate Chaos is not just a book, but a movement, one that has already inspired a forthcoming PBS film, and helped spark urgent dialogue in city halls, planning departments, and grassroots movements alike.

<https://www.woodsonassociates.com/publications/climate-chaos>

From the Foreword:

“John Hans Gilderbloom, a renowned authority in the climate and environmental research field, has crafted a seminal work that revolutionizes our understanding of the critical issues in environmental science and politics. With 29 authors and a message from Pope Francis and Nobel Prize Winner Albert Gore, John Hans Gilderbloom has placed us on a trajectory to reassess what it means to say we are in a crisis not so much of the environment but of human existence. The book's title, *Climate Chaos: Killing People, Places, and the Planet*, says it all. We as citizens must understand that in this monumental work, these scientists are attempting to tell us that we must envision a paradigm shift, a *new worldview*.” — **Bobby William Austin, Ph.D., President of Neighborhood Associates and author of *Repairing the Breach: Key Ways to Support Family Life, Reclaim Our Streets, and Rebuild Civil Society in America's Communities. Report of the National Task Force on African American Men and Boys***

From Al Gore's UN Speech:

We are all here today because we continue to use the thin blue shell of atmosphere surrounding our planet as an open sewer. Today, as every day, we are spewing 162 million tons of man-made, heat-trapping, global-warming pollution into the sky. It adds up, accumulates, and lingers there.

On average, each molecule lingers 100 years, and the accumulated amount now traps as much extra heat as would be released by 600,000 Hiroshima class atomic bombs exploding every day on our planet.

Al Gore's Speech at the Opening of the World Leaders Summit at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt on November 7, 2022

Praise for *Climate Chaos: Killing People, Places, and the Planet*

"While so many predict a coming Dark Age, John Gilderbloom brings light. If we cannot imagine a better future, our future will certainly be darker. But this fine book offers a blueprint for hope — not blind hope, but imaginative hope. It should be a banner carried at the forward edge of a global movement." — Richard Louv, author of *The Nature Principle, Last Child in the Woods, Our Wild Calling, and The Web of Life*

"My fact-based story was disclosed in a 60 Minutes interview with veteran Mike Wallace, then in the movie, *The Insider*, and validated in multiple courts in America. There are several parallel identical events that mimic my experiences in telling the truth to the world about how the tobacco industry harms addicts for profit with what Professor John Gilderbloom is experiencing: a vicious smear campaign, death threats, and even an attempted murder. His truth telling is in a book he has written, *Climate Chaos: Killing People, Places, and the Planet*, a book that should be required reading for college level students as it delineates how we can reverse catastrophic climate changes before it is too late." — Jeffrey Wigand, MA, PhD, MAT, ScD, highest ranking former executive to break ranks with the tobacco industry and share the industry's obfuscation of the truth. His testimony led to a \$206 billion settlement (MSA) to be paid to the states.

The imminent publication of *Climate Chaos* was announced by the arrest of an assassin. If people try to kill you for the words you write, it behooves us to read them. Gilderbloom and the contributors to *Climate Chaos* have not only gathered the facts on the cover-up by the corporate hitmen of the planet but lay out a practical program to keep us all from dying. Lancet estimates that nine million people now die prematurely every year because of pollution. This is the first book to focus on the urban battlefield and what thousands of cities are doing that makes a difference. Through shifts in planning, better regulation of effluents, the application of technology, and the practice of a more sustainable way of living in how we build, eat, and get to work, Gilderbloom has gathered a scientific Jeremiad and a practical call to battle that shows us how we might not only slow, but reverse, the climate changes pushing us inexorably toward extinction. — Roger Friedland, Professor of Religious Studies and Sociology, University of California, Santa Barbara. Author of *Power and Crisis in the City* and *To Rule Jerusalem* (with Richard Hecht).

"Stunning! A powerful action plan for how cities can save our planet from destruction." — Stephen Roosa, Ph.D., MBA, CEM, BEP, CSDP, REP, CBCE, CMVP, LEED AP, Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Strategic Energy and Environmental Planning*

"John Gilderbloom's message couldn't be more timely or important – not only that climate change is the existential challenge of our time, but that there is indeed a hopeful path forward.

Effective action on climate change cannot help but address and improve our other related challenges, including unequal impacts on health, threats to equitable human development, and declining urban quality of life for too many. In that sense, the growing awareness of climate threats may help to mobilize needed action on these other long-neglected issues.” — [Michael W. Mehaffy, Ph.D., Executive Director, Lennard Institute/International Conference on Making Cities Livable and author of *Cities Alive: Jane Jacobs, Christopher Alexander, and the Roots of the New Urban Renaissance*](#)

“A must-read for anyone concerned about climate change and what can be done about it.” — [Cary Lowe, Ph.D., Member of the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners and author of *Becoming American: A Political Memoir*](#)

“This book is an inspiring must-read for anyone who wants to know how to solve the greatest challenge of our time—climate change. World renowned urban planner John Hans Gilderbloom reveals the untold story of how municipalities, businesses, and private citizens are working together to make a tangible impact. It’s in-depth analysis of how we have the tools and technology to dramatically reduce greenhouse gases and create a sustainable future is the inspiration for our documentary, *Climate of Hope: Cities Saving the World*. The film is filled with inspiring stories from cities all over the world. Together, they are a powerful call to action.” — [Chris Sean Nolan, Director, *Climate of Hope*, and three-time Emmy Award winner](#)

“This groundbreaking book uncovers the numerous ways climate chaos is killing people, places, and the planet. It makes a powerful contribution by offering a hopeful, practical perspective to reversing destructive climate chaos and reducing greenhouse gases by 80% through implementing practical policies that will create a more sustainable, prosperous, and livable Earth.” — [Julian Agyeman, Professor, Tufts University and Editor, *Local Environment*, and whose work has been cited more than 20,000 times](#)

“Let’s be honest – climate change deniers are either idiots or acting as shills for those who intellectually or financially lose market share when strategies are put in place to mitigate this environmental disaster. John Gilderbloom has assembled an amazing array of authors who have joined him in both identifying the magnitude of the problems, but even more importantly offering positive, common-sense solutions. One thing that is always positive about Gilderbloom’s work – it is trickle up, not trickle down. He invariably begins at the neighborhood level to describe problems and their effects, and then offers responses that are global yet locally based. This is an important work in confronting the most important issue that we are all facing today.” — [Donovan Rypkema, Principal, PlaceEconomics, Washington, D.C.](#)

“An excellent overview of the climate crisis facing all of us.” — [Scott Cummings, Professor Emeritus, Saint Louis University and former editor, *Journal of Urban Affairs*](#)

“Dr. Gilderbloom’s book, *Climate Chaos: Killing People, Places, and the Planet*, gives an honest and fearless assessment of the problems that manifest in our inner cities and impact the health of residents who are suffering daily. I was with John Hans Gilderbloom when he met Martin Luther King III, who told him that he provided a model for rebuilding livable neighborhoods that his father and mother envisioned. I was also with him when Don Turner, the United States Envoy for South Africa, announced he would meet with President Nelson Mandela and tell him about what Dr. Gilderbloom was doing in West Louisville to rebuild livable neighborhoods.” — [La Glenda Reed, co-founder of the Center for](#)

Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods, West Louisville High School teacher, and long-time community activist

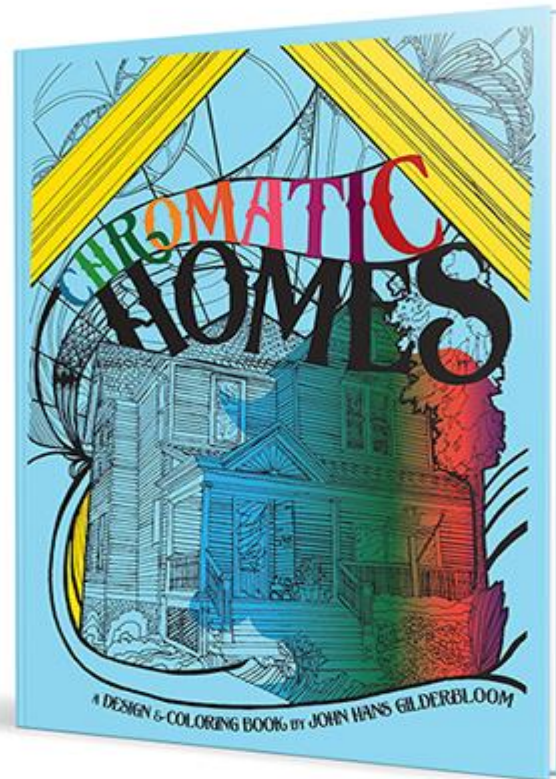
“*Climate Chaos* takes an all-hands-on-deck approach to the climate crisis. It brings the critical issues we confront down to the community level, chronicling the destructive effect of climate change on multiple aspects of life in U.S. cities. Drawing on detailed case studies as well as statistical analysis across cities, *Climate Chaos* documents the differential effects of climate change – both across and within cities – on life expectancy, health, COVID-19, educational outcomes, and even housing values. Drawing on case studies in the U.S. (such as Portland) and Europe (such as Amsterdam), *Climate Chaos* also makes a strong case for alternatives to the automobile: light rail, walking, and – close to my own heart – bicycling. The solutions offered are systemic, going beyond feel-good calls for planting more trees, arguing instead that cities – where most of the world’s population lives – can lead the way. This book is an important read: disturbing in its conclusions, leading to a compelling call for strong, community-based actions.”

— Richard Appelbaum, Distinguished Professor Emeritus and former MacArthur Chair in Sociology and Global & International Studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara, where he co-founded UCSB’s pioneering Program in Global Studies

“Climate change will impact all of us in dramatic ways, but at the same time the devastation will be experienced, unequally across gender, race, income, and geographic positions. Gilderbloom's book draws on empirical evidence to outline the chaotic effects of climate change on health, life expectancy, and overall quality of life. Despite the climate chaos that we face, Gilderbloom's book also identifies practical, imaginative and proven solutions that can better control pollution and promote a more sustainable life for all, not just societal elites. The book is a comprehensive overview of how climate change will affect us, but a book that also offers a thoughtful agenda for change and hope for the future...an agenda that can start in our own cities and where we each can play a part.” — Nancy C. Jurik, Professor Emeritus, Arizona State University and 2019-2020 Fulbright Scholar

“John Hans Gilderbloom is a fearless truth teller. He survived a brutal assault and learned to thrive despite some hearing and eyesight loss and PTSD. This book presents the award-winning research of his 30 colleagues that was originally removed from a university website. But Dr. Gilderbloom rescued and restored and expanded this critical research. People have the right to know the truth.” — Mike Schindler, Exec Producer, 90000 Feet Productions, US Navy Veteran, three-time author, Co-founder of The VUCA Principle

Chromatic Homes: A Design and Coloring Book



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This coloring book is like no other on the market. It's a celebration of chromatic homes, the alluring and ornate structures that grace our most charming and beautiful cities, such as Louisville, Cincinnati, San Francisco, New Orleans, and Miami, and have been around for centuries in far-flung places such as Havana, Venice, Amsterdam, Brazil, and Moscow. This captivating collection also teaches and explores the art and science of the use of color in historic preservation, architecture, neighborhood design, and planning.

As this book illustrates, color is a powerful tool—it enlightens, entertains, and transforms—and when color graces chromatic homes, it can enhance, revive, and regenerate a community. This vibrant, engaging, and inviting book provides an escape to a world of inspiration, artistic fulfillment, and appreciation for these homes. Containing fifty-seven pages of illustrations, this edition is an effective and fun-filled way to enjoy and appreciate the homes' beauty, while also encouraging imagination and the creation of a unique work of art.

Published by the [University Press of Kentucky](#).

"Chromatic Homes is a love note to the power of color to transform neighborhoods...vivid photographs...a passionate case for revitalization of neighborhoods and he even the planet...Dr. Gilderbloom is a legendary figure makes a compassionate case for revitalizing their economy and cultural identity, increasing homeownership, sustainability, safety, and health."

NPR Radio, Roberta Schultz December 9, 2019 <https://www.wvxu.org/post/book-review-x-2-chromatic-homes-johngilderbloom#stream/0>

“Amazing” This 83-page coloring book isn't only a fun way to pass the time, it's also meant to be a tool to promote better neighborhoods by inspiring a movement for chromatic colors in crumbling and forgotten neighborhoods. Besides pages to color, there are before and after photographs of homes in the Portland and Highland neighborhoods which were brought back to life with paint and imagination.

Courier Journal

<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/events/things-to-do/2019/11/12/johnhans-gilderbloom-chromatic-homes-a-design-and-coloring-book/2568148001/>

<https://www.courierjournal.com/story/money/louisville-cityliving/2018/10/09/neighborhood-revival-brightpaint-attracts-buyers-renters/1124981002/>

“an uplifting dazzling masterpiece... This fabulously written history of the chromatic edifices of the world is perfect and a must for academic and public libraries. I would highly recommend this fascinating book to anyone interested in stunning buildings or the history and subject of community development and maintenance. Melinda F. Matthews, Southeastern Library Journal, University of Louisiana at Monroe

<https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1768&context=seln>

The coloring book teaches and explores the art and science of the use of color in historic preservation, architecture, neighborhood design, and planning. Fifty-seven pages of illustrations show how color has been used in America's most charming cities, such as Louisville, Cincinnati, San Francisco, New Orleans, and Miami, as well as abroad in Havana, Venice, Amsterdam, Brazil and Moscow. "The Joy of Color in Historic Places" with 182 pictures that demonstrates how the simple act of painting an ornate structure in bright or bold colors can inspire, empower, sustain and enlighten an entire community. The movie you showed was a big hit: [How Color Saved Miami Beach](https://vimeo.com/99992979) <https://vimeo.com/99992979>

Mary Rickard, Louisiana Landmarks Society Newsletter

First of all, this is a fabulous idea! The explosion of coloring books for adults in recent years is astounding. But sadly, I don't know any architecture or planning school that teaches this.

Steve Mouzon, The Original Green, Unlocking the Mystery of True Sustainability. Miami, Florida: Guild Foundation Press

The idea of the Chromatic Homes: The Design and Coloring Book is GREAT and very forward- thinking; I would assign it to my senior Urban Design class as a 3D video and virtual reality experience. - Michael Brazley, PhD., AIA, NCARB, NOMA, ACSA, Associate Professor, School of Architecture, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

This book could be used in college courses covering art, planning, design, and architecture.

From antiquity, 'the polychromatic Parthenon' architects have been concerned with color! A text such as Dr. Gilderbloom's Chromatic Homes would be an excellent reference in classes in architecture. - Distinguished Professor Jon Daniel Davey PhD, AIA, Architect

Chromatic Homes: The Design and Coloring Book 83 pages; Lexington, KY Kentucky Press University Press of Kentucky

Chromatic Homes: The Joy of Color in Historic Places. 132 pages Lexington, KY University Press of Kentucky ISBN 0-8131-7614-X

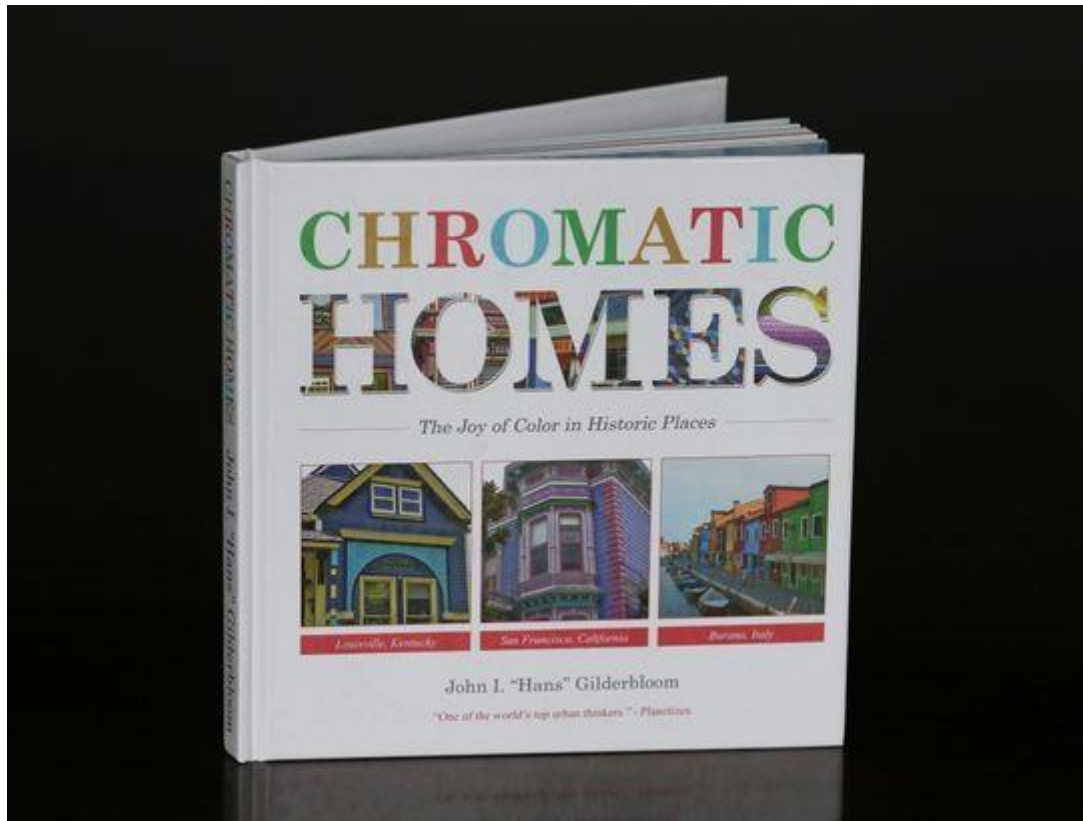
Chromatic Homes: The Joy of Color in Historic Places. 132 pages Lexington, KY Kentucky Press University ISBN 0-8131-7614-X 182 color pictures from the best Chromatic Homes in the world! First Edition priced at \$24.95

These 10 Kentucky gifts will excite the book worm in your life

[Kathryn Gregory](#), Louisville Courier Journal Published 7:32 a.m. ET Dec. 5, 2018
Updated 7:39 a.m. ET Dec. 5, 2018

Chromatic Homes: The Joy of Color in Historic Places

Author: John I. Gilderbloom. Publisher: University Press of Kentucky. Price: \$24.95



Buy

CHROMATIC HOMES

The Joy of Color in Historic Places

John I. “Hans” Gilderbloom explores and celebrates the appeal of these captivating houses in *Chromatic Homes: The Joy of Color in Historic Places*. Highlighted in gorgeous detail are the relevance of the homes’ styles and colors as well as their history—many believed to have been around for decades in American cities such as Louisville, Cincinnati, San Francisco, New Orleans, and Miami, and around for centuries in far-flung places such as Havana, Cuba, Venice, Italy, and Moscow, Russia.

Filled with 182 engaging and eye-catching photos of homes all across the nation and the world, *Chromatic Homes* perfectly illustrates how the simple act of

painting an ornate structure in bright or bold colors can inspire, empower, sustain and enlighten an entire community. *Chromatic Homes* creates prosperity, pride, and joy for the homeowner and neighborhood.

Published by the [University Press of Kentucky](#).

Books are a great Christmas gift idea. Dec. 3, 2018 (Photo: Sam Upshaw Jr./Courier Journal)
John I. Gilderbloom, the director of the University of Louisville's Center for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods, asks readers in his book, "Can chromatic homes be the secret sauce for neighborhood and community regeneration?"

Maybe. The Courier Journal [wrote about Gilderbloom this year](#) and while correlation is not causation, the professor said the high concentration of colorfully painted homes in Louisville's Highlands neighborhood has helped property values jump in recent years.

"This success should compel cities to encourage homeowners to paint drab houses with bright colors," Gilderbloom writes. "Paint is probably the cheapest way to get 'house proud.' Chromatic buildings can be inexpensive and effective community economic development tools that do not require government funding, just sweat."

New Albany Confidential December 10, 2018:

Gilderbloom tells us: "How the simple act of painting an ornate structure in bright or bold colors can inspired, empower, sustain, and enlighten an entire community...." Roger Baylor, Editor, "...But as an urban university, the University of Louisville surprises many with the strength and versatility of its public health and social work departments....UofL has John Hans Gilderbloom, the Hank Aaron of urban and public affairs."

Courier Journal by Alfred Miller December 9, 2018

Want to revitalize Louisville? Paint the town red. Or yellow. Or blue.

So says John Gilderbloom in his new book, "[Chromatic Homes: The Joy of Color in Historic Places](#)," (University Press of Kentucky, \$24.95).

The director of the [University of Louisville's Center for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods](#) asks readers, "Can chromatic homes be the secret sauce for neighborhood and community regeneration?"

Gilderbloom, himself the owner of vibrantly painted homes, points to his own experience remodeling a Louisville Victorian off Tyler Parkway in the Highlands. Despite his extensive work on the home's foundation, roof and plumbing, it didn't attract renters or buyers until Gilderbloom painted it pink, red and turquoise.

While correlation is not causation, the professor also observes the high concentration of colorfully painted homes in Louisville's Original Highlands neighborhood, where property values have jumped in recent years.

Courier Journal October 9, 2018

New neighborhoods seem to be popping up in every direction, featuring homes that have an element of sameness. Neutral colors are often viewed as a must for the sake of resale and for proper neighborhood flow. However, as individuals, there is merit to standing out and expressing ourselves, being real and presenting a true version of self. Why do homes and neighborhoods not express this same freedom? University of Louisville professor John "Hans" Gilderbloom explores the effect of color in *Chromatic Homes*, (University Press of Kentucky, \$24.95).

Kentucky Living (Kentucky's largest magazine with 400,000 readers)



John Gilderbloom Photo: University Press of Kentucky

"Gilderbloom, who directs the university's Center for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods, is considered one of the foremost urban thinkers. He wanted to show how cities have rejuvenated entire neighborhoods by following the protocols of San Francisco's "painted ladies." Kentucky Living October 2018

"Paint matters! I have long believed that people undervalue the role of paint color in creating community identity, pride, and interest.

Gilderbloom's book highlights an overlooked example, the fourth largest collection of painted ladies in the US. Louisville is full of surprises, and this one teaches real lessons."

— Jeff Speck, city planner and author of *Walkable City: How Downtown Can Save America, One Step at a Time* and co-author of *Suburban Nation*

"Painting houses is a world-wide practice for self-expression. It also cues in that someone of responsibility and concern is around. Color, and its maintenance, can thus be an urban force for confidence. *Chromatic Homes* takes such concerns seriously and helps us see what, when taken to exuberant forms, can be the delightful result."

— Harvey Molotch, Professor of Sociology, New York University "The City as a Growth Machine."

Great neighborhoods are the secret sauce of great cities and communities of all kinds, sizes and stripes. But great neighborhoods don't happen by accident. They are continuously built, rebuilt, revitalized and actively redesigned. They can, and should, be inclusive places where regeneration benefits everyone. Gilderbloom argues that the principles of chromatic design can help us create better neighborhoods and communities. This is an important contribution to the future of cities.

—Richard Florida, author of *The Rise of the Creative Class* and *The New Urban Crisis*

“A stroll through the streets of any city should reveal authenticity and evoke joy. And there are few easier ways to distinguish a community's character and personality than finding a painted lady Victorian. We're proud that Louisville is home to so many, and we appreciate the opportunity to showcase how to increase a home's character through the simplicity and power of paint.” —Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer

“Don't let the title fool you. John “Hans” Gilderbloom's *Chromatic Homes: The Joy of Color in Historic Places* isn't about paint, or even paint colors. It is about rebuilding communities in which people want to live. And Gilderbloom understands this, having spent his career helping communities rebuild themselves, especially in his beloved Louisville. With examples from around the country and around the world, Hans makes the link between renewing the vibrancy of the historic built environment and renewing the vibrancy of the neighborhood itself. Preservationists will get this immediately. But for those who don't consider themselves “historic preservationists” this should be required reading. Fine, don't care about heritage buildings, but if you care about urban communities, you should pay attention to what Dr. Gilderbloom is telling you.”

—Donovan Rypkema, Principal PlaceEconomics

“Brilliant, Beautiful, Brash.”

—Cisco Montgomery, playwright, reporter and book author

“Got a copy of Chromatic Homes -- -- great book!! The comparative aspect is terrific, especially the international aspects. Great selection of photos. As Donovan Rypkema so well describes it educates about community revitalization in engaging and informative way. Congratulations!”

—Professor David Ames, Director, Center for Historic Architecture and Design University of Delaware

“John Gilderbloom argues that brightly colored buildings are neither new nor a fad of urban gentrifiers. With his finger on examples from several continents, the author shows that sprightly exteriors are signs of vitality, individuality and a determined pride in place. He calls landmarks folks to move beyond their pallet of muted “historic” colors and to embrace unadulterated brightness. In addition to being an urban mood changer, color, Gilderbloom argues, actually adds value to communities in various states of recovery.”

—Dr. Tom Owen, University of Louisville Archives, filmmaker on historic preservation practices, and former City Councilmember University of Louisville

Introduction: For Chromatic Homes! Can “chromatic homes” be the secret sauce for neighborhood regeneration? Is it possible that an ordinary building can become a neighborhood icon by painting it with bold and lively colors? How does beauty shape a place and make it sustainable? Can a chromatic home bring joy, pride, hope, renewal, reinvestment and prosperity? Dr. Gilderbloom, who is known as an influential urban thinker, offers lessons to guide neighborhood activists, elected officials and developers on how to renew declining neighborhoods. Beauty inspires neighborhoods to flourish and move forward.

Beauty matters. More people are deciding to choose a place before they choose a job; they are also choosing a passion before they grab a paycheck. Dr. Gilderbloom argues that attractive environments and communities are keys to citizen happiness. We have a social responsibility to pay attention to what makes neighborhoods thrive or die.

As the former five-term Mayor of Louisville, I was proud to learn that my city is grouped with San Francisco, New Orleans, and Miami as a viable and cool chromatic place! Being grouped with these cities is great news for Louisville.

This book focuses not only on Louisville’s success in igniting neighborhoods with paint, preservation, and prosperity but also on the global influence of color. Chromatic homes are a social movement happening in Russia, Columbia, Ukraine, Cuba, the Netherlands, and Italy as well as in lesser-known locations in the U.S.: Cincinnati, Ohio; New Albany, Indiana; Covington, Kentucky; Savannah, Georgia; and Charleston, South Carolina.

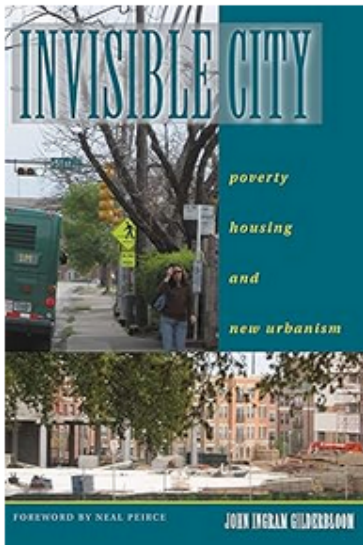
Dr. Gilderbloom shows that “beauty” in our buildings and streets goes hand in hand with other factors that renew neighborhoods— preservation, bike lanes, community gardens, walkability, trees, clean air, and traffic calming measures. He contends that chromatic neighborhoods increase home ownership, sustainability, likeability, safety, health, and prosperity.

Jerry Abramson was Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at the White House under President Obama. He served five terms as Mayor of Louisville. He was also Lt. Governor of Kentucky. He is currently Executive in Residence at Bellarmine University

“John Hans Gilderbloom is an academic rarity. His talents and creativity are expressed not only in the classroom and in peer reviewed articles, but also in corporate boardrooms and metro councils debating land usage, commerce, and housing. In short, he practices what he preaches. Chromatic Homes is a stellar example of his creative pragmatism and is destined to be read not only by urban planners and entrepreneurs, but also those intrigued by the concept of architecture as an artist’s palette. Read this book and you too will experience the “joy” of these palettes.”

—Lyle Sussman, Professor, School of Business, University of Louisville, bestselling author and speaker

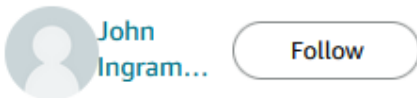
Praise for *Invisible City: Poverty, Housing, and New Urbanism*
University of Texas Press, 2008, 281 pages, released in hardback and paperback



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Invisible City: Poverty, Housing, and New Urbanism Paperback –

Illustrated, January 15, 2008

by John I. Gilderbloom (Author)

5.0 ★★★★★ 1 rating See all formats and editions

A legendary figure in the realms of public policy and academia, John Gilderbloom is one of the foremost urban-planning researchers of our time, producing groundbreaking studies on housing markets, design, location, regulation, financing, and community building. Now, in *Invisible City*, he turns his eye to fundamental questions regarding housing for the elderly, the disabled, and the poor. Why is it that some locales can offer affordable, accessible, and attractive housing, while the large majority of cities fail to do so? *Invisible City* calls for a brave new housing paradigm that makes the needs of marginalized populations visible to policy makers. Drawing on fascinating case studies in Houston, Louisville, and New Orleans, and analyzing census

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“Gilderbloom’s book is a must for anyone who is interested in a critical analysis of current US housing policy....*Invisible City* refers to the people “whom we walk past every day and never truly see: the poor, disabled and homeless. *Invisible City* refers to solutions to solve the housing crisis that are far removed from the usual agenda of housing policy...Gilderbloom not only generates ideas for a better housing policy but he also points towards possible actors for changing housing policies: he shows how universities can play a role in helping to address the housing crisis.”

Andrej Holm, International Journal of Urban and Regional Research. January 2011. Volume 35.1

"Invisible City is a great title for a book that promises insights and remedies for dealing with intractable problems of poverty and inadequate housing in America. Clips on the back dust jacket set up the reader for an "insightful tour" and some "savvy research...Gilderbloom draws on 25 years of researching, organizing, and writing about housing issues in creating a passionate case for new approaches to dealing with the housing needs of low-income households." --Jill Grant Urban Studies, 2011 48: 831-832

"refreshing and insightful analysis that made the first book so remarkable...a solid contribution to the field...Gilderbloom shows evidence of the unconventional thinking and analytical insights that made the first book so entertaining and unique are the best moments. --Edward Goetz, Journal of the American Planning Association, Summer 2009, Volume 75, Number 3. page 375

"Recommended" "Each chapter is interesting and useful on its own terms." Choice June 2008 by Robert Beauregard

"Refreshingly, Gilderbloom does not push for some single, magic, nationally-applied housing solution. Indeed, one of the most interesting questions he poses is why some cities seem able to provide affordable housing for a broad swath of their population, while others cannot. He raises uncomfortable questions for us to grapple with. Gilderbloom raises the critical question: Why are some cities able to provide afford housing, while others fail in the effort? How can elected and appointed government officials, developers, landlords, banks work *together* to create the optimal set of policies, ranging from code enforcement to subsidy?" --Neal Peirce, Columnist, *The Washington Post*

"Invisible City is a very solid, very interesting, and very necessary update on a subject that we can no longer ignore--nor get wrong yet again." --Andres Duany

"Using new research findings to explode myths about housing believed by progressives and conservatives alike, this masterful synthesis of 30+ years of path-breaking research by the author and his colleagues offers many new and exciting policy proposals that would make it possible to provide good and affordable housing for far more people than is currently the case if activists and policy experts can accept the need for new directions." --G. William Domhoff, University of California, Santa Cruz, Author of *Who Rules America?*

"Invisible City makes very visible the in egalitarian workings of city housing patterns. Drawing on decades of savvy research, insightful urban expert John Gilderbloom and colleagues show how America's poor, elderly, and disabled are routinely trashed by "free market" housing processes. Eschewing ivory-tower research, these social scientists use fieldwork to critically evaluate various government policies aimed at rent control, low-income housing, and housing rehab. Showing that housing quality impacts self-esteem and physical health, they press for innovative government programs that offset the failure of real estate decision makers to provide all Americans with the basic human right of adequate shelter." -- Joe Feagin, former president of the American Sociological Association, is Ella C. McFadden Professor of Liberal Arts at

Texas A&M University. "Another insightful tour de force from Gilderbloom and colleagues, "Invisible City" should be required reading for every federal, state, and local elected official. Tackling housing issues like few others, they offer a crucial new voice offering innovative solutions to ease America's burgeoning housing crisis."

--Daniel Lauber, past president of the American Planning Association and the American Institute of Certified Planners

"Invisible City makes visible the full range of affordable housing issues, with intelligence and with passion."

--Chester Hartman, Director of Research, Poverty & Race Research Action Council, Washington, DC

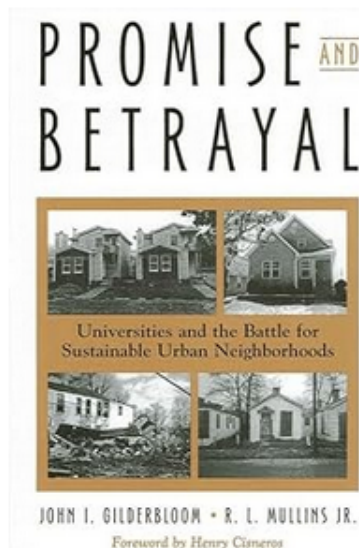
"Among policy makers the response to America's housing affordability crisis takes one of three forms: 1) deny the problem exists, 2) throw up their hands and say, "nothing can be done" or 3) propose exorbitantly expensive solutions. All three groups should be required to read *Invisible City: Housing, Poverty and New Urbanism*, by John Gilderbloom. Virtually alone among housing analysts, Gilderbloom recognizes the important contribution of older and historic housing not just to the local quality of life and urban character, but importantly to affordable housing as well. Don't tell me you're a "housing expert" if you haven't read Gilderbloom's book."

--Donovan D. Rypkema, Principal Place Economics, Washington D.C.

"John Gilderbloom is widely recognized as one of the country's leading experts on urban housing...this is a significant contribution to the field of urban politics and housing policy...Gilderbloom has set the scholarly standard in the field and continues to provide new contributions."

--Ambassador Derek Shearer, Chevalier Professor of Diplomacy, Occidental College

Promise and Betrayal: Universities and the Battle for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods with Rob Mullins, 2005, Albany, New York: State University of New York Press, 228 pages



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Promise And Betrayal: Universities And The Battle For Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods

Unabridged Edition

by [John I. Gilderbloom](#) (Author), & 2 more

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Traditionally, institutions of higher education have been viewed as the gateway to a better future, despite the fact that so many of the neighborhoods surrounding them have been filled with hopelessness and despair. In *Promise and Betrayal*, the authors want nothing less than to start a revolution in higher education, calling on partnerships between "town and gown" to create sustainable urban neighborhoods. John I. Gilderbloom and R. L. Mullins Jr. detail how higher education institutions can play an important role in helping to revitalize our poor neighborhoods by forming partnerships with public, private, and nonprofit groups. They advocate leaving the "ivory tower" and supplying the community with expert knowledge as well as creative and technical resources.

“During the so-called urban crisis of the 1960’s, the urban university emerged as a place where scholars and students engaged the world and especially the community surrounding the campus itself in or near the urban center. This made planning relevant, as the late Paul Davidoff often said...more universities have become engaged in solving urban problems... It seems that the ivory tower cliché is fading. Anthony James Catanese; *Journal of the American Planning Association*, Winter 2007, Vol 73 Issue 1, p 124

“represent something of a moral stand with regard to the role of the modern university in society. The authors do this, and quite successfully, by playing safe. The writing is that of a research report: dry, terse, informative, clear. The clarity extends through to the structure of the book...”

“focus is also its strength: the level of detail with which the projects are described is impressive, and the various relationships that such initiatives involve are examined closely. This will be of interest to a broad range of readers: those in academia and private practice, or those members of the community wondering how to get their local university more involved in its surroundings.

“...there is plenty of transferable knowledge here. Lastly, the analysis comes across as remarkably balanced, considering the fact that authors played a central role in the programs.”

“Universities can make a real difference, but for that to happen as the authors put it, “University professors need to get out of the ivory tower and back on the streets. Recommended.

Nick Green, *Planning, Practice and Research*, Volume 21, Number 1 pp 139-143, February 2006

"most substantial case study"..."gripping in its narration of the highs and lows involved."..."the book charts a really exciting first-person analysis of several years of building and sustaining long-term programs in the nineties..."

--Journal of Planning Education and Research (Vol. 25, No. 3, 336-338 (2006)

“distinguishing...should be useful for university administrators, who rarely consider all aspects of involvement before they engage their institutions in a community partnership...the book merits attention as a review of 10 years of community development work at the University of Louisville, including many accomplishments most universities would be happy to emulate. There remains much here to ponder and learn from.”

--Journal of Urban Affairs, 2006, Volume 28 Number 2

“HANDS brought together an impressive coalition of government, neighborhood, city and even corporate players to successfully build affordable housing, reduce crime, educate children, enhance resident access to technology and provide social work case managements services.”

“impressive...those on the university side of the relationship who are trying to do the right thing will find some important lessons about university politics.”
Randy Stoecker, *Shelterforce*, Issue 148, Winter 2006

“highlights the authors’ involvement in a project to improve the impoverished,
mostly African -American neighborhood...provide valuable lessons.”
International Journal of Urban and Regional Research Volume 30, number 2,
2006732-734

“This book by Gilderbloom and Mullins is an important contribution to the field and should be read by university and community leaders as well as policy makers at all levels.” –Foreword by Dr. Henry Cisneros, Former Secretary of U.S. Housing and Urban Development

“This is a must read for anyone who wrestles with the moral obligations of academic development.”—Tom Ingram, President, Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges.


‘The authors provide a long-awaited analysis of where the ties between universities and communities stand today, and the directions they must be headed in if the American dream of one society is ever to be realized’—Neal Peirce, Washington Post Writers Group.

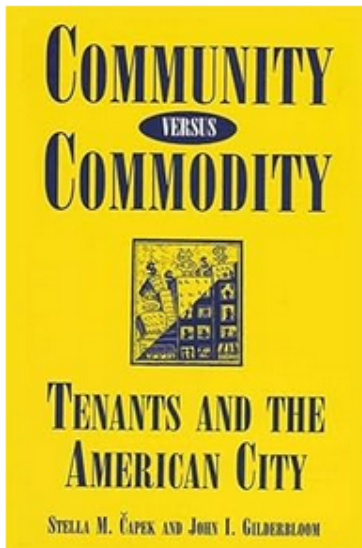
“University of Louisville professor John Gilderbloom seems to have a genius.... helped build or renovate more than 600 housing units in Louisville’s once-blighted Russell neighborhood. Gilderbloom’s claim to fame is facilitating redevelopment of large swaths of the Russell neighborhood. An expert on urban housing...”

--Larry Muhammad, Courier-Journal August 21, 2005

Praise for *Community Versus Commodity: Tenants and the American City* by Stella M. Capek and John I. Gilderbloom Albany, NY: SUNY

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Community Versus Commodity: Tenants and the American City (Sunny Series, the New Inequalities)

Paperback – February 6, 1992

by [Stella M. Capek](#) (Author), [John I. Gilderbloom](#) (Author)

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Stella M. Capek is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Hendrix College. **John I. Gilderbloom** is Associate Professor of Urban Policy at the University of Louisville and is the author of *Rent Control: A Source Book and Rethinking Rental Housing*.

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“Community versus Commodity is the best available case study of the tenants’ movement...tantalizing...extensive description of the issues and organizing that resulted in the passage of possibly the strongest U.S. rent control law...”

---Pierre Clavel, *Cotemporary Sociology* July 1993

“... an important sociological treatise . . . their work will undoubtedly become a weighty intellectual guidebook for activists who want to shift the balance of power in their communities.”

--Bradley Inman, *San Francisco Examiner* and President of the [National Association of Newspaper Real Estate Writers](#).

"This is a thoughtful book that examines the progressives as a movement coming to power, investigates progressive housing policies once in power and offers a wealth of information about tenant behavior and attitudes. As such, it offers a well-rounded and original contribution to the literature...a good research book that can be recommended to others."

--K. Hoggart, Regional Studies: Journal of the Regional Studies Association

"Fascinating . . . a model of qualitative research . . . nearly flawless . . . a masterful combination of historical information, fieldwork and theoretical analysis...it is worthwhile reading for urban scholars, social movement scholars and methodologists."

--American Journal of Sociology

"Their well-researched and thorough study is a model of a community political inquiry . . . Using the tools of social science and not riding a particular ideological or theoretical horse, Capek and Gilderbloom have produced the most thorough and honest assessment of the Santa Monica political experience to date. It will be the standard by which any subsequent studies will be judged."

--Derek Shearer, from the preface of "Community Versus Commodity" & co-author of Economic Democracy

"a significant contribution to the literature of rental housing and of tenants as a social group...A major portion of the book is a comparison between Santa Monica where a "rainbow coalition" of renters, seniors, environmentalists and liberals put together an extraordinarily progressive government, and its free-enterprise antithesis, Houston. Santa Monica's success in coalition politics led to a strong rent control law, affordable housing, low-density development and homeless shelters. By contrast, America's least regulated city, Houston, suffers from deplorable low-income housing and a host of other undressed urban problems. The contrast is drawn in a riveting and absorbing piece of writing." --Norman Krumholz, past President American Planning Association & co-author of Making Equity Planning Work

Capek and Gilderbloom advance considerably our understanding of the housing movement in the United States and its transformative potential...A strong theoretical contribution and an illuminating case study.

--Chester Hartman, Senior Fellow Institute for Policy Studies Washington D.C. and author of Housing and Social Policy

Stella Capek and John I. Gilderbloom's Community Versus Commodity is a pioneering work in the several fields of urban studies, social movement theory, political ethnography and urban politics. More than pathbreaking interdisciplinary research, Community Versus Commodity also highlights questions of political meaning and American public values at the center of American politics in the 1990s. It is a call to ask what America stands for.

--Harry C. Boyte, Senior Fellow Humphrey Institute, University of Minnesota
and author of Backyard Revolution


This articulate, provocative, and often controversial book merits the attention of readers across the nation, including those in government and the academy. Capek and Gilderbloom's extensive data and wise suggestions about tenants' organizations, community-based housing and democratic housing cooperatives offer the basis for new grassroots and federal policy initiatives to solve the ongoing housing emergency.

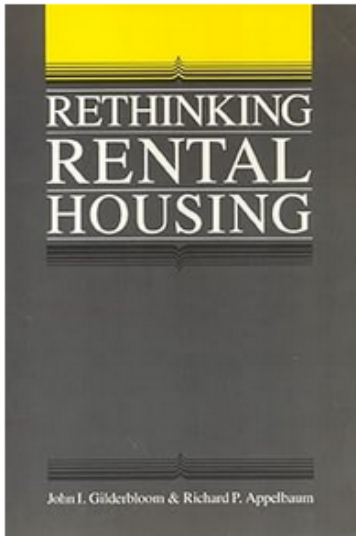
--Joe Feagin, author of The Urban Real Estate Game

Capek & Gilderbloom will outrage dogmatists on the left and anger free market apologists on the right. This book is a watershed event that will stimulate debate on contemporary urban social movements.

--John Atlas, President of the National Housing Institute

Reviews of *Rethinking Rental Housing* by John I. Gilderbloom and Richard P. Appelbaum
Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press (1988)

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Rethinking Rental Housing



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Presents a sociological framework to the study of rental housing. This book offers an analysis that shows the value of applying a broad sociological approach to urban problems, one that takes into account the basic economic, social, and political dimensions of the urban housing crisis.

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“Remarkable. The book was a challenge of the conventional thinking about the role of rental housing in the market and it produced a novel set of policy-relevant solutions about rental housing. As such, it represented an important step forward in the intellectual debate about the place of rental housing and offered scholars a new way of thinking about and framing analytical questions about rental housing...entertaining and unique.” *Journal of the American Planning Association* Summer 2009 page 375

Gilderbloom's 'Rethinking Rental Housing' destroys the argument 'we must build more'. 'Rethinking Rental Housing' is a standard text at universities across the nation. It's a study of 120 fast-growing and slow growing cities that sets the record straight on rent." *San Jose Mercury News*, August 20, 2000

Rethinking Rental Housing is an important new book on the rental housing crisis...--Capitol Gains

Highly readable. Extensive references. Recommended for collections in public policy and economics.

--Choice

--Congressional Quarterly's Editorial Research Reports

Straight forward and convincing.

--Peter Dreier, Director of Housing City of Boston

John Gilderbloom and Richard Appelbaum show that sociologists could make major contributions to debate about a housing policy designed to reverse trends...An original regression analysis...This is an important book. For sociologists, it summarizes a dispersed literature and suggests issues for research...The authors raise the fundamental issue of entitlement to affordable housing and propose the kind of policy necessary to reverse current trends. --Judith J. Friedman, Contemporary Sociology

Certainly Gilderbloom & Appelbaum have not shirked their perceived responsibility in facing an important social problem. Well-researched, with a 27-page bibliography, "Rethinking Rental Housing" serves as a fine reference and a commentary on an issue that must receive increasing attention. In an election year it is wise reading for those concerned on all levels and for those in the private sector who seek a realistic view of the current situation.

--Diana Ayres, The Houston Post

It is an excellent review of the rental housing crisis and potential solutions. It is important you have engaged the debate regarding the "non-market housing alternatives" that The Enterprise Foundation works so hard to enact.

--James Rouse, Chairman of the Enterprise Foundation

Rethinking Rental Housing has 43 pages of notes and references. The authors are scholars with practical experience in urban problems. New light is shed by the research, the professional analysis of it and by the authors' innovative proposals. --Robert Sollen, The Independent

John Gilderbloom and Richard Appelbaum, academic sociologists and progressive housing activists, have made major contributions to the revived debate over American housing policy and also to the way in which social scientists view housing and housing policy research...They offer empirical data refuting key market-based assumptions and offer progressive policy

proposals...This book offers guidance in the postReagan era of the progressive housing movement.

--Dennis Keating, Shelterforce

Rethinking Rental Housing is uniquely useful because it recognizes and rejects this common premise--and goes on to map out an alternative course of action. --Harold Henderson, Planning

It's easily the most significant piece on housing policy written in the last 30 years. Finally is examined the unquestioned assumptions on which 40 years of postwar housing policy has been based and finds that the emperor governing American housing policy is stark naked. Gilderbloom & Appelbaum strip away the faulty and fictional basis for a national housing policy and offer in its stead a sound, comprehensive, and rational program to guide American housing policy into the 21st century. They offer the 1st effective approach to solving the growing problem of housing affordability.

--Daniel Lauber, Past President American Planning Association

Gilderbloom and Appelbaum have provided us with an exhaustive and penetrating study of rental housing in the United States. They go beyond the usual preoccupation with market factors to demonstrate the social & political processes which determine the availability of rental housing. In the process, they make clear that the problem of housing is essentially a sociological problem; it is rooted in social processes, and it has large effects on social life. Anyone who wants to understand the growing crisis in rental housing in America will want to read this book --Frances Fox Piven and Richard Cloward, Regulating the Poor

This book is a compelling debunking of many of the myths which surround the debate over housing subsidies and policy. By carefully applying a research approach which considers the 'social' aspects of housing, rather than simply an abstract notion of its economic value, this work goes a long way toward humanizing and personalizing the debate over housing policy. Gilderbloom and Appelbaum's work will be a welcome relief from the steady drumbeat of 'conventional wisdom' which is so common today. Looking for facts instead of justifications for ideological positions reached decades ago has led the authors to conclusions which no housing advocate can or should ignore. --Barry Zigas, President, National Low Income Housing Coalition

An impressive and important work. This book is a landmark in the discussion of rental housing in the U.S. It should be consulted by policymakers, read by housing activists, and assigned by professors. It makes clear how the real world of rental housing operates.

--Derek Shearer, co-author of Economic Democracy

Gilderbloom and Appelbaum have labored hard and earnestly in rethinking the problems of rental housing in the United

States...commendable industry...Their list of references--spread over twenty-seven closely printed pages--on the subject of the rental housing market in the United States and related matters, includes not only materials from the 1970s and 1980s but also some items from as far back as the late 1940s and early 1950s thrown in for good measure. --Harry Frummerman, Book News

Rethinking Rental Housing is a path-breaking analysis. It is a refreshing sign of new times in the social sciences in the United States, and raises a host of significant questions about how housing markets operate in cities and offers answers that regularly conflict with conventional social science wisdom...Gilderbloom and Appelbaum should be congratulated for providing the kind of research that can guide progressive policymakers, should they arise in local communities, in taking the actions necessary for the solution of the housing crisis. Moreover, their work shows the value of a broad sociological approach to urban problems that takes into account not only the basic economic dimensions of the urban crisis but also the social and political dimensions.

--Joe Feagin, author of the Urban Real Estate Game

Rethinking Rental Housing should be required reading for every planner and elected official involved in housing policy. And all planning students would be wise to read this volume if they really want to understand the dynamics of the housing crisis with which they will have to struggle during the coming decade.

--Journal of the American Planning Association

Rethinking Rental Housing is an important book dealing with this critical social problem. It is well conceived, researched, and written. At the same time it challenges some of the time-honored assumptions of traditional urban sociology, economics, and geography. This book is a sign of new times in urban sociological thinking...this is a book well worth the attention of urbanists. It distinguishes itself from a large share of works in the "new" urban sociology by its dedication to the data at hand...it is an admirable piece of work.

--Mark La Gory Social Forces

Rethinking Rental Housing is a unique & invaluable guide for everyone concerned with housing needs: local and national elected and appointed officials, grassroots groups, church groups who consider affordable housing to be part of their ministry, academic institutions offering urban planning and policy programs, and individuals who are looking for realistic solutions to a very real problem...brings the skills of sociology to the issue of rental housing markets with commanding vitality.

--Gracia Berry Urban Resources

"they have carefully researched their subjects and offer concrete first steps toward achieving their goals."

--Joan Crowder Santa Barbara News Press

"...this first-rate study of rental housing in today's US"
--Cooperative Economic News Service

"...this clearly spelled out analytical position, the book is both challenging and pioneering and deserves a wide readership, particularly among neoclassical economists!"
--Journal of Urban Affairs

***Rent Control: A Source Book* by John Gilderbloom and Friends. 1979, 1981. San Francisco: Foundation for National Progress, Housing Information Center, 320 pages**



"The Gospel of the rent control movement...Faith in the Gilderbloom Bible..."provocative"
----The Register (Orange County, California) Sunday, December 16, 1979

"Gilderbloom himself has experienced the landlords' wrath. He was advised to halt his study several times. "You'll never survive to finish your work," one industry lobbyist warned him. In another instance, a real estate agent [who worked for a the largest landlords in California] wrote one of the Governor's aides that: "We must find a way to neutralize him. [Gilderbloom]" by Barbara Koeppel, *Rent Control: A Tenant Revolt in The Nation* May26, 1979 597 to 600

"the most up-to-date extensive analysis of modern rent control...Gilderbloom study showed that landlords have spent more of the rent dollar on maintenance with rent control since ordinances are able to regulate the price as well as the quality of housing. These provisions afford the best available protection to homeowners and tenants. "Landlord Strategy: Divide and Conquer Rent Control." Joan Pransky, *New York Times* August 10, 1980

“Mr. Gilderbloom has demonstrated a lack of insight about the real facts in New Jersey...the Gilderbloom study was “financed by neither real estate nor tenant interests”...We find it difficult to accept that a well- traveled researcher who flies in from out-of-state to participate in legislative hearings...does so without any form of compensation....We will never have new apartment construction under rent control. The apartment-shortage emergency, will never be solved. Rent Controls: A Plea to Dump Them: by Gerald Freeman and Paul V. McEntyre, New York Times September 7.

To really understand rent control, you'd be better off reading John Gilderbloom's Rent Control: A Source Book.
--Daniel Lauber-- Planning Magazine

Finally, I found a researcher who has consistently used sound methodology: Professor John Gilderbloom... [His book] actually isolates the effects of rent control by systematically examining a comparable set of rent-controlled and non rent controlled cities and by adequately controlling for potentially confounding effects.
--Daniel Lauber--Journal of the American Planning Association

Is highly recommended reading for everyone involved in the tenant/housing movement in the 1980s. It contains virtually all of the best and most progressive thinking on housing...
--Housing Law Bulletin

This is the best book on the housing crisis, by the best writers on the subject.
--Mark Dowie, Editor for Mother Jones

“With thanks for all your help both personally and professionally—your writings were a fundamental asset to the victorious election drive to establish rent control in Baltimore. You were written in the same breath of Jane Fonda and Tom Hayden as influential Californians who helped get the tenants group together. Your report was startlingly influential. Keep it up.”
--David Harvey, Professor of Geography, John Hopkins University, September 1979

“Thank you for your report on rent control. I agree with your findings that rent control has mostly positive impacts and few negatives. I just wish my fellow economists would see your data.”
--John Kenneth Gaibraith, Harvard University Economist and key advisor to President John F. Kennedy. Personal letter sent to me after I asked him for help and advice. September 17, 1978

“[A 2015 study co-authored by economist John Gilderbloom](#) (one of the world’s most prolific authors on rent controls) found that rent controls had basically no effect on rental rates, maintenance, property values, or housing construction in New Jersey over 40 years.”
--Kevin Ma, Is it time for rent control? *St. Albert Gazette*, March 31, 2024
<https://www.stalbertgazette.com/local-news/is-it-time-for-rent-control-8512736>