

Supplemental Material

Rethinking ‘suburban’: On the regional perception of the suburban concept across the world

Christine C. Rega-Brodsky, Luis-Bernardo Vázquez, Ian MacGregor-Fors

ChatGPT generated definitions for each UN Region:

Global:

A residential area on the urban outskirts, characterized by low human and building density, single-family homes, more green spaces, and automobile dependence. It serves as a transitional zone between urban and rural areas, typically surrounding or adjacent to a city, with functional links to urban centers.

Africa:

A low-density residential area located on the urban outskirts, often characterized by single-family homes, automobile dependency, limited infrastructure, and more green spaces. Suburban areas typically feature medium to low population density, fewer commercial activities, and a lifestyle oriented toward middle- to upper-income families, with functional links to urban centers.

Asia:

A low-density residential area on the outskirts of a city, characterized by single-family homes, green spaces, and a quiet environment. Suburban areas serve as a transition between urban and rural zones, often commuter-friendly, automobile-dependent, and functionally linked to urban centers. They typically have limited public services, fewer commercial districts, and offer affordable living.

Australia & New Zealand:

A low-density residential area located on the outskirts of a city, characterized by single-family homes, automobile dependency, and green spaces. It serves as a transition zone between urban and rural areas, often adjacent to or surrounding a city, with functional links to urban centers. Suburban areas typically have limited public services, a quiet environment, and a mix of private and open green spaces.

Eastern Europe:

A residential area with low human and building density, located in the urban-rural transition zone, often adjacent to or surrounding a city. Suburban areas are functionally linked to urban centers, characterized by single-family homes, green spaces, and a quiet environment. They serve as commuter zones with limited public services and minimal urban planning.

Latin America:

A residential area on the urban outskirts, serving as a transition between urban and rural environments. It is characterized by low human and building density, green spaces, and a mix of heterogeneous habitats. Suburban areas often lack urban planning, exhibit income disparities, and may include both higher-income and lower-income populations.

Northern America:

A low-density residential area typically located on the outskirts of an urban center, characterized by single-family homes, automobile dependency, and a mix of green spaces. Suburbs often serve as commuter zones, connecting to the city while maintaining moderate to sparse building density. These areas represent a transition between urban and rural environments, with limited public services, segregated land uses, and a family-oriented focus.

Northern Europe:

A low-density residential area located on the urban outskirts, serving as a transition between urban and rural environments. Suburbs are characterized by more green spaces, low building density, and limited public services. Typically adjacent to or functionally linked to a city, these areas often depend on automobiles and house commuter populations in single-family or semi-detached homes, with private ownership and modest infrastructure development.

Southern Europe:

A low-density residential area located on urban outskirts, serving as a transition between urban and rural environments. Suburbs are characterized by low building density, green spaces, and limited public services. Typically adjacent to or functionally connected to cities, these areas are often automobile-dependent, with single-family homes and a mix of residential and natural elements, offering more space and lower human density compared to urban centers.

Western Europe:

A residential area on the urban outskirts, characterized by low human and building density, forming a transition between urban and rural environments. Suburbs often surround or are nearby cities, featuring more green spaces, limited infrastructure, and automobile dependence. They include clustered houses, single-family homes, and a mix of residential and natural elements, with variable socio-economic characteristics and modest amenities.