Urban form, connectivity and walls

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Why?

• Security
• Nuisance
• Exclusivity
• Perception of crime
• Traffic
• Loss of sense of community
• Neighborhood identity
• Community of interest (i.e. elderly)
• Resort
• Protect property values
• Appeals to those who feel they cannot rely on public regulation.

Sim City Gated Community
Formal signals of prestige and wealth:
Timgad, Dallas, and London
Ancient walled cities: monitor entry, collect trade taxes, protect from invasion, define “inside and out”, multiple gates
Vienna medieval view
The end of walls: Vienna
US Cities with walls: St. Augustine, New York, Boston, Charleston...
Connectivity and suburban form
How we got here

- Twentieth century change in how cities are planned (street network)

- From city plats to uncoordinated developer subdivision

Source: Scheer, Anatomy of Sprawl, 2001
Lack of connective street network after 1960's
Subdivision islands cause arterial disorder
Arterials become barriers themselves
Urban Arterials

the scourge of disconnection
Measuring Connectivity
Axial map of connectivity (space syntax)
Lack of connectivity

- Isolation of income groups
- Auto-dependency - lack of pedestrian pathways
- Larger, more congested arterials
- Many fewer walkable, public-oriented places
- Less natural surveillance - more need for "target hardening"