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“At Home with Apartheid is at once modest in spirit and profound in effect. Rebecca Ginsburg’s meticulous scholarship and her ability to allow her informants to speak for themselves create an unforgettable portrait of apartheid from the inside, one that vividly demonstrates the role of mundane domestic spaces in shaping the moral and social experiences of the South African racial order.”—**Dell Upton, University of California, Los Angeles**

AT HOME WITH APARTHEID

The Hidden Landscapes of Domestic Service in Johannesburg

Despite their peaceful, bucolic appearance, the tree-lined streets of South African suburbia were no refuge from the racial tensions and indignities of apartheid’s most repressive years. In **AT HOME WITH APARTHEID (October 2011; UVA Press)**, Rebecca Ginsburg draws from more than seventy-five personal interviews to offer an intimate examination of the cultural landscapes of Johannesburg’s middle- and upper-middle class neighborhoods during the height of apartheid (c. 1960–1975).

Ginsburg gives special attention to the distinct social and racial geographies produced by the workers’ detached living quarters, designed by builders and architects as landscape complements to the main houses. Ranch houses, Italianate villas, modernist cubes, and Victorian bungalows filled Johannesburg’s suburbs. What distinguished these neighborhoods from their precedents in the United States or the United Kingdom was the presence of the ubiquitous back rooms and of the African women who inhabited them in these otherwise exclusively white areas.

In addition to the oral accounts she presents, Ginsburg also draws from plans, drawings, and on-site analysis of the physical properties themselves. Spanning the disciplines of South African and architectural history, feminist studies, material culture studies, and psychology, **AT HOME WITH APARTHEID** brings the neighborhoods and residents it examines vividly to life.

Rebecca Ginsburg is Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

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