



The Camaro in the Pasture: Speculations on the Cultural Landscape of America

Robert B. Riley

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Robert Riley has been a renowned figure in landscape studies for over fifty years, valued for his perceptive, learned, and highly entertaining articles, reviews, and essays. Much of Riley's work originally ran in *Landscape*, the pioneering magazine at which Riley succeeded the great geographer J. B. Jackson as editor. *The Camaro in the Pasture* is the first book to collect this compelling author's writing. With diverse topics ranging from science-fiction fantasies to problems of academic design research, the essays in this volume cover an entire half-century of Riley's observations on the American landscape. The essays—several of which are new or previously unpublished—interpret changing rationales for urban beautification, the evolution and transformation of the strip, the development of a global landscape of golf and resorts replacing an older search for exoticism, and the vernacular landscape as wallpaper rather than quilt. Ultimately, Riley envisions our future landscape as a rapidly fluctuating electronic net draped over the more slowly changing and familiar land- and building-based system. Throughout, Riley emphasizes the vernacular landscape of contemporary America—how we have shaped and use it, what it is becoming, and, above all, how we experience it.

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