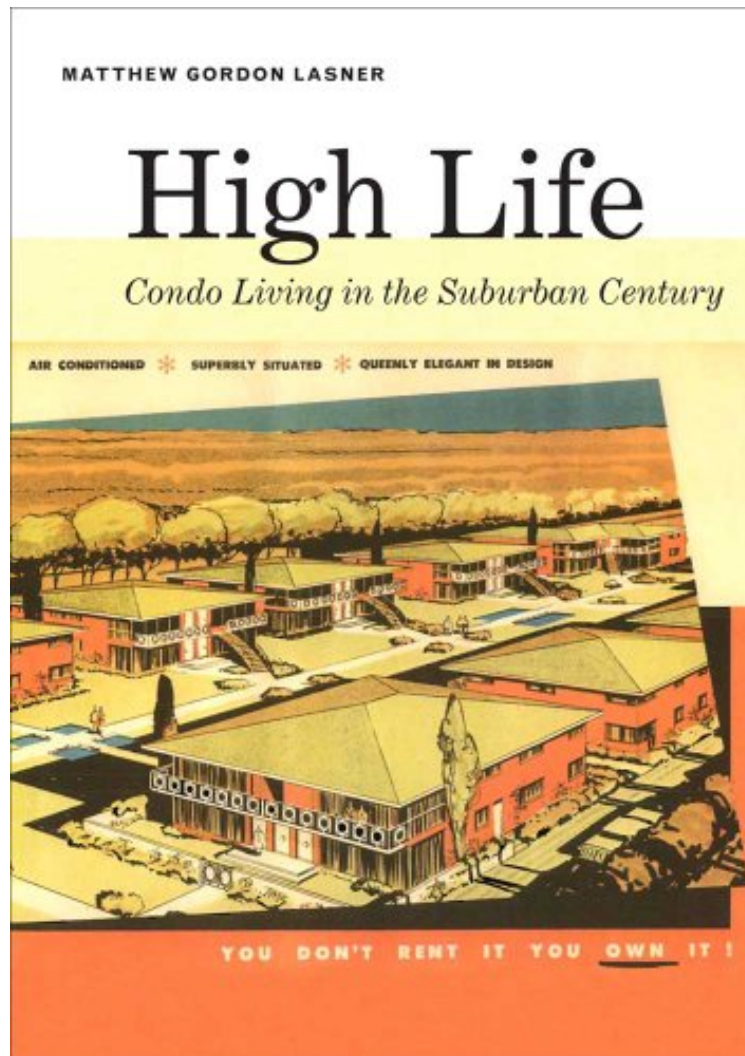


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## High Life: Condo Living in the Suburban Century

*Matthew Gordon Lasne*

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**Matthew Gordon Lasne : High Life: Condo Living in the Suburban Century** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised High Life: Condo Living in the Suburban Century:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. An award-winning book, and with good reason. By CustomerLasners claims here are entirely correct and very persuasive. It makes perfect sense to want to understand this increasingly popular residential option and to use it to dispel certain myths about the nation's cities and suburbs: the misconception that the single-family detached home is the sum of all desires, the belief that cities and suburbs are necessary opposites, the presumption that American culture has suffered from a stifling and ever-increasing dedication to privatization in all areas of life. Moreover, Lasner very cleverly incorporates an important critique of architectural,

landscape, and urban history: that scholars have too busily pursued study of building types as defined by their physical form when in fact an inquiry into dwelling types as defined by their ownership and organizational orientations may have more to tell us. In short, the basic subject matter, approach, and methodology of this manuscript are first-rate

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A Crucial History for Understanding Debates Over Development. By fauxjobLasner's analysis of the development of cooperative living, in Southern California and elsewhere, is a crucial (and often dismissed) part of a larger history of housing in America. At a time when we face unprecedented demand, and when the debates over housing zoning and development have reached a fevered pitch, particularly in cities, the High Life provides historical context, and a way forward.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By MG This book is a thoughtful, deeply researched and well written take on a subject that is becoming more and more relevant as young people move back to the cities. I bought it as a gift for a New York City architect who then proceeded to buy it for all of her colleagues.

Today, one in five homeowners in American cities and suburbs lives in a multifamily home rather than a single-family dwelling. As the American dream evolves, precipitated by declining real estate prices and a renewed interest in city living, many predict that condos will become the predominant form of housing in the 21st century. In this unprecedented study Matthew Gordon Lasner explores the history of co-owned multifamily housing in the United States, from New York City's first co-op, in 1881, to contemporary condo and townhouse complexes coast to coast. Lasner explains the complicated social, economic, and political factors that have increased demand for this way of living, situating the trend within the larger housing market and broad shifts in residential architecture. He contrasts the prevalence and popularity of condos, townhouses, and other privately governed communities with their ambiguous economic, legal, and social standing, as well as their striking absence from urban and architectural history.

High Life, clearly written and abundantly illustrated, focuses on the innovative designers and developers who found ways to create enduring forms of condominium and cooperative ownership through trial, error, and imitation. The American Historical