

## The Encyclopedia of Housing

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This authoritative resource brings into focus the many important connections among the different disciplines in the field of housing - planning, architecture, social sciences, environmental design, business law and others. **The Encyclopedia of Housing** assists in the conceptualization of housing problems and outlines methods for studying and resolving them.

While much of the work focuses on the USA, there are also essays on housing in Western Europe and Japan, and on the World Bank and the World Health Organization. Given the inclusion of broad thematic material and subjects of relevance to housing in all industrialized countries, **The Encyclopedia of Housing** will be a vital resource for researchers, practitioners and students everywhere.

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## **The Encyclopedia of Housing** From Brand: SAGE Publications, Inc Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2745643 in Books
- Brand: Brand: SAGE Publications, Inc
- Published on: 1998-04-16
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 1.85" h x 8.89" w x 11.37" l, 4.47 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 736 pages

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### Editorial Review

From Library Journal

This multidisciplinary work, which aims to summarize and synthesize current information on housing, draws on sociology, economics, urban studies, political science, architecture, and law to provide broad coverage of the pertinent concepts, organizations, issues, and policies. The 600 or so entries vary in length, with longer entries containing extensive discussion as well as relevant research, critical analysis, policy information, and historical background as appropriate. Though the book focuses primarily on the United States, it includes some international material, and various points of view are represented. Cross references, indexes of subjects and cited authors, and brief bibliographies on most entries add to the encyclopedia's usefulness. About 240 academics and professionals in housing or closely related fields contributed to this volume under the leadership of van Vliet, who has written and edited several works on housing. He notes that the language used is comprehensible across subject specialties and internationally. A welcome addition to the housing literature, which has lacked a general encyclopedia, this is sure to be the standard reference for professionals in housing and related fields as well as policymakers, students, and the educated public. An excellent purchase for all academic and public libraries. A Mary Jane Brustman, SUNY at Albany Libs.  
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From [Booklist](#)

Literature on housing covers a vast array of disciplines, including urban studies, sociology, architecture, law, and real estate, to name a few. In the last decade or so, a number of reference works have been published on the topic, including *Housing: A Multidisciplinary Approach*, edited by Kamal S. Sayegh (Academy, 1987), and *Dictionary of Housing*, by Jack Rostron (Ashgate, 1997). Unlike those works, this volume generally contains longer entries and many specialized essays on topics about which information is not readily accessible. It includes, for instance, essays on children, adolescents and the elderly, providing a fascinating age-related approach to housing issues.

Containing more than 500 entries written by almost 250 scholars, government officials, and housing professionals, this work is aimed at the lay public, students, and professionals. Entries cover federal legislation, policy, and programs (*Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, Model Cities Program*); types of housing (*congregate housing; pueblos; slaves, housing of*); social and health issues (*acquired immune deficiency syndrome, dementia*); and a host of other related topics: *commuting, eviction, fixed-rate mortgage loan, housing starts, redlining, sweat equity*. Especially noteworthy are the individual entries for journals, such as the *Journal of Real Estate Research*, which provide the publishing history, address, cost, circulation, and even editorial submission requirements.

Appendixes cover major federal legislation and list major organizations and journals. In addition, there are subject, author, and contributor indexes. Extensive cross-references at the end of the entries offer easy access to further related information. Almost all the entries include a brief bibliography listing classic works and recent studies.

The editor's introductory essay offers an excellent overview of the book, noting its strengths while acknowledging its limitations. Printed in a durable binding with easy-to-read type and a clear layout, this unique source superbly exemplifies some of the major qualities of an outstanding reference work--authority, accessibility, and a clearly defined objective. While the volume's price might limit the purchase to larger libraries, it is an important and useful work for both public and academic libraries. Highly recommended.

## Review

"This exceptional resource provides what is certain to become a much-appreciated reference tool for students, teachers, and professionals interested in housing....A convenient, comprehensive, substantive resource... The Encyclopedia of Housing can help scholars and lay people alike become better informed about the broad spectrum of factors that comprise the housing industry."

## Users Review

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