

## From the Planners' Bookshelf...

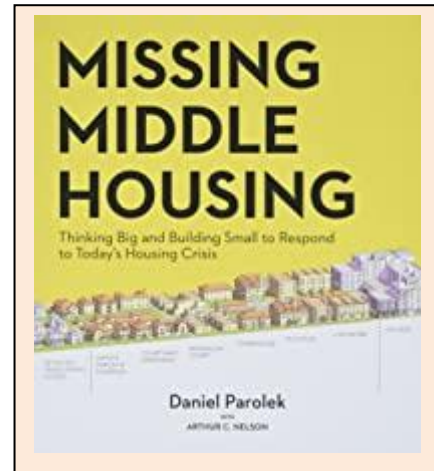
# Missing Middle Housing: Thinking Big and Building Small to Respond to Today's Housing Crisis

Daniel G. Parolek, Island Press, 2020.

LINK: <https://missingmiddlehousing.com/>

**OPTICOS DESIGN FOUNDER DANIEL PAROLEK** inspired a new movement for housing choice in 2010 when he coined the term "Missing Middle Housing," a transformative concept that highlights a time-proven and beloved way to provide more housing and more housing choices in sustainable, walkable places.

*"Missing Middle Housing helps solve the mismatch between the available U.S. housing stock and shifting demographics combined with the growing demand for walkability."* **Opticos Design founder Daniel Parolek**



Called "Missing" because these residential homes have typically been illegal to build since the mid-1940s and "Middle" because they sit in the middle of a spectrum between detached single-family homes and mid-rise to high-rise apartment buildings, in terms of [form and scale](#), as well as number of units and often, affordability. And while they are "missing" from our new building stock, these types of buildings from the 1920s and 30s are beloved by many who have lived, and are now living, in them.



### THE TYPES.

The Missing Middle Housing types provide diverse housing options, such as duplexes, fourplexes, and bungalow courts, that fit seamlessly into low-rise walkable neighborhoods and support walkability, locally-serving retail, and public transportation options. They provide solutions along a spectrum of affordability to address the mismatch between the available U.S. housing stock and shifting demographics combined with the growing demand for walkability.

[Download Diagram](#)

## From the Planners' Bookshelf...

"In *Missing Middle Housing*, Parolek, an architect and urban designer, illustrates the power of these housing types to meet today's diverse housing needs. With the benefit of beautiful full-color graphics, Parolek goes into depth about the benefits and qualities of Missing Middle Housing.

"The book demonstrates why more developers should be building Missing Middle Housing and defines the barriers cities need to remove to enable it to be built. Case studies of built projects show what is possible, from the Prairie Queen Neighborhood in Omaha, Nebraska to the Sonoma Wildfire Cottages, in California. A chapter from urban scholar Arthur C. Nelson uses data analysis to highlight the urgency to deliver Missing Middle Housing.

"Parolek proves that density is too blunt of an instrument to effectively regulate for twenty-first-century housing needs. Complete industries and systems will have to be rethought to help deliver the broad range of Missing Middle Housing needed to meet the demand, as this book shows. Whether you are a planner, architect, builder, or city leader, *Missing Middle Housing* will help you think differently about how to address housing needs for today's communities."

**LINKS:** <https://missingmiddlehousing.com/>  
[https://www.amazon.com/Daniel-G-Parolek/e/B001IODPKE/ref=aufs\\_dp\\_fta\\_dsk](https://www.amazon.com/Daniel-G-Parolek/e/B001IODPKE/ref=aufs_dp_fta_dsk)