

The Architecture of Racial Segregation



ROBERT R. WEYENETH
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH
CAROLINA

Rosenwald Schools



The “heroic architecture” of segregation



Architectural Isolation

A spatial strategy of white supremacy that kept whites and blacks apart, isolated from one another.

Architectural Partitioning

A spatial strategy of white supremacy that separated whites and blacks in facilities that were shared by both races.

Architectural Isolation and its Forms



Exclusion

Creation of “white space” by prohibiting entry and use by African Americans

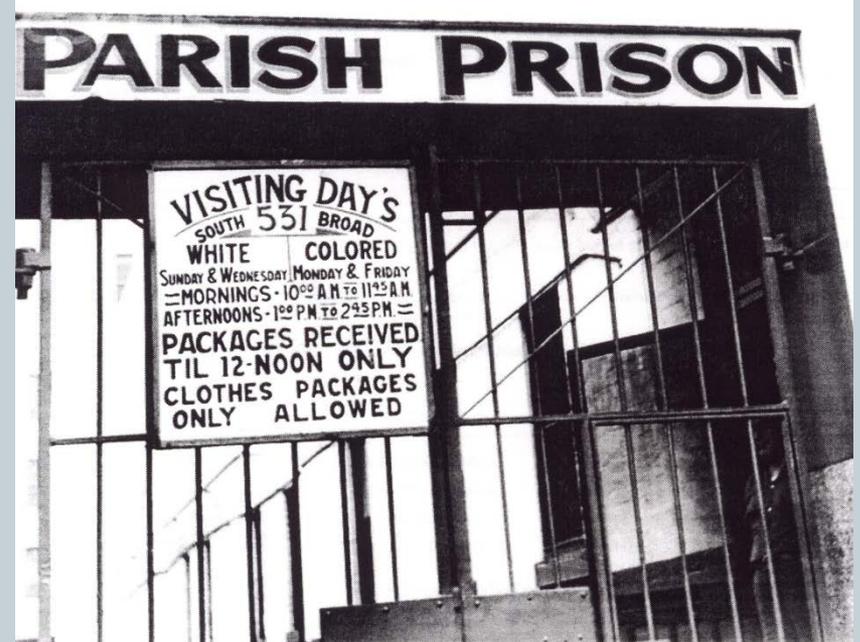
Architectural Isolation and its Forms



Duplication

Government provision of separate “black space”
to replicate (unequally) white facilities

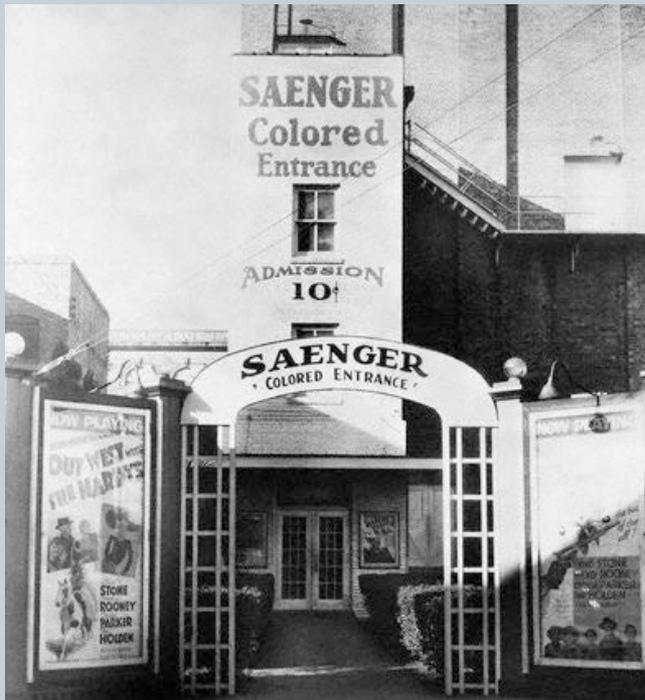
Architectural Isolation and its Forms



Temporal Separation

Isolation of the races by day of the week, time of the year, and time of day

Architectural Partitioning and its Forms



Fixed Partitions

Separation of the races in shared facilities by delineating clear boundaries between white and black space

Architectural Partitioning and its Forms



Malleable Partitions

Separation of the races in shared facilities through fluid and fluctuating - but known - boundaries

Architectural Partitioning and its Forms



Behavioral Separation

Constraints on the activities and access of African Americans in shared spaces

Alternative Spaces



Resisting the imposed architecture of white supremacy

Alternative Spaces



Resisting the imposed architecture of white supremacy

In Summary:

A Vocabulary for Seeing Race in Space



- **Architectural Isolation**
 - ✦ Exclusion
 - ✦ Duplication
 - ✦ Temporal separation
- **Architectural Partitioning**
 - ✦ Fixed partitions
 - ✦ Malleable partitions
 - ✦ Behavioral separation
- **Alternative Spaces**
 - ✦ Resisting the imposed architecture of white supremacy



**Is it time to begin thinking about preserving
the architecture of racial segregation
in all its forms
(not just heroic architecture), in order to
tell the whole story of the African-American
experience during the Jim Crow era?**