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# Agriculture Is the New Golf

There is new movement to plan suburban communities around farms instead of golf courses. Can it catch on?

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*Paintings by Carrie marill, Courtesy of Jen Bekman Gallary*

Around the country there is a growing interest in utilizing agriculture to retrofit suburban and urban communities. In cities agriculture can be used to fill vacant space and in suburban communities, architects and planners believe that “agriculture is the new golf.”

California’s Solano County approached architecture and land-planning firm Hart Howerton with the challenge of creating a community within an agricultural community. Solano County hoped that Hart Howerton could create a harmonious community that addresses the open space desired by neighbors and development rights desired by landowners, most of whom are farmers. In Solano, Hart Howerton architects Brendan Kelly and Amie MacPhee created a plan that clusters the agricultural land on a 1,400-acre plot, while the rest of the community is preserved for open lands, habitat preservation, and a village of 400 homes at the center. Additionally, a land conservancy partially funded by home sales, was set up to manage and monitor the land.

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