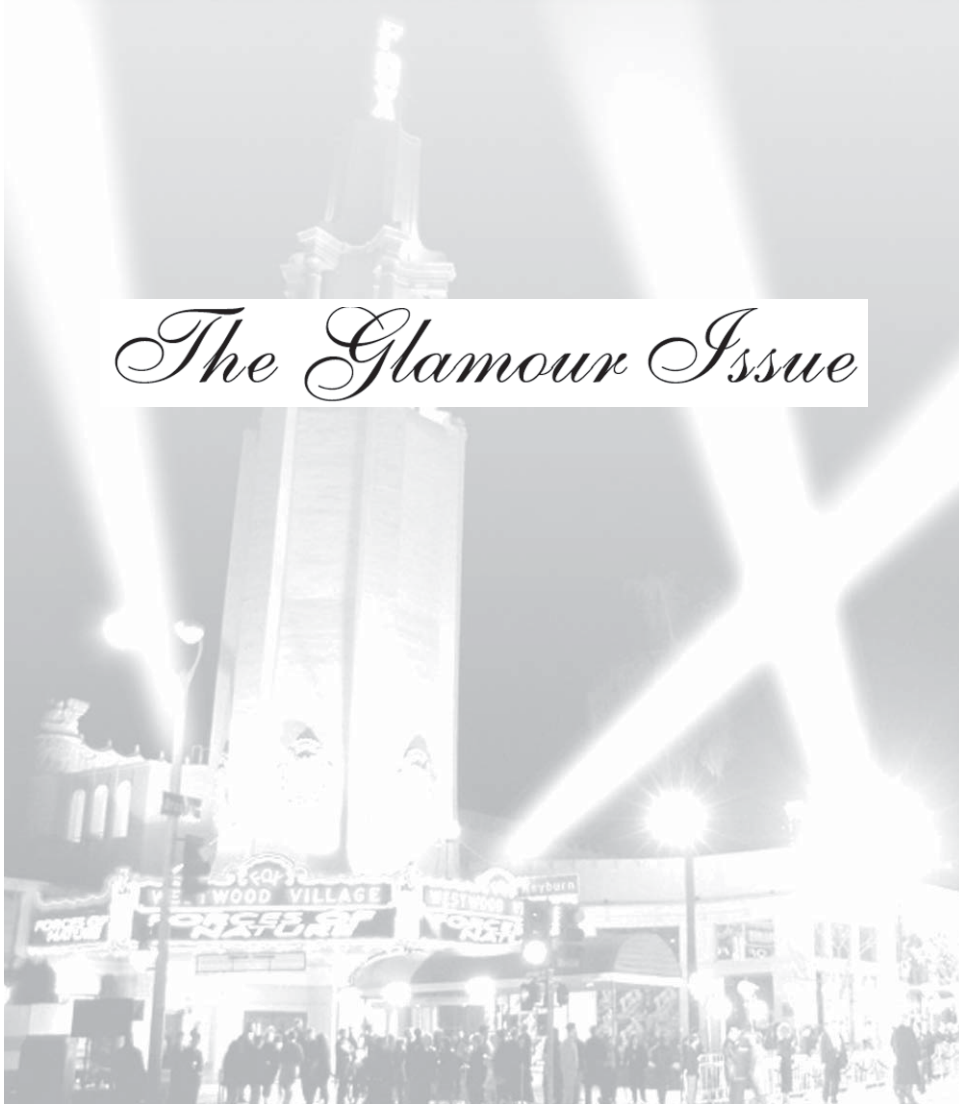


The Glamour Issue



Did we take too long to publish this issue? Glamour seems not to be en vogue any more - rather it's time for gloom. Since we announced our call for contributions last spring, and today - the summer of 2009, glamour seems to have taken a big hit: the glamour-filled urban global financial metropolis no longer is quite as shiny. The black limousines carrying global deal makers are not only fewer but their doings all of a sudden revealed their dark side. And with the big global city glamour many many "little glamour" dreams turned into mortgage and foreclosure nightmares. The suburban dream houses promoted in dozens of "home&living" magazines and on TV were really just that: dreams with little connection to economic realities. It was all just houses of cards! Here glamour was exposed as what it is - just a sheen -- a manufactured striving for a life more envied and less questioned.

Of course this is scarcely the end of glamour's role in urbanism. As the articles in this issue demonstrate, glamour should be conceived of broadly. Glamour is not only the glitz and shine but in fact there are many glammers as **Gordon Douglas** shows -- even in Los Angeles, a city that so clearly seems dominated by *the* glamour of Hollywood.

Rather the logic of glamour - its focus on consumption, the disappearing of effort, the blurring between work and leisure (see **Andreas Rumpfhuber** p. 64) is a global commodity that no place can do without. **Martin Schwegmann** reports an example from Sweden. There the "new urbanism" a consumerist principle of urbanity first developed in the US (where else?) is now providing the blueprint for developing new towns. Now also in Sweden you can buy a piece of instant urban flair right at your local realtors office.

Glamour is a hallmark of the urban public space and Paris is its exemplar. But times have changed. It's no longer enough to have a glamorous urban core of 2 million surrounded by the drab, sparkle free banlieue of 10 million. And so - as **Vesta Nele Zareh** describes, the city of light is trying to extend its shine outward for a couple more lengths. From the other side of the Atlantic, **Terry Nichols Clark** compares the nexus of Glamour and urban development and our perceptions of cities in the three major cities: New York, Los Angeles and Chicago.

Finally this issue continues a discussion about democracy and suburbia between **Michael J. Thompson** and **Alex Schafran**.

We would like to thank the authors of the articles in this issue for their work of engaging this elusive subject. We also wish to extend a special thank you to the Graham Foundation for Advancement of the Fine Arts for supporting this issue.

Los Angeles, CA , August 2009
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