



2010

There Goes the Neighborhood: Ten Buildings People Loved to Hate

Lauren Bangeter

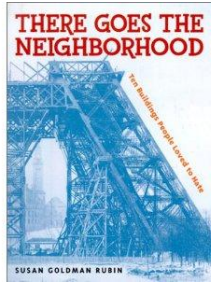
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Bangeter, Lauren (2010) "There Goes the Neighborhood: Ten Buildings People Loved to Hate," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 31 : Iss. 4 , Article 13.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol31/iss4/13>

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Rubin, Susan Goldman. *There Goes the Neighborhood: Ten Buildings People Loved to Hate*. Holiday House, 2001. ISBN 0823414353. \$18.95. 96 p.

Reviewer: Lauren Bangerter

Reading level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Informative; Informational Books;

Subject: Architecture--Public opinion--Juvenile literature; Architecture--United States--Juvenile literature; Architecture--Europe--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

Controversy surrounded the building of the Washington Monument from the very beginning. People complained that the design looked “like a stalk of asparagus,” and was “a disgrace to our people.” But finally, two design competitions, two wars, 102 years, and 897 steps later, the Washington Monument was completed and dedicated on February 21, 1885, as a memorial to America’s first president, George Washington.

The controversial history of the Washington Monument is not unique however. Many people have objected to new types of architecture invading their neighborhoods. *There Goes the Neighborhood* tells the story of ten famous structures that caused a lot of controversy during their production, but which eventually turned into everything from national icons (such as the Parisian Eiffel Tower and the Golden Arches of McDonalds) to historical monuments and cultural centers (such as Philip Johnson’s Glass House in Connecticut and the Guggenheim Museum in New York). Each story is well-researched and engaging. Fun pictures accompany the narrative. This not only provides a visual on these intriguing structures, but also gives the book an exciting and inviting look. Notes in the back include information on the different architects, a useful bibliography, sources for further research, and a detailed index. This book would be an excellent fit for any non-fiction library.

Volume 31, no. 4 (March/April 2011)