

A Poem of Glass and Steel

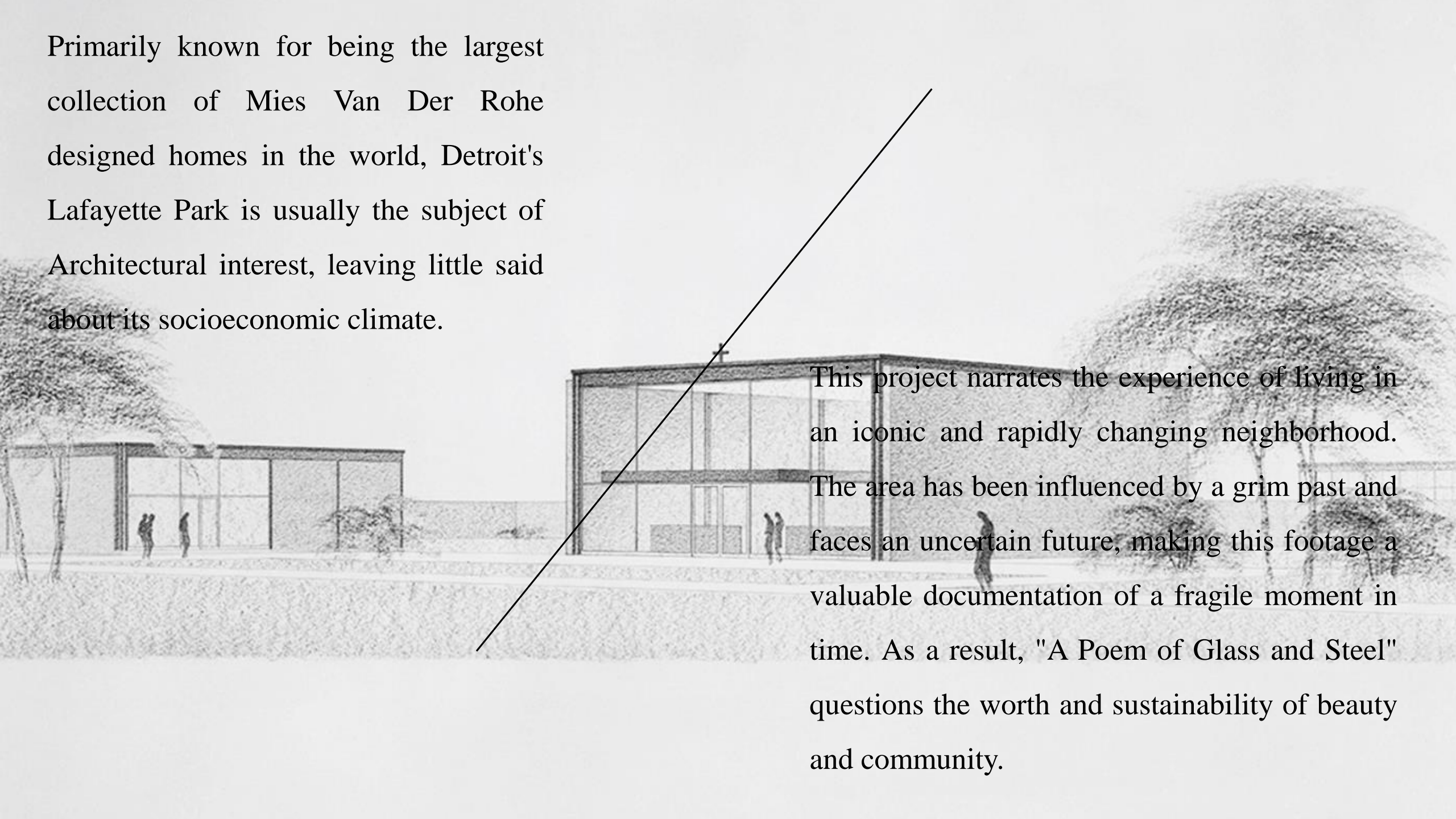


A Film by Ryan Clancy

Concept



Primarily known for being the largest collection of Mies Van Der Rohe designed homes in the world, Detroit's Lafayette Park is usually the subject of Architectural interest, leaving little said about its socioeconomic climate.

An architectural rendering of a modern, two-story glass and steel building. The building features large windows and a flat roof. A prominent diagonal line runs from the bottom left towards the top right, crossing the building. In the foreground, there are silhouettes of people walking on a path. The background shows trees and a clear sky.

This project narrates the experience of living in an iconic and rapidly changing neighborhood. The area has been influenced by a grim past and faces an uncertain future, making this footage a valuable documentation of a fragile moment in time. As a result, "A Poem of Glass and Steel" questions the worth and sustainability of beauty and community.

History



1946:
The poorest section of Detroit's Black Bottom Neighborhood Is identified as a site for slum clearance to make way for the construction of new freeways, public housing, and civic facilities

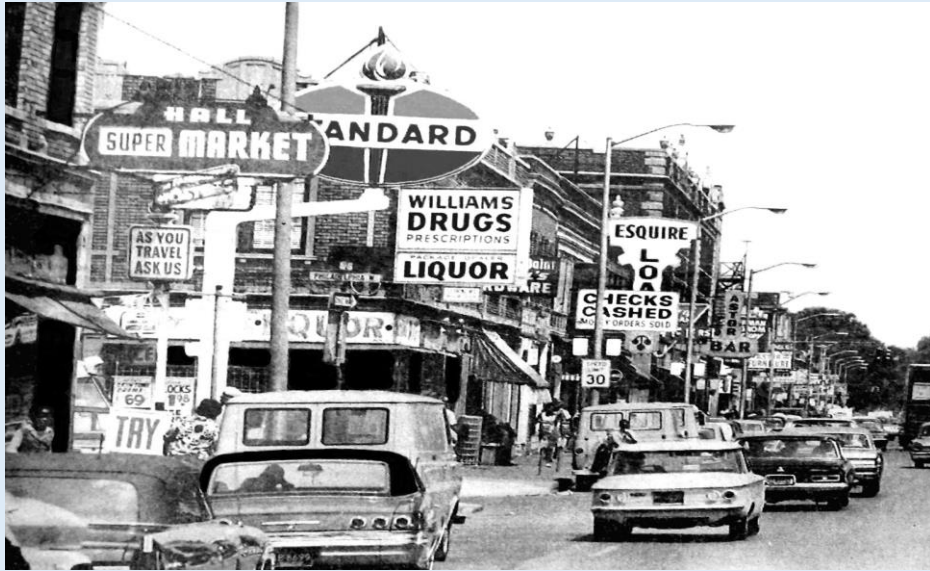
1947-1948:
No structures are razed amid concerns residents would not be able to find housing in an extremely limited market

The city obtains property through eminent domain in order to demolish the buildings and sell the land to private developers

1952:
Relocation of families and demolition of buildings begins

1956:
After six years of the land remaining vacant due to a lack of interest from private developers, Mies Van Der Rohe's site plan is approved

1958-1963:
The Mies designed Pavillion, Towers and Townhouses are opened to the public.



Black Bottom in 1920's



Black Bottom in 1955

Today





The Pavilion & Canopy



Townhomes in Spring



Neil McEachern's Townhome



Lafayette Foods & the Towers



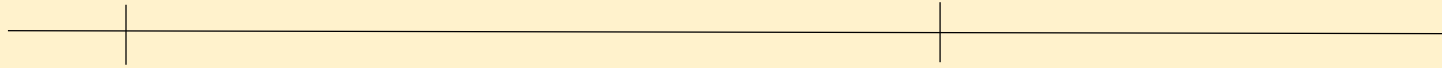
The Park & Honey Locust Trees in Winter



Courthouses in Spring

Beauty & Significance

The landscape design of Alfred Caldwell meets the architecture of Mies Van Der Rohe, offering a forested oasis in the center of an urban environment. Lafayette Park is both a registered Arboretum and National Historic Landmark. It's recognized for its mid-century modern structures evenly spread amongst honey locust trees and hawthorn bushes. The park houses a diverse group of residents; from young families to retirees; lawyers, teachers and artists. Since its opening, Lafayette Park has been an inclusive neighborhood, both racially and economically. It is the only neighborhood developed during the 1960's urban renewal project to still exist.



As the City Changed / As the City Changes

Lafayette Park occupies the land that was once Black Bottom. It's troubling to consider that so much suffering went in to the creation of such a beautiful community. This aspect of an iconic Detroit neighborhood is often times overlooked and ignored.

Today, the city faces similar changes. Massive amounts of money and resources are pumped into infrastructure and redevelopment programs. This forces housing prices to rise. As they do, neighborhoods and the people who occupy them gradually change. Four years ago, Lafayette Park Townhouses were going for less than \$90,000. Now, it's not possible to find one going for anything less than \$450,000. What will this area look like in five years? Who will live here?

Technical Specifications:

Title: A Poem of Glass and Steel

Year of Production: 2016

Country of Production: United States of America

Genre: Documentary

Shoot Gauge: Arri Sr2, Kodak Vision 3 Super 16mm

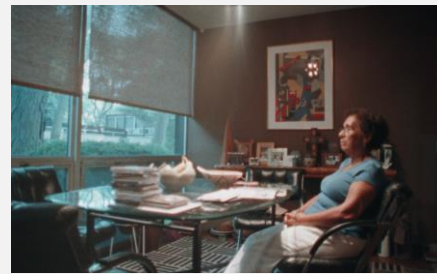
Finish Gauge: 2k Scan, HD 1080p Quicktime Movie

Aspect Ratio: 16:9

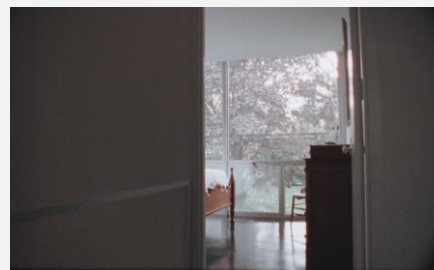
Language: English



Still from trailer "Cal's Sculpture"



Still from trailer "Jackie Stares out Window"



Still from trailer "Outside Debra's Guestroom"



Still from trailer "Lindsey and Brandon and their Dogs"

Crew

Ryan Clancy

Credit: Writer, Director, Cinematographer

Current research graduate student of Journalism at Wayne State University, Ryan Clancy is a published Detroit filmmaker, journalist and photographer with work featured in Stand Quarterly, Miesdetroit.org, Arch daily and Elusive magazine



Cameron Giniel

Credit: Assistant Director, Sound Engineer

Graduate of the University of Michigan's school of Media Studies, Cameron has worked as a cinematographer, editor and sound engineer on a variety of PBS funded video and film series that focus on the socio-economic climate of Detroit.



Mark Macinnis

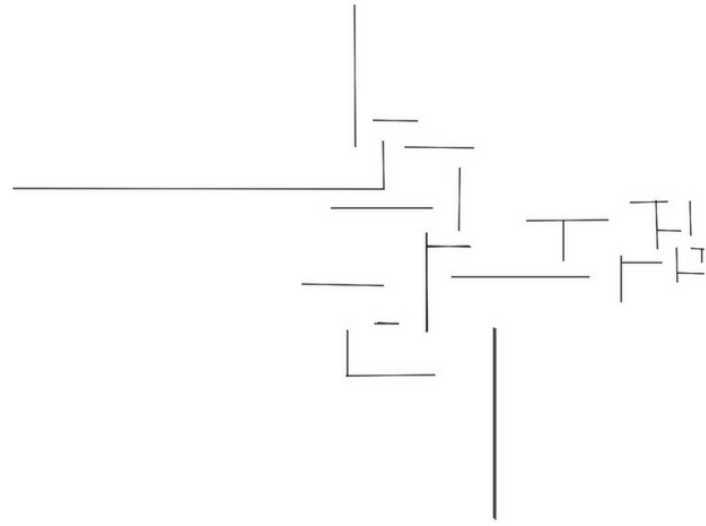
Credit: Executive Producer

Established Detroit filmmaker and producer. His film Urban Roots opened in 70 cities and can be found in Whole Foods markets throughout the US.



Poster

A POEM OF GLASS AND STEEL



A FILM BY RYAN CLANCY