

a stone's throw | A Room with a View¹ | Saturday, 8.8.2020, 10am-1pm (PDT)



Image credit: Haruka Sakaguchi for The New York Times

Approaching early June, as civil rights protests mounted nationwide, many commercial districts in major U.S. cities began boarding up their storefronts, signaling a prioritization in the preservation of property over the enticements of commerce and the outward-facing optimism of an eventual re-opening.

Entering July, an online initiative, conceived by a couple longing to travel while sheltered-in-place, invited anyone, anywhere to frame, record, and share an uninterrupted outward view from within a contributor's current residence, calling it WindowSwap. As an exercise, this collective endeavor of inviting strangers in, so as to look out, coalesces [house swapping](#) with [slow T.V.](#) – A query of where the quotidian meets the picturesque in a single shot.

As of July 31, the federal [CARES Act](#) (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act) expired and with it the safeguard on evictions, placing an estimated 23 million U.S. household renters into further speculative crises, picturing themselves soon homeless unless new legislation from the top is conferred in discussions in which they cannot take part.

¹ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=441y5bp5_qU

This summer session of a stone's throw concludes in consideration of this trio of views: a public blocked from brick and mortar aggregate consumption of (non)essential goods, to individuals seeking virtual respite, gazing out of distant windows by peering into a personal screen with the mutual ability to add their own in-kind to this house of glass amalgam, to the impending turmoil for American citizens, *en masse*, no longer having a clear division to look into and out from.

-Adam Feldmeth

Resources

Boarded Storefronts

[In the U.S., Luxury Brands Board Up the Store](#), Elizabeth Paton, NYTimes, 3.27.2020

[Coronavirus inspires new look in retail: Boarded-up storefronts](#), Paul Schwartzman, The Washington Post, 3.30.2020

[As Black Lives Matter Protests Continue, Some NYC Art Galleries Board Up Storefronts](#), Hrag Vartanian, Hyperallergic, 6.4.2020

[Plywood](#), [Steven Hirsch](#), 6.4-8.2020

Resources cont.

Residential Views

[WindowSwap](#)

[Window Swap Lets You Enjoy the View From Other People's Windows Around the World](#), Andrea Romano, Travel+Leisure, 7.16.2020

[WindowSwap lets you cycle through picturesque views from all over the world](#), William Joel, 7.16.2020

Imminent Evictions

[We Can Stop the Coming Eviction Crisis](#), Karen Narefsky, Jacobin Magazine, 7.30.2020

