

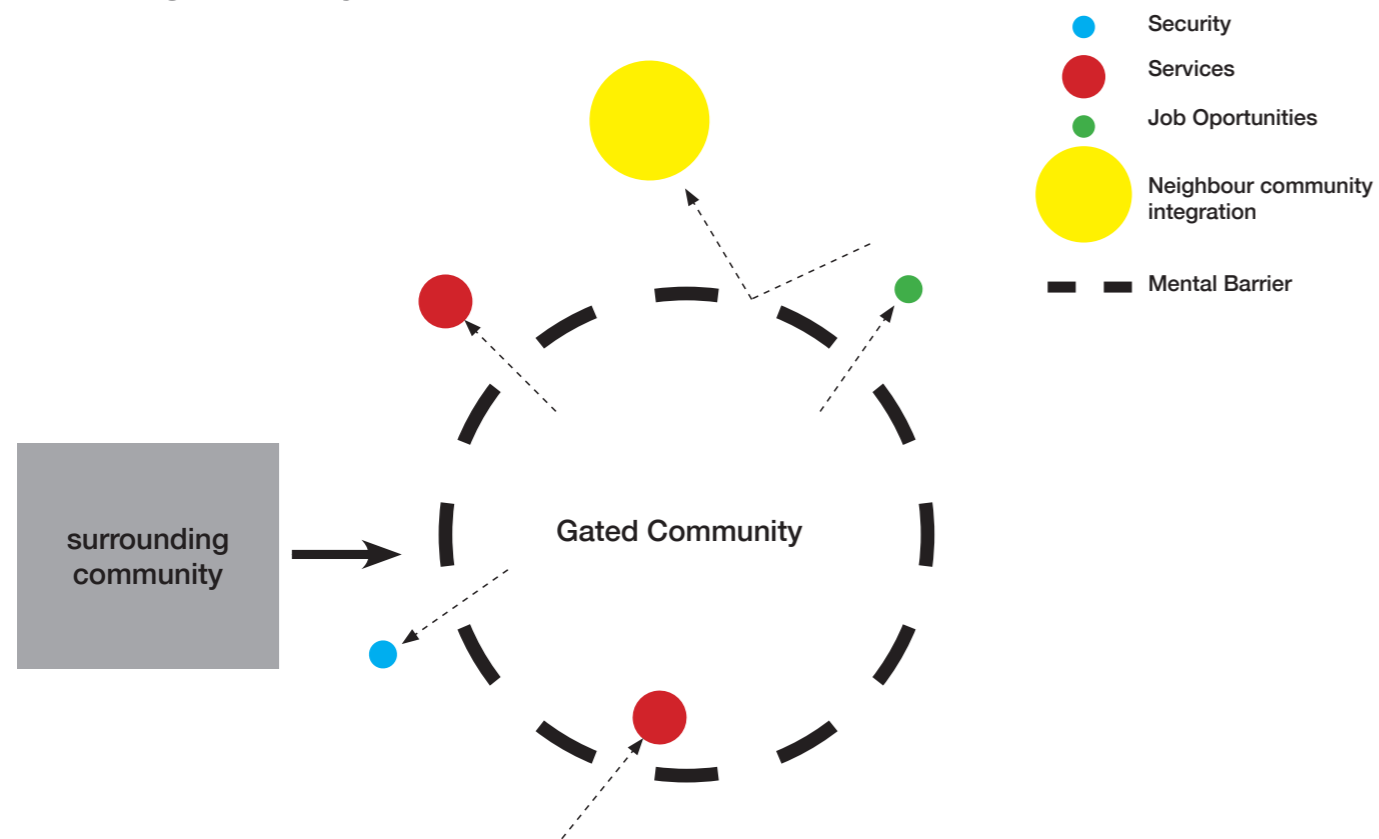
# SECURITY AND GATED COMMUNITIES

## WHAT IS A GATED COMMUNITY?

In its modern form, a gated community is a form of residential community or housing estate containing strictly-controlled entrances for pedestrians, bicycles, and automobiles, and often characterized by a closed perimeter of walls and fences. Gated communities usually consist of small residential streets and include various shared amenities.

## LIVE GATED: GOOD OR BAD?

Certain persistent criticisms of these communities are that **they are sources of segregation and social inequality**, and that they feed the disintegration of society. By contrast, opportunities are found for some in the promise of security, a fashionable lifestyle, exclusivity, better basic services and an expectation of community. Ironically with security being the most highly-expected benefit of living in a gated community, greater insecurity tends to result in reality. This is due to an obsession with security which leads to enclosure, which leads to mistrust, thus furthering insecurity.



Barrio Alto was constructed next to villa la esperanza, a poor residential area on the outskirts of northern Santiago, Chile. While it may be expected that such an enclosed typology in proximity to a lower-income neighbourhood would cause resentment and frustration, this was not the case. Rather, the inhabitants of villa la esperanza cited many benefits due to the new Barrio Alto. Among these were improved quality

of life, better job opportunities, less social stigma on geospatial location, increased value of land and improved security conditions. In the other hand the physical proximity of Barrio Alto did not, however, result in community integration, with the mental barrier of other remaining firmly in place. The notion of separating a community by a wall or gate not only does not improve security, it further cements the isolation of those with a different socio-economic background.



Hidden Hills is an incorporated city, and also a gated development in Los Angeles County, California, United States. The population was 1,875 at the 2000 census. It is located in the westernmost San Fernando Valley. It is one of the wealthiest cities in the United States.

When the gated community of Hidden Hills -- whose residents include Frankie Avalon, Bob Eubanks and Neil Diamond -- was threatened with a Superior Court Order to provide 48 units of senior citizen housing outside the gates, they complained that the old people would attract drugs and crime. The Federation has since grown to over 50 affiliations and, with its massive financial and legal powers, took on an even broader role.