

Columbia University
Graduate School of Architecture Planning and Preservation
New York/Paris Program

A4027 APP: Architecture, Planning, and Preservation: New York

Thursdays, 10 am - 1 pm

(class begins September 4, 2025)

Fall semester 2025

Avery 505 and field trips.

No prerequisites

Instructor: Rosalie Genevro

Instructor email: rg3081@columbia.edu

Office hours: Thursday afternoon or Friday morning, by appointment; please make an appointment by email.

Last update: 8/29/25

New York City is magnificent, and overwhelming, in its variety, complexity, and intensity. Understanding the genesis and interactions of its physical and social forms is the work of a lifetime. The goal of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation: New York (APP), a core course for the New York semester of The Shape of Two Cities program, is to offer students a substantial foundation on which to build that understanding. The course is designed to develop students' capacities as urbanists who can read the form of the city and the cultural, material, and economic imperatives that create and continuously act on it. The class offers an overview of the historical forces and events that have shaped the built environment of New York City, and a close look at selected issues and controversies that are influencing contemporary development. The roles of architects, planners, preservationists, as well as advocates and activists, government employees, and other actors who participate in city-building are all considered. The course will draw on different forms of knowledge, study, and communication, to learn from the multiple affinities, types of expertise, talents, and characteristics that are necessary to understand something as fundamental as the human relationship to place and habitation, and human impulses to resist, accommodate, or welcome change. Class lectures, readings, and discussions will encompass history, theory, and public policy; field trips will visit representative sites to help students understand contemporary dynamics of design, planning, and policy decisions that shape the city.

The course is structured around four themes--economy, environment, public realm, and housing—to organize study of the functions of the city that New York's built environment must serve.

Over the semester, students will develop the following:

1. Capacity to carry out, and appreciate the importance of, close observation of existing form and use in the city
2. Capacity for analysis and critical evaluation of form of the built environment and dynamics of its development
3. Solid overview of structure of economy and government in New York City, and how they along with design, planning, preservation, real estate, and citizen activism shape the development of the city
4. Fundamental understanding of the history of New York City, and capacity to access and use its rich historiography and primary documents such as maps and photographs to develop deeper and more fine-grained understanding of specific locations and the city as a whole

Class Participation:

Students will be expected to complete all assigned readings and be prepared to discuss them in class. Students are encouraged to present questions and initiate discussions. All discussions will be civil, respectful, and supportive of an inclusive learning environment for all students. The balance of presentation and discussion will vary in specific class sessions across the course of the semester.

Required texts:

Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. Vintage Books, 1992. (Original edition 1961).

Plunz, Richard, *A History of Housing in New York City*. Columbia University Press, 1990. Rev. ed. 2016. Online text of 2016 revised edition available from Columbia Libraries [here](#). (This book is apparently out of print, so please plan on using the online version.)

Grading:

Students will be graded on their class preparation and participation, and on the quality of their assignments and final exam. Grading will be weighted as follows:

- 30% Class preparation (completed readings) and participation in discussions.
- 20% First assignment
- 20% Second assignment
- 30% Final exam (take-home; respond to two out of three questions)

Attendance: All students are expected to attend **ALL** class sessions and to be on time for class. In the case of illness, students should email the instructor before the class meeting. In the case of unavoidable and unanticipated absence, students should email the instructor as soon as feasible to explain the absence. All students who miss class for any reason are expected to make up work missed.

Late work or missed presentations: All assignments should be submitted, and all presentations made on the date indicated. Acceptance of late work should not be assumed; cases will be reviewed by instructor on an individual basis.

Use of generative AI: Individuals must complete their own work and properly acknowledge the circumstances, ideas, sources, and assistance upon which the work is based. The use of AI is strictly limited and monitored in this course and if used outside the guidelines to be discussed in class, shall be treated similarly to unauthorized assistance and/or plagiarism per [Columbia University's academic policy](#).

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

Please note: The instructor reserves the right to make modifications to this information throughout the semester. Modifications will be posted to the class page on Courseworks.

Class sessions:

Thursday, September 4: INTRODUCTION

Introduction to the goals and structure of the course. Self-introductions by each student highlighting their goals for the New York/Paris program, their general background and interests, and what they already know and think about New York City.

Overview of the many-faceted physical city and the contemporary structure of governance in New York City. We will discuss the course themes of economy, environment, public realm, and housing, and how they will weave through the semester. We will also discuss, in broad strokes, key concepts and how the work of architects, planners, and preservationists and of specific critical individuals has affected the

development of the city. Introduction to the tradition and literature of close observation as a method of study of the city.

Reading:

Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. Read *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* in its entirety by next week's class; the book will come up often in class discussions, and more specifically on September 11.

Thursday, September 11: SEEING THE CITY

Observations of the city, and ideas about how cities work, by Jane Jacobs and William H. Whyte have had a profound effect on urban policy and design since their seminal works were published between 1960 and 1980. We will discuss essential ideas from these authors' works and why their influence has persisted, as well as critiques of their work. Each student will identify and talk briefly about one observation or concept that Jane Jacobs advances in *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* that they find particularly useful, revelatory, surprising, or wrong, as a prelude to a general discussion of the most influential ideas from the book.

This class session will also include a lecture on the ecological and geographical conditions underlying New York's history.

Reading and viewing:

Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*.

William H. Whyte, <https://archive.org/details/social-life-of-small-urban-spaces>. The iconic filmed observations and voiceover documenting William ("Holly") Whyte's study of how city-dwellers occupy urban space.

ASSIGNMENT #1: DUE 5 PM, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, BY EMAIL TO INSTRUCTOR, RG3081@COLUMBIA.EDU.

The art of close observation of the city, and its transformation into analysis, continues to be masterfully practiced by architects, scholars, and others. For this assignment, you will **choose one** of the following books, and compare its approach to the strategies for city analysis used by Jane Jacobs and/or William Whyte. Please submit a paper of approximately 1500-2000 words. Papers should be double-spaced. The paper may be illustrated if you wish. Be sure to footnote any sources you use.

Joseph Heathcott, *Global Queens: An Urban Mosaic*. Empire State Editions, Fordham University Press, 2023. This book can be downloaded from Project MUSE: <https://muse.jhu.edu/pub/93/monograph/book/111402/pdf>

Rebecca Solnit, Joshua Jelly-Shapiro, *Non-Stop Metropolis: A New York City Atlas*. University of California Press, 2016. (If you choose this book, select one or two pieces for your comparison.)

Michael Sorkin, *Twenty Minutes in Manhattan*. North Point Press, 2013.

Thursday, September 18: ECONOMY: NEW YORK AS A CITY OF EXCHANGE AND PRODUCTION

Lecture by historian Andy Battle on NYC as a manufacturing city, and how the rise and decline of manufacturing shaped the city and its development and politics. What were (and are) the characteristics of New York as a manufacturing city? How did those characteristics get played out in the physical development of the city--including in the growth and decline of particular neighborhoods and building types--and in New York's cultural and social life?

Reading:

Edward Glaeser, "Urban Colossus: Why is New York America's Largest City," National Bureau of Economic Research working paper series, NBER no. w11398, June 2005.
<https://www.nber.org/papers/w11398>

Additional readings may be assigned.

Thursday, September 25: ECONOMY: THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOWER MANHATTAN

Field trip to Lower Manhattan, birthplace of the City of New York, led by architectural historian Carol Willis, founder, director, and curator of The Skyscraper Museum. Instructions on where to meet will be provided during class on September 18.

Thursday, October 2: ECONOMY: THE CAPITAL OF CAPITALISM

Carol Willis will lecture on the financial and organizational structure of real estate development; the history of zoning in New York; and how these and other forces have shaped the physical development of New York City. We will meet at the Skyscraper Museum, 39 Battery Place in Battery Park City, at 10 am.

Readings:

Carol Willis, *Form Follows Finance: Skyscrapers and Skylines in New York and Chicago*, Princeton Architectural Press, 1995. A digital version of the book is available in the Files tab in Courseworks for this class. Please read pp 19-47, 67-101, 145-182.

Carol Willis, "A 3D CBD: How the 1916 Zoning Law Shaped Manhattan's Central Business Districts," (published on the website of The Skyscraper Museum July 25, 2016): live link [here](#)

Andrea Renner and Eric Goldwyn, "Codes of Conduct," *Urban Omnibus*, Jan. 12, 2017:
<https://urbanomnibus.net/2017/01/codes-of-conduct/>

Friday, October 3: ASSIGNMENT #1 due, 5 pm to rg3081@columbia.edu. See above, entry for September 11.

Thursday, October 9: ECONOMY: CRITICAL PLACES AND EMERGING FORMS

Field trip to 2 Penn Plaza and Penn Station. The demolition of the original Penn Station in New York in 1963 catalyzed the modern preservation movement in the city. The replacement station—an all-

underground facility that is the busiest transportation hub in the Western Hemisphere—has been an object of scorn and critique virtually since its construction. Schemes for its improvement or replacement have been put forward on a regular basis over the last several decades, along with development schemes for the surrounding business district. We will visit the completely reimagined office building at 2 Penn Plaza, which sits on the Seventh Avenue end of the superblock where Penn Station is located, and tour the station itself. The visit will be led by Dan Shannon, principal and managing partner of architectural firm MdeAS and one of the city's most knowledgeable and sought-after figures in the regeneration of commercial real estate. MdeAS was a lead collaborator in the reimagining of 2 Penn Plaza as a contemporary workplace.

Readings:

History of Penn Station: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvTOfu9lva8> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-41Eh7fnjO0>

For an overview of the considerations that go into renovating and “repositioning” commercial office buildings: “Reclad and Rework: Updating Midtown’s Office Towers,” interview with Dan Shannon, *Urban Omnibus*, Dec. 9, 2015: <https://urbanomnibus.net/2015/12/reclad-and-rework-updating-midtowns-office-towers/>

For background on MdeAS’s role in the redevelopment of 2 Penn Plaza, read this section of the MdeAS website: <https://www.mdeas.com/penn2>

Thursday, October 16: PUBLIC REALM: LANDSCAPES OF NEW YORK

Who is the public that the public realm of New York is created for and meant to serve? How has the idea of the public, and the public realm, changed over time? Two guest lecturers will discuss critical moments and actors that profoundly influenced the development of public space and the landscapes of New York. Planner and historian Thomas Campanella, author of a new book on influential and prolific landscape architects Gilmore Clarke and Michael Rapuano (*Designing the American Century: The Public Landscapes of Clarke and Rapuano, 1915-1965*), will talk about their work and its role in defining and implementing Robert Moses’s vision for the city. Historian Mariana Mogilevich, editor in chief of *Urban Omnibus* and author of *The Invention of Public Space: Designing for Inclusion in Lindsay’s New York*, will discuss how the very idea of the public and its needs changed in a critical period of the city’s history.

Readings:

Thomas Campanella, “Kruschev’s Due at Idlewild,” introduction to *Designing the American Century: The Public Landscapes of Clarke and Rapuano, 1915-1965*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2025. Available to download from Columbia University Libraries, <https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/ebs110253158e>.

Mariana Mogilevich, “Pedestrian Streets,” History Workshop, 22 February 2021. Essay adapted from *The Invention of Public Space: Designing for Inclusion in Lindsay’s New York*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2020. <https://www.historyworkshop.org.uk/public-space/pedestrian-streets/>

Thursday, October 23: PUBLIC REALM: THE CONTEST FOR THE STREET

The space of the street is a critical, and substantial, part of the overall public space of the city. Manhattan's distinctive grid, created by the Commissioners' Plan of 1811, is a powerful symbol of New York. In recent decades, there has been immense competition for use and control of New York's streets—both the regularized gridiron of Manhattan and the more complicated patterns of streets in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island—as bicyclists, buses, pedestrians, and other uses from restaurants to recreation have vied for position. We will look at the competition for the space of the street, with visits to several sites in Queens that are outcomes of different processes for developing public space, including a plaza in Sunnyside that is transformed for the celebration of the Day of the Dead and the Open Street on 34th Avenue in Queens. Instructions on where to meet will be distributed in class on October 16.

Readings:

Pedro Cruz Cruz, "Market Share," *Urban Omnibus*, Feb 3, 2022, <https://urbanomnibus.net/2022/02/market-share/>

Tanvi Misra, "Beyond Diverse," *Urban Omnibus*, Mar 31, 2022, <https://urbanomnibus.net/2022/03/beyond-diverse/>

Bridget Bartolini, "Story of a Street," *Urban Omnibus*, July 6, 2022, <https://urbanomnibus.net/2022/07/story-of-a-street/>

Deborah Marton, "Bricks and Mortar, Spirit and Souls," *Vital City*, April 4, 2023, <https://www.vitalcitynyc.org/articles/maintaining-the-built-environment>

Option background:

On the Manhattan grid:

The website of an important exhibition on the history of the Manhattan grid: <https://thegreatestgrid.mcny.org/greatest-grid/>

Jason M. Barr and Gerald Koeppe (with additions by Gergely Baics and Leah Meisterlin), "The Manhattan Street Plan: Misconceptions and Corrections," *Gotham Center for New York History*, Dec. 4, 2016, <https://www.gothamcenter.org/blog/gridplanmain>

Thursday, October 30: HOUSING: HISTORY AND CURRENT ISSUES IN NEW YORK CITY HOUSING

New York City has a rich and complex history of need and innovation in housing design, production, and regulation. New York has both learned from strategies first developed elsewhere and provided fertile ground for generation and testing of new approaches. This class session will provide an overview of the history of housing as it has developed for New Yorkers of all income levels.

Housing is perennially a hot political topic in New York City. In 2023 and 2024, the administration of Mayor Eric Adams developed and passed a far-reaching rezoning plan—"City of Yes for Housing Opportunity"—to promote the production of more housing in the city. We will discuss in class features of the plan and what supporters and detractors believe it will produce in the city. We will also discuss the housing agendas and proposals of candidates in the current NYC mayor's race, to illuminate current challenges and approaches.

Readings and viewings:

Essential reference:

Plunz, Richard, *A History of Housing in New York City*. Columbia University Press, 1990. Rev. ed. 2016. Online text of 2016 revised edition available from Columbia Libraries [here](#).

On affordable housing, for this and following two weeks:

Summary of presentation by historian Matthew Lasner in the Architectural League series Housing Brass Tacks, on strategies to produce housing affordability in New York: <https://urbanomnibus.net/2017/02/hbt-affordability/>

“Introduction,” by Matthew Lasner and Nicholas Dagen Bloom, to *Affordable Housing in New York: The People, Places and Policies That Transformed a City* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2019), published by Project MUSE, <https://muse.jhu.edu/pub/267/monograph/chapter/2548804/pdf> (full book available for download at <https://muse.jhu.edu/book/71855>)

Video:

Very useful summary of City of Yes for Housing Opportunity proposals by City Planning Commission Chair Dan Garodnick, in a lecture at New York Law School, Oct. 6, 2023: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqZCgoPXufc&t=1s>, **housing section from 24:50 to 41:00**

City Planning Commission, City of Yes for Housing Opportunity Public Hearing, July 10, 2024. In mid-July the City Planning Commission held a public hearing that lasted fourteen hours, to give citizens and political and community representatives a chance to air their views on the many aspects of the City of Yes proposal. The hearing can be accessed here: https://www.youtube.com/live/70a3WS0I_GI. Please listen to Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine, at time stamp 1:11:13-1:16:26, and City Councilmember Vickie Paladino, at 1:23:19-1:37:31, AND browse through other sections of the testimony, which comes from elected officials and representatives of advocacy organizations as well as concerned private citizens.

The complete, approved plan can be accessed here: <https://www.nyc.gov/content/planning/pages/our-work/plans/citywide/city-of-yes-housing-opportunity>

Articles on density for further reading (optional but useful):

Furman Center, New York University, *State of New York City’s Housing and Neighborhoods in 2014: Density* (Part 1 of the report) https://furmancenter.org/files/sotc/SOC2014_FocusOnDensity.pdf

Ann Forsyth, Design Center for American Urban Landscape, “Measuring Density: Working Definitions for Residential Density and Building Intensity,” (Design Brief Number 8/July 2003) <https://annforsyth.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/db9.pdf>

ASSIGNMENT #2: DUE 5 PM, Friday, November 21, BY EMAIL TO INSTRUCTOR, RG3081@COLUMBIA.EDU.

Assignment #2: The complex saga of housing development and innovation in New York City has long drawn the attention of reformers, architects, economists, planners, builders, politicians, historians, epidemiologists, social workers, activists, and ordinary New Yorkers. Given the significance of housing as the essential building typology of so much of the city, and the many forms it has taken over the centuries of New York’s evolution, a foundational step for anyone who wants to understand housing in the city is to truly *see* and *comprehend* the significance of its physical manifestations and the distinctions and differences that are the product of various ways of conceiving, designing, and building it. For this

assignment, you will walk a specific part of the city—several blocks in every direction from Ninth Avenue and 23rd Street--and describe the different types of housing you see there, in terms of characteristics including scale and density; relationship to the street; relationship to site and open space; how entrances are organized; who appears to occupy the housing now, who you think the housing might have been built for, and building materials, among other characteristics. A map showing the area to be walked, and the assignment itself, will be further discussed in class. The paper documenting your observations and analysis, which should be illustrated with your photographs (and other illustrations if you wish) should be between 1500 and 2000 words. Papers must be double-spaced. You must footnote any sources you use.

Thursday, November 6: HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT: THE VIEW FROM COMMUNITIES

Field trip to several very different Bronx communities: Mott Haven, Coop City, and Throggs Neck. A surge of new development activity is densifying the South Bronx neighborhood of Mott Haven, part of Bronx Community Board 1 and one of the lowest-income communities in New York City. The community board supports the development of mixed-income housing in the district, but is also concerned about preserving affordable housing and maintaining resources for low-income residents. In low-density Throggs Neck, in the eastern Bronx and part of Community Board 10, residents have resisted efforts to introduce denser housing typologies, as a threat to the relatively suburban character of the existing neighborhood. Coop City, in the northeast Bronx, is the paradigmatic expression of “towers in the park” housing—high-rise buildings with a low ratio of building footprint to open ground, set on a vast site. Typically scorned by outsiders, Coop City is much loved by many of its residents.

Jennifer Hock, Nathan Storrying, and Samuel Zipp, “What About Jane?” Urban Omnibus, Mar 3, 2021, <https://urbanomnibus.net/2022/07/story-of-a-street/>

<https://communityprofiles.planning.nyc.gov/bronx/1>

[District Needs Statement FY26 from Bronx Community Board 1](#)

<https://communityprofiles.planning.nyc.gov/bronx/10>

[District Needs Statement FY26 from Bronx Community Board 10](#)

Caitlin Blanchfield, “Cooperative City, Cooperative Community,” Urban Omnibus, May 28, 2014, <https://urbanomnibus.net/2014/05/cooperative-city-cooperative-community/>

Thursday, November 13: HOUSING: NYCHA: REINVIGORATING A CRUCIAL NEW YORK CITY RESOURCE, AND OTHER MODELS FOR SOCIAL HOUSING

The New York City Housing Authority, created in 1934, is the city’s public housing agency. Its current portfolio consists of more than 170,000 apartments, housing more than 500,000 New Yorkers. While NYCHA was for decades considered the best-managed, most effective housing authority in the country, management problems in recent years, along with severe cuts in federal funding leading to underinvestment in maintenance and the aging of the building stock, have created a far-reaching crisis for this essential New York housing resource. Architect Mark Ginsberg, who is one of the city’s leading designers of affordable housing and president of the board of the Citizens Housing and Building Council, will discuss his firm Curtis + Ginsberg Architects’ work with NYCHA and other housing developers. Nathan Rich, principal of the innovative firm PRO/Peterson Rich Office, will discuss his firm’s work to

reimagine the ways in which NYCHA's campuses could be used to provide better conditions for current residents as well as additional housing for other New Yorkers.

NYCHA Fact Sheet: https://www.nyc.gov/assets/nycha/downloads/pdf/NYCHA_Fact_Sheet.pdf

Curtis Ginsberg Architects, <https://www.cplusga.com/>

PRO/Peterson Rich Office, <https://www.petersonrichoffice.com/>

Jayah Arnett, "The Inside Story," Urban Omnibus, October 31, 2024,
<https://urbanomnibus.net/2024/10/the-inside-story/>

Thursday, November 20: ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING: CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND THE FUTURE OF NEW YORK

As a waterfront city, with 520 miles of coastline, New York is extremely vulnerable to rising sea level—and the city is also subject to frequent flooding, in neighborhoods far from the waterfront, from "cloudburst events" that drop a huge amount of rainfall in short periods of time, and to extreme heat that takes its biggest toll in low-income neighborhoods. The impact of climate change will exacerbate the city's and region's housing crisis, intensify inequality, and create enormous challenges for the functioning and maintenance of infrastructure across the city. What are the city's plans and tools to deal with these realities?

Reading:

Regional Plan Association, Averting Crisis: Zoning to Create Resilient Homes for All (April 2025),
<https://rpa.org/work/reports/averting-crisis>

Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice, EJNYC: A Study of Environmental Justice Issues in New York City, <https://www.nyc.gov/content/climate/pages/environmental-justice> Please read executive summary and scan the rest of the report.

City of New York, PlaNYC: Getting Sustainability Done

City of New York web page on PlaNYC: Getting Sustainability Done:
<https://www.nyc.gov/content/climate/pages/planyc-getting-sustainability-done>

2024 update: <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/climate/downloads/pdfs/PlaNYC-2024-Progress-Report.pdf>

Please scan web page and update for highlights.

Additional reading (optional):

"Cleaning Up?" An exploration of what it means to live in, build on, and design for a city of pervasive toxicity. *Urban Omnibus* feature series, May 26, 2021 – January 18, 2023.

Friday, November 21: ASSIGNMENT #2 due, 9 pm to rg3081@columbia.edu. See above, entry for September 11.

(NO CLASS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27. THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY)

Thursday, December 4: Summary and review of class topics and themes.

DUE: Monday, December 15: TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM.

Questions for the final exam will be distributed in the last class of the semester on Thursday, December 4. Completed exams will be due by 5 pm, Monday, December 15, 2025. Completed exams must be submitted to the instructor's email, rg3081@columbia.edu, by the deadline.

Knowledge flourishes when inquiry is free and respectful. This class, which has been approved as part of the Columbia curriculum by appropriate faculty bodies, aims to advance knowledge through discussion, debate, and carefully selected readings and assignments. In accordance with principles of academic freedom promulgated by the American Association of University Professors and affirmed by many universities, including Columbia, the instructor has the authority to set the class syllabus, which may include controversial material relevant to topics being studied. While all participants and their views will be treated respectfully, no one should expect to be shielded from challenging or even upsetting ideas, since thoughtfully engaging such ideas is crucial to free inquiry and intellectual growth.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Columbia University Libraries has compiled an excellent list of books, institutions, podcasts, and data sources on historical and contemporary New York City, available here:
<https://guides.library.columbia.edu/reporting/nycbooks>

Online journals and repositories

City Limits, citylimits.org.

“City Limits uses investigative journalism through the prism of New York City to identify urban problems, examine their causes, explore solutions, and equip communities to take action.”

The City, <https://www.thecity.nyc/>

“THE CITY serves the people of New York through independent journalism that holds the powerful to account, deepens democratic participation, and helps make sense of the greatest city in the world.”

NY Focus: Who Runs New York?, nysfocus.com

“New York Focus is an independent nonprofit newsroom investigating power in the Empire State.”

New York Review of Architecture, nyra.nyc.

“*New York Review of Architecture* reviews architecture in New York.”

Places Journal, placesjournal.org

Articles (not solely focused on New York City) on the past, present and future of landscape, architecture and urbanism. “We harness the power of [public scholarship](#) to promote equitable cities and resilient landscapes.”

The Neighborhoods, <https://theneighborhoods.substack.com/p/every-neighborhood-in-new-york-city>

A site by photographer Rob Stephenson, on which he is methodically, poetically, and often humorously documenting neighborhoods across the five boroughs. Excellent historical summaries as well as evocative photographs.

The Skyscraper Museum, skyscraper.org.

Excellent trove of exhibit documentation and program videos, including many New York City-focused book talks, at museum “devoted to the study of high-rise building, past, present, and future. Located in New York City, the world's first and foremost vertical metropolis, the museum celebrates the city's rich architectural heritage and examines the historical forces and individuals that have shaped its successive skylines.”

Urban Omnibus, urbanomnibus.net.

A publication of The Architectural League of New York “dedicated to observing, understanding, and shaping the city. We raise new questions, illuminate diverse perspectives, and document creative projects to advance the collective work of citymaking.”

Classic and essential works on New York City and the history of the built environment in New York

Caro, Robert, *The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York*. Alfred A. Knopf, 1975.

Burrows, Edwin G., and Mike Wallace, *Gotham: A History of New York City to 1898*. Oxford University Press, 1999, and

Mike Wallace, *Greater Gotham: A History of New York City From 1898 to 1919*. Oxford University Press, 2017. The first two volumes of an extraordinarily ambitious history of the city.

Stern, Robert A.M. and collaborators, New York Architecture and Urbanism series, a remarkable set of books documenting buildings and landscapes in New York City:

- Stern, Robert A.M, Thomas Mellins, David Fishman, *New York 1880: Architecture and Urbanism in the Gilded Age*. The Monacelli Press, 1999.
- Stern, Robert A.M., John Montague Massengale, Gregory Gilmartin, *New York 1900: Metropolitan Architecture and Urbanism, 1890-1915*. Rizzoli International, 1983.
- Stern, Robert A.M., Gregory Gilmartin, Thomas Mellins, *New York 1930: Architecture and Urbanism between the Two World Wars*. Rizzoli International, 1987.
- Stern, Robert A.M., Thomas Mellins, David Fishman, *New York 1960: Architecture and Urbanism Between the Second World War and the Bicentennial*. The Monacelli Press, 1995.
- Stern, Robert A.M., David Fishman, Jacob Tilove, *New York 2000: Architecture and Urbanism Between the Bicentennial and the Millennium*. The Monacelli Press, 2006.

Map and photograph collections

Useful historical map collections can also be accessed at the New York Public Library, such as insurance maps:

<https://www.nypl.org/collections/nypl-recommendations/guides/fire-topo-property-maps>

[https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/search/index?utf8=%E2%9C%93&keywords=Sanborn+ maps](https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/search/index?utf8=%E2%9C%93&keywords=Sanborn+maps)

Here is a primer on how to use maps at the New York Public Library:

<https://libguides.nypl.org/c.php?g=1018842&p=7380023>

Remote Map Research at NYPL: Especially for New York

Historical images can be found on this New York Public Library website: <https://www.oldnyc.org/>