

**AIA 2012**

NATIONAL CONVENTION  
AND DESIGN EXPOSITION

MAY 17-19

WALTER E. WASHINGTON  
CONVENTION CENTER  
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# How Design Excellence is making New York a successful 21<sup>st</sup> Century City

SESSION ID: PA400

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

11:30Am – 1:00PM



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# Learning Objectives

1. Assess the value of architects in strategic city planning.
2. Discuss best practices in urban design of one of the world's greatest cities.
3. Recognize how design excellence can affect and improve the lives of ordinary citizens in densely populated settings.

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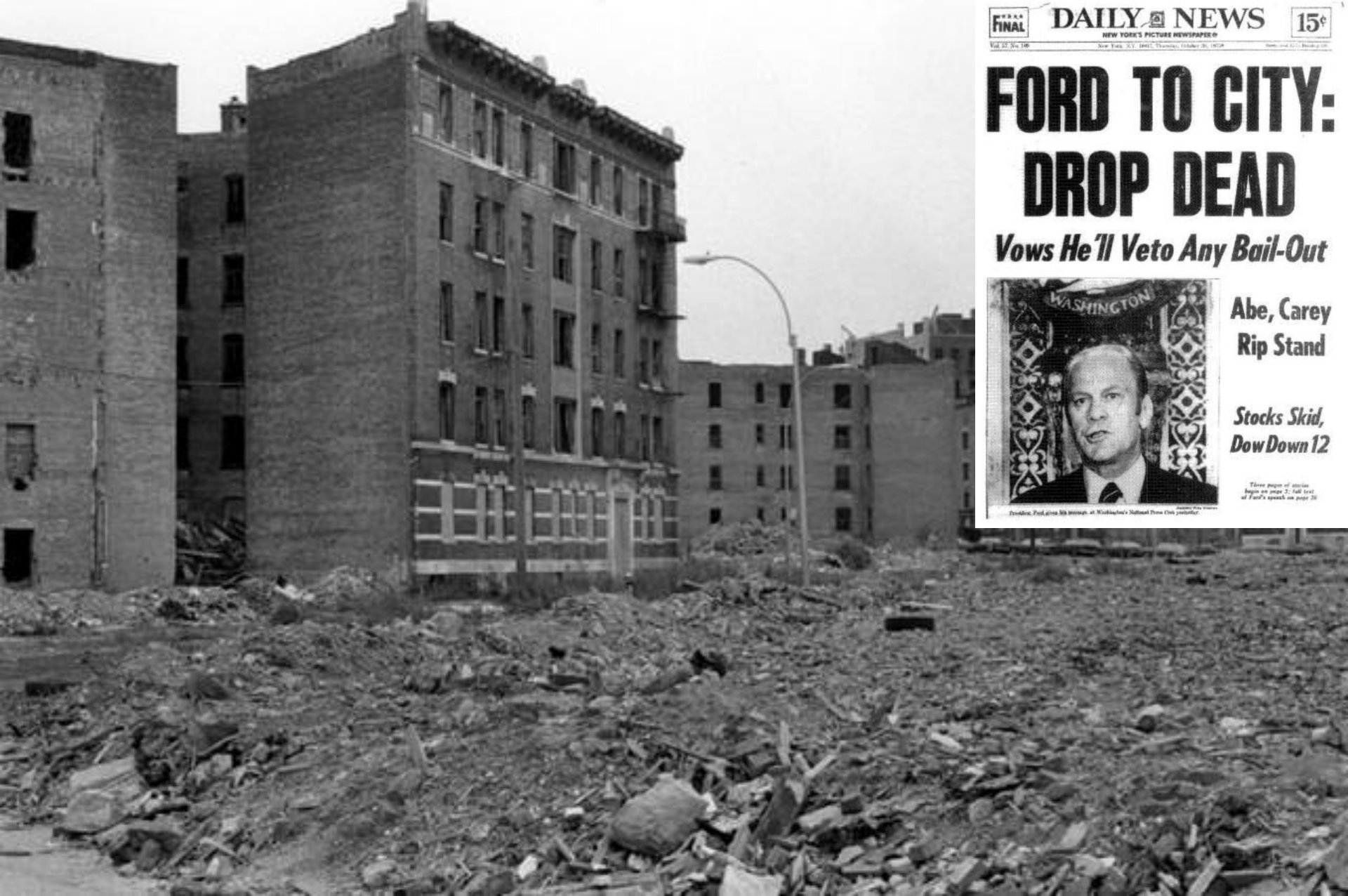
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# Speaker

**David Burney, FAIA**

*Commissioner*

*New York City Department of Design and  
Construction*



# FORD TO CITY: DROP DEAD

***Vows He'll Veto Any Bail-Out***



**Abe, Carey  
Rip Stand**

***Stocks Skid,  
Dow Down 12***

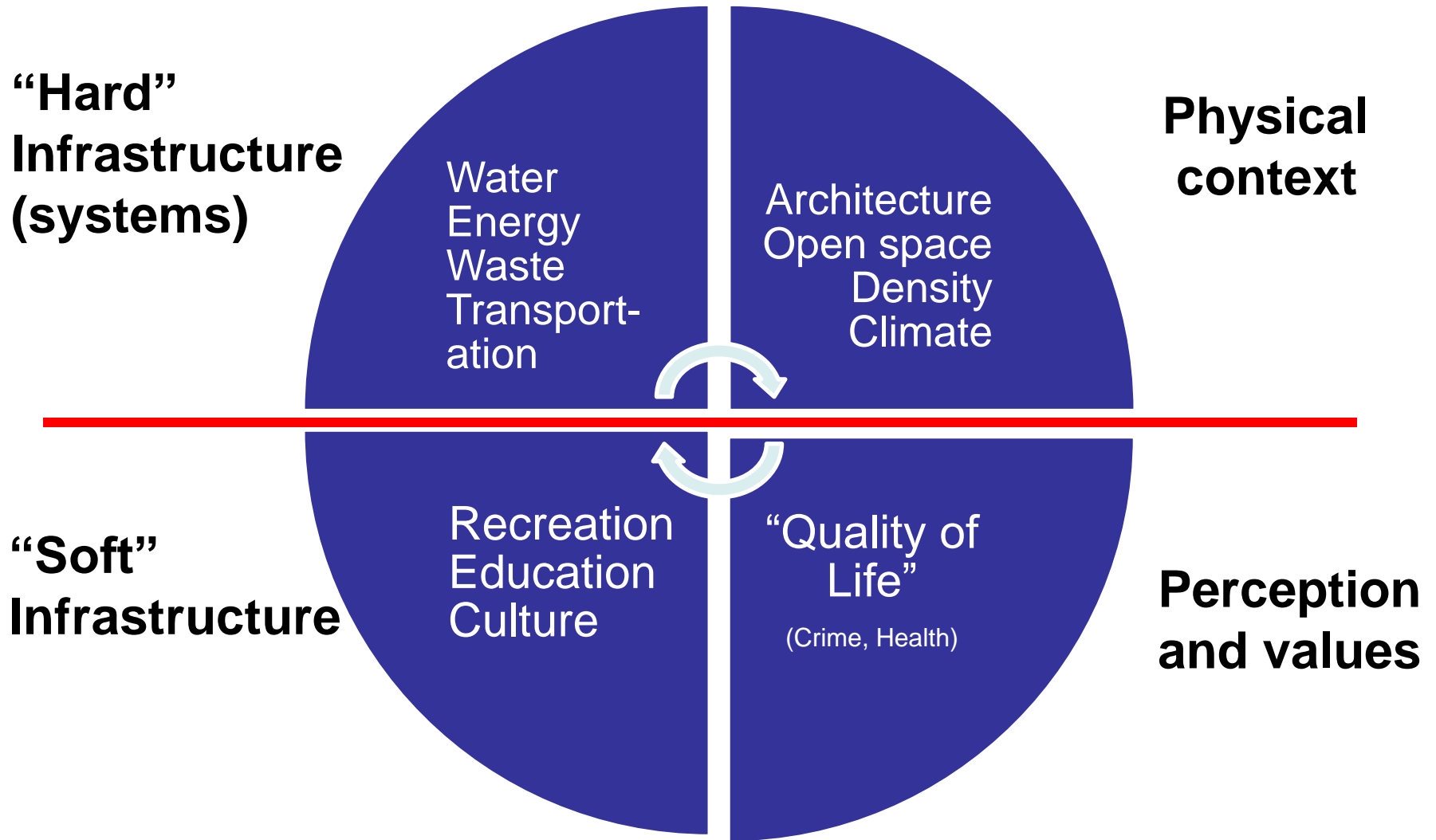
Three pages of stories  
begin on page 2; full text  
of Ford's speech on page 36

**South Bronx, New York City, 1975**



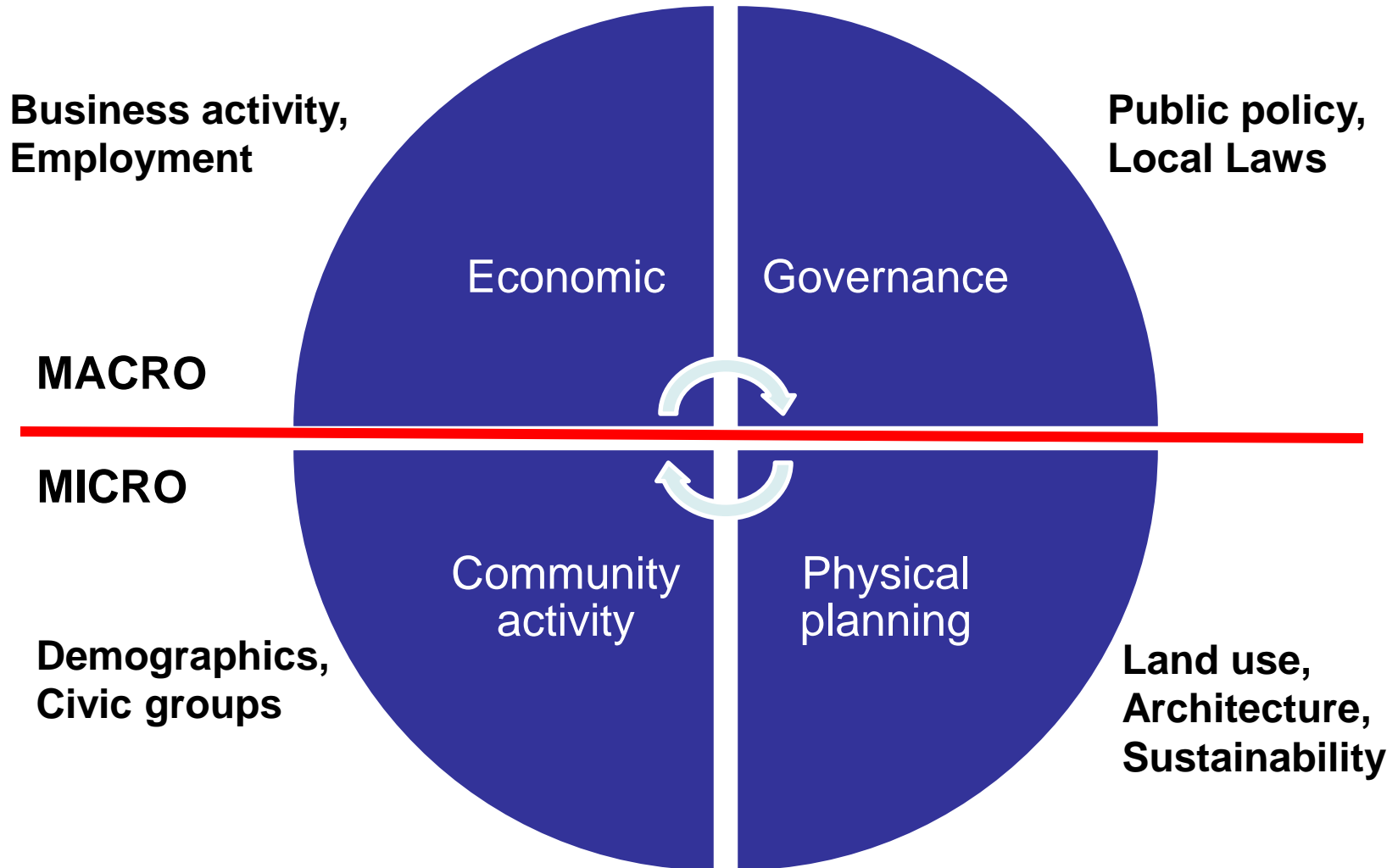


# Fundamentals of Urban Infrastructure



Moving from a Mechanistic to a Biological view of the city.

# Forces that shape change







# A GREENER, GREATER NEW YORK



The City of New York  
Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg

## Introduction

### Land

14  Housing

28  Open Space

40  Brownfields

### Water

50  Water Quality

62  Water Network

### Transportation

72  Congestion

 State of Good Repair

### Energy

98  Energy

### Air

116  Air Quality

130  Climate Change

### Appendices



A GREENER, GREATER NEW YORK

# Design and Management of Public Spaces



**“You can measure the health of a city by the vitality and energy of its streets and public spaces.”**

**William H. Whyte**



**We tend to think of cities in terms of their buildings, but in fact we spend far more time OUTSIDE those buildings than inside. The space between buildings can be SLOAP (“Space Left Over After Planning”), or it can be properly designed to improve the quality of life in our cities.**





In the past month:

15,709 Tweets about Internet Access  
75 Tweets about Access to Medicine

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# Place Matters: How One Radio Show Makes the Case Every Week

By Charles R. Wolfe

Katherine Loflin interviews a diverse group of people, from celebrities to students, about the importance of place from their perspective



"Place matters" is a familiar declaration. Its common use shows that profiling places, especially creative, urban places, is very much in vogue. For instance, the phrase graces the *Atlantic Cities* masthead, is the title of a New York City project that protects distinctive local environments, frames a non-profit corporation, and is a campaign of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Public awareness of the importance of public space is growing.....

DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA

## The Occupy Movement and the New Public Space

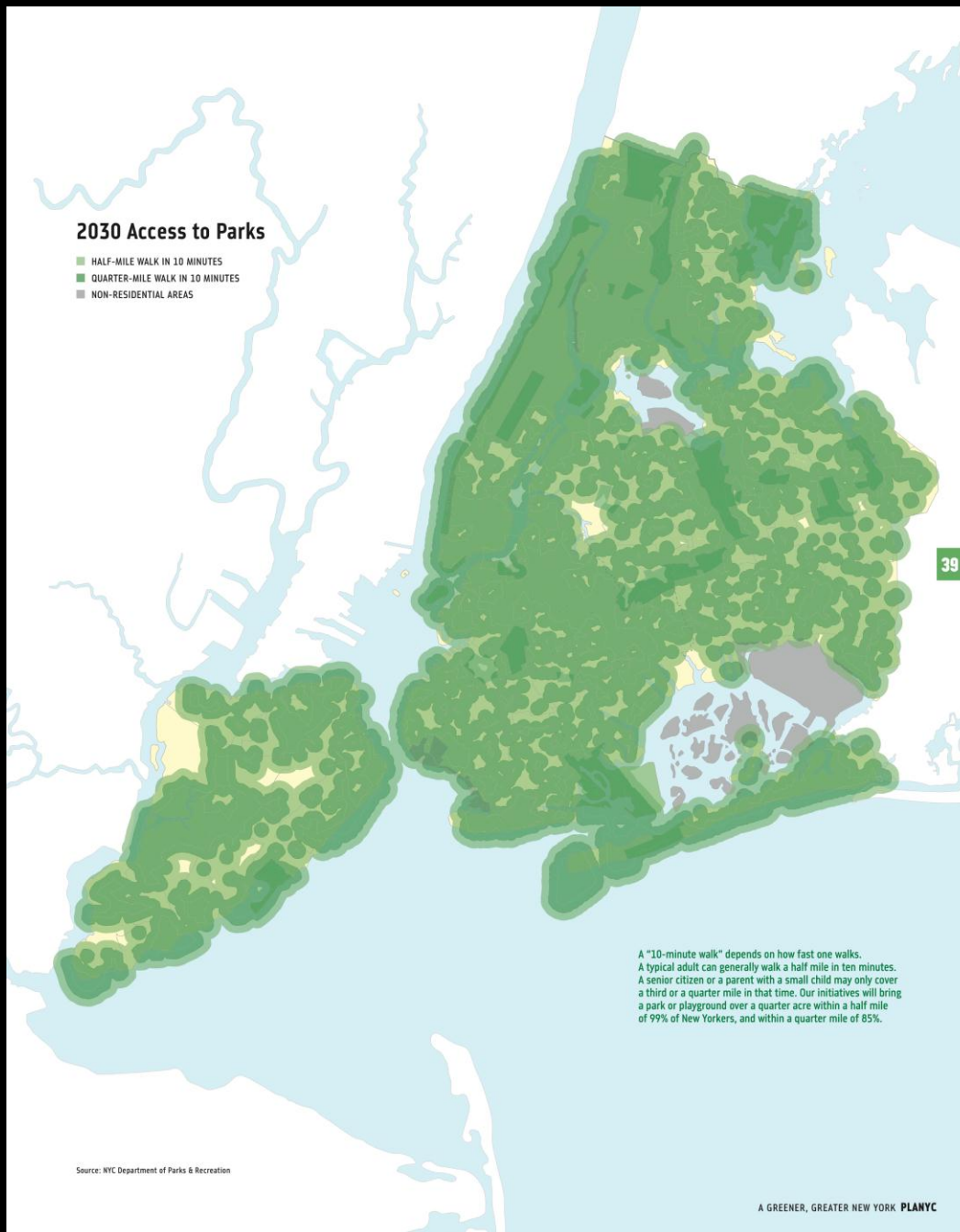
NATE BERG NOV 22, 2011 7 COMMENTS



## CREATING PLACES FOR PEOPLE

AN URBAN DESIGN PROTOCOL FOR AUSTRALIAN CITIES





**Public space planning is already an active issue in city planning.**

**A goal of New York City's PlaNYC - Provide a park within a 10 minute walk of every resident.**





**“In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century street, cars, pedestrians and cyclists all share an integrated space.”**

**(DoT – sponsored design competition for 4<sup>th</sup> avenue in Brooklyn.)**





**The City is changing the role of transportation:  
Currently, 89% Of road space is devoted to vehicles, 11% to people.**



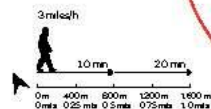
## A Walking (and Bicycling) City

New Yorkers spend a lot of time in the public realm as a result of the city's density, which promotes walking, public transit riding and, increasingly, bicycling. Improving walking conditions will benefit everyone in New York City, create more pleasant links between destinations and provide an environment that is enjoyable as well as functional.

**Most New Yorkers are never more than a 20 minute walk away from a subway or train station.**



10 and 20 min walking catchment area to subway and train stations.



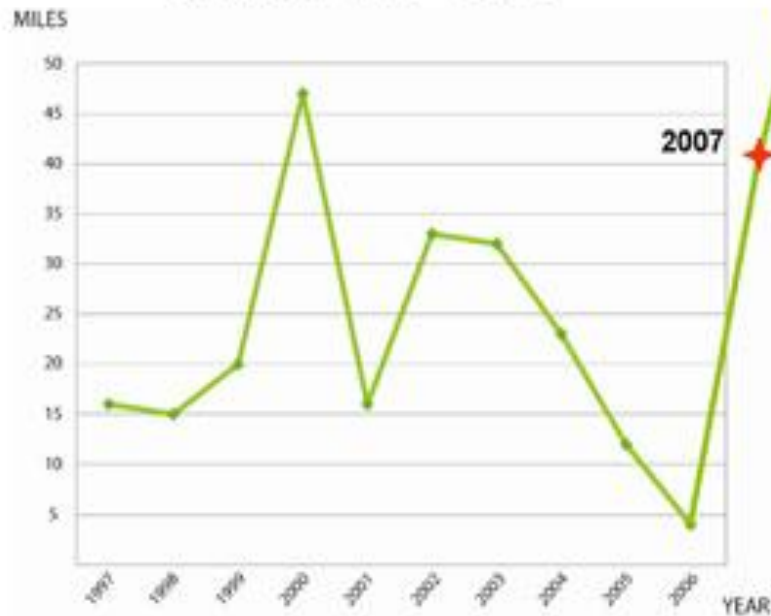
Calculated Manhattan walking distances shown in minutes.

**New York City is already changing its transportation policies.**

## Background – Trends

*Cycling is on the rise in New York City:*

Miles of New Bicycle  
Facilities 1997 - 2006



DOT Annual Count of Bicycles Entering  
Manhattan Core 1985 - 2006



*Current Annual count: More than doubled (116%) from 2000 – 2008;  
35% increase from 2007 to 2008.*



**Install 5,000 CityRacks and 37 bicycle parking shelters by 2011.**



Downtown, Brooklyn

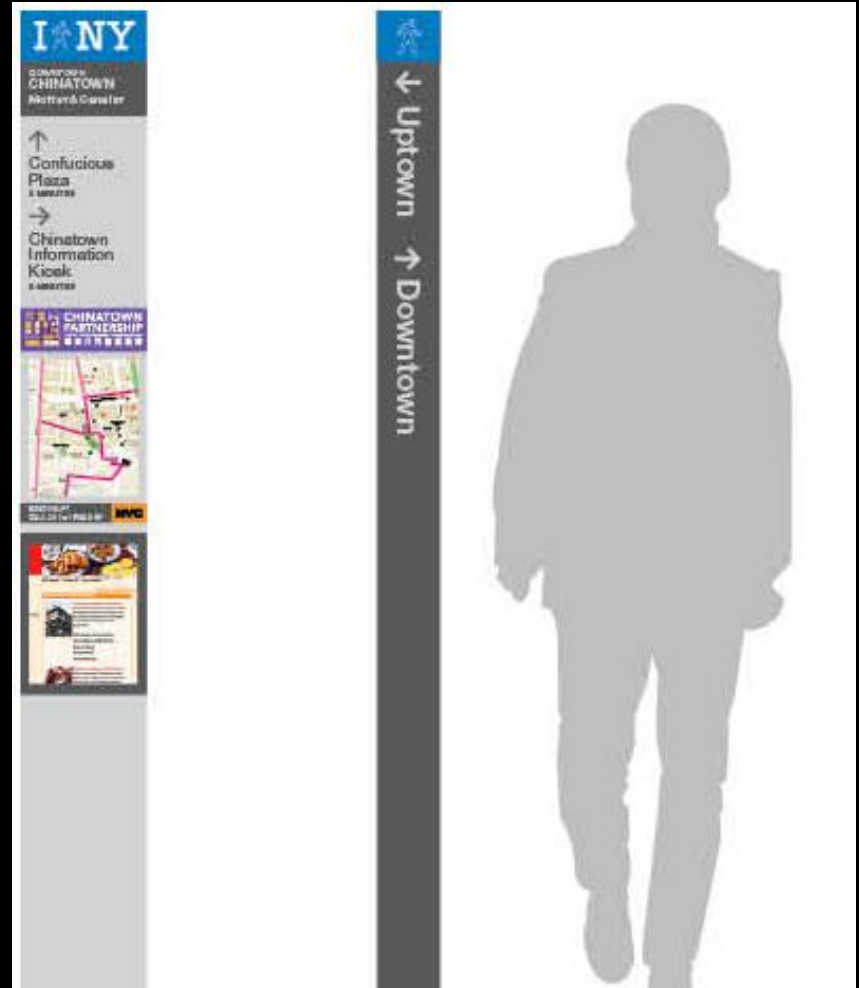
# Industrial design is providing new street furniture.

Designing streetscapes within a citywide vocabulary...



# Signage systems make public places more legible.

...





## Closed Façades

### Problems with Metal Gates

Sidewalks can be partially illuminated at night by light spilling from closed shops and offices. Metal gates, however, not only limit this ambient light, but also become canvases for graffiti and dirt that further detract from the quality of the city environment. In addition, shuttered streets become uninteresting and unfriendly outside business hours.

While protecting one's business is of course necessary, business owners could elect to use a more street-friendly design. For example, stores could use lattice work grating instead of the solid metal gates.

Metal gates are not only a problem at night, creating dark and unpleasant streets with nothing to look at, but also after closing hours on weekends, creating uninviting, lifeless and uninteresting streets.



No invitation for a Sunday promenade here.



Open-grilled gates maintain safety but create a more interesting building front along the sidewalk.

The design of the façade of buildings has an impact on the quality of public spaces.



**Landscape design enhances even the most urban public places.**







South Street Waterfront Esplanade, Manhattan

**A City's  
greatest public  
asset – its  
waterfront.**



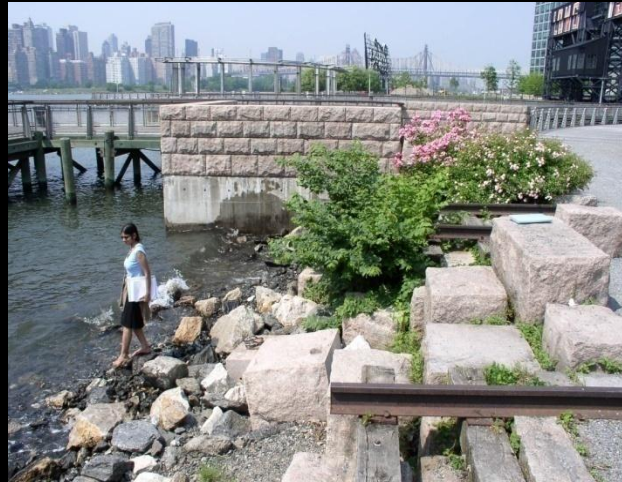
South Street Waterfront Esplanade, Manhattan

**A New York  
City goal –A  
continuous  
publicly  
accessible  
waterfront  
esplanade  
around the City**



# Improving the waterfront

## Waterfront Access







## Progress on the Waterfront: New Parks



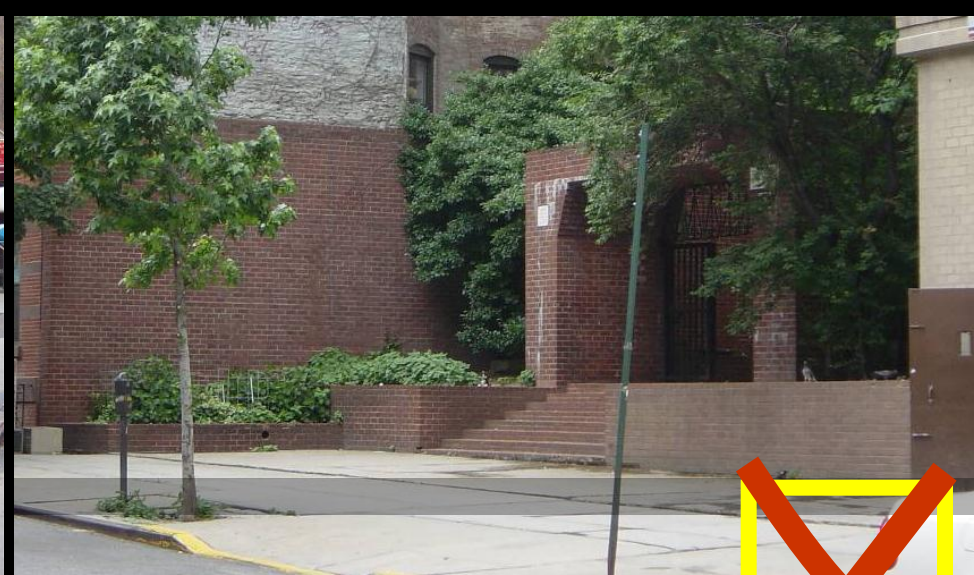
**Improving the waterfront:**

**Large waterfront parks where space allows**



# City zoning policy

Privately Owned Public Spaces (POPs) have not always been successful.





# City Zoning Policy

New design guidelines for POPs have been more successful.





# Historic preservation

Some Residential Streetscapes require Preservation





# Economic vitality – An important requirement of successful public spaces



Stone Street, NYC



Farmers Market, NYC



## Few Opportunities to Stop

### EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES



Sitting on café chairs.



Sitting on secondary seating.



Commercial activities.



Standing.

With the exception of Flushing Main Street, the areas surveyed in New York have a significantly lower ratio of stationary activities per 100 yards of street compared to other capital cities. Sitting activities are especially few in New York.

The type of stationary activities found in New York's streets are very different than those found in other world cities. A majority of the stationary activities recorded on Flushing's Main Street are commercial activities associated with street vendors. The majority of the stationary activities recorded along Swanston Street in Melbourne, by contrast, are associated with people window shopping or relaxing in public benches, café chairs/secondary seating.

The promotion and management of retail activity is vital to the success of public spaces.



*“If you want to seed a place with activity,  
put out food.” - William H. Whyte*





# What is a Public Market?

## Public Markets and Community Revitalization



Public Markets...

- ✓ Have Public Goals
- ✓ Operate in Public Spaces
- ✓ Serve Locally Owned and Operated Businesses



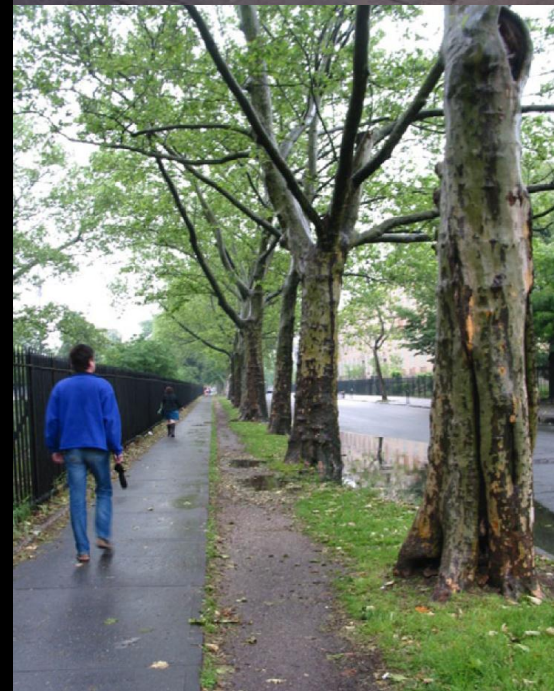


NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
DESIGN + CONSTRUCTION

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Mathews Nielsen Landscape Architects PC

June 2008



**Best practices in stormwater management and landscape design can make public places more sustainable.**





**Public Art can enhance the quality of public spaces**



**HEALTH BENEFITS** - Creating a more enticing and walkable public realm can result in 35-161% increase in physical activity (e.g. walking).



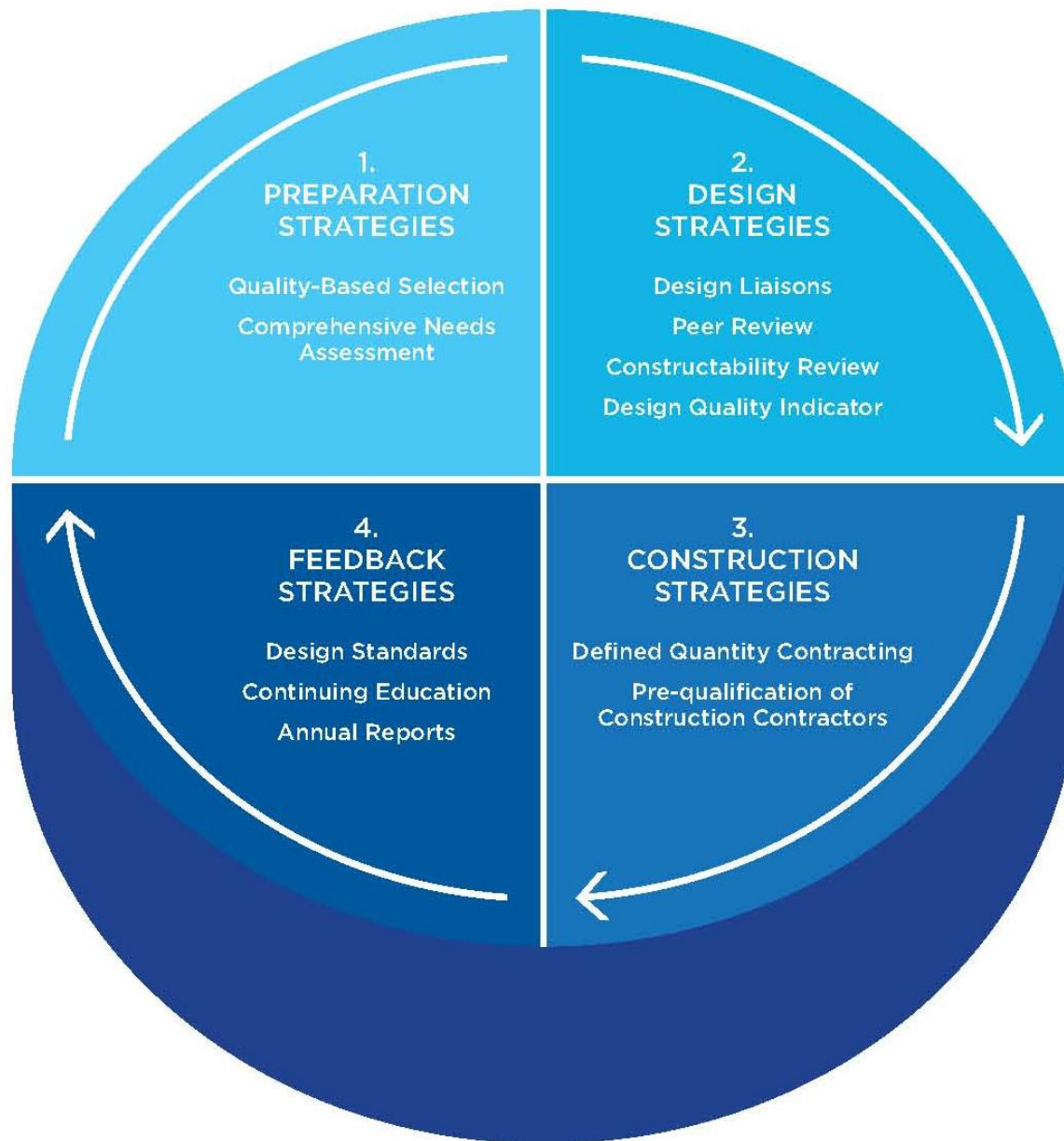
**THE CITY OF NEW YORK**  
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**EXCELLENCE**

How New York City is Improving  
its Capital Program



[www.nyc.gov/buildnyc/  
publications](http://www.nyc.gov/buildnyc/publications)

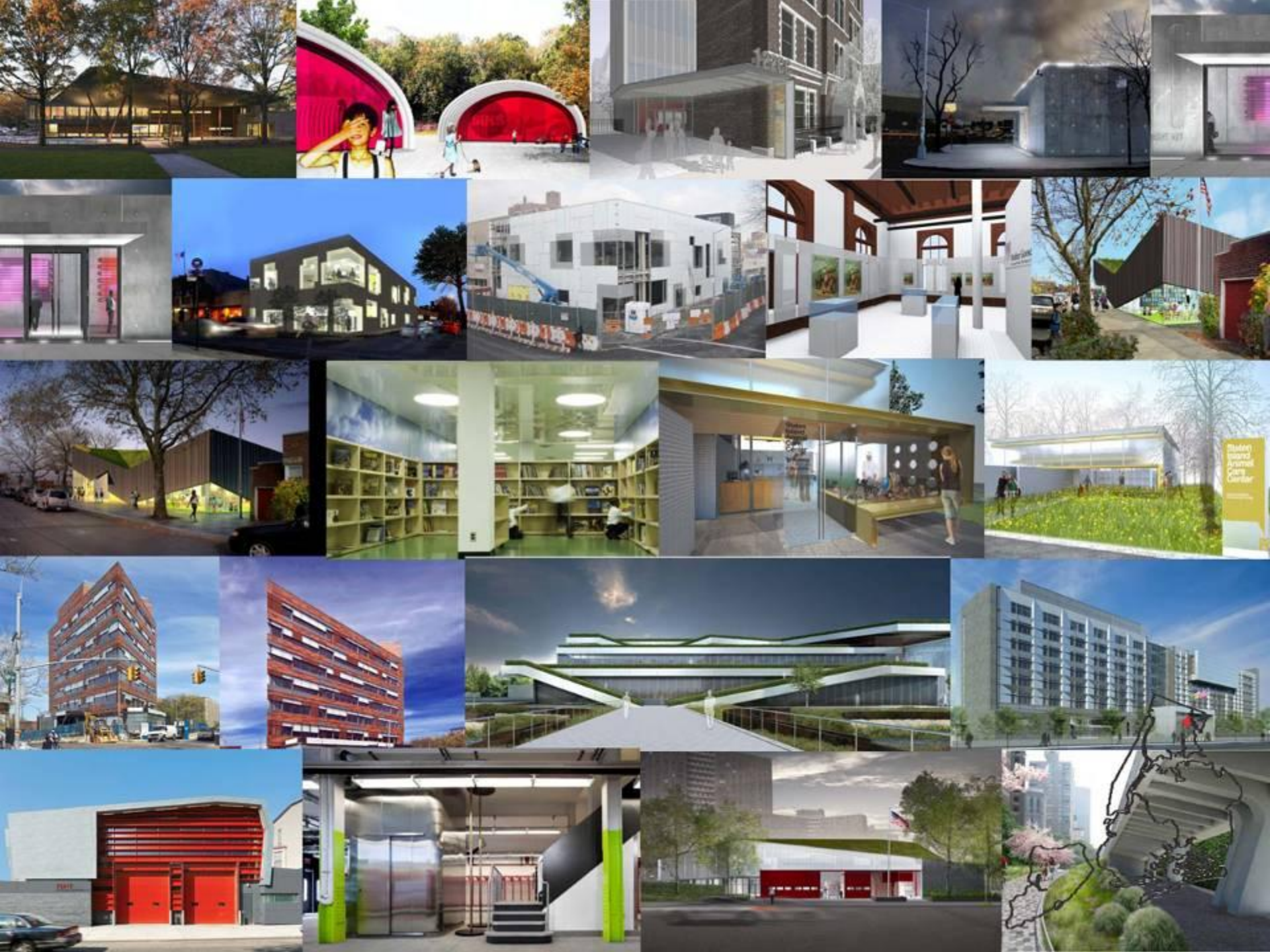




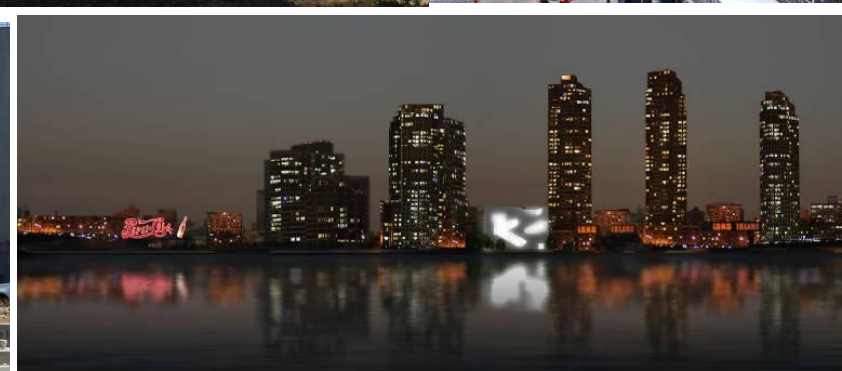
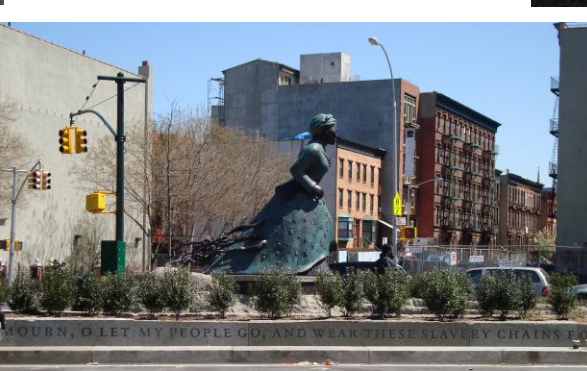
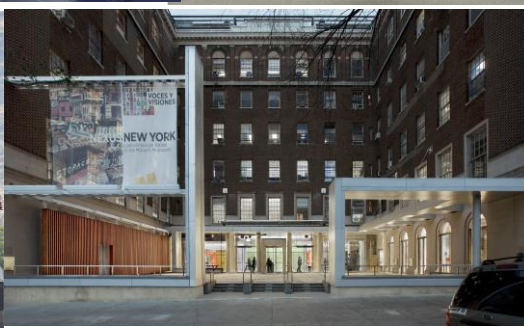
**DESIGN + CONSTRUCTION EXCELLENCE STRATEGIES**















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