Robert Moses
First Year Seminar
Hostos Community College
Lydia Manatou
Winner of the Pulitzer Prize

THE POWER BROKER
Robert Moses and the Fall of New York

by ROBERT A. CARO
ROBERT MOSES NEVER LEARNED TO DRIVE...
Parkways

Wantagh Parkway, 1929

Northern State Parkway (in red), 1930

Ocean Parkway, 1929

Meadowbrook State Parkway, 1934
Henry Hudson Bridge, 1936
Bridges that connect the Bronx and Queens

Throgs Neck Bridge, 1961

Bronx - Whitestone Bridge, 1939
Triborough Bridge, 1936
Renamed to Robert F. Kennedy Bridge, 2008
West Side Improvement

Henry Hudson Parkway, 1938

Henry Hudson Parkway, where it begins at 72nd Street on Manhattan's west side
Riverside Park

Riverside Park 1925

Construction laborers, 1934

Riverside Park at 72nd Street
Construction of the Cross Bronx Expressway 1948-63

Charlotte Street August 1979

South Bronx in the 1970s
The broken line shows an alternative route that Moses rejected.

Cross Bronx Expressway highlighted in red.
Expressways

Long Island, 1940 (I-495)  

Van Wyck, 1950 (I-678) connects Brooklyn & Queens

Staten Island, 1964 (I-278)  

Brooklyn-Queens, 1964 (I-278) continues to St. Island & NJ
Swimming Pools (1936)

- Astoria Pool (East Harlem)
- Thomas Jefferson Pool (Manhattan)
- Hamilton Fish Pool (Lower East Side)
- Sunset Pool (Brooklyn)
- Joseph H. Lyons Pool (Staten Island)
- Crotona Pool (Bronx)
Beaches

Orchard Beach, 1938  
(Bronx)

Jones Beach, 1929  (Long Island)

Rockaway Beach, 1938-39  (Queens)
New York Aquarium

Groundbreaking for the aquarium at Coney Island

Original Site of the Aquarium at Battery Park

New York Aquarium at Coney Island, 1957
Alice in Wonderland Dedication
Children with Parks
Commissioner Robert Moses at right,
Central Park,

Playgrounds at Central Park
1934-1936
Playgrounds

Zimmerman Playground, 1934 (Bronx)

Williamsbridge Oval, 1938 (Bronx)

Queensbridge Park Playground 1934, (Manhattan)

Harlem Lane Playground, 1937 (Manhattan)
Neighborhood Parks

Battery Park, 1941-52

East River Park, 1939

Bryant Park, 1934
Parks

Prospect Park Zoo, 1935

Flushing Meadows Corona Park, 1939

Randall & Wards Islands
1934-68
Housing Projects

Bound by 23rd and 14th Streets, Stuyvesant Town stretches from Avenue C to 1st Avenue and contains 110 red brick, cruciform-shaped buildings with 11,250 apartments.

Stuyvesant Town, 1942

Patterson Houses 1950 Mott Haven, The Bronx
University Village, 1966 (now Silver Towers)

Washington Square Village

Delano Village, Harlem
Unbuilt Robert Moses Highway

Mid Manhattan Expressway

The Mid Manhattan Expressway was an urban freeway proposed by Robert Moses in the late 1950s which would have connected the Queens-Midtown Tunnel and the Lincoln Tunnel. The highway would have cut a path clear across the island, bypassing upper and central neighborhoods until ultimately linking the project via the cost of building a highway through an area with high real estate values.

This map shows the projected route to display the descriptor but highway would have brought in middle Manhattan.

Map provided by Google. Inc.
http://midhattanexpressway.com
Jane Jacobs vs Robert Moses

The 1950s plan for a Washington Square Highway

Robert Moses proposed extending 5th Avenue through Washington Square Park

Protesters against Moses's plan

Jane Jacobs
Robert Moses was in favor of demolishing the historic Penn Station.

Demolition occurred in 1963. In 1965 a Landmarks Preservation Commission was created to preserve the NYC landmarks.
Jane Jacobs

• **Cities as Ecosystems**: buildings, streets and neighborhoods function as dynamic organisms, changing in response to how people interact with them.

• **Mixed-Use Development**: integration of different building types and uses, whether residential or commercial, old or new.

• **Bottom-Up Community Planning**: local expertise is better suited to guiding community development.

• **The Case for Higher Density**: High concentration of people is vital for city life, economic growth, and prosperity.

• **Local Economies**: She promoted small businesses, and supported the creative impulses of urban entrepreneurs.

"THE CITY PLANNERS ARE RAVAGING OUR CITIES!"

They've put up gleaming stone and glass file cabinet housing which breeds delinquency and crime.

They've built spacious green park areas that are avoided by everyone but bums and hoodlums.

They've condemned and destroyed entire city blocks that are not slums, but attractive places to live.

They've zoned our cities into intolerable patterns of dullness.

Jane Jacobs says this and much more in her explosive new book, The Death and Life of Great American Cities. Mrs. Jacobs shows that the city planners have failed because they have overlooked the realities of urban life, and stripped our cities of the vitality and diversity which make them exciting places to live. She offers concrete, practical alternatives that can save our cities from the blunders of orthodox planners.

Harrison Salisbury of the New York Times hails this book as "the most refreshing, stimulating and exciting study of this greatest of our problems of living which I've seen. It fairly crackles with bright honesty and good sense."

William H. Whyte, author of The Organization Man, calls it "magnificent. One of the most remarkable books ever written about the city."

The Death and Life of Great American Cities

By JANE JACOBS

$5.95, now at your bookstore

RANDOM HOUSE
O'Malley vs Moses

Ebbets Field: home of the Brooklyn Dodgers

Roy Campanella in Ebbets Field

Dodger Stadium, Brooklyn

Intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush Ave, Brooklyn

Los Angeles Dodgers Stadium

Polo Grounds, Upper Manhattan:
Across the river from the Yankees Stadium

AT&T Park, San Francisco
Videos

• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUeuQT6t7kg
• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rvWB8R8yqAA