



Privately Owned Public Space: The New York City Experience

*By Jerold S. Kayden, The New York City Department of City Planning,
The Municipal Art Society of New York*

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Hailed by the Wall Street Journal as a "juicy little time bomb of a book", *Privately Owned Public Space: The New York City Experience* examines for the first time, New York City's 39-year mixed experience with the production of more than 500 plazas, parks, and atriums located on private property yet by law accessible to and usable by the public.

Until now, comprehensive, systematic knowledge about this vast collection of public spaces has not existed, either for experts or members of the public. To remedy this gap, Harvard University professor Jerold S. Kayden, The New York City Department of City Planning, and The Municipal Art Society of New York have joined forces to research and write *Privately Owned Public Space: The New York City Experience*. Through words, photographs, scaled site plans, maps, and analysis of newly assembled data, they examine history, law, design, and use of the city's privately owned public spaces. Each of the more than 500 spaces is individually discussed to provide far-reaching comparative information about this unique category of public space.

In reading this book, designers, planners, lawyers, and academics will gain greater understanding about the possibilities and problems inherent in the design, management, and enforcement of privately owned public space. Public officials, private owners, and civic group representatives will learn more about their roles in ensuring public access and vitality of such spaces. Individuals will discover where New York City's public spaces are located and what amenities they offer. Everyone will comprehend more completely the contribution that privately owned public space can make toward open and attractive cities in which all individuals have access to a diversity of public places.

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Editorial Review

Review

"This extensive work provides for the first time a detailed look at the city's experience, pro and con, through photographs, maps, site plans, observed behaviors, and extensive notes." (*Urbanparadoxes.com*, 5/08)

"The Introduction to Privately Owned Private Space is a history of New York City's attempts at planning and zoning beginning in 1916 and continuing to the present. The detail of the history is sharp while not talking down to the novice, and the politics is fascinating." (*ArchitectureWeek.com*, April 25, 2001)

"The book should also appeal to any enthusiast of urban spaces anywhere in the world, because the lessons learned in the "Big Apple" are applicable anywhere. This is a history book, an incredibly detailed map of the New York City, and a lesson in civics all rolled into one." (F.L. Andrew Padian, *ArchitectureWeek.com*)

"This long overdue collaborative effort among urban planning professor Jerold Kayden, New York City's Department of Planning, and the Municipal Art Society, and involving dozens of researchers, is one of the most important books to be published about New York City in years.... Along the same lines, in today's publishing environment, most commercial trade publishers would not likely be interested, and too many high-quality, general interest, New York City-related titles must vie for the limited resources of a few university presses or very small publishing houses that do not have the resources to take on this kind of project -- congratulations to John Wiley for publishing this book." (*Bradley Beach Books*, 9/01)

From the Inside Flap

As cities around the world seek new ways to improve their physical, social, and economic environments, they are paying greater attention to the value of public space. Provision of new plazas and parks, reclamation of existing waterfronts, and beautification of public streets are all increasingly viewed as important strategies for enhancing the quality of urban living. With scarce public dollars available, cities are teaming with the private sector in innovative public-private partnerships to fund these approaches.

One of the most significant public-private partnerships to obtain urban public space has been pioneered in New York City under the rubric of privately owned public space. Since 1961, hundreds of office and residential towers have received zoning floor area bonuses to encourage the provision of a wide variety of outdoor and indoor spaces - plazas, arcades, atriums - that are legally required to be open and accessible to the public. At their best, these spaces marry aesthetics with function, offering unique physical and social environments within a densely packed urban center. At their worst, they are barren, unusable surfaces or privatized-by-management spaces that diminish the spirit underlying the laws that created them.

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From the Back Cover

"Jerold Kayden has contributed to the renaissance of writing on New York City and its architecture of recent years an extraordinarily detailed and sensible account of the hundreds of open spaces that have sprouted around skyscrapers in the wake of the zoning reform of 1961. It is a remarkable book and every lover of New York City will want to consult it."-Nathan Glazer, Professor of Sociology and Education Emeritus, Harvard University

"This is an indispensable guide to New York City's 500-plus privately owned public spaces. The book's marathon undertaking is required reading for anyone interested in the history and development of modern New York."-Laurie Beckelman, Vice President, World Monuments Fund

"New York City has 40 years of experience in creating public spaces on private property through zoning. This book covers it all-from sorry examples to brilliant successes. Other cities should learn from this experience."-Con Howe, Director of Planning, City of Los Angeles

Users Review

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Dana Gallo:

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The reason why? Because this *Privately Owned Public Space: The New York City Experience* is an unordinary book that the inside of the e-book waiting for you to snap that but latter it will shock you with the secret it inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who else write the book in such awesome way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book have got such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I have been you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

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