



# Urban Design Manhattan

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## **Urban Design Manhattan** Regional Plan Association

The accelerated growth of cities and the constant need for expanded business space have become characteristic of all highly developed economies and will remain a continuing factor in the urban environment everywhere. How to accommodate this growth efficiently, gracefully, and with concern for human values is the challenge that this book seeks to explore.

*Urban Design Manhattan*, prepared by Rai Y. Okamoto and Frank E. Williams, Urban Design Consultants to the Regional Plan Association, uses Midtown Manhattan, "the center of centers," to demonstrate the application of urban-design principles. The "Access Tree" principle calls for integration of the horizontal and vertical movement in our urban centers. The corresponding form consequence of "Highs and Lows" has been applied at many different scales. This urban design study not only exposes the problem but presents a powerful visual statement of what urban centers can be, always with ultimate concern that human needs and human scale prevail over the forces that are shaping urban centers today.

The problem of most urban redesign is not primarily the lack of imaginative designs or of architects, engineers, and planners but the lack of a practical method of harnessing the unrivaled vitality of private developers and investors to work with the city authorities and thus to concert their energies to create the new centers that fit modern needs.

Urban Design Consultants Rai Y. Okamoto and Frank E. Williams have prepared urban design studies in San Francisco, Seattle, Philadelphia, and New York. This experience, coupled with teaching in several universities, has produced theory and methodology underlying this urban design study. Its major concern has been to develop principles that will be appropriate to most urban centers today.

The Regional Plan Association is a nonprofit citizen's research and planning organization founded in 1929. It is committed to the development of guidelines for the controlled growth of a 13,000-square-mile area in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, surrounding the Port of New York.

The book, first published in 1969, is now being distributed by The MIT Press. The Press has published the Association's *The Office Industry*, and distributes several other publications for the Association.

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