



New York: How the Proposed Lower Manhattan Expressway Aroused the Public Voice, 1938-1969

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Manhattan Island's insular position prevented unrestricted growth of the city. The economic crisis of the 1930's put an end to the free rein given to developers and entrepreneurs in the absence of a defined system of US-American urban development. During the period spanning the Great Depression and the end of World War II various institutions changed the direction of US history of architecture and promoted the leitmotifs of modern architecture and city planning. They created a new awareness in architecture and urban values, e.g. parks, recreational facilities and fluent traffic. In the 1950's civic movement against government and business decisions regarding the changing face of cities and towns is rooted in the unmindful demolition of historical structures and neighborhoods across the country. People would no longer remain indifferent to the architectural changes of their city. The citizen's right to architecture rallies in the early 1960's was reflected in fierce public debates in town halls and daily papers, and demonstrations. .