Parks Without Borders
Ideas for the Next Generation of Urban Parks and Public Space

ACCESS IS THE NUB OF THE SOLUTION

Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA,FAAR
President + CEO, The Cultural Landscape Foundation
www.tclf.org
The Edge (1997, Thriller) with Anthony Hopkins and Alec Baldwin (screenplay by David Mamet)
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING READY FOR?

Whether it's the excitement of leaning in for a kiss, or the anticipation of a big game, Edge shave gel gets you ready for whatever your day has in store. GET YOUR EDGE.

LEARN MORE

وبة剃须

SHAVE SEXY

REFRAMING WET SHAVING FROM INCONVENIENT TO SEXY

THE PROBLEM
Due to the inconvenience of wet shaving, 18.3 million Chinese men were switching to dry shaving every year.

THE INSIGHT
Chinese women find wet shaving extremely sexy to watch.

THE SOLUTION
Rather than using athletes, we enlisted ex-Japanese AV idol who due to poor 'unrestricted' content on her assists media platforms, mobilizing her 13 million adoring fans.

The campaign-generated widespread media attention when she posted a live experiment we conducted, driving men all over the country to try it.

RESULTS
- Campaign reached 177 million
- 200,000 Interaction in Weibo (China's Twitter) alone
- Stopped sales of 200,000 dry shavers
- Highest monthly sales in Gillette's history

SORA AOI

S 13 MILLION FANS ON WEIBO
What is an edge?
An edge is the side of the shape. How many edges does a rectangle have?

3
4
2

Edge Detection

What is an Edge?
- Edge is a change but every change is not an edge
- Edge is a noticeable or abrupt change
  - E.g. 5 7 is not a noticeable change in the range of (0 to 255)
  - We have to define a threshold if the change is more than a specified threshold then we will define it as an edge point.
  - Here gradual change exists you cannot pinpoint where the edge exists so the change must be abrupt

- For each pixel we have to look in horizontal, vertical and diagonal direction
  - $dx/ds \rightarrow$ for horizontal direction
  - $dy/ds \rightarrow$ for vertical direction
It wasn’t that long ago . . .

Prospect Park, Brooklyn (1984)
In his Greensward plan for Central Park, Olmsted indicated that **there should be twenty points of access** (for the 2 ½ mile long park by a 1/2 mile wide) noting, “it was early deemed appropriate that these entrances be named in some way more appealing to popular imagination than a numerical destination taken from the neighboring streets.” This nomenclature does not appear until 1865, and it would be another half century until they were “brought to public attention by the Central Park Association’ in its campaign for the restoration of the park.”
The Central Park Association was organized to "stimulate and aid the City of New York to restore Central Park to life and vigor." (The Olmsted Bros. were consultants to the Assoc.)

The first annual dinner of The Central Park Association, in the Grand Ball Room of the Hotel Astor on Thursday evening, May 13, 1926, is an Inauguration Dinner of the Chairmen and Vice-chairmen of the eighteen Historic Gates of Central Park. The names of these distinguished citizens of New York, who have joined in the concerted effort to revitalize and rehabilitate Central Park and make it what it should be, the "greatest single work of art in America," are listed in the following pages under their particular and appropriate gate, at which symbolically they stand in command of their sector of defenders, as "Friends of the Park," who are mobilizing in increasing numbers to help advance the cause for which the Association was established.

The quotations under each of the eighteen
Chaired by Mrs. Guggenheim, committee included Edna Ferber and Mabel Parsons
“The vocations which are followed by men who find in untamed and uncultivated nature a suitable field of action, are so various, that they require to be grouped under several distinct heads.

“Thus we have the ‘Hunter’ and the ‘Fisherman,’ both individual pursuits that contribute largely to the wants of the community.”
“A Secret Section of Central Park Reopens,” The New York Times, 10 May 2016 by James Barron. (Above: A new rustic gate at the entrance to the Hallett Nature Sanctuary). Not since the 1930s has this section of the park been open regularly.
ACCESS IS THE NUB THE SOLUTION
Park Entrances:
Gansevoort Street and Washington Street (elevator access)
• 14th Street (elevator access)
• 16th Street (elevator access)
• 18th Street
• 20th Street
• 23rd Street (elevator access)
• 26th Street
• 28th Street
• 29th Street (elevator access)
• 30th Street
• 34th Street (ramp access) - open 7 a.m. to sunset
PROXIMITY
Redefine your perceptions of a modern classic. At the gateway to Prospect Park and Brooklyn Botanic Garden, architect Richard Meier introduces his first residential project to the heart of Brooklyn. These iconic residences will set a new precedent in living.

From $790,000 to $6,000,000. Please register online or call us at the sales gallery 718 230 7905.

Developer: SDS Preciosa Development Group & Gordon Group Holdings
Design Architect: Richard Meier & Partners Architects LLP
Exclusive Marketing and Sales Agent: Corcoran Group Marketing

The Modern Classic: onprospectpark.com
LIVE NEXT TO A PARK!
How to live in Manhattan.

The Setting.

View our newly completed, stunningly remastered three-bedroom condominium residences in a pre-war landmark building with boutique hotel services, steps to Central Park.

A Park to Call Your Own.

8 UNION SQUARE SOUTH

You Demand

QUALITY
LOCATION
VIEWS
SOPHISTICATION
VALUE

Are you demanding? Critical? Fussy? Good. That's how you get to where you are. Your work uncomplainingly. We suggest the luxury of The Hudson Condominium.

This modern, glass structure stands at the center of the Upper West Side's best shopping, restaurants and cultural venues. East of all, it's only two blocks from the Hudson River esplanade and less than three blocks from Central Park. So don't ask Demand. The Hudson Condominium—location is luxury.

1 BRs from $725K
2 BRs with walls of glass from $1.15M
3 BRs & Penthouses with private roof decks, fireplace, greenhouse & views from $2.5M

IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY

888.480.9833
theHudson@hudson.com

ON-SITE SALES OFFICE & FURNISHED MODEL RESIDENCES
125 West 86th Street, New York, NY
GRACIOUS LIVING ON CENTRAL PARK SOUTH

An enchanted life beckons you home on Manhattan’s dream boulevard at 110 CPS.
A lavish Concierge menu by Abigail Michaels serves up life’s delicacies upon a moment’s notice.
Central Park breezes whisper through an exquisitely landscaped private garden that leads into an elegant Dining lounge where celebrity chef David Burke provides distinctive private catering.
And in a perfect complement to this sublime lifestyle, Exhale Spa’s Wellbeing services await residents as well as a state-of-the-art Fitness Center.

PRE-WAR LAYOUTS WITH STYLISH INTERIORS

110 CPS

212.974.0110 WWW.110CPS.COM

Immediate occupancy. 1 to 4 bedroom residences priced from $1,440,000.
Another exceptional development by Anbau Enterprises, Inc.
Exclusive Marketing and Sales Agent: The Sunshine Group, Ltd.
Sales and Design Center: 110 Central Park South, New York, NY 10019

FIFTEEN MADISON SQUARE NORTH

Grand 2, 3, and 4 Bedroom Loft Condominiums at the Top of Madison Square Park.
Custom-Designed Homes by Nathan Egan Interiors.
Finishes by Arclinea, Waterworks, and The Nanz Company.
Priced from $2.625M to over $5.7M. Maid’s Rooms Available.

A PREMIER ADDRESS. A CLASSIC PARK. THE PERFECT POINT OF VIEW.

PANORAMIC PARK & CITY VIEWS • FITNESS CENTER BY CLAY • ABIGAIL MICHAELS CONCIERGE • CHILDREN’S PLAYROOM OUTFITTED BY KIDDING AROUND • INDIVIDUAL WINE STORAGE BY MORRELL & CO. • SOARING CEILINGS • ROOF DECK

212.696.1526 www.15madisonsquare.com
EXCLUSIVE MARKETING & SALES AGENT: CORCORAN GROUP MARKET DANIEL GOLNER ARCHITECTS

A WALTER & SAMUELS DEVELOPMENT WITH A Member of the Deutsche Bank Group Sponsor: File No. CD# 05-0409

The complete offering terms are in an offering plan available from the Sponsor.
IF YOUR DREAMS HAD AN ADDRESS...
45 Park Avenue

Live the Dream
East River Esplanade 81st Street Bridge
“Prison Bridge” Design Under Fire
A Walk in the Park Blog 12/14/2014

View from Carol Shurtz Park to East River Esplanade
(After, left; before, below, left and right)
If access is the nub of the solution...

How do we leverage edge?
View from the Brooklyn Promenade

CONTEXT
CONTEXT + AUTHENTICITY MATTERS: The Lowline, underground, lower east side (top left) Randall’s Island Connector (NY Restoration Pjct) several routes to access Randall’s Island (just unveiled bottom) and the Queensway – 3.5 miles of abandoned rail led by The Trust for Public Land (right).
Find what is authentic, build on it: “Every place has a history, a culture, connections to the city around it,” Mr. Corner says. Don’t demolish it. Find what is authentic and celebrate it.

James Corner, quoted in, “How Cities Can Revitalize Their Public Spaces: The High Line’s lead designer, landscape architect James Corner, gives his secrets for creating great places to live and visit” Wall Street Journal 24 April 2016
Cantilevered Terrace: Brooklyn Promenade
designed by Clarke & Rapuano

Historic District
designated (1965)
Emphasis on architecture/
engineering thru 1899
Cantilevered Terrace: Villa Medici, Rome, Michael Rapuano study area, ca. 1926
The Brooklyn Bridge Deserves a Scenic View District of Its Own

Wednesday, July 8, 2015, by Alexandra Lange
MoMA's Proposal for Sculpture Garden Pleases and Riles

MoMA's proposal for a new sculpture garden in the heart of Manhattan has been met with mixed reactions. Located in the museum's courtyard, the garden is designed to provide a tranquil retreat from the bustling city.

"The idea is to create a green oasis in the midst of the concrete jungle," said Thomas Krens, MoMA's director. "It's a place where visitors can take a break from the hustle and bustle of the city and immerse themselves in art and nature."

The garden will feature a series of modern and contemporary sculptures, including works by artists such as Richard Serra, Louise Bourgeois, and Alexander Calder. In addition to the sculptures, the garden will include a seating area and a small fountain, creating a serene and inviting space.

While some have praised the idea of bringing greenery to the heart of the city, others have expressed concern about the impact on foot traffic and accessibility. "This is a step in the right direction," said one supporter. "But we need to make sure that the garden is accessible to everyone, regardless of their mobility or ability to pay."

The proposal is currently under review by the city's planning board, and a decision is expected to be made in the coming months. MoMA is hopeful that the garden will become a beloved new spot for both visitors and New Yorkers alike.

For more information, visit MoMA's website or follow them on social media.

**Question:** “Is [the garden] at its best when there are very few people in the garden or when there are a lot?”

**Answer:** Johnson replied: “It's better to have a few, of course, because then you get the feeling of the space . . . "You need a place to relax after looking at the artwork. You’re so relieved that there is no painting to focus on.”
Edge Matters

1. Make More Porous
   Break the Edge

2. Connect and Extend
   Think System or Network

3. Put a Cap on it
   Create the Connective Tissue
MAKE POROUS
A quest for a CIVIC SOLUTION that is a dignified, clear and accessible arrival experience.
Edge Matters:
1. Make More Porous, Break the Edge

Bryant Park, NYC, NY
Hanna/Olin (completed in 1992)

Lincoln Center, NYC, NY
Diller Scofidio + Renfro (2002-2013)

Grand Park, Los Angeles, CA
Rios Clement Hale (first two blocks in 2012, new playground 2014)

Discovery Green, Houston, TX
Hargreaves Associates (opened in 2008, revisions to edge underway)
Laurie Olin suggested simple yet effective changes to the site, such as removing iron fences and understory plant materials to make the space more physically and visually accessible.

"Access is the nub of the solution," wrote Holly Whyte. Using Whyte's report as a guide, Hanna/Olin was engaged thirty years ago to create a design that would transform the park into a safe and vibrant urban nexus.

Olin modified and introduced entrances, ramps, stairs, and pavements while cutting through walks and railing to configure free circulation.
Construction drawing for disabled access ramp, railings, and stair (Olin Partnership)
“Once the construction is done, the campus will be more porous and more inviting to the neighborhood. Partly that means making it easier to tell what’s going on and where.”

September 16, 2008
At Lincoln Center, “the architects graft additions that grow from the original concepts into unexpected hybrids. But they are not just making formal alterations to give the institutions an image makeover; the additions are helping to update the culture of the institutions themselves, broadening their programs, democratizing their identities, renewing their very missions. Architecture is the can opener for these closed containers, creating a more porous and interactive relationship between the city at large and institutions that ultimately prosper in the open.”

Justin Davidson, New York Magazine
Pedestrian circulation was improved with the implementation of a diagonal cross axis within the park, not to mention new ramps, an elevator that serviced the street, plaza and garage levels, additional pedestrian entrances and enhanced signage.
Discovery Green, Houston, TX
Hargreaves Associates (Before)

The site of former surface parking lots, the 10 acre site spurred a wave of construction along its borders.
Discovery Green, Houston, TX, Hargreaves Associates (After)
Discovery Green, Houston: A catalyst for new construction – and now, a quest for increased porosity
Discovery Green, Houston: A catalyst for new construction – and now, a quest for increased porosity
“Olmsted continued to advocate the use of drives and boulevards to link parks into an entire system that would also define different parts of cities like Seattle, Boston and Minneapolis and give them structures around which to organize. . .”

“Whatever little success designers had with these plans, once a site was selected, its almost invariably peripheral location required that primary attention be given to street connections.”

Galen Crantz
2. Edge Matters: Connect and Extend

Think System or Network

Emerald Necklace Parks, Boston/Brookline, MA
Original Planning: Olmsted, Olmsted Eliot (1879-92)
Pressley Associates (1986-present)

Louisville Park and Parkways System, KY
Initial Planning: Olmsted firm (1891-1921)
21st Century Parks (2005-present)

Buffalo Bayou Park, Houston, TX
Initial Planning: Arthur C. Comey, 1913
SWA Group, Houston, 2012-present

Chicago Riverwalk, IL
Initial Vision: Daniel H. Burnham, ca. 1909
Sasaki Associates 2009-present
Emerald Necklace Parks, Boston/Brookline, MA
Original Planning: Olmsted, Olmsted Eliot (1879-92)

Muddy River Flood Damage Reduction and Environmental Restoration Project
Emerald Necklace Parks, Back Bay Fens ("Sears Parking Lot")
Pressley Associates (1986-present)  This photo is from May 2016
Louisville Park and Parkways System, KY
Initial Planning: Olmsted firm (1891-1921)
“The Big Four Bridge is a Symbol of this city just as Churchill Downs and the Belle of Louisville are symbols, and like them, the bridge is equally worthy of veneration. . .

Even if we accept the Big Four’s value as a living reminder of the city’s importance as a rail center, and further agree that it is a key element of our riverscape that should be preserved, the challenge of recycling such a large structure is formidable.”

Let’s Save the Big Four, (1975)
Louisville Park and Parkways System, KY

*Extending the Olmsted Legacy: 21st Century Parks (2005-present)*

12 May 2016

More than 100 years ago, Frederick Law Olmsted designed a system of 18 parks linked by 14.5 miles of greenery-ed boulevards around the then-urban edges of Louisville, Kentucky. Over the decades, the city grew beyond that green perimeter, absorbing the parks in a spread of suburban development. This month, nonprofit 21st Century Parks is celebrating the completion of a new greenway on Louisville’s new expanded limits, the city’s first major public-private partnership to construct new parks. The *Parklands of Floyds Fork*, a $125 million project funded by donors and grants, spans over 4,000 acres, creating a nearly 20-mile continuous parkway.
Broad Run Park caps nearly 4,000-acre, $125 million park system transforming Louisville’s urban edge

On April 15, 2016 the 583-acre Broad Run Park, also known as The Parklands of Floyds Fork opened. This was the final major portion of the nearly 4,000-acre park system that ranks among the nation’s largest and most ambitious new metropolitan parks. Its varied outdoor recreational opportunities, along its 20-mile ribbon of trails, picnic and playground areas, woods, meadows and creek was developed and is managed by the nonprofit 21st Century Parks, The Parklands is a fully donor-supported public park system that was constructed in the past five years.
“Houston owes its very existence to Buffalo Bayou. Buffalo Bayou Partnership has taken a neglected waterway and transformed it into an attractive and inviting gateway into downtown and beyond.”
— Former Mayor Annise D. Parker, City of Houston

Buffalo Bayou Park, Houston
Initial Planning: Arthur C. Comey, 1913
SWA Group, Houston, 2012–present
Buffalo Bayou Park, Houston

*Initial Planning:* Arthur C. Comey, 1913
Comey’s plan for proposed parkways along White Oak and Buffalo Bayou, 1913 (left) and Comey’s first comprehensive plan for the city, *Houston: Tentative Plans for its Development*. 
Buffalo Bayou Park, SWA for The Buffalo Bayou Partnership

The 160-acre linear park emphasizes urban ecology and improved pedestrian access, including new bridges connecting contiguous neighborhoods. The design targets channel stabilization, while enhancing the bayou's natural meanders and offering increased resiliency against floodwaters while preserving the beauty of this culturally significant waterway.

The project provides continuous pedestrian and bike circulation routes, public art, and special maintenance and safety provisions. According to its designers, "the formerly trash-strewn waterway along the Promenade now teems with ducks, herons, turtles and fish."
THIS IS ALL ABOUT ACCESS
...AND CONNECTIVITY,
CONTINUITY + CONTIGUITY
In 1909 Daniel Burnham introduced a civic vision that included riverside promenades. A century later, an increased value and role of the river has been realized with the Chicago Riverwalk project by Sasaki Associates. This effort has also improved access while reclaiming the river’s ecological, recreational and economic assets.
PUT A CAP ON IT
3. Edge Matters: Put a Cap on It
Create the Connective Tissue

Freeway Park, Seattle, WA
First cap over a Freeway, Lawrence Halprin (1976)

Klyde Warren Park, Dallas, TX
The Office of James Burnett (2012)

The Presidio Parkway, San Francisco, CA
The Presidio Trust (*underway*)

Cap Happy!
Pretty much everywhere you look
The 5-acre park “creates green space ‘out of thin air’ that connects the vibrant Uptown neighborhood with the Dallas Arts District and downtown.
Sinking Doyle Drive results in 13 acres of new parkland at The Presidio of San Francisco.
Presidio Parklands area, with Doyle Drive running underground through a tunnel. (Winning Competition entry, James Corner Field Operations)
Rebranding – “It’s not a Freeway”
(including perhaps the first PARK PLUSH – PARKER!)
CAP HAPPY: RESTORING NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIVITY

Cincinnati’s Planned Freeway Cap (left top); “Space 134” project, from Glendale to Central Avenue, Glendale, CA (top right), Cap on 405 in Portland, OR (above left) and Hollywood Freeway, CA (bottom right)
BQ Green would create parkland over more than two blocks of the BQE ditch.

Robert Moses rammed the expressway ditch through the neighborhood in the 1950s. Today, the road is blamed for the area’s elevated asthma rates, and serves as a convenient boundary for modern day gangs.

Nathan Tempey, *Gothamist*, 09 May 2016

Design by *dland Studio* (2016)
A couple weeks ago, I noticed something while walking by Bryant Park. There were people hanging out on 40th Street. That was different. It took a moment to realize what had changed. The fence was gone... Initially, I thought it was a deliberate decision to activate the edge of the park...