

## **JANE JACOBS VS. ROBERT MOSES: How Stands the Debate Today?** **October 11, 2006**

### **Short Biographies of Participants**

**Hilary Ballon** has taught at Columbia University in the Department of Art History and Archaeology since 1985. Ballon received a B.A. from Princeton University and a Ph.D. from M.I.T. Her work focuses on cities and the intersection of architecture, politics, and social life in two fields of research, 20th-century America and 17th-century Europe. Her books include *New York's Pennsylvania Stations* (W.W. Norton, 2002); *Louis Le Vau: Mazarin's Collège, Colbert's Revenge* (Princeton University Press, 1999), which won the Prix d'Académie from the Académie Française; and *The Paris of Henri IV: Architecture and Urbanism* (Architectural History Foundation/MIT Press, 1991), which won the Alice Davis Hitchcock Prize for the Most Distinguished Work in Architectural History.

Ballon's current research is on New York's master builder Robert Moses. She is the curator of *Robert Moses and the Modern City*, an exhibition opening in January 2007 that will re-evaluate his physical transformation of New York from 1930-1968. The exhibition is organized in three parts: *Remaking the Metropolis* at the Museum of the City of New York (opening January 26); *The Road to Recreation* at the Queens Museum of Art (opening January 27), and *Slum Clearance and the Superblock Solution* at the Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery of Columbia University (opening January 30). Ballon and Kenneth T. Jackson have co-edited the book *Robert Moses and the Transformation of New York* (W.W. Norton), to be released in conjunction with the exhibition.

Ballon's previous exhibitions include *Gateway to Metropolis: New York's Pennsylvania Stations* at the Wallach Art Gallery and *Frank Lloyd Wright: The Vertical Dimension* at the Skyscraper Museum. Her forthcoming book is entitled *Frank Lloyd Wright's Towers*.

Ballon has received Columbia University's highest teaching awards: the Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching, the Great Teacher Award, and the Philip and Ruth Hettleman Teaching Award. Other academic awards include fellowships from the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library, the Institute for Advanced Study, and the Mellon Foundation.

**Amanda M. Burden** is an urban planner and civic activist and is Chair of the New York City Planning Commission and Director of the Department of City Planning. Since her appointment in 1992, she has spearheaded Mayor Bloomberg's economic development initiatives with comprehensive urban design master plans designed to catalyze commercial and residential development throughout the city.

Ms. Burden served on the City Planning Commission from 1990 until her appointment as Chair in 2002. From 1983 until 1990, she was responsible for the planning and design of Battery Park City and oversaw the design of all open spaces, including the Esplanade and the 30 acres of parkland.

In 2005, Pratt Institute awarded Ms. Burden an Honorary Doctorate in Public Administration, and the New York chapter of the American Institute of Architects presented her with its 2005 Center for Architecture Award. Ms. Burden's dedication to design excellence was recognized by the Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum, which presented her with its 2004 Design Patron award. In 1987, Ms. Burden received the Sidney Strauss Award from the New York Society of Architects "for outstanding achievement for the benefit of the architectural profession."

She served as Chair of the Board of Creative Time, Inc., was a Member of the Board of the Center for Arts Education, of the Nature Conservancy, of the Architectural League and of the Fund for the City of New York, and she is a Trustee of the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation.

**Richard Kahan** is an urban developer and a former president of the New York State Urban Development Corporation. He was also the chairman of the Battery Park City Authority. He is the chairman of the Riverside South Planning Corporation, the nonprofit organization that oversees the design and planning of Donald Trump's Riverside South building complex on the Upper West Side. He is also the president of the Urban Assembly, a non-profit organization that over the past seven years, in partnership with the Department of Education, has opened fourteen small, public, college-preparatory high schools in New York City.

Richard Kahan has spent the past 35 years addressing a wide range of urban problems by fostering partnerships between the public and private sectors in order to serve local communities. In addition to his role as founder and president of the Urban Assembly, Richard co-founded Take the Field, a non-profit organization that is rebuilding the athletic facilities of New York City public schools. Since its founding in 2000 Take the Field has rebuilt 43 outdoor athletic facilities in all five boroughs at a cost of over \$132 million.

As President and CEO of the New York State Urban Development Corporation, Richard initiated a \$3 billion statewide economic development program that preserved and created more than 100,000 construction jobs for New York State. As Chairman and CEO of Battery Park City Authority, he was responsible for the planning, design and development of Battery Park City, the largest urban development in the United States at the time. During that time he was also President and CEO of the New York Convention Center Development Corporation, where he created the authorizing legislation and directed the design, financing and construction of the \$375 million Javits Center.

In the private sector, Richard was a partner for Tishman Speyer Properties and the Managing Director and CEO of the Continental Development Group. Richard has been the recipient of many awards, including: the American Institute of Architects' Thomas Jefferson Award, the Robert Moses Achievement Award, the Minority Business Development Award, and the Doris C. Freedman Award. Richard attended Union college with a B.A. in History, and received his J.D. at the Columbia University Law School.

**Brad Lander** directs the Pratt Center for Community Development, which works for a more just, equitable, and sustainable city for all New Yorkers by empowering communities to plan and realize their futures. During Lander's tenure, the Pratt Center has helped to shape a new inclusionary zoning policy to create affordable housing in NYC, to protect the tenure of public housing residents in Staten Island, and to create a new dialogue and strategies for how growth can be made to work for New York's low and moderate income communities. Lander also teaches affordable housing, real estate development, and community planning at Pratt.

Before coming to Pratt in 2003, he served for a decade as executive director of the Fifth Avenue Committee, a community-based organization in Brooklyn that develops and manages affordable housing; creates economic opportunities through workforce development, job creation, and adult education; and organizes tenants and workers to fight for a better community. Lander's work at Fifth Avenue Committee was recognized with awards from the Ford Foundation, Fannie Mae Foundation, and New York Magazine. He holds a masters in City and Regional Planning from Pratt, a masters in Social Anthropology from the University College London, and a bachelor of arts from the University of Chicago.

**Nicolai Ouroussoff** received his B.A. from Georgetown University in 1985. He received a master's degree at Columbia University school of Architecture in 1992 and worked as a freelance journalist from 1992 to 1996 (for places like Art Forum, New York Observer, Harpers Bazaar, Vanity Fair and The New York Times.) He was the Los Angeles Times architecture critic from 1996 to 2004 and has been the New York Times architecture critic since 2004. He was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 2003, 2004 and 2006.

**Michael Sorkin** is the Director of the Graduate Urban Design Program at the City College of New York. From 1993 to 2000 he was Professor of Urbanism and Director of the Institute of Urbanism at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. Previously, Sorkin has been professor at numerous schools of architecture including the Architectural Association, Cooper Union (for ten years), Columbia, Yale (holding both Davenport and Bishop Chairs), Harvard, Cornell (Gensler Chair), Nebraska (Hyde Chair), Illinois, Pennsylvania, Texas, Michigan (Saarinen Chair) and Minnesota. In 2005 -2006, Sorkin directed studio projects for the post-Katrina reconstruction of Biloxi and New Orleans. Sorkin lectures widely and is the author of many articles in a wide range of both professional and general

publications and is currently contributing editor at *Architectural Record* and *Metropolis*. For ten years, he was the architecture critic of *The Village Voice*. His books include *Variations on A Theme Park*, *Exquisite Corpse*, *Local Code*, *Giving Ground* (edited with Joan Copjec), *Wiggle* (a monograph of the studio's work), *Some Assembly Required*, *Other Plans*, *The Next Jerusalem*, *After The Trade Center* (edited with Sharon Zukin), *Starting From Zero*, *Analyzing Ambasz*, and *Against the Wall*. Forthcoming in 2006 are *Twenty Minutes in Manhattan*, *Work on the City*, *All Over the Map*, and *Indefensible Space*.

**Samuel Zipp** is a Visiting Assistant Professor of History at the University of California at Irvine. He received his PhD in American Studies from Yale University. He is at work on a book called *Manhattan Projects: Cold War Urbanism in the Age of Urban Renewal* to be published by Oxford University Press. His writing on cultural history and urban affairs has been published in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Metropolis*, *In These Times*, *The Baffler*, and other magazines and journals.