WHAT IS GOOD URBAN DESIGN?
WHAT IS THE PUBLIC REALM?

Streetscape

Staten Island, North Shore

Public Plaza

The Bronx, Roberto Clemente Plaza

Waterfronts

Queens, West Flushing

POPS

Manhattan, Water Street POPS

Infrastructure

Brooklyn, Red Hook Transportation Study
WHAT IS GOOD URBAN DESIGN?

GOOD DESIGN:

1. **CREATES OR REINFORCES A SENSE OF PLACE**
2. **IS OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE**
3. **IS PLANNED AND DESIGNED WITH CARE AND ATTENTION TO DETAIL**
4. **MAKES US FEEL GOOD**
1. GOOD URBAN DESIGN CREATES OR REINFORCES A SENSE OF PLACE

Manhattan, Pershing Square, East Midtown study
2. GOOD URBAN DESIGN IS OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE
3. GOOD URBAN DESIGN IS PLANNED AND DESIGNED WITH CARE AND ATTENTION TO DETAIL
4. GOOD URBAN DESIGN MAKES US FEEL GOOD

Citywide, Zoning for Quality and Affordability
HOW DO WE MAKE GOOD URBAN DESIGN?

- Sketching
- Modeling
- Collaborating
- Mapping, listening
HOW DO WE **MAKE** GOOD URBAN DESIGN?

1. **GET TO KNOW THE SITE**
2. **INVOLVE PEOPLE**
3. **THINK ACROSS SCALES**
4. **THINK LONG TERM**
5. **QUESTION THE STATUS QUO**
1. GET TO KNOW THE SITE

**Measuring**

Brooklyn, Gowanus Canal, Industrial Mixed-Use Street

**Surveying**

Manhattan, base-scrapers study

**Visiting**

The Bronx, Jerome Avenue

**Mapping**

Queens: Western Queens Transportation Study
1. GET TO KNOW THE SITE

✓ Does the proposal adequately document existing conditions on the site and surrounding area? Some useful items include:
  • An area maps highlighting the pedestrian network which shows streets, sidewalks and public amenities in the surrounding area
  • Street elevations showing proposed buildings in the context of surrounding building heights and topography
  • Aerial views showing existing and proposed building massing
  • Pedestrian level views taken from eye height on sidewalks and in public spaces

✓ Does the proposal show evidence of an understanding and appreciation of the history and ecology of the site?

✓ Does the proposal show a sensitivity to the current residents and neighbors?
2. INVOLVE PEOPLE

**Visioning**
The Bronx, Jerome Avenue

**Engaging**
Queens, Flushing West

**Convincing**
Staten Island, North Shore Study
2. INVOLVE PEOPLE

On Applicant-led projects

✓ Has the project or process been as transparent as possible?
  • Has the project team shared the design with local stakeholders and community? If so what has been the response or concern?
  • Has the project team been to the Site?
  • Has the project team experienced any difficulties conveying the project? What tools or drawings have been utilized thus far?

✓ Does the proposal seek to make explicit the impact of its actions on the neighborhood and thereby foster an atmosphere for productive engagement?

✓ Does the proposal show evidence that key stakeholders and community members had been consulted in its creation?
On City led Initiatives or Studies

✓ What types of engagement is planned for the project?
  • Site Visits? Open Houses, Workshops or Charrettes? Community and/or Interagency Working Groups?

✓ Who do you envision being a part of the process?
  • With the Public? Stakeholders and local Community Groups? Elected and Community Boards? Mayor’s Office and other Agencies?

✓ What techniques will you employ to help make the project legible and will allow for input from the diverse group of stakeholders?
  • Are there opportunities or a need to create models, tools, drawings or exercises?
  • How do these allow for more people to be a part of the discussion?
3. THINK ACROSS SCALES

Resilient design

Citywide, Resilient Retail Planning Initiative and Resilient Industries Study

Housing New York

Brooklyn, East New York Community Plan
3. THINK ACROSS SCALES

✓ Does the proposal meet current regulations especially building code and zoning?
  • If not, why and what are the implications of not meeting these rules?
  • Will the project either set a negative precedent or innovate a new best practice?

✓ Does the proposal align with City policy goals as described in OneNYC and Housing New York?

✓ Does the proposal align with the stated goals of community groups and other local or neighborhood interests?

✓ Does the proposal make a case that it will contribute to an improved public realm?
4. THINK LONG TERM

Brooklyn, Coney Island

The Bronx: Lower Concourse

Queens: Mixed-Use Industrial Areas

Staten Island, East Shore Coastal Protection

Manhattan: Saint Nicholas
4. THINK LONG TERM

- Does the proposal consider multiple options for development, including the development of surrounding areas?
- Does the proposal take into account both daily maintenance of operations?
- Does the proposal consider how the City will be able to respond and recover from an emergency or a disaster on the site?
5. QUESTION THE STATUS QUO

Mid of the twentieth century: Bottom Up Jane Jacob and Top Down Robert Moses
The Threatened City, 1967, Mayor’s task force

Mannahatta, Eric W. Anderson: Considering the New York City future development through the lenses of its past landscapes

Urban design as seen in 1925, Multi Level Transit city by W.H. Corbett

Citywide, What if New York City..., OEM competition for post disaster provisional housing

ACTIVE DESIGN
SHAPING THE DIRECTIONAL EXPERIENCE

ADAPT, innovative ways to live in New York City