Infrastructure is Public Space

Infrastructure – from streets and sidewalks to bridges and elevated rail lines – is our cities’ most vast resource and asset for continued growth and competition in the global marketplace.

The success of the High Line in Manhattan’s Chelsea neighborhood is a superlative testament to what infrastructure proffers for transforming cities and the public realm.
By most accounts, however, our cities’ infrastructure is in serious disrepair. As streets and bridges continue to age and deteriorate, governments at all levels and other public and private entities are struggling to restore and reclaim them and pay for maintenance and upkeep.

Still untapped assets, streets and sidewalks and structures remain barriers to neighborhood regeneration.
Infrastructure is Public Space

Designing the Public Realm on Every Level

The lesson from New York over the past six years is that you can restore, reclaim and remake this asset; success requires looking at our infrastructure through a different lens.

Designing a city’s infrastructure is not just about potholes, Jersey barriers and traffic signals. It involves the design of cities and city streets.
Objectives

- Demonstrate and evaluate street design principles and practices in the context of New York City.

- Classify and describe strategies for and methods of redesigning spaces beneath and adjacent to elevated infrastructure.

- Showcase and assess the toolkit and application of streetscape furnishings developed for New York City.

- Discuss methods, guidelines and policy recommendations for reclaiming and designing spaces for greater public benefit.
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Designing the Public Realm on Every Level

The SOURCE of our efforts of infrastructure design is forging relationships among community groups, non-profit organizations, and design practitioners.

Source, Language, Vision: Making World Class Streets

- **Source**
  - Applying design and planning resources
  - Summary and evaluation of plans and guides
    - *World Class Streets, Sustainable Streets Strategic Plan*
  - Demonstration of design components from the *Street Design Manual*

- **Language**
  - Establishing a streetscape vocabulary and developing a design toolkit
  - Showcase and assessment of citywide street furnishings
    - CityBench, CityRack, CityLight, Citibike and other elements
  - Moving beyond the curb
    - Wayfinding, Public Art, Green Infrastructure

- **Vision**
  - Remaking New York City’s public realm: putting it together
  - Street design and implementation process: practices and case studies
  - Multi-modal transportation and infrastructure
    - Select Bus Service, Staten Island Ferry Terminal
  - Streetscape and public space design
    - Columbus Avenue, Times Square
  - “Complete Streets” and master planning
    - Chinatown, Far Rockaway

BIO
Neil Gagliardi, ASLA is the Director of Urban Design at the New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT) where he offers more than 25 years of interdisciplinary design and planning experience. During his six-year tenure at NYCDOT, he has spearheaded design initiatives that foster pedestrian-friendly, visually-appealing and sustainable streetscapes, public spaces and transportation corridors citywide. Mr. Gagliardi’s international achievements and versatile project portfolio ranges from neighborhood zoning and design plans in Queens to a transformative, art-in-action, redevelopment project in a favela of Rio de Janeiro. Forming the foundation of his career are postgraduate degrees in landscape architecture and urban planning.
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Designing the Public Realm on Every Level

Cultivating a visual LANGUAGE is reflexive between designer and the agency.

God is in the Details: Interdisciplinary Design for Private Clients, Not-for-Profit Organizations and Public Agencies

- Distinguishing districts while establishing a citywide design vocabulary
- Interdisciplinary urban design practice and industrial design
- Plans, designs and furnishings for three business improvement districts in Manhattan
  - Southwest Chelsea: Transforming the Urbanscape beneath the High Line
    - Chelsea Bench :: CityBench
    - Street trees and plantings
    - Signage and lighting
    - Newsboxes, trash receptacles and other products
  - Bryant Park Corporation: Furnishing one of the “Great Places in America”
    - Southwest Porch/Outdoor Public Lounge
    - Holiday shop kiosks
    - Park litter receptacles
    - Boulevard 41 Streetscape Plan
  - 34th Street Partnership: Knowing NYC
    - Street Signs and Information Carts
    - Select Bus Service Station Design/Ticket Vending Machine Graphics
    - “Know NYC” Interpretive History Signage

- New Products and Ideas

BIO

Ignacio Ciocchini, ASLA, IDSA, is the Vice President of Design for three leading Business Improvement Districts in Manhattan for which he is responsible for the creative direction of all streetscapes, public spaces, furniture and equipment. Mr. Ciocchini holds several design and utility U.S. patents; his innovative design projects have received numerous prestigious awards and have been included in exhibitions at major institutions and events such as The Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum and The Guangzhou Design Week in China respectively. Mr. Ciocchini holds a graduate degree in Industrial Design from Universidad de Buenos Aires.
Infrastructure is Public Space

Designing the Public Realm on Every Level

The overarching aim is to foster an overall VISION for advancing the public realm and enhancing the city's quality of life.

Reclaiming Space, Connecting Communities

- Introduction: From the High Line to the Under Line
- Identifying the problems and potentials of underutilized spaces beneath and adjacent to elevated infrastructure
- Assessing local, national and international precedents
- Formulating a comprehensive inventory and designating typologies (Landing, Park, Trestle, Highway, Cluster, Clover, Span)
- Site selection: physical and ecological connections and surrounding social context
- Evaluating lessons learned from interventions at two “Proto-Sites”
  - On-site workshops, temporary installations, community programming
    - Chinatown, Division Street beneath the Manhattan Bridge, Manhattan
    - Southern Boulevard beneath the elevated subway, Bronx
- Illustrating design tactics and recommendations for typologies (case studies at seven “Proto-Sites”)
  - Lighting
  - Sound Attenuation
  - Stormwater Management and Green Infrastructure
  - Optimal Uses
  - Public Space
  - Signage, Branding, Identity
- Establishing guidelines and policy recommendations
- Program precedents and criteria
- Public-private partnerships
- Citywide plan and program
- Applications: national and international

BIO
Susan Chin, FAIA, joined the Design Trust for Public Spaces as Executive Director in October 2011 and has overseen the completion of critical projects such as Five Borough Farm and Making Midtown. Prior to joining the Design Trust, Ms. Chin was Assistant Commissioner of Capital Projects at the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs for over 20 years during which she guided a $3 billion program of new construction, revitalization and public art projects citywide. Ms. Chin serves as the Vice President of The American Institute of Architects and holds degrees from Columbia University and Ohio State University.