



ROCKY'S FOLLY

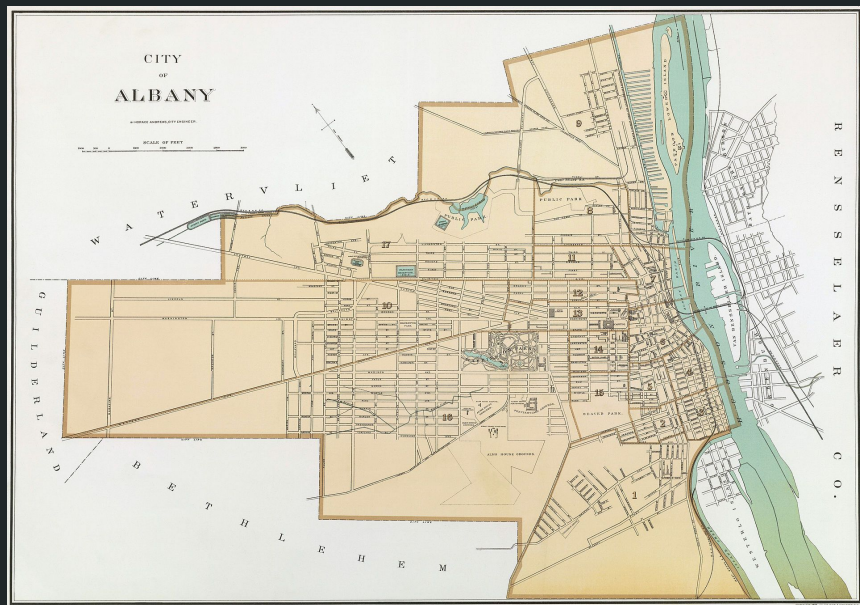
Modernism, Urban Renewal, and Albany's Empire State Plaza

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The Dynamic City: Futures for the Past | April 2, 2016

ALBANY'S EMPIRE STATE PLAZA



ALBANY AT HEIGHT OF URBANISM



Map of Albany, 1895



Pearl Street, 1951

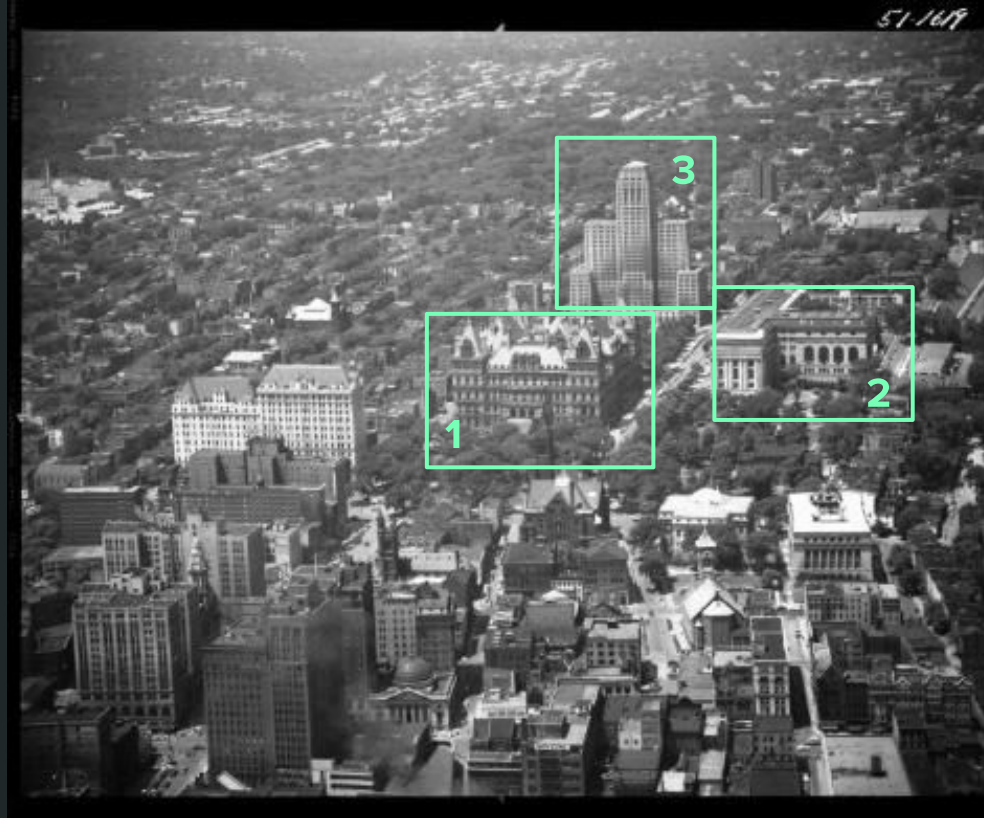


Aerial photograph of low-rise rowhouses in South End, 1950s

ALBANY AT HEIGHT OF URBANISM



CAPITOL BUILDING
Romanesque
Revival, 1899



Aerial Photograph of Downtown Albany, 1951

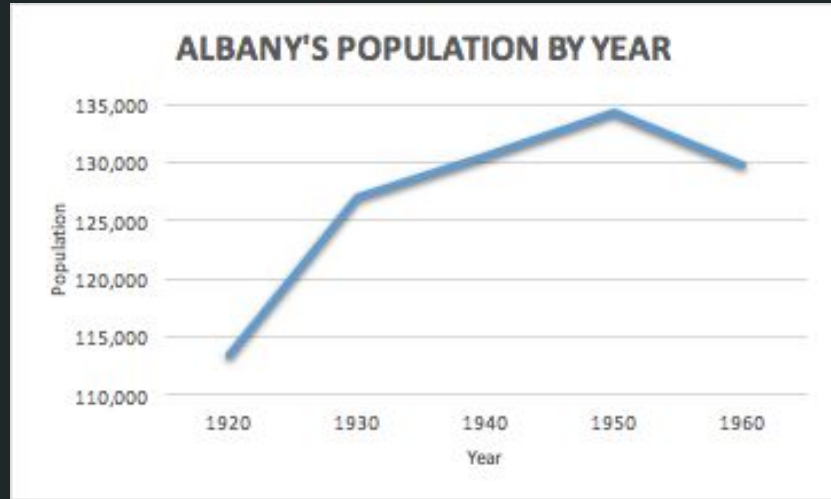


STATE EDUCATION
BUILDING
Beaux Arts, 1912



ALFRED E. SMITH
BUILDING
Art Deco, 1928

ALBANY'S DECLINE



Churchmen Lash South End Slums As 'Shocking' and 'Disgraceful'



ROCKEFELLER TAKES ON “HISTORIC BUT SHABBY” ALBANY



“Historic but shabby fell short of properly symbolizing the spirit of a great and vital state.” - Nelson Rockefeller

Nelson Rockefeller and Queen Beatrix, 1959

URBAN RENEWAL

- WWII - 1970s: public efforts to revitalize aging and decaying inner cities
- Housing Acts of 1949 and 1954 provided federal funding
- Characterized by massive demolition, slum clearance, and rehabilitation
- Displaced 2 million people between 1964 and 1972



STATE SEIZES 98 ACRES IN DOWNTOWN ALBANY

State Buys 40 Blocks In Heart of Albany

In the boldest single stroke of urban renewal in the nation's history, the State of New York this morning will acquire title to nearly 100 acres in the heart of Albany at a cost of \$50 million.

The Temporary State Commission on the Capital City announced late yesterday that a tract embracing 3,300 dwelling units and scores of business establishments, as well as schools and churches, is being claimed for the State's downtown office building complex.

Parling for 10,000 cars and acres of landscaped mall will be included, too, within an area that will stretch in a vast compass from near Madison Avenue and Broadway westward to Eagle Street,

where it will take on the shape of a half-mile-wide rectangle extending two blocks west to Swan Street. On its widest side, along South Swan Street, the area will be from State Street (at the State Office Building corner) virtually to the edge of Lincoln Park. Occupants "will not be disturbed" until necessary; they will receive "ample notice," and the State is developing a resettlement program.

Mayor Erasme Corning 2nd, in a statement to the commission, objected vigorously to the project. He declared that the "human rights" of the residents would call for building of housing first, to prevent a "completely unnecessary tragedy" in uncertainties of relocation. He promised to "protect the people of

Albany" against an action which he described as "hasty, ruthless, inhumane." He threatened court action to halt the State's project.

Forty city blocks, in whole or in part, are involved. An estimated 6,800 people live there. A few landmarks, such as churches—St. Paul's Episcopal, St. Sophia's Greek Orthodox, First Methodist—will go, along with schools—P.S. 2 and Cardinal McInerney High School—and commercial and public structures, such as city police headquarters and the old 1/2-ton

Block. Some newer buildings, including some built in recent years between State and Chestnut Streets.

A few major buildings on the fringes of the area, such as the Executive Mansion, the New York Telephone Company's main building on State Street, and

the Roman Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, will remain.

From the affected area, scores of businesses and thousands of people will be moved over a period of years. Meanwhile, probably this morning, the State will take title to all the properties and will become the landlord to all the tenants. The city will collect taxes from occupants of the land.

On the site, within the next several years, will rise a number of new state buildings, together with impressive approaches and parklike areas. With the exception of the few principal existing buildings which will be allowed to remain within the extreme borders of the area, the land will be entirely cleared and its character will change completely.

FINAL
EDITION

Complete N. Y. Stocks
Latest Sports

106th Year—No. 341

THE
TIMES-UNION

ALBANY, N. Y., TUESDAY, MAR. 27, 1962

F 7 CENTS

Land Appropriation Map

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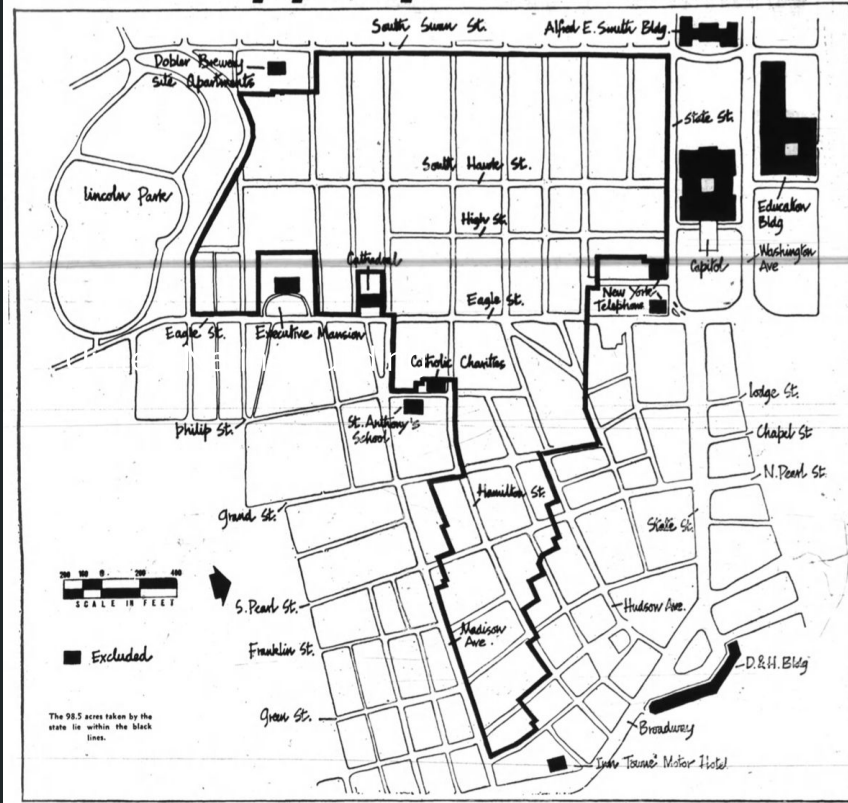
Answers to 16 Key Questions

Page 16

Eight Pages of Stories, Photos

Project Largest of Its Kind in Nation

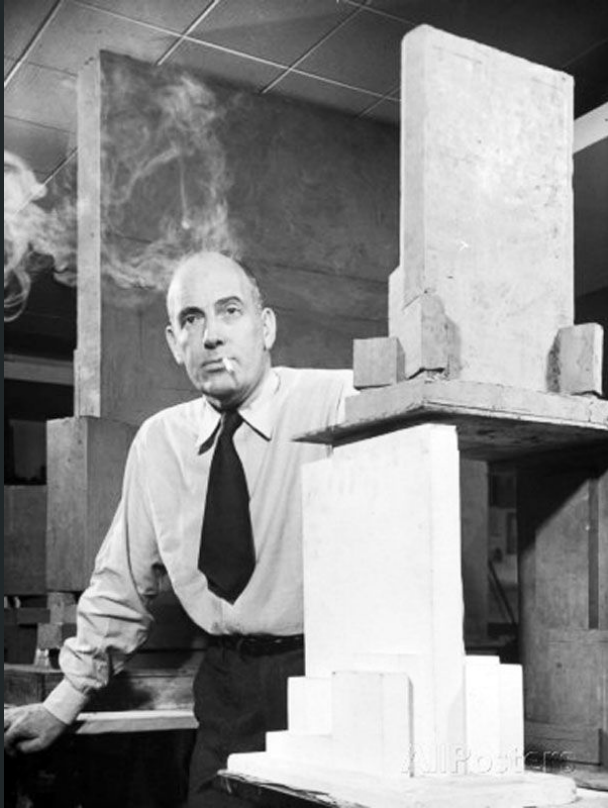
Land Appropriation Map



SOUTH MALL DESIGN



SOUTH MALL DESIGN



Wallace K. Harrison

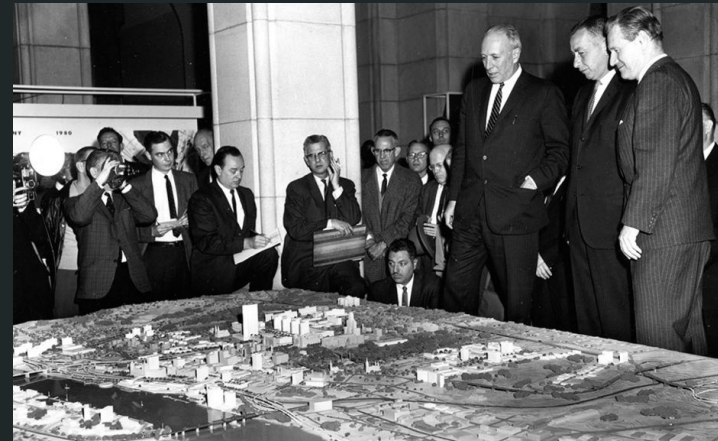
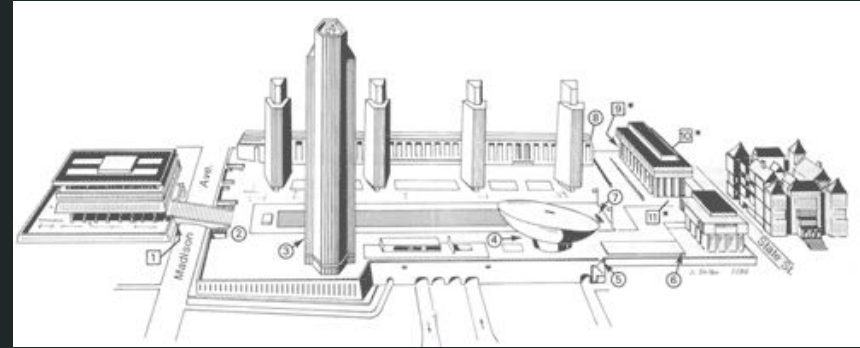


United Nations Building



Rockefeller Center

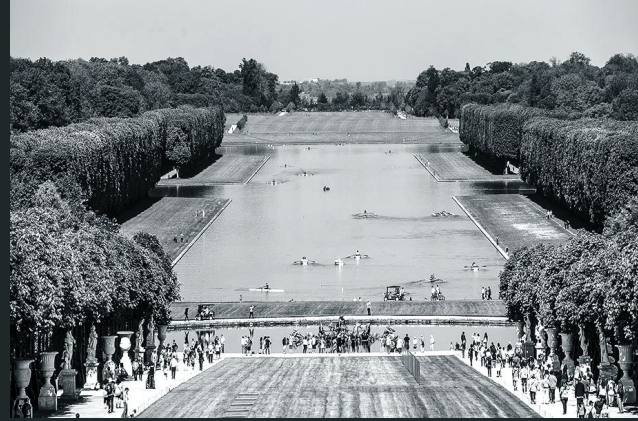
SOUTH MALL DESIGN



SOUTH MALL DESIGN: Influences



Le Corbusier's Radiant City



Versailles



Empire State Plaza in foreground, Central Business District, then Hudson River



SOUTH MALL DESIGN: Influences



Brasilia



SOUTH MALL DESIGN: Art



SOUTH MALL CONSTRUCTION: Destruction and Displacement



SOUTH MALL CONSTRUCTION: Delays



Mid-1960s



1968



1970

HOUSING PROJECT



SCHENECTADY GAZETTE, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1970

GAZETTE PHONE 374-4141

Rockefeller Concedes State Housing Short of Mark

DEBATING THE DESIGN



INTEGRATION WITH URBAN ENVIRONMENT?



INTEGRATION WITH URBAN ENVIRONMENT?



“A fortress or fundamentalist mentality not only shuts itself off from dynamic influences originating outside but also, as a side effect, ceases influencing the outside world.” - Jane Jacobs