**Codex New York**

Typologies of the City

by Stanley Greenberg

Foreword by Karrie Jacobs

“Stanley Greenberg’s photos are an argument for seeing with determination, for seeking out what makes New York City unique, for understanding that we are surrounded by a work of boundless ingenuity, passion, messy vitality, and, sometimes, genius. Codex New York is a collection of photographs that states unequivocally that our job, as human beings, is to see what’s in front of us, and to consciously, willfully, observe.” —KARRIE JACOBS

As a native New Yorker with a lifelong curiosity about urban infrastructure, photographer Stanley Greenberg—author of the bestselling *Invisible New York*—observes physical characteristics of the city that most people miss. His ongoing explorations of the city yield an understanding of it as a huge catalog of features that repeat, vary, morph, and multiply—block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood. He embarked on an extraordinary research expedition, walking every block of Manhattan from the Battery (where there is today much more land than when the Dutch first arrived in the seventeenth century) to Inwood (which retains more of its original topography than any other part of Manhattan), photographing striking and subtle urban typologies and along the way creating a voluminous visual database.

*Codex New York: Typologies of the City* is the result of this remarkable urban exploration and documentation. Greenberg’s formidable array of architectural and infrastructural features—alleys, skybridges, parking sheds, architectural relics, little streets, water infrastructure, and more—combine to create an incomparable visual chronicle of the city. Organized into categories, these features prompt deeper understandings of the relationships between our surroundings and the way we use the city. *Codex New York* also serves as a temporal marker; many of the empty spaces Greenberg photographed have already been built on, obscuring the views of the ever-changing city that now exist only in images.

For audiences interested in contemporary cities, photography, urban history, planning, architecture, and infrastructure, *Codex New York* is an idiosyncratic field guide that prompts new understandings of what New York is made of.
About the Authors

Stanley Greenberg is a Brooklyn-based photographer and author Invisible New York: The Hidden Infrastructure of the City (1998), Waterworks: A photographic Journey Through New York’s Hidden Water System (2003), Architecture Under Construction (2010), and Time Machines (2011). His photographs are held in prominent collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the New York Public Library, the Yale University Art Gallery, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, among others. Greenberg has received a Guggenheim Fellowship, as well as grants from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York Foundation for the Arts, and the New York State Council on the Arts. His work can be seen at www.stanleygreenberg.org

Karrie Jacobs is a professional observer of the man-made landscape. She writes regularly for Architect and Curbed. She’s also faculty member at the School of Visual Arts’ MA program in Design Research, Writing, and Criticism where she teaches students how to understand and interpret the design rich environment all around them. She was the founding editor-in-chief of Dwell and the founding executive editor of Benetton’s Colors. She is the author of The Perfect $100,000 House (2006) and co-author of Angry Graphics (1992).

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