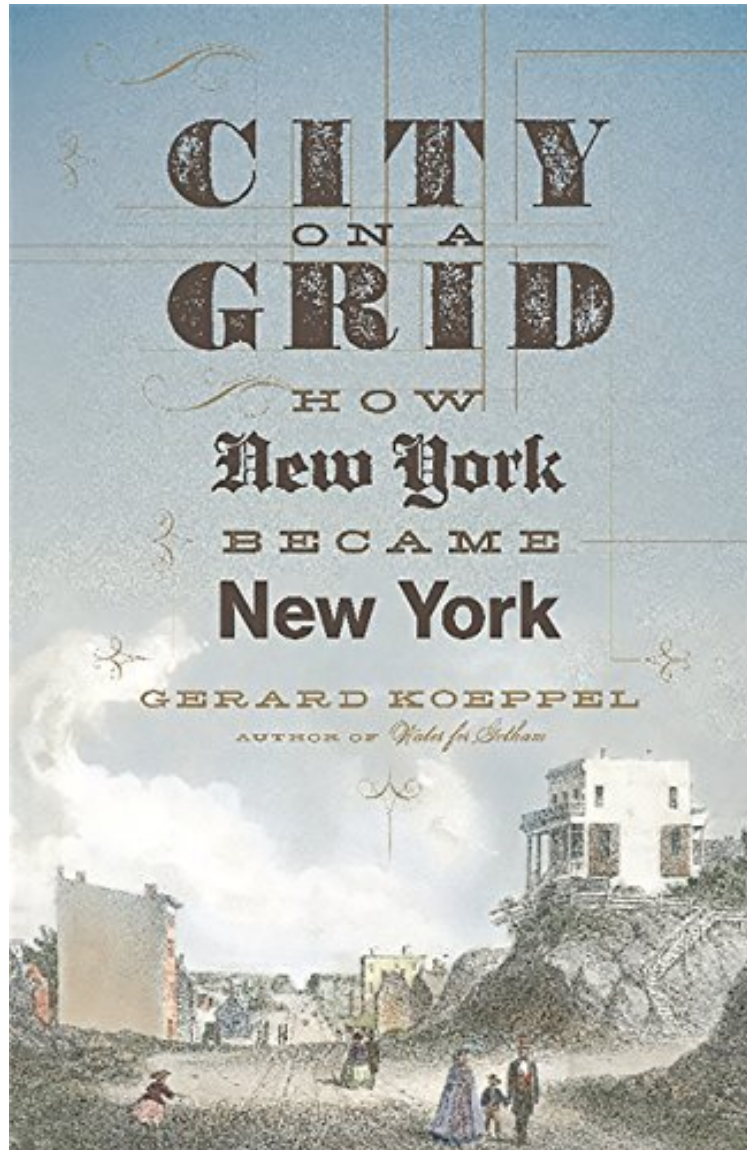


(Free and download) City on a Grid: How New York Became New York

## City on a Grid: How New York Became New York

Gerard Koepfel

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#533800 in Books Gerard Koepfel 2015-11-10 2015-11-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.75 x 1.15 x 6.751, .0 #File Name: 0306822849336 pagesCity on a Grid How New York Became New York | File size: 22.Mb

**Gerard Koepfel : City on a Grid: How New York Became New York** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised City on a Grid: How New York Became New York:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Informative but also enjoyableBy P. JohnsonI am engrossed in this book. I thought I was fairly knowledgeable about NYC, but this is a whole different angle, if you will. Gerald Koepfel really alters your view of the city and provides fascinating stories about how the city has grown from "villages" to the

grid. His voice is really entertaining, too--it's like being with a great tour guide, bringing it all to life for you.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. It is a wonderful book about how New York became New YorkBy Charles LausterNobody knows about how New York became a gridded city. Gerard Koepfel gives us a vivid description of how it probably happened. More than that he makes a powerful argument for an alternate city plan than the grid. It is a wonderful book about how New York became New York.9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Engrossing and entertainingBy EAI'm an infrequent reader of non-fiction, but having completed this book on New Year's eve I can't think of any book I've enjoyed as much in 2015. While the central story is engrossing with many more historical surprises than I expected, the author's frequent digressions are equally interesting and entertaining. The few but carefully-chosen illustrations beautifully augment the text, and several of the photographs are astonishing - who would have believed that streets were literally bulldozed through hills leaving early homes sitting precariously on newly-formed precipices. Only in New York!

You either love it or hate it, but nothing says New York like the street grid of Manhattan. Created in 1811 by a three-man commission featuring headstrong Founding Father Gouverneur Morris, the plan called for a dozen parallel avenues crossing at right angles with many dozens of parallel streets in an unbroken grid. Hills and valleys, streams and ponds, forests and swamps were invisible to the grid; so too were country villages, roads, farms, and estates and generations of property lines. All would disappear as the crosshatch fabric of the grid overspread the island: a heavy greatcoat on the land, the dense undergarment of the future city.No other grid in Western civilization was so large and uniform as the one ordained in 1811. Not without reason. When the grid plan was announced, New York was just under two hundred years old, an overgrown town at the southern tip of Manhattan, a notorious jumble of streets laid at the whim of landowners. To bring order beyond the chaos-and good real estate to market-the street planning commission came up with a monolithic grid for the rest of the island. Mannahatta-the native "island of hills"-became a place of rectangles, in thousands of blocks on the flattened landscape, and many more thousands of right-angled buildings rising in vertical mimicry.The Manhattan grid has been called "a disaster" of urban planning and "the most courageous act of prediction in Western civilization." However one feels about it, the most famous urban design of a living city defines its daily life. This is its story.

Library Journal, 9/18/15"Readers curious about the growth of infrastructure in large city centers will definitely be interested in Koepfel's take."Internet of Books, 11/6/15"How can anybody have anything much to say, much less anything interesting, about a batch of horizontal and vertical lines? Turns out, there's quite a lot to say—and—it's interesting!"Open Letters Monthly, 11/6/15"Anyone who's ever spent any substantial amount of time in Manhattan has personally, viscerally felt the subject of Gerard Koepfel's new book City on a Grid...As Koepfel points out, nobody has written about the grid before. But what it lacks in antecedents, City on a Grid makes up in sheer zest of storytelling...The history uncovered and explored in these pages is uniformly fascinating, but the real high point of City on a Grid is Koepfel's meditation on what a grid arrangement means at its heart...Anyone who's ever felt the grid slowly clarifying inside their own head should read this fantastic book and find out how it all came to be."PopMatters.com, 11/9/15"Koepfel brings a disarming wit...Keeping the narrative light on its feet and keeping his targets well within range, Koepfel resists the urge of too many modern historians to inflate their topic."Portland Book , 1/25/16"An engaging account...Koepfel takes the reader on a historic journey through the early beginnings of New York, when there were literally no streets and little to no understanding of how to move forward. In order to make sense of it all, Koepfel has had to dig deep in piecing together this relative untold story, unearthing captivating facts and stories that not only bring to life the New York grid system and its origins but also the characters that built it...A fascinating book in understanding the history of the grid system, why it's the way that it is, and its role in helping shape New York into the incredible city that we know today."Midwest Book , February 2016"With its powerful survey of the politics, urban planning issues, city-building approaches, and social atmosphere of its times, City on a Grid is not only a 'must' for any interested in how New York evolved, but for any with a special interest in urban planning history."Phi Beta Kappa's The Key Reporter, 3/8/16"Paul Goodman, America's own grand and innovative social thinker...called for a new genre of letters, one that City on a Grid will augment—the urban pastoral, celebrating the infrastructure of the city such as its methods of transportation and building while reminding us of its dependency on the majesty of nature."Roanoke Times, 1/17/16"Koepfel is the very best sort of writer for this sort of history. The book is chock-a-block with stories about New York City...Koepfel's style is entertaining with clever plays on words and inventive descriptions, and his treatment of New York history betrays his love for the city. By extension, this wonderful story has relevance to most U.S. cities...Koepfel puts us in touch with our financial and cultural roots by following the birth of urban planning and providing a glimpse into how New York's urban planning became a blueprint for cities across the nation."San Francisco Book , 1/21/16"New Yorkers will likely relate to the entire book, but readers interested in the effects of urbanization anywhere will find the latter chapters of the book meaningful."David Duchovny, actor, author, native New Yorker"I've spent most of my life walking the straight lines of the world's greatest city and have never thought to ask: Is this a different shape from other cities, and if so, why, and

who did it? Koeppl's book answers these questions, in an easygoing, good-humored manner, with interesting facts unearthed on nearly every page. This is one of those books you always wished would be written, and here it is. Indispensable for anyone interested in the history of New York and cities generally, and bound to fuel cocktail conversations up, down, and across the city for years to come."Kirkus s, 8/15/15"For Manhattanites, surely, and for anyone who's visited and been either charmed or overwhelmed by the grid."Publishers Weekly, 9/14/15"A look at the story behind the development of New York City's extraordinary 1811 street grid plan, which 'defined the urbanism of a rising city and nation.'...[An] expert investigation into what made the city special...Koeppl's bold commentary on the constant evolution of Gotham may stir controversy in some quarters, but he unabashedly celebrates the metropolis that has never learned what it means to grow old or stale."The New Yorker, 10/5/15"Tells the too little-known tale of how and why Manhattan came to be the waffle-board city we know."A 2015 New York City Book Award Winner!Advance Praise for City on a GridKate Ascher, author of The Works: Anatomy of a City"Rarely does one come across a book that makes you rethink the city you thought you knew.... Koeppl's masterful story-telling does that and more."Justin Martin, author of books about a pair of New York eminences, Walt Whitman and Frederick Law Olmsted