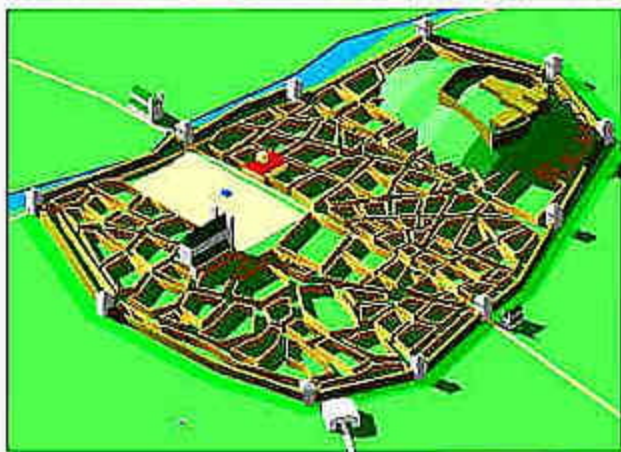


Mid-Manhattan Library
presents

New York celebrated the 400th Anniversary

How Did Cities Evolve?

800 years of various influences on European urban developments



an illustrated lecture
with

Edward A. Toran

Thursday, June 23rd, 2011

6:30 p.m. on the 6th floor



New York
Public
Library

Mid-Manhattan Library
40th Street and 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10016
212-340-0837

The New York's recent 400th anniversary invites the wider question about how cities evolved in the Western world during approximately 800 years of functional, social, administrative, economical, technical and political developments, from the so called "Dark Age" to their present configurations.



Intersections of trade routes and rivers with bridges in strategic locations enabled markets, production, administration and concentration of other activities organized in the framework of developing cities, governed by worldly powers represented by the architecture of castles, palaces, city halls and churches.

Wide parks and ring boulevards replaced old defense systems of cities, such as walls and water moats, because of an invention, hundreds of years earlier, to attach wheels to cannons.

Edward Toran's illustrated presentation points out the many intertwined influences where changes in production, business dealings, technology, warfare, communication and information could lead from minor inventions to major changes in urban landscapes. In all these observations, recognizing present life procedures helps to clarify historic events; and knowing history always can help to understand future developments.

About the presenter:

Edward A. Toran studied and worked in architecture, design, theory and history of arts which got him involved also in fields like theater and exhibition design, photography and flying in cockpits of large-sized commercial airlines. He has written and lectured on these topics. After 15 years of being the Director of Space Administration for Metropolitan Life, he works for the Metropolitan Museum of Art. His latest photography project was the publication "10 Architectural Walks in Manhattan" published by the Municipal Art Society of New York and W.W. Norton.



Opposite: Animated layout graphics will explain the developments of the main features of a city.



Elevators access the 6th floor after 6 p.m.
All programs are FREE and subject to
last minute change or cancellation.