

The ABCs of City Planning

NYC
PLANNING



This book belongs to:

The ABCs of City Planning

The City of New York
Zohran Mamdani, Mayor

New York City Department of City Planning
Sideya Sherman, Director and Chair of the City Planning Commission
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City planning isn't just for grown-ups!

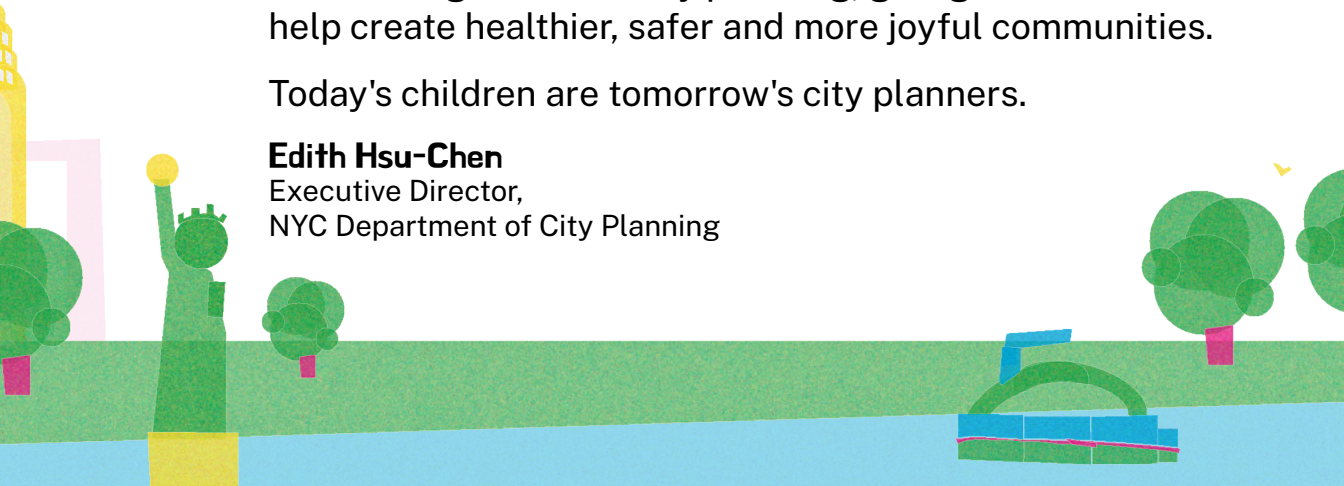
Every day, young people walk, play and explore their neighborhoods — noticing what they enjoy and imagining how their city could be even better.

When children learn how our cities are shaped, they can become powerful advocates for the places they call home.

This book — an update on the original 1937 version — shares the building blocks of city planning, giving kids tools to help create healthier, safer and more joyful communities.

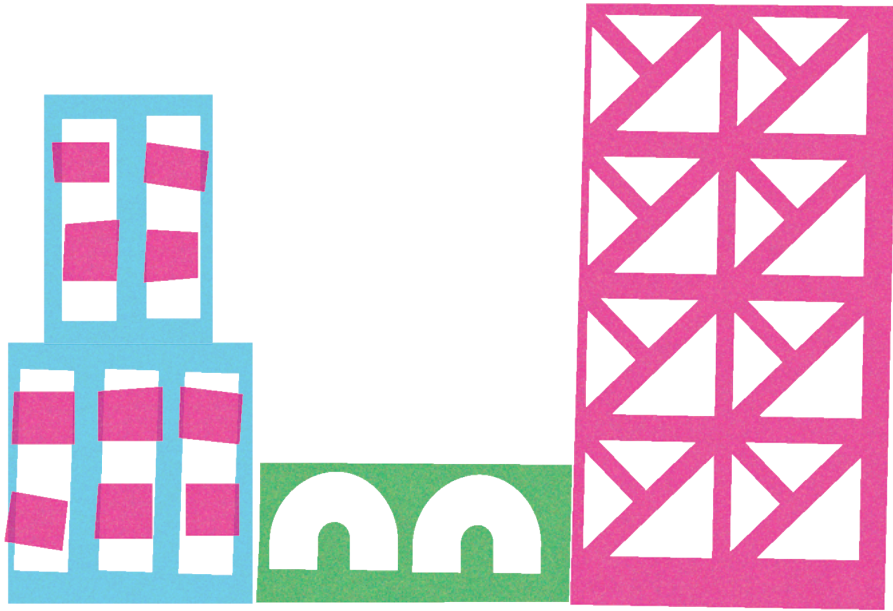
Today's children are tomorrow's city planners.

Edith Hsu-Chen
Executive Director,
NYC Department of City Planning





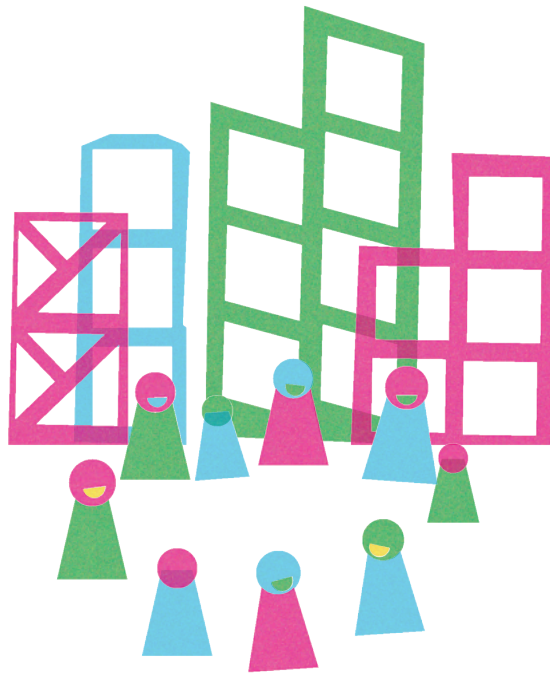
A is for Affordability
When costs meet our needs
We can stay in the city
And all succeed



B is for Building
Both short and tall
Old or brand new
With rooms big and small



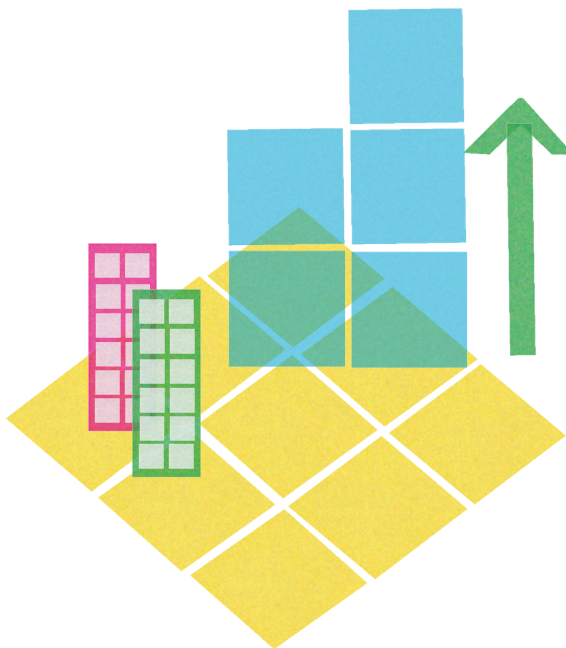
C is for **Commercial**
With jobs, food and shops
Here in New York
The fun never stops



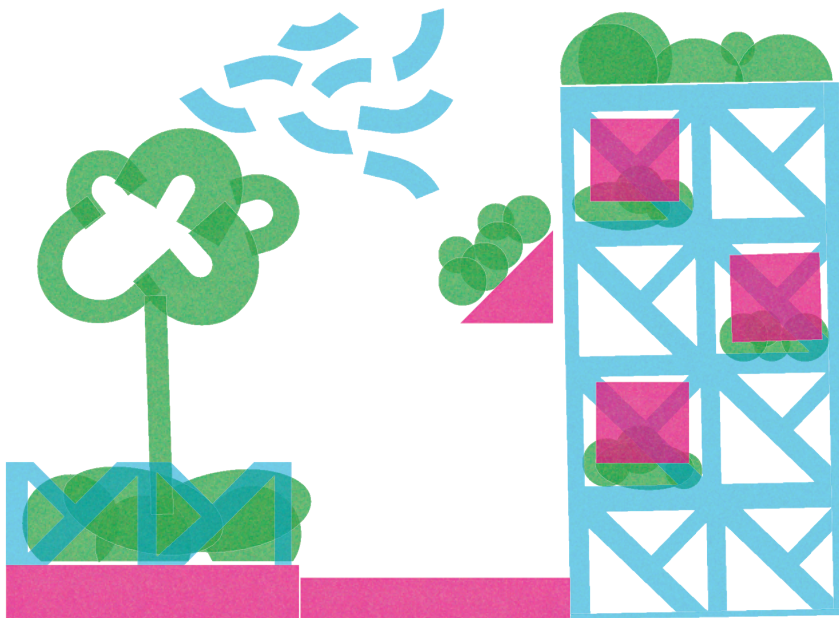
D is for Density
When our cities grow
New people come together
More friends to know



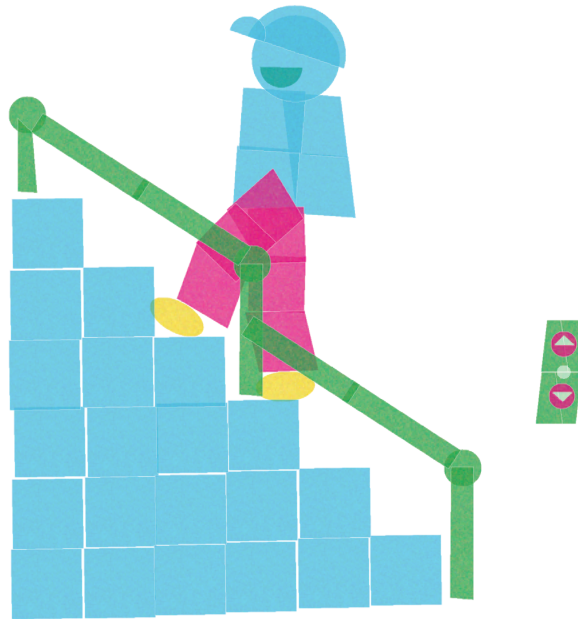
E is for Energy
That keeps our streets bright
It powers our city
With music and light



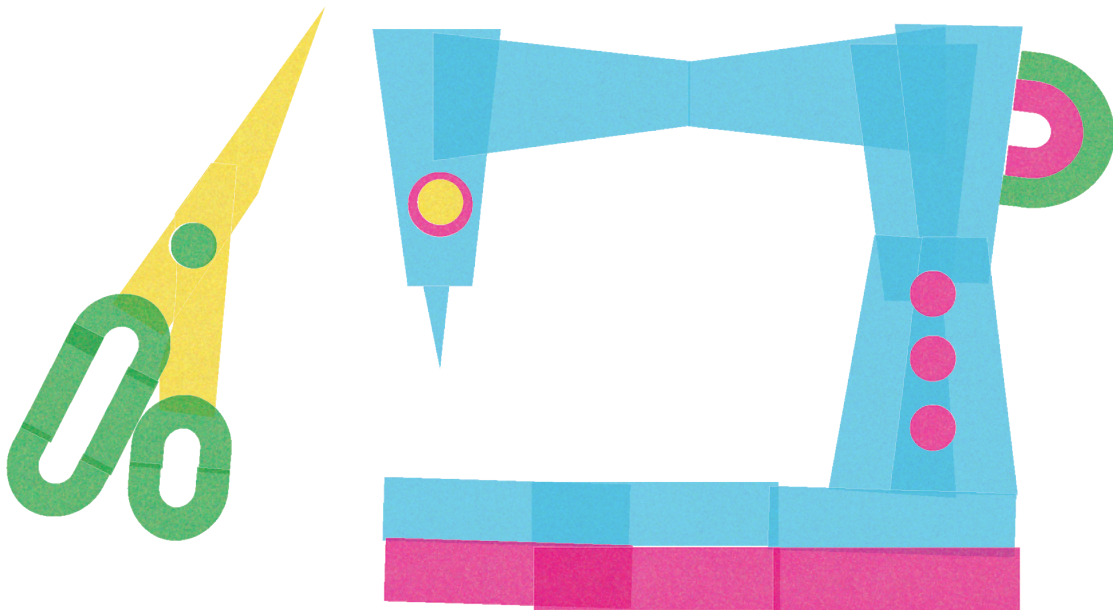
F is for F.A.R.
Or Floor Area Ratio
It tells you how big
Your building can go



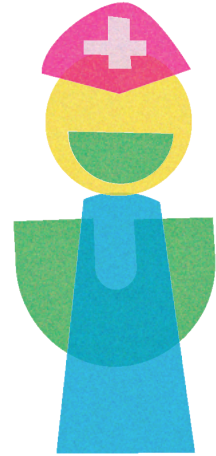
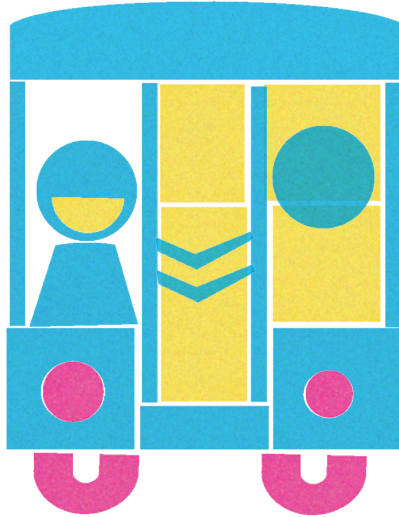
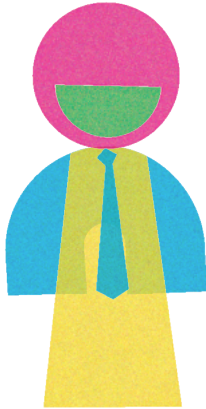
G is for Green
Parks and trees we share
To help lower emissions
And clean the air



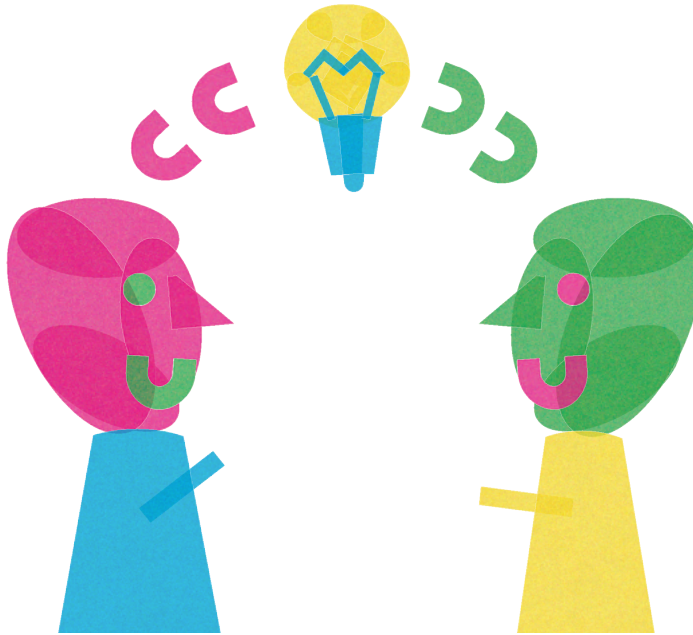
His for Home,
Our place of retreat
Up stoops, stairs or lifts
Lining the street



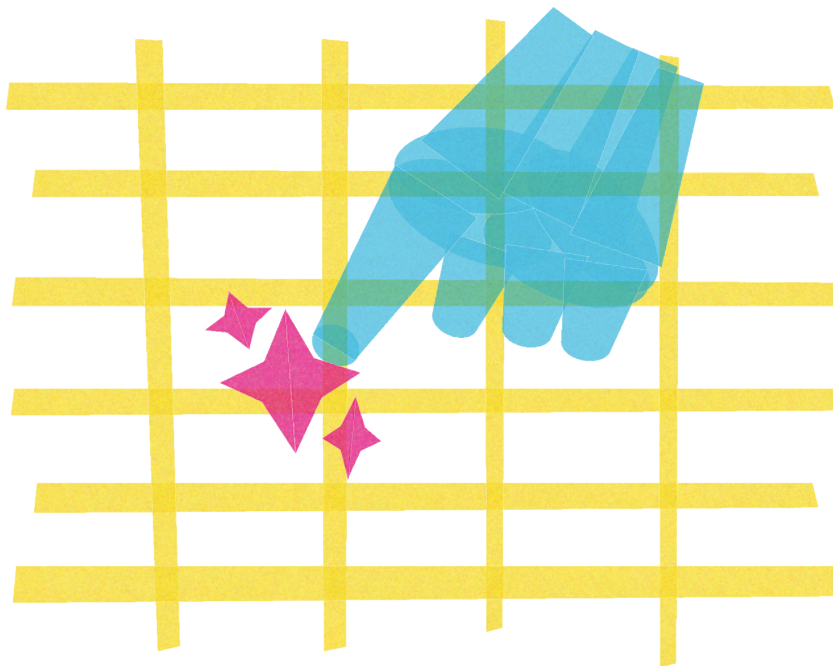
I is for Industry
Where ideas take shape
From factories to workshops
We craft and create



J is for Job
The work people do
To keep our city running
For me and for you



K is for Knowledge
Every person we meet
Knows a bit of the city
Shops, restaurants and streets



L is for local
Neighborhoods are unique
Each corner, block and avenue
Different people to meet



M is for Micromobility
Making quick trips a breeze
We use scooters and bikes
To get where we need



N is for Neighborhood Plan
Let's develop it together
We can craft a future
That's brighter and better



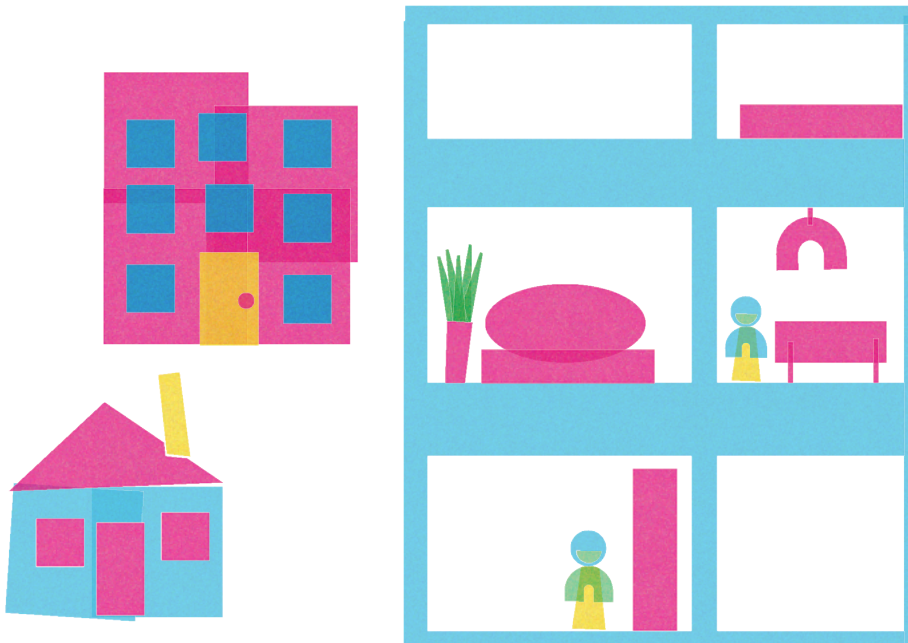
O is for Open Space
Where no buildings stand
To grow, play, or dream
On grass, pavement or sand



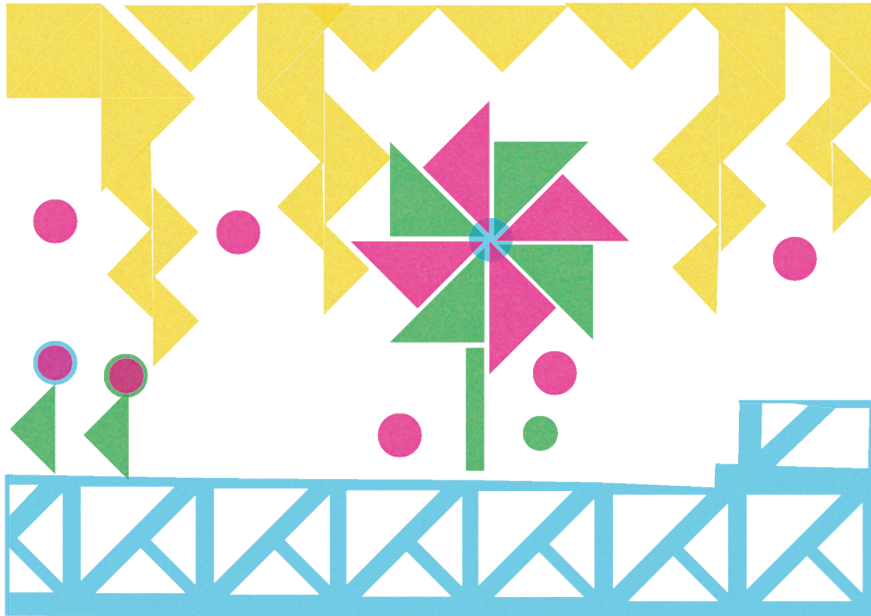
P is for Parks
Places to play
Relax in the city
And enjoy our day



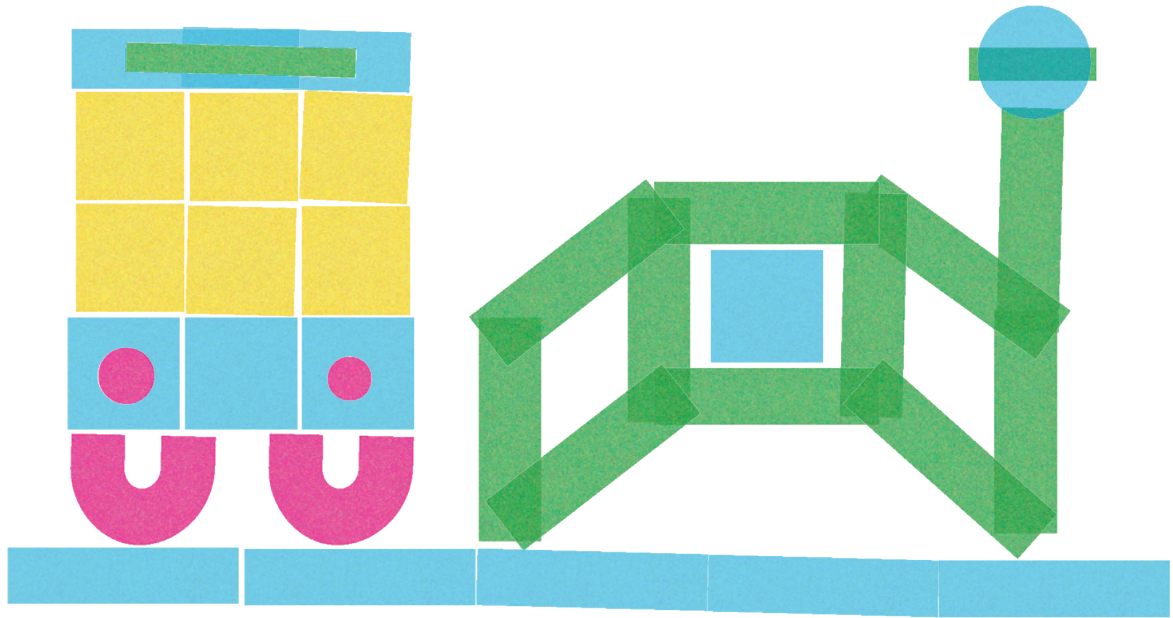
Q is for Quality
In planning and design
Help choose details
That make the city shine



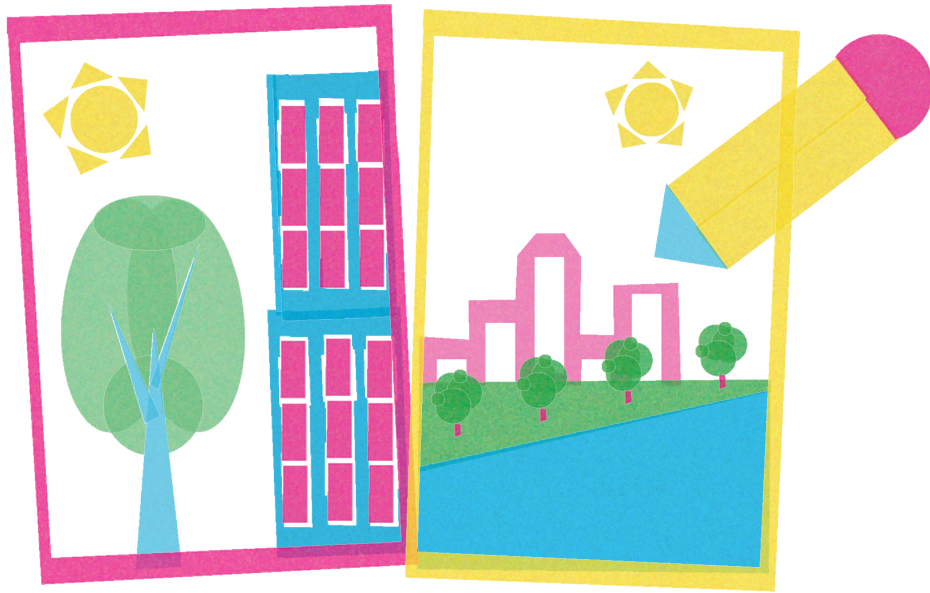
R is for Residential
The places we call home
From row houses to high rises
Brick, concrete and stone



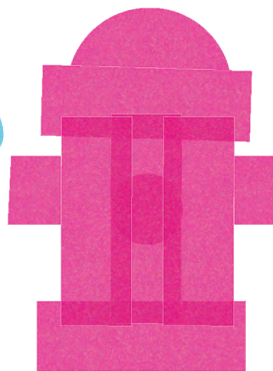
S is for Sustainability
Less pollution and waste
Let's make our city
A green, healthy place



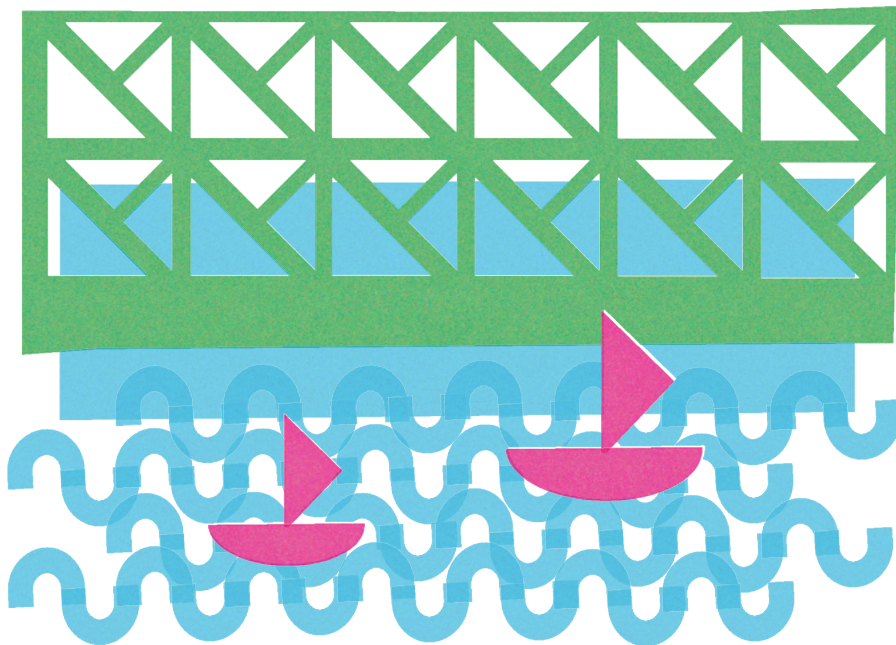
T is for Transportation
Taking us far and wide
Subways, buses and bikes
So many ways to ride



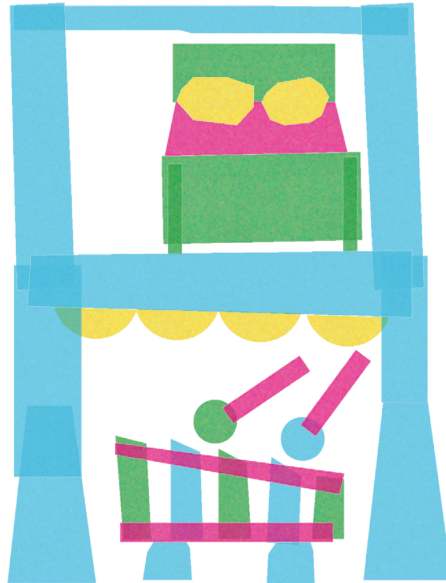
U is for **Urban Design**
Which shapes public space
So everywhere you go
You always find your place



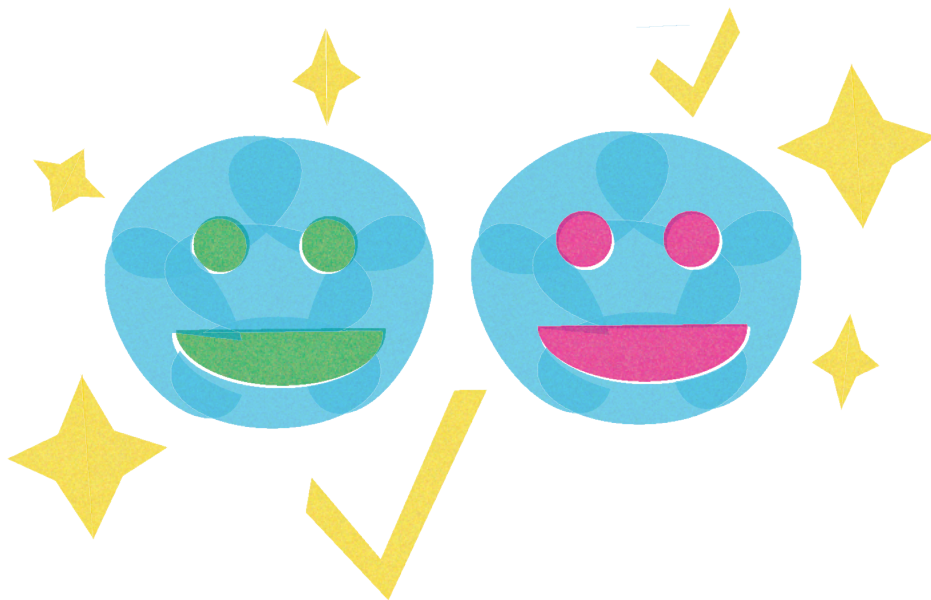
V is for **View**
Look around and see
The things people do
Wonders on every street



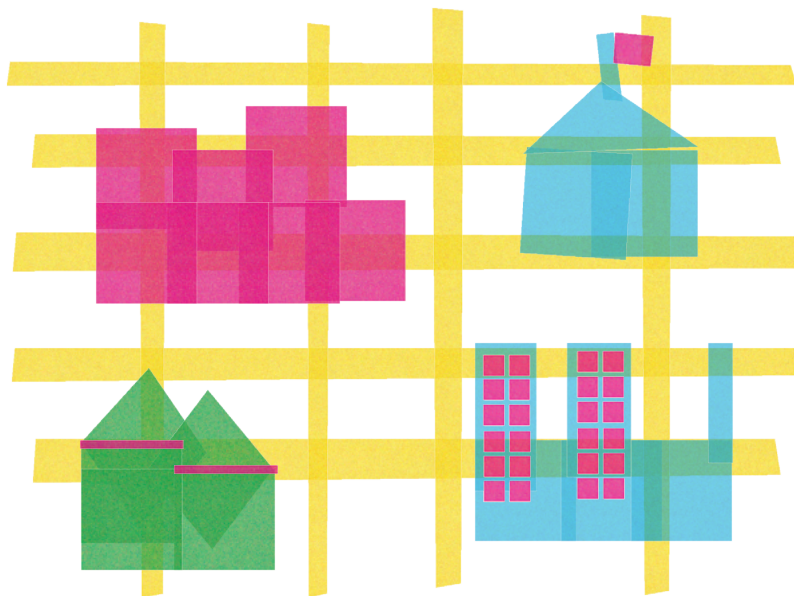
Wis for Waterfront
Where the city meets the tide
All 520 miles
Let's walk them side by side



X is for MiXed Use
New York City is proof
Shops, homes and offices
Can be under one roof



Y is for You
Help make a plan
To make New York City
The best that you can



Z is for Zoning
Or how we use land
So the city grows
And is properly planned

About the ABCs of City Planning

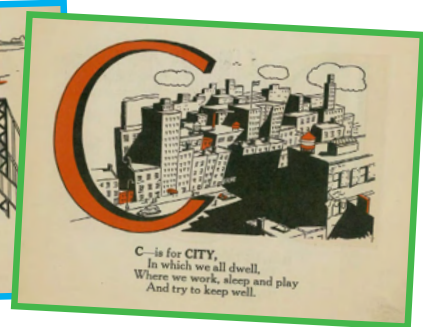
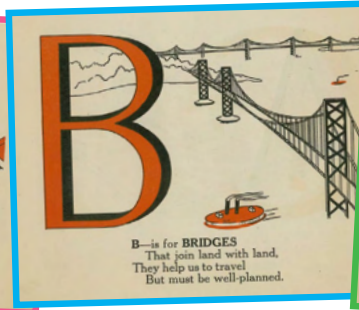
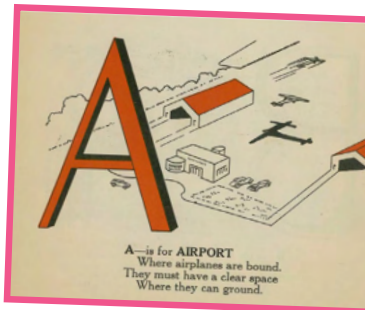
The first edition, the *ABC of City Planning*, was published in 1937 by Mayor Fiorella La Guardia's Committee on City Planning, which later became the City Planning Commission.

Committee Secretary Lawrence M. Orton wrote:

"City Planning is not for 'Adults Only.' Children of all ages can understand the necessity for a finer, better, safer and more convenient city. Unless they do understand it, and it becomes as fundamental as the ABC, we can never hope to make our city the healthful, happy home it should be for our children and our children's children."



1937 edition of the
ABC of City Planning



Contributors

This edition of the *ABCs of City Planning* was a communal effort organized by Sarah Saad at the Department of City Planning (DCP).

Thank you to Jack Darcey, Jacob deCastro, Jonathan Patkowski and Elizabeth Hamby for editing and to the following DCP staff who participated in the collaging of the *ABCs of City Planning*:

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**A big thank you to you,
dear reader, for your
interest in city planning!**



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