

# The Museum of Modern Art

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## THE NEW CITY: ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN RENEWAL

### DESIGNING NEW LAND. MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Problem: How can we develop large segments of new land out of relatively under-used, or mis-used, peripheral areas, so that they alter the character of existing neighborhoods by providing important new amenities?

In order to provide new choices for housing, work and recreation without disrupting the existing community the M.I.T. team took advantage of the under-used or mis-used land in the area, especially Randall's Island, Ward's Island and the railroad yards of the South Bronx. They propose a major change in the configuration of Manhattan by connecting the two islands to each other and to Manhattan.

The old North Channel would be straightened and widened to connect the Harlem River to the East River. Earth dams at 116th Street, 101st and 90th Streets would allow easy access to new neighborhoods around two new lakes, one of them about 80 acres in extent. Both bodies of water could be easily purified for boating and swimming and could become new major recreation areas.

When completed the whole project would have made accessible for development some 510 acres, of which 270 acres would be new land accommodating 14,000 housing units. It would also yield about 187 acres of purified water in its three lakes. The total cost for earth moving, changing roads and water purification would be approximately \$150,000,000 or 6 days of the United States expenditure in Viet Nam during 1966.

This proposal necessarily deals with broadly defined goals rather than specific detail. It considers familiar problems in a new light, because it introduces a new factor: the manipulation of the city's geographical configuration as part of the renewal process.

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