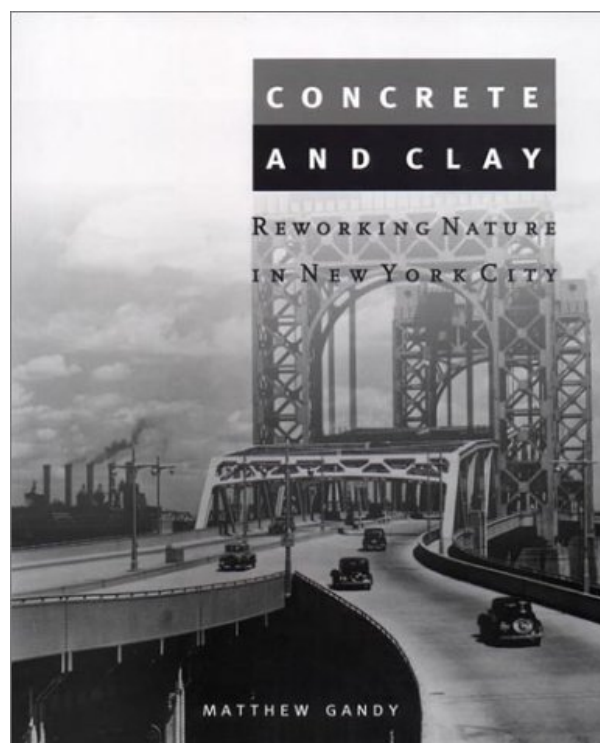
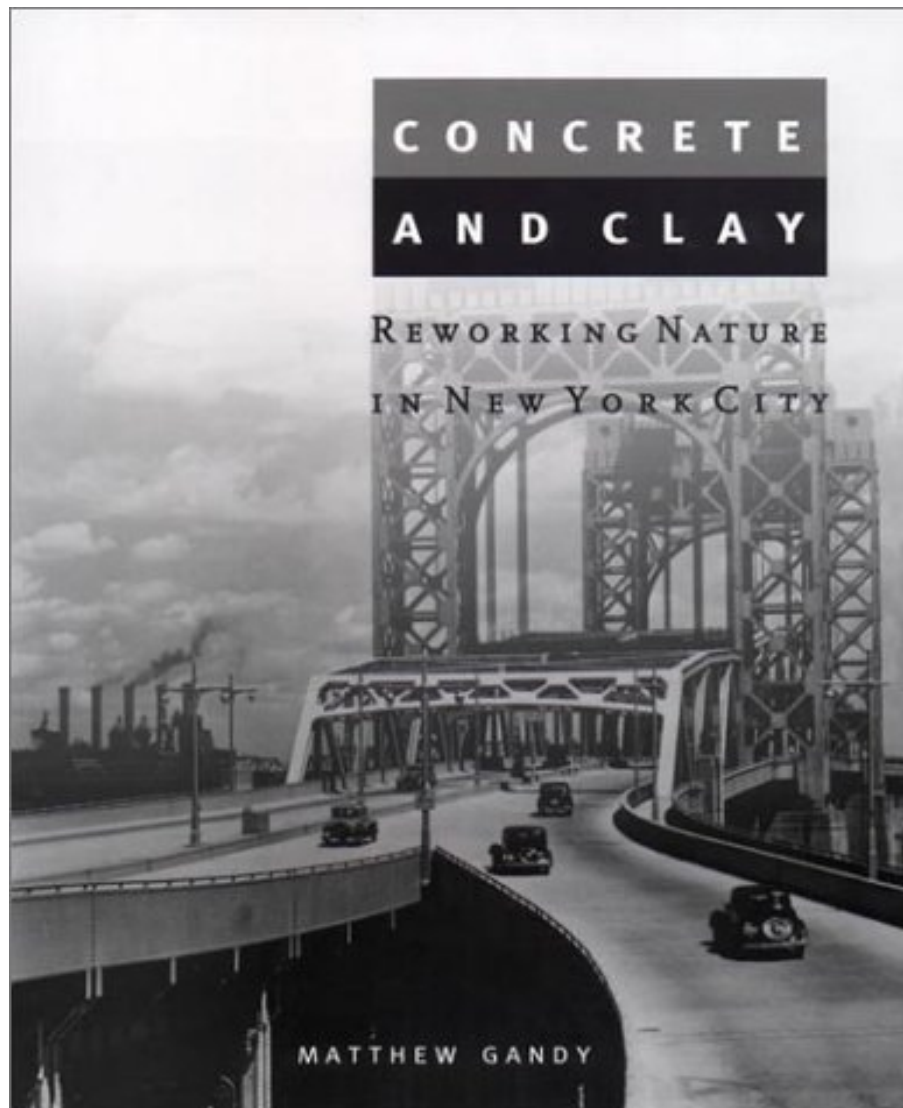


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NATURE IN NEW YORK CITY (URBAN AND
INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENTS) BY
MATTHEW GANDY**



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In this innovative account of the urbanization of nature in New York City, Matthew Gandy explores how the raw materials of nature have been reworked to produce a "metropolitan nature" distinct from the forms of nature experienced by early settlers. The book traces five broad developments: the expansion and redefinition of public space, the construction of landscaped highways, the creation of a modern water supply system, the radical environmental politics of the barrio in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and the contemporary politics of the environmental justice movement. Drawing on political economy, environmental studies, social theory, cultural theory, and architecture, Gandy shows how New York's environmental history is bound up not only with the upstate landscapes that stretch beyond the city's political boundaries but also with more distant places that reflect the nation's colonial and imperial legacies. Using the shifting meaning of nature under urbanization as a framework, he looks at how modern nature has been produced through interrelated transformations ranging from new water technologies to changing fashions in landscape design. Throughout, he considers the economic and ideological forces that underlie phenomena as diverse as the location of parks and the social stigma of dirty neighborhoods.

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Re-Thinking Nature in New York City

By M. Zavala

Matthew Gandy's *CONCRETE AND CLAY* is a sweeping history of the different ways in which nature has been reworked in New York City. It includes an historical account of the ways in which the current water system was put in place. It also offers an in-depth discussion of the Olmstedian ideology of nature and space, a useful way for framing the ways in which construction and land use has functioned in NYC over time. In addition to these important historical insights, the book also offers a glimpse into early forms of local organizing in what would later take the distinct shape of the environmental justice movement in the history of the Young Lords. But because the book is specifically about NYC, Gandy focuses his attention on the Lords' movement in the city, while only offering a nod to the successful organizing campaigns that took place in cities like Chicago. This history of Young Lords activism against environmental neglect is often left out of mainstream historical accounts. Gandy situates it center stage and thus honors the impact the initial sanitation movement had for not just the Puerto Rican population, but for the city at large. This book is a must read for anyone interested in a different type of history of New York City, one taken from a perspective that challenges more common ideas about urbanity transcending nature.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Great

By JB

This book was so so good. I love New York City and to learn so much about how the great city was developed was a good read.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

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It was an interesting book to read for an environmental class in college. It has a very interesting text as you read.

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