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Sam Bass Warner, Andrew Whittemore  
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### American Urban Form

A Representative History

Sam Bass Warner and Andrew H. Whittemore

Drawings by Andrew H. Whittemore



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Sam Bass Warner, Andrew Whittemore : American Urban Form: A Representative History (Urban and Industrial Environments) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Urban Form: A Representative History (Urban and Industrial Environments):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great read for those interested in city formation and American history  
By ArchitecturePhilosophy  
This book is a very good broad overview of how many Eastern coastal cities

developed in the United States. The scope is fairly large and there seems to be a nice balance of objective, distanced observation, and more of a finer grit perspective. The generic city described throughout is actually pretty brilliant as it removes many of the pre-imposed connotations that come packaged in any study of history, allowing one to look only at the broader forces that shape the city. There is likely nothing in here that will blow your mind, but the clarity of development might just change the way you read the history of some cities.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book is a perfect accompaniment for seeing the development of the city through ...By R.H. ScheinI teach an intro (University) urban course on the US city centered on urban social geographies and urban landscapes. The first three weeks present an historical geography of the the American city in its general form and process. This book is a perfect accompaniment for seeing the development of the city through those interpretive lenses.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Jean WernerExactly what I needed.

American Urban Form -- the spaces, places, and boundaries that define city life -- has been evolving since the first settlements of colonial days. The changing patterns of houses, buildings, streets, parks, pipes and wires, wharves, railroads, highways, and airports reflect changing patterns of the social, political, and economic processes that shape the city. In this book, Sam Bass Warner and Andrew Whittemore map more than three hundred years of the American city through the evolution of urban form. They do this by offering an illustrated history of "the City" -- a hypothetical city (constructed from the histories of Boston, Philadelphia, and New York) that exemplifies the American city's transformation from village to regional metropolis. In an engaging text accompanied by Whittemore's detailed, meticulous drawings, they chart the City's changes. Planning for the future of cities, they remind us, requires an understanding of the forces that shaped the city's past.

"With its rich narrative and outstanding visual representation of urban form changes, this concise book succeeds in making the reader experience the American city through time and understand the forces behind its evolution. The hypothetical city becomes real through engaging and detailed accounts of events, spaces, and social interactions."--Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris, Professor of Urban Planning, UCLA" American Urban Form -- assaying Boston, New York, and Philadelphia -- merits acclaim. Imagining our urban past, present, and future, Sam Bass Warner and Andrew Whittemore frame their lively narrative with twenty-first century sensibilities as they plumb the near and more distant past. Assembling chronologically organized big-picture views, the co-authors explain the shaping forces which created assorted urban forms. This superb book, to its credit, features Whittemore's hand-crafted and sumptuously detailed urban landscapes, best thought of as a luminous historical exhibition. A wide range of readers -- architects, artists, planners, historians, journalists, lawyers, mayors, legislators, policy makers, and general readers -- surely will learn much from this book."--Michael H. Ebner, Lake Forest College "This book represents a fresh approach to a perennial problem -- arguably the perennial problem -- in urban history. It will surely be, as the authors intend, a very useful and enlightening book for planners and design professionals seeking to learn from a single volume the most important elements of American urban history. The range of detailed, accurate, and insightful knowledge the authors display from the colonial city to the present is simply astonishing. And I believe the book will generate much useful comment and debate among urban historians about how to conceptualize and to present our field." --Robert L. Fishman, Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning, Taubman College, University of Michigan" In this illuminating book, Warner and Whittemore have teamed to produce a richly visual, extraordinarily conceptual view of urbanization in the US."--J.F.Bauman, Choice"hellip; American Urban Form stands out as a concise narration of the various dynamics that shaped the physical form of the American metropolis"hellip; The book is highly engaging in its technical descriptions, which are supported by excellent hand drawings by Whittemore."--Garyfalio Palaiologou, The Journal of Space SyntaxAbout the AuthorSam Bass Warner, noted urban historian and Visiting Professor of Urban History at MIT, is the author of *The Urban Wilderness: A History of the American City* and other books. Andrew H. Whittemore is Assistant Professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning at the University of Texas Arlington.