

# The New York Times

**With Books as a Catalyst, Minneapolis Neighborhood Revives** Three nonprofit groups opened Open Book, a literary and arts center, in May 2000, and a neighborhood renaissance flowered. April 30, 2008

**New Wave of Upgrades at Grand Central Shops** As many of its retailers' leases expire, the property managers of Grand Central Terminal are preparing for another retail face-lift. March 19, 2008

**St. Paul Stops a Waterfront Developer From Crossing the Mississippi** St. Paul has blocked a well-known local developer from building an upscale mixed-use community directly across the river from the downtown area. January 2, 2008

**Hotels Discover the Brooklyn Vibe** Several projects planned in the next few years will end a relatively dry spell in hotel development in Brooklyn. December 23, 2007

**NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES; In Minneapolis, a Block Transformed** After helping to turn around a neglected neighborhood, a nonprofit changed focus to preserve affordable housing amid encroaching gentrification. December 16, 2007

**Luxury Lodging for the Eco-Tourist** The options are expanding for travelers to Costa Rica who wish to celebrate and preserve the natural environment. November 25, 2007

**SQUARE FEET | CHECKING IN; Yes, It Has a Mood, but It's Not a 'Boutique'** Six years after the grand-opening party for its newest hotel in SoHo — on Sept. 10, 2001 — the Thompson Hotel Group is flourishing. October 28, 2007

**NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES; Two Border Cities, One Shared Lifestyle** Even as border security has become a political hot potato, El Paso and Juárez remain very much connected. October 28, 2007

**SQUARE FEET; For a Lasting Impact, a Fleeting Experience** The food magazine Bon Appétit hired a well-known designer to transform the former site of a Hard Rock Cafe into a temporary restaurant, scheduled to last only two weeks. October 24, 2007

**SQUARE FEET; A Third Act for Philadelphia's Avenue of the Arts** Avenue of the Arts along South Broad Street in Philadelphia has been created in three distinct phases; first phase cultivated live performing arts; second phase focused on attracting supporting commercial and retail tenants; third movement is new residential development, much of it directly linked to arts. October 17, 2007

**SQUARE FEET | CHECKING IN; Starwood's Founder Makes a New Splash** When Barry Sternlicht left the company he turned into one of the world's largest hotel chains, few thought he would return to the industry less than two years later. September 30, 2007

**SQUARE FEET; Planned City Rises Within a City in the Southwest** A 25-square-mile stretch of flat acreage in Albuquerque is being transformed into a master-planned community that may take 30 years to build. September 26, 2007

**SQUARE FEET | CHECKING IN; Party Central, for a Richer Crowd** The Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas is expected to emerge from a \$750 million renovation with its party image intact but with a more upscale clientele. September 2, 2007

**SQUARE FEET | CHECKING IN; When Creating Brands, Dress Rehearsals Help** Model rooms and lobbies help iron out every last detail before a hotel brand makes its debut. August 5, 2007

**SQUARE FEET | CHECKING IN; For Chelsea, a Morning of New Hotels** In the midst of New York's hot hotel market, developers are betting that Chelsea is ready to become a lodging destination. July 8, 2007

**Change at the Chelsea, Shelter of the Arts** Residents expressed concern about what the management change portends for one of New York's more quirky cultural institutions. June 19, 2007

**SQUARE FEET | CHECKING IN; New Kicks on Route 66 for Commercial Builders** Aficionados of the storied highway hope that the restoration of a famous stop for travelers will anchor a revival of motel culture and tourism. June 10, 2007

**POSTING; Putting Out the Welcome Mat** The collaborative process behind a project in SoHo may get a better reception than did its architecture firm's last project, the Sculpture for Living at Astor Place. May 27, 2007

**SQUARE FEET; Savannah Adds to the Master Plan of 1733** The historic downtown of Savannah, Ga., is being expanded, but the developer is staying true to its 1733 design. May 23, 2007

**SQUARE FEET | CHECKING IN; A New Style of Hotel Where Work Meets Play** Younger business travelers want contemporary design, up-to-date technology, easy access to clients and social activities, as well as a moderate price. May 6, 2007

**NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES; 'Smart Growth' in South Carolina** Rather than allowing development to overwhelm Jasper County, S.C., officials have collaborated on a plan to guide building and preserve natural beauty. April 29, 2007

**NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES; Buyers in New Mexico Find Views, and Value** The Talavera area has experienced rapid development in the last few years, as wealthier home buyers take advantage of the large lots and mountain views. April 15, 2007

**SQUARE FEET | CHECKING IN; Lower Manhattan's Revival Will Include New Hotels** A more active downtown is adding to demand for more guest rooms. April 15, 2007

**SQUARE FEET; Condo Conversions Switch Gears to Go Commercial** Some developers are rethinking plans to convert aging Manhattan office buildings into residential condominiums. April 4, 2007

**SQUARE FEET; 2 Cities and 4 Bridges Where Commerce Flows** Manufacturers are drawn to Juárez, Mexico, which has both low-cost Mexican labor and easy access to the U.S. market. March 28, 2007

**NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES; Northeast Los Angeles: Set for a Close-Up** With real estate prices on the rise, home buyers have been migrating to a historic hilly area that offers views from the Pacific Ocean to the Hollywood Hills. March 25, 2007

**SQUARE FEET; An Art Gallery in the Lobby** The first Class A commercial condominium building in Lower Manhattan has taken lobby art to a new level, transforming the space with rotating exhibits. March 7, 2007

**SQUARE FEET; Record Year Followed by Record Deal** In 2006, office buildings purchased by investors in New York City reached nearly \$30 billion, double the amount that investors paid just two years earlier. January 17, 2007

**SQUARE FEET; Finding the Green In Building Renovation** A New York developer has an eye on making environmentally conscious improvements to properties in locations served by mass transit. January 10, 2007 Business News

**NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES; Design for Everyone, Disabled or Not** A project in St. Louis creates environments usable by everyone. January 7, 2007

**POSTING; Affordable Housing Without Subsidies** While most nonprofit affordable-housing developers tend to do cookie-cutter buildings, one developer produced affordable units that were also well designed. December 24, 2006

**SQUARE FEET; Using Redevelopment to Tell a Story** Durham, N.C., is working with private developers to use history as a teaching experience while rebuilding a commercial district. December 13, 2006

**NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES; When You're Moving, but the House Just Sits** The housing market in Raleigh, N.C., seems to be enjoying what can be described as a Goldilocks period. December 3, 2006

**SQUARE FEET; Upgrade the Lobby, Attract New Tenants** Owners are paying special attention to the "curb appeal" of well-designed lobbies to attract premium tenants. November 29, 2006

**SQUARE FEET; A Resurgence in Cleveland** University Circle, Cleveland's eds and meds district, is on the verge of a major transformation after \$2 billion worth of infrastructure investment. November 8, 2006

**SQUARE FEET; Young, Idealistic and Now Developers** Three college friends follow their dream of turning a vacant lot into a mixed-use building. October 18, 2006

**SQUARE FEET; Across the East River and Poised for Growth** Long Island City, Queens, has nearly a million square feet of commercial office space coming out of the ground within the next year. September 27, 2006

**NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES; Filmmakers Say Hooray for Cleveland** An old working-class neighborhood of Cleveland called Slavic Village is home to one of the few loft developments in the country geared toward filmmakers and animators. September 10, 2006

**SQUARE FEET; Unlikely Dorm Mates at Barnard** Barnard College has built a dormitory where faculty members occupy the same floors and share laundry facilities and common space with students. August 30, 2006

**NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES; Preserving History and a 'Fantasy Feeling'** A long-neglected sanctuary outside Washington with 12 architecturally distinct buildings is undergoing a renovation estimated at \$111 million. August 6, 2006

**SQUARE FEET; Smaller Offices Being Pushed Out of Midtown** As Midtown rents go up, small companies in modest Class B office buildings could be out of their quarters entirely. July 19, 2006

**NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES; Drawn to Eastern Tennessee's Natural Beauty** Retirees are discovering Tellico Lake in Tennessee, a community created by a controversial dam in 1979. Waterfront lots start at \$200,000. July 9, 2006

**Square Feet; Creating Demand for City Living in Nashville** Anthony Giarratana is single-handedly creating a market for residential housing in downtown Nashville's central business district. June 21, 2006

**NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT: CHELSEA; A Year in the Life** A year ago, the Hotel Chelsea, site of countless famous and infamous events, got its own blog. The other day, the bloggers celebrated. June 4, 2006

**Square Feet; Recycling a Big Urban Navy Yard** A Philadelphia tract offers a suburban campus feel with city advantages and drawbacks. May 31, 2006

**Square Feet; Building a City Within the City of Atlanta** Atlantic Station is a city within a city on 138 acres with retail, residential, commercial and public space in Midtown Atlanta. May 24, 2006

**Square Feet; Little by Little, an Overnight Success** Downtown revival seemed off to a slow start after 9/11. Suddenly, seemingly overnight, it is starting to burst into bloom. May 10, 2006

**NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES; Old Mills That Aren't Run of the Mill** In Holyoke, Mass., the town's first mill, with 700,000 square feet, has been brought back to life by John Aubin. April 23, 2006

**Square Feet; A Suburban Builder Heads for the City** Toll Brothers, perhaps the best-known builder of luxury homes in the country, is developing 5 sites in New York City. April 5, 2006

**SQUARE FEET; Pressing a Claim for Dutch History** On Friday, the Corbin Building and the land where it sits will be taken by eminent domain for the new Fulton Street Transit Center. March 29, 2006

**SQUARE FEET: BLUEPRINTS; Going Off the Beaten Path For New Design Ideas** A design firm has invented the unfocus group to find out not just what people really think, but also how they really live. March 12, 2006

**SQUARE FEET; A New Newark Moves Closer to Reality** Decades after redevelopment began on industrialized waterfronts in other cities, Newark is just now seeing the start of a transformation. March 1, 2006

**Square Feet; A Florida City Awaits the Payoff From Its Bet on Condos** Some people in Fort Myers are concerned that wealthy condo dwellers might not save the city after all. February 8, 2006

**SQUARE FEET; A Retailing Czar, Looking Out for Mom and Pop** Michelle Mooney will assist neighborhood organizations in efforts to attract and retain a diversity of businesses that serve local residents. February 1, 2006

**Square Feet; Luring Business Developers Into Low-Income Areas** Tax credits for commercial real estate in low-income areas are helping to create jobs and revitalize streets. January 25, 2006

**NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES; Tax Breaks Drive a Philadelphia Boom** After years of losing population, the downtown region, known as Center City, is booming, with old buildings being transformed into lofts and condominiums. January 8, 2006

**Square Feet; Trying to Build the Grand Central of the West** Plans to redevelop San Francisco's Transbay Terminal, which has deteriorated into an underused bus station, are finally moving forward. December 28, 2005

**NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES; Creating Housing for Teachers** To retain their teachers, the Santa Clara Unified School District created affordable residencies in an area where the median home price is \$714,250. December 18, 2005

**SQUARE FEET; The Trade-Offs in Zoning Trade-Offs** It has become common in New York City for real estate developers to offer public amenities in exchange for the right to put up buildings that are taller than the zoning ordinarily would allow or to garner public support for projects that might stir controversy. But those amenities – parks, plazas or atriums, for example – sometimes fail to live up to expectation, fall into disrepair and are occasionally scrapped altogether. November 23, 2005

**SQUARE FEET; Filling in a Blank on the New York Skyline** The New Yorker Hotel to relight its historic sign and upgrade the building. November 9, 2005

**SQUARE FEET; Towers Grow in Downtown Brooklyn** The resurgence of Brooklyn neighborhoods like Park Slope and Williamsburg is well documented. But what is not as widely known is how well the downtown business district is doing, despite a still somewhat dog-eared appearance. What is more, the area is on the verge of a major transformation. October 19, 2005

**Square Feet; Wanting the Old Main Street Back** Las Cruces, N.M., is trying to undo a makeover of its central business district that was done 30 years ago and has made it all but a ghost town. October 12, 2005

**SQUARE FEET; The Un-Mall on Bleecker Street** Do not call it a bazaar or a flea market. Nor is it really a mall or a department store. The best description might be the un-mall. October 5, 2005

**Square Feet; Cleveland Pulls Back From the Edge** The long, slow decline of Cleveland has galvanized both the public and private sectors to address the downtown commercial district's plight. September 28, 2005

**NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES; Adobe Gets Its Day In the Sun** With the hot real estate market, historic adobes that have been vacant for 50 years are selling fast and furiously. September 11, 2005

**SQUARE FEET; For Boutique Financiers, Office Space to Match** To a degree not seen in years, financial firms dominated commercial office leasing activity in Manhattan for the first half of 2005. August 24, 2005

**SQUARE FEET; A Roof Garden? It's Much More Than That** New York City's largest green roof, a thin layer of plants topping a building, has become a test for the environment and the bottom line. August 10, 2005

**LIVING IN/Kingsbridge, the Bronx; Getting Along in Riverdale's Shadow** Newcomers to Kingsbridge, in the Bronx, are finding apartments and houses at reasonable prices. August 7, 2005

**SQUARE FEET; Using Feng Shui in Offices and Stores**

Some businesses are paying an expert in feng shui \$300 an hour to help them work better and sell more. Sometimes, it pays to think red, and use a zigzag. July 10, 2005

**SQUARE FEET/Union Square Park; Planning the Final Stages Of a Park's Makeover** The makeover of Union Square Park is finally going to be completed. June 26, 2005

**SQUARE FEET/Garment District; A Fashion Enclave Lets Out Its Seams** Despite a loss of manufacturing, fashion is still the heart of the Garment District. June 12, 2005

**SQUARE FEET; Finally, Progress in Restoring Bridgeport's Grandeur** With nearly 25 percent of the historic downtown district of Bridgeport, Conn. about to undergo a major rehabilitation, developers are champing at the bit. May 29, 2005

**SQUARE FEET; The Underground Economy: Subway Retailing** With the rehabilitation of several major subway stations, the M.T.A. is trying to create a better environment for subway stores. May 22, 2005 Real Estate News

**SQUARE FEET; For Artists, Cheap Studios in Vacant Commercial Space** Artists are renting out vacant office space in lower Manhattan, paying a fraction of what a typical tenant would pay. May 8, 2005

**SQUARE FEET/Downtown Manhattan; A Destination for Serious Eating** Downtown Manhattan has seemingly overnight become a mecca for food shopping. April 24, 2005

**SQUARE FEET/East Harlem; A Small Boost for Small Business** Small businesses are thriving in East Harlem. Zoila Runge opened a 99-cent store using her savings and a \$15,000 loan. April 10, 2005

**SQUARE FEET/The Bowery; New Galleries Set Out To Create a Destination** Watch out Chelsea. The Bowery is the latest neighborhood to attract an art scene. March 20, 2005

**ASSETS; It Pays to Plant a Street Tree** Planting a street tree can help raise property values. It just takes patience. March 20, 2005

**SQUARE FEET/Lower East Side; A Club for Hundreds of Girls Finds a Permanent Home** The new facilities for the Lower Eastside Girls Club of New York are to be built on what are now six contiguous lots owned by the city. March 6, 2005

**SQUARE FEET/Manhattan; For the East Village, A New Retail Face** As the East Village gets wealthier, retailing on St. Marks Place is changing, with monthly rents reaching \$125 a square foot. January 30, 2005

**SQUARE FEET/Myrtle Avenue, Brooklyn; Transforming an Unappealing Street** Sitting in Clinton Hill not far from where it meets Fort Greene, Pratt Institute, which was founded in 1887, was not exactly in Harvard Square. December 5, 2004

**NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES; Finding a Good Deal In San Francisco** Finding a place to buy in San Francisco is a daunting task, as housing prices continue to increase despite a shrinking population and job losses. November 28, 2004

**NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES; In Chicago's West Loop, Real Estate Profits Do Grow on Trees** In Chicago, tree plantings, elaborate landscaping and streetscape designs have become the catalyst for neighborhood revitalization. October 3, 2004

**NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES; In Cleveland's Suburbs, New Luxury vs. Old** Shaker Heights, Ohio, built nearly 100 years ago as one of the country's first planned communities, is still an ideal community. August 29, 2004

**SQUARE FEET/Bedford-Stuyvesant; 'The Residential Is Hot, But the Commercial Is Not'** A residential revitalization has been under way for some time in Bedford-Stuyvesant, but the commercial market has not kept pace. August 22, 2004