CONNECTING THE EDGE: A STUDY OF TRIBECA'S UPLAND PATTERNS AS PRESERVATION IN WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT

Cleary Larkin

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Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

Columbia University

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Abstract

Title: connecting the edge: A Study of Tribeca’s Upland Patterns for Preservation in Waterfront Development

Author: Erin Cleary Larkin
Advisor: Francoise Bollack

This thesis questions what can be done in future waterfront developments to reflect the individual heritage of the city and its waterfront. I strongly believe that park-like waterfronts are not always appropriate; often, these new incarnations tell nothing of the history of the waterfront and its adjacent upland neighborhoods. Appropriate waterfront development should fully utilize the character, architecture and history of the city to maintain its viability and still be attractive to visitors.

The waterfront of Manhattan was once a dense and fingered edge, yet today the island is ringed by linear parkland. By using Tribeca as a case study, I intend to show that while the upland neighborhood and the waterfront were once intrinsically linked by use, movement, and architecture, today the two are disparate elements which have no relation to one another. This thesis is a process of examining how the physical historic fabric and evolutionary patterns of the upland neighborhood might influence the outcome of waterfront planning. A critique of the results will consider how analysis of upland historic resources can assist in creating a successful integration of historic preservation and waterfront development.