



Alumni Book Club: Tri-State Region Selection

Gotham Unbound by Ted Steinberg

8:00-9:00 PM ET on Tuesday, Nov 28th, 2023

Meeting Schedule

Date	Chapters
	<i>Note - we are skipping Thanksgiving Week</i>
11/28/23	Part 4: The Green Colossus (1960-2012) Chapter 14: The Age of Limits Chapter 15: The Big Apple Biome Chapter 16: The Future of New York

Chapter 14

1. Westway was a turning point for the city in that it represented a moment when unlimited development finally came to a halt. Has your area experienced such an awakening where people simply said “enough” to more development?
2. Rather than “reclaiming” land by filling in the near-shore area, many new development projects along the New York waterfront focus on setting new land on piers above the river. What are the strengths and weaknesses of this approach? Is it the right thing to do?



Little Island of Pier 51 in Lower Manhattan was built over the river.



The New York City Greenway is a bike path built along the proposed route of the Westway Project.

Chapter 15

3. New York is one of the densest, most developed areas in the United States. This chapter talked at length about the reduced biome that now populates the land and water in the area. Yet there are also clear ecological benefits to people living in a closely packed environment. The majority of New Yorkers do not own cars and commute to work by mass transit. The per-capita greenhouse gas emissions for the city and its residents are lower than many rural areas.

What's the right approach to living now that the population of the planet has exceeded eight billion people? Should we be living in densely packed cities or is that too hard on the surrounding environment?



The New York Skyline near Battery Park.

Chapter 16

4. Dr. Steinberg finishes the book by asking “Will those in charge of the real estate capital of the world, forever bent on increasing the value of land at all costs, find a way to adapt to the high water ahead?” What do you think?



An example of one of the latest trends in architecture in New York—tall thin spire-like apartment buildings for the uber-wealthy as seen from Central Park.