
COUNTRY, PARK & CITY

THE
ARCHITECTURE
AND LIFE
OF CALVERT VAUX



FRANCIS R. KOWSKY

Country Park And City The Architecture And Life Of Calvert Vaux

Witold Rybczynski



Country Park And City The Architecture And Life Of Calvert Vaux:

Country, Park and City Francis R. Kowsky, 2003 After beginning his career as an architect in London Calvert Vaux 1824 1895 came to the Hudson River valley in 1850 at the invitation of Andrew Jackson Downing the reform minded writer on houses and gardens As Downing s partner and after Downing s death in 1852 Vaux designed country and suburban dwellings that were remarkable for their well conceived plans and their sensitive rapport with nature By 1857 the year he published his book *Villas and Cottages* Vaux had moved to New York City There he asked Frederick Law Olmsted to join him in preparing a design for Central Park He spent the next 38 years defending and refining their vision of Central Park as a work of art After the Civil War he and Olmsted led the nascent American park movement with their designs for parks and parkways in Brooklyn Buffalo and many other American cities Apart from undertakings with Olmsted Vaux cultivated a distinguished architectural practice Among his clients were the artist Frederic Church whose dream house Olana he helped create and the reform politician Samuel Tilden whose residence on New York s Gramercy Park remains one of the country s outstanding Victorian buildings A pioneering advocate for apartment houses in American cities Vaux designed buildings that mirrored the advance of urbanization in America including early model housing for the poor He planned the original portions of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the American Museum of Natural History and conceived a stunning proposal for a vast iron and glass building to house the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia Especially notable are the many bridges and other charming structures that he designed for Central Park Vaux considered the Park s Terrace decorated by J W Mould as his greatest achievement An active participant in the cultural and intellectual life of New York Vaux was an idealist who regarded himself as an artist and a professional And while much has been written on Olmsted comparatively little has been published about Vaux The first in depth account of Vaux s career *Country Park and City* should be of great interest to historians of art architecture and urbanism as well as preservationists and other readers interested in New York City s past and America s first parks **Country, Park & City** Francis R. Kowsky, 2023 **Country, Park & City** Francis R.

Kowsky, 2003-08-07 After beginning his career as an architect in London Calvert Vaux 1824 1895 came to the Hudson River valley in 1850 at the invitation of Andrew Jackson Downing the reform minded writer on houses and gardens As Downing s partner and after Downing s death in 1852 Vaux designed country and suburban dwellings that were remarkable for their well conceived plans and their sensitive rapport with nature By 1857 the year he published his book *Villas and Cottages* Vaux had moved to New York City There he asked Frederick Law Olmsted to join him in preparing a design for Central Park He spent the next 38 years defending and refining their vision of Central Park as a work of art After the Civil War he and Olmsted led the nascent American park movement with their designs for parks and parkways in Brooklyn Buffalo and many other American cities Apart from undertakings with Olmsted Vaux cultivated a distinguished architectural practice Among his clients were the artist Frederic Church whose dream house Olana he helped create and the reform politician Samuel

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Making Mountains David Stradling, 2009-11-23 For over two hundred years the Catskill Mountains have been repeatedly and dramatically transformed by New York City In Making Mountains David Stradling shows the transformation of the Catskills landscape as a collaborative process one in which local and urban hands capital and ideas have come together to reshape the mountains and the communities therein This collaboration has had environmental economic and cultural consequences Early on the Catskills were an important source of natural resources Later when New York City needed to expand its water supply engineers helped direct the city toward the Catskills claiming that the mountains offered the purest and most cost effective waters By the 1960s New York had created the great reservoir and aqueduct system in the mountains that now supplies the city with 90 percent of its water The Catskills also served as a critical space in which the nation's ideas about nature evolved Stradling describes the great influence writers and artists had upon urban residents especially the painters of the Hudson River School whose ideal landscapes created expectations about how rural America should appear By the mid 1800s urban residents had turned the Catskills into an important vacation ground and by the late 1800s the Catskills had become one of the premiere resort regions in the nation In the mid twentieth century the older Catskill resort region was in steep decline but the Jewish Borscht Belt in the southern Catskills was thriving The automobile revitalized mountain tourism and residence and increased the threat of suburbanization of the historic landscape Throughout each of these significant incarnations urban and rural residents worked in a rough collaboration though not without conflict to reshape the mountains and American ideas about rural landscapes and nature

The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted Frederick Law Olmsted, 1977 The concluding volume of the monumental Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted captures some of Olmsted's greatest achievements Choice 2015 Outstanding Academic Title In 1890 Frederick Law Olmsted then nearly sixty eight years old had risen to the pinnacle of his career Together with his partners stepson John Charles Olmsted and protégé Henry Sargent Codman he was involved in a number of major ongoing projects including the

Boston Buffalo and Rochester park systems the campus plan for Stanford University and numerous private estates In July he reported that the firm had twenty works of considerable importance underway including nine large parks and six estates that he believed were matters of public interest Before the summer ended the firm s commitments would expand dramatically as Olmsted and his partners were appointed landscape architects for the World s Columbian Exposition in Chicago As commissions for new park systems residential communities grounds for educational institutions and private homes increased Olmsted feared that their commitments would exceed the partners ability to do their best work Despite these fears Olmsted s work in the final six years of his professional career would only enhance his considerable reputation as the ninth and final volume of The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted reveals With its impressive waterways monumental buildings and verdant islands and shores the Chicago fair proved to be one of the firm s crowning achievements The early 1890s also saw the culmination of Olmsted s wide ranging work on one of his other great projects the design of the grounds of George W Vanderbilt s massive estate Biltmore near Asheville North Carolina In planning the estate s thousands of acres Olmsted outlined new approaches to landscape design promoted the creation of the first scientific forestry operation in the United States designed a model residential subdivision and proposed an arboretum that would have been the most ambitious in the nation The Last Great Projects 1890-1895 chronicles the history of one of the world s greatest landscape design firms while offering a fascinating retrospective on Frederick Law Olmsted s productive final years The volume also gathers together the important documents of this last triumphant era As Olmsted neared the end of his career he wrote some of his most reflective letters and reports summarizing the legacy of his involvement with the U S Sanitary Commission the quality of landscape design in England and France the biographical circumstances that proved most important to his development as an artist and his hopes and fears for the future of his profession

A Clearing In The Distance Witold Rybczynski, 2013-07-23 In a brilliant collaboration between writer and subject Witold Rybczynski the bestselling author of Home and City Life illuminates Frederick Law Olmsted s role as a major cultural figure at the epicenter of nineteenth century American history We know Olmsted through the physical legacy of his stunning landscapes among them New York s Central Park California s Stanford University campus and Boston s Back Bay Fens But Olmsted s contemporaries knew a man of even more extraordinarily diverse talents Born in 1822 he traveled to China on a merchant ship at the age of twenty one He cofounded The Nation magazine and was an early voice against slavery He managed California s largest gold mine and during the Civil War served as the executive secretary to the United States Sanitary Commission the precursor of the Red Cross Rybczynski s passion for his subject and his understanding of Olmsted s immense complexity and accomplishments make his book a triumphant work In A Clearing in the Distance the story of a great nineteenth century American becomes an intellectual adventure

Architecture in the United States, 1800-1850 William Barksdale Maynard, 2002-01-01 This study traces the development of American architecture from the age of Jefferson to the antebellum era providing a survey of this important period W

Barksdale Maynard overturns the long accepted notions that the chief theme of early 19th century American architecture was a patriotic desire to escape from European influence and that competing styles chiefly reflected the American struggle for cultural uniqueness. Instead, deep and consistent aesthetic ties especially with England shaped American architecture and house designs. Maynard shows that the Greek Revival in particular was an international phenomenon with American achievements inspired by British example and with taste taking precedence over patriotism.

Sanctified Landscape David Schuyler, 2012-04-06 The Hudson River Valley was the first iconic American landscape. Beginning as early as the 1820s, artists and writers found new ways of thinking about the human relationship with the natural world along the Hudson. Here, amid the most dramatic river and mountain scenery in the eastern United States, Washington Irving and James Fenimore Cooper created a distinctly American literature grounded in folklore and history that contributed to the emergence of a sense of place in the valley. Painters led by Thomas Cole founded the Hudson River School, widely recognized as the first truly national style of art. As the century advanced and as landscape and history became increasingly intertwined in the national consciousness, an aesthetic identity took shape in the region through literature, art, memory, and folklore, even gardens and domestic architecture. In Sanctified Landscape, David Schuyler recounts this story of America's idealization of the Hudson Valley during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Schuyler's story unfolds during a time of great change in American history. At the very moment when artists and writers were exploring the aesthetic potential of the Hudson Valley, the transportation revolution and the rise of industrial capitalism were transforming the region. The first generation of American tourists traveled from New York City to Cozzens Hotel and the Catskill Mountain House in search of the picturesque. Those who could afford to live some distance from jobs in the city built suburban homes or country estates. Given these momentous changes, it is not surprising that historic preservation emerged in the Hudson Valley; the first building in the United States preserved for its historic significance is Washington's Headquarters in Newburgh. Schuyler also finds the seeds of the modern environmental movement in the transformation of the Hudson Valley landscape. Richly illustrated and compellingly written, Sanctified Landscape makes for rewarding reading. Schuyler expertly ties local history to national developments, revealing why the Hudson River Valley was so important to nineteenth century Americans and why it is still beloved today.

The Architecture of Madness Carla Yanni, 2007 Printbegrnsninger Der kan printes 10 sider ad gangen og max 40 sider pr session

Creating Central Park Morrison H. Heckscher, 2008 The year 2008 marks the 150th anniversary of the design of Central Park, the first and arguably the most famous of America's urban landscape parks. In October 1857, the new park's board of commissioners announced a public design competition, and the following April the imaginative yet practicable Greensward plan submitted by Calvert Vaux and Frederick Law Olmsted was selected. This book tells the fascinating story of how an extraordinary work of public art emerged from the crucible of New York City politics. From William Cullen Bryant's 1844 editorial calling for a pleasure ground of shade and recreation to the completion of

construction in 1870 the history of Central Park is an urban epic a tale not only of animosity political intrigue and desire but also of idealism sacrifice and genius

The Columbia Guide to American Environmental History Carolyn Merchant, 2005-09-14

How and why have Americans living at particular times and places used and transformed their environment How have political systems dealt with conflicts over resources and conservation This is the only major reference work to explore all the major themes and debates of the burgeoning field of environmental history Humanity's relationship with the natural world is one of the oldest and newest topics in human history The issue emerged as a distinct field of scholarship in the early 1970s and has been growing steadily ever since The discipline's territory and sources are rich and varied and include climatic and geological data court records archaeological digs and the writings of naturalists as well as federal and state economic and resource development and conservation policy Environmental historians investigate how and why natural and human created surroundings affect a society's development Merchant provides a context setting overview of American environmental history from the beginning of the millennium an encyclopedia of important concepts people agencies and laws a chronology of major events and an extensive bibliography including films videos CD Roms and websites This concise first stop reference for students and general readers contains an accessible overview of environmental history a mini encyclopedia of ideas people legislation and agencies a chronology of events and their significance and a bibliography of books magazines and journals as well as films videos CD ROMs and online resources In addition to providing a wealth of factual information The Columbia Guide to American Environmental History explores contentious issues in this much debated field from the idea of wilderness to global warming How and why have Americans living at particular times and places used and transformed their environment How have political systems dealt with conflicts over resources and conservation This is the only major reference work to explore all the major themes and debates in the burgeoning field of environmental history Humanity's relationship with the natural world is one of the oldest and newest topics in human history The issue emerged as a distinct field of scholarship in the early 1970s and has been growing steadily ever since The discipline's territory and sources are rich and varied and include climatic and geological data court records archaeological digs and the writings of naturalists as well as federal and state economic and resource development and conservation policy Environmental historians investigate how and why natural and human created surroundings affect a society's development Merchant provides a context setting overview of American environmental history from the precolonial land use practice of Native Americans and concluding with twenty first concerns over global warming The book also includes a glossary of important concepts people agencies and legislation a chronology of major events and an extensive bibliography including films videos CD ROMs and websites This concise reference for students and general readers contains an accessible overview of American environmental history a mini encyclopedia of ideas people legislation and agencies a chronology of events and their significance and a bibliography of books magazines and journals as well as films videos CD ROMs and online resources In addition to providing

a wealth of factual information The Columbia Guide to American Environmental History explores contentious issues in this much debated field from the idea of wilderness to global warming *Landscape Architecture*, 1998 *Historic Residential Suburbs* David L. Ames, Linda Flint McClelland, 2002 **The Oxford Dictionary of Architecture** James Stevens Curl, Susan Wilson, 2015 With over 6 000 entries this is the most authoritative dictionary of architectural history available **Great City Parks** Alan Tate, 2015-03-05 Great City Parks is a celebration of some of the finest achievements of landscape architecture in the public realm It is a comparative study of thirty significant public parks in major cities across Western Europe and North America Collectively they give a clear picture of why parks have been created how they have been designed how they are managed and what plans are being made for them at the beginning of the twenty first century Based on unique research including extensive site visits and interviews with the managing organisations this book is illustrated throughout with clear plans and photographs with this new edition featuring full colour throughout Tate updates his seminal 2001 work with 10 additional parks including The High Line in NYC Golden Gate Park in San Francisco and Westergasfabriek Amsterdam All the previous city parks have also been updated and revised to reflect current usage and management This book reflects a belief that well planned well designed and well managed parks and park systems will continue to make major contributions to the quality of life in an increasingly urbanized world **Ten Thousand Central Parks** David Brown Morris, 2025-10-07 A visionary look at Central Park's creation as an urban success story inspiring bold climate action Climate change is the existential crisis of our time With extreme heatwaves wildfires hurricanes and floods displacing millions many wonder What can I do Ten Thousand Central Parks challenges the despair of inaction using the history of Central Park as an unlikely yet urgent environmental parable Created in the years immediately before during and after the Civil War Central Park is a radical experiment in urban renewal transforming a chaotic and polluted terrain into an 843 acre refuge More than a scenic landmark it was a visionary public project that provided jobs green space and a lasting environmental legacy Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux the park was America's first large scale public works project undertaken at a time of national crisis and built almost entirely by immigrants Its creation offers a powerful lesson Even in turbulent times cities can be reimagined and large scale ecological transformations are possible With over half of the world's population living in cities today predicted soon to reach nearly 70% urban green spaces are more crucial than ever Morris argues that Central Park is not just an artifact of the past but a model for the future Its 18 000 trees sequester nearly a million pounds of carbon dioxide annually proving that ambitious nature based solutions can improve the quality of life while addressing environmental challenges Written with urgency and optimism Ten Thousand Central Parks offers a fresh perspective on the climate crisis rejecting doom in favor of possibility We need projects on the scale of Central Park thousands of them to meet today's environmental challenges This book a boundary crossing work of narrative nonfiction is an invitation to think big act boldly and embrace radical hope **The Master List of Design Projects of the Olmsted Firm, 1857-1979** Lucy

Lawliss, Caroline Loughlin, Lauren Meier, 2008 **American Sanctuary** Louis P. Nelson, 2006 This volume examines a diverse set of spaces and buildings seen through the lens of popular practice and belief to shed light on the complexities of sacred space in America Contributors explore how dedication sermons document shifting understandings of the meetinghouse in early 19th century Connecticut the changes in evangelical church architecture during the same century and what that tells us about evangelical religious life the impact of contemporary issues on Catholic church architecture the impact of globalization on the construction of traditional sacred spaces the urban practice of Jewish space nature worship and Central Park in New York the mezuzah and domestic sacred space and finally the spiritual aspects of African American yard art **Concrete and Clay** Matthew Gandy, 2003-08-29 An interdisciplinary account of the environmental history and changing landscape of New York City 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 *The Mississippi Encyclopedia* Ted Ownby, Charles Reagan Wilson, Ann J. Abadie, Odie Lindsey, James G. Thomas Jr., 2017-05-25 Recipient of the 2018 Special Achievement Award from the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters and Recipient of a 2018 Heritage Award for Education from the Mississippi Heritage Trust The perfect book for every Mississippian who cares about the state this is a mammoth collaboration in which thirty subject editors suggested topics over seven hundred scholars wrote entries and countless individuals made suggestions The volume will appeal to anyone who wants to know more about Mississippi and the people who call it home The book will be especially helpful to students teachers and scholars researching writing about or otherwise discovering the state past and present The volume contains entries on every county every governor and numerous musicians writers artists and activists Each entry provides an authoritative but accessible introduction to the topic discussed The Mississippi Encyclopedia also features long essays on agriculture archaeology the civil rights movement the Civil War drama education the environment ethnicity fiction folklife foodways geography industry and industrial workers law medicine music myths and representations Native Americans

nonfiction poetry politics and government the press religion social and economic history sports and visual art It includes solid clear information in a single volume offering with clarity and scholarship a breadth of topics unavailable anywhere else This book also includes many surprises readers can only find by browsing

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