

# Monumental Visions & Urban Transformations in Albany, 1948-1978

A public conference co-sponsored by the University at Albany's Lewis Mumford Center for Comparative Urban & Regional Research, and the Historic Albany Foundation, with financial support from the New York Council for the Humanities

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2002**

at First Lutheran Church, 181 Western Avenue (between Lake and Quail), Albany, NY 12203  
(ample parking, easy first floor access)

***Please contribute your recollections, impressions, ideas and questions***

***Friday 25<sup>th</sup>: Registration 3:00- 4:00 pm. Program 4:00-6:30 pm, Reception begins 6:30 pm.***

***Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>: Sessions begin 9:00 am & end 5:00 pm; lunch from 12:30 till 1:30 pm.***

Between 1948 and 1978, Albany was transformed from a compact, low-rise city with a dense fabric of walkable neighborhoods, into a sprawling city, segmented by expressways, punctuated by massive building complexes, and increasingly reliant on suburban malls for its commerce and entertainment. Over that period, the built-up area roughly doubled, the population fell by over 20 percent, and at least 20,000 people were displaced by public works. This public conference will build collective memory and documentary record of the dramatic physical transformation of the City of Albany between 1948 and 1978, and its social and economic impacts. It will include speakers, displays, video, and round-table discussions enabling everyone present to remember, discuss and question how our local world came to be. Discussions will focus on grandiose modernist visions, including projects which were never built, and the realities of displacement, demolition and new construction. Many thousands of lives were forever altered, one neighborhood disappeared, and several neighborhoods underwent drastic physical and demographic changes. The conference will provide an opportunity to reflect on the experience of displacement, to memorialize lost landmarks and livelihoods, to pay tribute to successful and unsuccessful efforts to save place and community, and to commemorate Albany's historical and cultural landscape.

More Information: phone (518) 442-4766 or 591-8564, or e-mail: [monumentalvisions@msn.com](mailto:monumentalvisions@msn.com)

## Registration

Anyone who is interested is welcome to come, and there is no charge for registration. Seating is limited, and information folders and refreshments will be prepared for pre-registered participants. We ask that everyone who wishes to attend mails in the following form, or e-mails the information requested to [monumentalvisions@msn.com](mailto:monumentalvisions@msn.com) There will be an optional \$15 charge for snacks, drinks & Saturday lunch.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Numbers \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Interests or Knowledge:** please check all groups that apply (built or unbuilt):

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thruway & Expressways              | <input type="checkbox"/> State Office Campus                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Empire State Plaza                 | <input type="checkbox"/> SUNY Uptown Campus                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Housing                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Renewal Projects                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ten Eyck & Other Downtown Projects | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitals & University Heights Projects |

**Mail to:** Monumental Visions, UAlbany-SUNY, Geography & Planning Dept. AS-218, Albany NY 12222