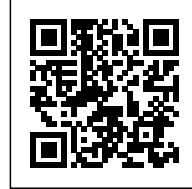


MUSEUMS OF THE CITY

Posted on September 22, 2015 by Urban UrbanNext



Categories: [David Gissen](#), [expanding design practices](#), [High Density](#), [Landscape Futures](#), [Middle Density](#), [Politics and economics](#), [Project](#)

Tags: [Agitation](#), [Agitational relationship](#), [Architect's role](#), [Art](#), [Central Park](#), [Critique](#), [Cultural agitator](#), [Culture](#), [Debate](#), [Dendur Room](#), [Florence](#), [History](#), [Hudson River](#), [Museological equivalents](#), [Museology](#), [Nevada Museum of Art](#), [Political & Economic Approach](#), [Political jurisdiction](#), [Project](#), [Provocation](#), [Reconstructing nature](#), [Reconstruction](#), [Selective interpretations](#), [Selective past](#), [Speculative historian](#), [Territorial Approach](#), [Thames](#), [Theory](#), [Urban space](#), [Vendôme](#)

urbanNext Lexicon

Museums of the City

<https://urbannext.net/museums-of-the-city/>

Architectural historian David Gissen offers four provocative images of the city transformed into a museum of itself: often-overlooked landscapes from the city's own past literally reframed in complicated ways. If the internal space of the museum can be seen as a device for turning everyday objects into historical artifacts and works of art, what happens when museological devices leak out into the city at large? Gissen writes "that what we understand to constitute material history is very often the 'stuff' (art, objects, nature) that we carefully illuminate in a museum, prohibit people from touching in public space, place in controlled environments in archives, and conserve in often highly visible ways." So, his project for Landscape Futures asks, when plinths, lighting, scaffolds, and high-end air-conditioning systems take up residence in the streets, alongside urban rivers, even in the trees and plazas of a functioning metropolis, how does their presence transform the way we approach and understand these newly encapsulated scenes? "What matters, as much as the sites I focus on in the city (urban rivers, highways, monuments, verdure)," he suggests, "is the apparatus that transforms urban stuff into objects of our interest." Gissen's images thus foreground the interpretive infrastructures through which objects enter official history, giving them a monumental, highly public form.

ISSN : 2575-5374

urbanNext Lexicon

Museums of the City
<https://urbannext.net/museums-of-the-city/>

ISSN : 2575-5374

urbanNext Lexicon

Museums of the City
<https://urbannext.net/museums-of-the-city/>

ISSN : 2575-5374

urbanNext Lexicon

Museums of the City
<https://urbannext.net/museums-of-the-city/>



“Central Park, New York City” from Museums of the City (2011), David Gissen (rendered by Victor Hadjikyriacou).

ISSN : 2575-5374

urbanNext Lexicon

Museums of the City
<https://urbannext.net/museums-of-the-city/>

ISSN : 2575-5374

urbanNext Lexicon

Museums of the City
<https://urbannext.net/museums-of-the-city/>

ISSN : 2575-5374

urbanNext Lexicon

Museums of the City
<https://urbannext.net/museums-of-the-city/>



“Cross-Bronx Expressway, New York City” from Museums of the City (2011), David Gissen (rendered by Victor Hadjikyriacou).

Image background: generously provided by and courtesy of Andrew Moore, photographer, 2006.

ISSN : 2575-5374

urbanNext Lexicon

Museums of the City
<https://urbannext.net/museums-of-the-city/>

ISSN : 2575-5374

urbanNext Lexicon

Museums of the City
<https://urbannext.net/museums-of-the-city/>

ISSN : 2575-5374

urbanNext Lexicon

Museums of the City
<https://urbannext.net/museums-of-the-city/>



**"Florence, Italy" from Museums of the City (2011), David Gissen (rendered by Victor Hadjikyriacou).
Image background: Maremagnum, Getty Images .**

ISSN : 2575-5374

urbanNext Lexicon

Museums of the City
<https://urbannext.net/museums-of-the-city/>

ISSN : 2575-5374

urbanNext Lexicon

Museums of the City
<https://urbannext.net/museums-of-the-city/>

ISSN : 2575-5374

urbanNext Lexicon

Museums of the City
<https://urbannext.net/museums-of-the-city/>



**“Thames River, London” from Museums of the City (2011), David Gissen (rendered by Victor Hadjikyriacou).
Image background: Terra, Corbis Images, 2010.**

ISSN : 2575-5374

urbanNext Lexicon

Museums of the City
<https://urbannext.net/museums-of-the-city/>



ISSN : 2575-5374

urbanNext Lexicon

Museums of the City
<https://urbannext.net/museums-of-the-city/>



Extract from

ISSN : 2575-5374

urbanNext Lexicon

Museums of the City
<https://urbannext.net/museums-of-the-city/>



Related publications:

[Bracket 1](#)

[Bracket 2](#)

ISSN : 2575-5374

urbanNext Lexicon

Museums of the City
<https://urbannext.net/museums-of-the-city/>

ISSN : 2575-5374