The New York Waterfront
Evolution and Building Culture of the Port and Harbor

EDITED BY KEVIN BONE

Essays by
Mary Beth Betts
Eugenia Bone
Kevin Bone
Gina Pollara
Donald Squires
Michael Z. Wise
Wilbur Woods

Commissioned photographs
Stanley Greenberg

THE MONACELLI PRESS
8 MASTERWORKS
THE PRINTED WHALE (In Search Of)
REFLECTIONS ON THE ESSENTIAL CITY

9

11

16
THE BEAUTIFUL LAKE
The Promise of the Natural Systems

The Boundaries of the Harbor
Geological History
Harbor “Improvements”
The Future of New York Harbor

16

36
MASTERPLANNING
Municipal Support of Maritime Transport and Commerce 1870–1930s

Founding of the Department of Docks
The Call for Plans
McClellan’s Master Plan
Surveys and Mapping
Hydrographic Survey
The Early Projects: Pier 1 and Pier A
The Riverwalls
The Chelsea Piers
The Philosophy of the Department of Docks from 1873 to 1931
Aftermath: The Dissolution of the Department

84 HORIZONTAL CITY
Architecture and Construction in the Port of New York

The First Constructions
Early Stone and Earthworks
Cribworks
Block and Bridge Piers
Riverwalls
Piers and Wharves
Piersheds and Pier Enclosures
152 TRANSFORMING THE EDGE
Overview of Selected Plans and Projects

The Hell Gate
The Harlem River
Brooklyn
The Era of Robert Moses

190 EVOLVING PURPOSES
The Case of the Hudson River Waterfront

The History of the Hudson River Waterfront
The North River Pollution Control Plant
Battery Park City
The Road Along the River
Hudson River Park
The Railroad Yards
The Cost of Democratic Participation
The New York City Comprehensive Waterfront Plan

234 MODEST ENDEAVORS
Reclaiming the Shoreline

264 CHRONOLOGY
272 GLOSSARY
278 BIBLIOGRAPHY