

# New York as an Innovative City

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New York City, as the largest city in the United States, is home to 8 million people. As a major point of entry for immigrants, it encompasses 36% foreign-born residents that speak nearly 170 different languages, terming the city as the “melting pot” (Wikipedia, 2007). The above facts can bring us to question the causes that enable New York to attract a large population and be a city that is always on the rise. The exploration of this question leads us to the fact that it is home to innumerable major companies, arts and cultural centers, and architecturally appealing spaces, which lead to the reasoning that it is the presence and networking between seemingly unrelated agglomerations in the city that allows for sustainability through their support for one another. This in turn allows for an atmosphere in which diversity is embraced and thrived upon. As seen in its abundance of economic growth and creativity, New York City can truly be considered as a melting pot for innovation.

From the business and corporate perspective, New York City houses over 600 headquarters for major companies and more Fortune 500 companies than any other city (CNNMoney.com, 2007). The collection of corporate buildings on Wall Street is a fine example of the largely business-oriented environment that New York City comprises of. The presence and activities that occur within these companies is a major factor that allows for financial growth, which is integral to the stability of the city.

Aside from its business-oriented mindset, we would be mistaken to not consider New York City as a large center for academia, arts and culture. It's greatly recognized institutions include Columbia University, New York University, The New School, Fashion Institute of Technology, and the musical giant, Julliard. The large variety of top institutions result in highly educated graduates and the fostering of openness and free thought. Lincoln Center is a space that takes these values and accommodates to them through housing various buildings and initiatives of academia, arts and culture. Through its renovation projects, it is

always looking for ways to provide a more welcoming atmosphere, making it more accessible to the general public. This environment is a true reminder that although New York City comprises of many corporations, it still falls back to its roots in appreciating diversity.

Then, what is it about New York City that makes it desirable to live and work in? Although the corporate mindset may seem to differ from the arts and cultural mindset, it is the relationship and networking between the two that enables the city to truly thrive. An artistic approach to running a city opens up the space for diversity, which attracts talent and enables creativity. The corporate approach helps to fuel the city financially. The challenge is to combine both the attitudes with the goal to maintain both stability and diversity- keeping the city fresh yet also rooted, which is where designers have an important role. Through taking advantage of various resources that result in the acquisition of combined or unified knowledge, designers strive to provide and implement solid ideas that seek to continuously improve the city at a holistic level, which allows for the fueling of economic growth and for innovation to occur. As one of the leading financial cities in the world with the fastest growing wages (CNNMoney.com, 2007), it has the space and resources to allow for abundance in virtually any category. Its diverse environment allows New York City to be a center for mass media, journalism, publishing giants, medical research, technology, and fashion design. It also isn't a surprise that the city was able to retain its economic status within a short time frame after being hit hard by the events of 9/11, which shows that New York City is one that shows growth and rebirth through the constant goal to use its existing resources to always improve and create new resources. New York City is one that can and will rise above its potential.

## References

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