

New York

Glitz and Glamour

- The Plaza Hotel (1907, most luxurious hotel in town)
- Algonquin Hotel: The place where intellectuals met for discussions and debates. Used irony and sarcasm as a weapon against the shallow bohemian lifestyle
- The Great Gatsby: about Scott Fitzgerald and his wife Zelda who were the dream couple of the Jazz age. They were rich, drunk party animals, living it up in glamorous New York city.
- My Lost City: about Scott Fitzgerald's return to NYC after several years. Everything has changed. The stock market crashed and the great depression was taking place. As he put it, 'the party was over'. The Glamorous times were now gone.

Dorothy Parker

- 1893 -1976
- Poet / Short story writer
- Main features were wit, critic and satire
- Great example is her poem "General Review of the Sex Situation" (see New York package)
- Moved to Hollywood to write screenplays
- Was quite good: nominated for two Academy Awards
- Success was overshadowed by the fact that she was involved in left-wing politics
- Everything left-wing at that time was considered to be communist and therefore bad

Architecture

- The 4 main types of architecture can be found on 5th Avenue.
- Beaux-Arts: neo-classic architecture
- Art Deco: displays elegance and glamour (e.g.: the Chrysler Building)
- Italian Renaissance: symmetry, proportions, columns, pillars
- Modern Giants: modern type skyscrapers we know today
- The Zoning Laws of 1926 were there to regulate height and space between skyscrapers
- 1980's people managed to exceed the height limits of buildings with a loophole in the legal system
- It was possible to buy the unused "height" from a neighboring building

Times Square and Theater District

- 20' / 30's: glamorous area, theaters, dance performances, musicals, live shows
- by 70's / 80's: had turned into a place that was avoided. Full of sex shops, drugs, prostitution and bordellos. The place was dirty - both in the literal and the literal and figurative way ;)
- Present day: mainstream entertainment, tourist area, gift shops, Disney productions, renovations, movie theaters, crowded

Harlem

- 1658: rural Dutch community
- Summer retreat for most prominent families

- Quite posh
- But real estate agents couldn't sell new apartments to the rich anymore
- Apartment prices dropped
- Afro Americans from southern states started moving in
- 20's / 30's: a type of Mecca for African American writers
- Afro American jazz, ballet, theater and literature flourished
- Musicians of the time: Louis Armstrong, Billy Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald
- Poets of the time: Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen
- 60's / 70's: poverty, drugs and crime hit Harlem
- Became an absolute taboo area for Caucasians
- You simply *wouldn't* go there!
- Malcom X held preaches there
- Many riots due to race related issues (many cases of Caucasian police violence towards Afro American youth)
- 90's: upwards trend
- (Similar to the Time's Square District - Fabulous at first, then dipped down, then slowly underwent an upwards trend again)
- *Abyssinian Development Corporation* (non-profit) wanted to increase the living quality in Harlem again
- Started renovating town houses
- Wanted to avoid negative side effects of gentrification (I will get to how gentrification works later on)
- Wanted to make Harlem a nicer place, without it becoming an absolute commercialized area with strip malls, Starbucks etc.
- Aimed to increase boost Afro American activities and local businesses etc.
- Aimed to strengthen the Afro American Community again
- After a while the McDonald's moved in. This was a milestone for Harlem. After the first McDonalds moved in, Caucasians saw Harlem as a place that was OK to visit
- Gospel service on Sunday is a place to get together
- Church is more than just a place for the practice of religion
- Holds community together, helps new families to get integrated etc.
- Famous poem "Harlem" by Langston Hughes (it is in the New York package)
- Deals with the question of what happens when dreams are suppressed
- An interpretation is that it is about the residents of Harlem dreaming of a better life
- The situation is getting tense and if they are not helped and continued to be ignored, what will happen? Nothing? Will riots break out?
- The Harlem Renaissance was all about black pride

Chelsea Hotel

- Once the highest building of New York City (!)
- Musical legends stayed there
- Artists often paid with works of art
- Guests included: Bob Dylan, Sid Vicious (who allegedly murdered his girlfriend there), Dylan Thomas (who supposedly inspired Robert Allen Zimmerman to change his name to Bob Dylan :) Dylan Thomas was a Welsh poet who died after downing 18 whiskies in a row.), Jimi Hendrix (who held crazy, raging drug parties with Janis Joplin), Janis Joplin

(who had a love affair with Leonard Cohen), Leonard Cohen, Andy Warhol, Jon Bon Jovi (who filmed a music video there), Arthur Miller

- People were absolutely fascinated of the place
- There are countless stories, songs and poems about the hotel
- Leonard Cohen sums things up pretty well with his quote: "It's one of those hotels that have everything that I love so well about hotels. I love hotels to which, at four a.m., you can bring along a midget, a bear and four ladies, drag them to your room and no one cares about it at all."

Greenwich Village (important for oral matura: it's pronounced like "grenchich", NOT "green witch")

- European style
- Used to not be anything special (farmlands for tobacco, a graveyard, a tree for hanging people)
- 1830's: University of New York attracted many intellectuals (e.g.: the godfather of crime literature, Mr. Edgar Allan Poe)
- 20th century: artists started coming and going
- Present day: crazy and vibrant place, full of circus artists, esoteric healers, students, roller-skaters, jazz clubs, small theaters, gay-scene etc.
- On Sunday morning one can meet Jesus who will warn you about homosexuality and the negative effects of drugs

How gentrification works

- Artists find a cheap area to move in (they are young and don't have a lot of money)
- Galleries, shops, restaurants and bars begin to open in the area
- Area gets popular and rent rises
- Artists move away
- Back to Step 1
- Examples: East Village, Lend (in Graz)

Jewish New York

- Considered to be the intellectual, artistic and political elite of America
- Woody Allen, Bob Dylan, the Mark Brothers etc.
- Jews came to New York in waves and for numerous different reasons, a big one being WWII
- Whole families lived crammed in small apartment flats
- Jewish neighborhood full of immigrants from all around the world
- Well-known places: Lower East Side Tenement Museum, the world-famous Katz's Deli, the Bialystoker Synagogue etc.

(more on next page)

Famous Literature surrounding New York City

- My Lost City (Scott Fitzgerald)
- From the Diary of a New York Lady (Dorothy Parker)
- On the Road (Jack Kerouac)
- Grand Central Winter (See Stringer)
- The Last Leaf (O. Henry)

Other NYC Essentials

- The Statue of Liberty
- M.O.M.A.
- Grand Central Terminal
- Central Park
- Empire State Building
- Guggenheim Museum
- Chinatown
- Little Italy
- Nuyorican Poet's Café