

Perspectives of the City
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Applestein-Sweren Book Collecting Prize

Book Collection Essay

The city is so vast and we have so much to say to each other.
– Nights in Cabiria (1957)

I've lived in cities my entire life, which is why it took me a good long time to realize how much I loved them. I took for granted the content I felt zipping through a subway, people squashed up to my armpit, or the overpowering belonging I felt every time I walked home, passing by the eclectic mixture of dozens of little shops and restaurants that marked my unique commute. Living in two of the great cities of East Asia – Guangzhou and Hong Kong – the very definitions of über-urban, I had one quite narrow view of what a city looked like (grey, dense, and tall) and what one does in a city (conspicuously consume).

I wanted to continue this trend in milieu, so I chose to go to Goucher College, which was marketed as being “in Baltimore City,” which, according to the benches scattered around the many dilapidated streets, is “The Greatest City in America.” Needless to say, I was immensely disappointed when I first arrived. I drowned my sorrows in Red Emma's, a café I found downtown, drinking surprisingly delicious tea and meeting the wackiest people in the Mid-Atlantic, and in doing so started the long process of growing to appreciate Baltimore and the sheer diversity of delights that all cities offer.

To do so, however, required reconfiguring my staid ideas of what a city could be, and subconsciously, how a city can be seen. I first read *The Geography of Nowhere* by James Howard Kunstler to understand the post-industrial trajectory of American cities, but I was shocked at his scathing criticism of skyscrapers and New York's grid plan. Is that not what all cities should aspire to – the transparent majesty of New York City? But Kunstler argues that this

transparent majesty is mostly in service to the state, that in fact narrow, winding streets with buildings less than seven stories are actually more welcoming toward the average urbanite. Shocked, I raided the Goucher College Library, the radical bookshelves of Red Emma's, and the dusty hallways of The Book Thing to see if other urban thinkers agreed. From Jane Jacobs to Peter Hall and Janice Perlman, they did, and they slowly dismantled my narrow, admittedly mostly aesthetic and upper-middle-class view of what a city should be like, and most importantly, whom a city should be for. Shock, disbelief, and curiosity lead the way.

In my attempt to grasp how different cities can *be* depending on one's view (e.g I subconsciously blanch at Baltimore's sometimes small village feel, while others love how the small circles everyone runs in reminds them of their own suburban past), I took classes at Goucher and at Johns Hopkins that scoped out the city with their very own distinctive lenses. *Global Cities*, *Global Slums* provided a critical, social justice lens to cities worldwide, specifically zeroing in on the increasing centrality of slums in all cities, and the following violence and surveillance network conducted and created by the state to control these slums. *Designing Sustainable Wellness* provided health, ecological, infrastructural, and sustainable lenses, and got me started on thinking about the toxicity and recyclability of the materials used to create cities, and how to minimize harmful effects from construction and deconstruction, processes that almost define cities as much as standing buildings and infrastructure. *Architectonic Tokyo* delved into Tokyo's ordered pandemonium, and palpably reminded me of how rather Euro-centric all the books I had read before were, and how Euro-centric their ideas of what constituted a good city was. Shock, disbelief, and curiosity followed my discovery of how viewing the street as the essential spine to the city was actually an extremely Euro-centric view

of the city – the Japanese instead see cities through the agglomeration of blocks first, which is why so few streets in Tokyo are even named.

I started to realize how multifarious the ways are to see a city, that fiction and dreams are just as valid lenses as the hard-hitting social science criticisms I was reading for class. I found *City Secrets: New York* and *Julius Knipl, Real Estate Photographer: Stories* the way I find most books – winding my way through my high school and college library respectively, fingers lightly dragging on the infinite spines and stacks until one cuticle rests on an interesting phrase, an interesting shade of pink. I read *City Secrets: New York* years before I ever visited New York City, and when I did land in the Big Apple I realized how my dream of the city informed my experience in the city to an almost unhealthy degree. Most people, I venture, learn of a particular city through iridescent words read late at night in bed, and as the lyrical descriptions turn abstract and splendid in one's sleep the images take strong, strong hold. I spent a week in New York chasing down my dreams (Kayak in the Hudson! See a celebrity at Magnolia Bakery! Eat a huge slice of pizza half-folded in my right palm in the rain!) to the extent that I realized I saw through the city *primarily* through my dreams. All tourists do. Some city-dwellers continue to do so for the rest of their lives. Thousands, or millions, of people interact in the chaos of the city everyday – anything can happen, and that is where dreams are born.

Each of the seventeen books in this collection function as lenses tinted with a certain shade of ideology, and I've slowly started to practice looking through them. I have no hope of bonding all these disparate views together. Cities confound me. And I would have it no other way.

Book Collection List

Elements: Viewing the City Atomistically

1. Akasegawa, Genpei. *Hyperart: Thomasson*. New York: Kaya Press, 2009. Print.

Seeing the city through its odds and ends and gewgaws – While most of the other books in my collection are serious, passive, depressing, dense, and metaphorically and also quite literally heavy, *Hyperart: Thomasson* is about play and actively interacting with cities. Genpei Akasegawa was one of the pre-eminent Japanese conceptual artists, and spent his entire career poking holes at and thoroughly deflating subjects that would be otherwise be considered “pre-eminent.” In the course of his walks he started discovering what he called “Thomassons,” urban objects and structures that through time or neglect no longer have a use. They were named after a baseball player who was lured to a Japanese team with great expense and then promptly stopped being able to win any games. Akasegawa thought such things as closed-off doors on second floors, staircases that lead nowhere, telephone poles that no longer carry lines were “unintentional art created by the city itself.”

His documentation and delightful commentary on Thomassons around Tokyo were inspiring enough to make me start looking closer at crooked and awkward details of my environments and re-conceptualize them as idiosyncratic by-products of the frenetic processes that govern cities, and to realize (and celebrate) how cities, no matter how well-planned, are as fundamentally flawed as the people who create and maintain it every day. This compassion impelled Akasegawa to share his findings in a weekly column (which comprise this book), at which time Thomassons became a mini-phenomenon and almost-movement, with hundreds of readers sending in their own examples of Thomassons and also detailing the oft fantastic stories behind the Thomassons, how they were interacted with, and how the readers themselves discovered them. Of all the different books and writers in my collection, this one offers what I would arguably call the most humane view of the city – as an infinite playground of reclamation and redefinition of beauty, with friends to tag along on the search.

2. Jacobs, Jane. *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. New York: Random House, 1989. Print.

Seeing the city through its basic elements – My Bible, my companion, my User’s Manual to the city. In the half year since I’ve finished this book, Jacobs’ sharp-eyed and wry approaches to urban features and elements, and the carefully constructed and supported theories that stemmed from her observations, have revolutionized the way I myself have seen the city. I had previously seen dense cities as only a pleasantly opaque landscape of chaos, but with Jacobs’ tools, cities can be deconstructed into isolated features that, most importantly, can only work in multiple conjunctions and relationships with other integral forces. Starting from the street, Jacobs’ indivisible nucleus of the city, she slowly stirs in the singular, and then multifarious impacts of property, housing, parks, and density to come to her complex arguments about how cities do, and don’t work.

In a time when entire cities seem to be in the process of being sold off to the highest bidders, Jacobs' clarion call of common sense and of creating cities for the people continues to inspire my love and fight for livable cities. What makes Jacobs' critique even more powerful is how common and understandable her thinking and arguments are – little snide comments at Robert Moses and the planning industry pepper her words, and anecdotes from her housewife friends abound. Through much of the theoretical discourse on cities, and through looking at some of my collection, one could be forgiven for thinking of cities as abstract concepts to experiment on with little repercussions, when that modernist attitude harms and destroys the very real and tangible environment that real people of all stripes live in, die in. Jacobs, that “crazy dame,” doesn't make me forget for one second who actually lives in cities, and what city-living is all about.

3. Sand, Jordan. *Tokyo Vernacular: Common Spaces, Local Histories, Found Objects*. Berkeley: UC Press, 2013. Print.

4. Shelton, Barrie. *Learning from the Japanese City: West Meets East in Urban Design*. London: Taylor and Francis, 1999. Print.

Seeing the city through Japanese culture – I took the course Architectonic Tokyo at a pivotal moment, as I thought I had read all there was to read about the universal elements of a “good” city. Learning about Japanese culture, and its effects on modern Tokyo, was almost upsetting in how much it upended all the urban standards I had taken to heart. Both Shelton, in *Learning from the Japanese City*, and Sand, in *Tokyo Vernacular*, trace Japanese urban design to the Japanese concern with area versus the Eurocentric concern with line. This is most simply and profoundly illustrated by how Latin-based languages can only be written and comprehended one way (left to right, horizontally), whereas each Japanese character, similarly to other East Asian languages, is self-contained and “whole” enough that it can be written right to left and top to bottom. This “areal” view has immense repercussions, as the Japanese then foremost look at a map, and a city through the agglomerated blocks and not the streets demarcating them. This also has indirect effect on how Tokyo is a “vertical” city, with buildings housing completely different functions and enterprises on each floor. Eurocentric urban design, with its focus on the linear, is then extremely focused on the street, resulting in strict zoning and “streetscape” laws designed to make all the buildings on a street have a similar function and look. Similarly to their respective languages, a building can only be made sense through its relationship to the street and the various other buildings on the same street in Eurocentric urban design, and in Japanese urban design buildings are considered as self-contained as Japanese characters, which means that having buildings on a street look the same is not a priority – the street itself is not a priority.

To make people feel safe, help them efficiently travel by walking or by public transportation, and to support a large amount of local enterprises, a city can take on an immense amount of forms. This, among other things, made me realize, once again, how culturally relative perspectives are on what a good city is.

Foundations of the City

5. Ferrell, Jeff. *Empire of Scrounge: Inside the Urban Underground of Dumpster Diving*. New York: NYU Press, 2006. Print.

Seeing the city through its waste – Slinking through the stacks of the library one day, the words “Empire of Scrounge” caught my attention. It was a thin book, so I thought it would be a quick and easy read, but its short account of a year spent almost professionally dumpster diving belied the importance of this book in exposing me to waste, a significant, but woefully underreported, part of the city. The book is made of Ferrell’s ethnographic notes of the treasures he finds regularly, of the complex society he finds amongst the detritus, and of the many laws and skirmishes he faces in his daily scavenges. Modern cities have constructed systems designed to obscure waste and where it goes as much as possible – it goes down the sink, into the dumpster, into the black ether. Not only is waste threatening our ecosystems, it also functions as a rich asset for the many marginalized citizens of our cities. Waste is the untapped, relatively unknown dark side to our mindlessly consumptive cities, and as Ferrell shows in his accounts, to know a city’s waste is to know the city intimately.

6. Georgoulas, Andreas, Spiro N. Pollalis, Stephen J. Ramos, and Daniel Schodek, eds. *Infrastructure Sustainability and Design*. New York: Routledge, 2012. Print.

Seeing the city through its infrastructure and its impact on the environment – This was the primary textbook for my Designing Sustainable Wellness course, but it was so informative that I kept a copy for myself. Every single chapter covers a different facet of urban infrastructure, and reminds me constantly of how many hard-working elements of a city the average city-dweller has the privilege of not having to deal with – sewage, for instance, or the maintenance of ports and stations. This book is also useful for converging infrastructural thought with sustainable practices and initiatives that value health. Cities are often not very safe, crime-wise and pollution-wise, and this book calls for a reclaiming of health as an essential part of living in cities.

Spaces For, Against, and Towards

7. Graham, Stephen. *Cities Under Siege: The New Military Urbanism*. London: Verso, 2010. Print.

Seeing the city through surveillance and violence – My class Global Cities and Global Slums was frightening in many ways, but what was most frightening was the idea that many cities are already subject to a police state, an idea that this book is on the vanguard on. Graham details example after example of military urbanism in all types of cities around the world, from occupied Palestine to the occupied ghettos of the United States, and connects military urbanism to a whole host of industries and elements of cities that would otherwise seem innocuous. Protective walls constructed during the lead up to G20 summits (protecting who from whom?), pervasive CCTVs in every subway stop and streetlight, police forces outfitted with the newest anti-riot gear from private military contractors – this eye of this storm of violence and surveillance is the previously uncontrollable and chaotic city. How much do cities belong to the

people now? The thin veneer of respectability and control in a city hides a methodical and comprehensive system of control, and Graham suggests that military urbanism worldwide will become more subtle and more aggressive in the ensuing couple of years.

8. Kunstler, James Howard. *The Geography of Nowhere: The Rise and Decline of America's Man-Made Landscape*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1994. Print.

Seeing the city as consciously lacking "place" – Most of my collection details specific parts of cities, things to look for, but Kunstler argues in this book that much of the American urban landscape is instead empty, that these places have become the “geography of nowhere.” Kunstler’s book is an informative companion to Jacobs’ *Death and Life of Great American Cities*, as he details how the very same forces she condemned in the 1960s have continued to wreak havoc, and the effects of that throughout America. Kunstler provides the historical context to Jacobs’ theories, and details exact movements, events, and laws that led to the mass emptying of much of America’s cities.

9. Hsing, You-tien. *The Great Urban Transformation: Politics of Land and Property in China*. New York: Oxford UP, 2010. Print.

Seeing the city through property politics – I lived most of my life in Guangzhou, one of the central cities in this book, and it was fascinating to juxtapose my experiences with Hsing’s rigorous analysis and see how my own memories reflected her critical findings. Hsing is concerned with territoriality, which she defines as spatial expressions of power. Property has become the most influential bargaining chip in modern China, with different levels of the state wielding it against each other, and citizens using it as their only form of protection against the potent mercenary forces of the state and its close collaborators, private real estate firms. Reading this book was like watching an extremely complex and drawn-out chess game, with multifarious factions of society using space and property in cities to consolidate power, and I was profoundly reminded of how some of the greatest and most equitable cities in the world were created and are still shaped by the constant tension and friction of the city as chess board of power. Any urban demarcations, from neighborhood lines to block creations and even ownership of buildings themselves, were created from plain old, sometimes dirty, politics.

Cities in Time

10. Davis, Mike. *Planet of Slums*. London: Verso, 2006. Print.

Seeing the city as slums – Davis’s provocative thesis is that slums are becoming the most prominent features of 21st century cities, most visibly in the cities of developing nations, but also increasingly a part of developed nations too. This book expanded and deepened my conceptions of slums – Davis argues that the ghettos in the most developed cities, from New York to London, are practically slums already, and that for many cities in the developing world, slums are no longer peripheral, that the great mass of improperly housed people is instead threatening to take over the entire city itself. The idea of cities in the near future practically being only slums, with only a few areas of comfortable living available, seemed fantastic until I further delved into the book, which painstakingly illustrates the historical and international forces that have forced such elementary brutalities in localities around the world.

11. Hall, Peter. *Cities of Tomorrow: An Intellectual History of Urban Planning and Design in the Twentieth Century*. Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell, 2014. Print.

Seeing the city through history – While Jacobs' *Death and Life of Great American Cities* taught me how to notice physical elements and processes of the city, this book informed me how those physical elements and processes came about. One of Hall's central theses is that the one of the foundations of modern urban planning is backlash to the hellish Victorian city, which accounts for the sometimes contradictory anti-urban character of planning history and praxis. This hefty volume provides a broad context for European and American city shape and form.

12. Perlman, Janice. *Favela*. New York: Oxford UP, 2010. Print.

Seeing the city change meaning and spatially through time – Favelas have captured international attention and imaginations like few other urban elements, but with its main, exotic appeal, very little is generally known about favelas. Most people, myself included, have a very narrowly vague image of favelas, so Perlman spends the entire book detailing how favelas have changed immensely through the years, and continue to change, explicitly focusing on the lives and opinions of favela-dwellers and non-favela-dwellers. From favelas' start as pseudo-refugee-camps to dignified settlements, to widespread government-sponsored destruction and continual government harassment, to the rise of drug violence, and to their partial gentrification and the rapid rise of favela tourism, Perlman charts how ordinary Brazilians both were affected and actively affected favelas (which are always changing and developing).

More poignantly, Perlman depicts the struggle to cross from the *morro* (the hill – favela) to the *asfalto* (the asphalt – the “legitimate” city), and how though some favela areas have just as high quality of life as parts of the *asfalto*, widespread and entrenched favela prejudice still oppressively limits lives and opportunities. Perlman argues that this prejudice hampers the clarity, analysis, and cooperation needed to combat drug violence, and that neglect stemming from prejudice was one of the biggest reasons why drugs first flooded the favelas. No other book in my collection illuminates how impactful individual beliefs and opinions, no matter how false, can alter and shape cities.

Ideas of the City

13. Jacobs, Jane. *The Economy of Cities*. New York: Random House, 1969. Print.

Seeing the city as the foundation of the modern world – This was Jacobs' second book, written right after *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, and serves as an informal justification for her earlier book and for her focus on cities in general, as she argues that almost all innovation and economic growth in human history results from cities. It's a sweeping statement, but Jacobs presents a convincing case that the chance encounters, multiplicities of diverse economic support, and network centralization unique to cities are the engines of human creativity. The city is not just a place to live and analyze – it is *the* place, the laboratory of the future.

14. Kahn, Robert ed. *City Secrets: New York City*. New York: Little Bookroom, 2002. Print.

Seeing the city as a repository of people's experiences – Living in Guangzhou, for most of high school I was infatuated with a city literally on the other side of the globe: New York City. This book was ground zero for my infatuation.

Kahn created a new type of travel book by asking discerning New Yorkers to discuss their favorite and recommended spots or walking routes, and so the book becomes a collection of sparkling vignettes. Discovering it through my daily rounds of my school's library, I devoured the droll and kind advice within. New York had always been attractive but its portrayal in media had always seemed too vague to be really interesting – I saw skyscrapers and crowds that I could already see just outside my own window in Guangzhou. But *City Secrets: New York City*, for the first time, made New York specific and real as an object of affection for the scores of contributors to the book. Reading the hundreds of mini-love letters to the city, I soon fell a little in love with my own imagined New York City. In my urban travels since then, I've only repeatedly confirmed my original theory that the beauty of cities is how there is so much to love, and how cities can tenderly hold all the unique loves of each city-dweller, each polished and buffed by individual experiences, whims, and dreams.

15. Katchor, Ben. *Julius Knipl, Real Estate Photographer: Stories*. Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 1996. Print.

Seeing the city through nostalgia – Last summer I was on a comic kick, and read almost every graphic novel available in the Goucher College Library. *Julius Knipl, Real Estate Photographer: Stories* was just one of many I tore through that summer, but it was the only one that started to haunt me months afterward, the ghosts of the sepia pages floating through the dark creases of my mind. I re-read it, to scratch the itch, and then re-read it again, and again, and even now I still have not quenched my desire, as the eclectic devices and the melancholic men who created them that are the focus of this comic seem to always slip past my fingers. It's designed to, in a way. *Julius Knipl* portrays a city with a strong resemblance to New York City during the Great Depression, but there's always enough abstract and surreal whimsy to stop the city and its inhabitants from becoming too familiar. It's a deeply nostalgic comic for a time that has never really existed, which is fitting in that the strongest nostalgia is often for a past one has made so romantic and good that one's dreams of the past no longer represent what the actual past was like. Once committed to memory, memory warps and is jealously subjective, especially as perception is also already so subjective in the first place.

The concrete city exists as is, but infinite cities exist in the minds of city-dwellers present and past.

16. Koolhaas, Rem, and Hans Ulrich Obrist. *Project Japan: Metabolism Talks...* Köln: Taschen, 2011. Print.

Seeing the city through ideology – Metabolism was an architectural movement born from Japanese architects being inspired by the international modernist movement, but also realizing the heavy changes to this ideology would have to be implemented to deal with Japan's dense and disaster-prone environment. In their respect for locality, the Japanese architects of Metabolism already started to extremely differ from modernism, and in their bridging of modernist theories and the challenges of building in Japan they created a movement that was simultaneously of its time and was far ahead. Metabolism emphasized modularity and sustainability, and it rapidly

became the most influential architectural style in Japan. This book depicts the extent to which an entire city and country's infrastructure was revolutionized by ideology, and how an initially only architectural style can have far-reaching effects on conceptions of one's place in the city, product design, fashion, and other facets of culture.

17. Sassen, Saskia. *The Global City*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1991. Print.

Seeing the city through its connections to other cities – Sassen's influential book formulates a theory of globalization that positions the city as central to 21st Century economic growth. Almost like a more detailed, quantitative, and recent companion to Jacobs' *The Economy of Cities*, Sassen explains why, though the rhetoric of globalization seems to propagate the lessening of the importance of location, globalization has actually made some locations, specifically cities, more important than ever before. Sassen introduces the concept of the global city, which is not one city – rather, through the financial networks created in the past few decades, major cities of the world have united and weaved together so much that Sassen considers them to comprise one international cloud of a city. *The Global City* is unique in my book collection as it takes as its unit of analysis the relationships between cities, rather than the idiosyncrasies of one city or the differences between cities. *The Global City* does this as it proposes that in the next few decades of developing globalization, cities, especially the major ones, must be constantly understood and perceived as part of a global network for any analysis to even try to be accurate.

Aesthetics of the Urban

18. Baltimore map

19. Kigali map

20. Brussels map

21. Paris map

I've only recently started traveling independently, spending a week or so in New York, Kigali, Brussels, Paris, and Tokyo most recently. For each city I've been to it is very important for me to buy a map. As I traverse the streets that were just lines on a page to me a month ago, the lenses roll and switch like on a microscope, and I dutifully write down the results on the map. Yet with the constantly increasing lenses, and the maps to guide my way, all the cities I've visited have been too complex and strange and rich to be captured entirely. In the increased amount of lenses through which I see, I can come to greater appreciations of a city, and the city just captures me, devours me, more.

Book Collection Wish List

1. Alexander, Christopher. *A Pattern Language*.

Alexander proposes a theory of the patterns and rhythms of urban structures and how they create an environment of coherence, or dissonance. This book will help me with an even more atomistic/elemental analysis of the city and how its physical features affect everyday living.

2. Brand, Stewart. *How Buildings Learn: What Happens after They're Built*.

So much ink is spilled on the construction of buildings and its immediate look and impact after it's just been built, but so much of a building's life is how it is affected by time. This book will help me learn about how to see and appreciate the decay of city buildings.

3. Calvino, Italo. *Invisible Cities*.

I would like to have more books about people's dreams of the city, specifically fiction about cities that are entirely imaginative. In this book, Calvino details fantastical city after fantastical city, and in their pure theoretical underpinnings (e.g a city made of just one spider web) I think it can teach me to see real cities in a different light, and to be more imaginative in the infinite ways that a city can be.

4. Chen, Xiangming, and Ahmed Kanna eds. *Rethinking Global Urbanism: Comparative Insights from Secondary Cities*.

My entire collection is about the highest-profile, the biggest cities, and most of the cities I highlight are also therefore in developed countries. This book can help acquaint me with secondary cities and the special characteristics of secondary cities.

5. Gandy, Matthew. *Concrete and Clay: Reworking Nature in New York City*.

My collection is primarily focused on the creation of urban infrastructure and its effects on city-dwellers, which further supports the ideological demarcation between the city and nature. *Concrete and Clay* provides an analysis of how shaped New York City was by its nature, which would help with my book collection's glaring omission of an environmental history of the city.

6. Harvey, David. *Rebel Cities: From the Right to the City to the Urban Revolution*.

To further bolster Akasegawa's use of the city to create an ideological community and to counteract the military urbanism seen by Graham, *Rebel Cities* writes of a theory of the city as a hotspot for revolutionary activity, and details why and how. My book collection mostly depicts the city acting upon the dispossessed, and *Rebel Cities* would enhance my collection by detailing how the marginalized can fight back with the assets a city already has.

7. López-Calvo, Ignacio. *Latino Los Angeles in Film and Fiction: The Cultural Production of Social Anxiety.*

Arguably no other city in the world has been as shaped by fervent dreams as Los Angeles, and this book takes this and runs with it and detailing how the media has manufactured Latino areas of Los Angeles as dangerous, crime-ridden areas. It accompanies *Favela* by similarly detailing the impact of prejudice on areas of the city, and enhances it by focusing instead on how these cultural messages are transmitted in media.

8. Saunders, Doug. *Arrival City: How the Largest Migration in History is Reshaping Our World.*

Along with Davis' doomsday future view of cities as slums, another radical theory of the future is ventured by Saunders. Along with the constantly rapid physical changes of cities, there is also constantly rapid demographic changes in cities. The effects of demographic upheavals are missing in my collection, and this book can be a welcome remedy to that.

9. Spain, Daphne. *Gendered Spaces.*

In trying to find different perspectives of the city, this book will provide me a gendered view of the city – what does it mean to make a city for women? In what ways are cities masculine? What elements propagate further and more expansive use of the city by women?

10. Sullivan, Robert. *Rats: Observations on the History and Habitat of the City's Most Unwanted Inhabitants.*

This book will enhance *Empire of Scourge* by detailing the effects of waste and the lives and impacts of the other consummate city-dweller – rats.