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Klaus, Susan L. **A modern Arcadia: Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. & the plan for Forest Hills Gardens.**

Massachusetts/Library of American Landscape History, 2002. 207p index ISBN 1-55849-314-X, \$39.95

The *Designers and Places Series*, of which this is the third volume, highlights major monuments in the history of US landscape design. Klaus has produced an exemplary short architectural monograph: succinct, eloquent, contextual, and copiously illustrated. She sets the stage in the early 20th-century US and, laudably, gives ample space to essential British precedents such as Hampstead Garden Suburb. Too often, such international background is slighted in American scholarship. Chapters are given to Olmsted's early career and the Russell Sage Foundation, which funded this model suburban town on 142 acres in Queens, New York, just minutes from Manhattan by commuter railroad. Planning and construction are considered in detail, with excellent photographs both old and new. They reveal how modern materials such as iron and concrete were made to mimic the forms and textures of traditional English architecture, the results warmly picturesque and inviting. Klaus shows how Forest Hills Gardens grew and changed after its 1911 opening and examines the copious comments it received, both positive and negative. Finally, she relates the place to subsequent trends, from Levittown to Celebration, concluding that "Forest Hills Gardens is at once modern and classic." General readers; upper-division undergraduates through faculty. - *W. B. Maynard, Johns Hopkins University*