

Midwest Book Review

The Best Planned City In The World

Francis R. Kowsky

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Frederick Law Olmsted (April 26, 1822 - August 28, 1903) was an American journalist, social critic, public administrator, and landscape designer. He is popularly considered to be the father of American landscape architecture. Calvert Vaux (December 20, 1824 - November 19, 1895) was a British-American architect and landscape designer. In a collaborative partnership, Olmsted and Vaux created a series of parks and parkways for Buffalo, New York. "The Best Planned City in the World: Olmsted, Vaux, and the Buffalo Park System" by Francis R. Kowsky (Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Art History, SUNY) is a superbly illustrated, 304 page, descriptive history of the 'constellation of projects' of one of the best known and influential of 19th Century American landscape design partnerships. Showcasing original plans, drawings, photographs, reports and letters, "The Best Planned City in the World: Olmsted, Vaux, and the Buffalo Park System" is a superbly written and presented work of scholarship that is highly recommended for academic library American History collections, and to non-specialist general readers with an interest in Fredrick Law Olmsted, Calvert Vaux, 19th Century landscaping, or the history of the Buffalo Park System.

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