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*Marjorie Sewell Cautley*  
*Landscape Architect for the Motor Age*

BY SARAH ALLABACK

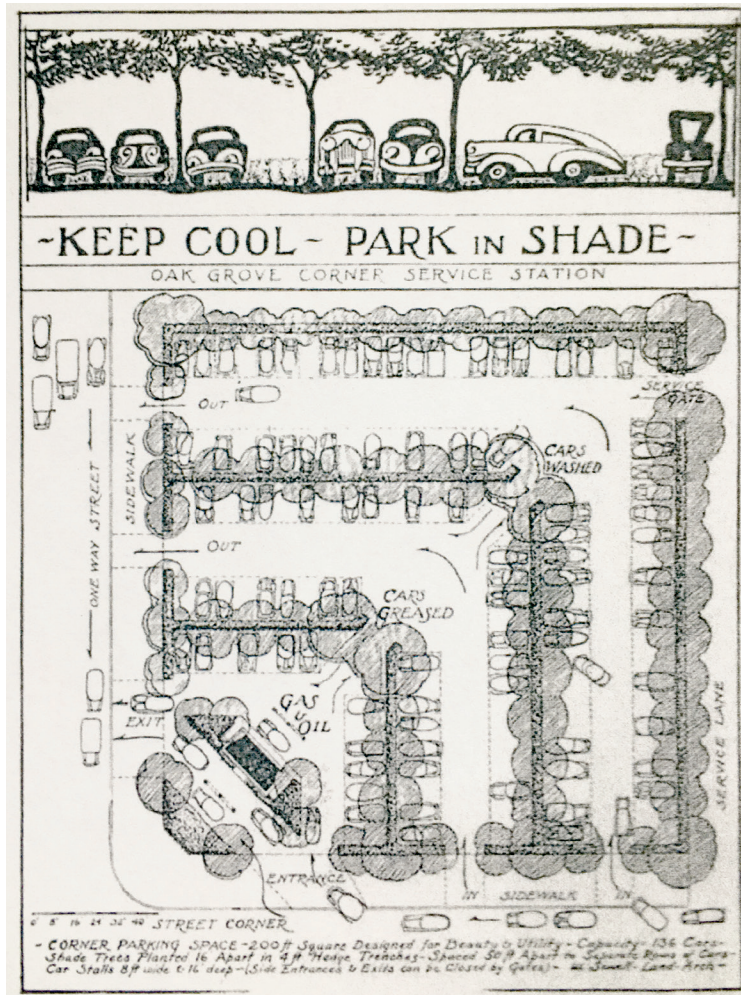
Over the course of four decades, Marjorie Cautley (1891–1954) became the first woman landscape architect to design state parks, plan the landscape for a public housing project, and teach in a university planning department. Sarah Allaback’s absorbing biography illuminates how Cautley transcended both cultural and professional boundaries during one of the most tumultuous eras in American history—the advent of the automobile—to create places for people to lead healthy, vital lives.

As a teenager, Cautley saw the first mass-produced cars in Brooklyn; less than two decades later, she designed the innovative landscape of Radburn, New Jersey, a “town for the motor age.” Later in her career, she planned parks to accommodate newly mobile vacationers and gardens in housing developments intended to improve middle-class American life.

Cautley’s office records were destroyed near the end of her career, but Allaback delves into scrapbooks, photographs, drawings, planting plans, and Cautley’s wide-ranging writings to weave her story. In *Marjorie Sewell Cautley*, she draws the portrait of a remarkable woman



Sunnyside Gardens, Long Island City, NY, c. 1949. Clarence Stein Papers, Cornell.



“Plan for Corner Service Station and Tree-Shaded Parking,” *The American City*, April 1943.

who brought a sense of social responsibility and reverence for nature to her work, creating places reflecting many of the environmentally sensitive design practices that landscape architects strive for today.

Sarah Allaback, senior manuscript editor at LALH, is a coeditor of *Warren H. Manning, Landscape Architect and Environmental Planner* (LALH, 2017) and author of *The First American Women Architects*.

All donations of \$250 or more received by May 25th will be acknowledged in the book.

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