THE 21ST-CENTURY CITY AND ITS VALUES: URBANISM, TOLERATION, AND EQUALITY

October 1, 2004

WELCOMING REMARKS

Alan Brinkley: Good morning. I'm Alan Brinkley; I'm the provost of Columbia University. I want to welcome all of you to this symposium, "The 21st Century City and its Values: Urbanism, Toleration, and Equality." This is one of the final two symposia of a series of such events that we've had here at Columbia since the beginning of Columbia's 250th anniversary year, a year ago. This is the final weekend of our anniversary, and I can think of no more appropriate way to bring this celebration of this great event at Columbia to an end than with this inquiry into the nature of the twenty-first century city. Columbia is of course one of the great urban universities, and so it's appropriate that we should consider this very important question.

We have an extraordinary group of scholars and architects and others here today to talk with us about an issue that anyone who's traveled almost anywhere in the world will understand is one of the most pressing questions of the twenty-first century: What is happening to the city? What challenges does that pose, not just in the United States but all over the world—perhaps especially in other parts of the world? This extraordinary transformation of urbanism is something that was a preoccupation of Americans and Europeans a century ago, and we are experiencing a similar transformation today, which is similarly important. So I'm very pleased that we're able to gather so many great people here today to discuss this question. I want to thank all of you for coming.

And it's now my great pleasure to introduce Hilary Ballon who will moderate this morning and introduce the other participants. Hilary is professor of art history and archeology here at Columbia, formerly chair of the Department of Art History, one of the organizers of this event, along with Ira Katznelson, whom you'll see this afternoon. And I'm particularly grateful to both of them for doing this. Ira worked on organizing the symposium last year while serving as vice president for Arts and Sciences, and Hilary did so while serving as chair of her department, so we really are grateful to them for adding this to what was already a very busy schedule.
Hilary Ballon is a scholar of modern architecture. Her publications include *Frank Lloyd Wright's Towers, New York's Pennsylvania Stations*, and other books. She's also one of the most honored teachers at Columbia. She's received virtually every conceivable teaching award here at the university, the Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching, The Great Teacher Award, the Philip and Ruth Hettleman Teaching Award, almost embarrassing, but a great tribute to her tremendous impact on students here at Columbia. So it's really a pleasure for me to welcome her, one of Columbia's great scholars and one of its greatest teachers, Hilary Ballon.