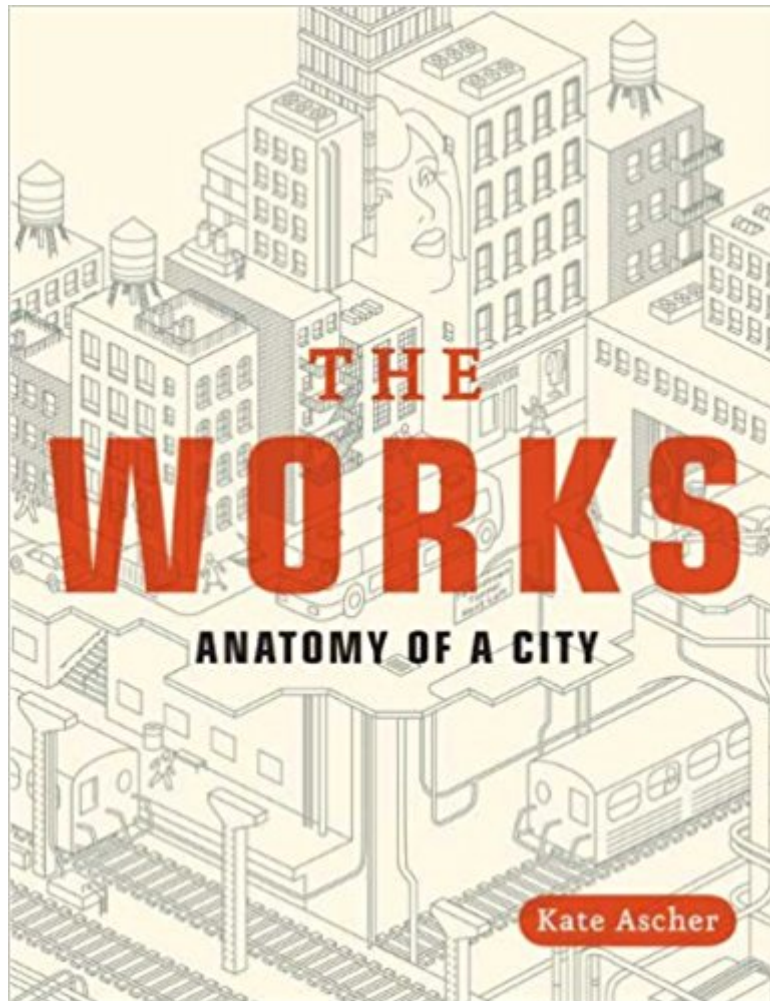




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# The Works: Anatomy Of A City



## Synopsis

A fascinating guided tour of the ways things work in a modern city. Have you ever wondered how the water in your faucet gets there? Where your garbage goes? What the pipes under city streets do? How bananas from Ecuador get to your local market? Why radiators in apartment buildings clang? Using New York City as its point of reference, *The Works* takes readers down manholes and behind the scenes to explain exactly how an urban infrastructure operates. Deftly weaving text and graphics, author Kate Ascher explores the systems that manage water, traffic, sewage and garbage, subways, electricity, mail, and much more. Full of fascinating facts and anecdotes, *The Works* gives readers a unique glimpse at what lies behind and beneath urban life in the twenty-first century.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Kate Ascher could not have chosen a much drier topic for a book than water mains, parking meters, railroad classification yards, and the other doodads of city infrastructure. But in Ascher's captivating book, *The Works*, the innards of New York City come alive. Wonderfully illustrated, the book combines text, maps, and other graphics to tell the story of the systems that keep America's greatest city running smoothly. How are traffic lights coordinated? How do potholes form and which areas have streets with the best "smoothness score"? How is mail processed? What happens when you flush the toilet? Ascher, who has a PhD in government from the London School of Economics and is now executive vice president of the New York City Economic Development Corporation,

dissects the colorful workings of all these systems and much more. The Works contains a section on pretty much every aspect of the Big Apple's infrastructure. You'll learn the mystery of the shiny silver tanks that have become a familiar sight on New York streets. (They prevent moisture from damaging underground phone lines.) Ascher explains how the city's 23 million daily pieces of mail are processed. We also learn about the 27-mile underground pneumatic mail tube that used to carry canisters with 500 letters up to 30 miles per hour around Manhattan. Also interesting: the story of the nine-foot-long, 800-pound robot submarine that city engineers send to probe leaks in the Delaware Aqueduct--which, it might interest you to know, is the world's longest continuous underground tunnel. And you'll find out all about Colonel Waring and his "White Wings." A great coffee table book for New York lovers or anyone with a curiosity bone. --Alex Roslin --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"The Works is both a reference guide and a geeky pleasure." --Time Out New York "It's a rare person who won't find something of interest in The Works, whether it's an explanation of how a street-sweeper works or the view of what's down a manhole." --New York Post

This book serves as a great introduction to the mechanics of city planning, focusing mainly on infrastructure of cities such as roads, electricity, water. It does not focus too much on the service and social aspects of the cities like parks, museums, police, hospitals, schools, migration/commuting, etc. The illustrations are very colorful and vibrant. However, it is not as detailed as I would like it to be. There are many modes of transportation of passengers not covered in this book, including buses, ferries, commuter rail, and taxi. It's too bias towards subways. I still enjoyed looking at the pictures and diagrams. Although the text is slightly outdated and could use some updates, such as the construction of the Second Avenue Subway. Overall it's a good book to get a good introduction on the functioning levels of cities.

I already owned this book, and bought this as a gift. If you are interested in, or work in the infrastructure field, there is no better primer than this text. It shows you how nearly all municipal infrastructure systems work in a diagrammatic fashion. I've read it cover to cover.

Kate Ascher has made super entertaining and informative book about NYC. She answers the questions you walk around the city and briefly wonder but forget to google later. This book should be a requirement for anyone who lives in a big city, whether it's NYC or not, since a lot of it is

applicable to all cities. We should all know what's happening below, around and even above us as we move through the city on a daily basis. It's also fun just to gather facts from the book and use them as convo starters or just to look smart at parties. (Giving Ascher credit of course)

2nd copy since I seem to have permanently loaned out the first copy. Read it from cover to cover. Lots of pictures and diagrams for kids (and guys hahahaha). For what it is, it's amazing!

If you like NYC and curious about the inner workings, it is a plus for kids or adults that are into that stuff. Like a little mini Discovery Channel in paper back of the city

Real students of cities know that the unseen is as important as the seen in a city. This book pulls back the layers of the complex systems that make a city work. The author uses New York City as the guide so that the reader can see and understand how the systems interact. The explanations and illustrations of each system are relevant to any city.

What a fun book! Perhaps a little out of date, but still relevant. Plus its fun to know the inner workings of a great city like NYC.

An interesting book that gives some information on how New York is being built, what happens under the ground and how complicated it is to operate the maintenance of all the systems that permit the city to function. The information is clear, the language is easy to follow. There is enough technical information, but the reader is not buried in the details.

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