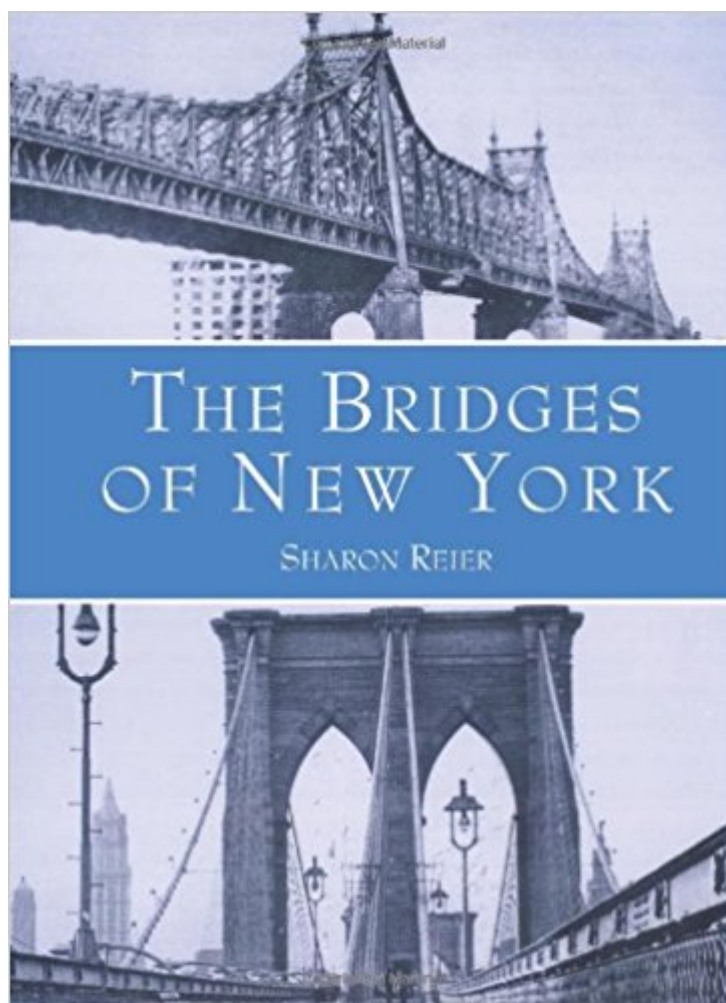


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# The Bridges Of New York (New York City)



## Synopsis

New York City boasts more spectacular bridges than any other city in the world. From the Gothic stone arches and gossamer steel webbing of the Brooklyn Bridge (perhaps the greatest engineering achievement of the 19th century), to the Verrazano-Narrows — the world's longest suspension bridge when completed in 1964 — more than 75 bridges span the city's waterways. This book is a stirring text-and-picture tribute to these awe-inspiring structures. Beginning with Dutch New Amsterdam and continuing to the modern era and the achievements of legendary bridge builder Robert Moses, *The Bridges of New York* covers nearly 300 years of New York history and a century of accomplishments in modern engineering. At the time of construction, many of the bridges were considered breakthroughs in bridge-building technology. Grouped according to geography and economics — two prime considerations facing bridge engineers — the spans are described in a highly readable text that explains the design principles of cantilever, swing, bascule, and many other bridge types. Over 150 archival engravings and contemporary photographs document the splendor of such remarkable bridges as the Brooklyn, George Washington, Bronx-Whitestone, Manhattan, Queensboro, Triborough, and dozens of smaller spans. A section on bridge maintenance, a glossary, and charts noting each bridge's location, length, height, and other features complete this pictorial treasury — sure to delight engineering and architecture enthusiasts as well as anyone who has ever been astonished by the extraordinary scale and grandeur of New York's bridges.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a reissue by Dover of a classic history and exhibit book. Covers all the major bridges in the New York City area. For both the casually interested and the specialist, the author has mined volumes of engineering periodicals and original records to cover not only the well known crossings such as the Brooklyn, Triborough and George Washington bridges but also the lesser known aqueduct bridges over the Harlem River between the Bronx and Manhattan, and the railroad bridges; structures not usually featured in postcards and tour books because they do not present spectacular and soaring vistas against the sky. Yet still worthy of admiration for their engineering features. Worthy addition to the collection of a pontist.

This book is incredible. It is more than reasonably priced and tells a great story of both the scientific and political history behind the construction of New York's bridges. The photographs are beautiful and the text is very readable. Highly recommended.

An incredible work by Sharon Reier. The book explains the complexities of having bridges built in NYC (or any city), both from the engineering and political perspective. Sharon brings the novice through the whole process from start to finish without losing the reader, while at the same time instilling a sense of appreciation for these engineering marvels. The book is well illustrated and an easy read. Don't pass this one up at this price.

"The Bridges of New York" is a great book for anyone who has marveled at structures like the Brooklyn Bridge. Author Sharon Reier does a splendid job of describing some of New York City's most interesting bridges, past and present, in this short, fascinating book. In both words and pictures (photos and drawings), she tells the story of these bridges. Until I read the book, I had no idea that there are more than 75 bridges over NYC's waterways. Note that the book was originally published in 1977, so newer bridges like the Greenpoint Avenue Bridge that was built in 1987 are not mentioned. But it's the older, historic bridges that are the focus of this book, bridges such as the Brooklyn Bridge, Hell Gate Arch Bridge, Williamsburg Bridge, and some of the lesser known bridges. The pictures alone make the book worth having, but the author's text descriptions reveal some marvelous tidbits of New York City history. As a retired civil engineer, I found the book to be fascinating, but I think that anyone who has been captivated by the sight of a big bridge would love this book. Another book that I recommend for bridge enthusiasts is "The Great Bridge: The Epic Story of the Building of the Brooklyn Bridge" by David McCullough.

Don't let the title fool you, this is not an engineering book. Rather, it is a pleasant history of the construction and importance of many of New York City's most important bridges. As everyone already knows, New York City is world-famous for its many impressive skyscrapers, but without its equally impressive bridges the city as we know it today could not exist. The narrative is detailed enough to give the reader a solid base of information about each span, but you don't need an engineering degree to understand this material. And all the added photos and illustrations help even more. If you are interested in what makes New York such a vibrant city you have to learn about its bridges as well as its buildings. This book is a wonderful way to do that.

The photos and subject coverage are first rate, the writing style is workmanlike and effective, so if you are interested in bridge architecture and New York City history, this book is a must-have. I would have liked a bit less coverage of how the bridges constructions were financed, and more on the actual building process. Nevertheless, I really enjoyed this book.

I just loved this book. I have been in my "New York mode" for quite some time, just living in the great city vicariously! Wish I could move back there, but can't afford it! A beautiful book, I highly recommend it. Beautiful pictures of the bridges and their history. A lovely look at New York's treasures.

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