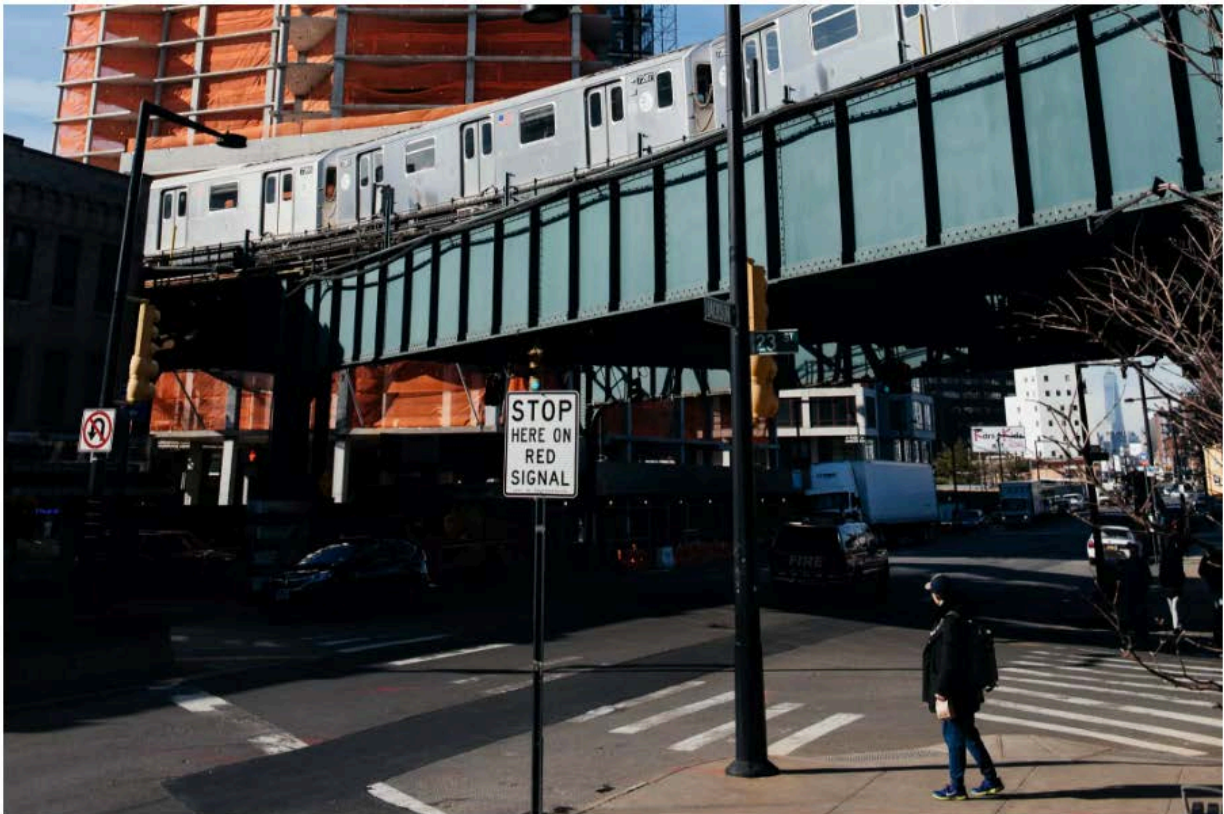


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And Finally...



Underpasses account for 70 million square feet of New York City. Vincent Tullo for The New York Times

By Alexandra S. Levine

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Any New Yorker who has braved the walkways beneath city overpasses or rail lines knows just how unbecoming they can seem.

(Other adjectives that work in that sentence: shaky, grimy, spooky, dicey.)

Well, someone's trying to do something about it.

The Design Trust for Public Space (the nonprofit that helped to create the [High Line](#)) and the Department of Transportation are taking on this so-called [el space](#), which accounts for more than 70 million square feet around the boroughs, according to the groups. As part of a pilot program to improve these seedy spots — the larger goal being to take on the social, economic and environmental problems simmering there — they have given a makeover to a walkway underneath the Gowanus Expressway in Sunset Park.

The murky blocks by 36th Street and Third Avenue in Brooklyn now have brighter lighting, beautified walkways and lovely planters to clean the air and filter runoff from the highway above.

Up next: sites by the Rockaway Freeway in the Rockaways; by Dutch Kills Street in Long Island City, Queens; by the Brooklyn Bridge arches; by Jerome Avenue (at Burnside Avenue) in the Bronx; and by Livonia Avenue in Brownsville, Brooklyn.