

CityRacks Design Competition

New York, NY

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The New York City Department of Transportation (DOT), in partnership with the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum and the support of Google Inc. and Transportation Alternatives, held an international design competition for new bicycle parking for the City of New York. As part of their effort to promote cycling as a sustainable, mainstream transportation option and in keeping with the environmental goals of PlaNYC 2030, DOT sought to tap the creative energy of the world design and art communities for this important element of street furniture.





New York City

Department of Transportation



Smithsonian

Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum



Transportation Alternatives



STATEMENT

The need for a better bike rack stems from a lack of many considerations. The increase in the number of riders versus the provided accommodations only begins to look at the demands for a better design. Many of New York’s existing racks fail to acknowledge even basic security issues as to how various typologies of bicycles and locks are compatible, and even further, these racks are not seen as aesthetically pleasing or useful to non-bikers.

This bicycle rack focuses on ease of manufacturing and installation by means of a simple modular unit formed through a series of folds from a single flat bar. While maintaining a straightforward profile, this reconfiguration resultantly forms an urban apparatus and resting spot for city dwellers, and begins to reconfigure the urban landscape and relationships between bikers, pedestrians, the street, and sidewalk activity.

Manageably deployable, the rack’s ease of installation matches that of current tube racks, and the similar minimalist condition and lack of excessive add-on parts, connections and mechanisms maintains a durable, lasting quality. Through careful attention to details such as non-abrasive paint and cautious proportioning, this economically efficient device provides solutions for security, integration, and reproduction.