

Compréhension de l'écrit et expression écrite

Le sujet porte sur l'axe 2 du programme : **Espace privé et espace public.**

Il s'organise en deux parties :

- 1. Compréhension de l'écrit ;**
- 2. Expression écrite.**

Afin de respecter l'anonymat de votre copie, vous ne devez pas signer votre composition, ni citer votre nom, celui d'un camarade ou celui de votre établissement.

'Hostile Architecture': How Public Spaces Keep the Public Out

Strips of sharp metal teeth run alongside a low garden wall on East 96th Street.

Metal bars divide a public bench on East 47th Street.

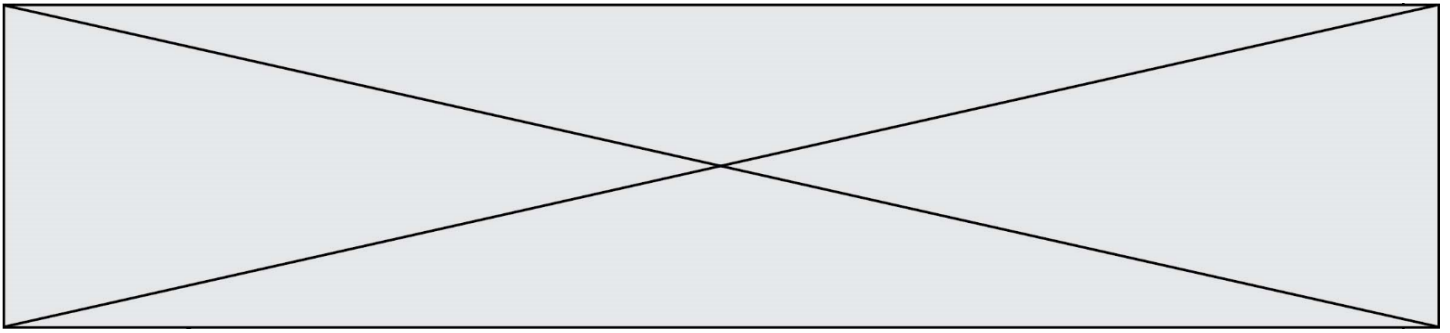
Ugly bolts line the ledges at a public plaza on East 56th Street.

5 These are all ways of saying “don't make yourself at home” in public. This so-called hostile architecture has flourished in New York, even as the city has significantly added more public space in the last decade, including new plazas and parkland, pedestrian areas once used for cars and reclaimed industrial waterfront.

Proponents say this type of urban design is necessary to help maintain order, ensure safety and curb unwanted behavior such as loitering, sleeping or skateboarding.

10 But hostile architecture, in New York and other cities, has increasingly drawn a backlash from critics who say that such measures are unnecessary and disproportionately target vulnerable populations. They have assailed what they call “anti-homeless spikes” for targeting those who have nowhere else to go at a time when many cities are grappling with a homelessness crisis.

15 In New York, about 79,000 people are homeless, of which about 5 percent are believed to live on the street, according to federal estimates.



Hostile architecture can be as subtle as simply not providing a place to sit, as obvious as a wall or fence to keep people or animals out or as aggressive as metal studs embedded in pavement. These designs often go unnoticed in the busy cityscape.

20 “We’re building barriers and walls around apartment buildings and public spaces to keep out the diversity of people and uses that comprise urban life,” said Jon Ritter, an architectural historian and a clinical associate professor at New York University.

25 Cities have long built walls and other defensive fortifications for protection. Even today, metal and concrete barriers are strategically placed around public buildings and plazas in Lower Manhattan and elsewhere to deter stray vehicles and guard against possible terror attacks. “What is hostile to some is defensive to others,” Mr. Ritter said.

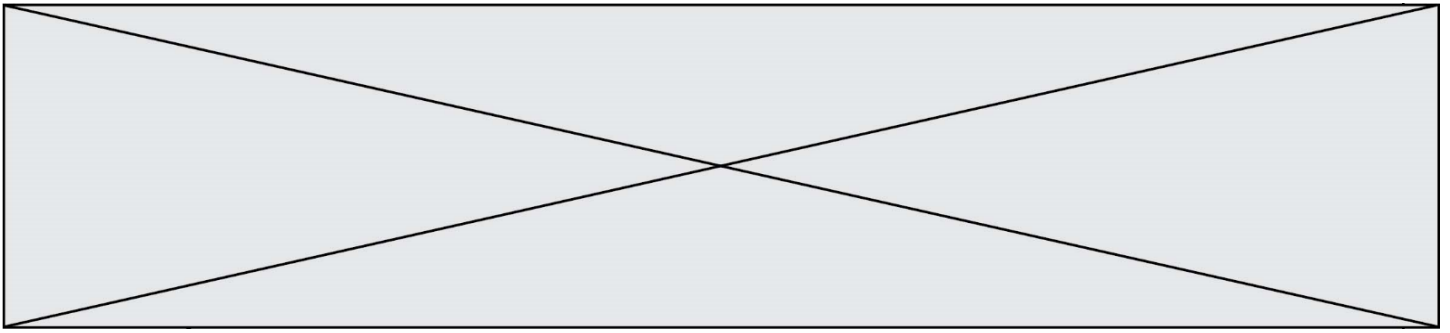
Hostile architecture has also been an issue in some of New York’s more than 550 privately owned public spaces, which are required to be open to the public by their owners in return for the right to build larger towers.

30 The city has specifically prohibited “devices that inhibit seating” in privately owned public spaces since 2007, though armrests are allowed. But a 2017 audit by Scott M. Stringer, the city comptroller¹, found that more than half of the spaces at that time had violated various city requirements and failed to provide mandated amenities² that could encourage public use. [...]

Winnie Hu, *The New York Times*, 8th November 2019.

¹ A comptroller: a financial controller.

² Mandated amenities: required urban equipment.



1. Compréhension de l'écrit (10 points)

Give an account of the document, in your own words and **in English**, taking into consideration the nature of the document, its main theme, the situation described and the different points of view that are expressed.

2. Expression écrite (10 points)

Vous traiterez **en anglais**, et en 120 mots minimum, **l'un des deux sujets suivants au choix** :

Sujet A

It is 2031. You are a graduating student at Columbia Graduate School of Architecture and you want to submit a project for an urban design competition entitled "Make New York City's Architecture friendly again".

Email your best friend and tell him or her about your ideas.

Sujet B

How can architecture positively impact society?