

Gauging a Project's Effects

New York Times (1857-Current file); Mar 1, 1992; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2000)
pg. R1

New School Simulator

Gauging a Project's Effects

In coming years, the most striking changes in the New York City landscape will be fashioned not by cranes but by computers and cameras.

The Environmental Simulation Center of the New School for Social Research opened Thursday at 65 Fifth Avenue, between 14th and 13th Streets, under the direction of Michael Kwartler. Its purpose is "to inform the manner in which the planning process governs physical development in New York City" and around the country.

At the center, simulated environments will allow people to assess the impact of development

projects long before a shovel goes into the ground. There will be physical models, through which a viewer can travel by the use of an optical probe attached to a video camera, and computer models that are effectively three-dimensional, in that they let a viewer "walk through" an area, choosing perspectives and views and even the speed of the journey. One of the first projects to be rendered as a computer model will be Donald J. Trump's Riverside South, on the Hudson River.

The start up has been supported by the J. M. Kaplan Fund and Charles H. Revson Foundation.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.