

# Kevin Lynch, Urban Planner.

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Kevin Lynch is one of the all-time best contributors to the art and science of city design. *The Image of The City*, published in 1960, contains many terms and ideas that are now clichés. He developed theory and language based on his study of three towns: Boston, Jersey City and Los Angeles. He, like other urban planners in the 1950s and 1960s, laid the ground for contemporary approaches. Even though conditions in the 21<sup>st</sup> century are quite different than those of post WWII, their ideas remain useful.

## From Wikipedia... [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kevin\\_A.\\_Lynch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kevin_A._Lynch)

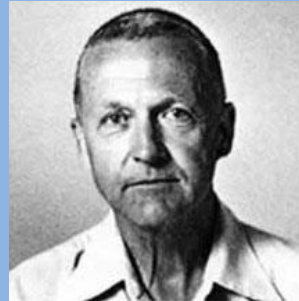
Kevin Andrew Lynch (January 7, 1918 – April 25, 1984) was an American [urban planner](#) and author. He is known for his work on the perceptual form of urban environments and was an early proponent of [mental mapping](#). His most influential books include [The Image of the City](#) (1960), a seminal work on the perceptual form of urban environments, and *What Time is This Place?* (1972), which theorizes how the physical environment captures and refigures temporal processes.

A student of architect [Frank Lloyd Wright](#) before training in city planning, Lynch spent his academic career at the [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#), teaching there from 1949 to 1978. He practiced [site planning](#) and [urban design](#) professionally with Carr, Lynch, and Sandell.

In *The Image of the City*, Chapter III, ELEMENTS, Mr. Lynch lists his elements of the city along with a concise definition of each.

1. Paths,
2. Edges,
3. Districts,
4. Nodes, and
5. Landmarks.

The elements offer an organizing framework still useful in the post-urbanist world. He relates these to three towns which demonstrates his thought process and offers a nostalgic look at the three towns in their heyday of the 1950s.



Born	Kevin Andrew Lynch January 7, 1918 <a href="#">Chicago, Illinois</a>
Died	April 25, 1984 (aged 66) <a href="#">Aguinnah, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts</a>
Institutions	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1949–1978)
<b><u>Alma mater</u></b>	<a href="#">Massachusetts Institute of Technology</a>
Main interests	<a href="#">Urban planning</a> ; <a href="#">environmental psychology</a> ; urban form
Principal ideas	<a href="#">Mental mapping</a> ; <a href="#">wayfinding</a> ; imageability
Major works	<a href="#">The Image of the City</a> <i>What Time is This Place?</i> <i>A Theory of Good Urban Form</i>
<b>Notable awards</b>	<a href="#">Rexford G. Tugwell Award</a> (1984)