



# Building Life Span Prediction

Clair Marie Wholean

Sept 10, 2020

Disposable Buildings



## Problem

PWC forecasts that

*the volume of construction output  
will grow by 85%*

to \$15.5 trillion worldwide by 2030.



## Customer Profile

### Large Real Estate Corporations

- CBRE
- Co-Star
- The Related Company
- JLL





## Customer Profile

### Government Agencies

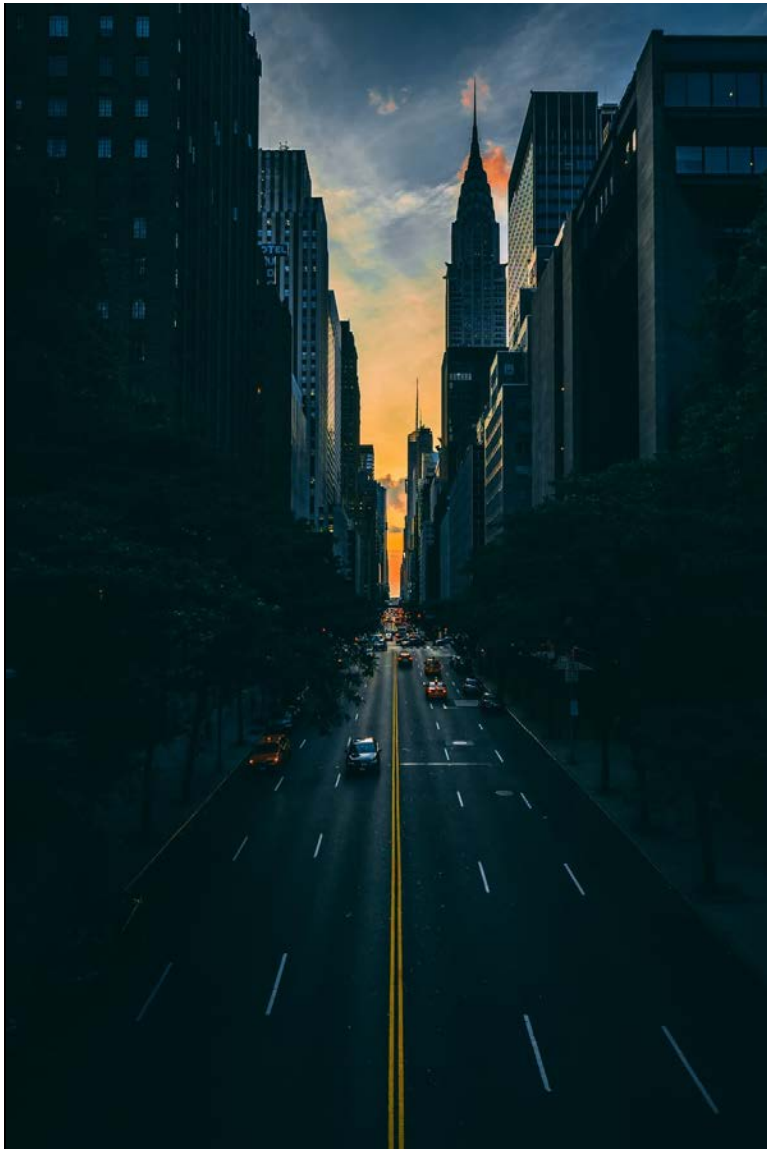
- HUD
- USACE
- NAVFAC

Data



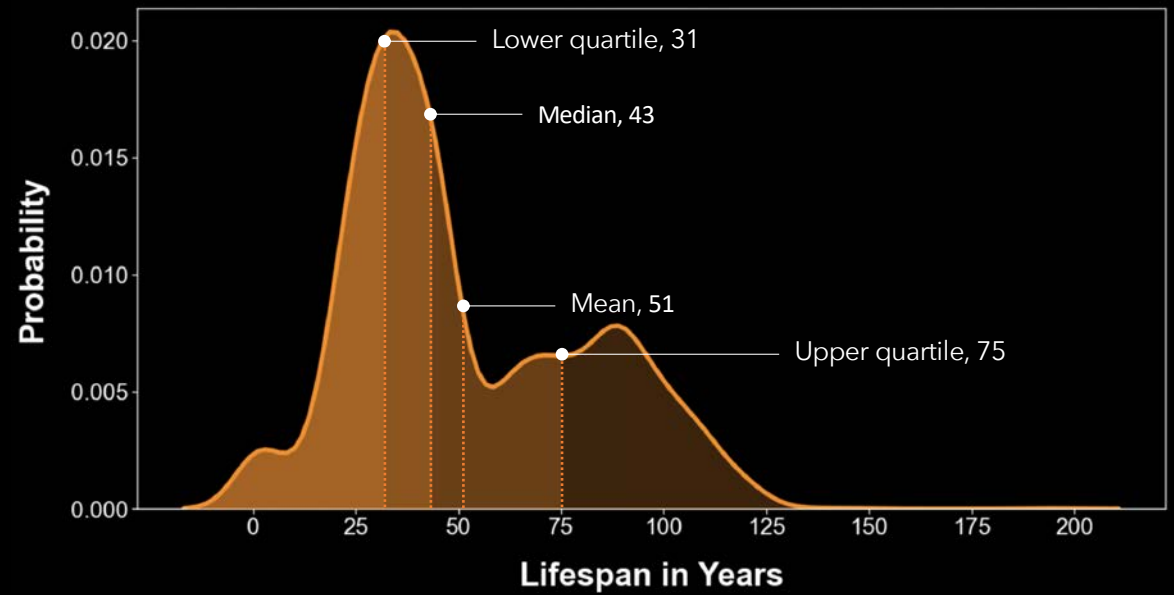
3,500 tax lots  
Demolished buildings  
Commercial only  
Constructed 1800 - 2017

PLUTO + NYC Permits

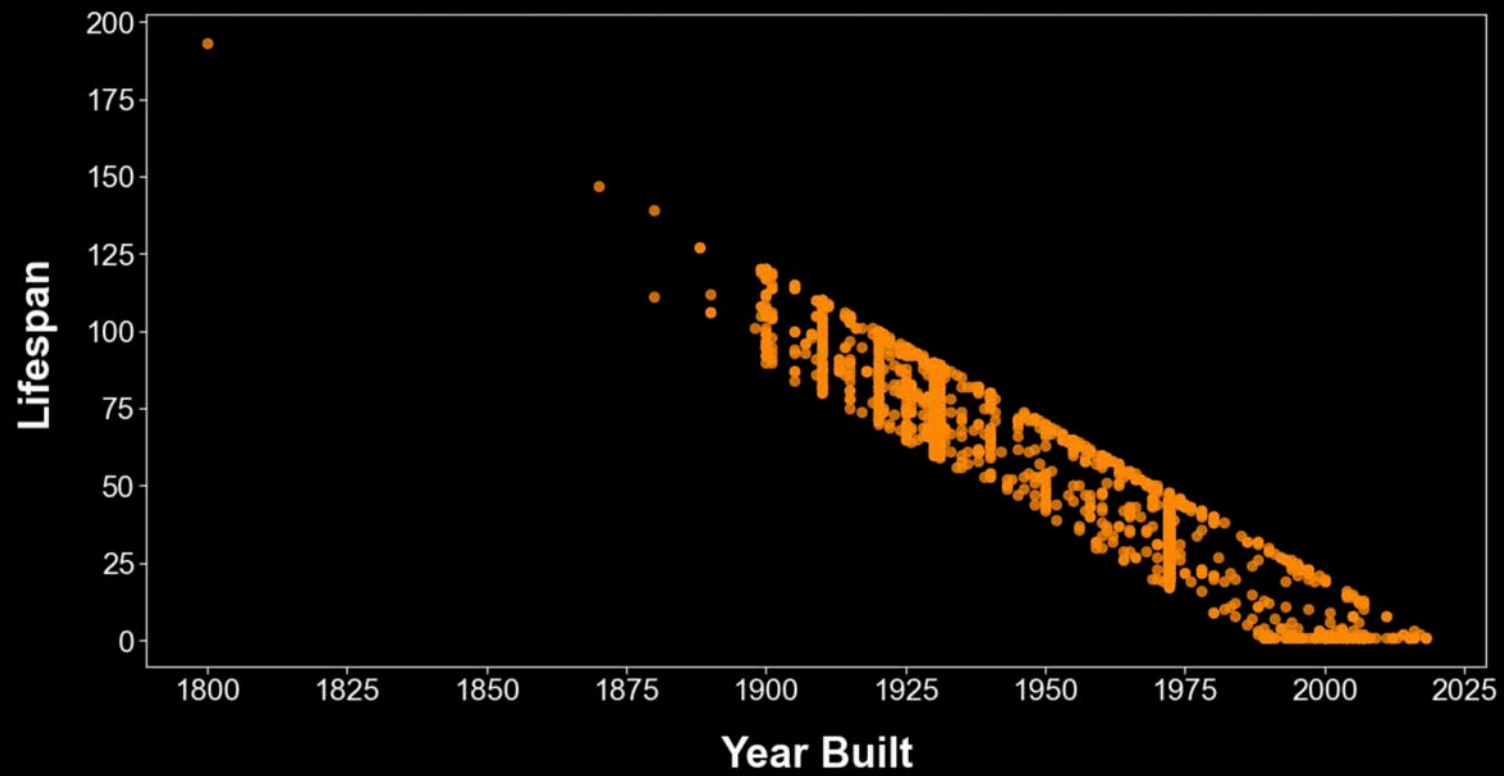


# Analysis

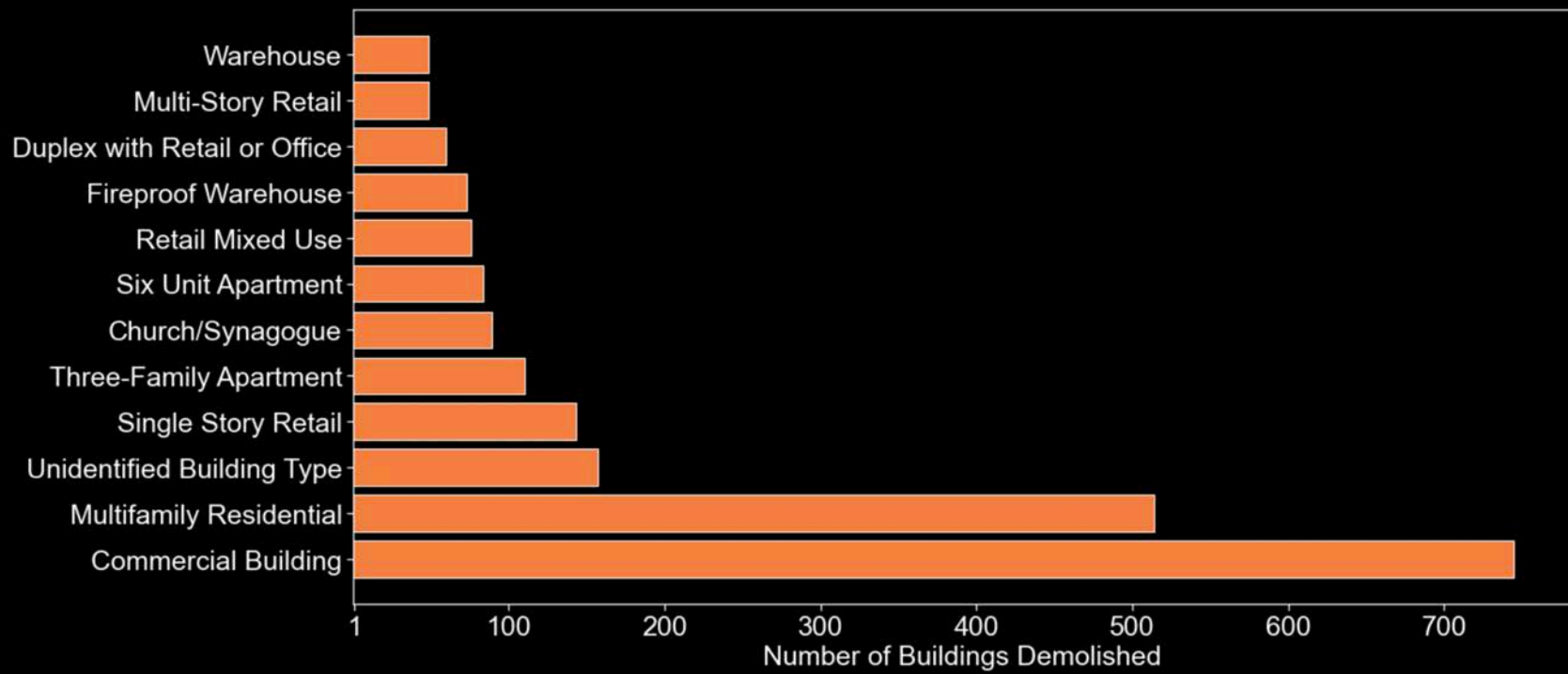
## Distribution of Lifespan



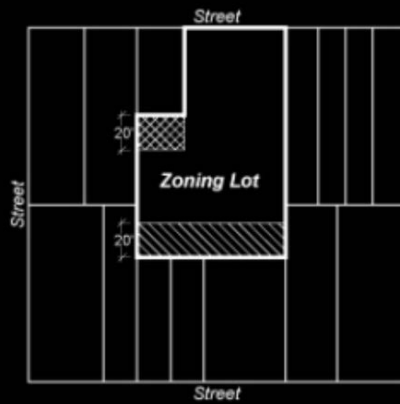
## Lifespan by Year Built



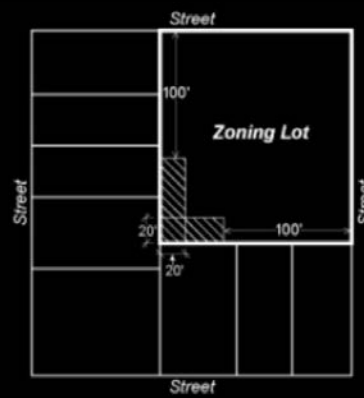
## Top Building Types Demolished



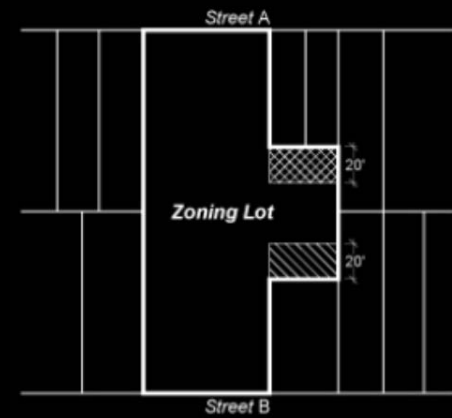




Inside Lot

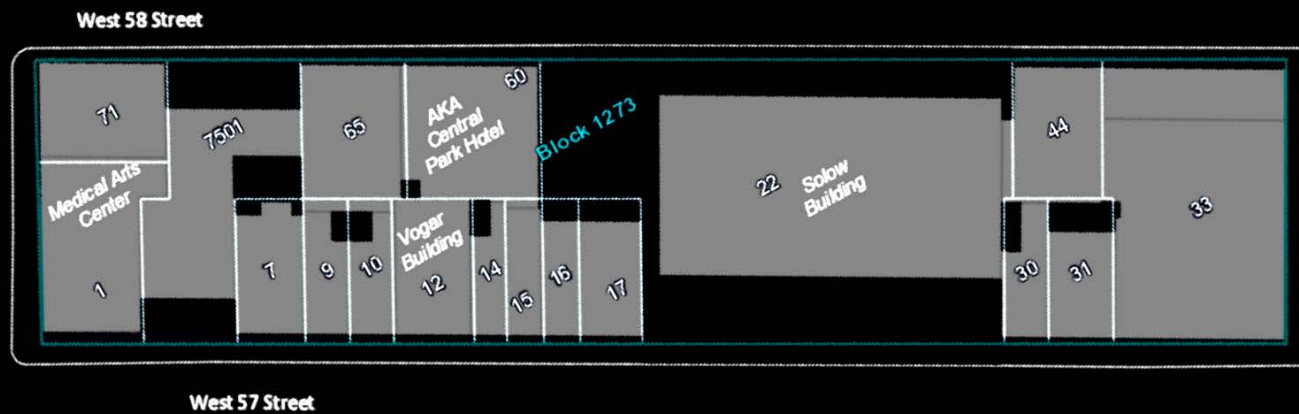


Corner Lot



Through Lot

## Lot Area



***Larger lots cause a slightly positive impact on lifespan.***



- frontage = lifespan ↓



+ frontage = lifespan ↑

## Frontage

*For every 100 ft of frontage, lifespan goes up 2 years.*

## Year Built



older = lifespan ↑



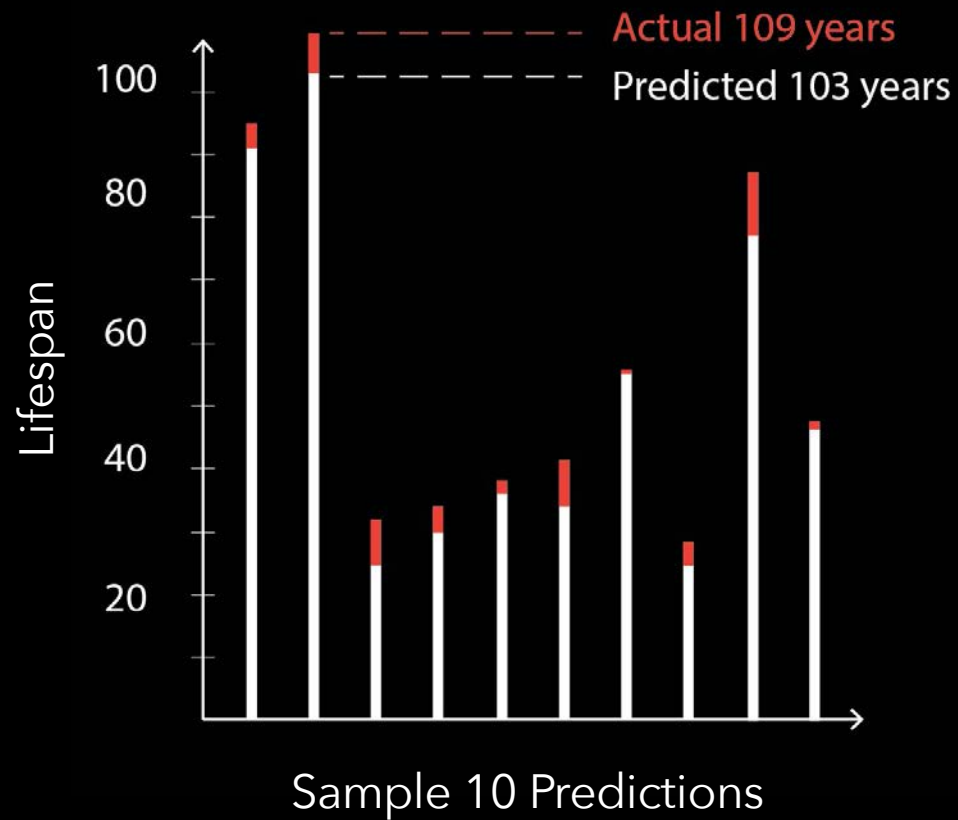
Younger = lifespan ↓

***For every year younger  
that a building is, its  
lifespan will decrease  
by 1 year.***

## Model Results

RMSE = 7.7

Predictions  
accurate within  $\pm 8$   
years







## Future Study

Existing Buildings

Architectural characteristics



## Recommendations

### **Masterplanning:**

- Plan fewer small lots
- Increase Use of overlay zones
- Eliminate split-zone lots
- Anticipate demos with rising values

### **Design:**

- Prioritize Street Frontage
- Design with architectural characteristics of older buildings.

### **Land Management:**

- Eliminate mixed-ownership properties.



## Contact Info

Clair Marie Wholean

Founder of Archneura & Registered Architect

[cw@archneura.com](mailto:cw@archneura.com)