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The New York Times

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Stan Lee's fictional superheroes lived in the real New York. Here's where they lived, and why. <https://t.co/oV1IGGN8R6>



William E. Sauro/The New York Times

Stan Lee, who died Monday at 95, was born in Manhattan and graduated from DeWitt Clinton High School in the Bronx. His pulp-fiction heroes have come to define much of popular culture in the early 21st century. <https://t.co/fDMeu6QZpc>

Tying Marvel's stable of pulp-fiction heroes to a real place — New York — served a counterbalance to the sometimes gravity-challenged action and the improbability of the stories. That was just what Stan Lee wanted. <https://t.co/rDosqzpP8i>



“So many other characters lived in cities like Gotham City and Metropolis, but I suspect the readers knew those cities were just made up.”

STAN LEE

In a 2004 television documentary

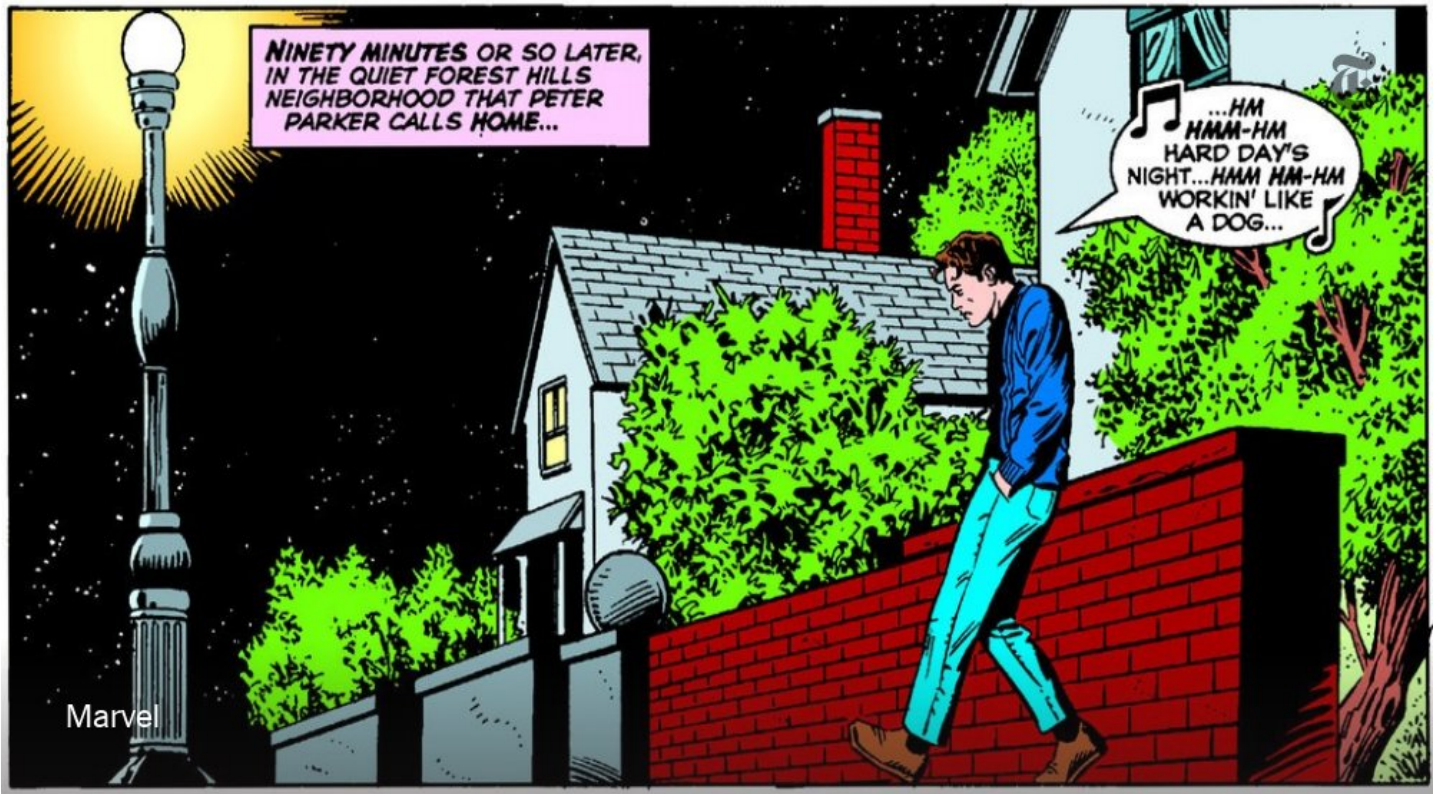
The New York universe hooked readers. And the artists drew what they were familiar with, which made the Marvel universe authentic-looking, down to the water towers atop many of the buildings. <https://t.co/rDosqzpP8i>



The Avengers Mansion was a Beaux-Arts palace. Fans know it as 890 Fifth Avenue. The Frick Collection, which now occupies the place, uses the address of the front door: 1 East 70th Street. <https://t.co/rDosqzpP8i>

Peter Parker, aka Spider-Man, was a teenager from Ingram Street in Queens, a real place, with real problems

<https://t.co/rDosqzpP8i>



The Fantastic Four knew their way around the Lower East Side. And Dr. Strange's Sanctum Sanctorum had a real address in Greenwich Village: 177A Bleecker Street. <https://t.co/rDosqzpP8i>

Also in the Marvel universe:

- The Museum of Natural History
- The Statue of Liberty
- Bloomingdale's
- Grand Central Terminal
- The East River

<https://t.co/rDosqzpP8i>

“When Stan Lee embarked on including New York as a character in our books, I want it to be real New York. I want it to be the local bridges, the local subways, the streets.”

JOHN ROMITA SR.

Marvel Comics artist