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City Planners Try to Undo the Past

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N M Q POETRY SELECTIONS

MANIFESTO

Love me for the bitterness I show
to lovers whom I disbelieve.
Love me for the attic-hate I have
of patient spiders who deceive
about the age of things.

(And she
Came down the steps with flying hair
and static aureoles.)

Do not love me when I laugh.
I dissemble no better than he
does who laughs when his chair
is neatly jerked away.

(And they
all sang Auld Lang Syne
waiting for a decent time to go.)

Love me when I curse a dog
that runs between my legs. No,
Do not love me sog-
gily with sentiment.

(And they
all loved one another
and turned away.)

ROBERT L. HARPER

"CITY PLANNERS TRY TO
UNDO THE PAST"

Straight as a T-square, the planned street
Severs the slum. It smells freshly
Of concrete.

How does one rescind
The rotton boroughs of the mind?