

41st St and 2nd Ave : "That Photo"

The NYCH carfloat operations, and the matching railyards in Greenville NJ and Brooklyn NY, are the most commonly "railfanned" areas on the railroad. However, it was an image of another piece of Cross Harbor trackage, that inspired "Brooklyn : 3AM"

Come for a walk with me 18 city blocks from the 59th St yard, north up 1st Ave, which parallels the Upper New York Harbor shoreline. Turn right onto 41st St, and travel east until you hit 2nd Ave.

It is at this intersection that the NYCH trackage pulls a minimum radii left-hand turn onto 2nd Ave, cutting through the corner of Bush Terminal Loft Building 20 as it goes.



The picture at left shows NYCH #11 curving through the tight confines sometime late in 1999. This picture was published in Kalmbach's "Trains" magazine July 2000 issue. Far from my previous modelling influences, it somehow stuck a chord, and stayed in the back of my mind as "something to try modelling, someday..."

Lo and behold, if Kalmbach's annual "Model Railroad Planning" book of 2003 didn't contain what looked to be a very similar picture. This time, the focus was Cross Harbor's Alco S1 #22, and the date sometime in the early 1990s.



There was something in this "New York Cross Harbor Railroad" operation that begged to be modelled. However, it took a few other things to fall into place before "Brooklyn : 3AM" could really start to take on a life of it's own...