Abstract


This study aims to analyze the urban conversion project of abandoned space into a park while taking into consideration the levels of commitment to sustainability. The process of revitalization of the High Line elevated rail line located in Manhattan, in New York City, erected in 1930 as part of the industrial structure of the region and later abandoned for decades, led to the creation of High Line Park, a public space which was successful in leveraging the requalification of the immediate surroundings in the neighborhoods that it goes through - Chelsea and Meatpacking District. Urban ruins, part of the industrial legacy left by the process of deindustrialization, the High Line was able to avoid demolition largely as a result of a community led conversion campaign. Created in an era of pertinent concern with global climate change and the degree of sustainability of cities, the park design expresses the search for the adoption of solutions that address these scenarios. Moreover, the implementation of High Line Park inserts in the context of the progress of New York itself, the most densely populated city in the United States, in managing the development of its physical aspects toward a "greener and better" city – motto of PlaNYC, a plan elaborated by the city that sets targets for this to effectively occur. It is therefore an investigation – following a case study centered on the examination of the design and operation of the park – which aims to contribute to a possible analysis of the degree of sustainability of similar future projects.

Keywords

Urban renewal; sustainability; derelict lands; open spaces; industrial heritage.