



The Higher Line

LOCATION: New York, NY

ARCHITECT: Touraine+Richmond Architects

Along the western edge of the isle of Manhattan runs a disused elevated rail line known locally as the "High Line". Though decrepit, its 1.5 mile run has come to serve as a sort of park for the local community, which rallied to save it when demolition was slated, a few years ago. An organization, The Friends of the High Line, then sponsored a competition for renovation schemes. This entry engages not only the line itself, but also the paths that it traces on the ground below, and in the sky above. Touraine+Richmond saw the ground-level "Low Line" continuing to grow as a retail procession. Meanwhile, they spruced up the park-like High Line for recreation, dog walking and a green respite from the concrete below. Finally, at select points, they proposed raising a "Higher Line" that aspires to a higher plane. These nodes are meant to be more exalted, "a philosophical or religious plane," according to Touraine. Or, simply "good for yoga," adds Richmond.

