TRANSFORMING A BARRIER TO A CENTER

Commissioned to create a strategic masterplan beneath the Metro North viaduct at Park Ave and East 125th Street, MPA reframed the site as a multimodal transit hub and neighborhood center, restoring long-severed connections between communities.

MPA's strategic and targeted interventions transform a disused and forbidding infrastructural site from a barrier to a center. By reframing characteristics of the viaduct itself - its spatial and environmental qualities, surfaces, and transit connectivity - the project turns constraints into opportunities, maximizing the effect of minimal intervention.

MPA’s proposal:

- Uses minimal strategies of intervention - increasing views, lighting the underside, and selectively resurfacing - to make a safe and appealing space that profits from the scale and spatial character of the viaduct overhead;

- Takes advantage of the sheltered but disused ‘room’ beneath the elevated to support diverse programming, including cultural and arts events, environmental health and awareness, and bicycle-based transportation and recreation; and

- Leverages the proximity of local and regional transit to restore a sense of identity and place around “The Metro,” which local residents remember as a vibrant local gathering place beneath the elevated.

RECOGNITION

Rights of Way, Barnard Symposium 2009