

Highline Sublime

New York City

Proposal, Designing the High Line

PRESERVING, INTENSIFYING, EXTENDING

MPA participated in the ideas competition preceding the RFP for the High Line, an abandoned 1.5-mile-long elevated rail line on Manhattan's West Side. MPA's award-winning proposal identifies, preserves, intensifies and extends the structure's memorable and incommensurable scalar conditions to enable it to sustain occupation as a public park. Three overlapping strategies enable this new occupation to activate the sublime character of this urban-scale remnant:

- 'Floating Trail' negotiates the opportunistic landscape of the High Line. Its rise and fall uses the extraordinary strength of the existing structure to cut through at strategic locations, enabling access, bringing light to below, and intensifying the sense of floating within a three dimensional urban space.
- 'Mobile Program' employs train cars as programmatic platforms over the existing tracks. The platforms enable flexible programming while minimizing interference with existing urban and ecological relationships.
- 'Opportunistic Landscapes' preserve areas of young trees and shrub masses. The proposal identifies and develops self-seeded local survivor landscape, improving and adding depth to the soil, removing invasive species, and adding habitat.

