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The High Line



Synopsis

The first-hand, behind-the-scenes account of the creative inspiration behind the High Line, the transformative public ‘park in the sky’ that has reshaped global perceptions of urban space – and become one of the most beloved and visited destinations in New York City. The first full documentation that visually charts the journey of this global landmark from the designer’s point of view. Hundreds of illustrations showcase every aspect of the project and its unforeseen influence in its entirety. Includes previously unpublished archival materials such as the drawings behind the original proposal and exclusive images of construction. The book mirrors the architecture and composition of the park through its large landscape format with foldouts, surprising packaging and inserts. More than a visual masterpiece – its seven chapters are well-organized, legible, comprehensive and accessible. Detailed, obsessive, quirky, compelling, and beautiful, the book captures the essence of the High Line. THE book for design enthusiasts including architects, landscape designers and urban planners - as well as for general-interest lovers of New York City, culture, art, gardens, and city life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Coming from someone who helped write a book on the High Line, this book is my favorite High Line book since Joel Sternfeld’s book *Walking The High Line*. It captures the essence of the whole project from past to present to future.

This is a beautifully designed book, depicting a beautifully designed park! Fold-out pages enhance the architectural drawings and the photos are fun to look at. Especially at the price of \$45, this is a great buy for anyone interested in architecture, gardens, public spaces, et.

SBN-10: 0714871001 ISBN-13: 978-0714871004 The High Line is a visually exciting and intriguing view of preservation in NYC. It presents the development of a natural area of NYC, where trains blew soot and men left human castoffs to accumulate. Some professors in architectural schools in the City dreamed their students would enjoy working on this mile and one-half line where rotting rail ties gave food for bugs and birds, and plants, and grasses, and insects and birds came to live and propagate. Joshua David and Robert Hammond felt called to save the High Line for the people of NYC. Their passion and entrepreneurial spirit, and their innocence about the amount of effort needed to bring this about fueled this project and brought many people and organizations together. Most noteworthy, I believe, was the role of the then Commissioner of City Planning, Amanda Burden an advocate for the project. The project took ten years. This book documents all the "ups and downs," the tears and joys, and finally the great sense of accomplishment. Now there was a place on the west side of Manhattan where city dwellers could walk, sit and read, enjoy the flowers and grasses, and quiet found here. Pictures of its development are engrossing. Everything was photographed from its dying grasses, to its abandoned children's carts and toys to its polluted soil. Reports of phases of the project are included, as well as summaries of reports, pictures of the stages of clean-ups and planting of grasses, and of workers with their long shadows as the day lengthens. Other countries are planning their own high-lines reusing post-industrial infrastructure. has given us an excellent price for this wonder. For those of us who love the City, it is a treasure as is its reality.

At 5.6 lbs. and 13.25 x 9 x 1.75" this is a monster book--and even better when opened--with dozens of fold-out pages amplifying its flood of already-great photos. Enough text to provide excellent history, but the greatness and landmark status of this unusual book is how well it both documents and shows what has to be one of the most unusual city projects ever successfully completed. I stumbled across this book at the library, and sadly for the publishers I probably won't buy it because I don't live in NY--but, New Yorkers who have more than minimal income and who have apartments big enough to hold more than 10 books will want it for sure. I look forward to my next visit to NY when I'll take the walk for the first time.

Brilliantly conceived and designed, like the High Line park itself. Some of the technical drawings and details were over my head but if you're a fan of urban architecture or landscape design, the inclusion of those will make this book all the more appealing to you. Bravo!

I got this as a gift for my boyfriend and it is perfect for a coffee table statement piece for any new yorker. It is a bit bulky and heavy but that is to be expected from a coffee table book.

Gave this to my VERY difficult-to-buy-for brother-in-law, who is also a prominent architect in our city. He LOVED it!!

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