
Keiko Tsuruta Cramer and Jared Edgar McKnight

Interdependencies and the Shaping of Place

The Hoover-Mason Trestle, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Abstract

The *Hoover-Mason Trestle (HMT)* project exemplifies the union between architecture and landscape architecture, marrying the physicality and design of the built form with an accentuation of the natural environs. The *HMT* illustrates the seamless interdependency between two disciplines of design to amplify the way we experience space and access the history, art and culture of the surrounding area. Designing with the existing site allows the design to become an integral part of that system and its history, receptive to the context of the place, and resilient in the way that it uses the existing site instead of attempting to overcome it. This is only possible when architecture and landscape architecture come together to create an integrated system of components that engage both the site and the visitors who interact with the place. The collaboration of the design disciplines to create a unified spatial experience influences and impacts one's appreciation of the space. For ten years, the *Bethlehem Steel* site sat abandoned, isolated and inaccessible, a ruin of a former industrial giant. Today it is a monument to the changing landscape, acting as the centerpiece of one of the City of Bethlehem's most important public spaces and highlighting the critical intersection between the past and the future.

Keywords

Industrial Heritage, Multi-disciplinary Practice, Placemaking, Bethlehem Steel Plant, Pennsylvania