

RETROFITTING CITIES: ENHANCING SYNERGY BY EXPLORING NEW TRENDS IN URBAN GREENWAYS

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1 ABSTRACT

Urban fragmentation reflects the lack of synergy between the built and unbuilt environments, between culture and nature, and between people and people. Greenways present themselves as a reasonable resolution to fragmentation. Then why are greenways not a prevalent practice in city design? This article examines the causes of urban fragmentation and examines contemporary landscape design responses, looking at their positions on addressing urban fragmentation and synergy. The article begins with a review of synergy and greenways before moving on to explore responses to urban form. The ability of legacy cities to offer insight into how urban spaces and infrastructures are viewed is also discussed. The article closes with the potential examination of urban greenways as a strategy to integrate Baltimore City by acting on existing vacant land, public infrastructure, open space, and cultural amenities. The underlying intent is to project synergism through productive relationships between human and ecological systems at every scale of landscape design and public decision making. The research is the groundwork for a design solution for which the built environment between greenways can be adapted to create a meaningful sense of place and synergy to an emerging greenway network. Can landscape architecture provide new relationships for the city and its inhabitants to experience distance, time, and place?

1.1 Keywords

greenways, urban fragmentation, landscape, Baltimore, synergy, city planning