

Urban Palimpsest

Landscape-based transformation of a former Paper Mill in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

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Abstract

Industrial heritage is not only the embodiment of industrial culture, but also the continuation of urban cultural background. Due to development of urbanization, much industrial heritage in the past have been replaced by modern urban development, and gradually disappeared. In Tashkent, Uzbekistan, the situation is especially alarming, as the rapid pace of urbanization and development has led to the loss of many historic buildings and structures, resulting in the erosion of the city's architectural character and cultural heritage. This trend of urban development has largely focused on modernization and economic growth, often at the expense of preserving the city's rich history and identity.

The theory of ruins provides a useful framework for understanding the relationship between urban development and cultural heritage preservation. According to the theory, ruins are not simply physical remnants of the past, but rather embody cultural, social, and historical meaning. As such, they have the potential to contribute to a sense of place and identity in the present, and can serve as important resources for future generations.

The project place, named "Uzbum" is the last industrial complex, remained in Tashkent from 19th century. The 17 ha of the Paper Mill has been abandoned for almost 15 years, which has affected the life in the district and raised controversial arguments amongst the city dwellers and the government representatives regarding it's future.

The goal of the thesis is the analysis of the historical value of the site and its ecological renewal to envision the social and cultural unity of the area. The transformation process reads the landscape narrative to create design, that works to reclaim the value of the site and increase sustainability in urban environment, interacting with environmental, social and economic stresses across the city.