

David Burns

Staff Reference: 224

FTE: 0.8

FOR: (1201)

Level: (A-E or Other level)

Status: Employed

Function: Teaching and Research

Banding

Background

In 2007 I was commissioned by the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh and the Andy Warhol Museum to contribute to the exhibition titled the "The Charm Bracelet Project." The concept behind the exhibition was to gather an international group of artists, architects, and designers to rethink the Northside neighbourhood of Pittsburgh through the lens of the "charms" of the neighbourhood: Pittsburgh Children's Museum, the Andy Warhol Museum, the National Aviary, the Carnegie Science Center, the Mattress Factory, and the Hazlett Theater.

Contribution

I was the sole designer of the project.

Significance

I proposed a series of architectural installations in the vast, unfriendly interstate overpass separating the North Side (residential, small commercial) from the newly christened North Shore (sports venues, nightlife) neighbourhoods. The project continued our research into questions perception and optics by reconfiguring the banal space of the overpass and transforming it into a vibrant, exciting, and welcoming transition space.

The projects in the exhibition included ideas submitted by highly regarded international contributors including New York Pentagram partner Paula Sher, London architecture firm MUF, and Colab Architecture (Felecia Davis).

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

(Press, invitations, reviews, photographs of exhibitions /installations/artworks etc. Evidence of public exposure of work.)

Press:

“Alluring Plans for Pittsburgh”

Charles Rosenblum

Metropolis Magazine

March 23, 2007

“For Pittsburgh’s historic North Side—where historic nineteenth century row houses remain among the concrete scars of 1960s Urban Renewal—the “Charm Bracelet” ideas competition proposes a wide-range of interdisciplinary revitalization schemes. Organized by the Pittsburgh Children’s Museum, the competition’s title implies that the nearby cultural institutions, including the Andy Warhol Museum, the National Aviary, the Carnegie Science Center, the Mattress Factory, and the Hazlett Theater, are charm-like features that can use architecture, landscape, and art to make beneficial physical and visual connections to the surrounding neighborhoods. And while the competition’s name is quaint, “everybody understands its meaning,” says Children’s Museum Deputy Director Chris Siefert, who organized the competition with architect Paul Rosenblatt of Springboard Design.

Siefert and Rosenblatt sought interdisciplinary teams through an RFQ process and guided a limited competition process that emphasized different design interventions at various locations rather than a single programmatic mandate. Participants included local as well as entrants from distant coasts and continents. Faculty and students from the Urban Lab at the Carnegie Mellon School of Architecture conducted community meetings, provided informational support to the competitors, and produced their own design schemes for the exhibition of the submitted projects.”

“Four design teams offer proposals to revitalize North Side”

Timothy McNulty

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Wednesday February 14, 2007

“Four design teams, from as far as Southern California and London, presented their proposals last night for reinvigorating the North Side and connecting its cultural institutions into a "charm bracelet" that will attract families to the area.

The plans included subtly introducing Steelers tailgaters to the neighborhood's art museums, reconstituting the public square in the middle of the former Allegheny City, projecting photos, films and illuminated messages on buildings, and fancifully lighting the North Side's dreary railroad underpasses.

The design project, overseen by the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, was funded by a National Endowment for the Arts grant. Children's Museum officials hoped to use its 2004 expansion, which combined old and new elements of the North Side, as an example for revitalizing the area, while linking the many museums in the area into a "family district" destination point.”

“A Children's Museum design competition proposes remaking the North Side as a "Charm Bracelet.”

Charles Rosenblum

Pittsburgh City Paper

February 22, 2007

“Works like a charm”

Charles Rosenblum

Architect’s Newspaper

March 21, 2007

“Four design teams offer proposals to revitalize North Side”
Jennifer Baron
Pop City
February 14, 2007

IMAGES OF EXHIBITION / WORK

