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**SWA Releases *Atlas of Infrastructure Adaptation*,
A Global Survey of Infrastructure as Public Space**

The new publication documents more than 250 projects demonstrating how transportation infrastructure can support ecological restoration, climate resilience, and public life.



July 22, 2026 — Today, SWA released *Atlas of Infrastructure Adaptation*, a new research publication and field guide documenting how cities around the world are transforming transportation infrastructure into multifunctional public landscapes. The Atlas draws from more than a decade of applied research and features over 250 global precedent projects alongside fifteen in-depth case studies exploring new approaches to ports, rivers, railways, and roads.

Across the twentieth century, transportation infrastructure reshaped cities, often dividing neighborhoods, displacing communities, and prioritizing movement over public life. Today, many of those same corridors represent one of the greatest opportunities for expanding parks, restoring ecological systems, and reconnecting communities. The *Atlas of Infrastructure Adaptation* argues that existing infrastructure can become the foundation for a new generation of public landscapes that deliver ecological, social, and economic value simultaneously.

Richly illustrated with original maps, diagrams, and project photography, the publication functions as both a conceptual overview and a practical design guide. In addition to documenting built

projects from around the world, it identifies recurring design strategies and introduces a seven-phase framework that synthesizes lessons learned from practitioners, public agencies, economists, community organizations, and project leaders involved in infrastructure adaptation.

The publication also reflects SWA's broader commitment to practice-based research. The Atlas distills lessons from projects spanning more than two decades of professional practice and collaboration, translating individual project experience into shared knowledge that can inform future work across the design profession.

"Rather than asking where cities will find land for the next generation of parks, the Atlas suggests we look at the infrastructure we already have," said **Jonah Susskind, Director of Climate Strategy at SWA** and co-author of the publication. "Transportation corridors, industrial waterfronts, flood channels, and utility networks already occupy enormous portions of our cities. When thoughtfully adapted, they can become some of our most valuable public landscapes."

The Atlas also reflects SWA's evolving approach to measuring design success. While beauty and functionality remain fundamental, today's infrastructure projects are increasingly evaluated through measurable outcomes including stormwater management, habitat creation, shade provision, carbon reduction, biodiversity, mobility, and long-term community benefit.

Inside the publication:

- Fifteen detailed case studies
- More than 250 infrastructure adaptation precedents
- Four infrastructure typologies: ports, rivers, railways, and roads
- A seven-phase framework for planning and delivering infrastructure adaptation projects
- Lessons for designers, planners, public agencies, and community advocates

The *Atlas of Infrastructure Adaptation* was authored by Jonah Susskind and Anya Domlesky, with support from Gerdo Aquino and Ying-yu Hung, and contributions from researchers across SWA's eight studios.

Learn more:

- [Download the publication.](#)
- [Download press images.](#)

About SWA

SWA is a global collective of landscape architects, planners, and urban designers working across parks, streetscapes, waterfronts, campuses, and urban districts. Founded in 1957 and 100% employee-owned, the firm brings expertise in climate-adaptive public realm design, planting, mobility, and district-scale planning to projects across the U.S. and abroad.

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About XL Lab

XL Lab is SWA's firmwide platform for research and innovation, providing insights into far-reaching topics like the role of design in climate adaptation and mitigation, the future of mid-sized American cities, and large-scale infrastructure reuse projects for ports, rivers, and transportation systems.

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