



My friends and I love going to the park after work and throwing around the frisbee. The new parks are great as they connect to our favorite restaurants and where we live so we can bike instead of relying on our cars. And we definitely don't miss the loud, crowded car overpasses that used to exist.

Ben, Student, 24 on his opinion of the new parks

010 Blight To Might

Project Name: Blight to Might: Reclaim the Highways

Location: Detroit, Michigan, USA

Theme: Strategy

Type: Urban Design Competition

Client: N/A

Size: 128 m2

Date and Duration: 2012

Status: Completed (Placed Top 20)

Putting People First, Before Cars

The car has too much power in our lives and in urban planning. It is a great source of pollution and it takes up a lot of space. In addition, it creates distance between people which leads to conflict and disagreement. Now is the time we take control and put people first in planning. But that of course causes challenges in the way that we live our lives today, so it is time to take a good look at what is important. And what better place to start the people's revolution than the former Motown City, Detroit.

Greenspace is Important for Humans

The rapid urbanization and construction of roads for the car has left us with very little green space in our cities. Sustainable urban planning is also about mixing nature with the built environment, for the benefits of both people and the global environment. Research shows that when people live in close proximity to parks and green space it reduces stress related diseases by more than 50%. And of course the main reason behind this logic is restoring the damage made by humans to the global environment.

We Need Proximity in Living

If we want to reduce the carbon footprint we need to go back to basics. We need to see the importance of living in close proximity to where we work, what we eat, where we go to school and everyday life in general.