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Reconquering the quays of the Seine in Rouen, through the development of a large river promenade

City and Metropolis of Rouen, Normandy

The planning of the left bank of the Seine in Rouen, covering over 3 kilometres in the heart of the city, is part of a vast project to reclaim disused land on both sides of the river. Industrial and port activities were developed there, following the Second World War and until the early 1980s. Their progressive decline gave way to sterile spaces with polluted soils and subsoils. The location of the quays provided the city with a development opportunity, and it seemed important to give the quays a second life. The creation of the river promenade now reconnects the two banks of the river with the historic city centre, enabling inhabitants to reclaim these spaces and rediscover a forgotten part of their urban landscape.



The Committee of Ministers conferred a Special Mention of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention to the achievement, within the framework of the 6th Session of the Award 2018-2019.

The project demonstrates the capacity of the landscape approaches to promote the urban development of a river zone. It enabled the revitalisation of abandoned and degraded spaces in urban areas, while respecting ecological, environmental, social and cultural values. Traces of the industrial and port vocation of the site have been saved. The project is part of a vast process of rehabilitation of wasteland on both sides of the river, which has encouraged restoration of the ecological balance; it represents a factor in the attractiveness of the territory and the positive development of the metropolis. A long river walk now reconnects the two river banks to the city centre, allowing the population to reclaim these spaces for their well-being, as a place of recreation and conviviality.

Recognised for its great value, and in accordance with Resolution CM/Res (2017) 18 of the Committee of Ministers, the project is thus part of the Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe, as a source of inspiration.