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Postindustrial DIY: Recovering American Rust Belt Icons

The culmination of more than a dozen years of on-the-ground investigation, ethnography, and historical analysis, *Postindustrial DIY* chronicles grassroots efforts to recover, rebuild, and enjoy architecturally iconic but economically obsolete places in the American Rust Belt. It assesses the efforts of do-it-yourself actors who have craftily remade former industrial sites into collective preservation projects and democratic grounds for arts and culture, environmental engagement, regional celebrations, itinerant play, and in-the-moment constructions. Their projects are generating excitement about the prospect of Rust Belt life, even as they often fall short of professional preservation or environmental reclamation standards. Demonstrating that there is no such thing as a site that is “too far gone” to save or reuse, *Postindustrial DIY*'s case studies from Buffalo, Detroit and Pittsburgh demonstrate how great architecture is not simply for the elites or the wealthy. The citizen preservationists and urbanists described in this book offer looser, more playful, and often more publicly satisfying alternatives to the development practices that have transformed iconic sites into expensive real estate or a clean slate for the next profitable endeavor. Transcending the disciplinary boundaries of architecture, historic preservation, city planning, and landscape architecture, *Postindustrial DIY* suggests new ways to engage, adapt, and preserve architecturally compelling sites and bottom-up strategies for Rust Belt revival.

BIO

Daniel Campo is an urbanist and Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Graduate Built Environment Studies in the School of Architecture and Planning at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland. He also serves as the Director of Morgan's Graduate Program in City and Regional Planning.