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Climate change related urban transformation and the role of cultural heritage
Matthias Ripp & Christer Gustafsson (Eds.)

Adaptive Reuse of Industrial Heritage in the era of Radical Climate Change

Related Urban Transitions

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Abstract

The adaptive reuse of industrial heritage, a critical component in addressing radical climate change-related urban transitions, is increasingly pertinent. This paper distinguishes 'urban transitions' from 'urban transformation,' emphasizing a more gradual, adaptive approach to urban development under the pressures of climate change. It explores the repurposing of industrial buildings and spaces, maintaining their cultural and historical value while meeting current urban needs. Through a mixed-methods approach, the paper analyses how adaptive reuse contributes to sustainable urban development, examines the scale and impact of such projects from local quarters to city-wide implications, and discusses the potential negative consequences, including gentrification. The study spans various global regions, including Europe, the United States, Latin America, Canada, and Australia, using case studies to illustrate the effectiveness of adaptive reuse in promoting sustainability, revitalizing urban areas, and preserving cultural heritage. The paper questions the viability of traditional long-term sustainable urban development strategies in the face of rapid environmental and societal changes, suggesting a potential need for paradigm shifts in urban planning.

Keywords: Adaptive Reuse; Industrial Heritage; Climate Change; Radical Urban Transitions

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