How is Adaptive Reuse Facilitated in a Meaningful Way?: Ecological and Cultural Mindfulness in a Case Study of BLDG 92.

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**Abstract**

Ecologically mindful adaptive reuse is an opportunity for old and underutilized structures to preserve historical value and reduce economic and environmental costs associated with demolition and new construction. As urbanization and human populations are increasing globally, adaptive reuse is key design approach through which architects and urban planners can reduce resource consumption, mitigate harmful environmental impacts, and retain historical and cultural information embedded in urban infrastructure. This paper uses qualitative research methods to investigate the question: What complex of social, political, and economic factors converged to enable the successful implementation of adaptive reuse at BLDG 92? The case study of BLDG 92 in the Brooklyn Navy Yard demonstrates how adaptive reuse was facilitated in a way that continues to foster both ecological mindfulness and cultural meaningfulness even after the completion of the building’s adaptive reuse. This kind of adaptive reuse was achieved through a combination of factors including public desire to reclaim local history, political and financial support from local government entities, availability of locally sourced materials and labor, and the commitment of the architects to restore the historical character of the site using principles of sustainable design. The case study reveals adaptive reuse as an ongoing process with meaningful implications for reducing environmental impacts and preserving historical and cultural value. By describing how adaptive reuse was achieved in BLDG 92 to produce enduring outcomes of ecological mindfulness and cultural meaning, this paper provides an instructive model for efforts in this field that seek to yield similar results.