

The New York Times

Copyright © 2003 The New York Times

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, JULY 3, 2003

CURRENTS

EXHIBITIONS

Designers Dream on Paper of a City Park Called the High Line

Elaine Louie

Daisies, wild grasses and a crab apple tree grow on the High Line, one and a half miles of elevated railroad tracks running from West 34th Street to Gansevoort Street. (At right, a view from West 30th Street.) Built in the 1930's, the High Line was retired as a rail line in 1980. Now the Bloomberg administration and Friends of the High Line are suggesting it become an elevated promenade. A design competition, "Designing the High Line," received 720 entries from 38 countries; next Thursday an exhibition of about 100 entries will open at Vanderbilt Hall in Grand Central Terminal and run through July 26. Admission is free.

"The show is about ideas from the realistic to the visionary," said Robert Hammond, a founder with Joshua David of Friends of the High Line, the exhibit's sponsor. "It's not about buildability." Takuji Nakamura, a Tokyo-based architect, won the JCDecaux award for public access for "50 Shafts," top right, 50 translucent cubes that provide enclosed stairs or elevators to the walkway. Hariri & Hariri of Manhattan received honorable mention for "Olympic Village 2012," bottom far right, which links buildings in an athletes' village at the Olympics the city hopes to land. Brendan Cotter, an architect at Alexander Gorlin Architects in Manhattan, worked on a design to preserve the High Line as a garden, right, with paths of stone, pebbles and bricks. In September, Mr. Hammond's group will meet with the community to discuss practical uses.

