

Center on the walk and another scheme, by architects Rick Archer, Tim Blonkvist and Madison Smith set out to link the historic Aztec Theater to Riverwalk. A plan by SWA for developing a 14-mile corridor along the river received a 2001 American Society of Landscape Architects Honor Award for Analysis and Planning. One design task is to make Riverwalk accessible to people in wheelchairs. Hugman did not foresee this necessity. In 2002 Ford, Powell and Carson, were once again, engaged to create further improvements (due for completion in 2010) along the river.

Today there are sightseeing cruises on the river and it is the site of the San Antonio Fiesta Parade of floats. Riverwalk is almost always filled with partygoers, children, tourists and locals. It is particularly 'crazy' during Fiesta. Riverwalk has proven to be a major asset to the city. Nine million people a year use it and it is estimated to contribute \$800 million to San Antonio's \$3 billion tourist industry each year. It was the location for the celebration of the San Antonio Spurs' victory when it won the United States basketball championships.

Keeping Riverwalk in good condition is expensive. It requires constant maintenance. The City's Department of Parks and Recreation has an annual budget of \$4.25 million to maintain the walk. The department puts an extraordinary number of new plants into the ground each year. The effort yields results. The design has become a precedent for other cities to follow. Closed in rivers, abandoned rail tracks and a host of alleys can be turned into attractive assets for a city. Hugman deserves recognition for his foresight and persistence. Urban designers need both.

Major references

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- Tyler, Ronnie C. (1996). San Antonio River. *The New Handbook of Texas*. Austin, TX: Texas State Historical Society.
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Plugging In Components: Strategic Investments as Catalysts

National, state and city administrations often invest in specific buildings as catalysts to spur further development (see Chapter 6). In France, for instance, it was a national policy to invest in museums in the heart of many provincial towns to revitalize their cores by bringing in visitors. Los Angeles and Philadelphia are amongst other cities in the United States that have followed suit. Camden, New Jersey has an aquarium. Glasgow in Scotland has been revitalized through the arts. At least 90 U.S. cities are following the same tack with Arts Districts. In Glendale, California the investment was in parking garages to spur retail development. Many universities are plugging in 'magnet infrastructure' off campus to rejuvenate run-down neighbourhoods. The University of California, Riverside, for instance, has developed a Museum of Photography and a School of Visual Arts to attract young people downtown. In Chattanooga recently it has been two schools.