

#36. VELENJE PROMENADE

Location:
Velenje, Slovenia
Year: 2014

Theme(s):
Partnership/ Inclusivity/ Stakeholder involvement

Languages: English/ Slovenian
Source: <https://bit.ly/1dO7IZI>

WHY IS THIS A GOOD EXAMPLE?

Even though the traffic has been closed to the road for over 30 years, a sufficient transformation to a pedestrian friendly zone never took place and the promenade still maintained its character as a road, being too wide and dull, sort of a hybrid between the road and a place for pedestrians that was not especially welcoming. This example represents a successful renovation and a first step towards the gradual revitalisation of the city centre, using the river as a crucial element of the renovation and the city in general. Together with a new amphitheatre next to the river, the transformed Promenade turned into a main event axis of the city, when just before the changes it was an unattractive area people simply used to get from one place to the next.



Photo credit: <http://www.velenje.si/en/>

DESCRIPTION

The Velenje "Promenada" is an important city space and a vital city thoroughfare. Its tasks are to supply the city with the missing programmes and to help it reclaim its original character of a "town in a park". The pedestrian zone extends from a parking garage, before weaving its way through the existing urban fabric. As the path twists around the surrounding buildings, it gives rise to larger contained spaces. Moreover, by narrowing a bridge and placing it off the former axis, a space has been recovered for an amphitheatre, which slopes down towards the banks of the river. Consequently, this nexus has become a hub of activity, with the water once again forming a prominent part of the city.

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