This popular park on New York’s East River just south of the Brooklyn Bridge offers heart-stopping views of the iconic span, the Statue of Liberty, and the Manhattan skyline. Until little more than a decade ago it was a gray, flat, former industrial site. Today it is a green oasis of gently undulating topography, meandering trails, and quiet niches along the water’s edge. Landscape Architect Michael Van Valkenburgh made sustainable materials a priority in his design for the park. Studio 431 developed and manufactured the custom benches he designed for it, all of which are made of refurbished wood reclaimed from abandoned 19th century structures. Studio 431 turned battered beams into slats for backed benches, transformed massive metal-studded support columns into smooth slabs for low flat benches, and engineered the steel frames to support them.