

North Embarcadero Public Art Plan



North Embarcadero Public Art Plan



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Design Principles



Overall Design Principles

The San Diego waterfront is teeming with dynamic forces and phenomena. The ever-changing moods of the San Diego Bay, the unique light, the vestiges of the past, and the dramatic meeting of land and sea all contribute to the richness of this place. The San Diego waterfront is a rich and wonderful place, and future artworks should celebrate and reveal what is already there rather than imposing an alternate reality.

Character



- ➔ Artworks should seek to preserve, to frame, to enhance or to reveal the natural forces that are present on the site. The artworks should focus on the edge, the meeting of land and sea.
- ➔ Artworks should increase people's awareness and appreciation for the bay and other natural forces in the site.
- ➔ Artworks should draw their energy from, or respond to, the forces that are already present - the wind, the fog, the waves, the tides, the weather, the sound of the water, the patterns of sunlight, the living ecosystems, the moon and the stars.
- ➔ Artworks should seek to preserve or frame views of the bay rather than cluttering these views. There are some places where vertical elements are needed such as the Point and the end of the Broadway Pier, but most of the existing views should be left uncluttered.

Character



- ➔ Artworks should reveal phenomena that are normally invisible by actively changing with the wind, the light, the fog or other forces. These types of artworks have the potential to remain intriguing to people who visit the site frequently.
- ➔ Artworks should also function as gathering places, encouraging people to sit and observe. Seating should be integrated into the design of the artwork sites whenever possible.
- ➔ Artworks should generally have a contemplative, calming mood, although there might be a few sites that call for a more exuberant approach such as the Point.

Character



- ➔ Artworks should be integrated into the lighting design so that they become focal points at night. Artworks below the piers and bulkhead should employ blue lights if possible.
- ➔ Certain art elements should make use of formerly hidden or unseen places such as the space under the piers and bulkheads. These sites are opportunities to create artworks that actively embrace the waves and tides without cluttering the existing views of the bay.
- ➔ **Artworks should generally require minimal maintenance. They should use materials that will age well in a marine environment such as bronze, copper, stainless steel, anodized aluminum, stone and concrete. If the artworks utilize electrical components such as pumps or lighting fixtures, they should be designed for ease of maintenance.**

Artist Selection



Artist Selection

While artist Ned Kahn has created this Public Art Plan and outlined opportunities for artworks to be incorporated into the North Embarcadero Visionary Plan design, a variety of artists will be asked to participate in developing artworks for the North Embarcadero. Artists will be solicited to create art components as phases of the North Embarcadero Visionary Plan progress.

Public Art Planning Areas



The Cove



The organic landscape of the cove is an ideal setting for the existing memorials and the placement of future memorials.

Future memorials should be designed in accordance with the principles of the North Embarcadero Art Plan and should be integrated into the landscape design of the cove.



The Cove



Arial View & Monuments



The Cove

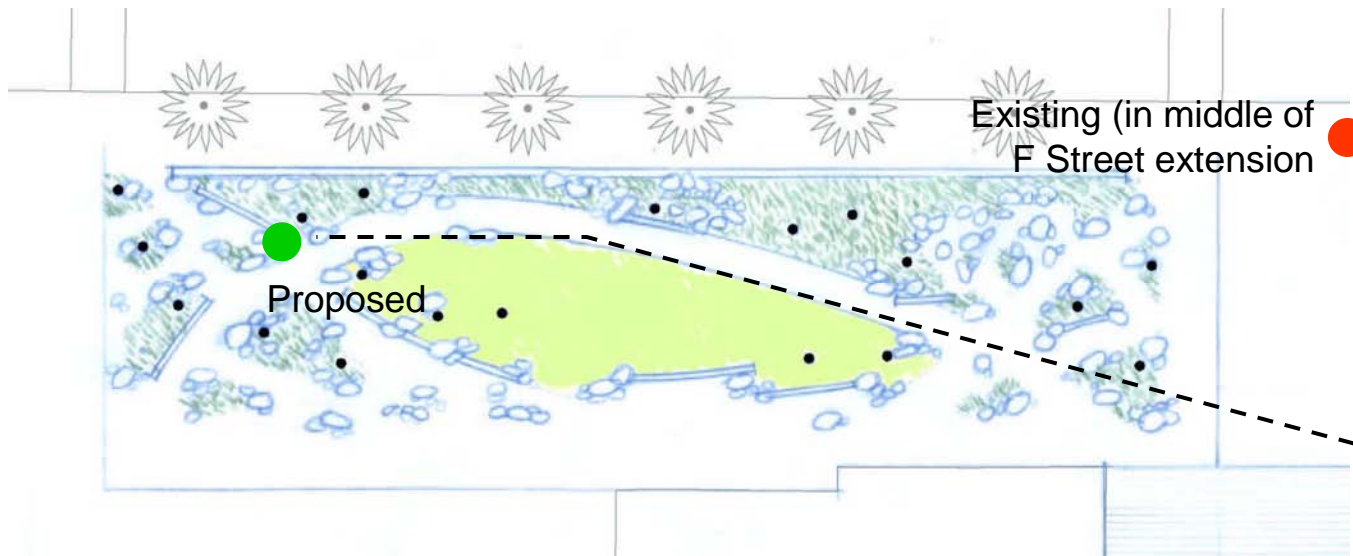


- Homecoming Memorial

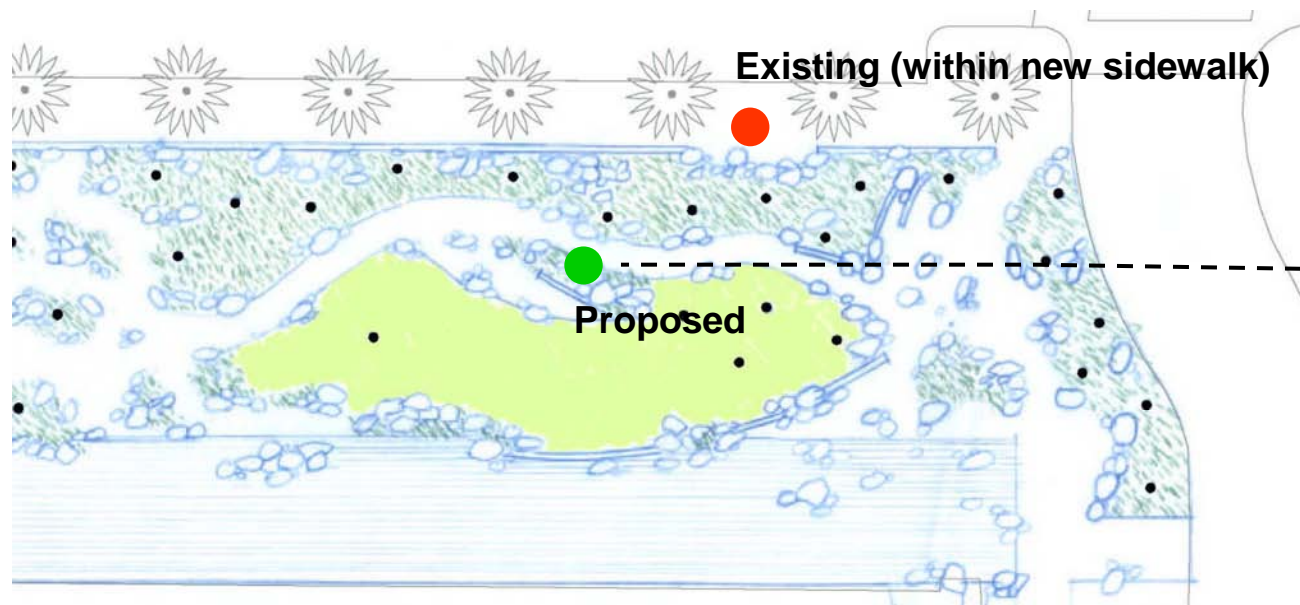


- Aircraft Carrier Memorial

The Cove



•Homecoming Memorial



•Aircraft Carrier Memorial



Overall Concept

Broadway is the major symbolic connection between the city and the waterfront. To accentuate this connection, the Public Art Plan calls for a series of artworks extending down the central median strip of Broadway from the train station to the pier and then continuing down the center of the pier to the bay.

The concept is to create a 25-foot wide band of water that extends from the Santa Fe Depot to the bay and changes in mood as it progresses. In some places the band should be animated by water, in some places, fog, and in other places, wind.

Broadway



Broadway



Broadway Median & Pier Art Locations

- Tidal Fountain
- Fog Portal
- Wind Gate
- Wave Gate
- Wind Elements on Gantry



Broadway



•Tidal Fountain

The median strip in the center of Broadway is a potential site for a long, linear water element that would draw the eye down to the bay. The intent for this artwork is to dramatically portray the penetration of land and water by extending a finger of the bay into the urban fabric of Broadway. The water feature should somehow respond to the natural energy forces in the site, perhaps drawing energy from the wind or tides.

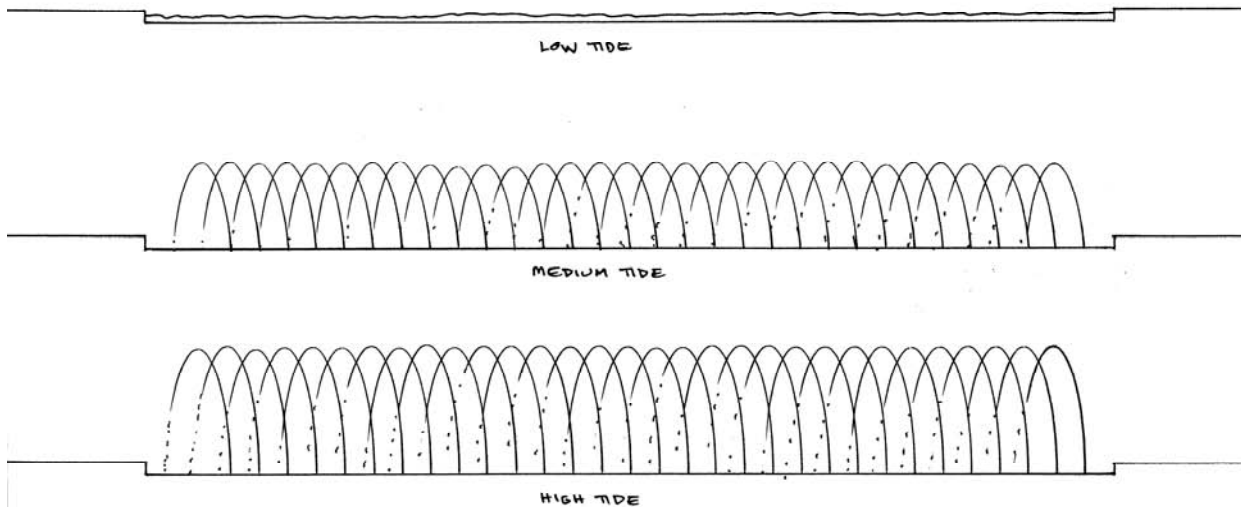


Broadway



Fountain Examples





CONCEPT FOR BROADWAY MEDIAN

A LONG LINE OF WATER JETS SET INTO A SHALLOW CHANNEL WILL RISE AND FALL WITH THE TIDES. A PRESSURE SENSOR IN THE BAY WILL CONTROL THE SPEED OF THE PUMP SO THAT THE HEIGHT OF THE WATER JETS WILL PICTURE THE HEIGHT OF THE TIDES.

Broadway



Tidal Fountain

One idea is to create a long line of water jets that rise and fall with the tides. The water jets rise out of a shallow channel that runs through the median strip from the Santa Fe Depot to Harbor Drive.

A pressure sensor in the bay controls the speed of the pump that powers the jets. The height of the jets can be adjusted to correspond to the height of the actual tides at any given moment. The streams of water could range in height from six or seven feet tall at the highest tides to a just gentle flow along the bottom of the channel during the lowest tides.



Broadway



• Fog Portal

The 25-foot wide band could feature a fog sculpture in the plaza at the base of Broadway. The fog would be released from spray nozzles embedded in holes in the plaza paving. These 4-inch diameter holes, spaced on 3 or 4-foot centers, could be covered with a metal screen that will allow the fog to pour out in continuous streams and respond to the wind. Guided by the ebb and flow of the wind and lit by the ever-changing sunlight during the day and recessed lights at night, the fog would create a contemplative oasis within the urban landscape.

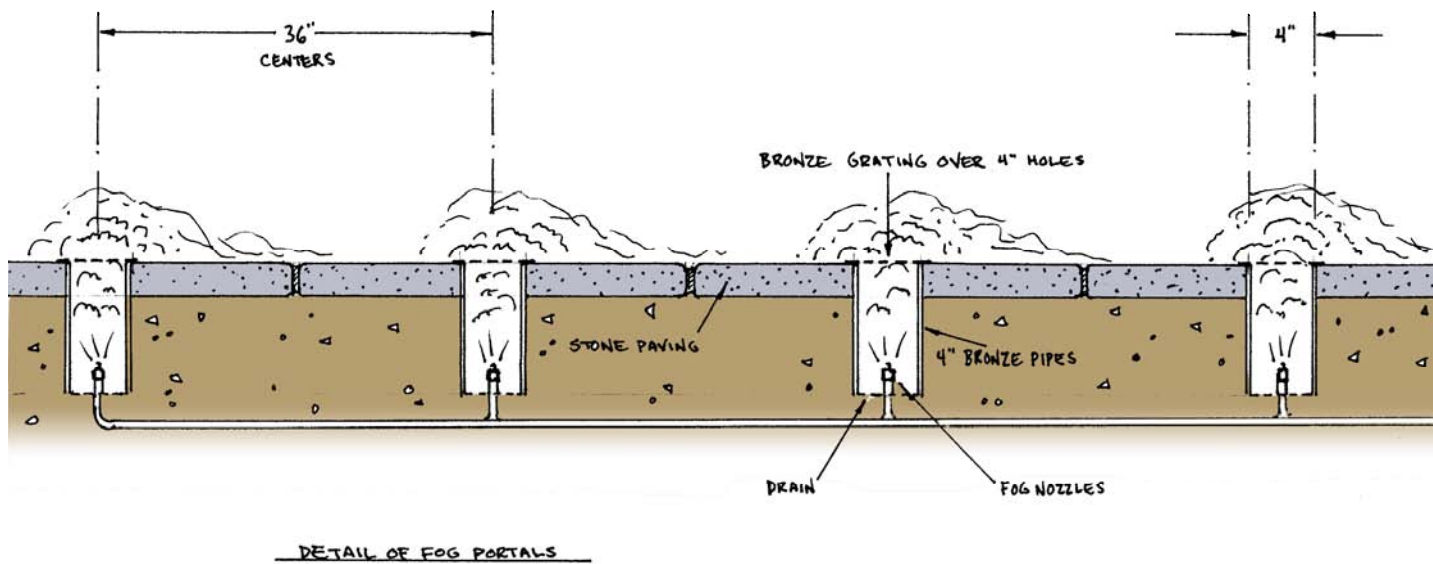
Broadway



Fog Portal Examples



Broadway



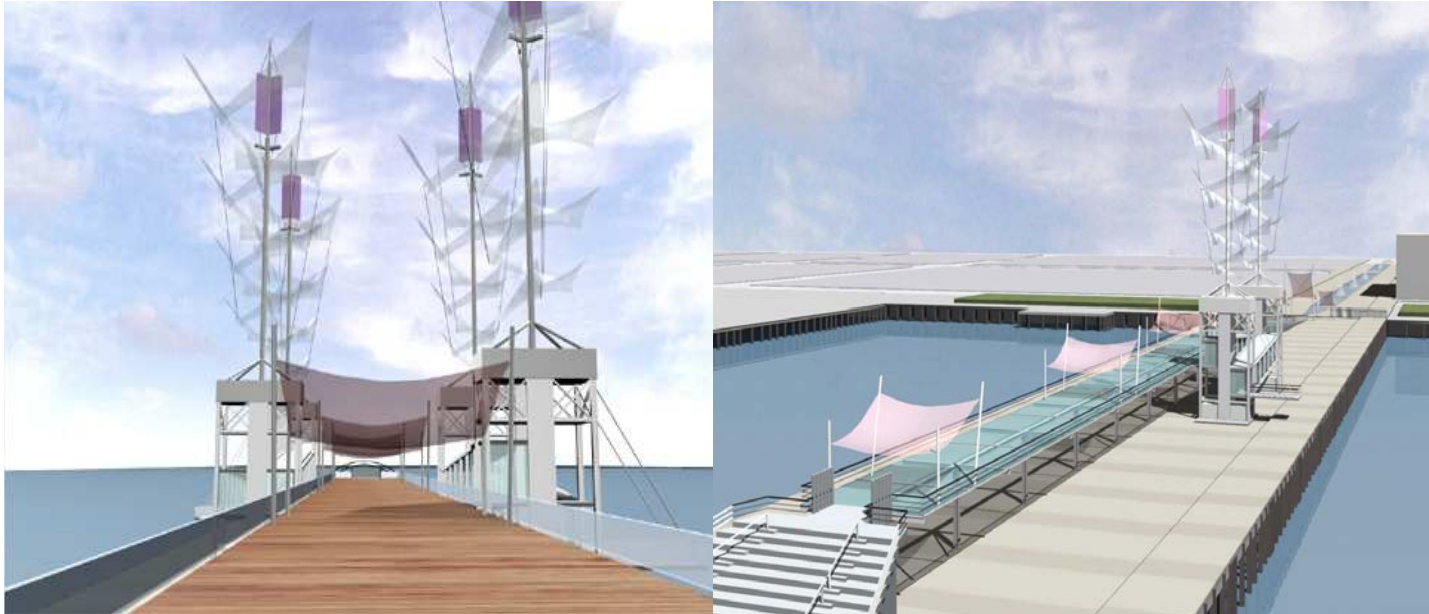
Fog Portal
Diagram



Broadway



• Gantry

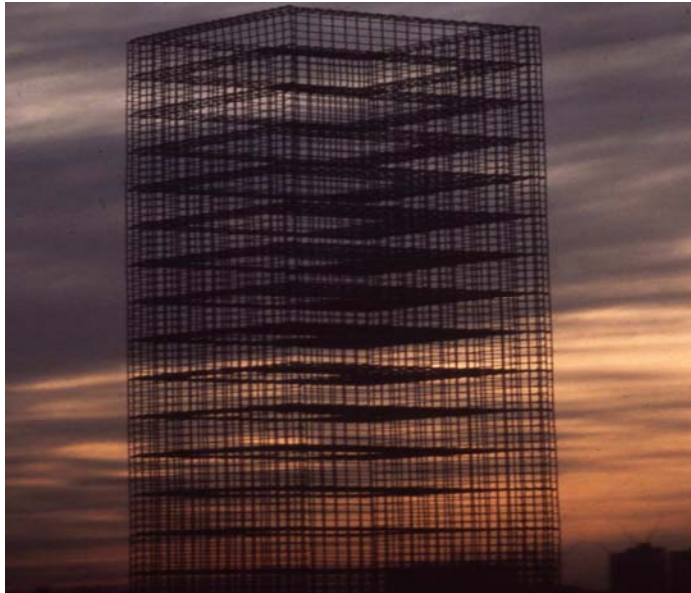


Broadway



Wind Elements on Gantry

As the 25-foot wide band reaches the Broadway Pier, it becomes an elevated metal walkway that provides access to the cruise ship gantry. The deck of this walkway is an opportunity for an artist to integrate glass or another light capturing medium into the design of the structure. An artist could also work with the designers of the gantry to integrate a wind responsive artwork. The Broadway Pier calls out for a large scale sculpture that will draw the eye down Broadway from the city and also serve as a visual beacon for ships arriving from the sea. The very end of the pier should be left open to preserve the feeling of expansiveness that one experiences there now.



Broadway



Examples of Wind & Light Treatments

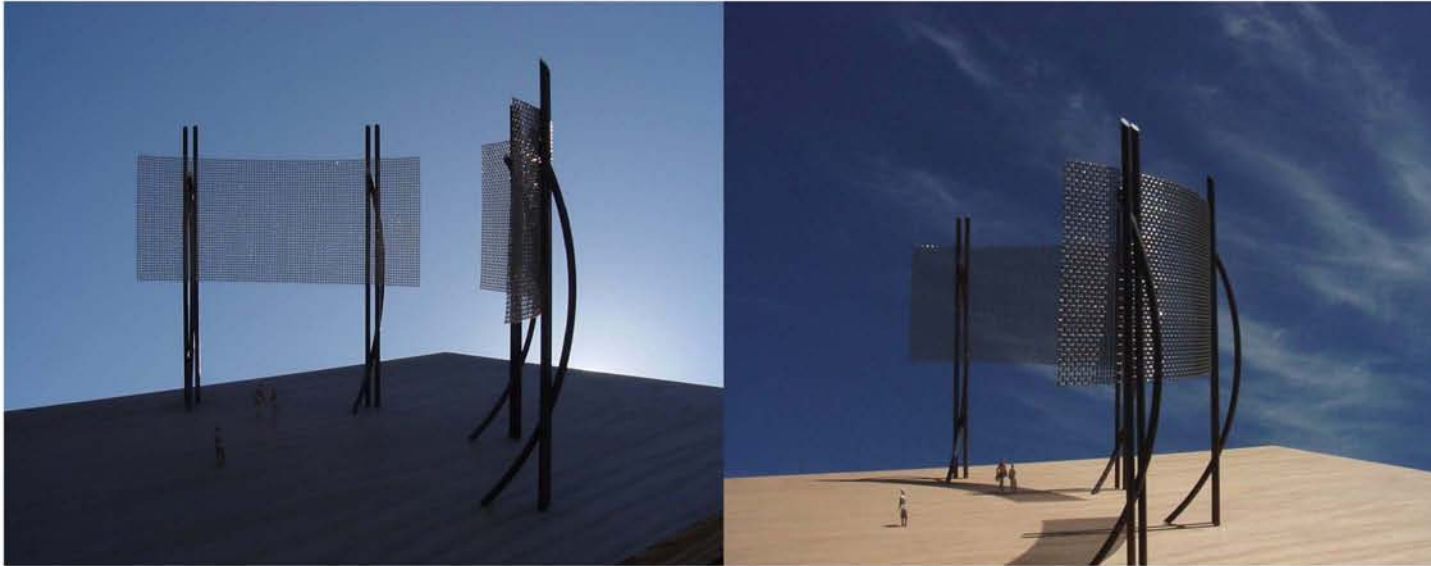


Broadway



• Wind Gate

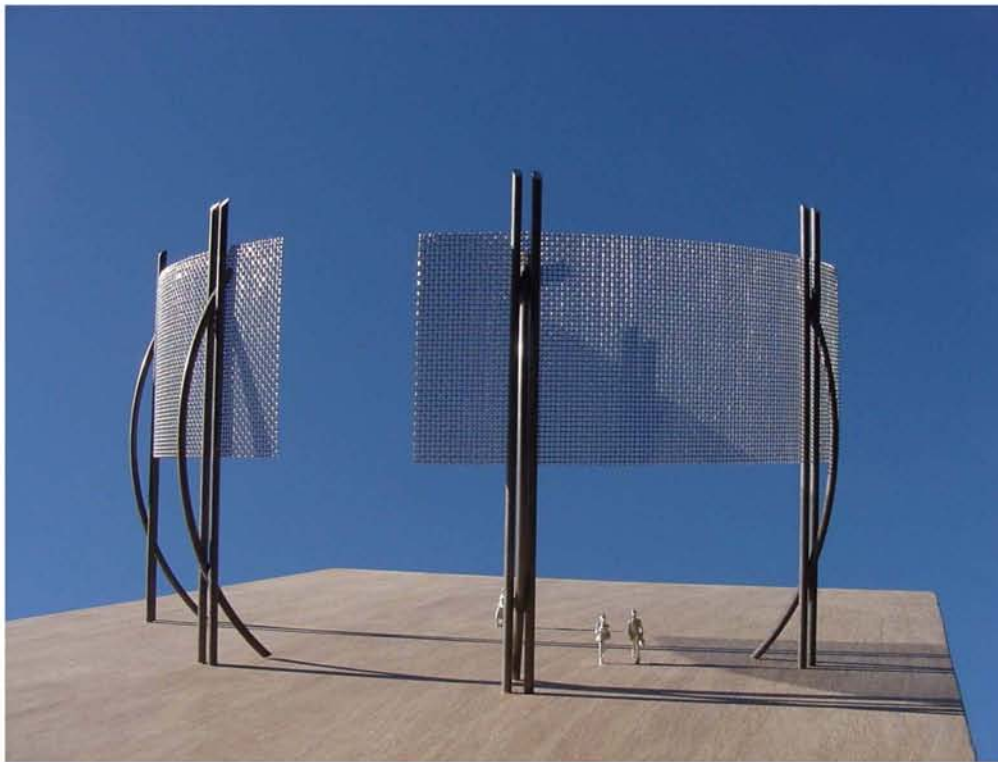
One idea is to create two large curved planes of wind-activated panels that will frame the view of the bay. The shape of these structures could be suggestive of abstract sails, pixelated metal sails that reveal the patterns of the wind. They could be composed of thousands of small aluminum leaves that will pivot in the wind. The support structure for the sculpture could be a series of curved trusses, perhaps drawing from the vocabulary of the fabric structures along the waterfront.



Broadway



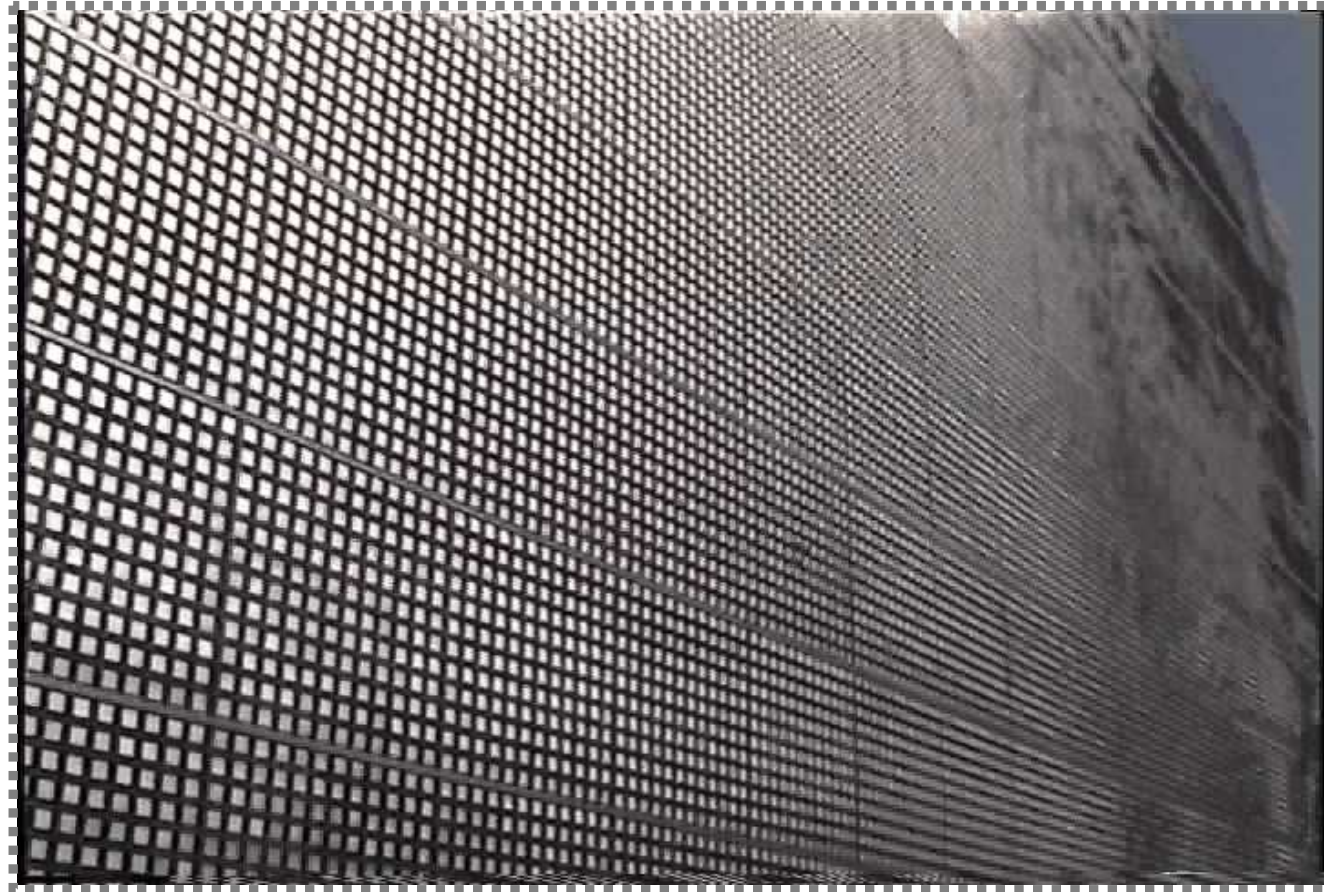
Wind Gate Example

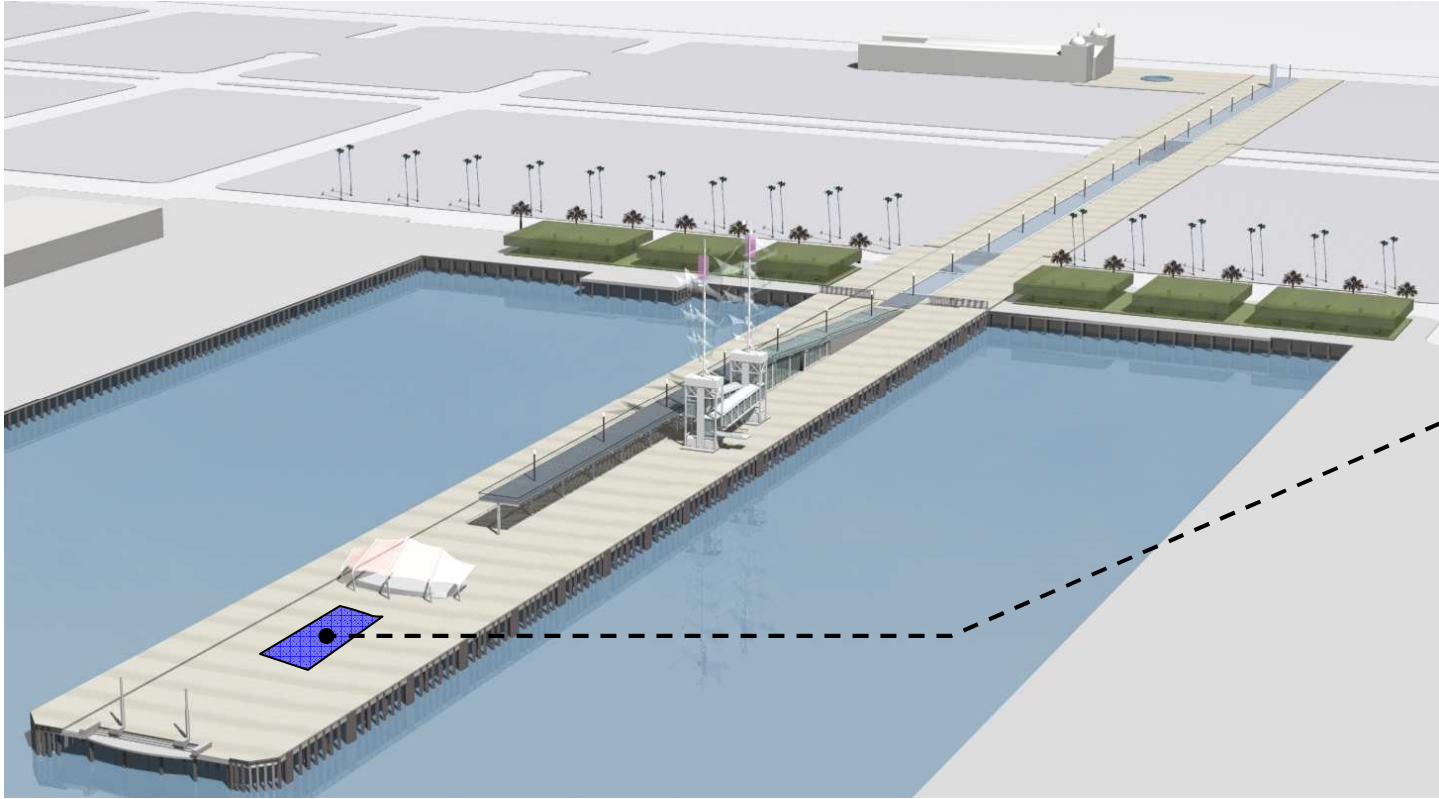


Broadway



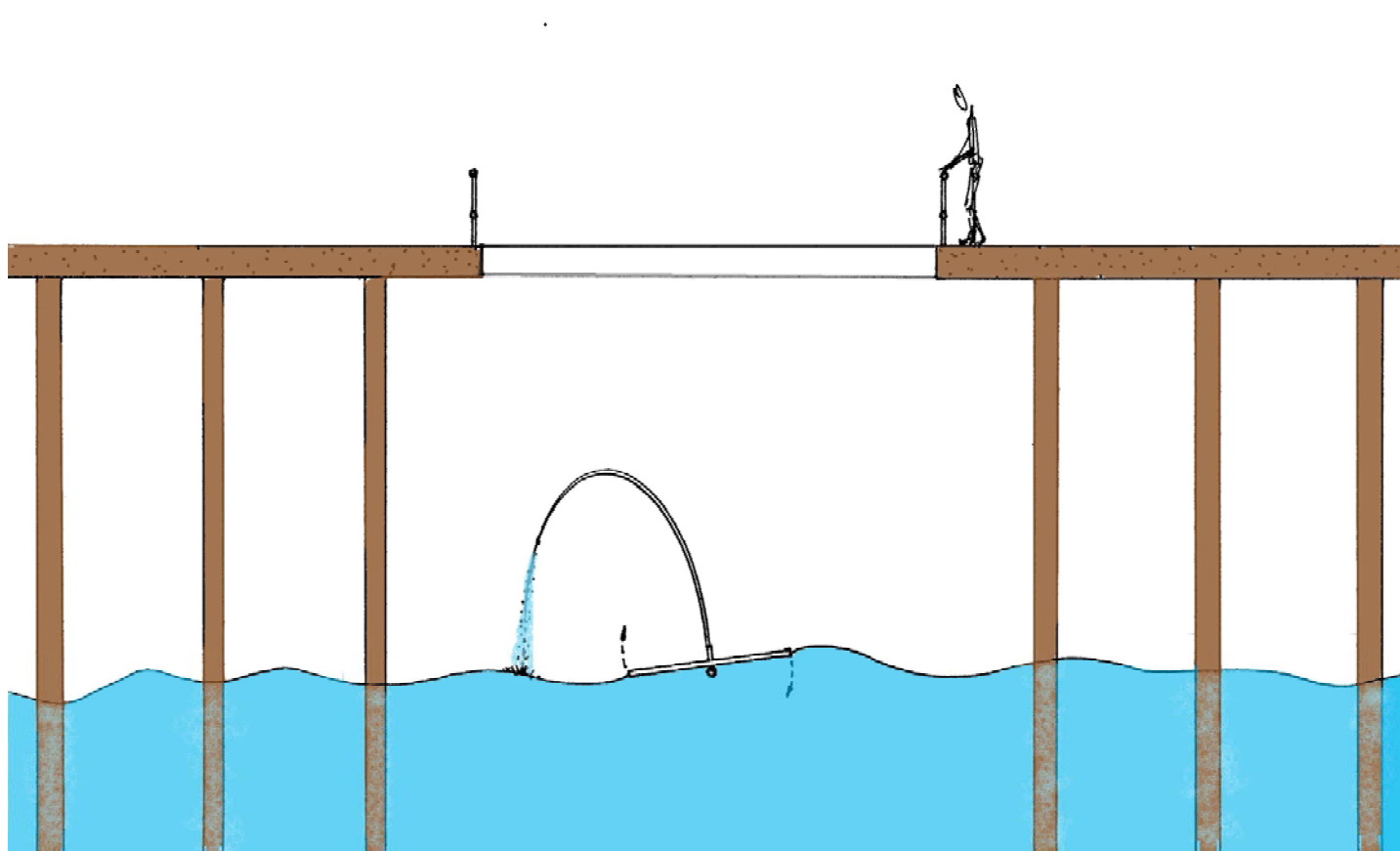
Example of a
Wind Gate Movie





Broadway

• Wave Gate

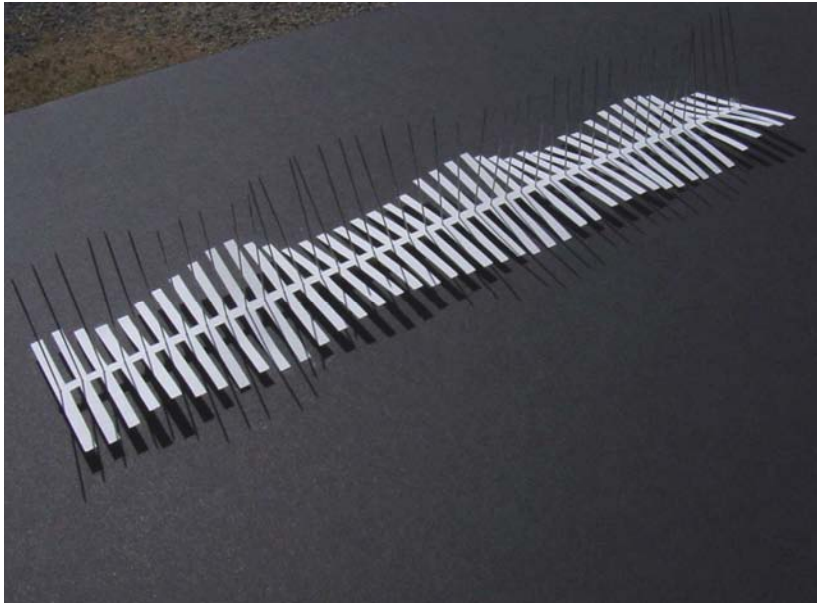


Broadway



Wave Gate Example

The 25-foot wide band finally transforms into a slot in the pier. The two tall wind sculptures would encircle this long slot in the deck of the pier that will provide a window into a magical world below the pier. A water sculpture, consisting of hundreds of evenly spaced jets emanating from a floating platform rocked by the waves, will create a “digitized” sea to complement the digitized wind sculpture above. The water sculpture below the deck of the pier will appear to be a continuation of the tidal fountain that will run down the length of Broadway.



Broadway



Wave Gate Example

The Wharf



This site calls for an artwork integrated into the paving of this large, open plaza. The artwork could derive energy from the unseen water that flows beneath the bulkhead. The artwork elements could be dramatically illuminated at night.

The Wharf



Artwork Examples

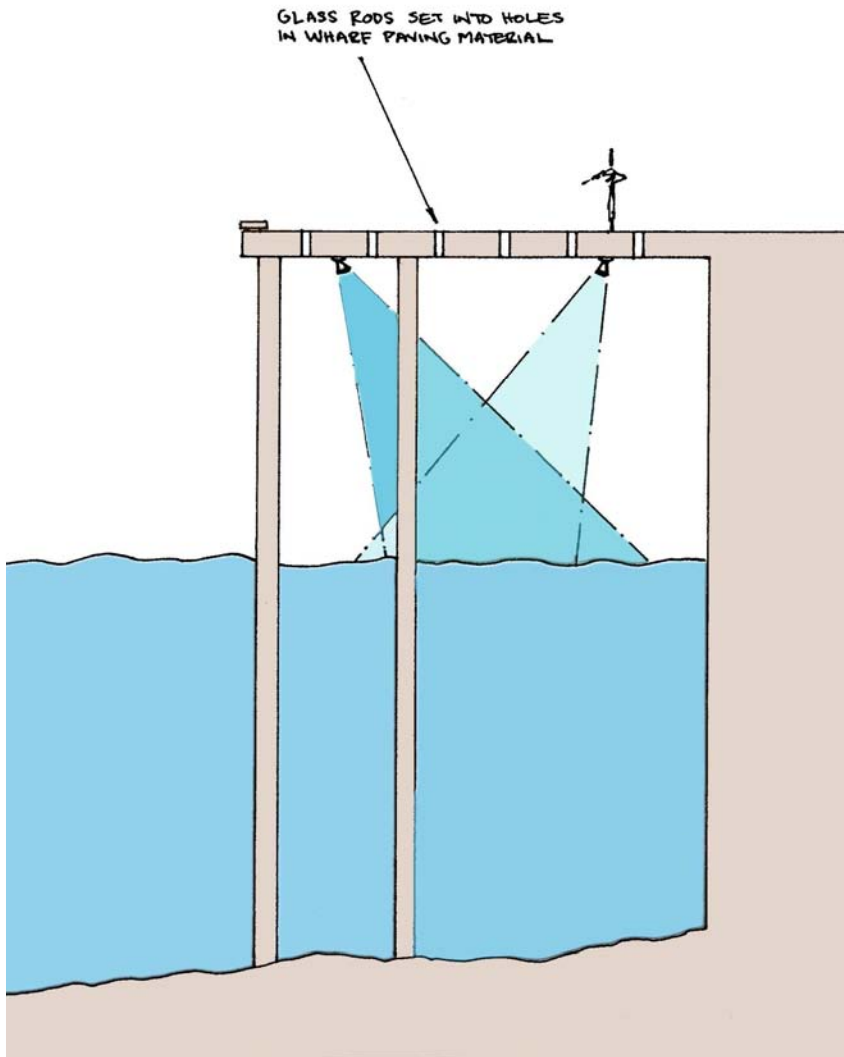


The Wharf



The Pixelated Sea

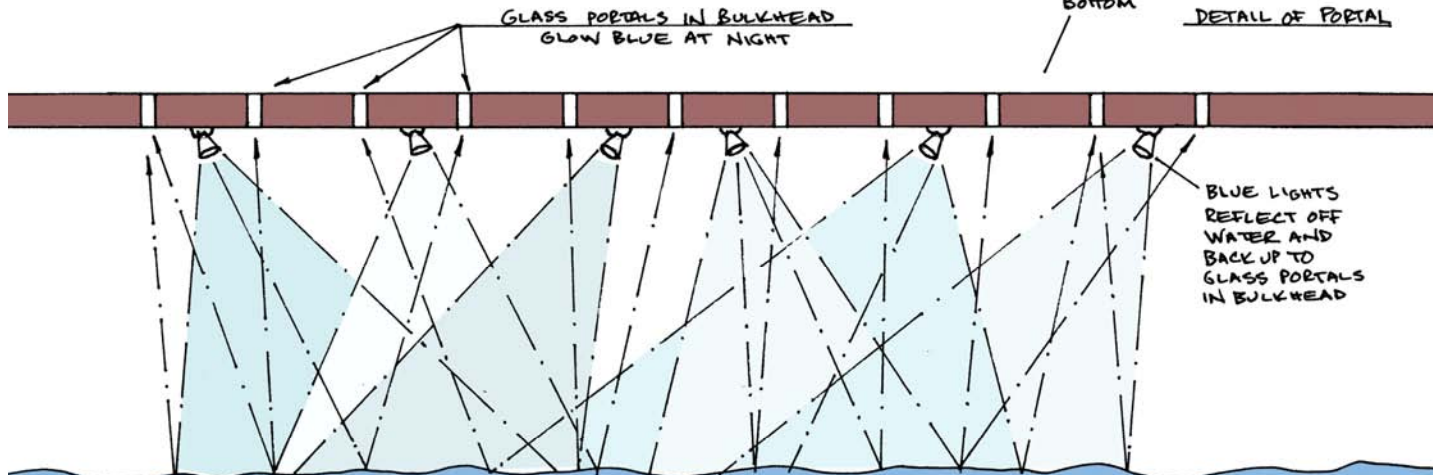
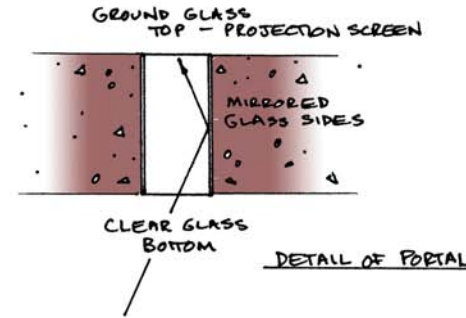
Elements: Drill holes in the concrete deck of the bulkhead and insert an array of four-inch diameter glass rods that will capture light reflected from the waves below. A series of cobalt blue spotlights will bounce light off the water surface below and onto the ground glass top surfaces of the rods. The sides of the glass rods will be mirrored to capture light like a huge fiber optic cable. At night, the surface of the plaza will be animated by wavelike pulses of blue light that will ebb and flow with the waves, revealing the hidden forces below.



The Wharf



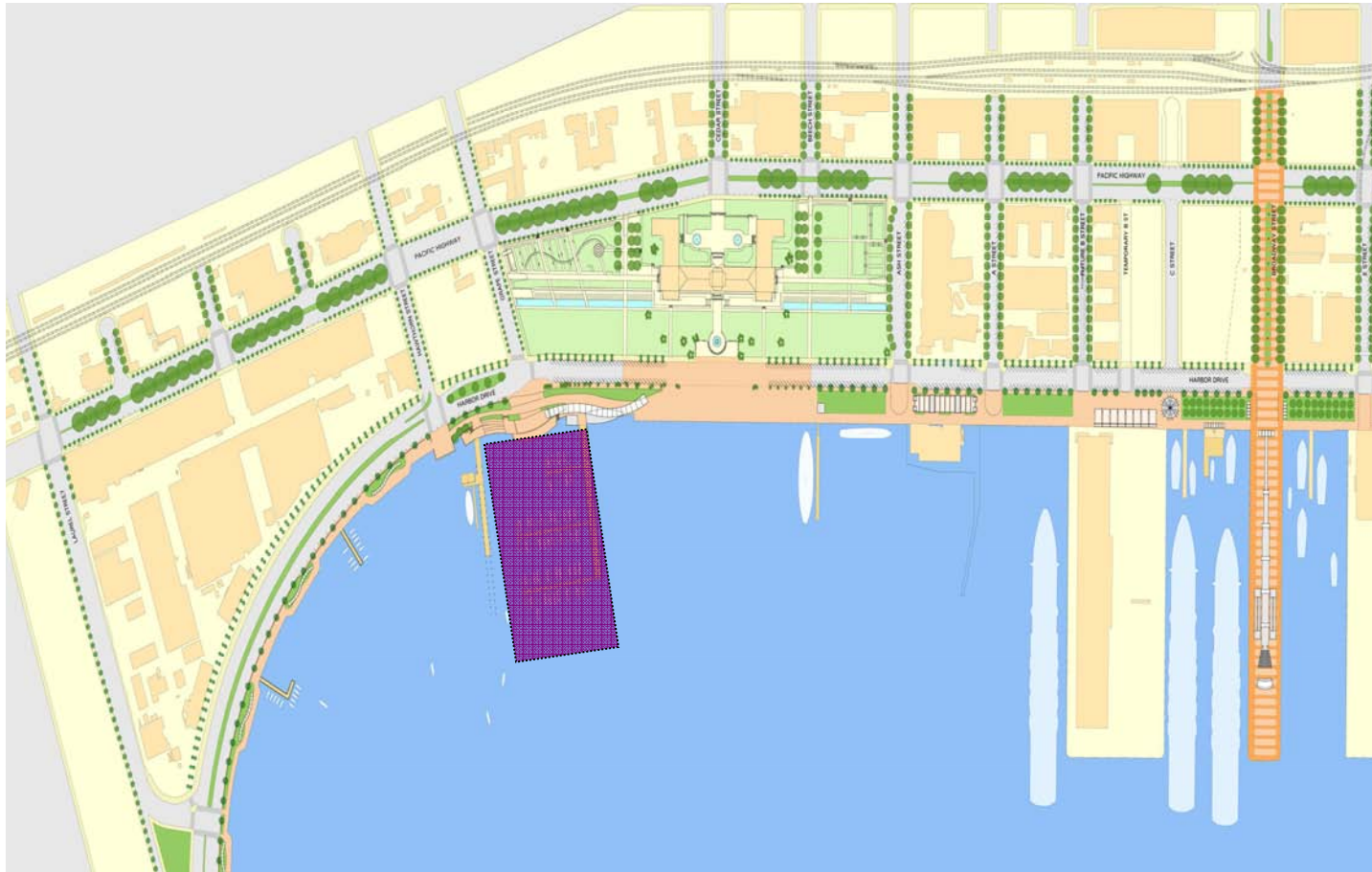
AN ARRAY OF SOLID GLASS CYLINDERS, SET INTO HOLES DRILLED IN BULKHEAD, WILL CAPTURE LIGHT REFLECTED FROM BLUE LIGHTS OFF OF THE WATER BELOW AND CREATE THE IMPRESSION OF A "DIGITIZED SEA"



The Pixelated Sea

CONCEPT FOR THE WHARF - SAN DIEGO WATERFRONT
NED KAHN 2-29-04 SCALE 1/4" = 1'

Grape Street Pier



The overall design intent of the Grape Street Pier is to create a series of places where people can access the water as there are only a few places along the entire San Diego waterfront where people have direct access to the Bay. Each artwork should use the energy of the tides or the waves to increase people's awareness of the Bay.



Grape Street Pier



Piers: Instead of demolishing the unused wood pier pilings, they should be transformed into something magical. The pilings could become anchor points for an extension of the marine ecosystem viewing platform concept proposed for the Grape Street ramp or they could be the focus for another idea that an artist might conceive.



Grape Street Pier



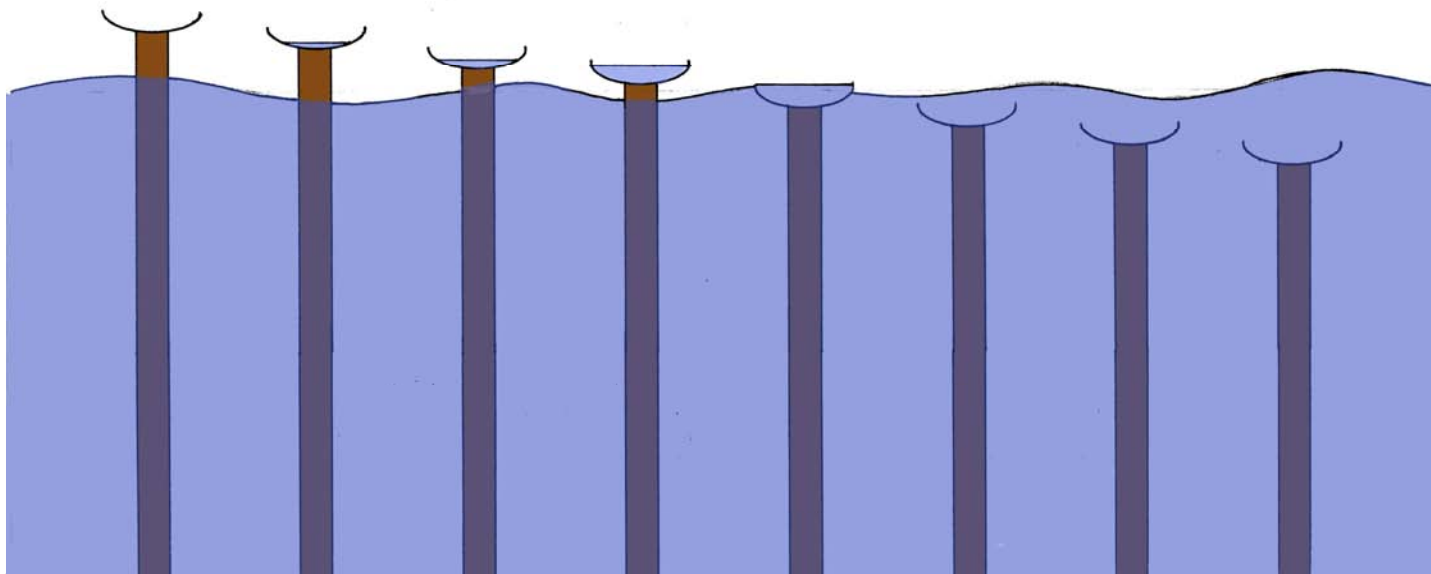
Examples of Piers

Grape Street Pier



CONCEPT FOR OLD WOOD PIERS

CAP EACH PILE WITH A BRONZE BASIN TO CATCH WATER AND REVEAL THE TIDES
THE REFLECTIVE DISKS OF WATER IN EACH BASIN WILL CREATE A "MEMORY" OF THE TIDES

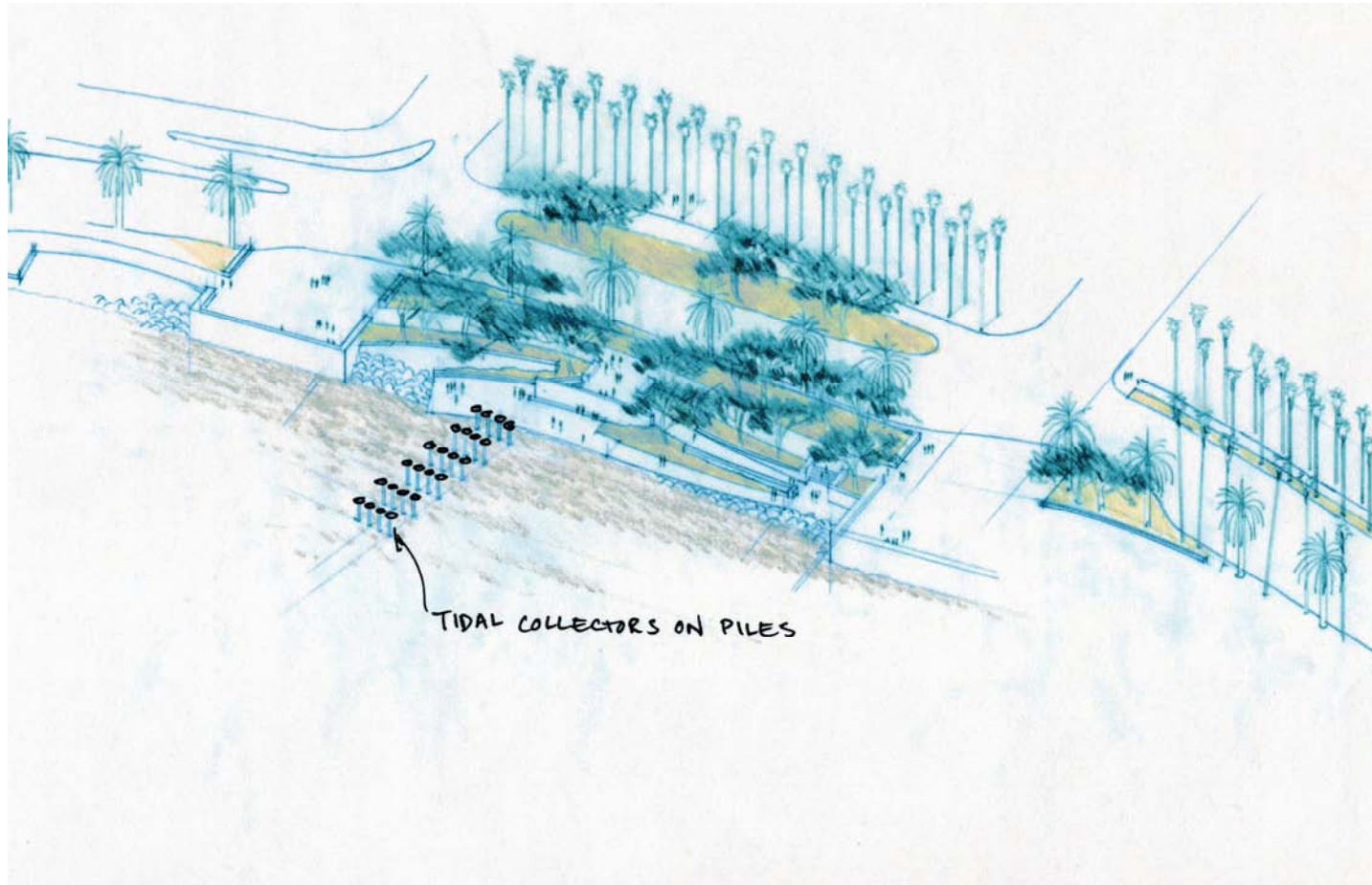


Pilings:

The River of Light

Cap each piling with a shallow metal bowl that will fill with water during the high tide, creating an abstract river of reflective disks of water. This "digitized" river would vary with the tides, the winds and the light, becoming glowing disks of color at sunset.

Grape Street Pier



Pilings:

The River of Light

Grape Street Pier



The existing concrete pier in this site offers the opportunity for an artist to create a destination, or something special at the end of the pier that would entice people to walk out onto the pier. A Wave Flute is one example.

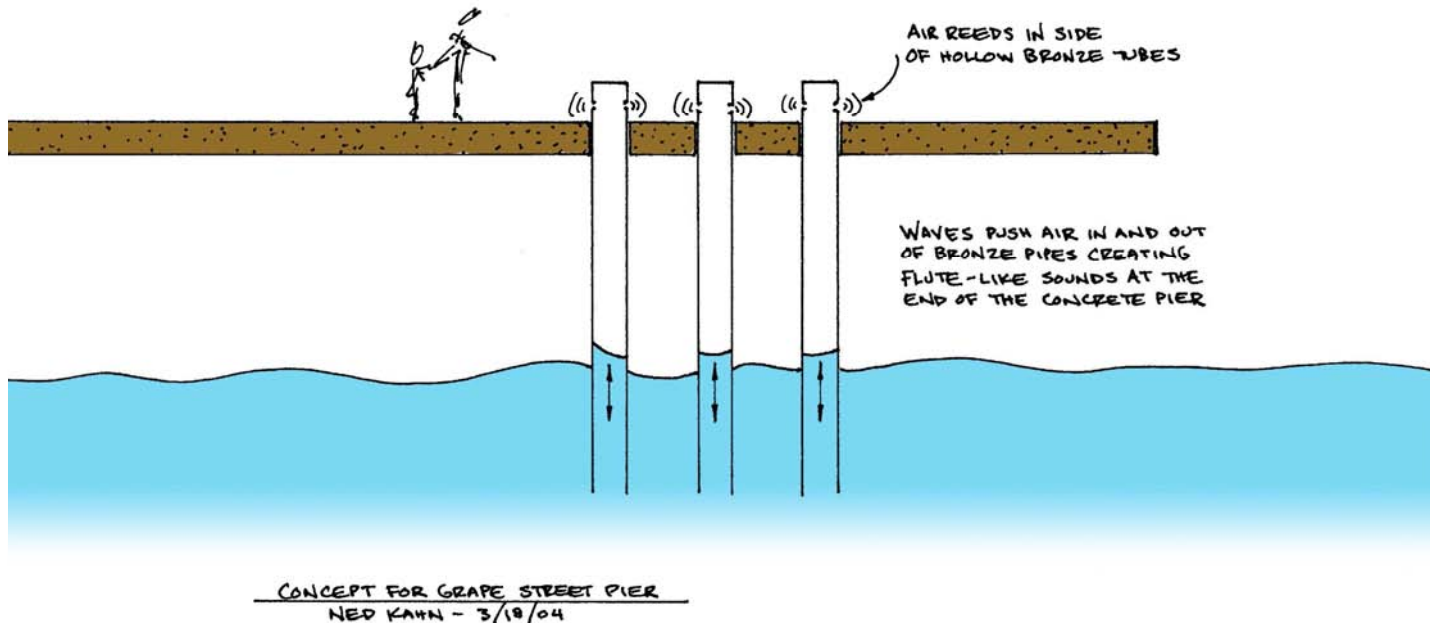
Grape Street Pier



Wave Flute Examples



Grape Street Pier



Wave Flutes Sketch

At the end of the pier, an artist could create an array of musical instruments that will respond to the energy of the waves below. The flute-like sounds will be generated by air pressure from passing waves moving through a series of bronze pipes that will drop down through holes in the deck of the pier into the water below.

Grape Street & Little Italy Piazza



Like the artworks for the Grape Street Pier, the artworks for Grape Street and the Little Italy Piazza should contribute to the creation of a series of places where people can access the water. Each artwork should use the energy of the tides or the waves to increase people's awareness of the Bay.

Grape Street & Little Italy Piazza



Artists should collaborate with the designers of the Grape Street ramp to create artworks and spaces for people to access the water. This is one of the few places along the waterfront where people will be able to step down to the level of the bay. The artist could help the designers make this a special place with a concept like a Tidal Staircase.

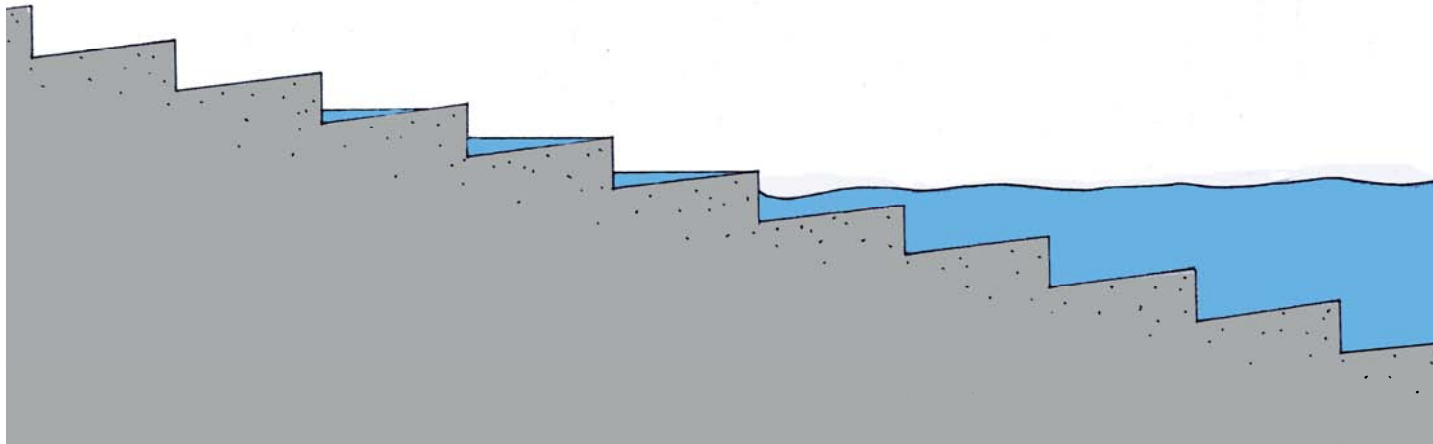
Grape Street & Little Italy Piazza



Tidal Staircase Examples



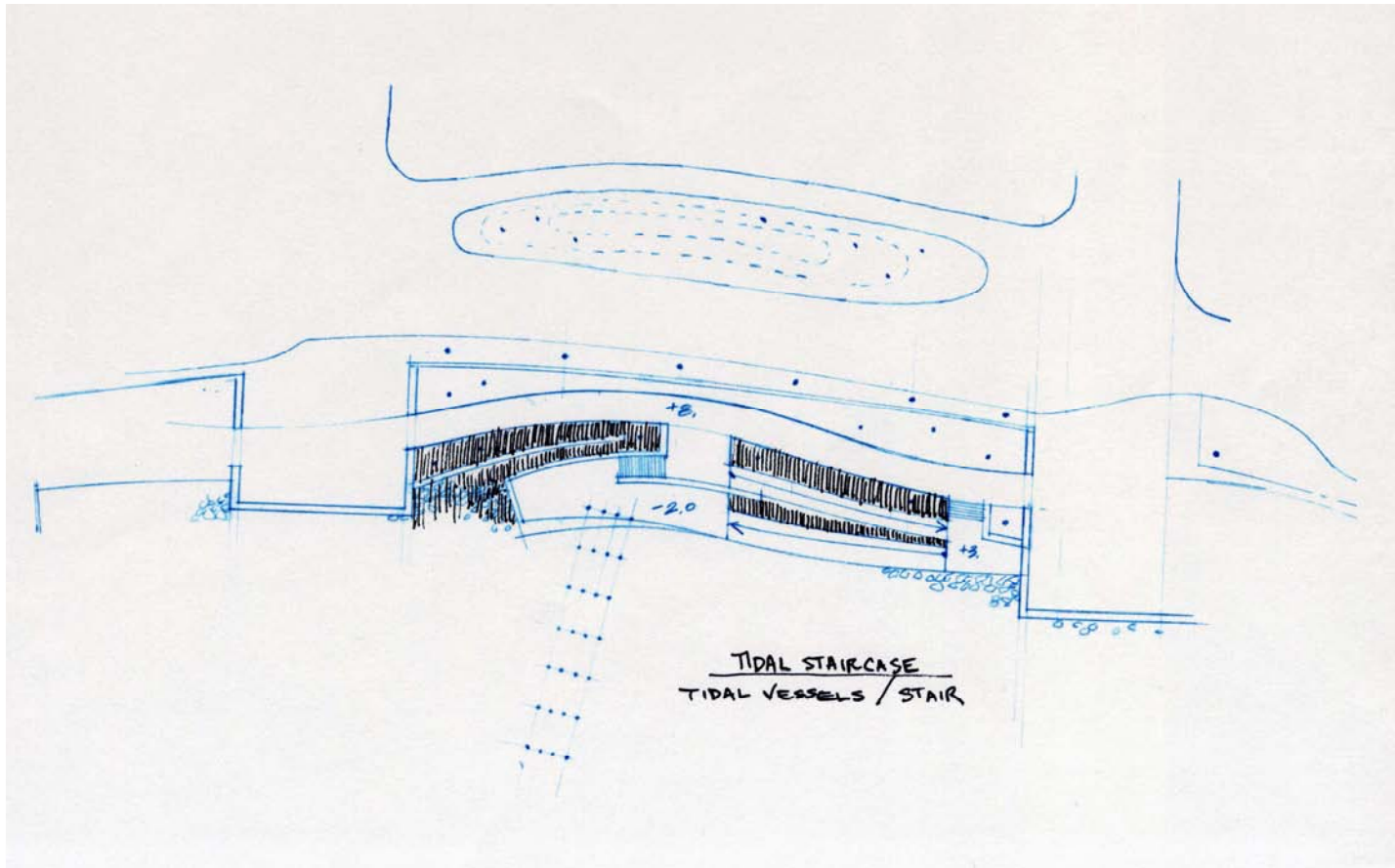
Grape Street & Little Italy Piazza



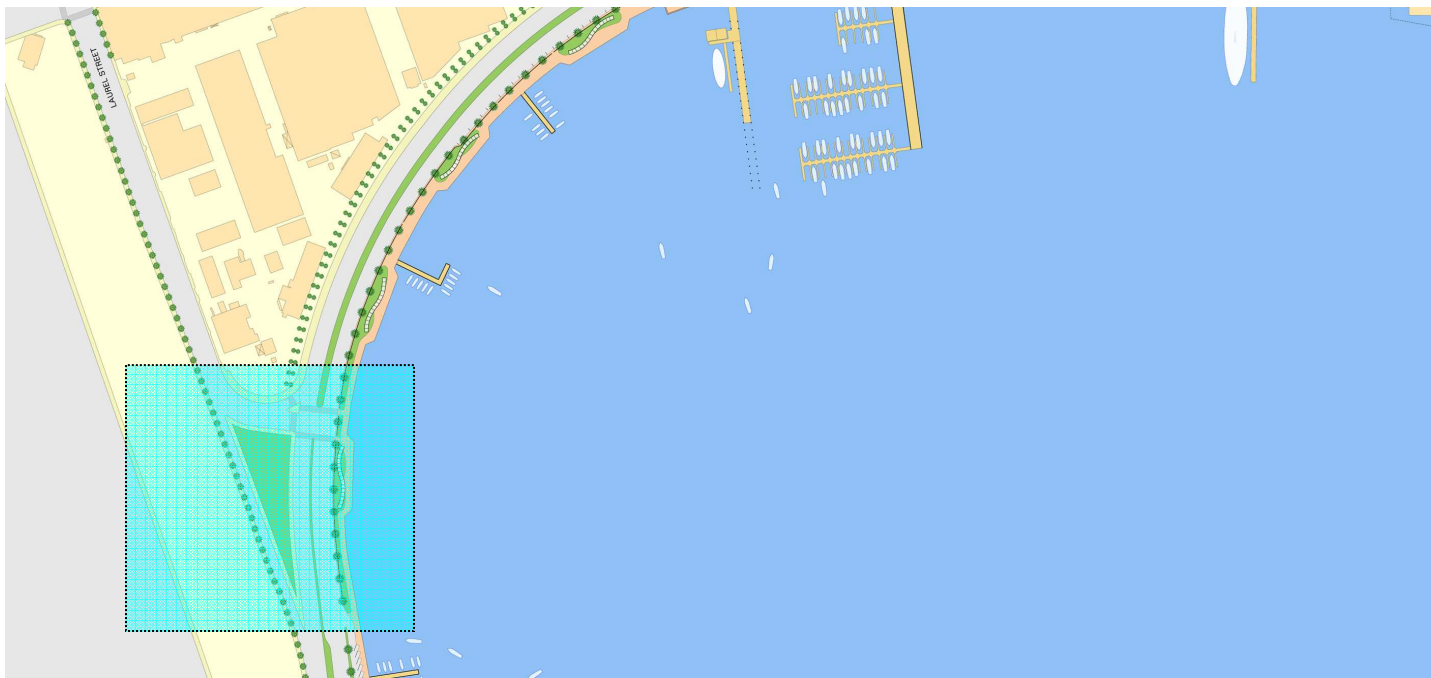
- Tidal Staircase

Create a series of “water steps” -- angled shelves that will capture water and reveal the direction of the tides. These shelves will become artificial tide pools, creating a habitat for the beautiful variety of marine creatures that live in the bay. This project could also involve collaborating with a marine biologist to optimize the design of the basins for sea creatures. The entire Grape Street ramp could become a marine ecosystem viewing platform as the basins reveal the ebb and flow of the tides.

Grape Street & Little Italy Piazza



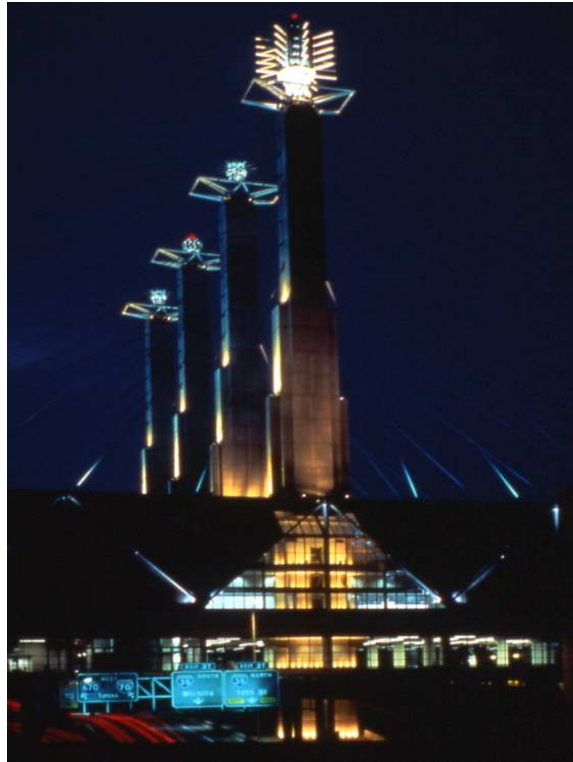
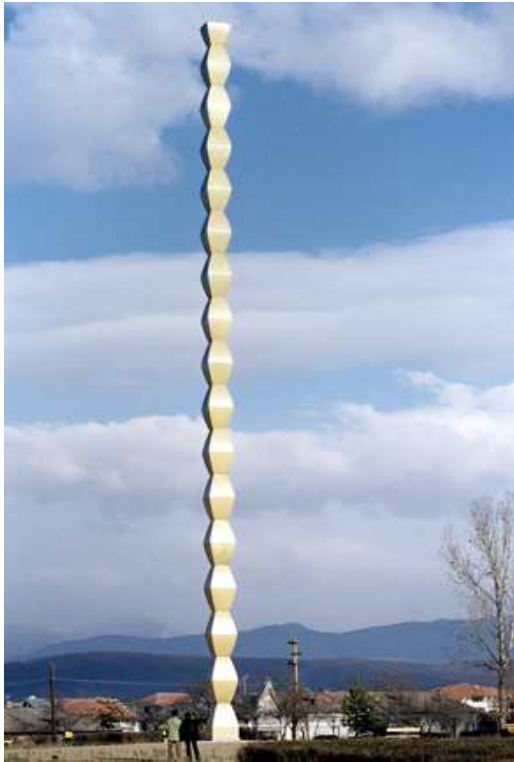
- Tidal Staircase



The Point



This site calls out for a tall, kinetic element. Because the Point will mostly be seen by people driving to and from the airport or be viewed from a distance along the waterfront, this artwork should read well from a distance. It should make use of the wind and should refer to the context of the airport. The artwork should function as a visual marker, or an indicator that one is entering a special place. The integration of lighting is crucial. The artwork should function as a beacon at night. The design will need to be coordinated with aviation officials to avoid any potential problems for aircraft.



The Point

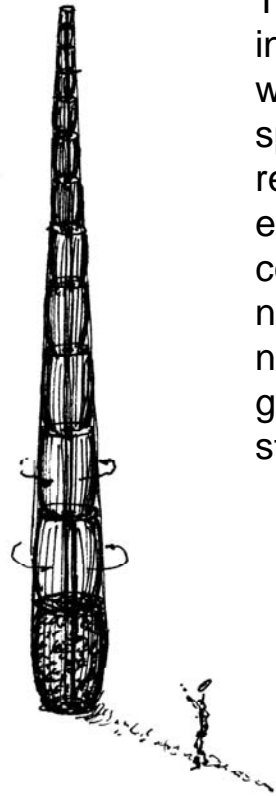


Artwork Examples

The Point



An artist could create a tall column of stacked wind turbines inspired by Brancusi's *Endless Column* and the Watts Towers. However, this column could be set in motion by the wind. Each spinning turbine will give the viewer a visual measure of the speed of the wind at different heights, revealing an aspect of the wind that is especially important to pilots. The turbines could also generate the electrical power needed for the lighting of the column at night, perhaps with the intensity of the light growing and fading depending on the strength of the wind.

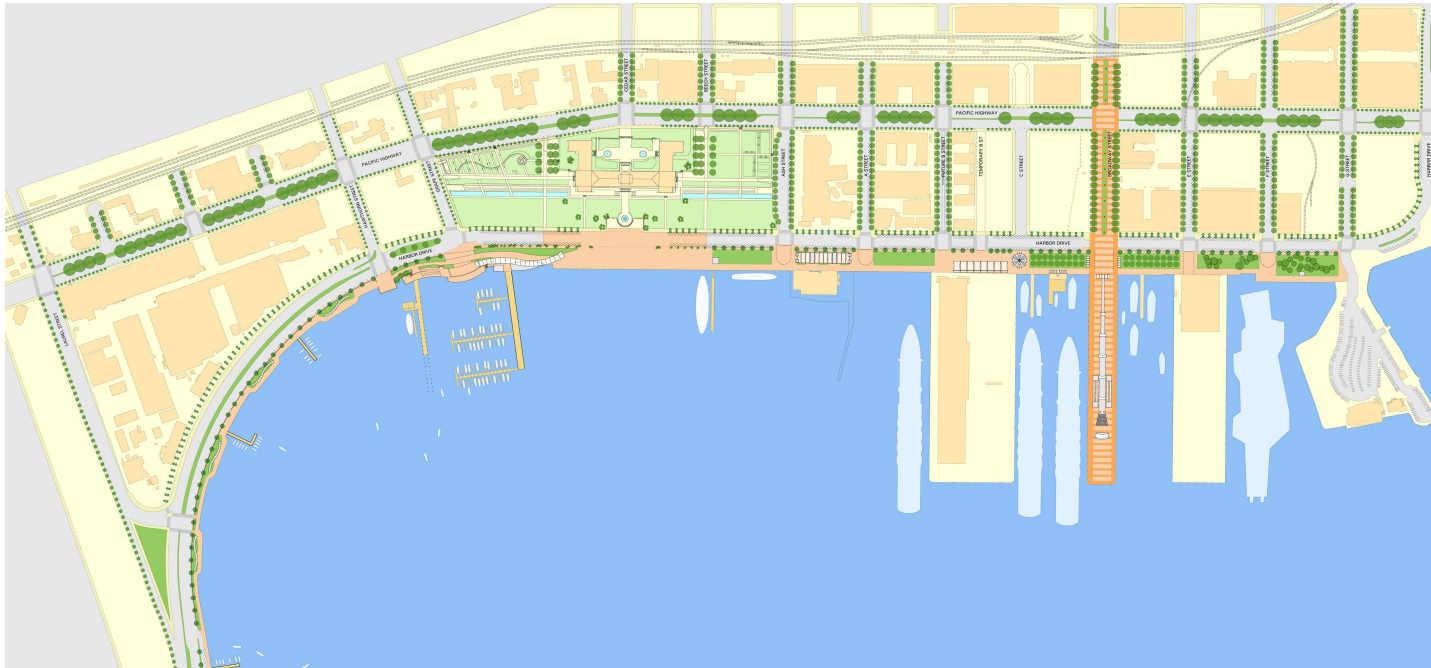


COLUMN OF WIND TURBINES

VERTICAL AXIS TURBINES
SPIN ON CENTRAL AXIS
TURBINES DECREASE IN SIZE AS THEY RISE
WIND SPEED INCREASES WITH HEIGHT
LIGHTS INSIDE - STROBED BY SPINNING TURBINES
SELF-POWERED

- Turbine Column

Additional Elements



- Pavement Elements
- Benches and Seating Elements
- Tile Treatments
- Other Elements

Additional opportunities for artists to design various elements throughout the waterfront could arise through the development of each phase of the North Embarcadero Visionary Plan. The Crescent is a potential site for some of these elements. These designs should evolve through a collaboration with artists and the designers.



Additional Elements

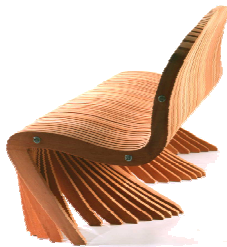


Pavement Elements

Although the overall approach to paving along the waterfront the use of elegant materials and minimal patterns, special paving can be incorporated. These treatments should be small in scale and intricate. The inspiration for these elements should come from the site.



Additional Elements



Benches & Other Seating Elements

Benches and seating elements will be incorporated throughout the site. Unique bench designs, inspired by natural elements and the Bay, should be created.





Additional Elements



Tile Treatments

Colorful tiles are incorporated into historical structures such as the Santa Fe Depot and the County Administration Center.



Artist-designed tile treatments should be integrated into a variety of horizontal & vertical elements.

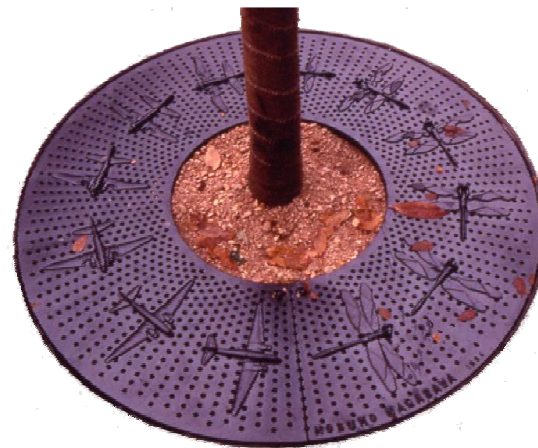


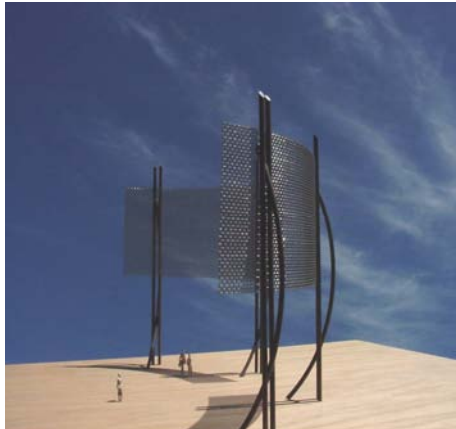
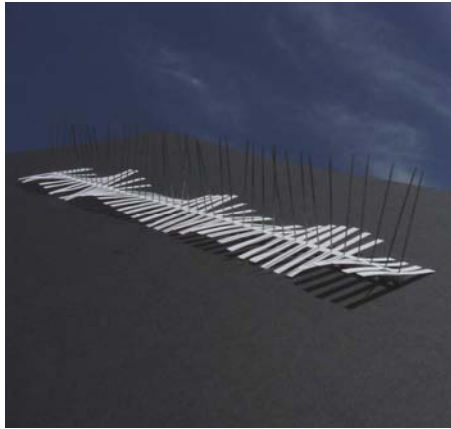
Additional Elements



Other Elements

Perhaps the design of some of these elements would draw inspiration from wave forms, wind patterns, plant forms or marine creatures or perhaps the design of these elements should be kept minimal to provide a simple backdrop to the magic of the waterfront.





North Embarcadero Public Art Plan

