

THE NEW CITY: ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN RENEWAL

BUILDING THE WATERFRONT. PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Problem: How can we make the waterfront both visible and useful, giving it an architectural weight that would relate it to major crosstown streets and lead to the development of new kinds of neighborhood and institutional centers?

The proposal calls for a public plaza opening onto the Hudson River at the end of 125th Street, which would be a connecting link between adjacent neighborhoods and the other elements of the project. The largest of these is a two-building structure built over the river and extending north 30 blocks in a straight line. A third building along Broadway runs parallel to it and encloses a 16 block length of waterfront land developed as a new park. A promenade over the river would extend from the plaza down to 110th Street.

The plaza would accommodate an outdoor concert theater to replace Lewisohn Stadium (slated for demolition) as well as outdoor art galleries, a museum and a library. Cafés and restaurants would be sheltered under the existing Riverside Drive viaduct which crosses the plaza and divides it into outdoor rooms of different sizes and shapes.

The southernmost of the two river buildings would accommodate hotels and offices; the northern building would house research laboratories and other institutional uses. It also incorporates and conceals a sewage disposal plant now contemplated by the city, the roof in this case being designed as a public arena for sports events. At 155th Street the waterfront development ends in a large aquarium.

The Broadway building with a view over the new park to the water would be primarily housing, but would also include some shops and offices. As the river buildings are elevated one can see under them to the Jersey shore.

* * * * *