

New Yorkers forget they live on an island. The **water quality** and the waterfront development of their rivers promoting cars and industries generated that physical and psychological barrier. With little access to water, a gap is created between the natural environment surrounding one of the densest urban areas of the world and its inhabitants. For this reason, NYCEA puts emphasis on this issue and aim to give New Yorkers awareness of the flora and fauna of **their beautiful estuary**.

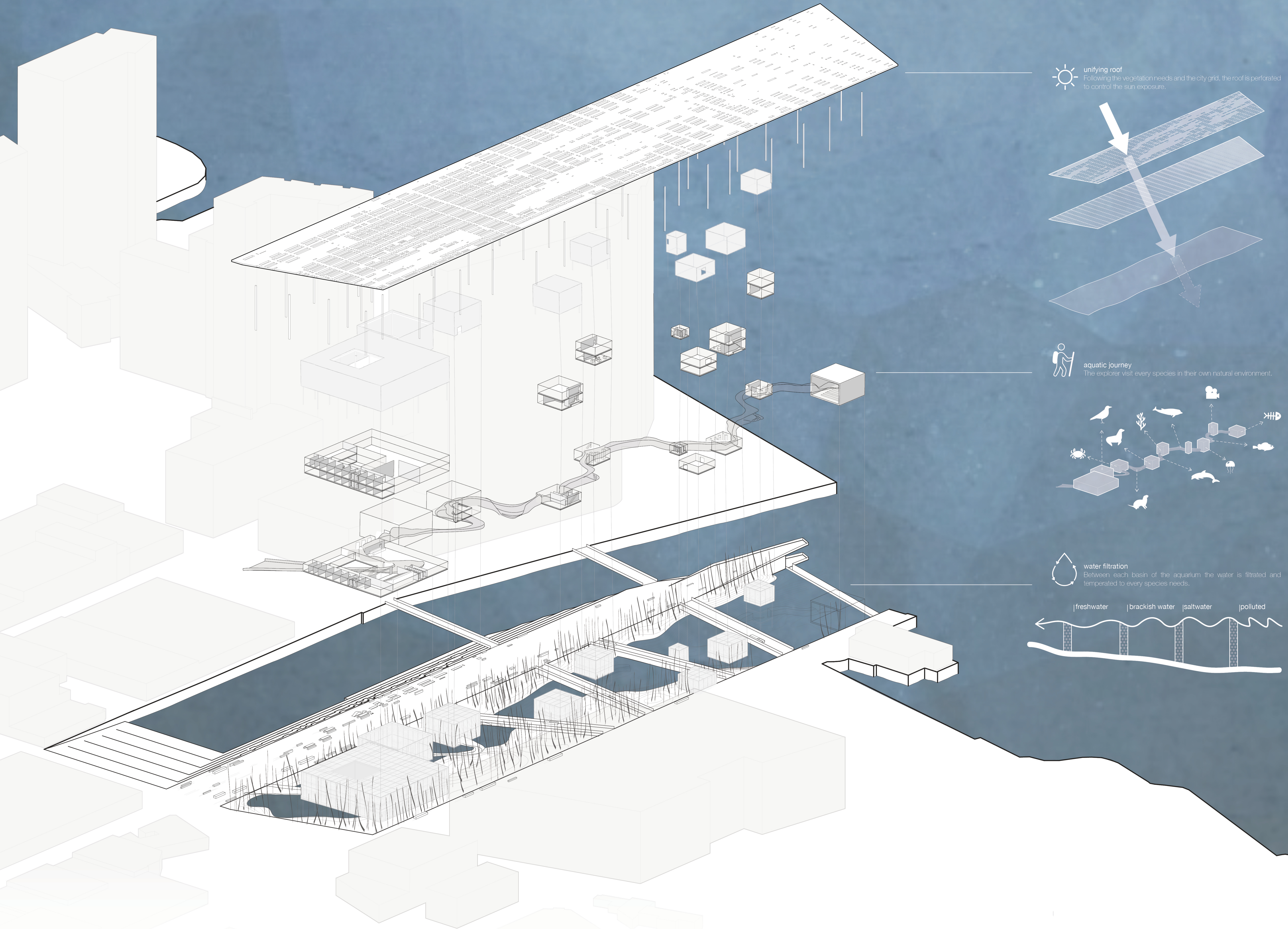
Following the Long Island urban grid, the industrial layer is raised to reveal the nature that was initially present. This **newly freed nature** is then flooded with filtered water of the East River to give a **clean environment** for the thriving estuarine aquatic species. The aquarium, fragmented in several pavilions, is then lightly and linearly deposited on this natural trench.

NYCEA

NEW-YORK CITY ESTUARY AQUARIUM

While learning about water quality, visitors go down into the estuarine world, from lake to sea, shallow to deep water, light to dark, through narrow to wide tunnels, visiting each species in its **ideal natural environment**.

The exploration ends with a wake-up call where the New Yorker is confronted with the East River's pollution. Progressively, the aquarium will loose the walls separating the basins and the river so that ultimately all species are free to live in one healthy environment. This directly follows NYCEA wish to **sensitize its visitors** to actively improve the quality of their own urban wildlife.



unifying roof
Following the vegetation needs and the city grid, the roof is perforated to control the sun exposure.

aquatic journey
The explorer visit every species in their own natural environment.

water filtration
Between each basin of the aquarium the water is filtered and temperature to every species needs.

