

# WATERMARK

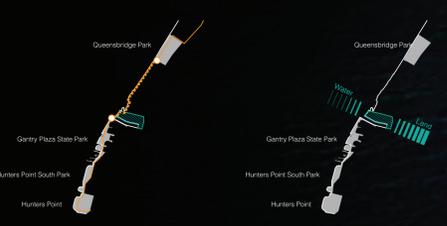
Inspired by natural phenomena of water erosion and water ripple imprinted in the sand when water found its way back to the ocean. The "Watermark" Aquarium is not only a cultural place where people can peek into the mysterious and fascinating parts of the ocean, but also it offers the intimate experience between visitors and water by reassembling the different states of water as it flows through different programs from urban land to water edge.

The "Watermark" aquarium is located at the edges of Queens along the East River. To address the resilience along the water's edge, a new slope graded with cut and fill is proposed to change the elevation of the site. The waterfront is carved and transformed into an exposed pier and wetland that enhances the water experience by allowing visitors and residents to get down closer with a variety of sequential activities such as kayaking, fishing and birdwatching etc. The removed soil is filled back to the site to increase the elevation of the buildings; in addition, the new proposed

risers and hills in waterfront park create new shoreline buffer zones for future flood events. The dynamic forms in a fluid environment link the "Watermark" aquarium to the surrounding waterfront, integrating spaces above and below water table including the new proposed elevated park where the aquarium becomes a catalytic interplay between architecture and nature.

Visitors reach the entrance by walking through a crack between twin solid and massive buildings. Immediately experiencing a "contrast transition from the dark entry way to the wide-opening lobby space where a gigantic water tank lies in the general atrium space with the Manhattan skyline view as the background. The exhibition areas have been allocated into zones reflecting layers of the ocean. The central water tank is the pivot point of navigation in the aquarium. Visitors circulating through different exhibition areas have a unique experience of flowing gradually from deep sea to sunlight zone, even to upland river zone when approaching to the outdoor plaza with direct sunlight. The "Watermark" breaks one solid aquarium architecture to several pavilions intertwined with waterfront park and Marine Research center. It is not only reactivating the water edge, but turns itself into a new nature gateway where visitors and residents can discover and explore organisms from freshwater to marine ecosystems.

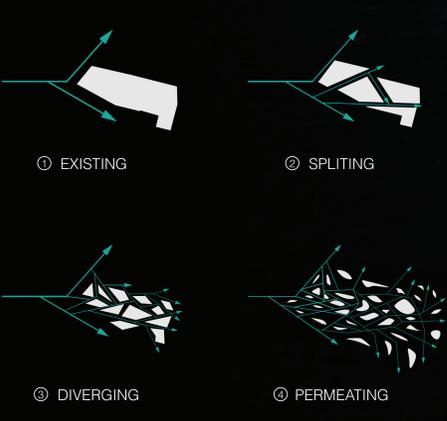
## SHORELINE LINKAGE



**TYING UP**  
Tying up the Queens East River and North Shore Greenway to create a continuous riverwalk, bike trail and protection.

**WEAVING IN**  
Weaving in the relationship between water and land into both the aqua experience and the urban context.

## FLOW



## WATERMARK THE SEASONS

The new NYC Watermark redefines the meaning and functions of an aquarium. It is not only about fish, it is about water. Instead of being just another "aquatic zoo," it is a civic ground for active human engagement with water. A series of waterfront landscapes optimizes the experiential, ecological, and resilient performances through constructing elevational changes and diverse programming.

The park can be experienced year-round: In the spring, the see-through lookout with spring blossoms offer a great view of the Manhattan skyline as well as the industrial pier structure. During summer, you can rent a paddle board or kayak and cruise along the 11th St Basin. Sliding back around October for the fall foliage on the riverbank boardwalk. And last but not least, the new ice skating rink in the winter that overlooks Roosevelt Island and Manhattan across the East River.

**Administration Offices**  
**Social Gathering**  
**Children's Discovery Gallery**  
**Outdoor Public Terrace**  
**The Cave**  
**Coral Reefs**  
**Gift Shop**  
**The Fish Ball**  
**Aqua Gallery**  
**Underwater Viewing**  
**Blue Whale Skeleton Exhibition**  
**Waterfront Park Overlook Plaza**  
**Research Lab**  
**Touch Pools**  
**Restrooms**  
**The Ocean Cells**  
**Gift Shop**  
**Entrance**  
**Mechanical Room**  
**Theater**  
**Auditorium**  
**The Caribbean Reef & Jellyfish**  
**The River**  
**Marine Research Exhibition Area**  
**Dolphin Discovery**  
**Amazon Rising**  
**Mechanical Rooms**  
**Loadings**  
**Storages**  
**Parking**  
**Mechanical Room**  
**Research Facilities**  
**Observatory**  
**Marine Research Tank**

**A EXPOSED PIER**  
Glass Floor Lookout  
Fishing Pier  
Bike Trail

**B MULTI-PURPOSE POOL/RINK**  
Ice Skating Rink / Pool  
Amphitheater  
Promenade

**C TIDAL WETLAND**  
Saltwater Wetland  
Elevated Boardwalk  
Mist Fountain

**D KAYAK LAUNCH**  
Boat Launch  
Red Maple Alley  
Landform Garden

**E SUNKEN TERRACES**  
Field of Light  
Paddle Boat/Board Rental  
River Birch Plaza

