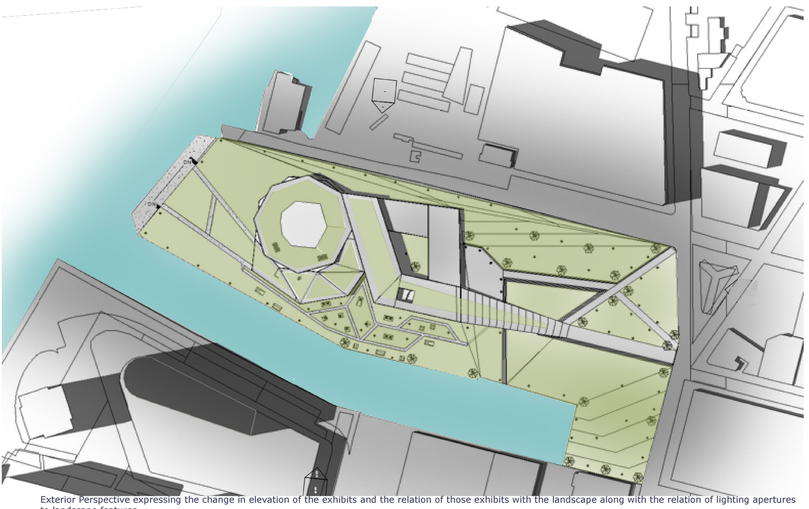
#18256683

NYC Aquarium &
Public Waterfront

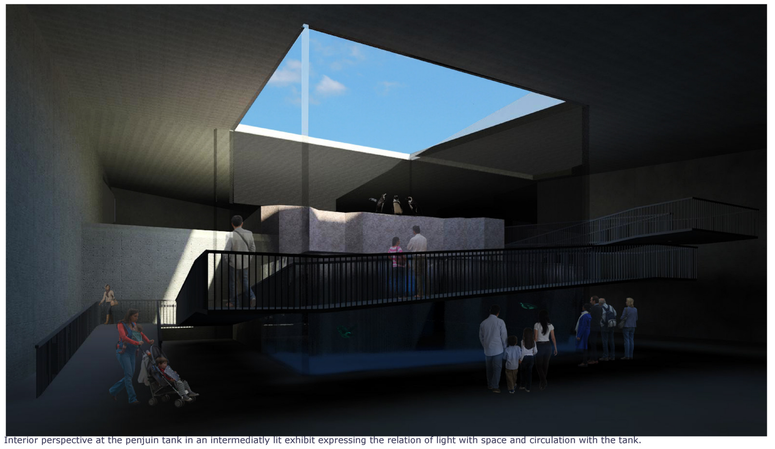
In an effort to maintain views of the surrounding New York City context and maximize Queen's public waterfront park area the concept for the aquarium and waterfront incorporate light with a relation to height and spatial sequencing. Interior circulation begins with the lobby and proceeds through a series of four exhibits that each reflect specific light qualities ranging from lighter to darker exhibits. The exhibit light qualities are related to the amount of natural and artificial each space is lit with. The first exhibit is on the first floor and incorporates both artificial and natural lighting and is an intermediary light quality and transition space to the second exhibit. The second exhibit is the darkest space being both under grade and artificially lit by only the tanks which guide visitors through the space toward the largest exhibit. The third exhibit is a three floor exhibit of sharks and rays. The circulation for the third exhibit begins under grade with each floor ramping to the next and incorporating increasing levels of natural lighting through use of apertures. Exhibit four begins on the second floor and is also an intermediary space that combines natural light with artificial lighting and ramps down back to the lobby. The placement of these exhibits allows for the exterior form to act as a ramping system to a roof garden area that opens the site up to views of Manhattan and Queens. Apertures that allow natural lighting into the exhibits from above double as seating areas on top of the aquarium and the forms of these apertures are use in the landscape as planters and additional seating areas.



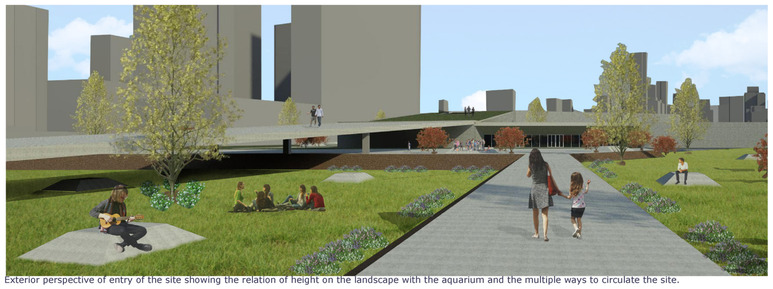
Exterior Perspective expressing the change in elevation of the exhibits and the relation of those exhibits with the landscape along with the relation of lighting apertures to landscape features.

Aerial perspective expressing relation of aquarium to park and waterfront.

Perspective of three story shark and manta ray exhibit expressing the relationship of natural lighting apertures in a heighten space.

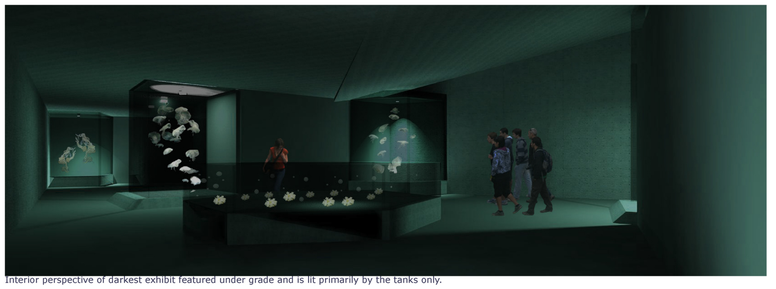


Interior perspective at the penjuin tank in an intermediatly lit exhibit expressing the relation of light with space and circulation with the tank.

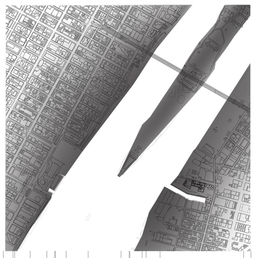


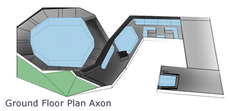
Exterior perspective of entry of the site showing the relation of height on the landscape with the aquarium and the multiple ways to circulate the site.

Interior perspective showing wall aperture and ceiling lighting into the tank.

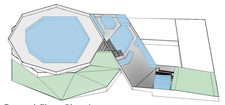


Interior perspective of darkest exhibit featured under grade and is lit primarily by the tanks only.





Ground Floor Plan Axon



Second Floor Plan Axon

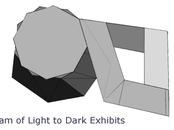
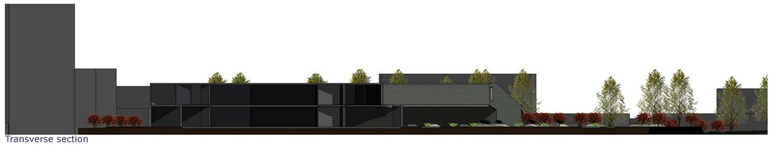
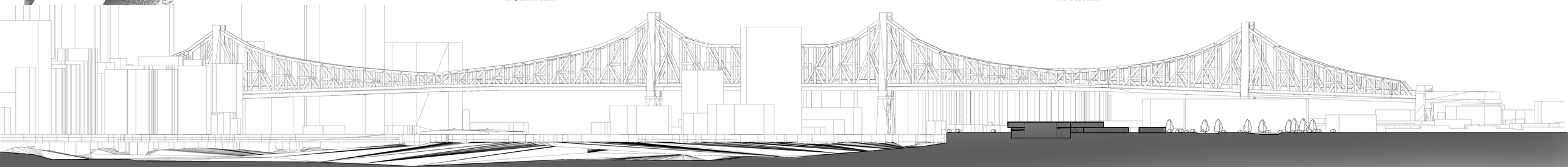


Diagram of Light to Dark Exhibits

Longitudinal section



Transverse section