



Honorable Mention

Urban Structural Park

by Ben Mokri

Level

Graduate

Course

Master's Degree

Advisor/Instructor

Alan Rosenblum

Principal Investigator

Avery Caldwell

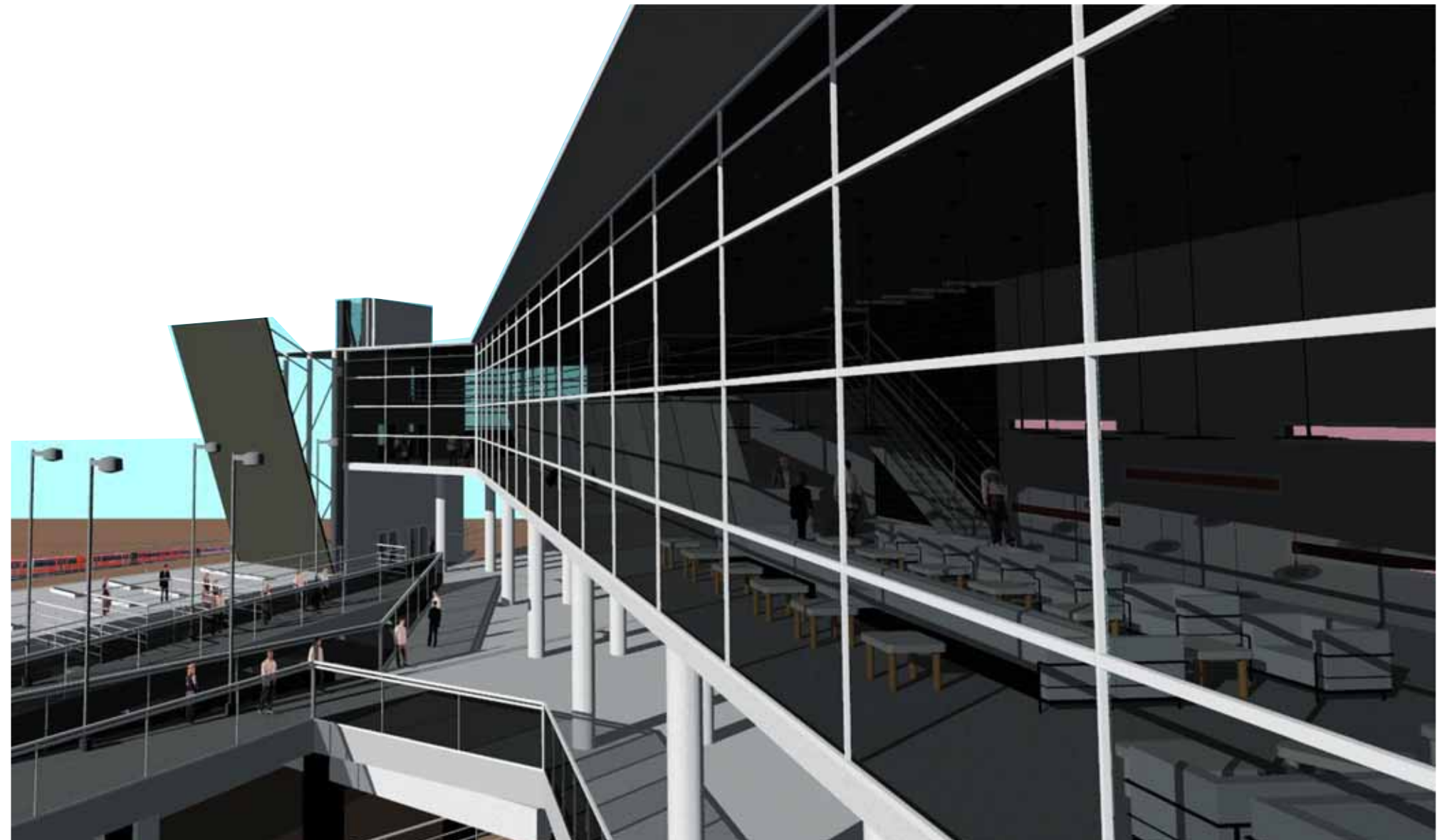
Department/School

Digital Media Arts, New School of Architecture and Design

Summary description of project:

The structural park is a response to the need for public space and facilitation to the future revitalization of Harbor Drive. The structural park is a new urban fit for downtown San Diego; connecting Gaslamp to Barrio Logan through Harbor Drive. The structural park acts as a blurring agent, blurring out the boundaries of downtown zoning system by acting as a node, making a mental and physical connection from Gaslamp to Barrio.

Through a series of studies and meta-diagram studies it was realized that the structural park will also act as an agent, normalizing the revenue generation and exchange between Gaslamp and Barrio.

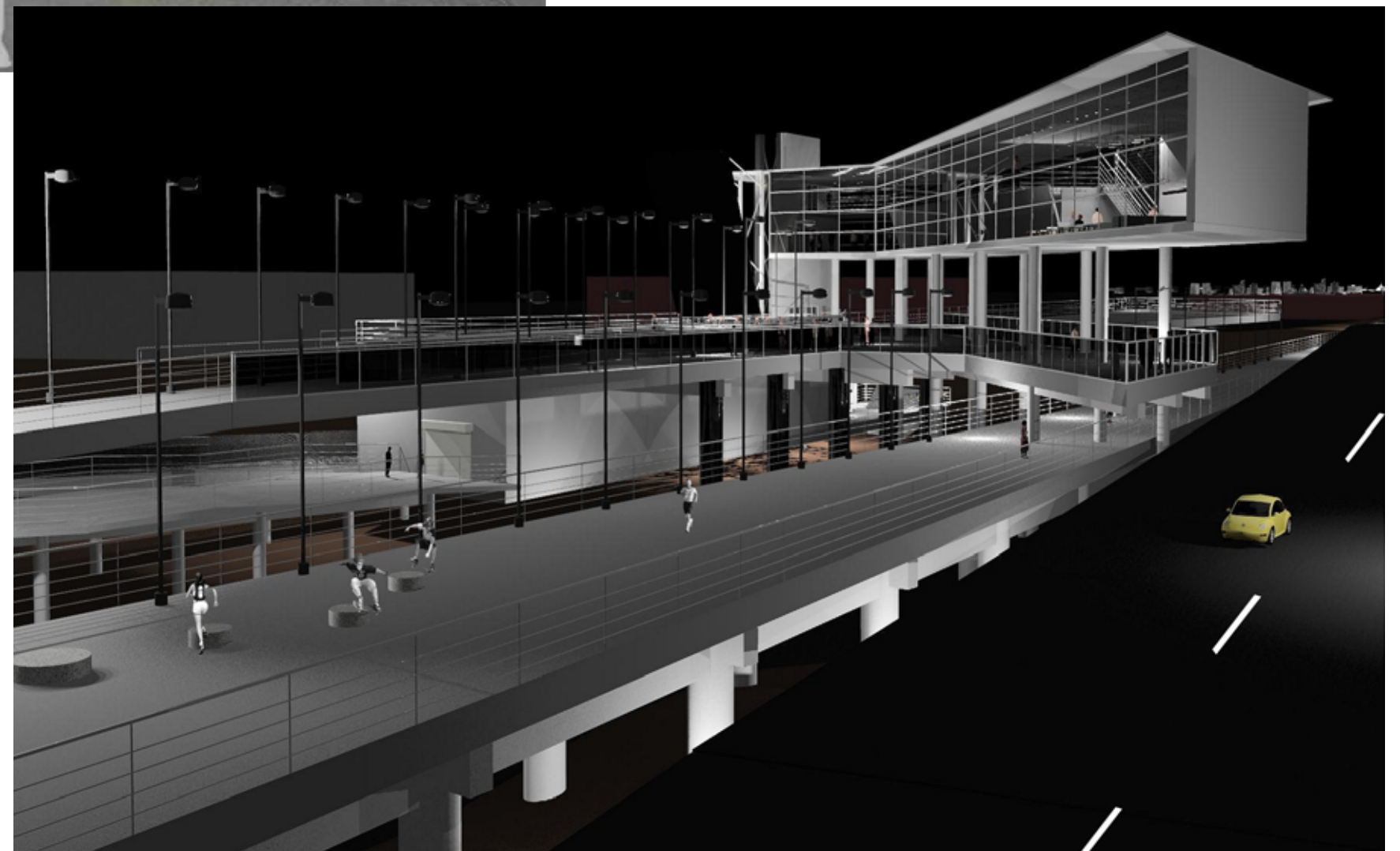


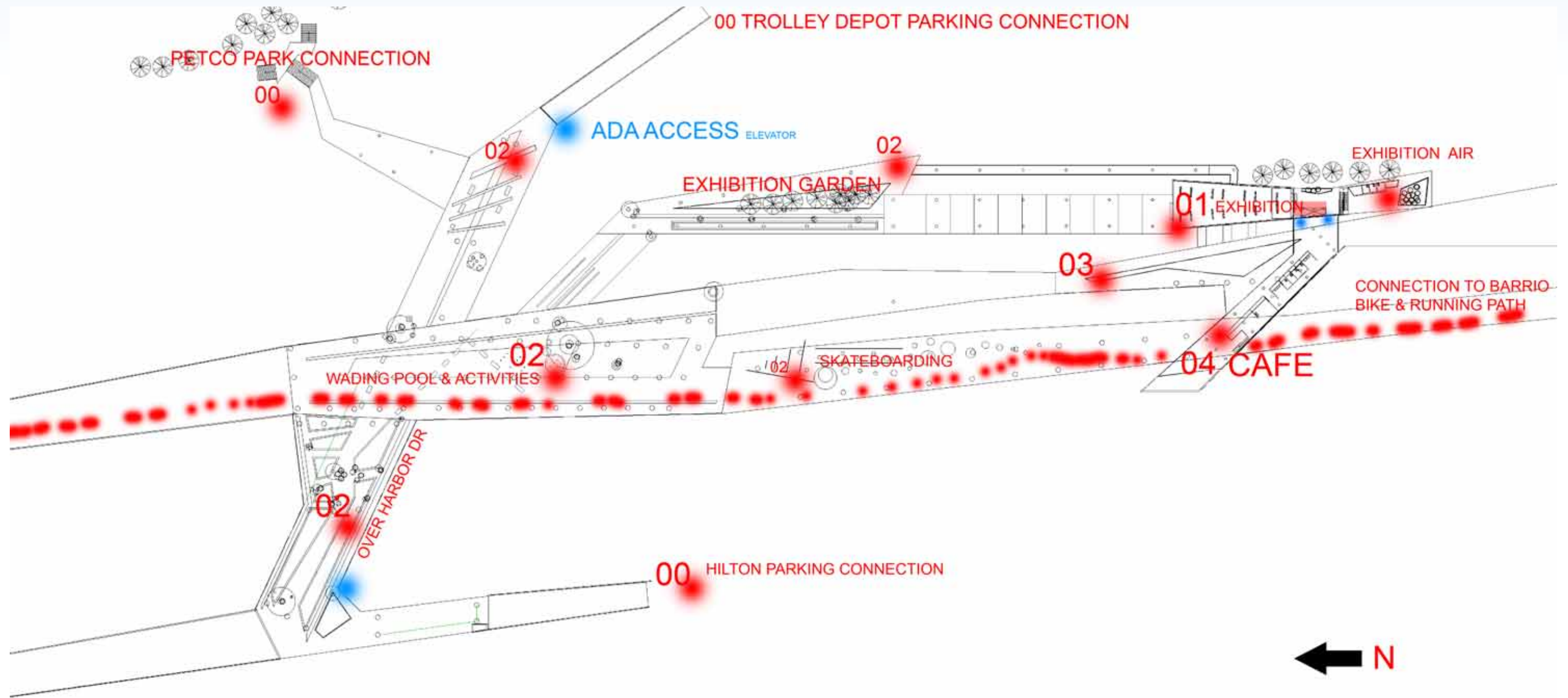


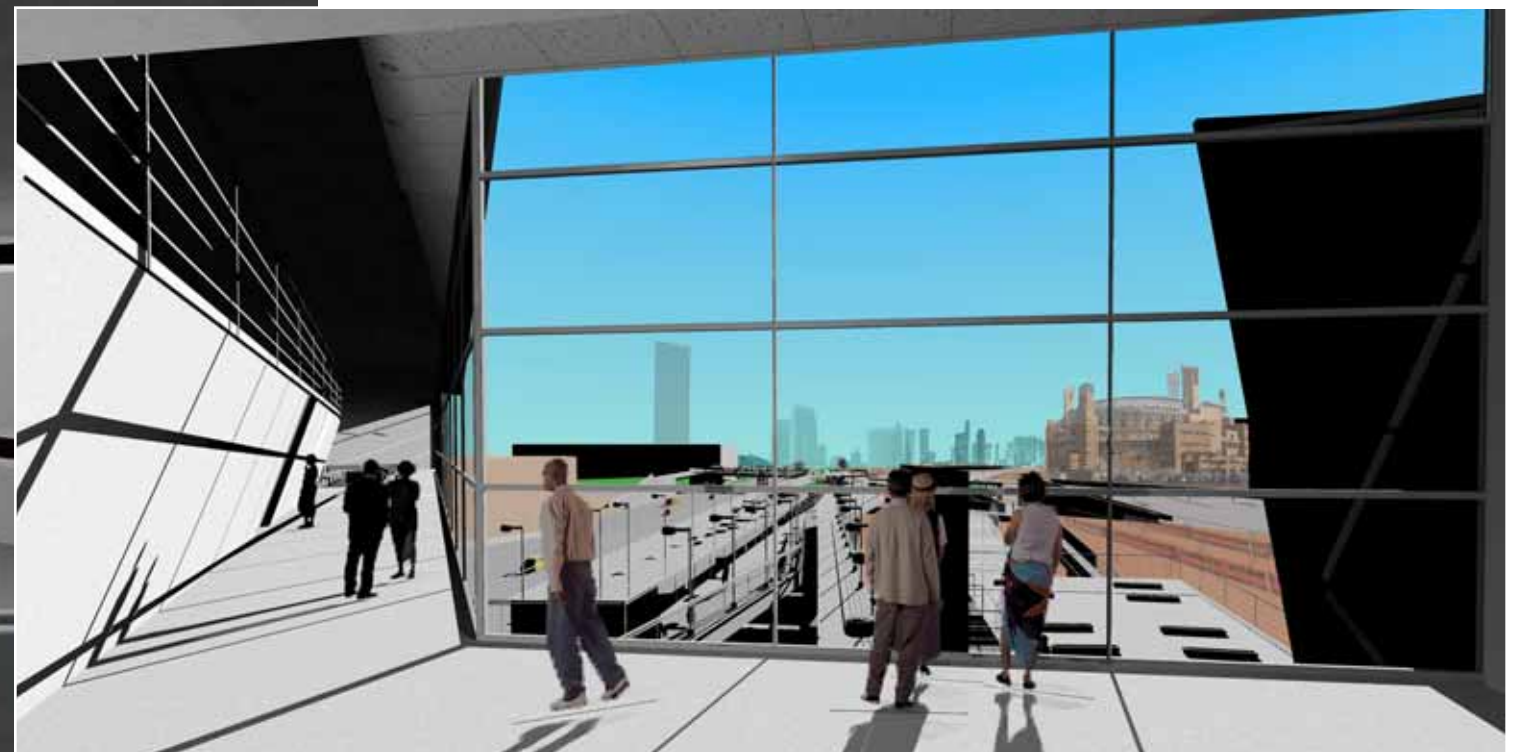
Jury comments:

This project for an “Urban Structural Park” in San Diego begins with a convincing, three dimensional analysis of the modern city’s infrastructural logic, using **form•Z** to both understand that logic and then to clearly visualize and communicate it. The project merges a series of new readings of this logic, transforming latent patterns into overtly coded ones. The merging of connectors between cultural event space and a negotiation of existing and planned movement in the city produces a new program of exhibition and loosely programmed space. Renderings and conventional drawings generated from the model are compelling and show the designer’s digital skills. — **Beth Blostein**

An excellent collage of images – showing both the planning / overview, the technical side of the proposal and the emotional overview – that all together makes a great project because it quickly gives the viewer a great understanding of the proposal. — **Robert Brainard**







00 FINAL THESIS PROPOSAL

01 SPECS

PROJECT: URBAN **STRUCTURAL PARK**

DESIGNED BY: BEHNAM MOKRI

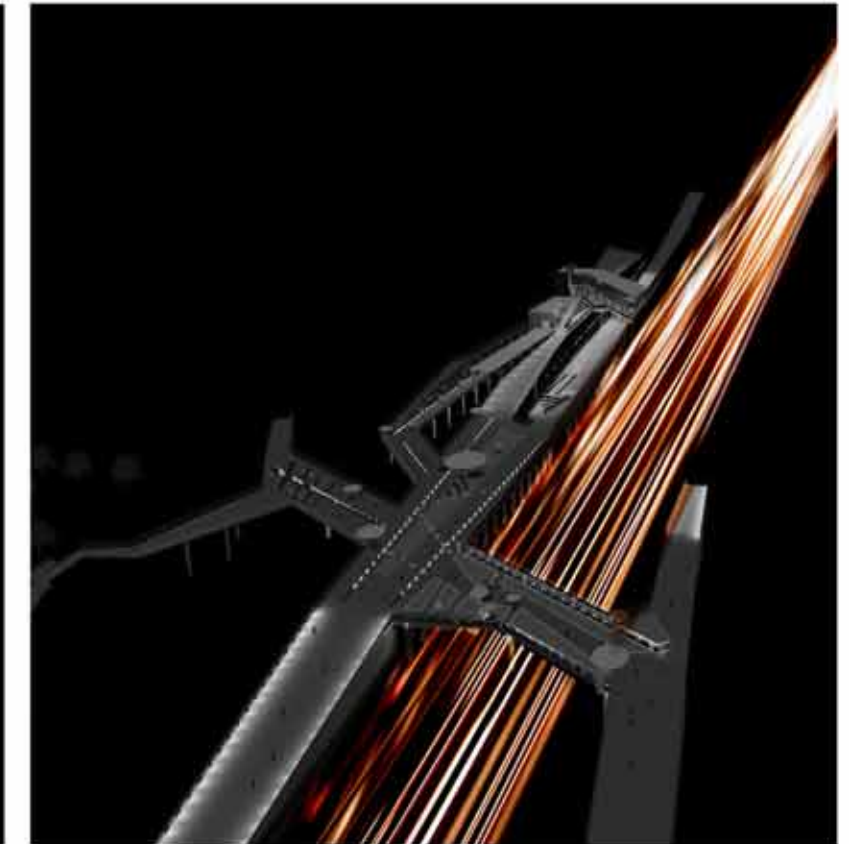
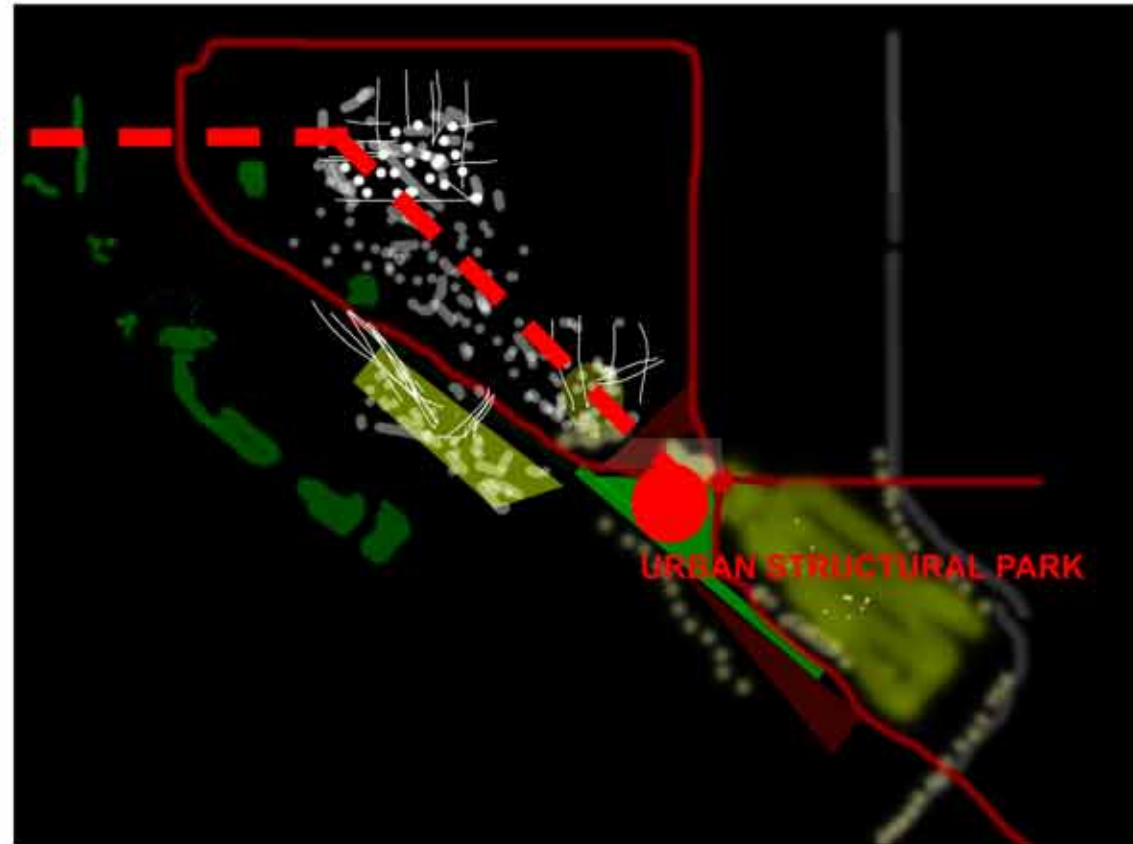
LOCATION: HARBOR DRIVE, DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

02 THESIS STATEMENT

URBAN STRUCTURAL PARK: WITH THE **VERTICAL & HORIZONTAL EXPANSION** OF OUR URBAN ENVIRONMENT AND THE FAST-GROWING PRIVATIZED SECTORS AND LIFE-STYLE, THERE IS AN IMMEDIATE NEED FOR A TRUE EXPERIENCE ORIENTED PUBLIC SPACE THAT NOT ONLY REDEFINES PUBLIC SPACE EXPERIENTIAL QUALITIES BUT IT ALSO FACILITATES THE **HEALTHY URBANISTIC** GROWTH OF ITS SURROUNDING AREAS. THE PROPOSED PROJECT IS AN URBAN STRUCTURAL PARK THAT NOT ONLY RESPONDS TO THE LACK OF EXISTING PUBLIC-GREEN SPACE BUT IT ALSO ACTS AS AN FACILITATOR FOR A HEALTHY URBAN GROWTH & EXPERIENCE.

03 THEORY

OUR WORLD IS IN THE MOVE: THE DYNAMICS OF OUR ECONOMY HAS CHANGED, IN A WORLD WHERE TELECOMMUNICATION HAS TAKEN BARRIERS AND INFRASTRUCTURES, CABLES AND SO FORTH DOWN, WE ARE STILL LIVIN IN CITIES WHERE RIGID GRID SYSTEM DICTATES THE WAY OUR CITIES ARE OPERATED. OUR **ZONINGS** DO NOT RESPOND TO OUR DYNAMIC HYBRID LIFE-STYLE; ANDREA BRANZI IN SERIES OF ARTICLES, PROPOSALS AND PROJECT PROTOTYPES TALKS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF ADOPTING A **NEW ZONING** SYSTEM THAT RESPONDS TO OUR CURRENT USE OF SPACE AND LIFE-STYLE. IN HIS PROPOSALS TECHNOLOGY HAS GIVEN A NEW DIMENSION TO HOW WE ARE ABLE TO OPERATE. OUR ACCESS TO GOODS, DATA AND RESOURCES THROUGH TELECOMMUNICATION AND INTERNET IS WHAT ANDREA BRONZI PROPOSES TO BE THE NEED FOR **BLURRING OUT THE BOUNDARIES** OF OUR ZONING SYSTEM. ANDREA BRANZI QUESTIONS THE OLD ZONING SYSTEM; WHICH IS BASED ON THE FUNCTION OF EACH ZONE: **INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, RESIDENTIAL, HISTORICAL CITY AND LEISURE TIME SPACES**. IN HIS PROPOSAL WE NEED TO BLURR OUT THE BOUNDARIES AND OPERATE ON A ZONE FREE SYSTEM WHERE THERE IS ONLY ONE ZONE AND NO BOUNDARIES.

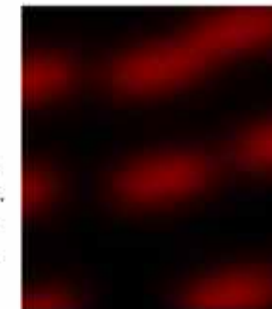


04 BLURRING OUT BOUNDARIES:

THE PROPOSED SITE IS LOCATED ON HARBOR DRIVE, CROSS THE STREET FROM HARBOR (INDUSTRIAL & THE CONVENTION CNTR (COMMERCIAL), NEXT TO PETCO PARK (SPORTS ACTIVITIES) & TROLLEY DEOPOT. IT IS ALSO NEXT TO GASLAMP (COMMERCIAL, RESIDENTIAL) & 0.9 MILE AWAY FROM BARRIO LOGAN. THE PROPOSED SITE IS A LITTLER SPACE NEXT TO TROLLEY DEPOT THAT IS ALSO GOING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF STACK-PROGRAMMING, BUILDING OVER THE TROLLEY DEPOT SPACE.

05 CONNECTION: ONE OF THE GOAL OF URBAN STRUCTURAL PARK IS TO PROVIDE A MENTAL & PHYSICAL CONNECTION FROM GASLAMP TO BARRIO LOGAN. THE STRUCTURAL PARK WILL ACT AS A CONNECTIVE TISSUE, CONNECTING THE TWO ELEMENTS FOR BETTER FUTURE URBAN EXPERIENCE

URBAN STRUCTURAL PARK: THE STRUCTURAL PARK IS A RESPOND TO THE NEED FOR PUBLIC SPACE & FACILITATION TO THE FUTURE REVITALIZATION OF HARBOR DRIVE. THE STRUCTURAL PARK IS A NEW URBAN FIT FOR DOWNTOWN, SAN DIEGO; CONNECTING GASLAMP TO BARRIO LOGAN THROUGH HARBOR DRIVE. THE STRUCTURAL PARK ACTS AS A BLURRING AGENT, **BLURRING OUT THE BOUNDARIES** OF DOWNTOWN ZONNING SYSTEM BY ACTING AS A NODE, MAKING MENTAL & PHYSICAL CONNECTION FROM GASLAMP TO BARRIO. THROUGH SERIES OF **STUDIES AND META-DIAGRAM** STUDIES IT WAS REALIZED THAT THE STRUCTURAL PARK WILL ALSO ACT AS AN AGENT, **NORMALIZING THE REVENUE GENERATION & EXCHANGE BETWEEN GASLAMP & BARRIO.**



06 SITE ANALYSIS & PROCESS:

THERE IS A DISCONTINUITY OF EXPERIENCE AFTER PASSING THE CONVENTION CENTER, GOING OVER THE ELEVATED SECTION OF HARBOR DRIVE. THIS DISCONTINUITY HAS RESULTED IN CREATING AN UNPHYSICAL BORDER THAT DISCONNECTS GASLAMP & HOTEL DISTRICT OF HARBOR FROM BARRIO SIDE OF HARBOR. THE STRUCTURAL PARK WILL RESPOND TO THIS DISCONNECT BY PROPOSING AN ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN THAT WILL MAKE THE CONNECTION AND WILL RESULT IN AN UNINTERRUPTED EXPERIENCE OF HUMAN TRAFFIC.

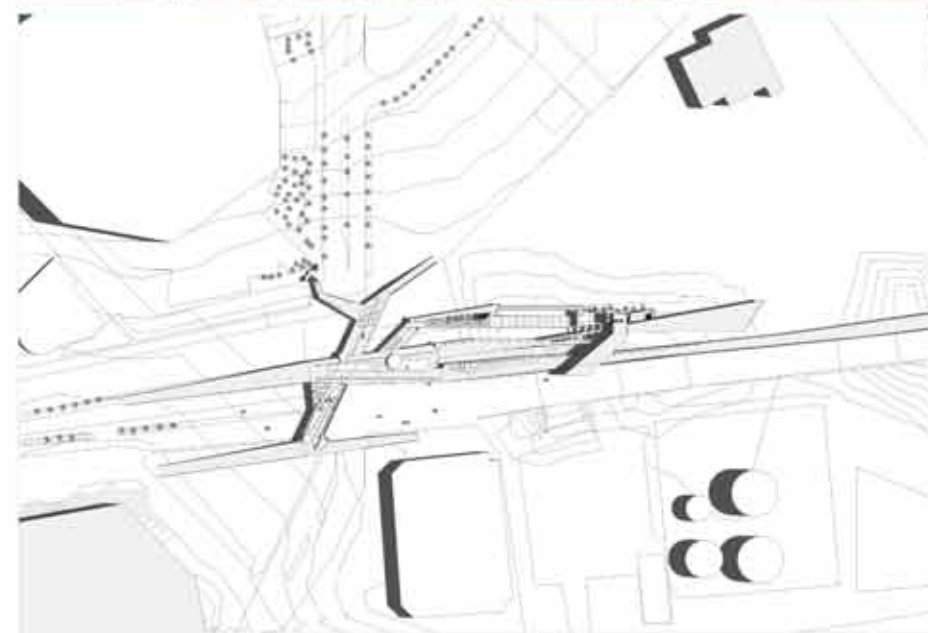
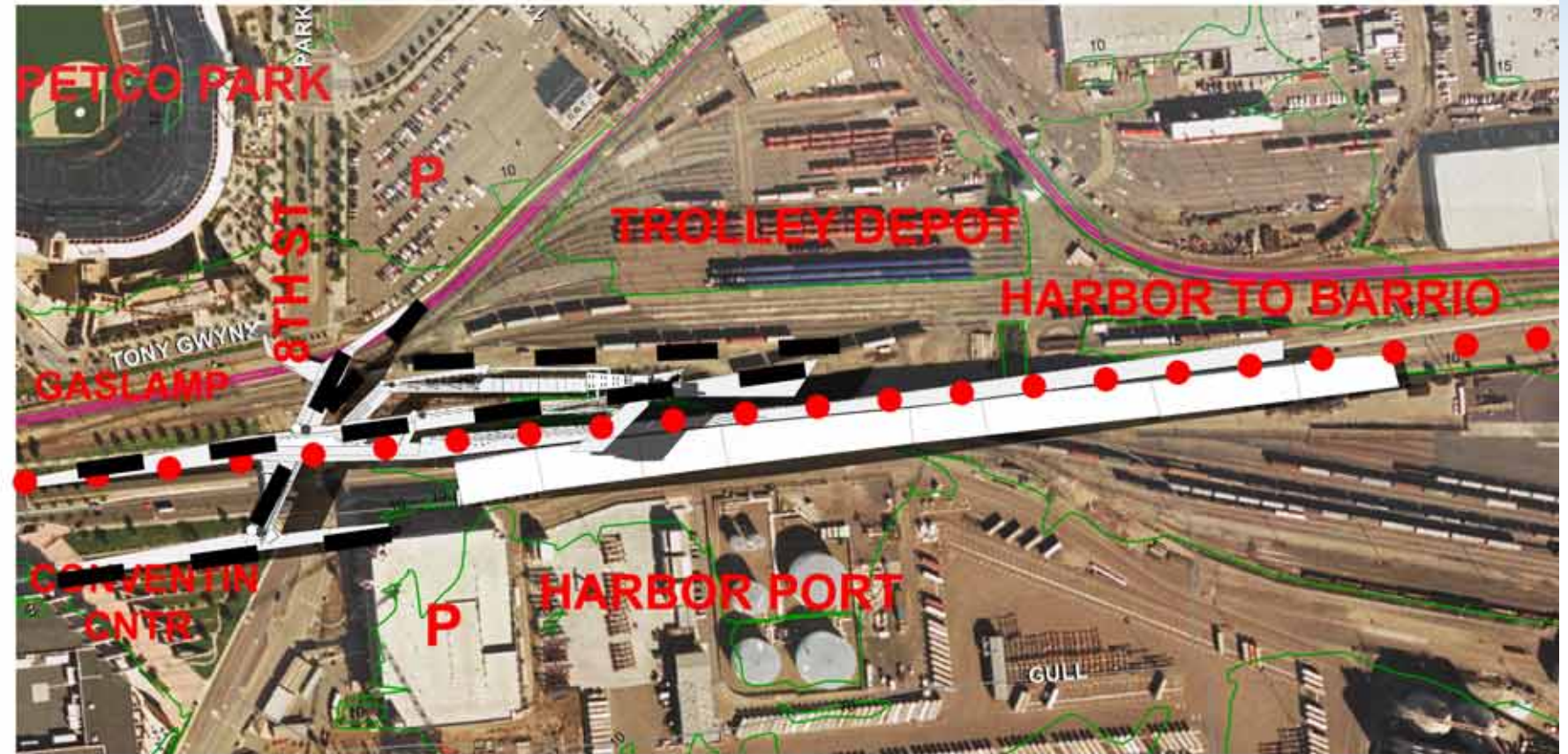


BIKE EXPERIENCE: ONE OF THE MAJOR CONSIDERATIONS IN SD (SCHEMATIC DESIGN) WAS TO INCORPORATE HARBOR'S EXISTING BIKE EXPERIENCE INTO THE PROGRAM.



META DIAGRAM:

THROUGH META-DIAGRAM ANALYSIS FURTHER RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE ADJACENT URBAN ELEMENTS TO THE SITE WAS FOUND. ONE OF THE RELATIONSHIPS WAS TO USE THE TROLLEY DEPOT VERTICAL AVAILABLE SPACE AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REDEFINE THE AREA.



07 SITE PLAN & TOPO:

THE SITE IS RELATIVELY FLAT, THE MAIN CHALLENGE IS TO RESOLVE THE VERTICAL CLEARANCE FOR TROLLEY AND ALSO HARBOR DRIVE CAR TRAFFIC. THE STRUCTURAL PARK IS INTERCONNECTED THROUGH A SERIES OF PATHS THAT CONNECT HARBOR FROM ALL SIDES TO THE STRUCTURAL PARK. ONE OF THE MAIN CONSIDERATIONS WAS TO USE THE EXISTING PARKING STRUCTURE THAT CAN FEED THE PARK WITH EASY ACCESS. THE TROLLEY DEPOT PARKING ON EAST AND THE HILTON PARKING ON WEST PROVIDE PARKING FOR THE PROPOSED SITE

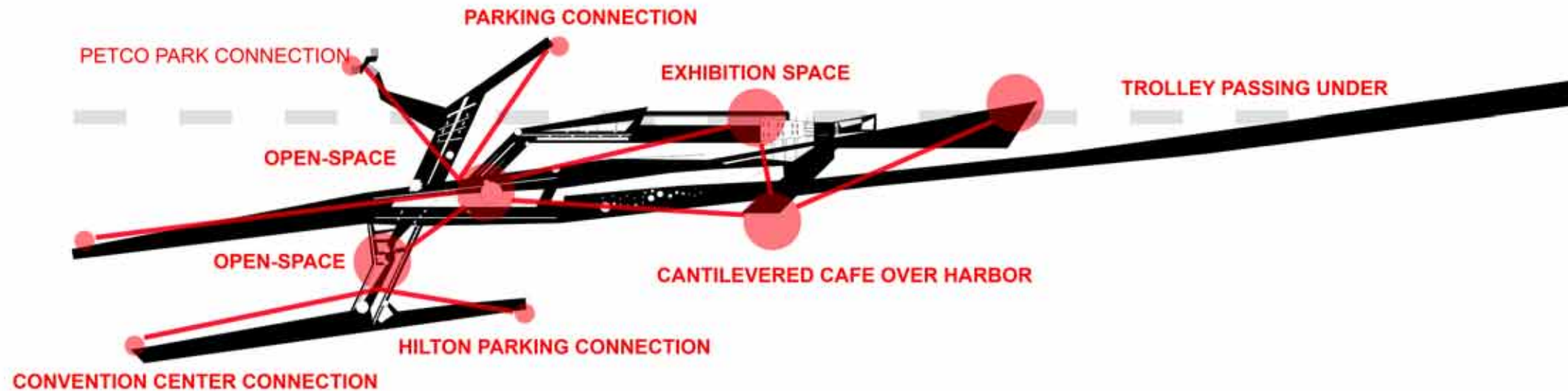
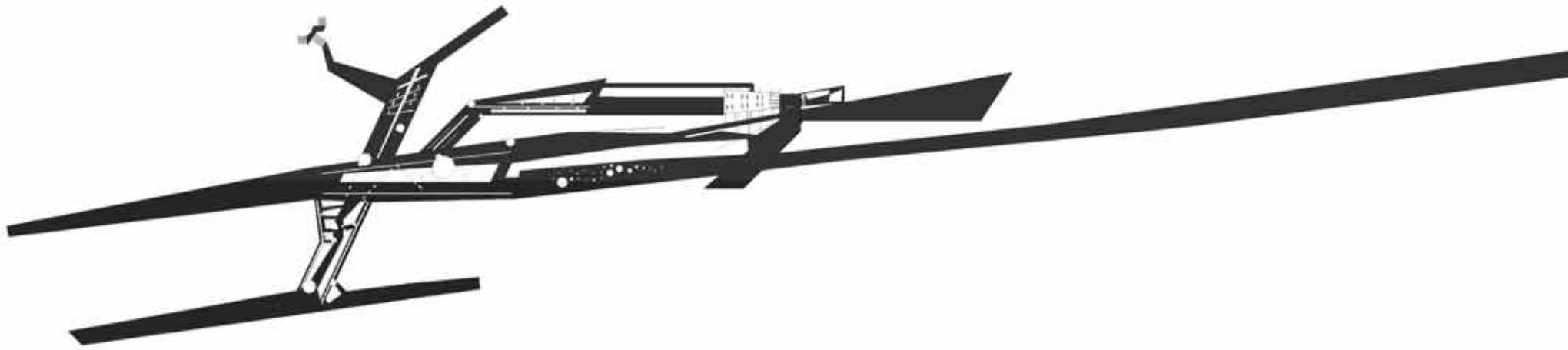
08 PROGRAM:

THE URBAN STRUCTURAL PARK IS DESIGNED AROUND TWO IMPORTANT ELEMENTS: **MOTION & AMBIENT**. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MAJOR GOALS THAT DEFINE THE EXPERIENTIAL QUALITIES OF URBAN STRUCTURAL PARK:

- COLLECTIVE EXPERIENCE
- INTERACTION
- OPEN-SPACE
- CONNECTIVITY

THESE GOALS ARE DEFINED THROUGH THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM:

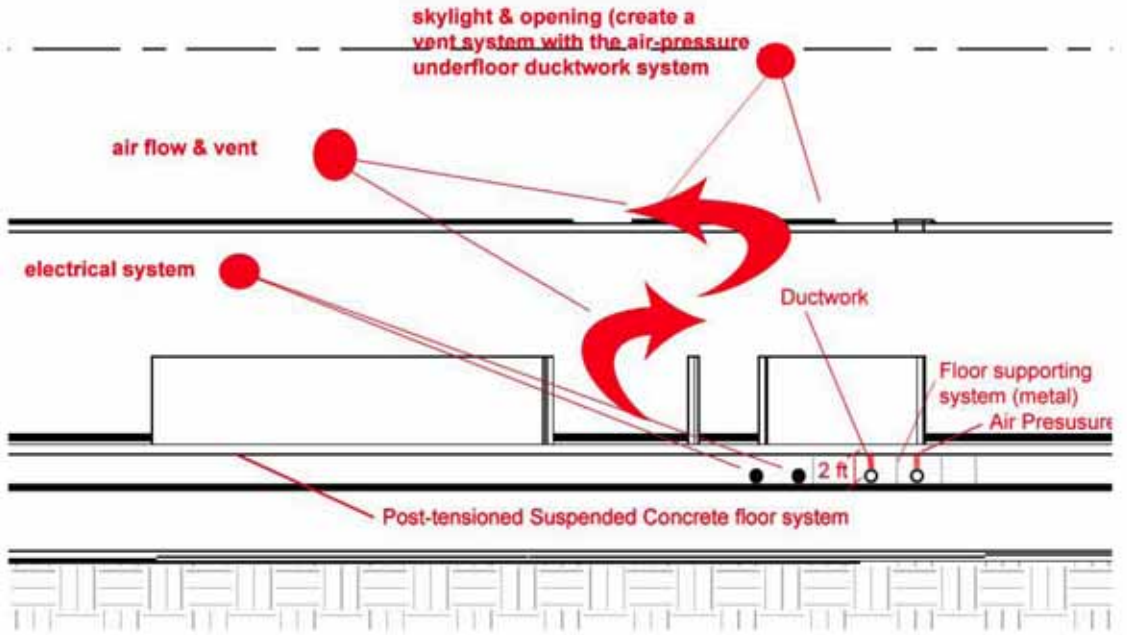
- 01 EXHIBITION SPACE
- 02 OUTDOOR OPEN SPACE
- 03 MOTION & AMBIENT PATH, CONNECTING GASLAMP TO BAR RIO, AN EXTENTION OF THE PARK THAT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR SPORTS, RUNNING, BIKING AND...
- 04 OUTDOOR LECTURE & EVENT SPACE, USING WALL AS PROJECTION SCREEN
- 05 CANTILEVERED CAFE: VIEW OF HARBOR, DOWNTOWN, MUSIC, CAFE & SOCIALIZING.



11 SYSTEM INTEGRATION & STRUCTURE

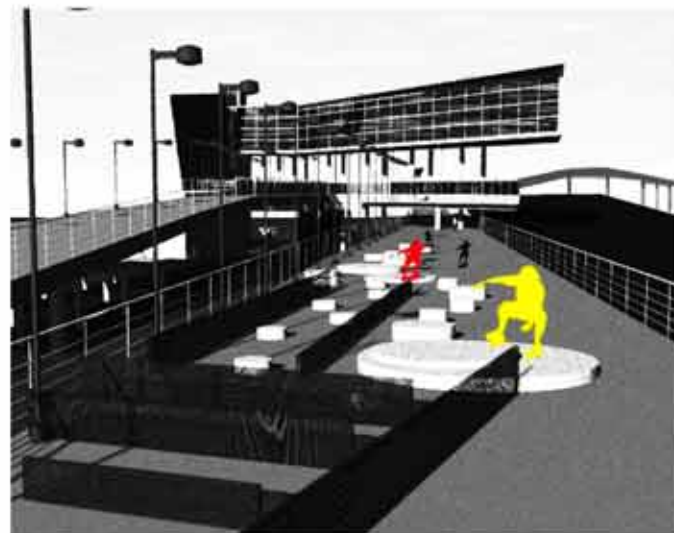
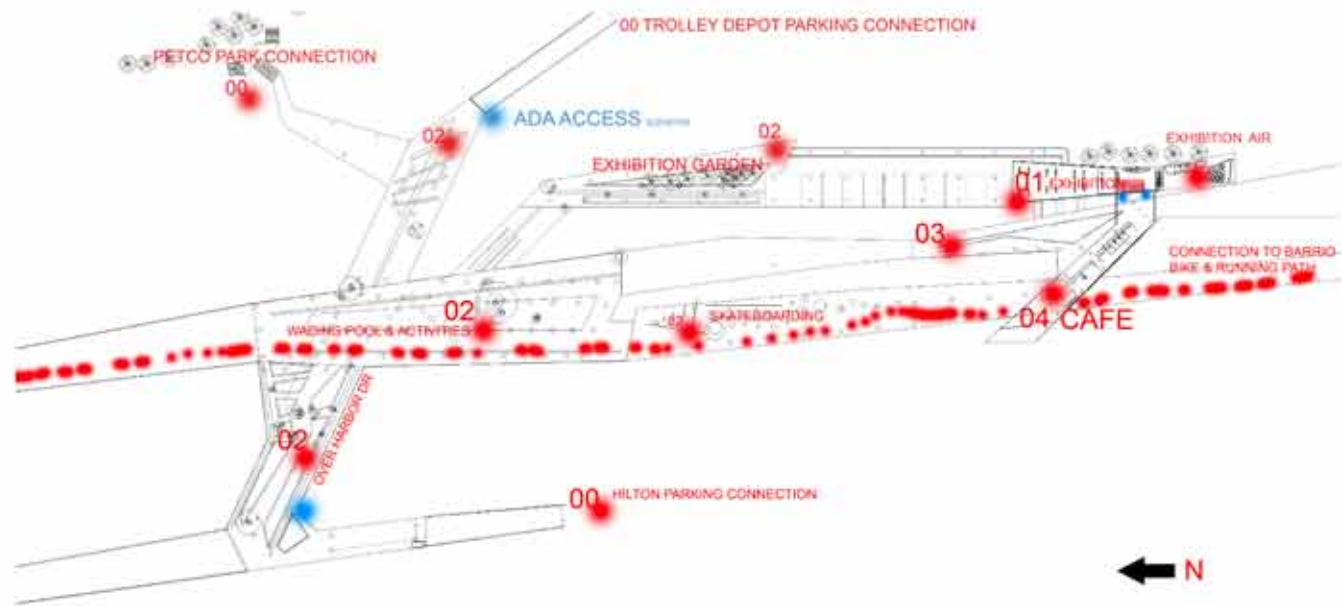


CONCRETE, STEEL & GLASS ARE THE MAIN COMPONENT OF THE URBAN STRUCTURAL PARK. THE HEAVY STRUCTURE PAYS OFF BY USING A LITTLER SPACE THAT HAS NO REALESTATE VALUE IN RETURN. THE EXHIBITION USES A RAISED FLOOR SYSTEM COMBINED WITH CUSTOM SKYLIGHTS THAT HAVE VENTS FOR STACK-EFFECT, THE RAISED FLOOR PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR CHANGE AND ALTERATIONS OF THE PROGRAM IN THE FUTURE. THE PARK SHADINGS ARE MADE OUT OF CONCRETE WITH USE OF WOODEN CHAIRS THAT PROVIDE INTERESTING AMBIENT FOR THE PARK USERS.

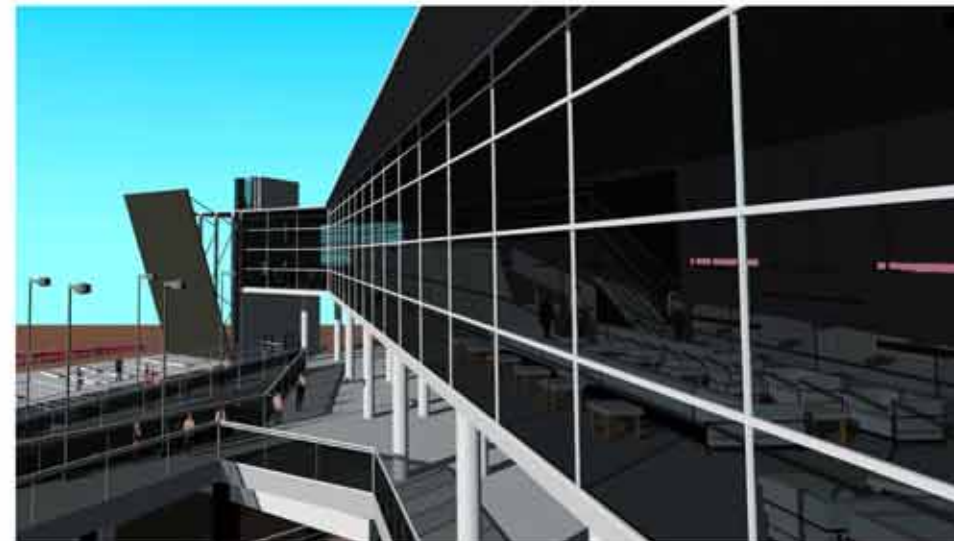


THE BEST ANALOGY OF THE STRUCTURE IS SKIN OVER RIBS: THE CONCRETE SLABS ARE PLACED OVER LONG-BEAMS, JOISTS AND HEAVY ROUND COLUMN, RANGING FROM 12" DIAMETER TO 3'. THE RIBS ALLOW FOR CANTILEVERED SPACES AND OPEN SPACE.

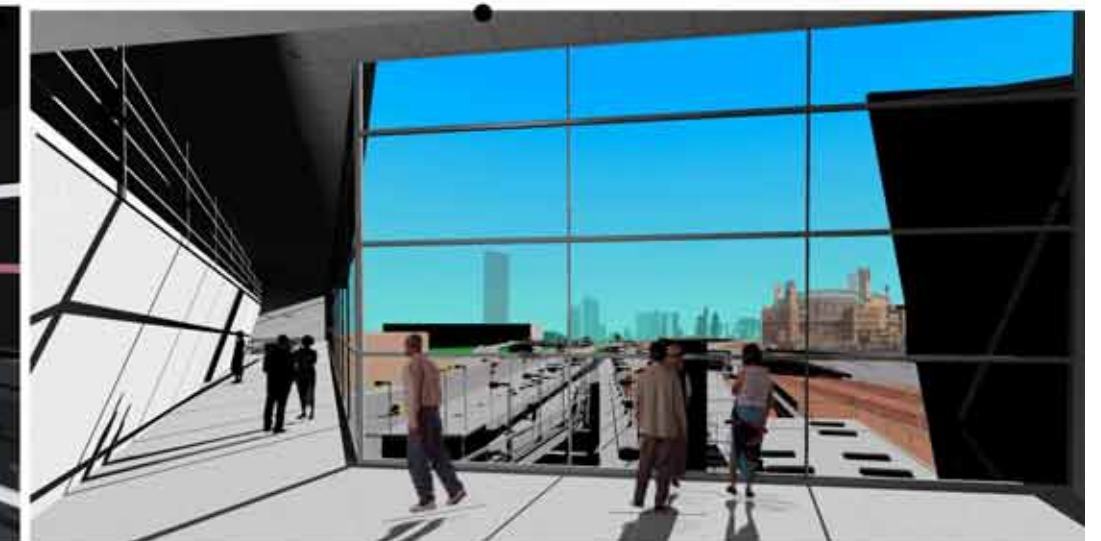
10 FLOOR PLAN & VIEWS



SKATEBOARDING ZONE



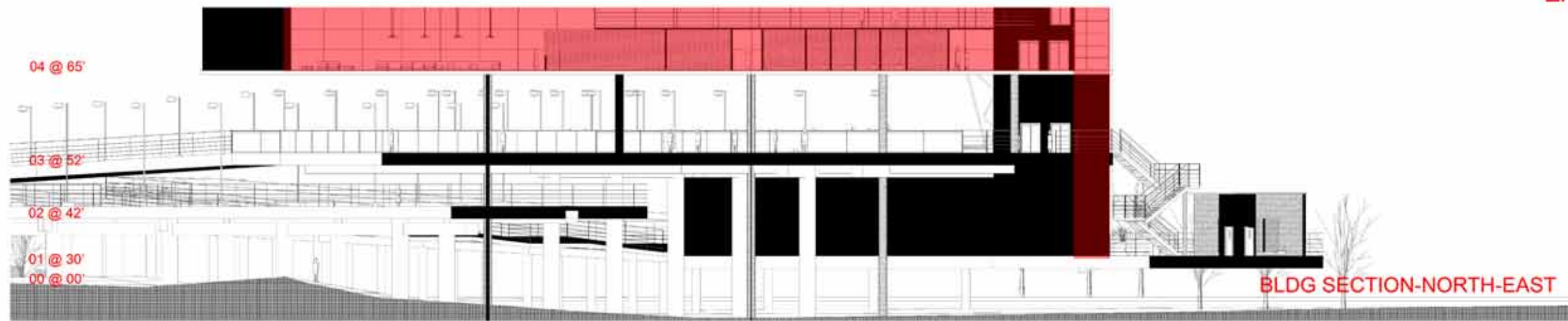
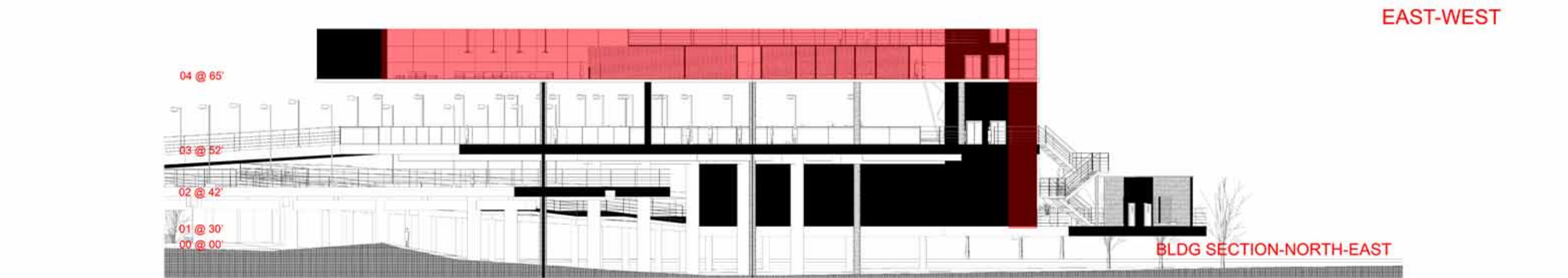
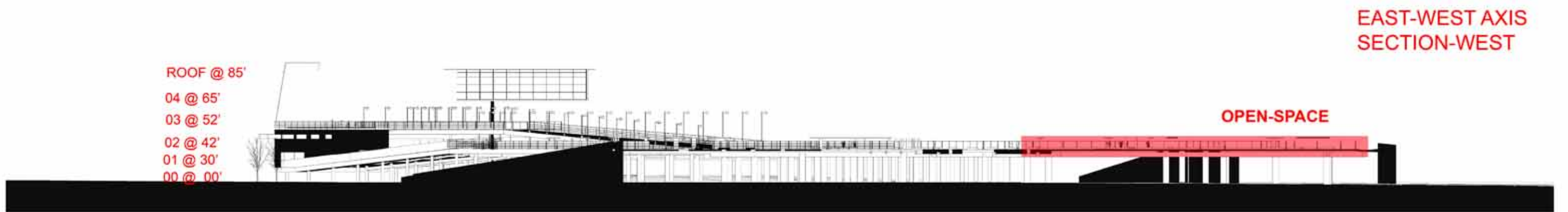
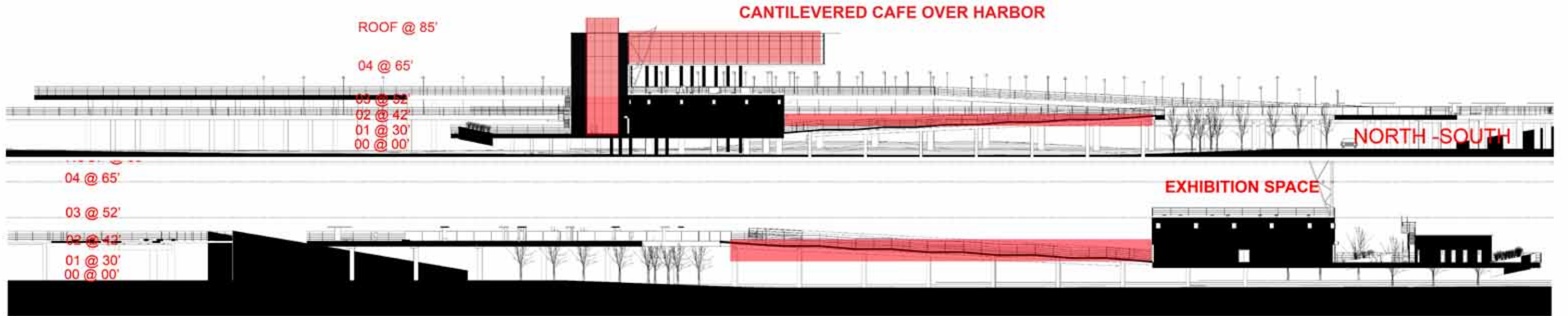
CAFE VIEWING THE PROJECTION SCREEN & TROLLEYS



CAFE VIEWING GASLAMP & PETCO PARK

THE DESIGN OF THE STRUCTURAL URBAN PARK ALLOWS FOR CONNECTIVITY & FLEXIBILITY. ROOMS AND SPACES CAN BE USED FOR DIFFERENT PURPOSES WHILE THE OPEN SPACES GIVE OPPORTUNITY FOR UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES. AN EXTENSION OF THE PARK CONNECTS BARRIO TO GASLAMP, IN THE HOPE OF GENERATING MORE REVENUE FOR THAT AREA; IN THE NEXT 30 YEARS, THE FACE OF BARRIO IS GOING TO CHANGE, PERHAPS THE URBAN STRUCTURAL PARK CAN BE A FACILITATOR FOR AN ENHANCED URBAN GROWTH.

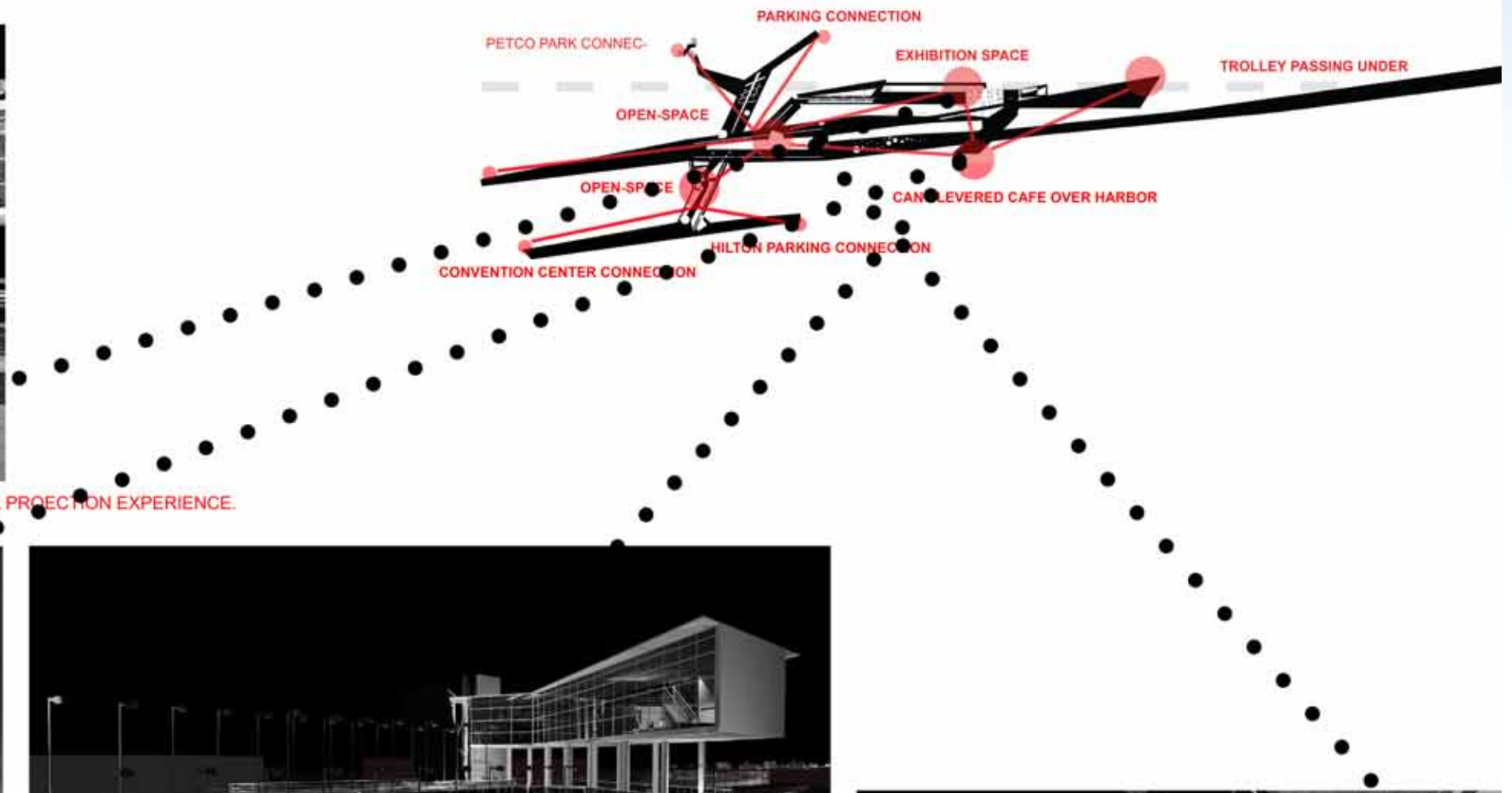
09 SECTIONS



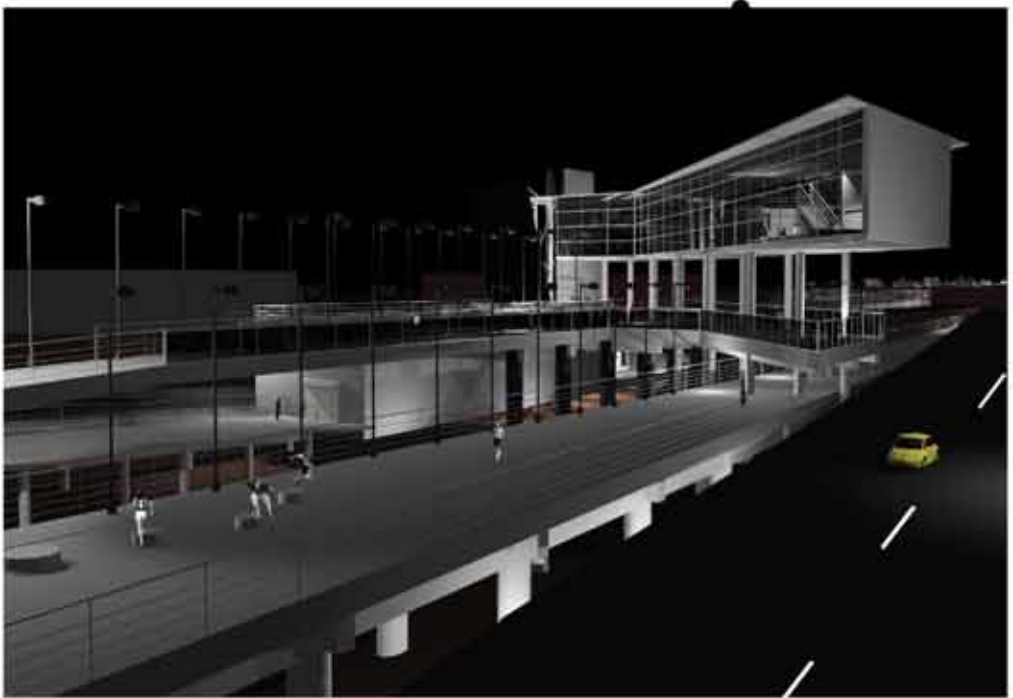
10 FLOOR PLAN & VIEWS



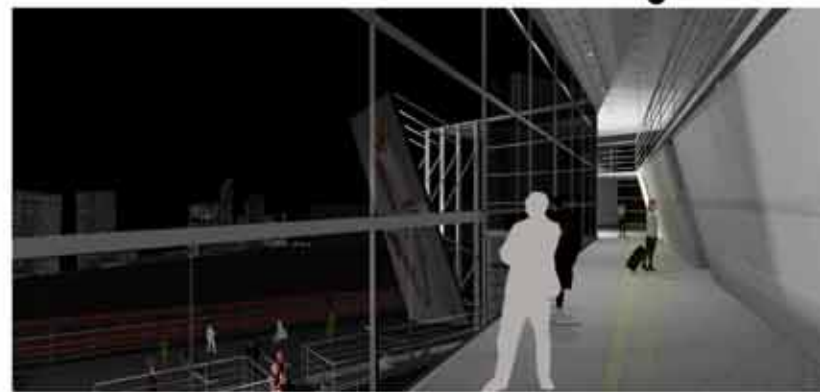
PROJECTION WALL + ROOF AND SKYLIGHTS OF THE EXHIBITION USED FOR SITTING AND SPACE FOR A WALL PROJECTION EXPERIENCE.



CAFE & TROLLEY DEPOT VIEW



CAFE + MOTION AMBIENT PATH + HARBOR DRIVE



CAFE & TROLLEY DEPOT VIEW

2007-2008 : Joint Study Award Winners