

# Blue Urbanism: Inviting Urban Play on Seattle's North Waterfront

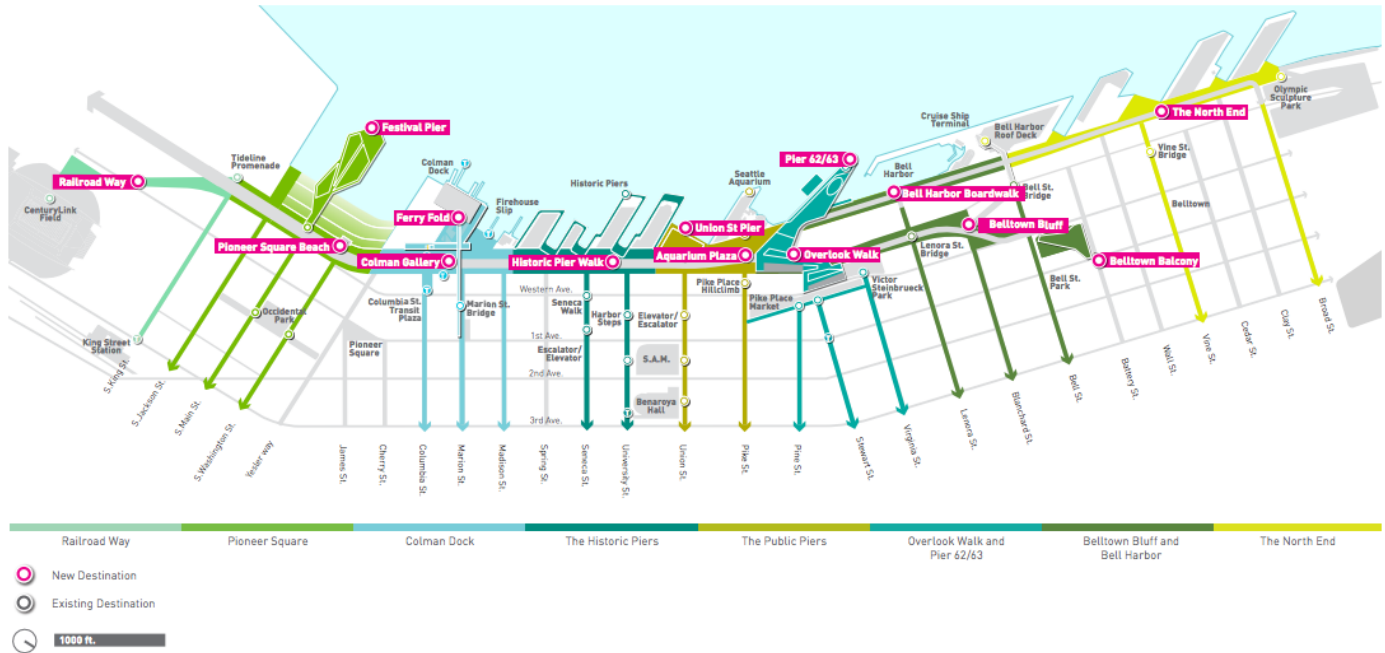
## Scan I Design Master Studio, Autumn 2014 [Larch 501/Arch504]

Instructors: Nancy Rottle (LA), Jim Nicholls (ARCH), and Leann Andrews (PhD BE)  
 Teaching Assistant: VeraEve Giampietro (LA & UDP)  
 With Gehl Architects/Ciitek: Bianca Hermansen

### Project 03b: District Framework Concepts

PRESENTATION DUE: Friday October 10

BOOK PAGES printed + pinned, and digital upload: Monday October 13



Our first step in envisioning Seattle's North Waterfront was to individually conceive discrete strategies and ideas for the whole or parts of the District in napkin diagrams. Our next move will be to work in small teams to develop integrated sets of alternative strategies and district scale "framework concepts" or "master plans," each version reflecting a team's collective research, concepts and emerging vision for the future of our study area along Seattle's North Waterfront.

Key aspects will be strategies to strengthen the district's regional, city and downtown connections, and the future possible configurations and uses of this waterfront stretch after realignment of Alaskan Way. Your framework will require a wide scope of analysis and consideration -- how the waterfront can contribute to the larger network of open spaces, transport and districts in the City and Sound -- and conceptual thinking that is fresh while also taking into consideration the Framework planning and design work that has previously been produced (See JCFO Framework Plan). Remember the bold inspiration and strategic thinking that you've captured on your napkin/envelope as you work through the next iteration of expanding, editing and integrating ideas into a cohesive concept.

## Goals

The pedagogical goals of this project are:

- To develop the habit of considering the multiple scales that influence every project, including how each of those scales shape the social life of the city and region
- To practice working at multiple nested scales, to identify project contextual influences, including social and spatial relationships, needs and opportunities
- To gain better understandings of urban systems and flows, and experience working at the urban planning scale,
- To develop skills in working in small teams on creative proposals
- To develop diagrammatic communication skills

## Project

For this project you will work in one of six teams to apply your knowledge and ideas to develop compelling, clear proposals for connecting the North Waterfront to the City and region, and to propose strategic options and ideas for an active, playful, artful, and ecologically and socially functional waterfront. Teams should represent diverse disciplinary backgrounds and several areas of our site analyses. Draw from your inspirations recorded through your Napkin / Laundry List exercise, and from the bold and refined precedents you've experienced and heard about.

### At minimum, your team should:

- Identify your goals and themes for the North Waterfront area
- Optimize human mobility connections with other parts of the city and region, focusing on pedestrian, bike, transit and boat modes.
- Consider and propose possibilities for a reconfigured Alaskan Way. Propose how you will accommodate existing and future access needs.
- Identify flows moving through the waterfront spaces (including social and ecological flows) and how these can be accommodated and, where desired, enhanced or inhibited.
- Identify future public space and developable sites (for cultural, commercial, and / or residential uses), proposed as a connected system.
- Specify the programmatic activities, facilities and qualities of [playful!] social spaces that you propose to generate along the waterfront. Consider 24/7 uses and diverse user groups to create a Waterfront for All.
- Specify how your proposal will enhance the ecological health of the city, bay and region.
- Consider how interventions at the detail scale could contribute to the overall cohesiveness and success at the district scale.
- Title your proposed Framework Concept Plan to convey the essence of your approach.
- Represent your Framework Concept Plan (FCP) in one or two 2-page spreads, using our studio booklet template. The FCP can be diagrammatic, but it should accurately represent the spatial qualities and sizes related to your proposal, elaborated with details, dimensioned sections, descriptive diagrams, images, etc.

## PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS:

### District Framework Concept Presentation

Present your District Framework Concept in a concise, graphic and oral presentation (10 minutes max). You may use hard copy drawings at large scale, diagrams, Powerpoint slides or present your preliminary or finished book pages via Prezi or printed scaled to 2.5x. We will begin reviewing concepts in **Gould Court at 2:30pm on Friday.**

### District Framework Concept Book Pages

You may wish to refine your concept and/or complete your book pages over the week-end. Book pages are due, pinned up, book scale at the **beginning of class on Monday, October 13.**

Remember these Resources:

CAD files on our Google drive

Waterfrontseattle.org website (analyses and plans, including **Framework Plan:**

[http://waterfrontseattle.org/pdfs/design/framework\\_plan\\_full.pdf](http://waterfrontseattle.org/pdfs/design/framework_plan_full.pdf))

501/504 Studio "Consultancies"

501/504 Precedent Studies on Google Drive (and your own experiences)

501/504 website -- see Analysis posters from 2010 and Precedent Studies from 2010 and 2011

Seattle Waterfront Guiding Principles

Lake to Bay Trail Proposals

Etc.

Framework Concept Plan examples:

COBE's Framework Plan for Nordhavn

Gehl Waterfront Plan for Oslo (see Bianca's presentation from 2011)

Gehl Plan for Pittsburgh Waterfront

Precedent Studies

