

# Public Spaces | Public Life for Seattle's Central Waterfront

**ScanIDesign Master Studio, Autumn 2011 [Larch 504/Arch503]**

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## **Workshop: LIFE • SPACE • BUILDING**

FRIDAY 14 OCTOBER (2 HOURS) PLUS PROGRAM/CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

Working in teams of 4 or 5, you will need:

- A base map of your site/study area
- Tracing paper to cover the base map
- Markers
- Post-it notes of several colors.

### **I. LIFE** (approximately 30 minutes)

In the first exercise:

1. Each of you should assume the character of **two characters** (or groups of characters) who would likely use—or who you would like to attract to—your site. These characters might include: mother with three children, group of teenagers, recent immigrant couple, disabled female tourist, local artist, street vendor, Belltown resident, college student, two lovers, group of elementary school children on a field trip, vacationing family, juvenile Chinook salmon, two senior citizen friends, kayaker, jogger, osprey, and so forth (5 minutes).
2. Select a Post-it note color for each of your characters. Write the activities each character would likely engage in on the site, one per Post-it note, and place the notes onto the base map where that activity would occur. Also define when this activity will occur: summer/winter – weekday/weekend – day time/night time (10 minutes).
3. Take off your single-character hats and be other users, including yourself; add, discuss, and refine the content and position of the notes (10-15 minutes).

### **II. SPACE** (approximately 40 minutes)

In the second exercise:

1. Using your LIFE set of desired uses and locations, develop the spatial and programmatic elements that would support the users and uses you have identified. What facilities (cafes, kiosks, toilets, shelters, amphitheaters, steps, public art, plazas, play areas, seating, sidewalks, pathways, green space, beaches, tree bosques, shoreline and nearshore vegetation, saunas, swimming, boat launch, docks, floating platforms, habitat areas, interpretive facilities, steps, etc.) would you need to include and where would they be located? How many would you need and what size would they be, thinking about seasonal/diurnal changes (20 minutes)
2. Draw/diagram your facilities on a tracing paper overlay of the site, and label them. If it helps, you can use Post-it notes before doing the drawing/diagram (20 minutes).

### III. BUILDING (approximately 40 minutes)

In the third exercise:

1. Check the adjacencies of facilities to make sure the spaces have a good relationship with one another. Adjust as necessary (5-10 minutes).
2. Determine the quality of each facility; note these on the tracing paper (5-10 minutes).
3. Now determine what quality the edges of each facility should have to define and activate the spaces in-between them (5-10 minutes).
4. Draw/diagram these on your tracing paper overlay, and label them (5-10 minutes).
5. Determine what other qualities each facility might have (its height, form, proportion, thickness, color, texture, etc.) (5 minutes).
6. Decide whether other elements are needed to support the active use of the space during different times of the day/night, for different events (think community celebrations, fairs, performances, etc.), and in different seasons. Record these on your base plan (5-10 minutes).
7. Redraw your overlay with the activities, facilities, and qualities labeled.

### IV. PRELIMINARY PROGRAM and CONCEPT

Now work together to write a preliminary program for the site. What are the **activities, qualities, and facilities** that you want to see there? Your program document should express the important elements that a design team would need to plan the kind of place that you would like to see for this site.

You will use this program to generate your initial district **concept**. You may wish to use Gehl's competition brief for the Carlsberg site to get you started (pp. 39-47), such as using their categories of "Identity," "City Life," "Urban Form" and "Sustainability." What considerations are important to address in this waterfront district?

You'll present your **program** and **preliminary concept** in class on Monday (see Assignment 3a).