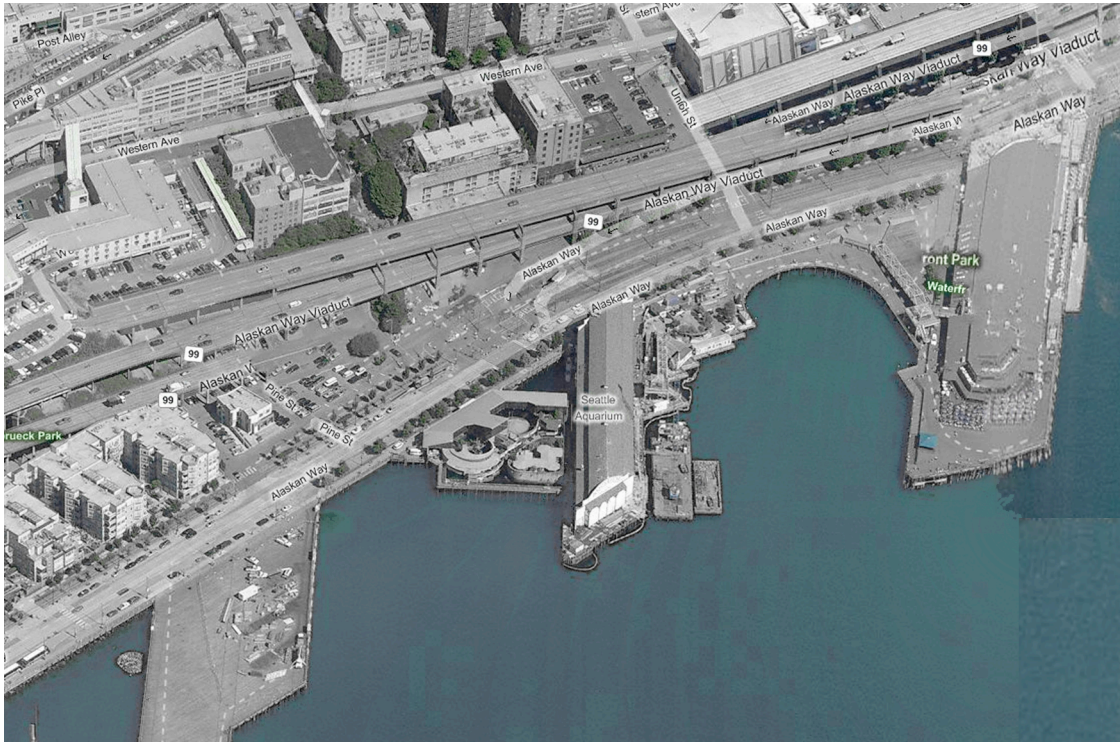


# Public Spaces | Public Life for Seattle's Central Waterfront

ScanIDesign Master Studio, Autumn 2011 [Larch 504/Arch504]

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With Gehl Architects: Bianca Hermansen



## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Seattle's Central Waterfront is heralded as one of the most significant civic projects in the city's history. With imminent removal of the Alaskan Way Viaduct and replacement of the aging Elliott Bay Seawall, Seattle has begun to envision a great "waterfront for all." Removal of the viaduct will create abundant new and qualitatively different public space, while the seawall replacement will provide opportunities for a more ecologically functional edge.

### WATERFRONT SEATTLE'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR SEATTLE'S CENTRAL WATERFRONT:

- Create a waterfront for all.
- Put the shoreline and innovative, sustainable design at the forefront.
- Reconnect the city to its waterfront.
- Embrace and celebrate Seattle's past, present and future.
- Improve Access and Mobility (for people and goods).
- Create a bold vision that is adaptable over time.
- Develop consistent leadership—from concept to construction to operations.

Our studio focus is to imagine and develop an active, vibrant and multi-dimensional public realm that serves a multicultural, intergenerational population; to propose design interventions that reclaim the waterfront as an ecological space, both aquatic and terrestrial; and to identify planning strategies and opportunities to connect the Central Waterfront with the rest of the city. These tri-partite goals align with the priorities developed by the guiding Central Waterfront Partnerships Committee, which emphasize *Connections, Partnerships, Vibrancy and Diversity of Experiences and Identities*. Public involvement over the last year has expanded on these goals, with results of public participation events published on waterfrontseattle's website: <http://waterfrontseattle.org/Survey/>

Our focus will be on the waterfront district with some the richest opportunities for public design: at the Seattle Aquarium and the two park sites that bookend it, Pier 62/63 to the north, and Waterfront Park to the south.

Transportation connections to the waterfront—especially transit and cycling from the north and south, pedestrian access east to the Pike Place Market and city center and water access to Elliot Bay and Puget Sound—will also be critical your planning and design proposals.

During the term, our Master Studio will benefit from the involvement of Gehl Architects, who have consulted with the City of Seattle to improve the pedestrian and environmental quality of the city's downtown in a Public Space | Public Life (PSPL) study. We'll benefit from additional waterfront analysis work last summer by the Green Futures Lab / Gehl Interns, and last year's Master Studio that addressed a larger segment of the Central Waterfront. Throughout the quarter, we'll build on the Copenhagen study tour by employing and expanding on Gehl's 15 Quality Criteria and apply Gehl methodology as we develop our design, as well as creatively engage ecological considerations and implications of climate change. We will also interact with professionals and stakeholders who have been working on the waterfront, road and seawall re-envisioning and design through lectures, tours and design reviews.

Last year, after almost a decade of attention and debate about the viaduct and waterfront, James Corner Field Operations, an internationally renowned firm/team, was hired to develop a guiding plan for the waterfront. Concurrently, a team (led by Tetra Tech) has been developing alternatives for the seawall replacement, which are influencing the shoreline design; our work will both draw from and potentially contribute to those ongoing efforts.

## **COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

- to explore site analysis and temporary site activation methods that engage public interaction and response;
- to become familiar with and inspired by national and international waterfront development examples;
- to explore strategies for creating a democratic public realm that is ecological, resilient, regenerative, and economically and socio-culturally viable;
- to explore, implement and expand on Gehl Architects' urban design concepts and methods to promote a lively urban realm;
- to develop and apply ecological infrastructural planning and design to foster vibrant and green urbanism, addressing future challenges such as climate change;
- to incorporate ecological science as a design determinant, including aquatic systems;
- to apply evaluation metrics to anticipate actual social, environmental and/or economic performance of design interventions;
- to develop clear and compelling graphic and verbal communication skills;
- to practice working effectively in interdisciplinary teams;
- to practice working between scales, using both large and small scales simultaneously to each inform the other.

## **EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the culmination of the studio, students will:

- understand key issues and potential design approaches for ecological urban waterfronts
- be facile with implementing recognized public space planning principles and design criteria
- have advanced personal planning, design and design communication skills
- have gained an appreciation for and ease with language used by related disciplines
- have increased insight and skill for working in teams

## **STUDIO PROCESS and EXPECTATIONS**

We will meet Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 1:30 to 5:20 (students are expected to be in class and work Fridays on group or individual projects) for *group presentations, discussions, field trips, working time and desk critiques*. Occasionally we'll go beyond these times for special events and work times. This term you will primarily work in groups on analysis/interpretation and conceptual planning/design level endeavors, with options to work in groups, pairs or individually at the detailed design scale. Each participant is expected to be in class during the scheduled class time, and to participate as a full member in your teamwork. When Gehl Architects are scheduled to be in town, we expect you to be in studio at all times, and plan on slightly longer days and scheduled sessions outside of

class time to best make use of Gehl Architects' time (recognizing conflicting work and school commitments.) This may require some planning, such as Tuesdays and Thursday desk crit times.

You are highly encouraged to continue your sketchbook from Copenhagen (or start a new one) that documents your research and design explorations. Consider including your research and design process, notes from readings, class discussions and community meetings, solutions seen, heard, and imagined, and your reflections and conclusions about process and product.

## **READINGS AND RESOURCES**

The required book for the term is Jan Gehl's most recent, *Cities for People*, which has been ordered by the UW Bookstore. Two optional texts, *Urban Design* (Waterman and Wall) and *Ecological Design* (Rottle and Yocom) have been ordered at the Bookstore for you. We have developed an extensive list of Resources, many of which are on Reserve in the CBE Library and on-line (see attached). Over the term we'll compile a studio library to support your work, and you are encouraged to share new resources with each other as you discover them throughout the term.

**COURSE WEBSITE:** <http://courses.washington.edu/gehlstud/>

File Sharing: Catalyst Sharespace for simple file sharing: <https://catalyst.uw.edu/sharespaces/space/krm/14471>

Final Projects: U Drive

To log in under windows, right-click the red "N" in the lower left corner of the screen and select "Novell Login" (the novell client has been installed on all lab machines in the college). Click the Advanced button, and make sure the parameters are set to the following:

Username: larc504  
password: waterFRONT  
Tree: UWCAUP  
Context: COURSES.CAUP  
Server: [jabba.caup.washington.edu](http://jabba.caup.washington.edu)

To login on a mac, use the menu item /Go/Connect to Server/ from the finder and enter [jabba.caup.washington.edu](http://jabba.caup.washington.edu) (tree and context are not needed on a mac). Enter your username and password, then select the volume USERS.JABBA. This volume will be mounted on your desktop. Open it to find the course folder. For the macs in BE labs, there is an application on the dock and in the Applications folder called "Mount Jabba" that automates this.

Please remember to log out of the U-Drive when you are done to prevent files from being deleted by other users.

## **STUDIO EVALUATION**

Evaluation will be based on departmental criteria and college standards, with a numerical grade at the end of the term for Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning students and evaluation forms for Architecture students. Evaluation will be based roughly on the following:

Analysis/Expressions Installation/Reflection	15%
Precedent Study	10%
Mid-term and Final Design Package (including book pages)	60%
Class Participation	15%

**CDs with all of your files, including scans of your process work, and your final posters are required at the end of the term as well as uploading to the Udrive.**

**Central Waterfront Planning web resources (links available on studio website):**

Seattle Central Waterfront SOQ

Seattle Shoreline Habitat Alternatives

Seattle Central Waterfront Stormwater

Seattle Central Waterfront RFQ

CW Project Background

Seattle CW – Alignment Documents

Seattle CW – Tunnel Diagram

Design Guidelines – Julia Levitt

Autumn 2010 Studio Site Analysis Posters and Case Studies

<http://waterfrontseattle.org/home/> **PLEASE REVIEW THIS WEBSITE FOR MOST RECENT RESULTS**

[www.facebook.com/waterfrontseattle](http://www.facebook.com/waterfrontseattle)

[www.twitter.com/waterfrontsea](http://www.twitter.com/waterfrontsea)

[http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/Central\\_Waterfront/PartnershipsCommittee/BriefingBook/index.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/Central_Waterfront/PartnershipsCommittee/BriefingBook/index.htm)

[http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/Central\\_Waterfront/Overview/default.asp](http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/Central_Waterfront/Overview/default.asp)

<http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/seawall.htm>

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/Viaduct/>

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/Viaduct/viaductSeawall.htm>

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/Viaduct/viaductSeawall.htm>

<http://www.8-80cities.org/>

<http://www.gehlarchitects.com/>