

Harbor Park Pavilion Competition

A place for crowds to gather in delight

The form of the new Boston harbor park pavilion originates in the wide arc of the harbor itself. The building presents the visitor with an interpretative environment representing the 'theater' of the harbor arc and its contents. The visitor approaches the building as a homecoming sailor would approach the harbor. At first sight, you will experience the scale of the coast which surrounds the constellation of islands in the harbor. Then you will negotiate passage through the islands embedded in the harbor. Finally, beyond the surf you will be oriented to the spectacle of the vertical city perched at the edge of the sea.

Features

- Innovative braced glass beam structure
- Glass roof fountain
- Evaporative cooling design using flooded roof
- Building form educates public about the harbor environment



GLASS ROOF DETAIL



Design Proposal

The pavilion is developed as a pedestrian continuation of the surrounding park landscape. The occupiable roof is made of glass flooded in summer to represent the aquatic environment of the harbor. Shaped stone columns indicating each of the harbor islands will spring from the interior floor to penetrate the roof and become visible as an ensemble in the glass seascape. The flooded roof with its uppermost surf spray and cascading water roiling around the islands will become Boston's trevi fountain - a place for crowds to gather in delight and for children to frolic. On occasion the roof will be drained to become the greenway's own hatch shell, serving as either performer's bleachers or audience amphitheater.

The pavilion's siting allows sweeping rooftop views of the harbor itself as well as providing an axial view relationship to and from the nearby harbor park. Views to and from the Long Wharf slip will also be enhanced by the setback site. The upper roof is accessed either by climbing the glass tiers or through internal stairs or elevator. Viewed from the roof, the edges of the tiered water will become invisible, melding the water terraces and the ground level pool into one continuous reflective surface with interspersed islands. A rooftop lawn, trees and high season bar will offer comfort and refuge for those seeking the view. Visitors approaching from State Street will be offered a miraculous sight through a shaded glass wall to the underside of the watery amphitheater. A secondary entrance is provided at the north for visitors approaching from Quincy Market and the walk to the sea.

The interior hall is organized linearly from the main entrance with digital information kiosk, bookstore, information desk and cafe in sequence. At the end the cafe spills out through terrace doors to outdoor seating under the shade of the thrust balcony above. Inside, dappling sunlight will filter through the roof's water to play off the year round interior pool and the island 'columns' - in effect, placing the visitor on the floor of the harbor looking up at the water's surface.

JLA Role
Lead Design Architect

Personnel Jonathan Levi FAIA, Project Designer/Partner-in-Charge; Matthew LaRue AIA, Project Architect; Ove Arup

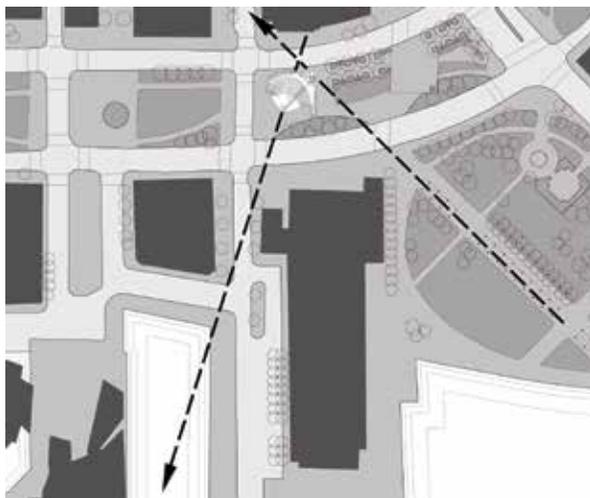
Client Boston Harbor Islands Partnership with the National Park Service

Location Boston, MA

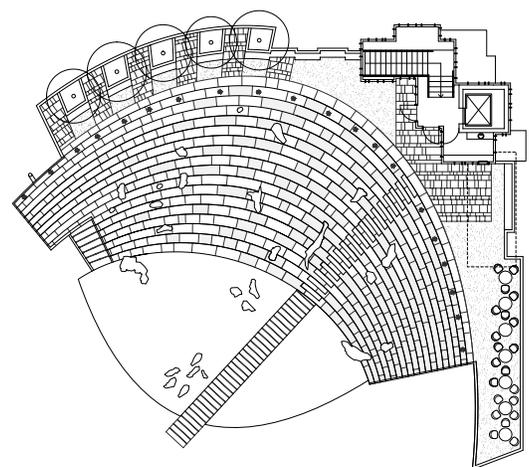
Size 2500 sf

Estimated Cost \$3M

Design Complete 2005



SITE VIEWS



ROOF PLAN