

NWC



Newark Visitor's Center - Portal to the City on the Meandering Passaic

The City of Newark was established along the Passaic River in 1666. The sinuous form of the Meandering River creates a definitive city edge, which evolved throughout the City's history – from a bustling industrial center to a series of underutilized parking zones. In contrast to the surrounding city, now based on a service economy with sports and cultural facilities attracting regional residents, the proposed site lags behind in urban revitalization, making it an ideal location for the new Visitor's Center. Witnessing the transformation of its edge, the River remains a constant, evoking movement by its nature.

Sited adjacent to the future Riverfront Park, the Newark Visitor's Center will serve as a threshold from the dense high-rise fabric of Downtown Newark to many diverse neighborhoods, such as the Ironbound. As part of the evolving waterfront open space network, the Center is a landscape of memory of Newark's past to the future, also serving as a portal to the future.

The Newark Visitor's Center is a dramatic landform that mediates the scale of Downtown and the Ironbound. Its shape, derived from the Meandering Passaic, includes a sweeping profile and sinuous lines of glazing. Contemporary in form, the transparency allows an onlooker's gaze to flow through the Center, from the City to the River.

The Center's curvilinear form promotes ease of movement. Just as the Meandering River erodes its edges and collects deposits, the Center's layout creates spaces for people to collect and gather. The program spaces are set back under a green roof. These volumes, like stones along a river edge, are wrapped in maps of Newark and display event information. In the evening, video screens emblazon the night sky and appear through the curving ribbons of glazing the landscape. Like eyelids, the Center's openings reveal something special about Newark! A place to learn about Newark's past, its present, and a view to its green and sustainable future, the Center is a landscape of opportunity – and like the River itself, a witness to City's transformation through time.

Inside, beneath the sweeping green roof, all of the building's elements are on view. Permanent program spaces include an auditorium, gallery, store and café, but also include flexible spaces that can be reshaped as the need arises. The green roof and ample glazing mesh indoor with outdoor, highlighting a landscape of natural beauty, as it meanders in time with the Passaic – as a portal to the great City of Newark.



site plan

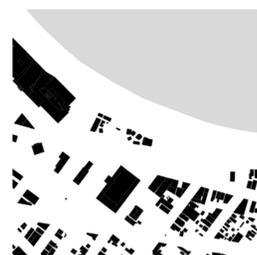
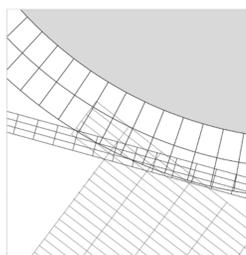


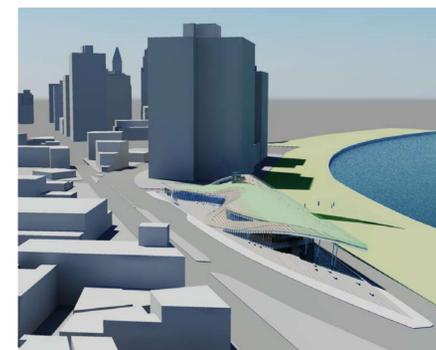
figure / ground



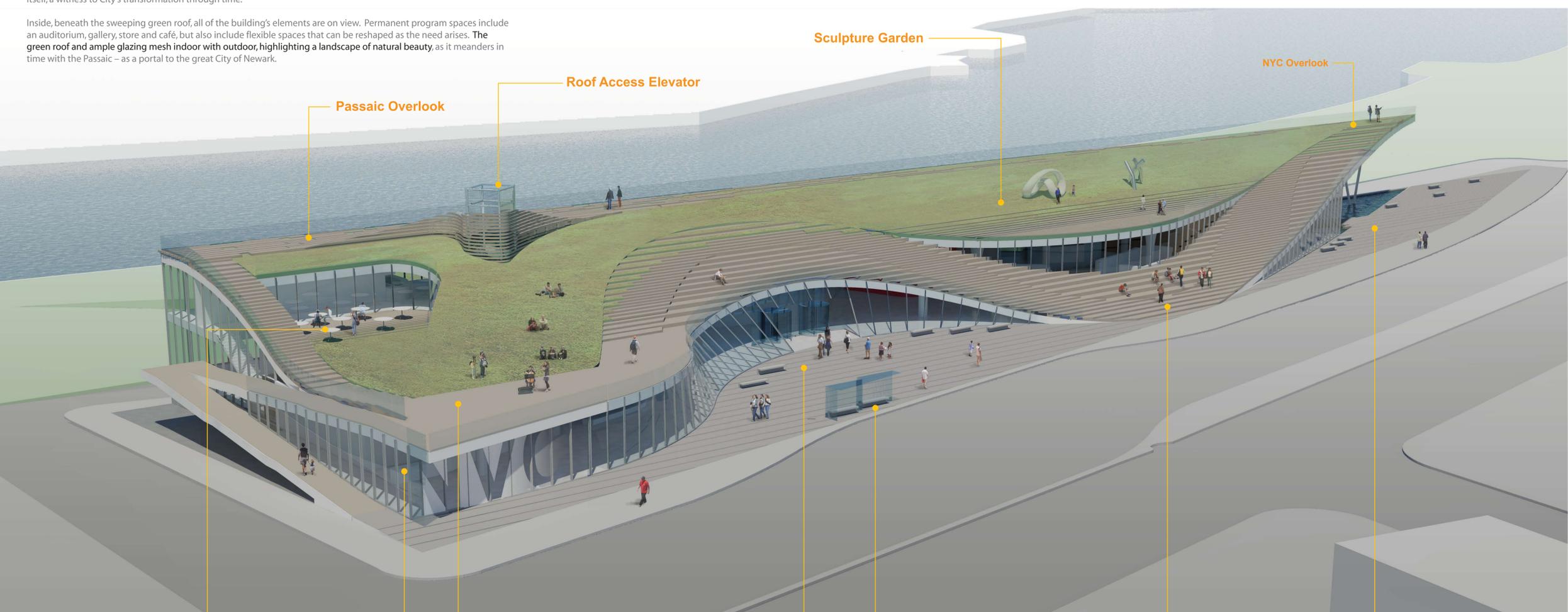
city grid / fabric



meandering / flow



view looking west



Passaic Overlook

Roof Access Elevator

Sculpture Garden

NYC Overlook

Open Air Café

Bike Tour / Rentals

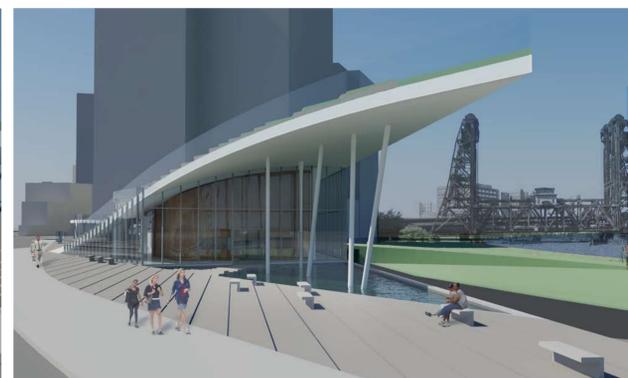
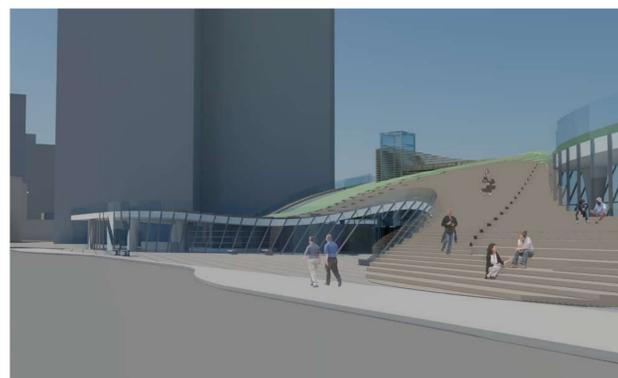
Informal Performance Area

Open Plaza with Main Entry

Tour Bus Drop-off Pick-up Area / City Bus Stop

Wood Steps / Urban Terrace

Open Plaza with Water Feature



View From Riverfront Park

Night View at Market Street

View Looking towards Main Entry and Steps

View Looking towards Roof overhang & Auditorium

wood path/ decking/seating
 Access to roof sculpture, roof garden, roof cafe.
 Allows views to the river and back onto the city.
 Path elements become steps as well as seating
 as a place to sit and experience Newark.

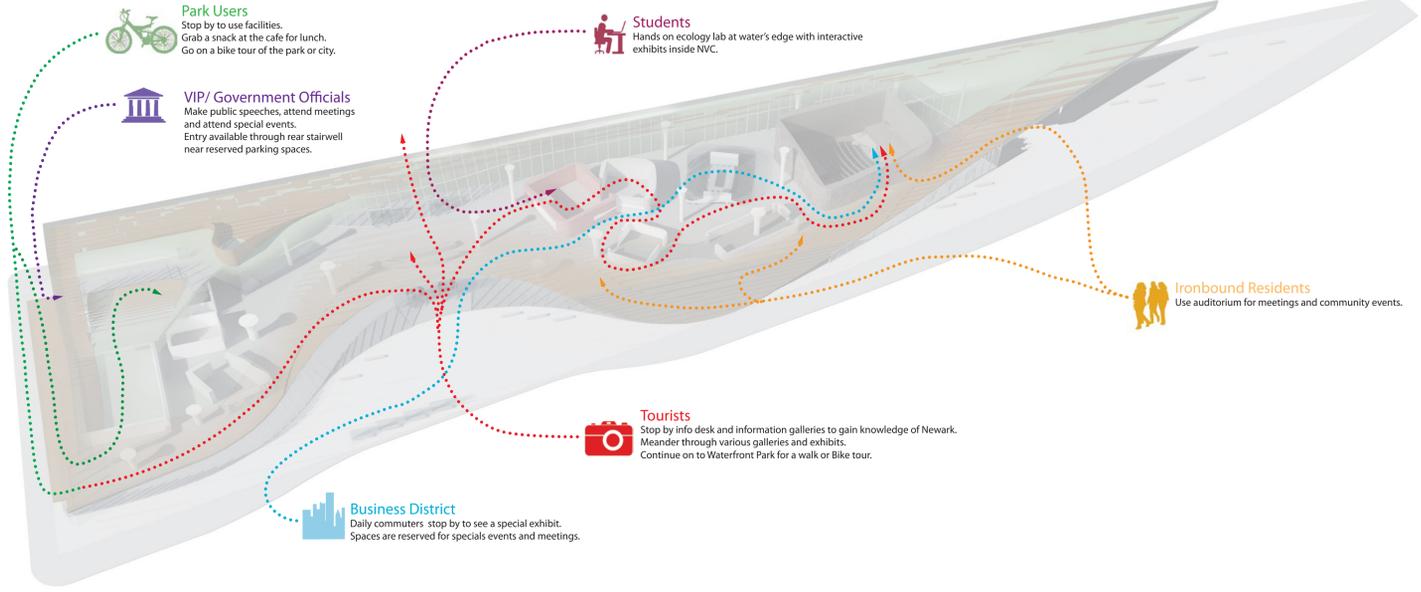
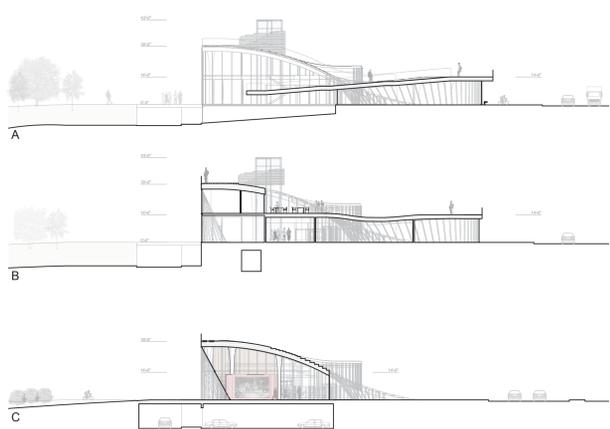
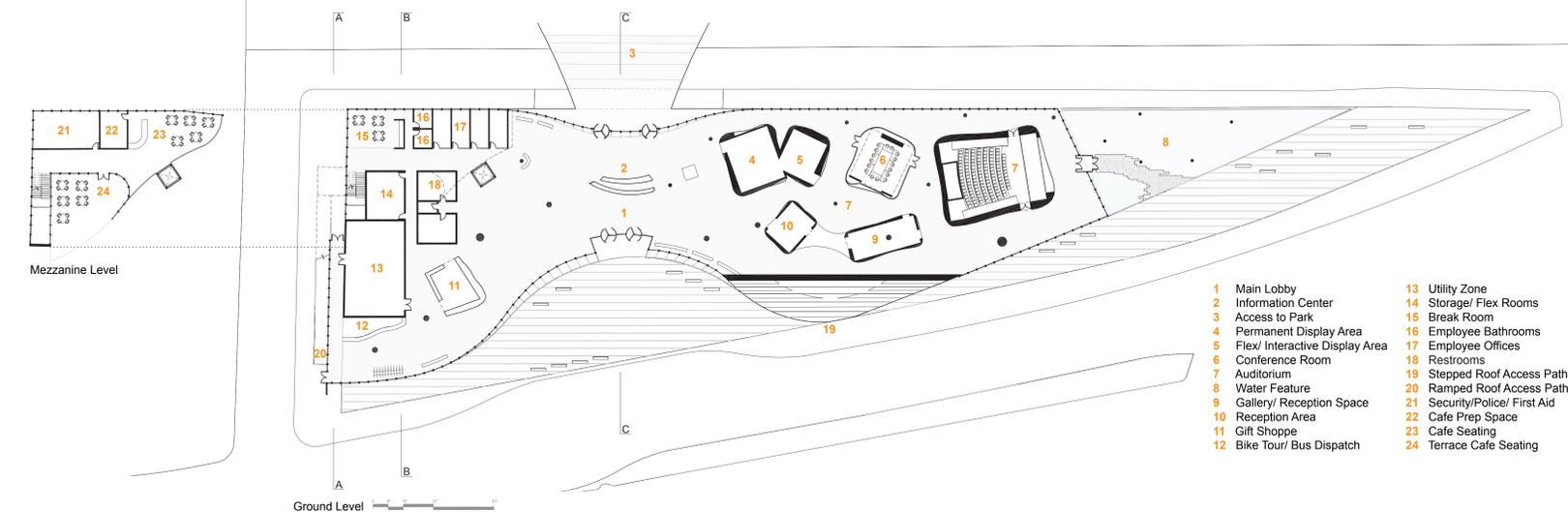
planted roof
 Planted area for the community and as an
 extension of the riverfront park.

glazed enclosure
 As the roof lifts from the ground transparent
 enclosure allows views inward as well as
 outward linking the city's past with the present.

enclosed program
 Scattered deposits of enclosed program
 encourages the visitor to meander through the
 spaces. The walls covered with information
 and exhibits of Newark inform and direct the
 visitor.

open circulation field
 An open field of structural columns encourage
 movement through the center. Placed with the
 same flowing logic of programmatic spaces,
 the columns force one to meander through the
 exhibits.

parking/ hardscapes
 45 Parking spaces. Parking located behind and
 below the visitor's center allows visitors to
 either venture on to the waterfront park or
 go directly into the visitor's center.



Interior view looking towards gift shoppe and out to open plaza



View from information center into gallery and exhibit spaces

