

# Master Innovation & Development Plan

# Technical Appendix



**TITLE:** Library of Parts  
**Interpretation:**  
**Snøhetta**  
**(Sites 3 and 4)**

**AUTHOR:** Snøhetta

## ABSTRACT

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Three leading architecture firms used the Sidewalk Labs mass timber library of parts to conduct design explorations for Quayside's five building sites, prioritizing a mix of uses throughout buildings, energy-efficient building design, and the needs of a diverse population. These design explorations demonstrate that new developments can achieve design excellence as architects reconfigure and assemble the Sidewalk Labs timber building blocks in original ways, allowing for unique, customizable, and welcoming spaces. Michael Green Architecture provided design explorations for Quayside's Sites 1 and 2.

**Most relevant sections:** Vol 1 (Quayside Plan)  
Vol 2 (Buildings and Housing)



## Library of Parts: Snøhetta's Interpretation

Sidewalk Labs brought on a team of world-class architects and landscape architects to explore the potential of their vision for Toronto's waterfront: one that uses a nearly 100% mass timber structural system and a radical mixed-use program unprecedented in its hybridity, use and versatility.

The following pages represent Snøhetta's four-month prototyping study on two of the five parcels at Quayside. In their interpretation of Sidewalks' radically flexible urban systems, the proposal reconceives the public realm, offers compelling, site-specific architecture composed from a standardized library of structural elements, and unlocks new possibilities for designing with mass timber.







# *Quayside - Gateway to the Port Lands*

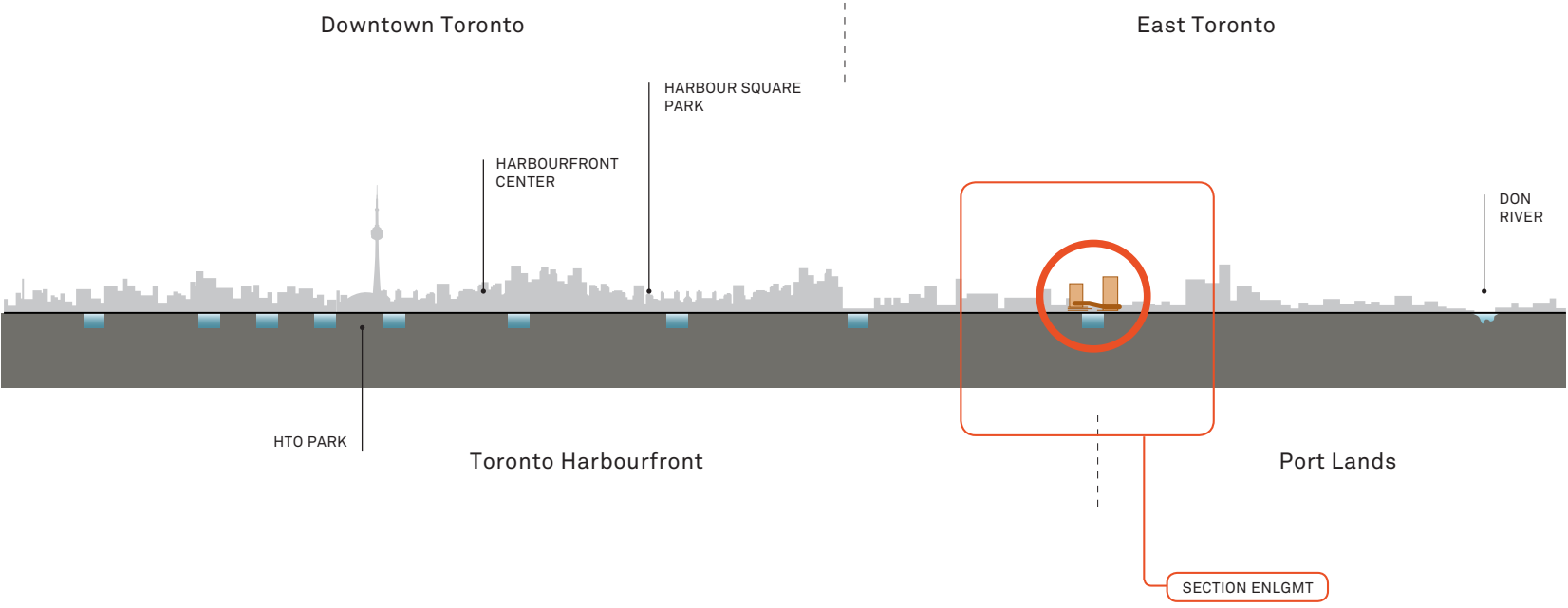
At the northeast corner of Toronto’s Inner Harbor, Quayside lies at the transition between the Harbourfront to the west and the restored Don River and Port Lands to the east. It also falls along the Parliament Street axis that begins at Rosedale Ravine, passes by the Distillery District and extends out through the Eastern Channel

to Tommy Thompson Park. At this juncture between downtown and Port Lands, land and water, Quayside marks a new Toronto destination and gateway. The project’s building massing integrates into the existing fabric of towers and infrastructure, yet its timber construction signals a different type of development. Existing

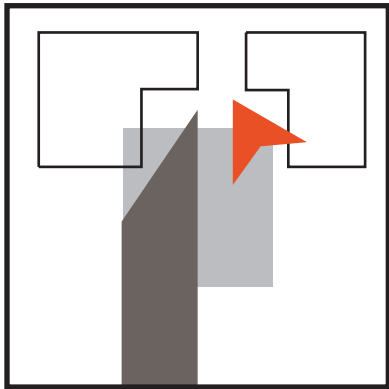
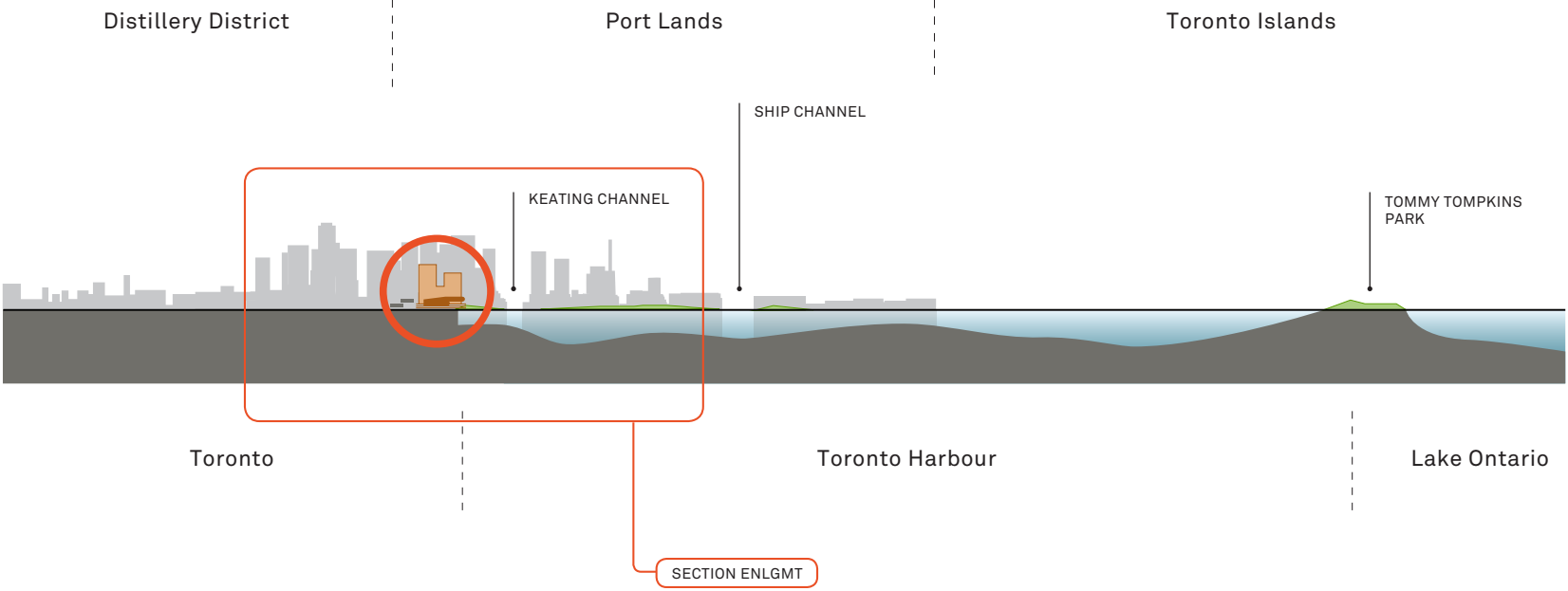
and proposed buildings work together to frame Parliament Plaza, an urban room that showcases Parliament Slip and the waterfront at its core.



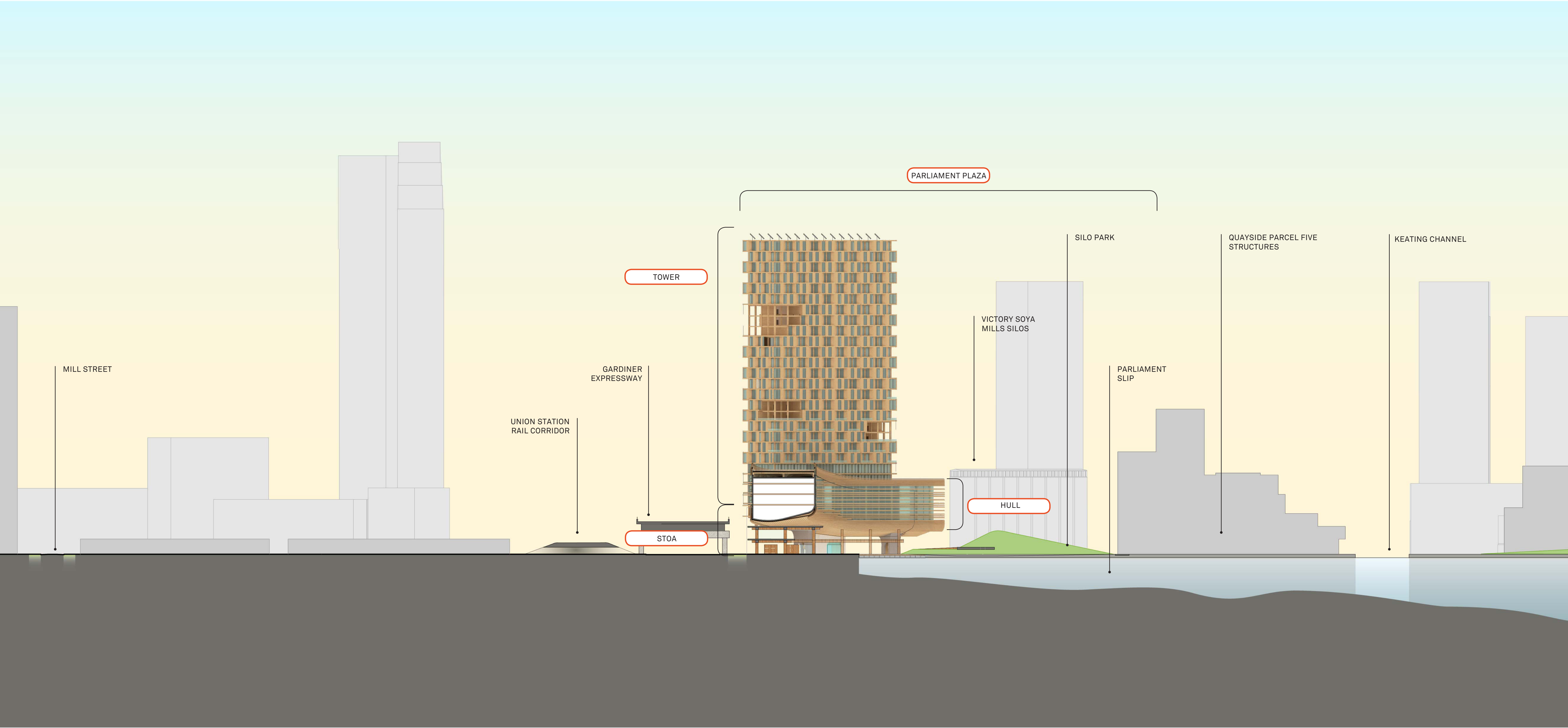
CITY SECTION



HARBOUR SECTION





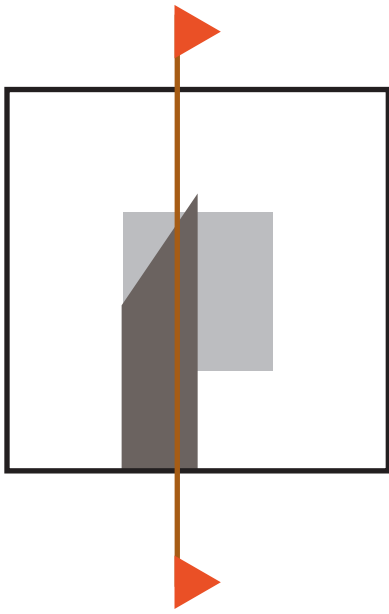


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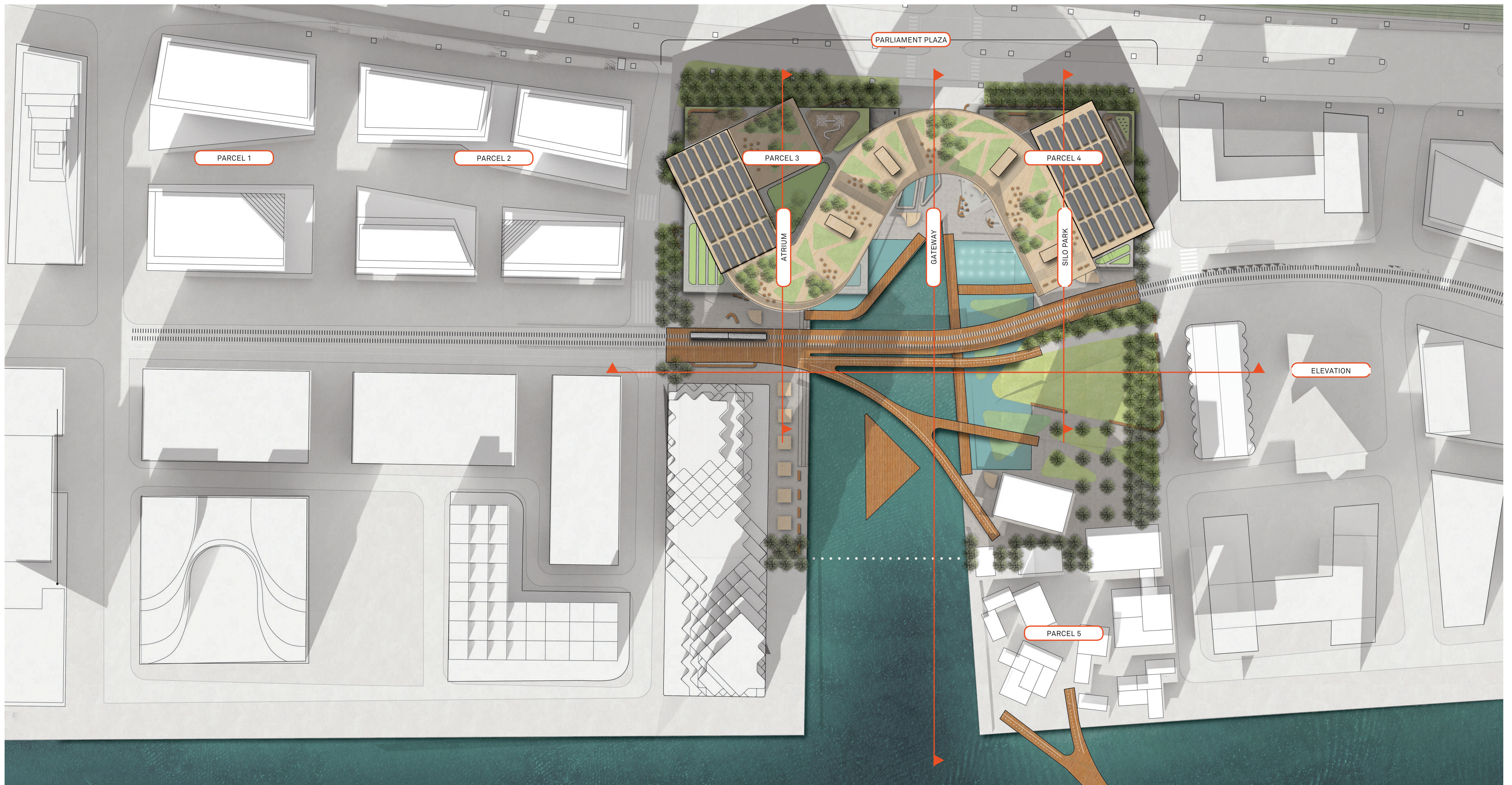
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# Parliament Plaza

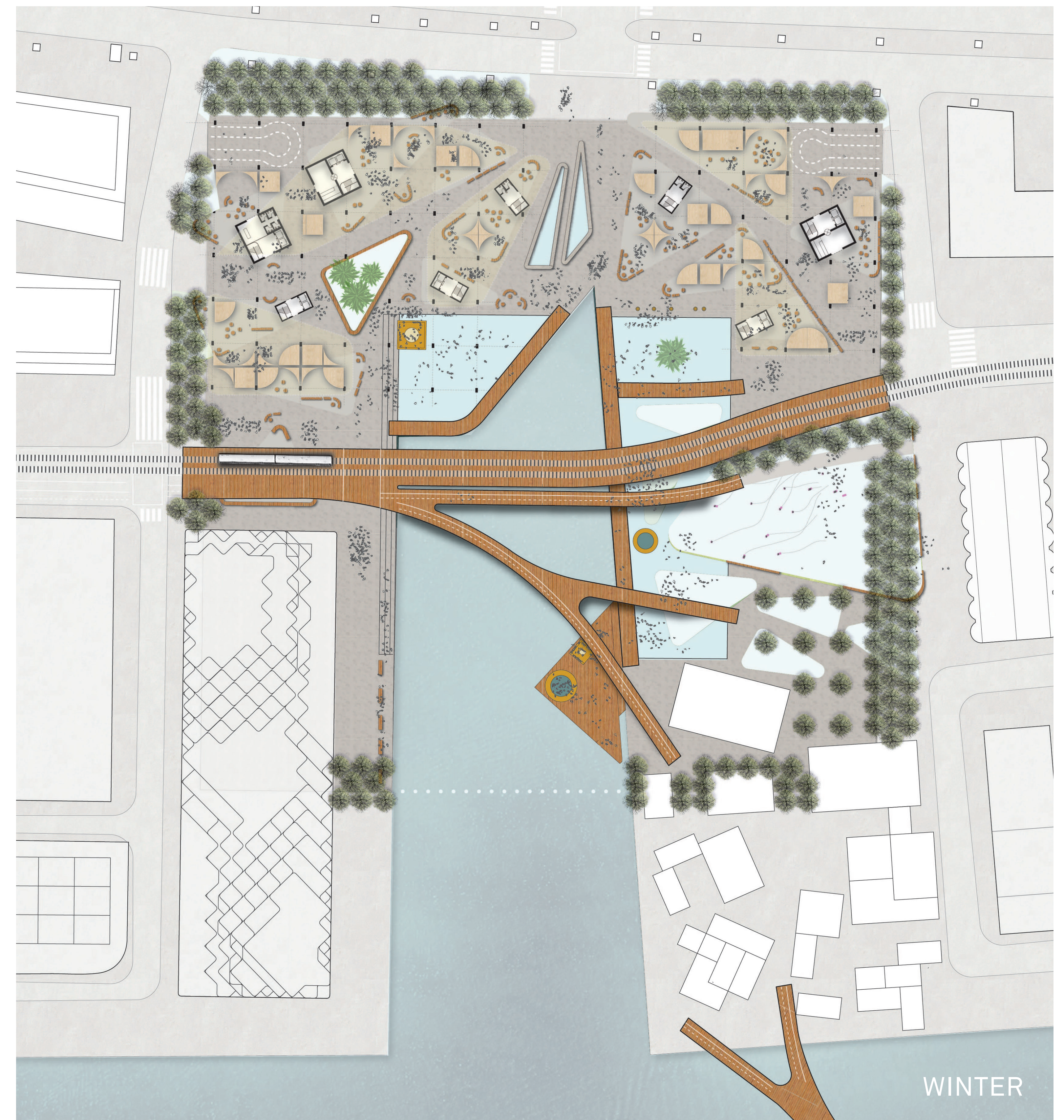
Water defines the heart of Parliament Plaza. The bulkhead of Parliament slip is preserved and surrounded by a set of water features, expanding the perception of water as the plaza's central surface and giving the urban room a generous scale. The slip and its associated water features create a center for the surrounding urban

elements – five gateways to and from the Don Lands are linked by wooden bridges; Silo Park spills into the plaza; and existing and proposed building masses find frontage on the water centered plaza. A paved surface and street trees further frame the plaza, tying together inside and outside, water and non-water into a dynamic set

of flexible spaces that adapt to the seasonality and activity of the Toronto waterfront.







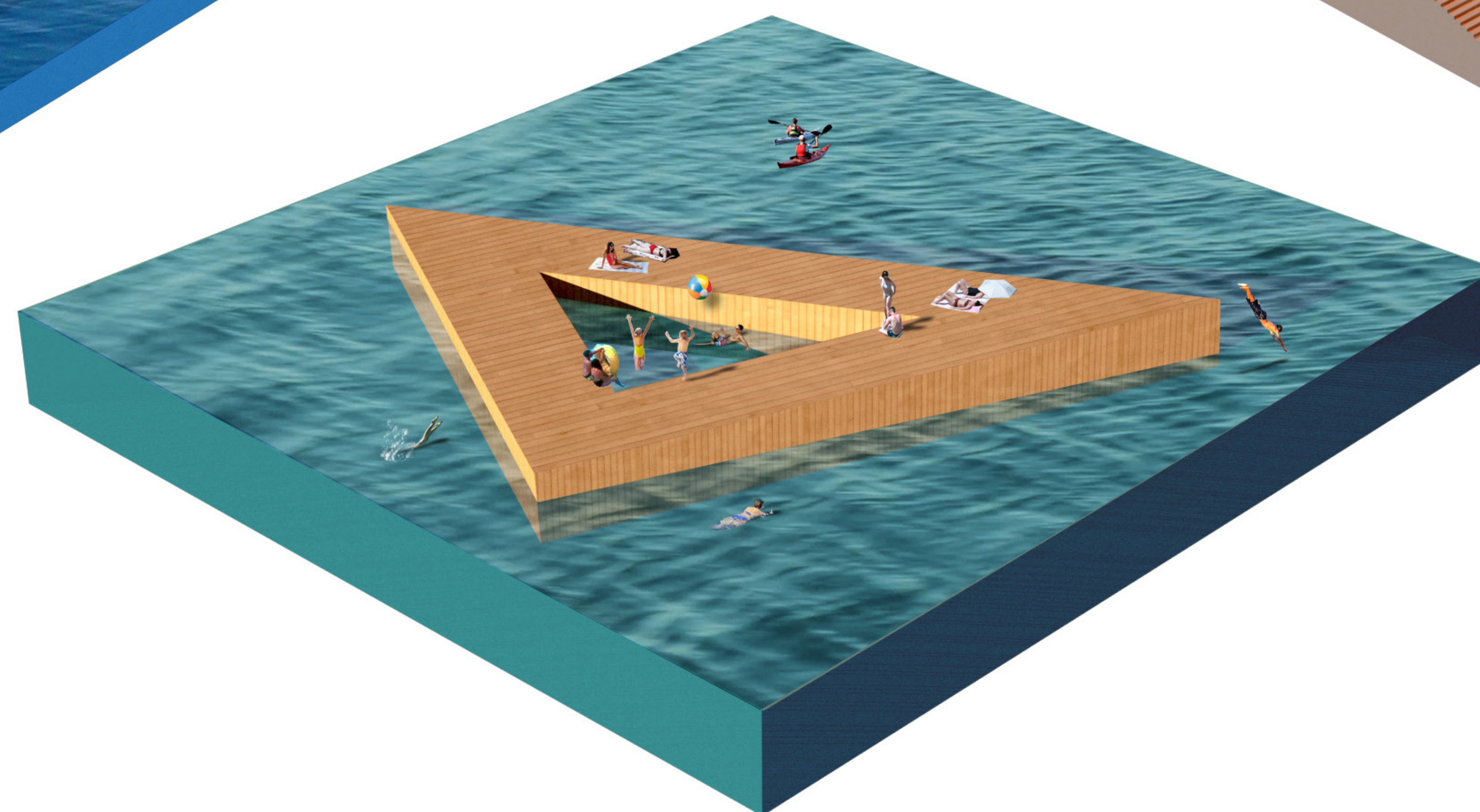
## An Urban Theater

Parliament Plaza functions as an urban theater. Its water and paved surfaces stage different types of urban performances – from busy, day to day use by residents and workers, to cars, bikes, trains, and trams using transportation infrastructure, to vibrant festivals, markets, and performances drawing all of Toronto. The

stoa levels above create rigging and mezzanine surfaces, making opportunities for adaptation to future uses. Sets of movable furnishings and carefully placed scenery introduce props and backdrops to allow transformation and activation of the plaza by people. Core structures provide secure entry points to the buildings above, but

also provide restrooms, kitchens, and other wet/fixed program elements to support the flexible uses. Together these design elements allow Parliament Plaza to be radically different across the seasons.

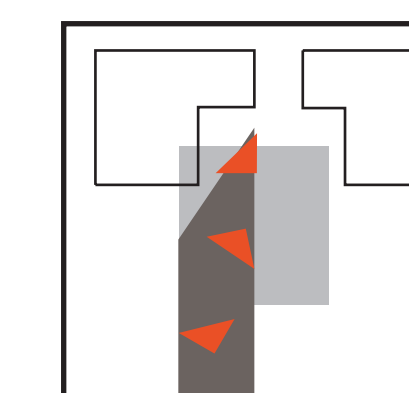




## *Adaptable Element - Floating Island*

The triangular geometry of Parliament Slip is a unique historic aspect of the Quayside site. A 'missing piece' floating island could playfully reference this quirky site condition, yet allow for dynamic use as it moves around the slip across the year. As a floating island, it could host a variety of public uses - a sunning and bathing

destination in the summer, boat launch in the fall and spring, and sauna in the winter. It could also be detached altogether and be a place to store public plaza elements when not in use. When plugged into its corner of the slip, the surface expands adjacent plaza areas allowing for different types of larger scale gatherings.





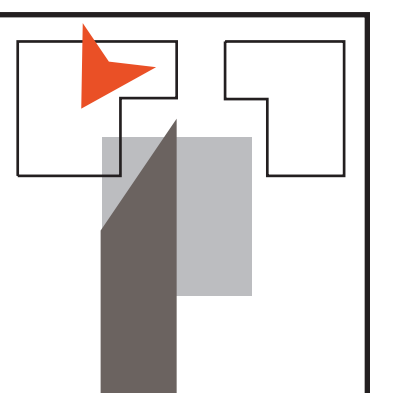


## Winter in the Stoa

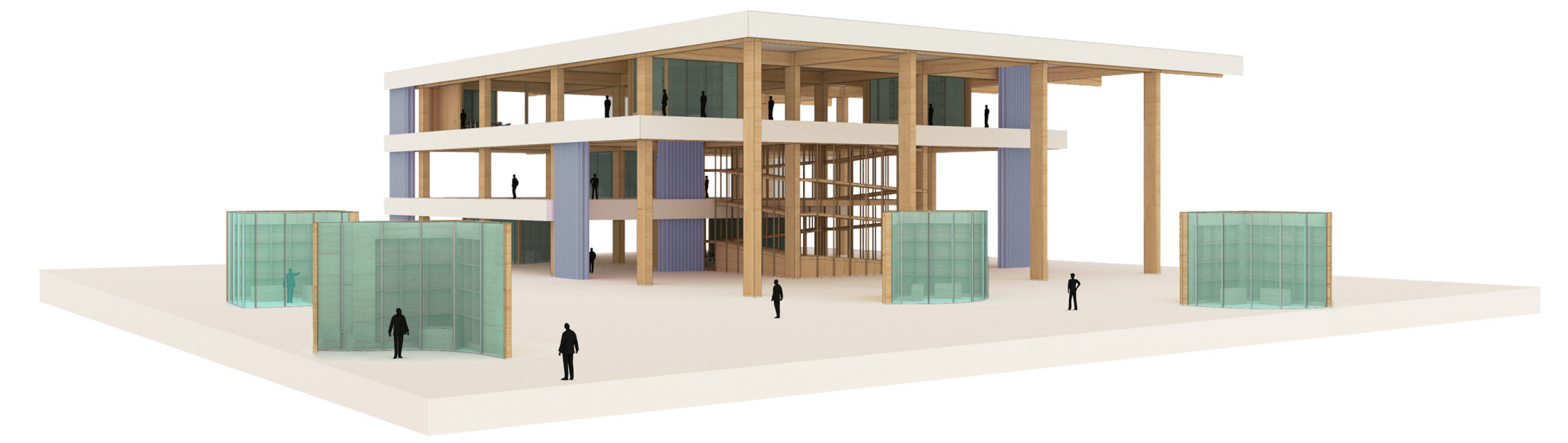
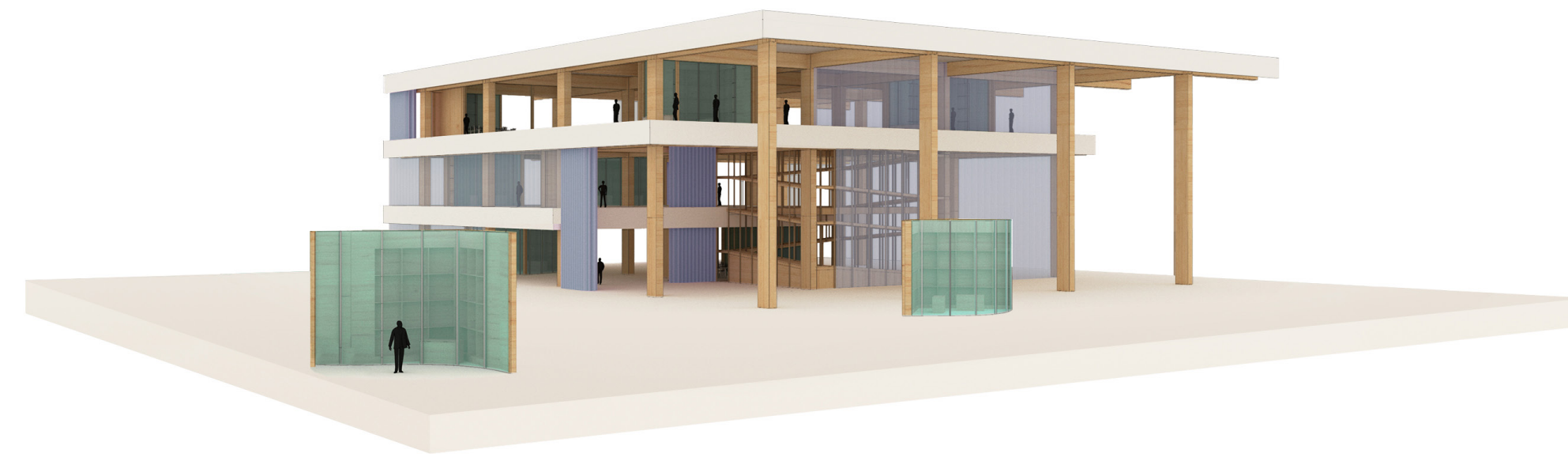
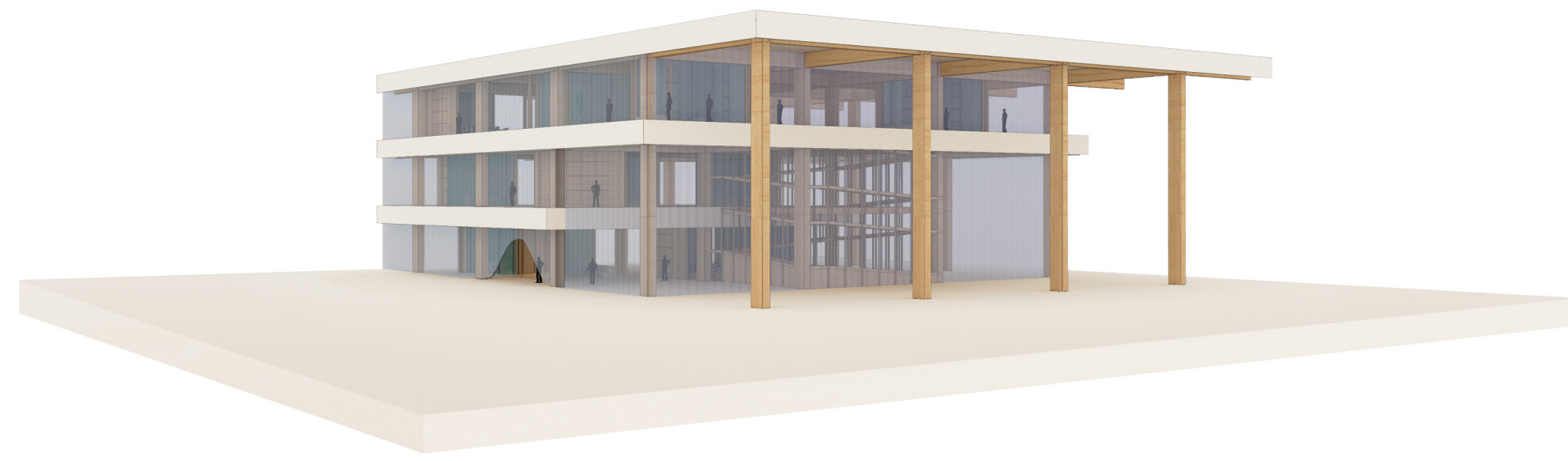
In the wintertime, stoa areas of Parliament Plaza transform into a series of clustered market places where non conditioned kiosks and their vendors pack into vibrant groups, taking advantage of movable enclosure and efficient heating from the structures above. On the western side of Parliament Slip a planted open air atrium serves

as a focal point, uniting pathways that lead to and from adjacent buildings and the waterfront. Mobile, conditioned kiosks remain in the non-conditioned spaces of the stoa supporting a changing set of wintertime activities – snow play, winter market shopping and as shown here, ice skating upon one of the flexible water features.

Inset mezzanine levels of the stoa create a density of uses across the year, yet also allow sunlight deep into the space during the winter months.







WINTER



EQUINOX



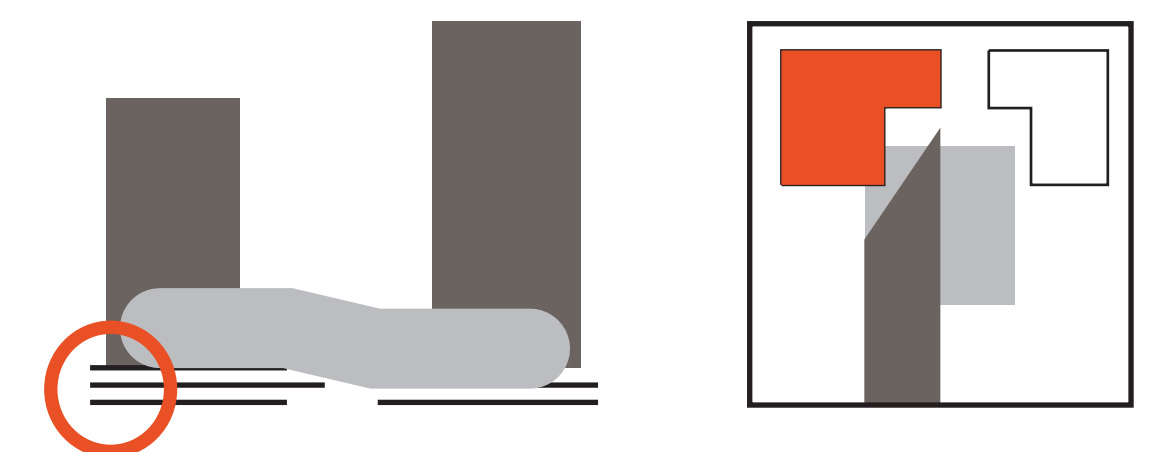
SUMMER

## Interior Plaza

The stoa structures of Parliament Plaza function as park-like pavilions creating multiple levels of public realm for adaptability and climate control. The beams, slabs, columns and cores are fixed, while a set of mobile kiosks and deployable envelope panels allow the space to expand and contract. This selective mobility syncs the building

across the seasons and with large scale events such as plaza-wide art festivals and concerts. The stoa remains open air across spring, summer, and fall seasons, with conditioned kiosks, cores, and stoa shade offering relief from heat. When temperatures drop in the winter, portions of the stoa are semi-enclosed and gently conditioned

with clean exhaust air from the residential towers and the Hull above. Conditioned kiosks may land outside of these envelope areas offering semi-outdoor business opportunities such as coffee or ice-skate vendors.





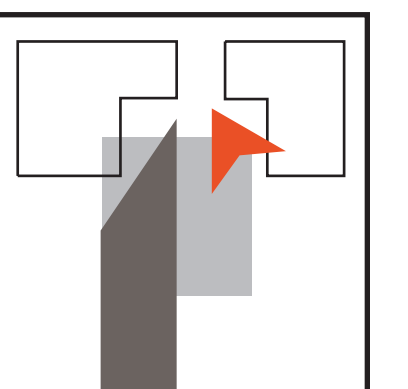


## Gateway to Parliament Plaza

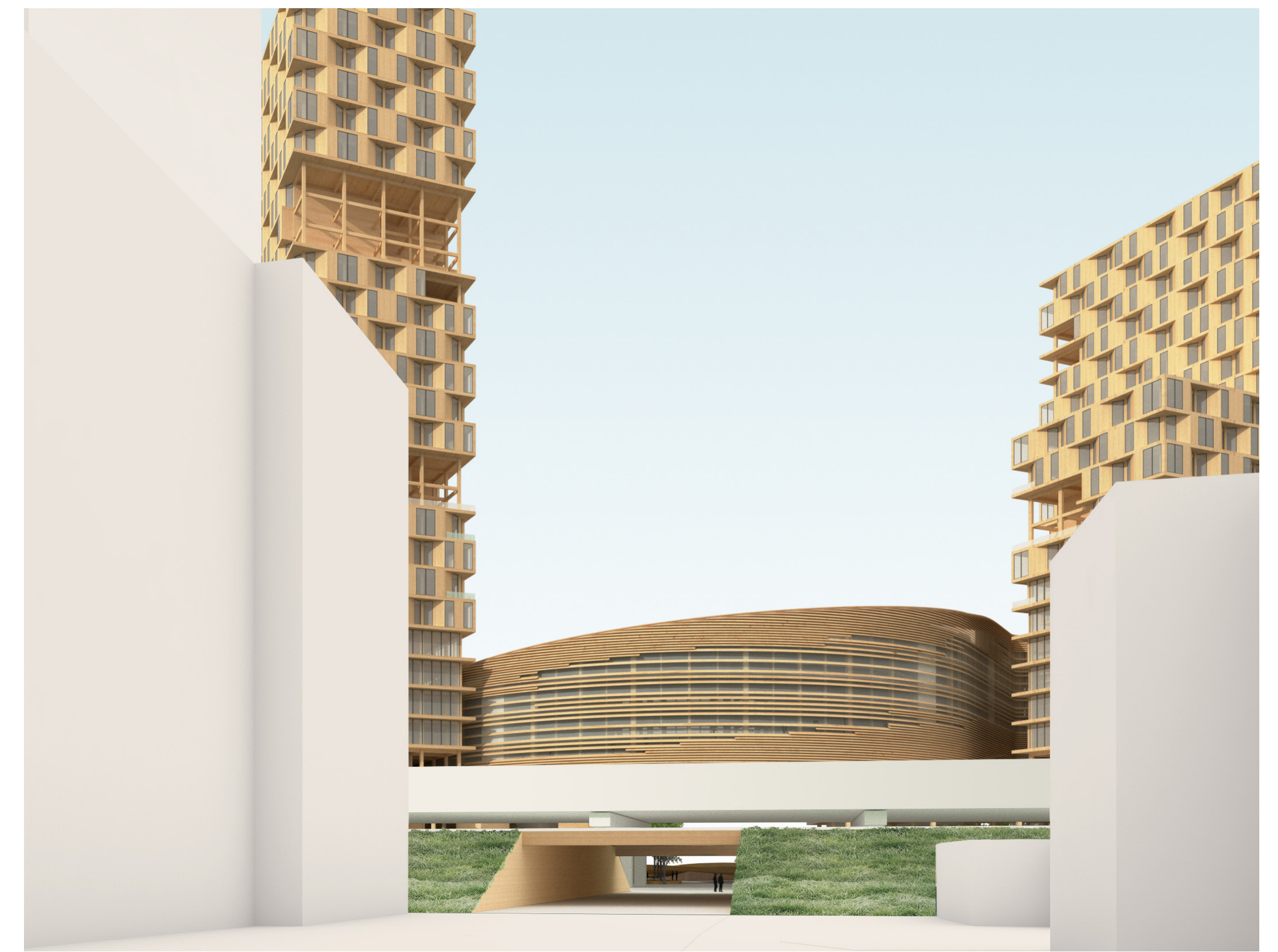
The urban sequence from the Distillery District to Parliament Plaza culminates in a set of increasingly open spaces - the low rail corridor underpass, the crossing under the Gardiner Expressway, the mass of the wooden hull, and the vast open of the lakefront and Ontario sky. The stepped sequence of spaces southward is

mirrored by an expansion and celebration of water northward. The existing edges of Parliament Slip are preserved, yet re-imagined as people friendly zones to walk and sit. Areas on either side of the triangular slip become managed water surfaces, easily flooded or drained to expand and contract the hardscape areas for ease of dynamic

programming. Likewise, triangular wedges of water extend the slip further north, bringing water to the edge of Lakeshore Boulevard and with a vertical presence serve as a marker of the entrance to Parliament Plaza.





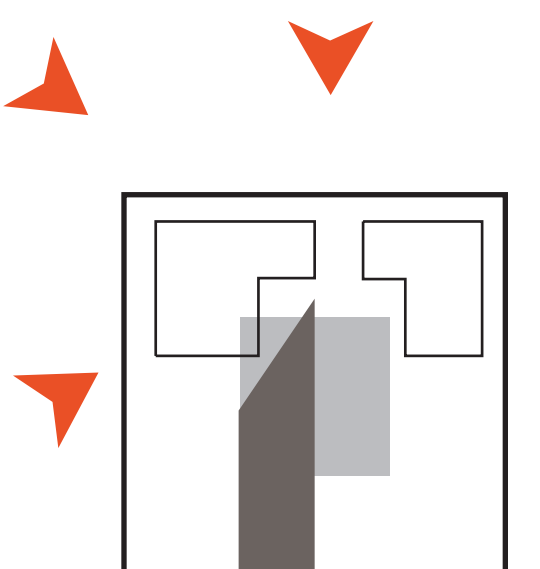


## *Distinct and Contextual*

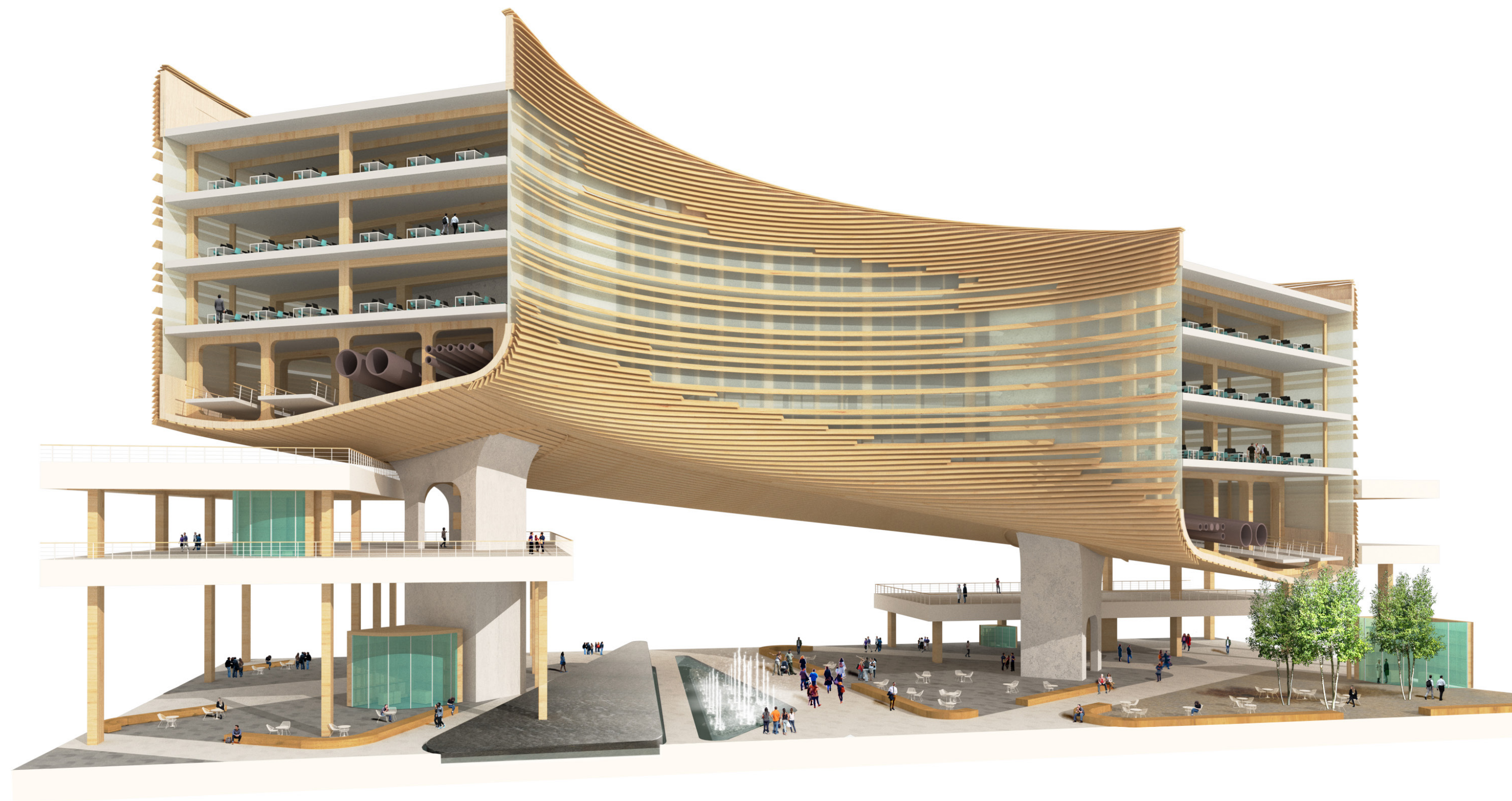
The architectural massing and character of the buildings unite Parcels Two and Three to the Toronto Waterfront context, yet set it apart as a distinctive urban moment. From outside the site the horizontal grain and curved massing of the Hull punctuates the strings of towers that stand between the Gardiner Expressway and Queens

Quay. On the north side of the expressway, the Hull marks the gateway from Parliament Street and the Distillery District to the lake front and Port Lands. This urban expression is identifiable walking down Parliament toward the water or speeding by in a train or car. On Queens Quay the towers step back, allowing for a more humane

scale street wall. The Hull massing draws continuity eastward, complementing the set of bridges across the slip. In addition, its massing along with the vegetation and landform of Silo Park help to ground the historic silo structures and frame them as a major destination across the slip.







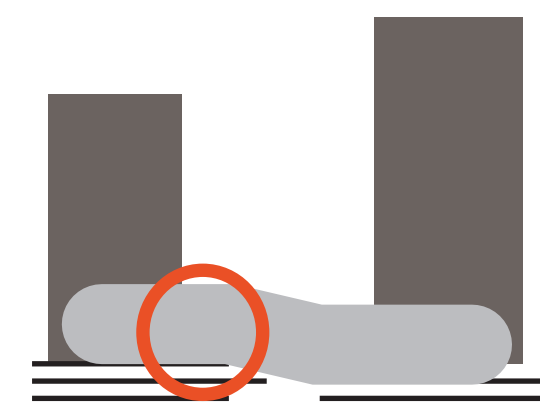
## *The Hull and Plaza*

The center portion of the Hull spans the space between Parcels Two and Three, marking the major entry point to the plaza from Parliament Street. In this location the span is clear, creating an open zone that contends with infrastructure to the north, yet provide a clear and distinctive entry point the waterfront. Two floor plates span entirely across the two sides of the site, uniting them.



## *The Hull and Stoa*

Within Parcel Two the Hull is at its highest elevation, creating a one-story sheltered zone upon the stoa rooftop. The mass helps delineate roof top spaces, creating lake and downtown focused views and zones. The structure of the hull is based upon the structural system of the stoa, and relies upon a lower truss level to span between ranks of columns and cores.







## A Landmark for Parliament Plaza

The Hull unites the northern edge of Parliament Plaza, creating a backdrop to the public water surface at its center. The curvature of the building establishes continuity across parcels, but also allows for a tailored fit to the existing urbanism of the site - the slip, Queens Quay, the major infrastructure to the north, and the silos to the

east. The massing stitches together and frames the surrounding urban elements while at the same time creating a distinctive place for work and business. Across its length, the vertical shift of the Hull creates a variety of outdoors spaces beneath - from fully public stoa zones to the east, to semi-public stoa roof tops on the west. These

areas provide semi sheltered spaces with vantage points to the activity of the plaza surface below.

