

Parliament Slip

Issues Identification 2

Feb. 28th, 2024

Project Description & Background

Parliament Slip

Proponent: Waterfront Toronto Design Team: West 8 + DTAH, MJMA, Moffatt & Nichol,

MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects Review Stage: Issues Identification 2

Background

- Waterfront Toronto proposed a plan for activating the Parliament Slip in April 2021.
- Project was presented to DRP for Issues ID in April 2022.
- WT is overseeing the development of the design and construction of this project, in collaboration with City of Toronto.
- Construction of the lake filling mobilized in fall 2023.

Project Scope Overview

- Public swimming pools (one large pool and one smaller leisure pool) and supporting facilities building
- Floating pier with concessions
- Accessible kayak/canoe launch
- WaveDeck and Head of Slip Urban Plaza
- Fixed transportation pier (marine node)

Project Timeline

- Construction of dockwalls and lakefilling in 2023-2025
- Parliament Slip Activation Pending Funding

Existing Context

Parliament Slip

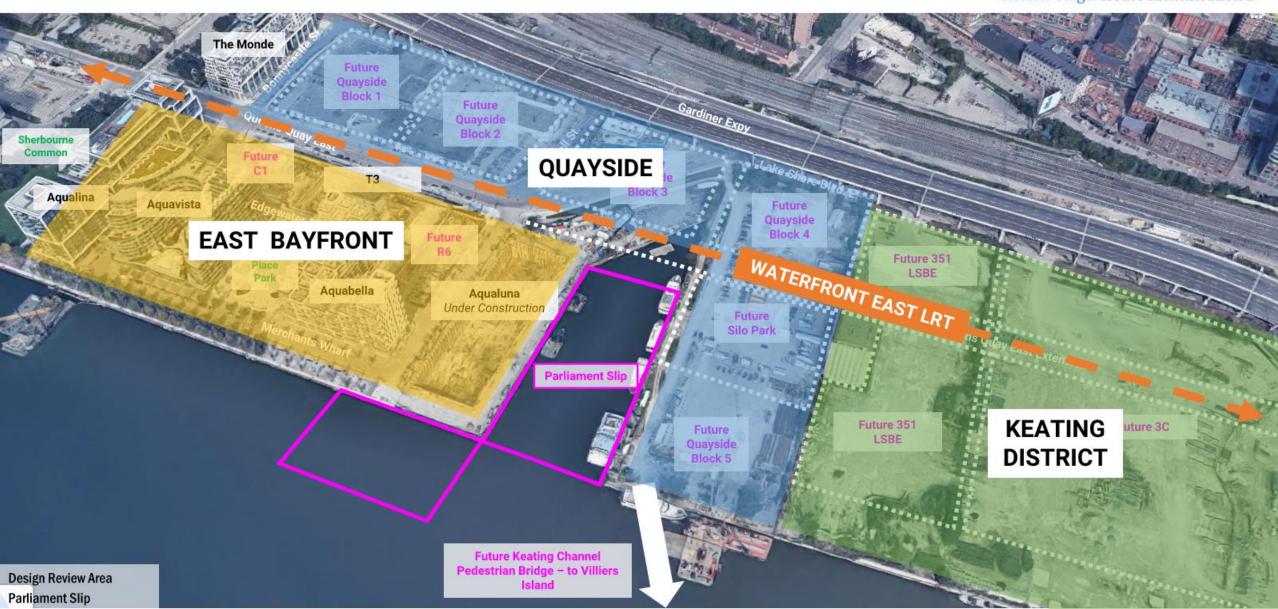
Proponent: Waterfront Toronto Design Team: West 8 + DTAH, MJMA, Moffatt & Nichol, MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects Review Stage: Issues Identification 2



Existing Context

Parliament Slip

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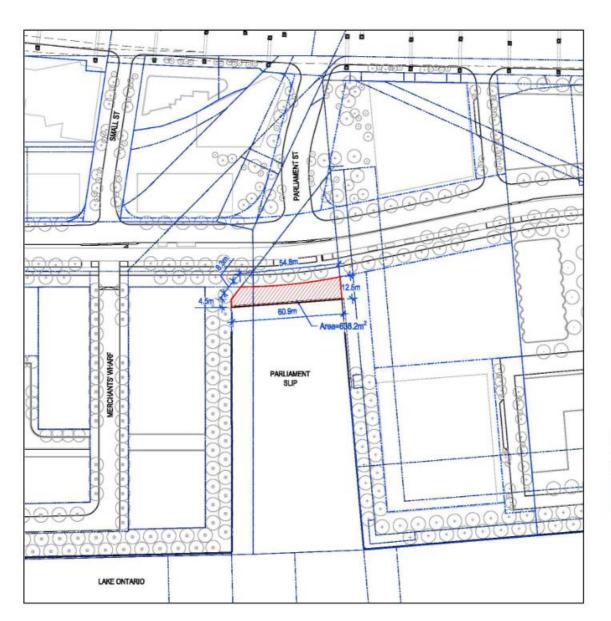
Lake Fill and Dockwall

Parliament Slip

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MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects

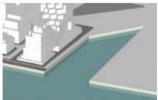
Review Stage: Issues Identification 2



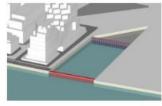
The head of Parliament Slip will be filled in to provide the foundation for the new Queens Quay East and expanded public realm and new road network as part of Quayside Infrastructure and Public Realm.

Timeline

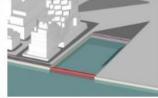
- August 2023: Construction mobilization
- January 2024-January 2025: Construction of new dockwall and lakefill
- 2025-2026: Infrastructure, servicing, and construction of Queens Quay East, Small Street, new Parliament Street, and Parliament Grove (more information to come)



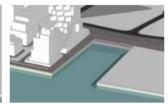
1. Existing condition



2. New dockwall install and dredging



3. Rock berm install



4. Lake infill complete

Existing Site Context (Head of Slip looking East)

Parliament Slip

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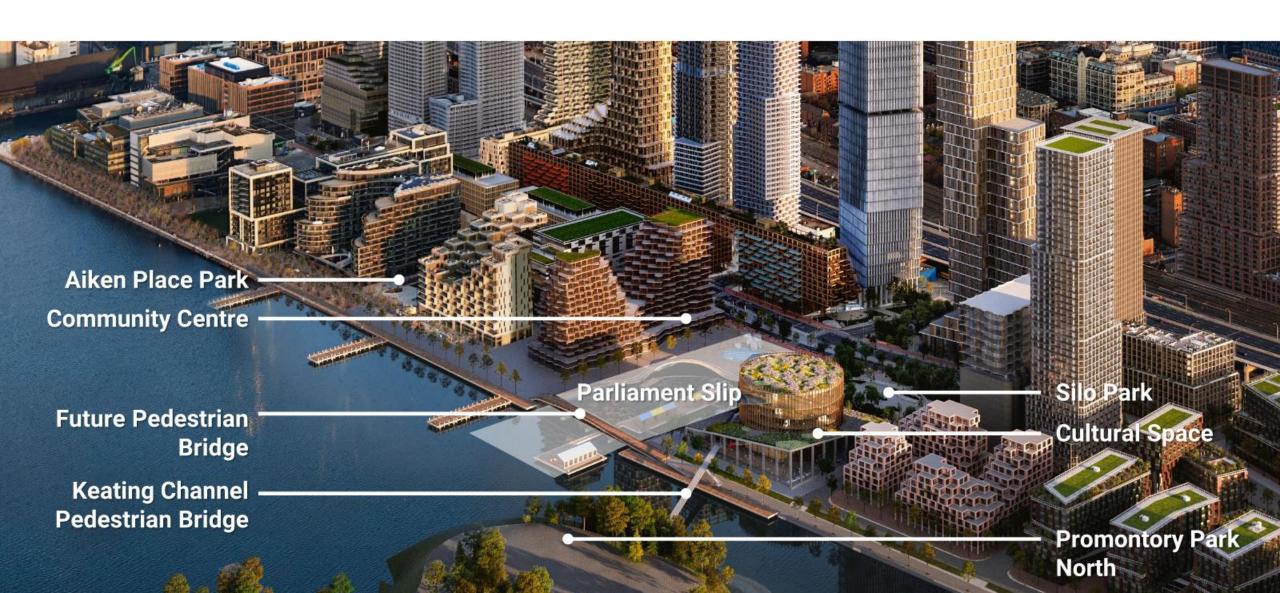
Lakefill and new Dockwall work in progress



Immediate Context

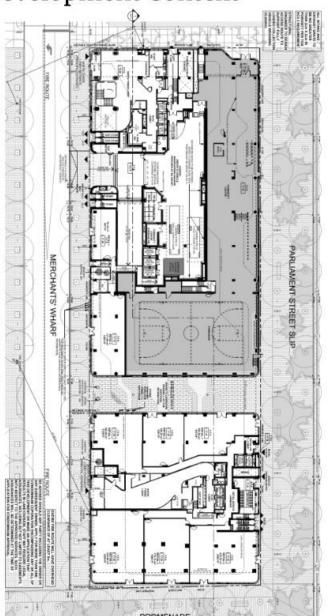
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Sept. 2018 DRP – A1/A2 Aqualuna

Development Context



Parliament Slip

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Harbour Pool Precedents – Waterfront Research

Parliament Slip

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Iceberg Pool at Bondi, Sydney: Iceberg Pool at Bondi Beach in Sydney has been around for more than 100 years and is considered the most photographed swimming pool on earth. Features a 50-meter adult pool and 25-meter shallow kids pool. Because of the pool's solid concrete construction, the water is always colder than the ocean, even though it uses the same water. Iceberg Pool has more than 140,000 visitors per year



Islands Brygge, Copenhagen: Designed by JDS
Architects and Bjarke Ingels Group, there are five
pools, two of which are for children and three diving
towers and can accommodate 600 people. The
harbour bath has become a symbol for the presence of
leisure and water culture in the heart of the city.



Kitsilano Pool, Vancouver: Originally opened in 1931 and modernized in 1979, Kitsilano Pool is Canada's longest saltwater pool (137m) and remains Vancouver's only saltwater swimming pool. This pool is located near Kits Beach and offers breathtaking views of the Vancouver skyline. It has been included on CNN Travel's list of world's best places to swim.



Harbour Baths, Aarhus Docklands: Designed by Bjarke Ingels Group, Aarhus offers the world's largest seawater bath experience featuring a circular diving pool, a children's pool, the 50-meter lap pool and two sauna's located underneath the public boardwalk. The adjacent boardwalk features concessions including restaurants and beach huts. 25,000 people visited this new amenity in its first week of operation in July 2018.



Gord Edgar Downie Pier, Kingston: The first deep water urban swimming pier in Canada. Since it opened in 2018, it has become Lake Ontario's most popular swimming location, especially for students at Queen's University.



Bassin de la Villette, Paris: The floating pool opened on July 17, 2017 and includes three natural swimming pools that receive their water supply from the Seine River, located in La Villette Basin. The floating pool was such a big success that the maximum daily limit of 1,000 people was increased to 2,000 to meet the demand. Spanning a total of 1,600 square meters, the pools are divided into a children's area, an area of medium depth and a larger deep pool.

Parliament Slip Initial Vision April 2022

- 1 Harbour Pools
- 2 WaveDeck and Canoe/Kayak Launch
- 3 Fixed Water Transportation Pier
- Floating Dock, Concessions & Restaurant



Extensive Engagement on Parliament Slip

Between March 2021 and October 2022, we engaged key stakeholders, government partners and members of the public to gather early feedback. We created 30+ opportunities through which we heard from more than 2,400 people across the city representing different socio-economic and cultural backgrounds.

- City of Toronto (Waterfront Secretariat, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, Planning, Indigenous Affairs)
- Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
- Aquatic Habitat Toronto, Ministry of Natural Resources, and Toronto & Region Conservation Authority
- Waterfront Design Review Panel
- Quayside Stakeholder Advisory Committee
- Public Opinion Survey
- Resident Associations
- Pop-ups Across the City:
 - Farmers Markets: College Park, Underpass Park, June Rowlands Park, Regent Park
 - Smorbasburg Food Festival
- Waterfront BIA (membership meeting)
- Focus Groups: Retail and Food Concessions



What We Heard: Positive Feedback

Overall, there is excitement about a family-friendly destination at the water's edge, outdoor swimming and broad support for the preliminary vision.

Design and Programming:

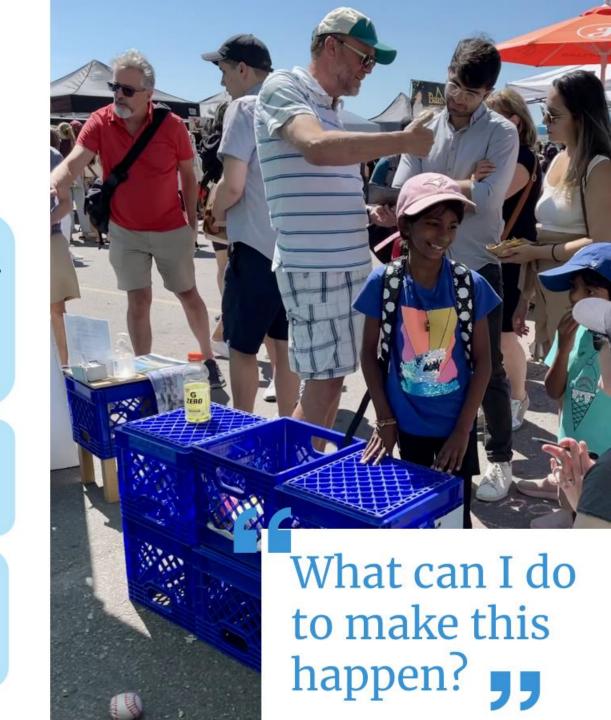
- "Thoughtful", "Exciting", "Magnificent in its scale", "A tourist zone in the east", "Unique and popular destination"
- Excitement for family-friendly destination, outdoor swimming, access to water-based recreation and eating by the water
- Outdoor swimming in colder months viewed as an attractive feature with approximately 85% of Toronto residents surveyed supporting it

Environmental Responsibility (Sustainability/Natural Habitat):

- Support for floating wetlands along the water's edge and aquatic habitat
- Support operating pool from sustainable energy sources

Activation:

- · Overwhelming desire for more food and dining on the waterfront
- · Operators are enthusiastic about being a part of this project
- · Strong support for 'mom and pop' style concessions
- Employment opportunities (youth, under-represented communities)



What We Heard: Considerations

Design and Programming Concerns:

- Avoid overcrowding/ overprogramming the slip
- Pools should feel visually connected to the harbour
- Maintain view corridors and avoid visual obstructions of the Parliament Street and Keating Channel
- Must be activated in all seasons, swimming in the extended season is desirable
- Manage potential conflicts between motorized and nonmotorized uses
- Ensure project elements/programming don't feel privatized and are fully accessible (economically and for people with disabilities)
- Consider and plan for potential noise impacts on nearby residents
- Integrate weather protection into the design (sun, wind, precipitation)
- Confirm feasibility of any elements beyond the PortsTO Easement/Purchase

Activation:

 Ensure year-round success: consider seasonality, delivery access, waste management, storage, etc.

Facilities and Site Access Concerns:

- Ensure safety and security measures can be incorporated (ie. fencing, lifeguarding)
- Ensure the pool has sufficient capacity to meet demand
- Need adequate and secure bike, canoe/kayak storage
- Vehicular access and parking for both visitors and locals should support program/ business
- Consider drop-off/ pick-up areas for equipment and tourists
- Plan for waste management and other operational requirements (i.e. delivery of chlorine)

Environmental Responsibility (Sustainability/Natural Habitat):

- Sustainability should be considered in the design, including building materials and energy sources
- Recognize the site's uniqueness: reinforce the biodiversity found at a water's edge (aquatic and terrestrial habitat)

Previous Consensus Comments

April 2022 Issues Identification 1 Review

Quayside: Master Plan

Proponent: Quayside Impact Design Team: Henning Larsen, SLA Alison Brooks, Adjaye Associates Review Stage: Preliminary Draft Plan

General

- Toronto is an Indigenous word that references trees in water, and Parliament Slip has the potential to reference that symbolism.
- The Parliament Slip WaveDeck is an evolution of previous slips and has the potential to take the typology to the next level.
- Consider Indigenous stories that can be unearthed and applied to the design. The interpretation of the elements: earth, water, fire, and wind, should be well utilized and integrated in the design.
- · Design for all ages and create a unique slip experience.
- Ensure the project is designed for a piece of public and marine infrastructure.
- Consider the water system narrative and didactic qualities of the project.

Program

- Concerned with the capacity of the slip with respect to the proposed programs, provide capacity numbers and scale comparison with the other slips at the next review. There may be too many programmatic elements for the size of the slip.
- Important to maintain views to the water from Queens Quay, carefully consider the geometric configurations of the elements as the design advances.
- Consider all types of mobility and marine use paraphernalia in the design: kayak storage, bike rings, ride share, scooter, and other rental facilities.
- Consider the design through the lens of equity, the programs should provide Torontonians an experience like an urban cottage.
- Consider adding a sauna as part of the pool facility.

Previous Consensus Comments

April 2022 Issues Identification 1 Review

Quayside: Master Plan

Proponent: Quayside Impact Design Team: Henning Larsen, SLA Alison Brooks, Adjaye Associates Review Stage: Preliminary Draft Plan

Pool Facilities

- Unanimous support for an outdoor pool throughout the year with no bubble structure.
- Consider flipping the pool to the east side to strengthen the relationship with Silo Park.
- Carefully consider the health impact of pool water used, i.e. salt water, avoid chlorinated water.
- Concerned that the change room and raised WaveDeck create a visual barrier from Parliament Plaza to the water, and does not create a strong enough Queens Quay frontage,
- Consider the ability to enter the pool from inside the change room and swim out to the main area, i.e. Place Bonaventure Hotel swimming pool is an urban precedent.
- Concerned that the pool is too far away from the water to create an immersive relationship with the lake, consider positioning next to the water's edge.
- It is important to diminish the visual presence of the fence as much as possible, consider placing it along steep changes in topography.

Pier Buildings

- Location of the restaurant should be further explored, consider relocating it to improve connectivity between Parliament Slip and Keating Channel.
- Provide a drawing showing more of the surrounding context at Schematic Design.

Sustainability

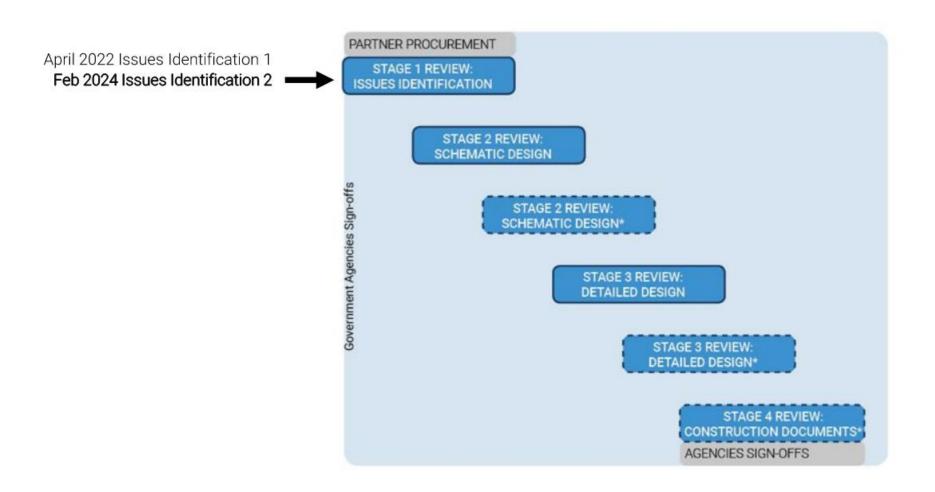
- Consider the utilization of waste heat energy to heat the pool.
- Explore ground source heating, snow melting system for the deck areas and develop a comprehensive sustainability strategy for the project.

Project Approval Stage

DRP Stream 2: Public land – Agency Approval

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Areas for Panel Consideration

Waterfront Toronto

Parliament Slip

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- Does the Panel support the revised vision plan?
- Has the design responded to the needs for:
 - Maintaining open view corridors?
 - Relieving the sense of overcrowding within the slip?
 - Reinforcing connectivity to the water?
 - Incorporating sustainable approaches to place-making?
 - Easing circulation conflicts between motorized and non-motorized watercraft?
 - Ensuring year-round success?
 - Ensuring safety and security between the pools and other programming?
 - Reinforcing the project's unique site?













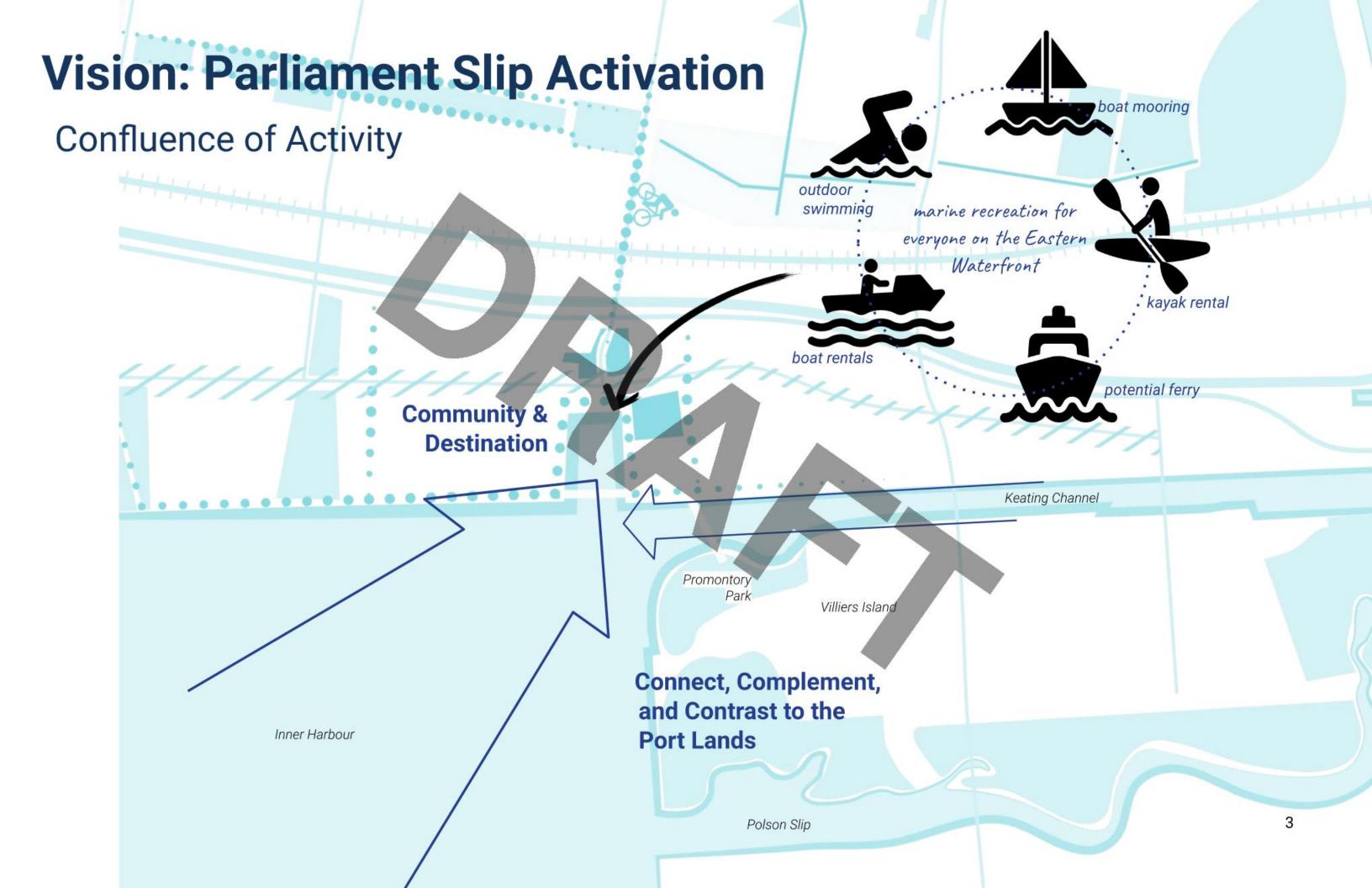






Masterplan Context: Head of Slip, Primary Waterfront

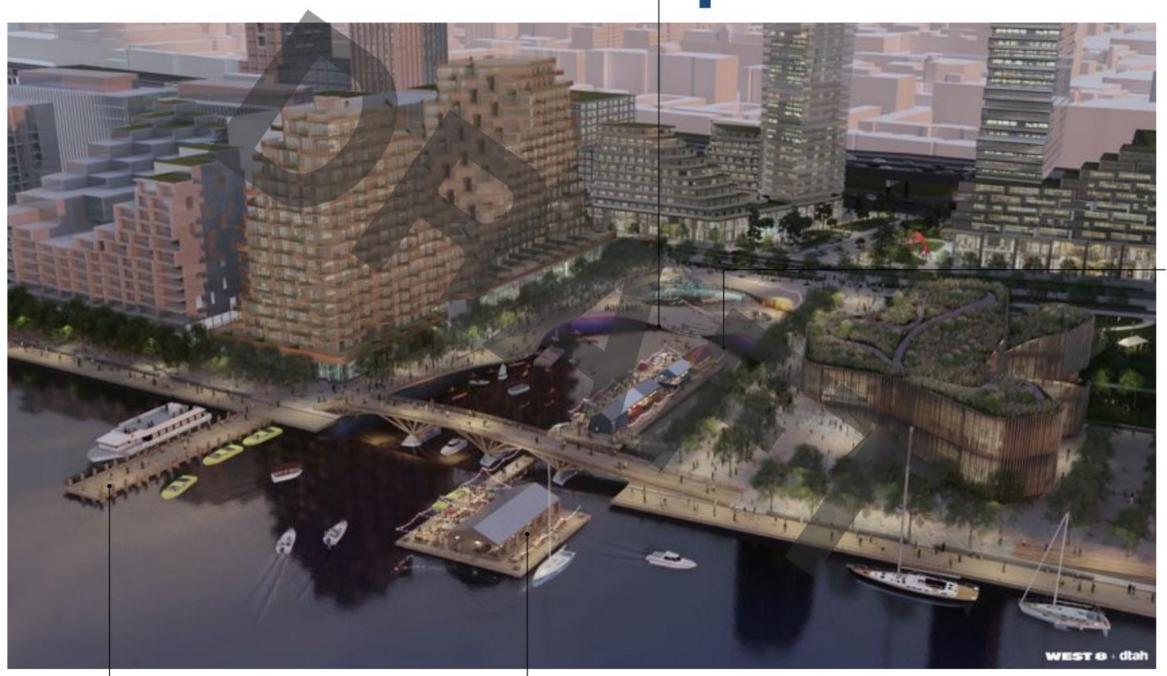




Where We Were

Parliament Slip DRP Issues ID, April 2022

WaveDeck and pool integrated together

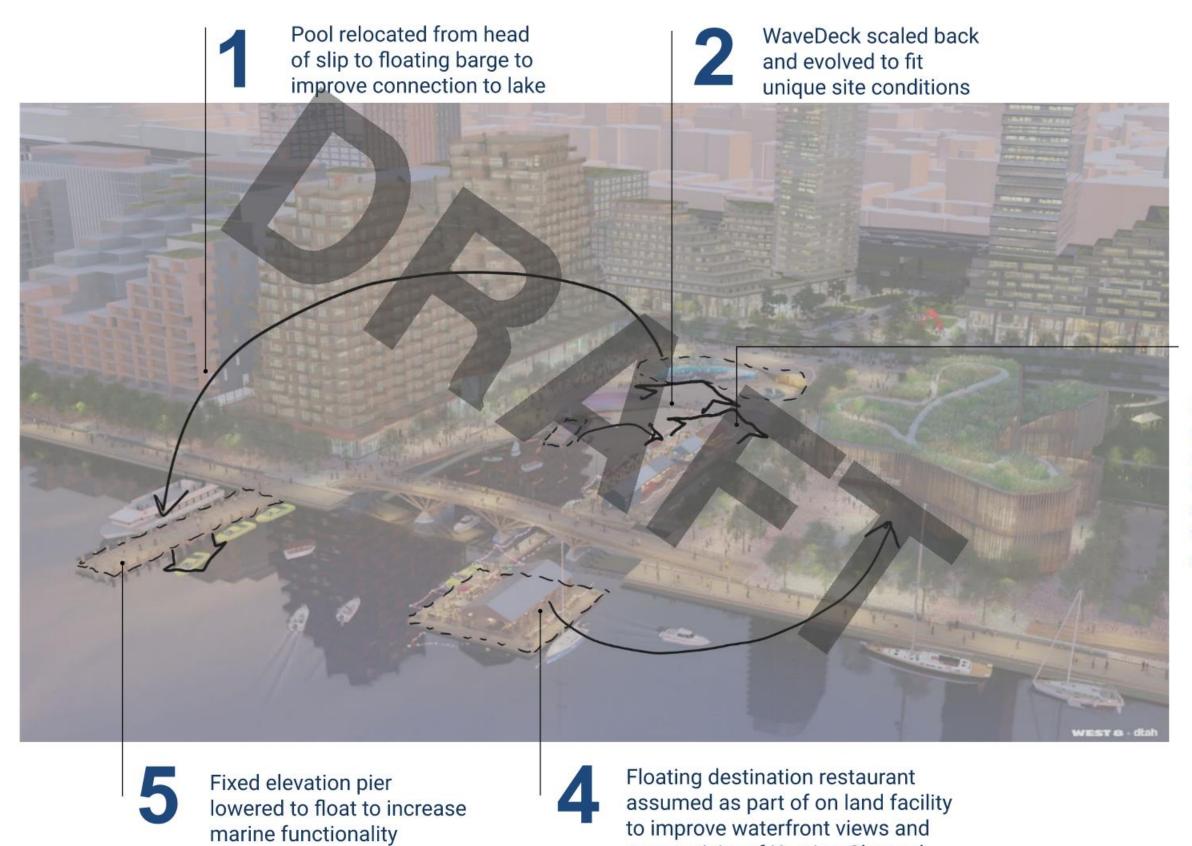


Floating Village Pier - dining destination, x vendors

Fixed elevation pier

Floating destination restaurant

Major masterplan changes improve functionality and views while consolidating uses



Floating Village Pier expanded and consolidated with kayak launch to streamline program footprints in the slip

connectivity of Keating Channel

Today's Concept

30% redesign as outcome of consultation

Head of Slip

- WaveDeck

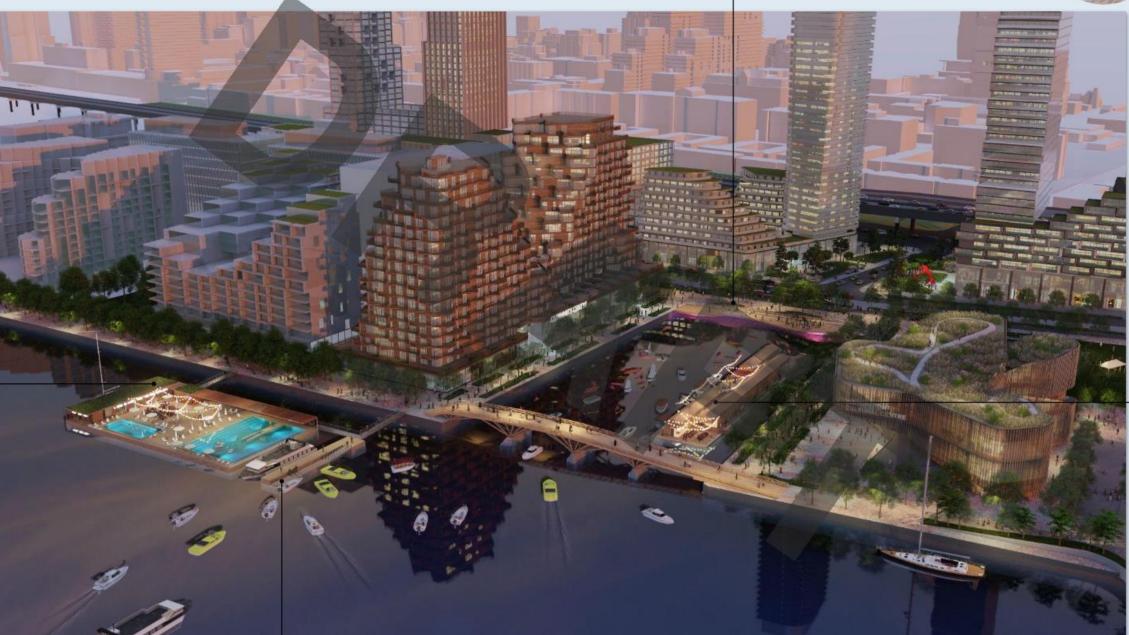
- Activator Bench



2

Floating Village Pier

- Small scale food vendors
- Outdoor patio
- Boat rentals
- Kayak launch



3

Floating Pool Barge-

- Leisure and therapy pools
- Sauna
- Pool facilities building

- Café

4

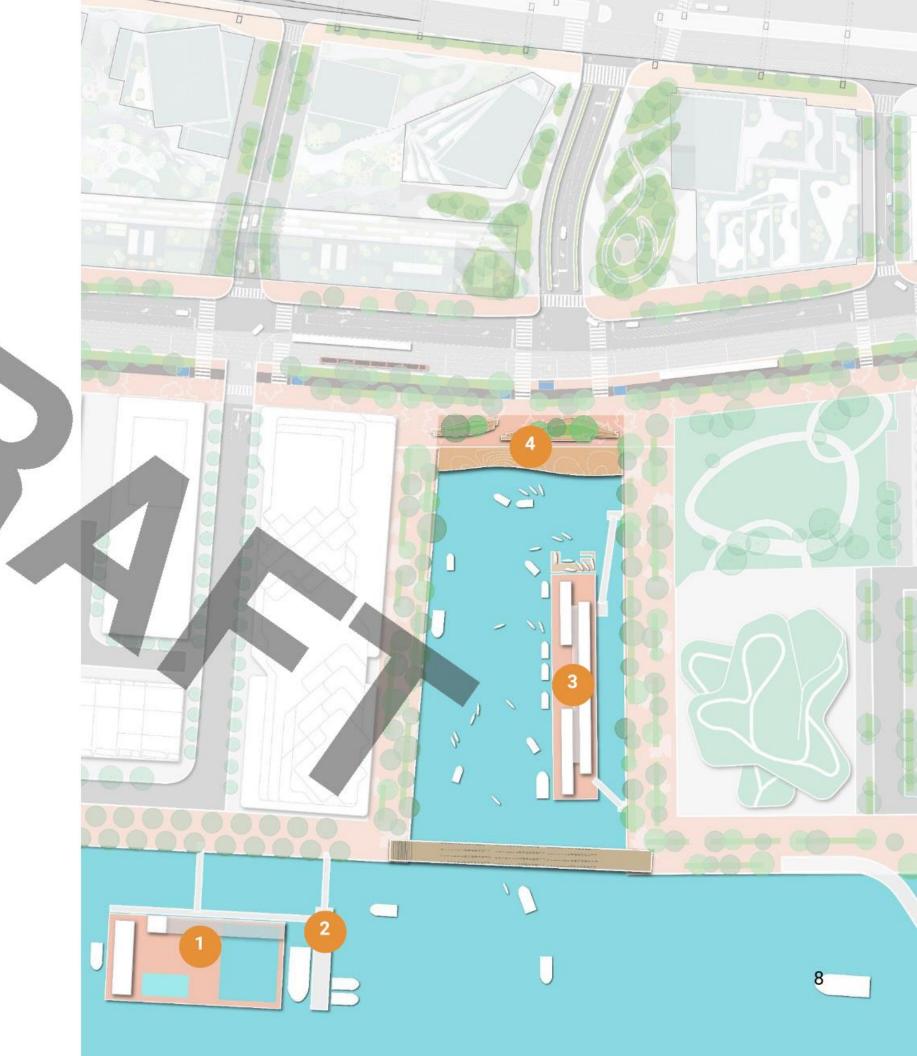


Activating Elements in Context



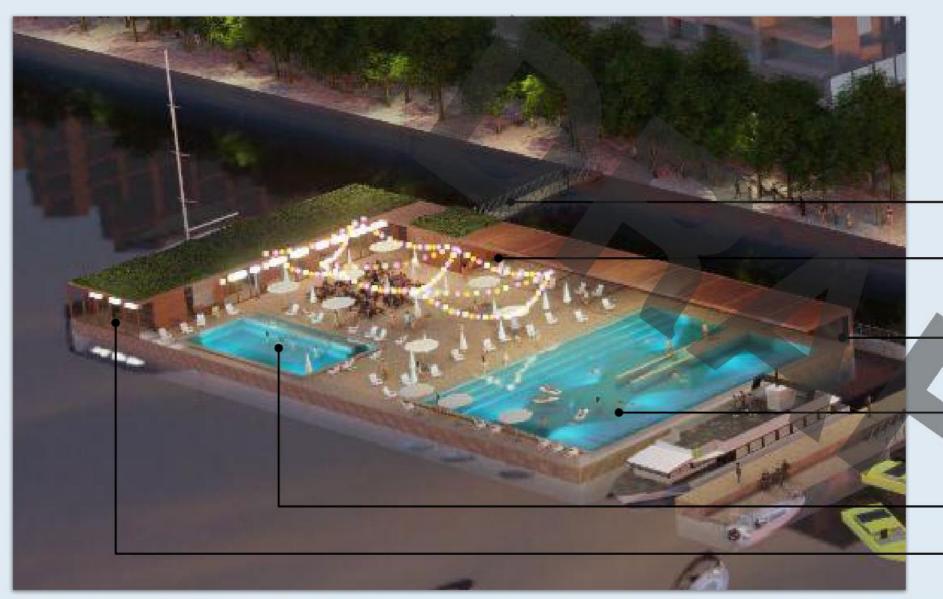
Project Components

- Floating Pool
- Transportation Pier
- Floating Village + Boat Launch
- 4 Head of Slip



1. Floating Pool

An immersive, waterfront experience



Accessible entrance from Merchant's Wharf

Option for cafe concessions

Connection to transportation pier (secondary egress)

25m lap and leisure pool

Therapy pool

Waterfront-facing sauna



connection to the waterfront in Helsinki, Finland



Reference: therapy pool, Wellesley Community Centre



Reference: deck with seating



Sauna with waterfront view



A unique waterfront swimming experience



Architectural Precedents

Character, Porosity, and Materiality



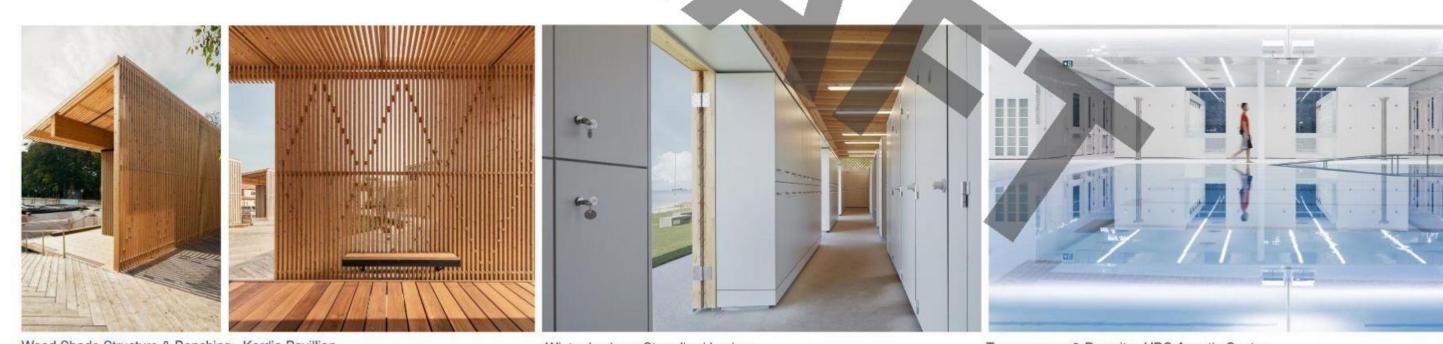




Wood Portico, Neuhausen am Rhienfall

Folding Doors, Visegrad Town Centre Development

Wood Shade Structure, Villa KGET



Wood Shade Structure & Benching, Kardia Pavillion

Winter Lockers, Strandbad Lochau

Transparency & Porosity, UBC Aquatic Centre

Research: Scandinavian approach has much more deck



Allas Sea Pool, Helsinki Pool: 900m² (31%)

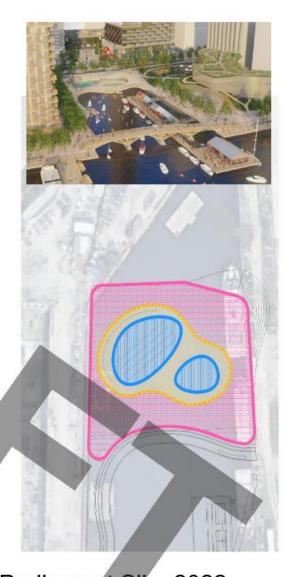
Deck: 1970m²

Pool: 1125m² (45%) Deck: 1325m²

Public Space: 365m²

Pool: 815m² (34%) Deck: 1575m²

Public Space: 650m²

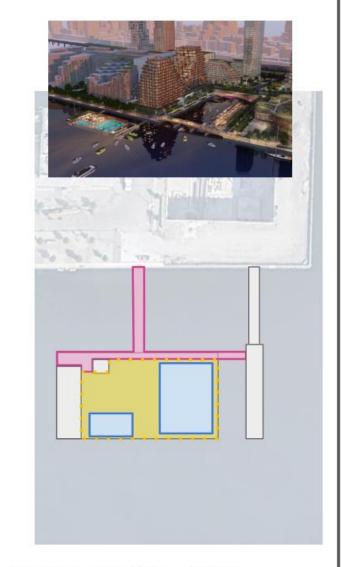


Parliament Slip, 2022

Pool: 570m² (46%)

Deck: **645m²**

Public Space/WaveDeck: 1915m²



Parliament Slip, 2024

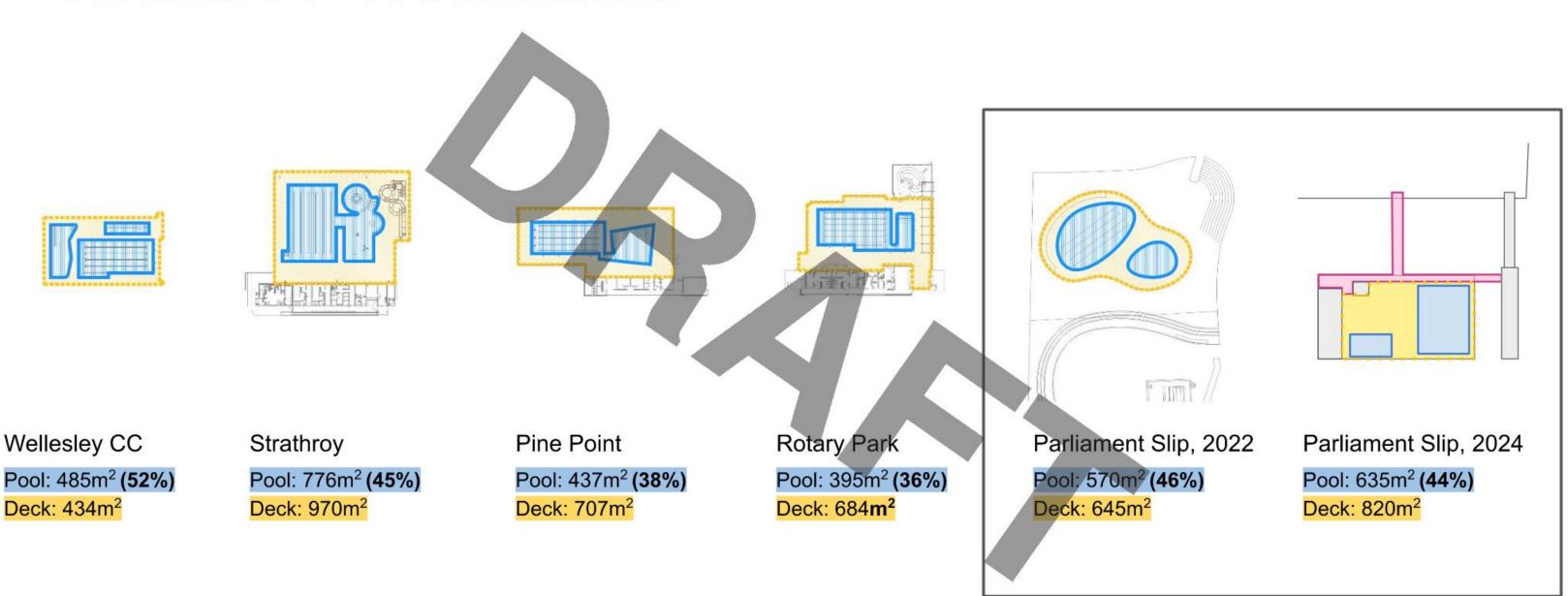
Pool: 635m² (44%)

Deck: 820m²

Public Space: 265m²

12

Research: pool capacity & size in line with typical Toronto PF+R conditions



2. Floating Transportation Pier

Co-locating for a future marine mobility hub



Direct access to WEP or Pool to create waterfront circuit and connectivity

Dual freeboard pier - flexibility to accommodate different vessel sizes and freeboard requirements

Water taxi berths



Water taxis are a familiar sight at each slip in the Toronto Waterfront



Reference: proposal for a "green" Toronto to Niagara ferry



Great Lakes cruises, ferry "home ports"



Part of existing and future waterfront transport network

Marine Use Strategy, 2020



3. Floating Village + Boat Launch

Pioneering dining & recreational destination



Wheelchair accessible kayak launch

1 kayak/canoe rental operator with space for kayak storage and 'back of house'

Waterfront patio with approx. 100 person seating capacity

17 vendor kiosks (Food and Beverage)

Mooring for electric boat share



Reference: Toronto Waterfront maritime vernacular (Pier 6 heritage building at York Slip) and bring colour and contemporary architecture to the waterfront



Reference: Winter Market, Distillery District

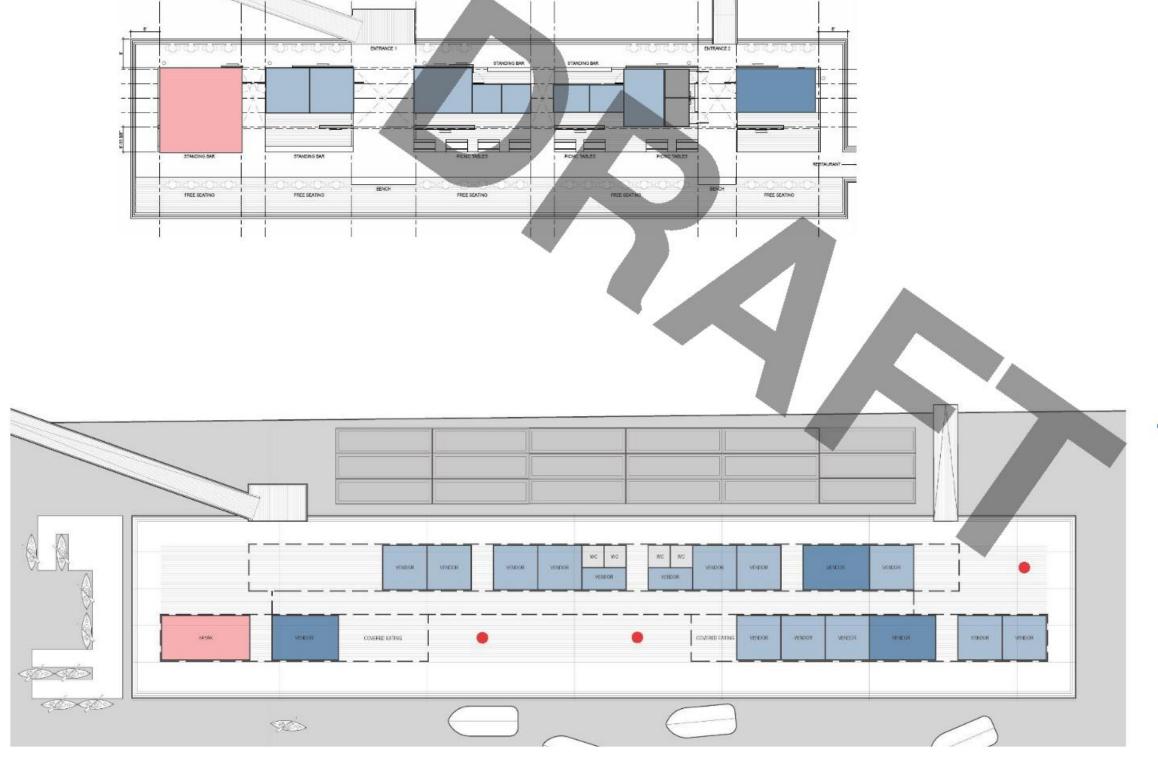


Reference: Philadelphia Waterfront, Small scale family-friendly take-out style dining on the inner floating pier.



Reference: Electric boat share such as Duffy Boats in California (above)

Research: increasing Floating Village's vendor capacity



Previous Design (2022)

- 9 kiosks
- 1 kayak vendor
- 2 washrooms
- open seating

Today's Concept (2024)

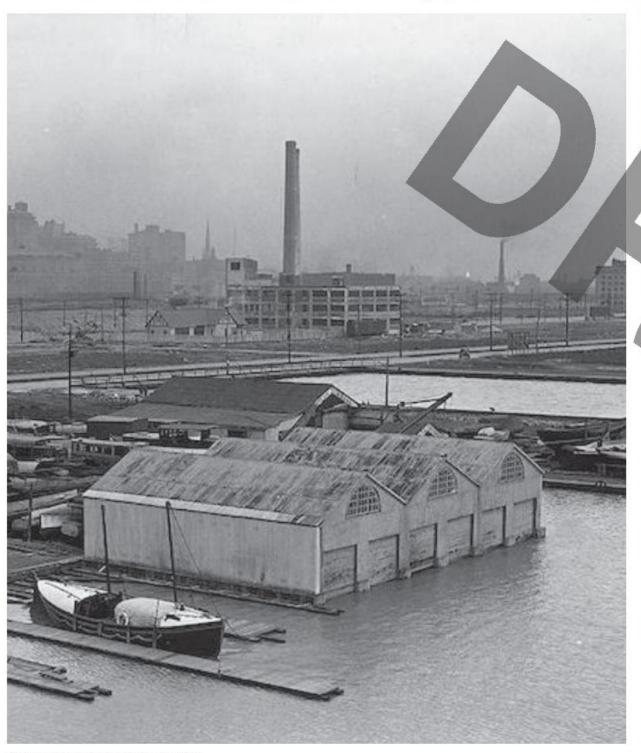
- 17 kiosks
- 1 kayak vendor
- 4 washrooms
- covered seating
- 3 fire pits
- longer barge



Village Loggia 19

Architectural Precedents

Character, relationship, and materiality













References: materiality, colour, and patina

Reference: Toronto Waterfront, 1920

Reference: Laxon House, Mackay-Lynons Sweetapple Architects

4. Head of Slip

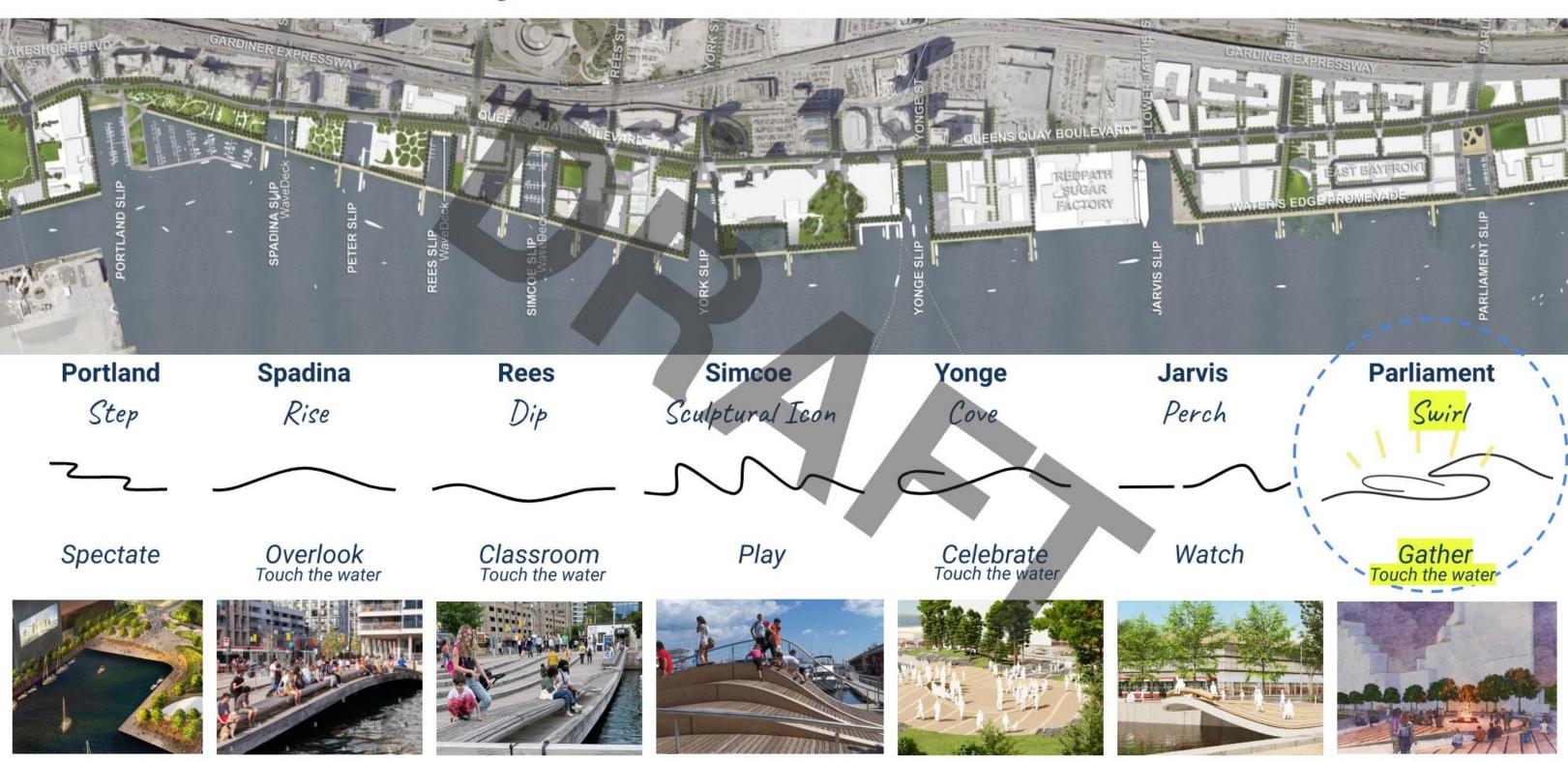
Lobby to the ballet of the harbour



integrated planting, 't Zand, Bruges

Reference: social benches with Reference: existing WaveDecks: playful, undulating, front row seats to the lake

WaveDeck identity tied to form and function



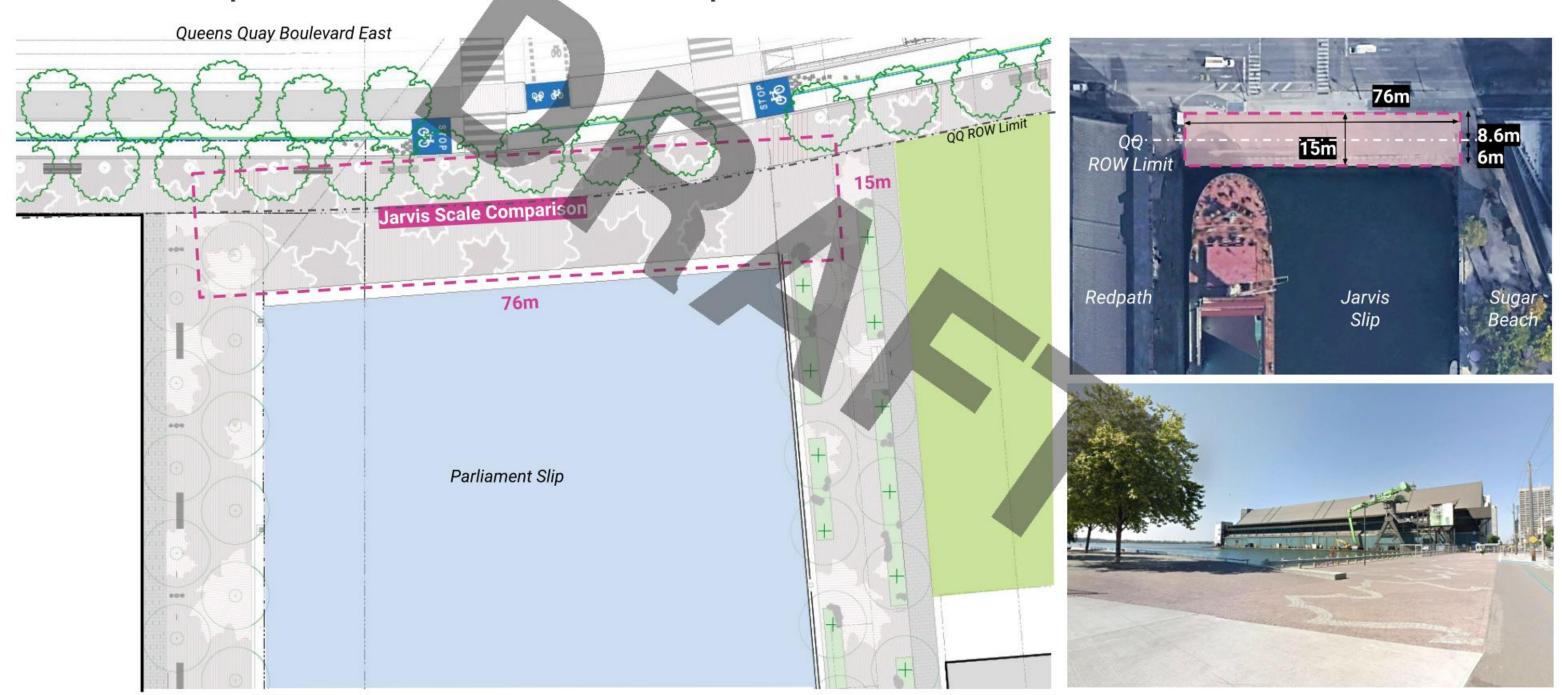
A green doorstep and waterfront arrival...



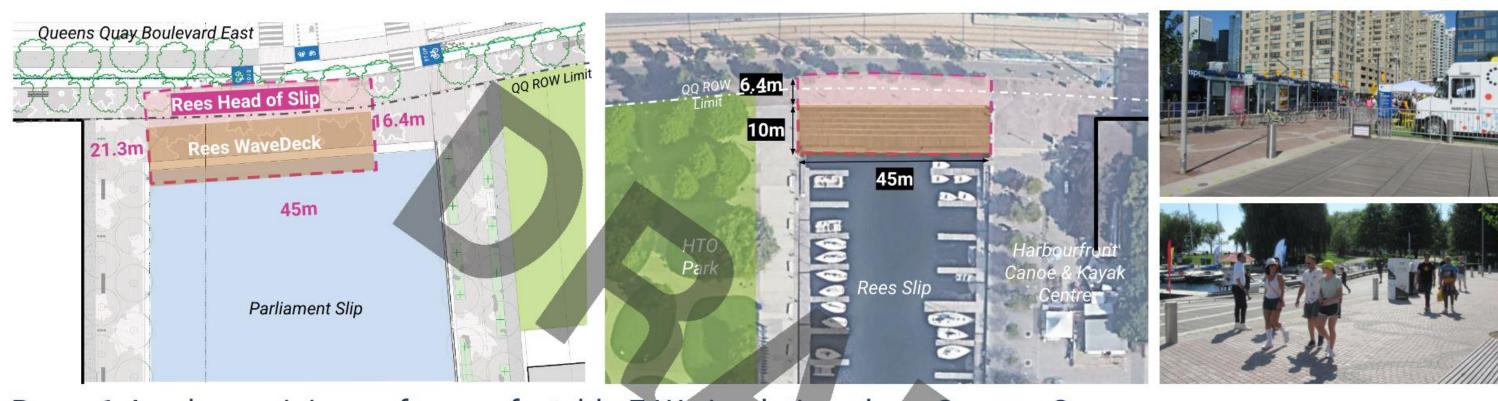
... a place for everyone to enjoy the water

Research: condition at Parliament Slip compared to the existing "leaky" Jarvis plaza without activating elements

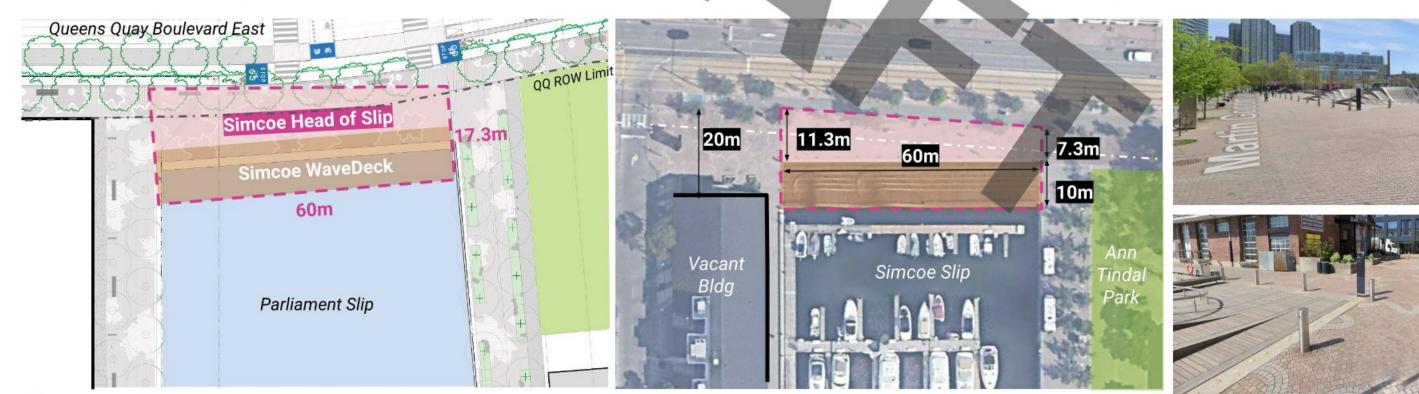
15m wide promenade at Head of Slip is too wide



Calibrating size of heads of slip, learning from research



Rees: 6.4m deep minimum for comfortable E-W circulation along Queens Quay

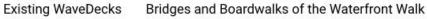


Simcoe: 7.3 - 11.3m deep accommodates high summer pedestrian flows

Continuing Material Qualities & Excellence Along the Central Waterfront

Wooden Elements of the Central Waterfront









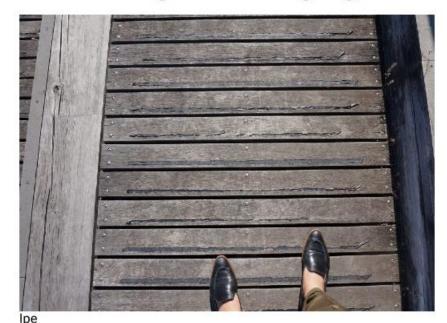




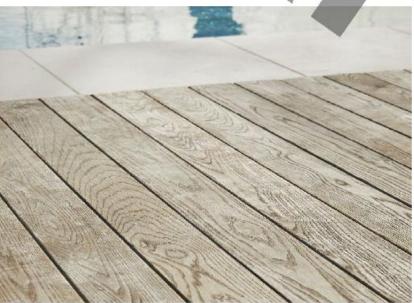


Existing Boardwalks, Finger Piers, Marinas, Benches

Wood Sourcing Research Ongoing, Market Responsive



North American thermally treated wood





North American impregnated treated wood, The Wharf DC

Learning from other successful waterfront slips

Scale and program double-check



Rees Slip

Touch the lake, get in a boat

Area: 5,940m²

Boat Launch/Access: 183m²

Rental Building: 190m²

Kayak/Canoe Storage: 150 boats Mooring Spaces: 35-40 (Private)



Simcoe Slip

Icons

Area: 9,480m²

Mooring Spaces: 75-80 (Private)

Engage with Water

Area: 9,940m²

Boat Launch/Access: 67m² with opportunities to 'plug and play'

Rental Building: XX

Kayak/Canoe Storage: 50 boats Mooring Spaces: 9-20 (Boatshare)

Marine Transportation: taxi berths and waterbus berth

Legend WaveDeck 82m Flexible plaza for activation Canoe/kayak facilities **Dining Destination** Bridge, connectivity **Parliament Slip**

60m

Accessibility

Inclusive public space

- Wheelchair users can enjoy the same experience as able-bodied persons
- Design adheres to draft Waterfront Accessibility Design Guidelines
- Gangway slopes can range from max
 1:12 to minimum 1:15

Legend

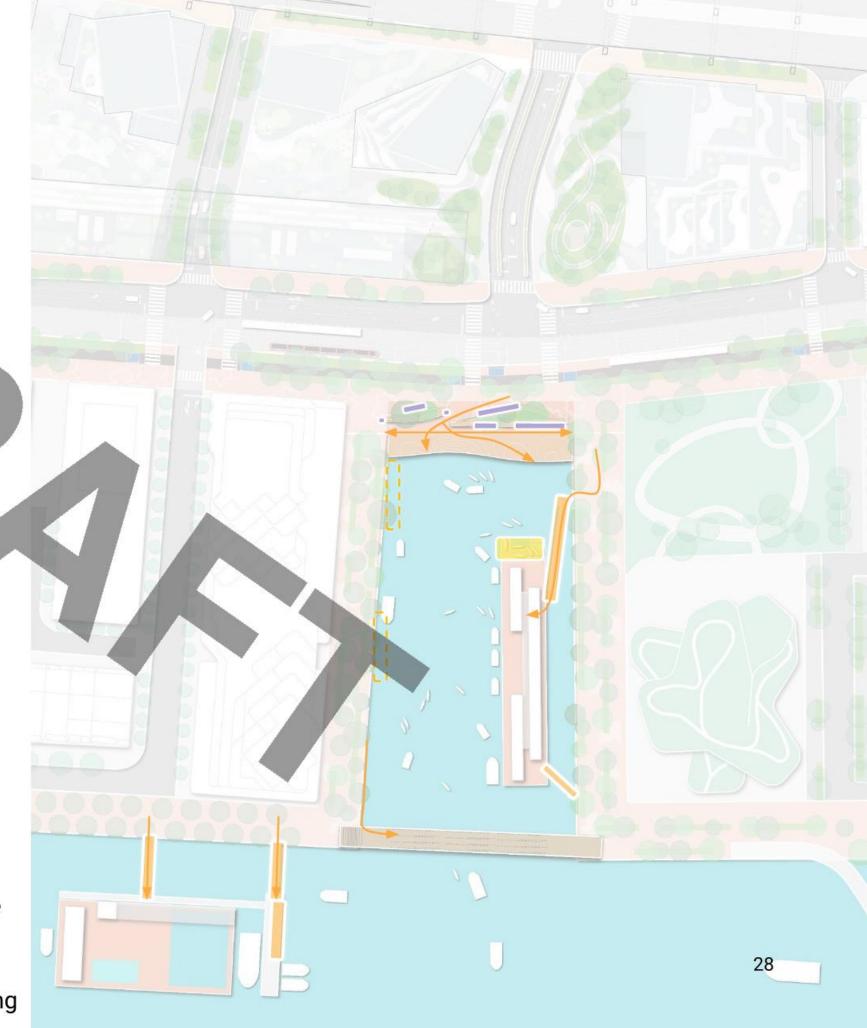
Wheelchair path of travel

Wheelchair accessible kayak/canoe launch

Proposed gangway to floating element

Potential future gangway location for marine 'plug and play'

Backed bench / integrated companion seating



Accessibility

Waterfront Accessibility Design Guidelines (2023 Draft)

8. Docks and Piers

Recommendations

- 1. Provide accessible paths of travel.
 - Toe kicks should be provided where the accessible path of travel is intended to be parallel to the water;
 - Guards combined with handrails should be provided where the accessible path of travel is intended to be perpendicular to the water;
 - Provide a clear turning circle at least 1700 mm where boat mooring occurs on docks; and
 - d. Provide a ramp that has a slope not steeper than 1:15 (6.7%) or a gangway.
 See section 9 Gangways.

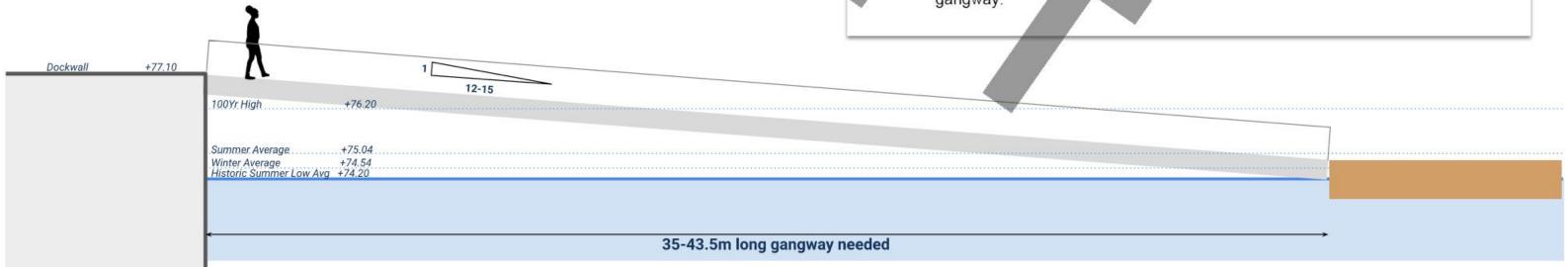
2. Provide equipment to enhance safety and comfort on a floating dock.

- a. Shade structures should be provided, where possible; and
- b. Safety and lifesaving equipment such as ladders, ring buoys, and safety hooks should be provided and safely located outside of the accessible path of travel, but close to the edge of the floating dock.

9. Gangways

Recommendations

- Provide accessible connection points between the boardwalk or water's edge structure to a water-level floating dock.
 - The slope of the gangway should be calculated on the lowest water level mark typically expected in the summer season;
 - b. The slope of the gangway during the lowest water level mark should be no steeper than 1:12 (8.3%).
 - c. A clear width at least 2100 mm should be provided between handrails and edge protection; and
 - d. A 2500 mm turning circle should be provided on landings.
 - e. Landings should be provided not more than 9 metres apart along the gangway if it exceeds 6.7% slope.
- Provide accessible features on the gangway, like typical elements found on a ramp.
 - a. At the top and bottom of the gangway;
 - Colour contrast or a distinctive visual pattern to demarcate between the incline and level portions of the gangway should be provided to help identify the change in level; and
 - ii. A tactile element, but not tactile attention indicators, should be provided as a textural cue that there is a change in level.
 - Handrails and edge protection should be provided on both sides of the gangway.



Getting to and Around the Slip

Circulation & Key Connections

From the Distillery District via Parliament Street

Via Queens Quay (foot, bike, or streetcar)

Via Water's Edge Promenade (foot)

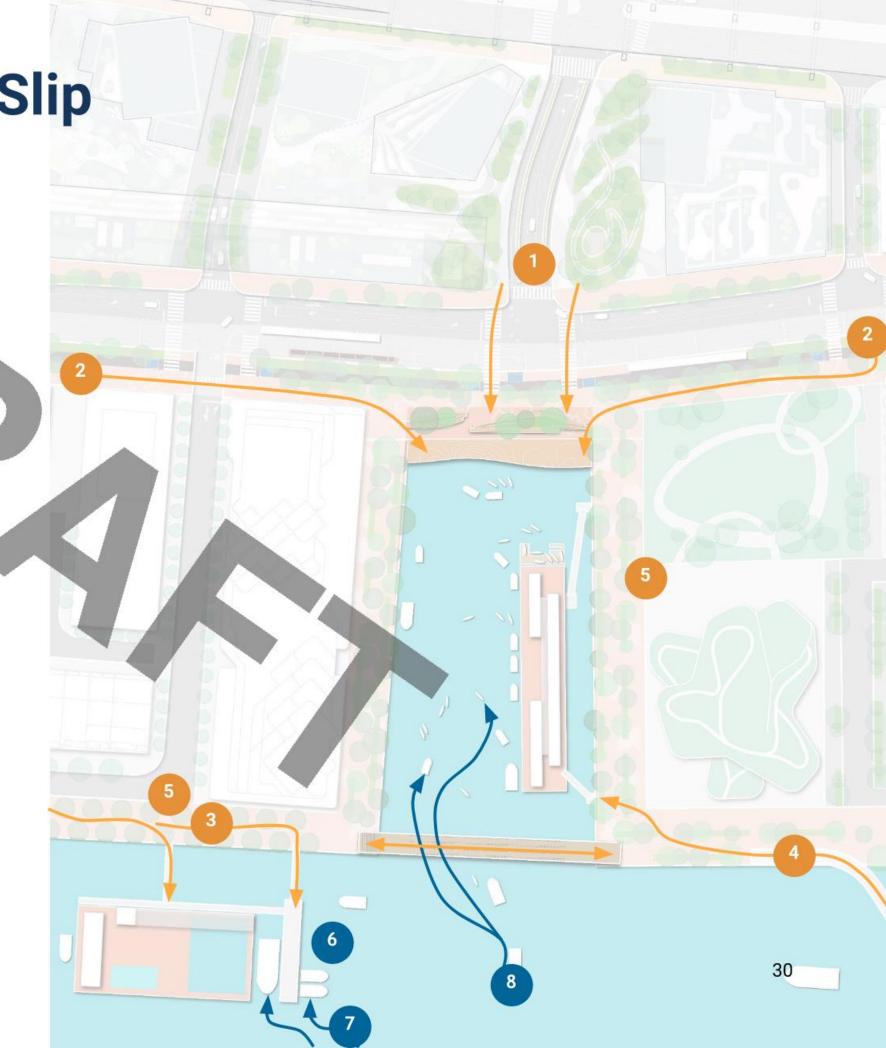
Via new Keating Channel Bridge (foot, bike)

5 Emergency services - via land

6 Emergency services - via water

7 Via WaterBus or Water Taxi

Via kayak, canoe, electric boat share, SUP, or other small non-motorised watercraft



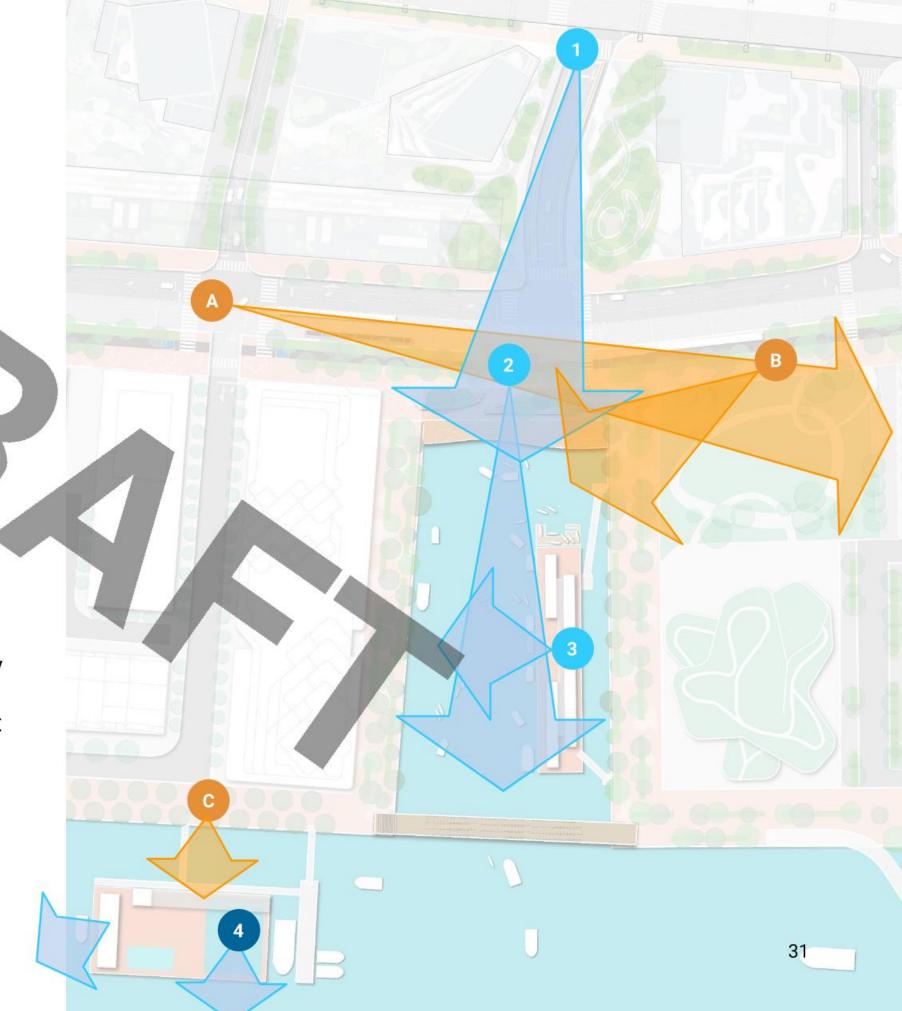
Key Views

Maintain Special Views of the Water

- From Parliament Street and Plaza
- 2 Arrival at Head of Slip
- From Floating Pier
- From Swimming Pools and Deck

Key Views as Design Drivers

- Preserve: View of Silo arriving from west on Queens Quay
- Attract: View of Parliament Slip Activity arriving from east on Queens Quay
- Privacy: From WEP / Aqualuna looking south at Floating Pool Barge



Sustainability

- Pool Heating
 Look for renewable and waste heat sources and technology to heat the outdoor pools. This project includes energy modelling.
- Materials
 Responsible outdoor wood choices for WaveDeck and Piers, and investigate recycled material for Pavilion buildings.
- Water Transportation

 Marine hubs will provide alternatives to automobiles to getting around Toronto and the Waterfront.
- Electric Boats
 Fossil-fuel free alternatives to pleasure craft.
- Aquatic Habitat Water quality and fish habitat improvements.
- Gas Free Cooking For food and beverage.

*Life Cycle Analysis

This project will undergo Life Cycle Analysis at various key milestones.



Seasonal Activation

Year-round destination maximizes summer potential

- Prioritize and optimize for summer the waterfront's most active season
- Slip remains operational in winter with reduced programming
 - Therapy pool to remain open (leisure pool to be closed)
 - Village remains open as dining destination
- Floating elements will be left in the water through the winter, winterized with bubblers

Today's Concept

30% redesign as outcome of consultation

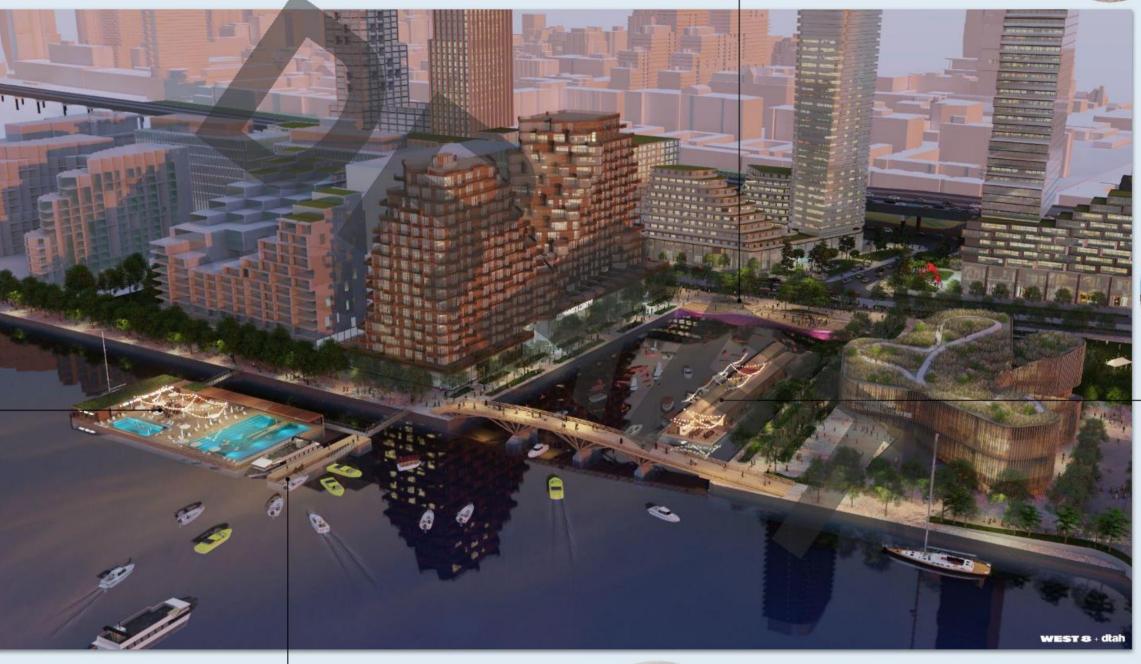
Head of Slip

- WaveDeck
- Social Seating



Floating Pool Barge

- Leisure and therapy pools
- Sauna
- Pool facilities building
- Café





- Small scale food vendors
- Outdoor patio
- Boat rentals
- Kayak launch

Floating Transportation Pier

- Water bus
- Water taxis



