

# LAKE MERRITT CHANNEL PROJECT

## PRELIMINARY ART CONCEPTS

SASAKI & ASSOCIATES • LEWIS DESOTO • JOHN ROLOFF



LEWIS DESOTO JOHN ROLOFF © 2006



## OVERVIEW

THE ARTIST TEAM OF LEWIS DESOTO AND JOHN ROLOFF HAVE CREATED AN PRELIMINARY CONCEPTUAL PLAN OF ART PROGRAMS FOR THE OAKLAND ESTUARY CHANNEL.

OUR APPROACH IS SYSTEMIC, MAKING ART THAT FORMS THE BASIS FOR FUTURE CULTURAL PROGRAMMING AND ENGAGES WITH LOCAL/GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS ABOUT CULTURE AND NATURE.

WE HAVE ALSO INTRODUCED IDEAS FOR SURFACE TREATMENTS AND SCULPTURAL ELEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE AREA.

PART OF THE PROJECT IS PAID FOR BY FUNDS FROM MEASURE DD.  
OTHER PARTS OF THE ART PROGRAM LIE OUTSIDE THE PURVIEW OF  
MEASURE DD AND CONNECT DIRECTLY WITH PERALTA COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE DISTRICT AREAS.

IN ORDER FOR THIS PLAN TO BE DEVELOPED FURTHER, IT IS VITAL  
THAT PCCD BECOME INVOLVED IN THE EVOLUTION OF THESE EARLY  
IDEAS.



LAKE MERRITT  
LAKE MERRITT

LANEY COLLEGE EAST  
LANEY COLLEGE EAST

LANEY COLLEGE WEST  
LANEY COLLEGE WEST

SAN FRANCISCO  
BAY →

LANEY  
EAGLES

## ART CONCEPTS

THE ARTIST TEAM OF LEWIS DESOTO AND JOHN ROLOFF DEVELOPED A  
STRUCTURE OF PROGRAMS, SURFACES AND INTEGRATED FEATURES.

MANY OF THESE PROGRAMS CAN BE USED AND INTEGRATED BY THE PCCD  
FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.

MANY OF THE PROJECTS IN INTEGRATED FEATURES ALLOW THESE  
PROGRAMS TO BE REALIZED.

## QUESTIONS INFORMING OUR PROCESS

"CONSIDERING MAYOR-ELECT DELLUMS' VISION FOR OAKLAND AS A GLOBAL MODEL, IN WHAT WAY COULD THE ESTUARY CHANNEL SITE BE INSTRUMENTAL IN ENGAGING OAKLAND IN THE CRITICAL CULTURAL AND NATURAL QUESTIONS OF OUR TIME AT THE LOCAL AND GLOBAL LEVELS?"

"COULD A MAJOR LANDMARK FEATURE, SUCH AS A SCULPTURE, BRIDGE OR OTHER STRUCTURE BE CONSIDERED AN ASSET/DESTINATION POINT AND CATALYST, FOR THE ESTUARY CHANNEL PROJECT?"

"IF THE ESTUARY CHANNEL SITE WERE TRANSFORMED INTO A LOCUS FOR INNOVATIVE CULTURE AND NATURE-BASED FESTIVALS, PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH, WHAT KIND OF EVENTS AND PROGRAMS ARE POSSIBLE AND THROUGH WHAT PROCESS?"

"COORDINATING WITH THE PERALTA COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND THE LARGER COMMUNITY, WHAT INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS, INTEGRATING EDUCATION ABOUT CULTURE AND NATURAL SYSTEMS ARE POSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT AT THE ESTUARY CHANNEL SITE?"

# LAKE MERRIT CHANNEL PROJECT APPLICATIONS

SASAKI & ASSOCIATES LEWIS DESOTO JOHN ROLOFF

## PROGRAMS

Cultural Blessings

Flags Festival

(Oakland Museum, Laney College, Oakland Cultural Affairs, Oakland Library)

Nature/Alternative Energy  
Sculptural Interventions

(To counter current sited sculpture)

Demographic Evolutions

(Sound/Music/Cuisine/Dance/Sports)

Clean Marine

(Competition for solar powered craft on Lake Merritt)

Virtual

Festivals and Estuary Database

Oxygen/Toxic - Events

(Clean up the Lake and Estuary, oxygenation sponsored by local colleges/universities)

## SURFACES

Fencing

(Water jet cut aluminum  
Metal Screening/Woven material  
Mirrored, Solar, Systemic)

Walls:

Bridges/Channels

(Concrete Casting  
Sand blasting  
Abrasive  
Additive/Subtracting  
Sheathing/Mirroring  
Projection  
Specialty Concrete/Stone)

Signage

(Enameled Steel  
Photography  
Lithography  
Computer Applied vinyl and inks  
LCD, Jumbotron)

Water

(Reflections  
Light Flotillas)

## INTEGRATED FEATURES

Flag System(s)

(Signification Flags/Integrated flag, lighting and signage - Solar & wind energy driven)

Bridge/Channel

(Elliptical/Tidal connections -  
Global Warming/Tidal markers  
Machinic expression)

Plantings and Soil

(Demographic/Festival Plantings:  
from Native to Trans-indigenous)

Lighting

(Metaphors of light spectrums)

Water/Oxygen

(Aeration Systems)

Communication

(WiFi System, Television & Radio  
Narrative/Virtual Environments)

Emergency Systems

## CHANNEL WALL TEXT WORKS

DESOTO/ROLOFF PROPOSE LARGE INVERTED TEXT PANELS BENEATH THE  
10TH ST. BRIDGE DESIGNED TO BE READ AS REFLECTIONS ON THE WATER  
SURFACE.

THE TEXT REFERENCES THE GEOLOGIC AGE OF THE STRATIGRAPHIC AND  
TECTONIC STRUCTURES BENEATH THE ESTUARY SITE.

THE TEXT DESIGN REFERENCES THE KAISER AUDITORIUM STYLE OF  
SUPERGRAPHICS.

## CHANNEL WALL TEXT WORKS

RELATED TO KAISER AUDITORIUM  
SUPERGRAPHICS STYLE

CONNECTION TO THE CENOZOIC AND  
MESOZOIC TIME PERIODS THAT DIALOGUE  
ACROSS THE CHANNEL

TEXT IS MIRRORED IN THE CONCRETE SO THAT  
IT IS READABLE IN THE WATER AT LOW TIDE

DRAWING: R. MALPAS & MEYER



AGE OF THE MAMMALS  
SIXTY FIVE MILLION YEARS TO THE PRESENT  
CENOZOIC

CENOZOIC  
SIXTY FIVE MILLION YEARS TO THE PRESENT  
AGE OF THE MAMMALS



KAISER BUILDING SUPERGRAPHICS



SABAKI . LEWIS DESOTO . JOHN ROLOFF  
PROPOSAL TO DEAL WITH CONCRETE WALLS ALONG ESTUARY CHANNEL BY USE OF SUPERGRAPHICS  
DART INTO WALLS OF THE KAISER CENTER

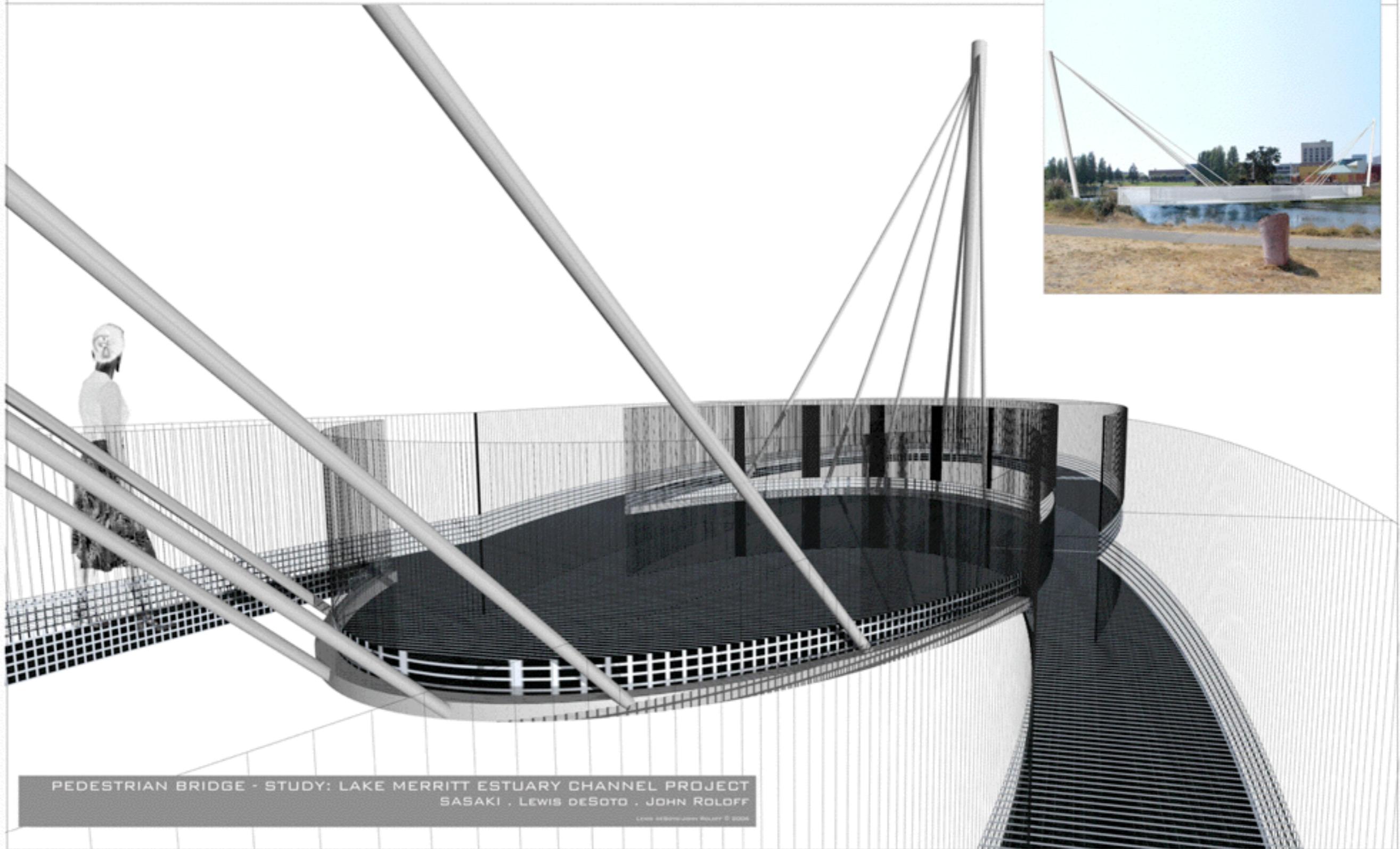
## PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE BRIDGE

THE SMALL PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE THAT CURRENTLY CROSSES OVER THE ESTUARY CHANNEL DOES NOT MEET ADA REQUIREMENTS.

DESOTO/ROLOFF HAVE PROPOSED CREATING A SIGNATURE DESIGN BRIDGE, THAT CREATES THE FEELING OF TRANSPARENCY AND SYNESTHESIA AS ONE MOVES ACROSS IT.

THIS DESIGN CREATES TWO PATHS, ONE FOR BICYCLES AND ONE FOR PEDESTRIANS.

BRIDGE STUDIES: PHENOMENA: MOIRÉ/MIRAGE/EPHEMERA: SYNESTHESIA



PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE - STUDY: LAKE MERRITT ESTUARY CHANNEL PROJECT  
SASAKI . LEWIS DESOTO . JOHN ROLOFF

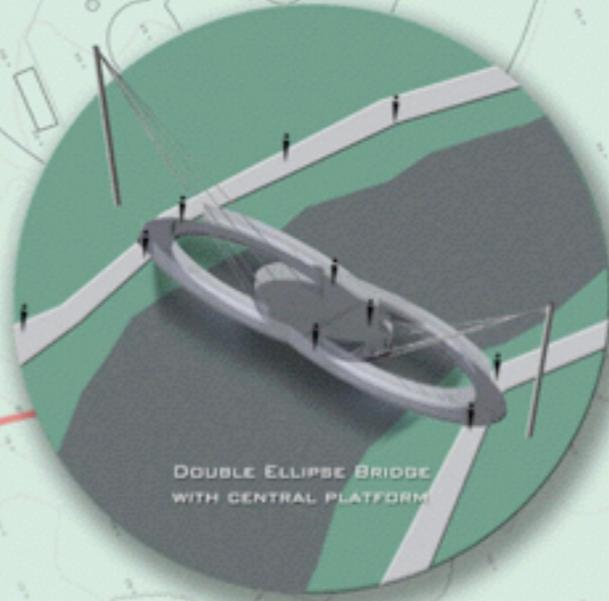
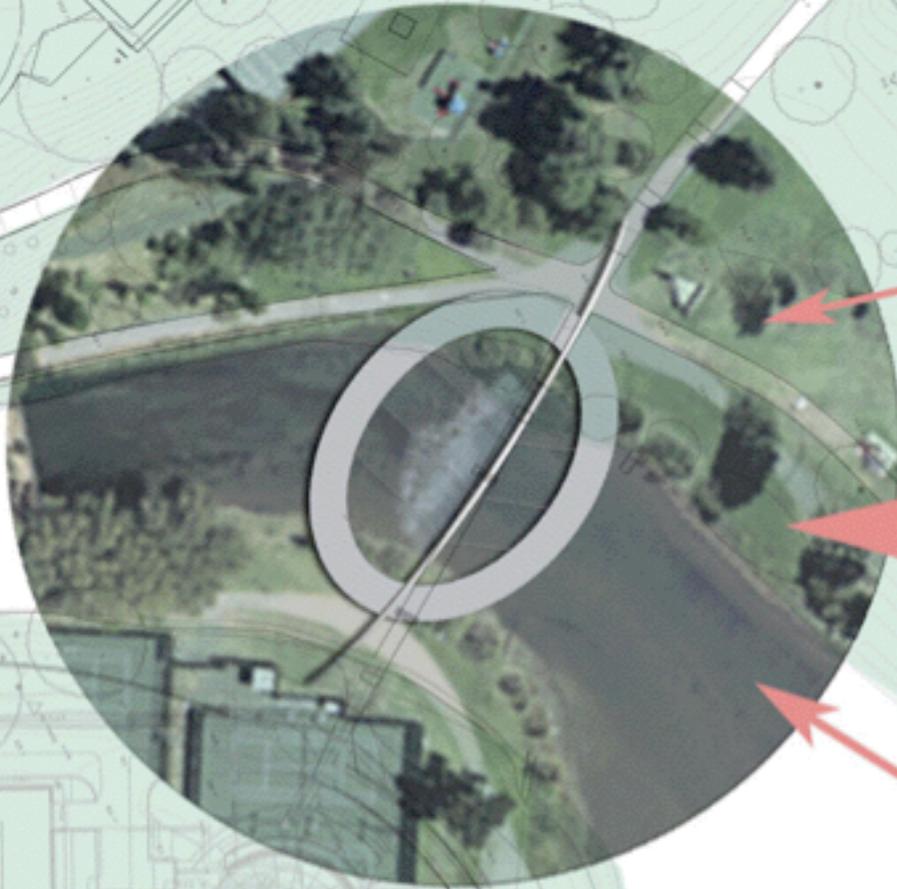
LEWIS DESOTO JOHN ROLOFF © 2004

## PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE BRIDGE (CONT.)

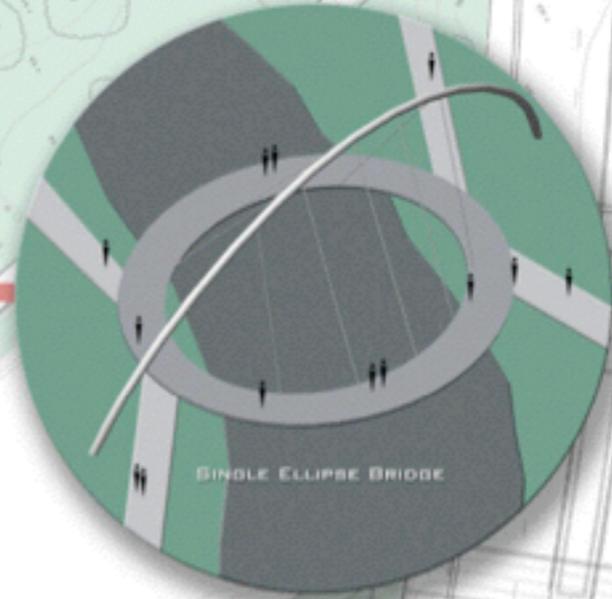
IN ONE OF THE DESIGNS A CENTRAL PLATFORM ALLOWS FOR OBSERVATION/  
CONTEMPLATION AND AS A STAGE FOR CULTURAL PERFORMANCES.

THE BRIDGE CAN ALSO BECOME A WATER AERATION DEVICE AND A  
PLATFORM FOR EXPERIMENTS FOR THE SCIENCES.

THIS SIGNATURE STYLE BRIDGE WOULD BRING MORE OF THE PUBLIC IN  
CONTACT WITH THE PCCD AS IT BECOMES A SIGNIFICANT VISUAL  
LANDMARK, A DESTINATION.



DOUBLE ELLIPSE BRIDGE WITH CENTRAL PLATFORM



SINGLE ELLIPSE BRIDGE



SINGLE ELLIPSE BRIDGE WITH ELLIPTICAL PLAZA



CURRENT BRIDGE IS TOO NARROW FOR PEDESTRIANS AND BICYCLES TO SHARE

THREE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES

ELLIPSE: TIDAL METAPHOR

ADA COMPLIANT

PEDESTRIAN AND BIKING FUNCTIONS

SEE THROUGH STAINLESS OR GALVANIZED GRATINGS ALLOW TO VIEW WATER BELOW

OXYGENATION FUNCTIONS SUCH AS WATER FALLING FROM SUPPORTS OR PLATFORMS AS TIDE COMES IN

PLATFORMS FOR PERFORMANCES, DANCE, MUSIC

CREATES A DESIGN/DESTINATION FUNCTION

ELIMINATES CONCRETE SUPPORTS IN WATER

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE STUDY: LAKE MERRITT ESTUARY CHANNEL PROJECT  
 SASAKI . LEWIS DESOTO . JOHN ROLOFF

LEWIS DESOTO JOHN ROLOFF © 2006

PROPOSAL TO CREATE A DESIGN/DESTINATION PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE TO REPLACE CURRENT NARROW BRIDGE

## PLANTING SYSTEMS

A DEMOGRAPHIC GARDEN IS PROPOSED THAT LINKS THE DIVERSE PEOPLES OF OAKLAND TO PLANTINGS THAT RETURN THEM TO THEIR ORIGINS; CONTAINING MEDICINAL AND SYMBOLIC PLANTS FROM VARIOUS GLOBAL SOURCES.

THIS GARDEN WOULD BE USED BY THE HORTICULTURAL AND OTHER SCIENCES FOR RESEARCH AND MAINTENANCE.

BLACK OAK, A PRIMARY FOOD SOURCE OF THE OHLONE PEOPLE, IS PLANTED AT THE CENTER OF THIS GARDEN, AND IN A RADIATING PATTERN ACROSS THE SITE INTERSPERSED WITH A FLAG/INFORMATION SYSTEM RELATED TO PROGRAMS AND FESTIVALS.

OTHER PLANTING RELATE TO ECOLOGY, PALEOCLIMATES AND GLOBAL INTERACTIONS/CONVERSATIONS.



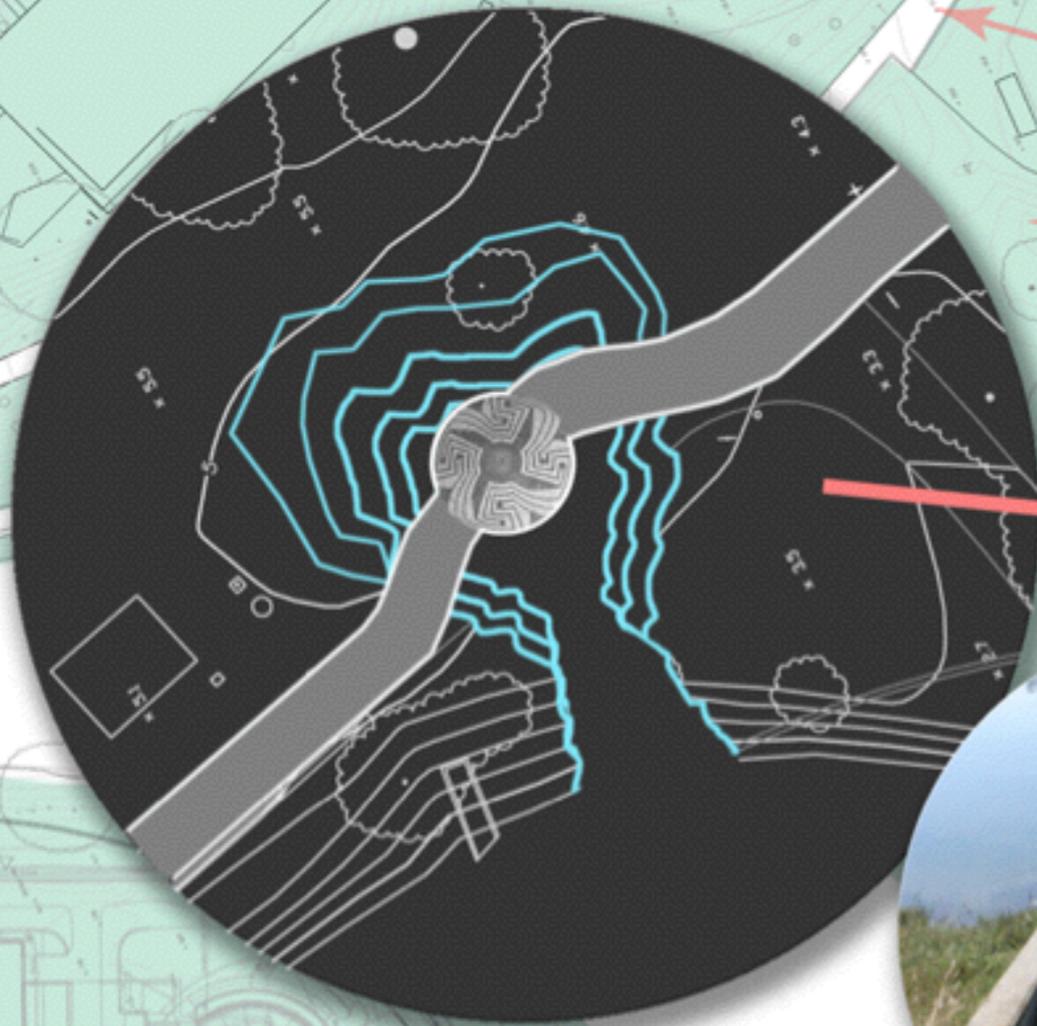
## FRESHWATER CULVERT

DESOTO/ROLOFF ALSO PROPOSE THAT A FRESH WATER CULVERT BE OPENED TO ALLOW THE GROWING OF FRESH WATER REEDS THAT CAN BE UTILIZED TO LEARN AND PRESERVE THE PRACTICE OF THE OHLONE PEOPLE, USED FOR MILLENNIA TO MAKE BASKETS AND OTHER CULTURAL OBJECTS.

THE FRESHWATER CULVERT AREA IS RELATED TO LARGER DEMOGRAPHIC PLANTINGS AND BECOMES A CENTER FOR PROGRAMING AND FESTIVALS.

DEMOGRAPHIC GARDEN CONNECTION

BLACK OAK PLANTING CONNECTION



SOURCE:  
WHEN THE WORLD ENDED: HOW HUMMINGBIRD  
GET FIRE; HOW PEOPLE WERE MADE - RUMISEN  
OHONE STORIES, WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY  
LAWA YAMANE DYATE, 2702 MATHEWS STREET,  
BERKELEY, CA

HERSELF OF RUMISEN OHONE ANCESTRY, WHO IS AN  
ARTIST AND DESIGNER, AS WELL AS BASKET WEAVER  
AND PARTICIPANT IN THE MONTEREY BAY CULTURAL  
HISTORY AND LANGUAGE RETRIEVAL PROJECT.

IN THE FIRST OF THE 3 STORIES HERE, THE WORLD IS  
DROWNED IN A FLOOD. SOME BIRDS - EAGLE, THE  
LEADER, CROW, RAVEN, AND HUMMINGBIRD GET HANK  
OF ONE OF EAGLE'S  
FEATHERS, DIVE DEEP UNDER THE WATER AND ROLL THE  
EARTH BACK UP.

CONCEPT NOTES:

DEVELOP METAPHOR OF CREATION STORY WITH TRIBUTARY/DRAINAGE SYSTEM ENTERING ESTUARY THROUGH CULVERTS. REVEALING OF SYSTEM/TRANSPARENT-GRATED WALKS AND HORIZONTAL SURFACES.

CONSIDER INTEGRATION OF POW WOV, FESTIVAL, MEETING SPACE, MODULAR/FLEXIBLE COVERED SPACE.

CONSIDER INTEGRATION/DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL PLANTING ELEMENTS. MULTIPLE/ORCHARD PLANTINGS OF BLACK OAK (QUERCUS KELLOGGII) FOR ON-SITE RESOURCE FOR INDIGENOUS ACORN FESTIVAL/INTER-INDIGENOUS CUISINE COLLABORATIONS AND RITUALS.

CULTURE/CULVERT STUDY: LAKE MERRITT ESTUARY CHANNEL PROJECT  
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LEWIS DESOTO JOHN ROLOFF © 2008

PROPOSAL TO OPEN UP FRESH WATER CULVERT, INCREASE REED PLANTINGS FOR BASKET PRODUCTION.  
BASKET DESIGN MESH PLATFORM SUSPENDED OVER CULVERT AREA WITH COSMOLOGY STORY PRINTED ON RAILINGS.

## **CULTURE/NATURE SIGNIFICATION SYSTEMS**

A RANGE OF SYSTEMS AND MARKERS TO REPRESENT AND CELEBRATE CULTURAL AND NATURAL RELATIONSHIPS: OAKLAND SISTER CITIES, CLIMATIC CHANGE, GEOLOGIC BIOLOGIC AND COMMUNITY-BASED SUBJECTS.

A FLAGPOLE SYSTEM OF DIFFERENT SCALES: A 100 METER HIGH POLE WITH AN ENERGY-PRODUCING FLAG TO INTEGRATED FLAG, SEATING, WIND POWERED LIGHTING AND INFORMATION KIOSKS DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE SITE.

FLAGS DESIGNED BY PCCD AND COMMUNITY FOR ROTATING EVENTS AND FESTIVALS ARE RELATED TO FLAG DESIGN AND CREATION.

EXCHANGE PROGRAMS BETWEEN OAKLAND SISTER CITIES, SCIENTIFIC RECORDING AND MARKING INSTRUMENTS/STRUCTURES, WATER OXYGENATION SYSTEMS, ALTERNATIVE ENERGY AND INTER-SPECIES RELATIONSHIP/MIGRATION PROJECTS.

# STUDY: CULTURE/NATURE SIGNIFICATION SYSTEMS



## IMAGES TO LEFT - EXAMPLE FLAG SYSTEM

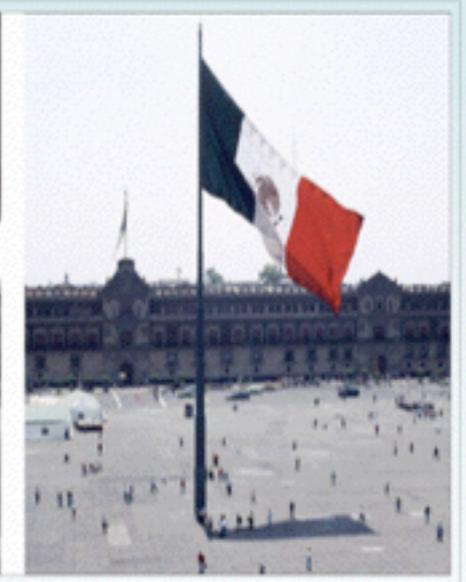
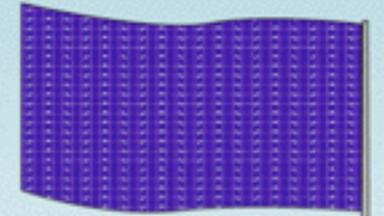
Roloff Geology Flag system and one of several previous implementations - flexible taxonomy of flag designs using geologic mapping symbology capable of indicating almost all geologic rock types and structures and related architectural/geologic materials.

Other systems for flag signification can be similarly developed.

LARGE FLAG POLE - HEIGHT-CORRELATED TO SIGNIFICANT STRATA/AQUIFER/GEOLOGIC FEATURE BENEATH SITE.

ROTATING, CHANGING, EVOLVING DESIGNS/MEANINGS.

Solar-Electrical Generating Fabric - shown to right  
 Event Signification  
 Program Signification  
 Sea Level/Climatic Change  
 Deep Geology  
 Species Signification (migration/extinction)  
 Cultural: tattoo/music/art



### FLAG POLE/LIGHTING/KIOSK ELEMENT

Multi-use element for general site lighting, signification, and information.

Lighting column/pole uses LCD's. Detritated light wave-length system being explored.

Different forms and sizes may be used on bridges or for special situations.

Instruments for weather or wi-fi transmission situated on top or housed within.

Flag shown: Roloff SF Civic Center geology flag indicating Franciscan Complex structures beneath site.

### TIDAL/WATER COLUMN ELEMENT

Sited on land or shore - Connected directly to tidal system.

Water level rises and lowers in real time. Several visually linked elements show tidal system.

Markers at various heights showing global warming scenarios.

### SISTER CITY GEOLOGIC COLUMNS

Actual or constructed (future) geologic columns from the site of each Oakland sister city as part of a column exchange program.

Proposed examples for additional sister cities and exchanges - Past/Present/Future.

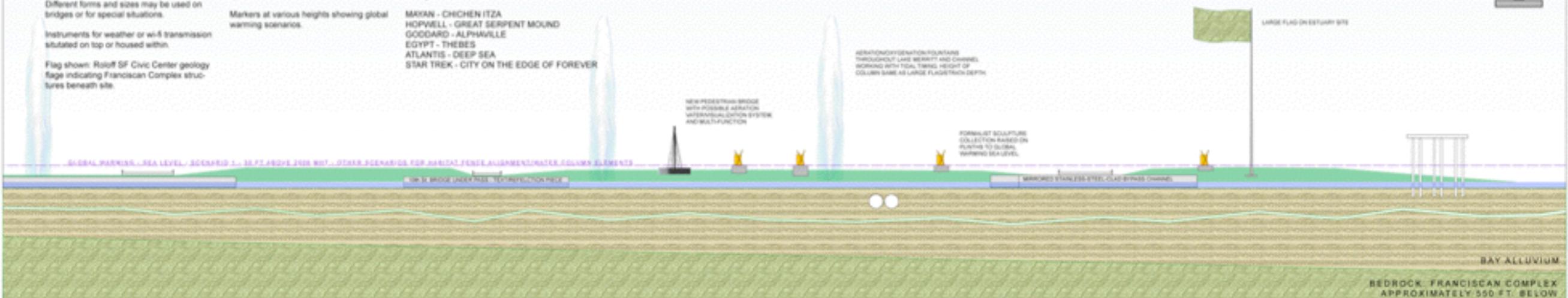
MAKIN - CHICHEN ITZA  
 HOPWELL - GREAT SERPENT MOUND  
 GOODARD - ALPHAVILLE  
 EGYPT - THEBES  
 ATLANTIS - DEEP SEA  
 STAR TREK - CITY ON THE EDGE OF FOREVER

### DEPTH TO BEDROCK (FRANCISCAN COMPLEX)

Contour map showing depth of alluvium to bedrock beneath East Bay sites. Estuary site is approximately 550 ft. above the Franciscan Complex.

### LARGE MEXICAN FLAG, ZOCOLO, MEXICO CITY

Flag unfurled each day above the Zocalo plaza in Mexico City, flags of similar size are in other cities in Mexico and world wide.



FLAGS/AERATION/SISTER CITIES/SITE STUDY: LAKE MERRITT ESTUARY CHANNEL PROJECT  
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## 7TH STREET BRIDGE - BYPASS CHANNEL

THE PASSAGES BENEATH THE 7TH STREET BRIDGE ARE BEING REDESIGNED TO INCREASE THE TIDAL FLOW BETWEEN LAKE MERRITT AND THE OAKLAND ESTUARY.

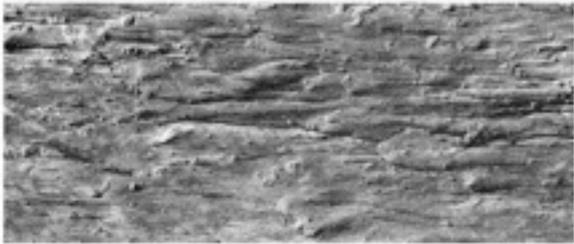
DESOTO/ROLOFF PROPOSE A SERIES OF OPTICALLY EXPANDING, FLOW DEMARKATION TREATMENTS TO MAKE THE PEDESTRIAN AND SMALL CRAFT JOURNEY THROUGH THESE PASSAGES A PHENOMENOLOGICAL EXPERIENCE AND ADVENTURE.

CAREFULLY ARRANGED, MIRRORED STAINLESS STEEL PANELS AND LIGHTING, OPTICALLY EXPAND SPACIAL AND HYDROLOGIC PHENOMENA. LININGS OF CAST FLOW STRUCTURES MIMIC HYDRO/GEOLOGIC FORMATIONS.

A POTENTIAL SITE FOR A MODEL TIDE-GENERATED ENERGY SYSTEM.

# STUDIES: BYPASS CHANNEL AS PHENOMENOLOGICAL/TURBIDIC ENERGY SPACE

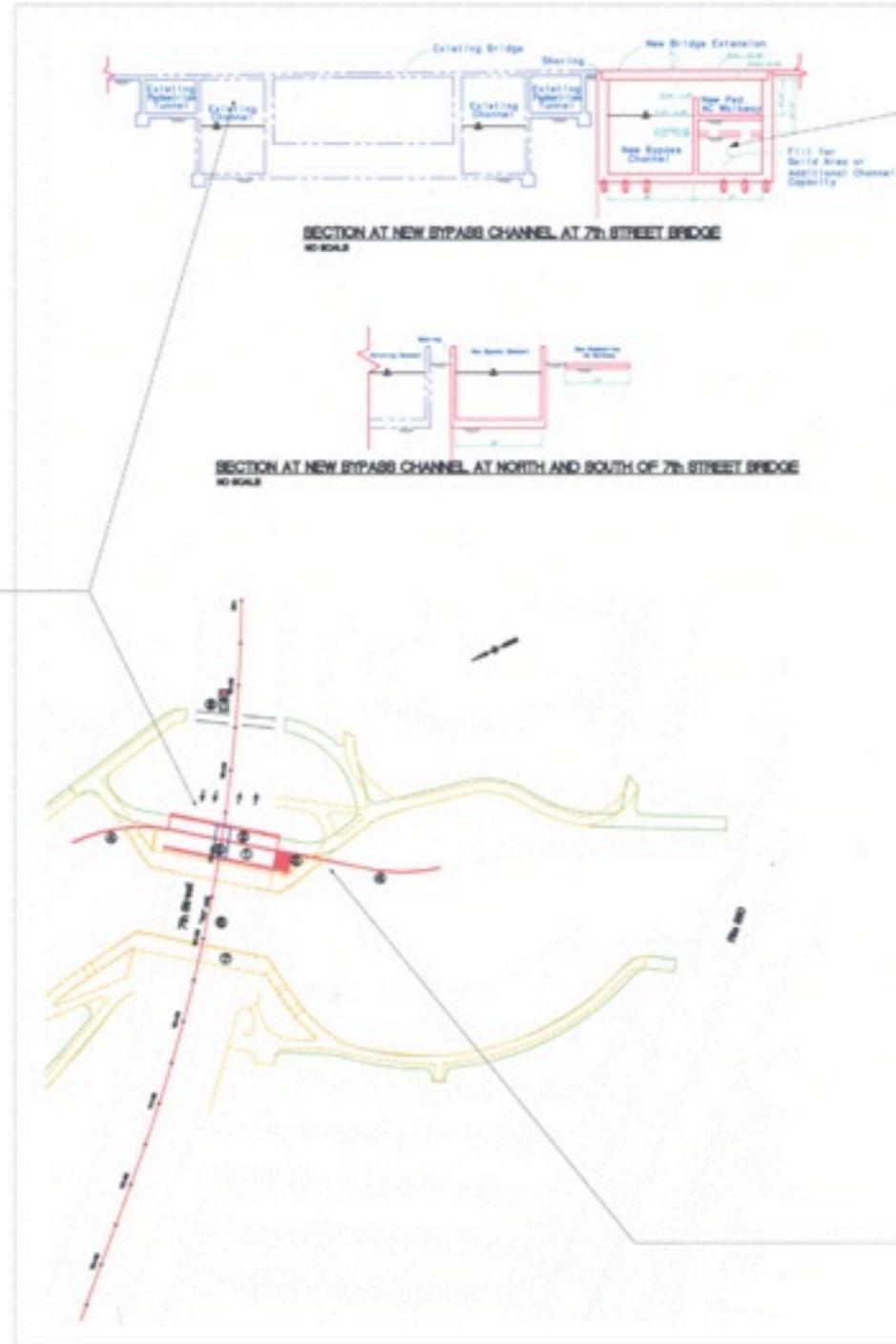
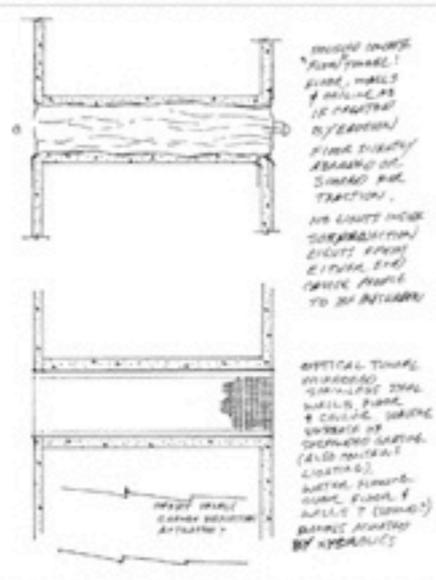
FLOW - ERRODED/FORMED SURFACES



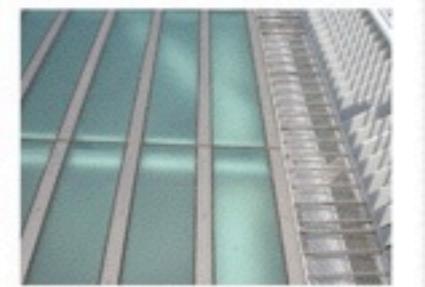
SEDIMENTARY CASTS OF TURBIDITY-FORMED STRUCTURES



LAVA TUBE FORMED BY FLOWING LAVA

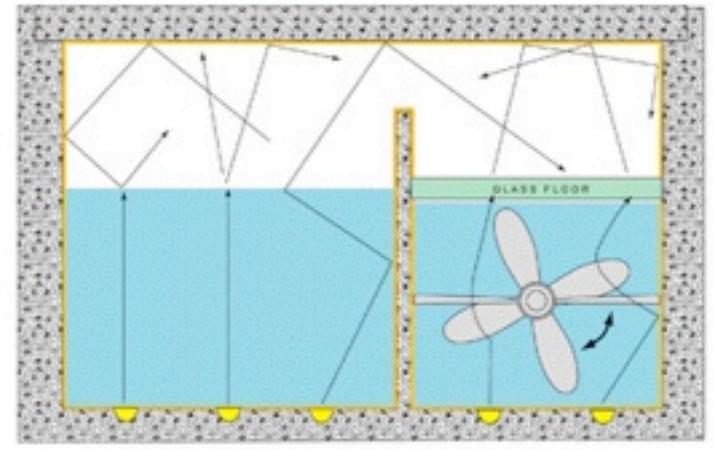


TIDAL ENERGY SYSTEM BENEATH GLASS WALKWAY.  
MIRROR-LINED, UPLIT, TURBULENCE SPACE.  
WORKS WITH INCOMING AND OUTGOING TIDE AND  
SOLAR ENERGY ELEMENTS ON SITE

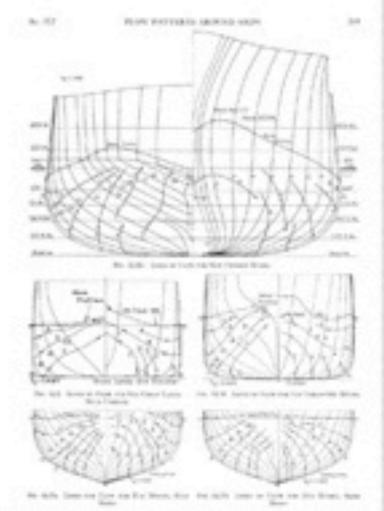


GLASS WALKWAY - CALATRAVA SUNDIAL BRIDGE

MIRRORED-OPTICAL (FLAT OR MARINE-INSPIRED?) SURFACES



TURBULENCE/LAMINAR SEPARATION FROM CURVED WALL



## **SITED SCULPTURE: RECIPROCAL RESCUE**

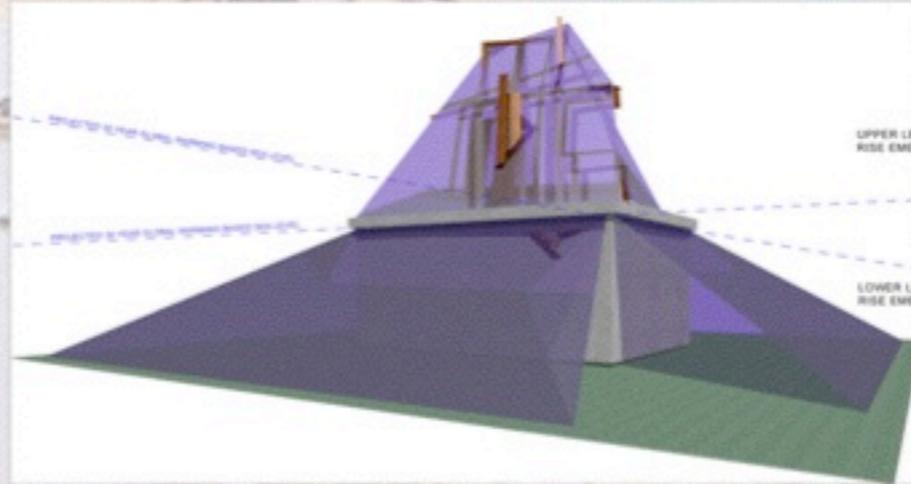
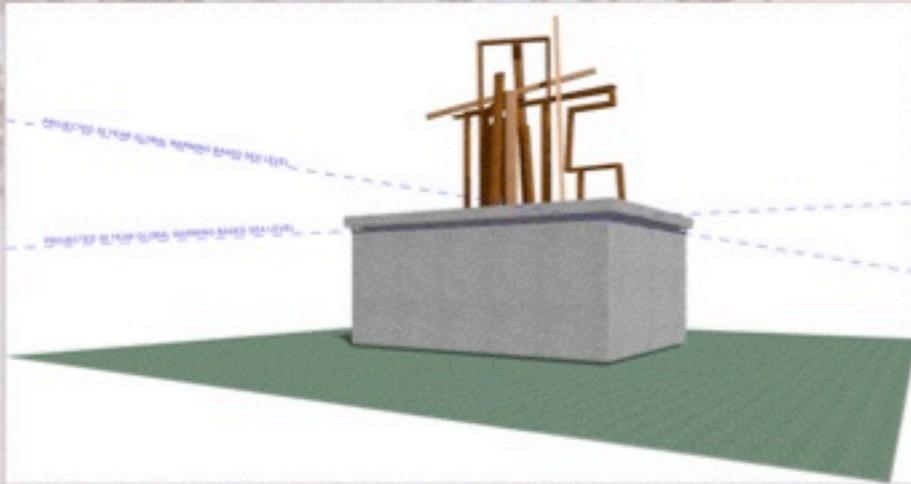
THE ESTUARY CHANNEL SCULPTURE COLLECTION IS PRESENTLY  
CONTROVERSIAL AND IN A STATE OF NEGLECT.

DESOTO/ROLOFF PROPOSE A DUAL (RECIPROCAL) SYSTEM TO EXTEND THE  
PHYSICAL, CONCEPTUAL AND CULTURAL RELATIONSHIP OF THE SCULPTURE  
TO THE ESTUARY SITE.

THE SCULPTURE IS RESCUED, LIKE ABU SIMBEL, FROM THE RISING SEAS OF  
GLOBAL WARMING (AND CONTROVERSY) BY ELEVATION ON PLINTHS PACKED  
WITH EMERGENCY SUPPLIES. THE SCULPTURES BECOME ARMATURES FOR  
SURVIVAL.

IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY, AS DURING THE 1906 EARTHQUAKE, PARKS  
BECOME REFUGE SITES. THE ESTUARY CHANNEL SPACE IS NOW PREPARED  
TO AID ITS CITIZENS.

# STUDY: SCULPTURE COLLECTION: RECIPROCAL RESCUE



## SCULPTURE COLLECTION: RESCUED

Like the ancient Egyptian sculpture/temple, Abu Simbel, saved from the man-made incursion of rising water caused by the filling of the Aswan Dam, each sculpture in the Estuary Channel Sculpture Park (and selected trees...) is rescued from the man-made incursion of rising sea levels caused by global warming. In this scenario, each sculpture is raised on support structures to the projected 30 year sea level. In turn acting as rescuers, each support structure contains emergency refugee survival materials, hidden from view until needed.

Each sculpture may have a different support/elevation system, according to its aesthetics and site relationship. Different support structure designs provide storage, shade, power and boat mooring.

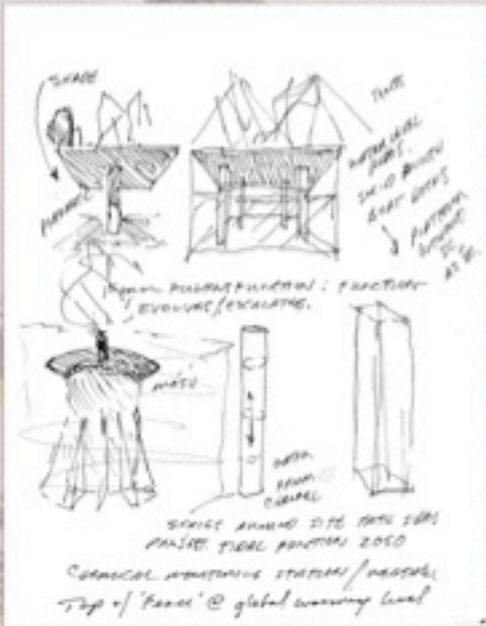
## SCULPTURE COLLECTION: RESCUER

In a reciprocal gesture, in times of emergency, each sculpture and elevated support system becomes an armature and resource for solar tents/awnings for power, related survival systems, emergency food, water and equipment, housed within the support structure. In the same way that parks in San Francisco and US Army tents became havens for refugees at the time of the 1906 earthquake, the Estuary Channel Park is now prepared to preserve its sculpture collection and give aid to its citizens in time of emergency.

There is an over 60% chance for an 8.0 quake in the Bay Area, including a 30% 8.0 earthquake on the nearby Hayward fault in the next 30 years, as well as a range of projected sea level increases over that same time period.

Each solar tent is carefully designed to provide emergency power and work with the unique structures of each sculpture: function follows form.

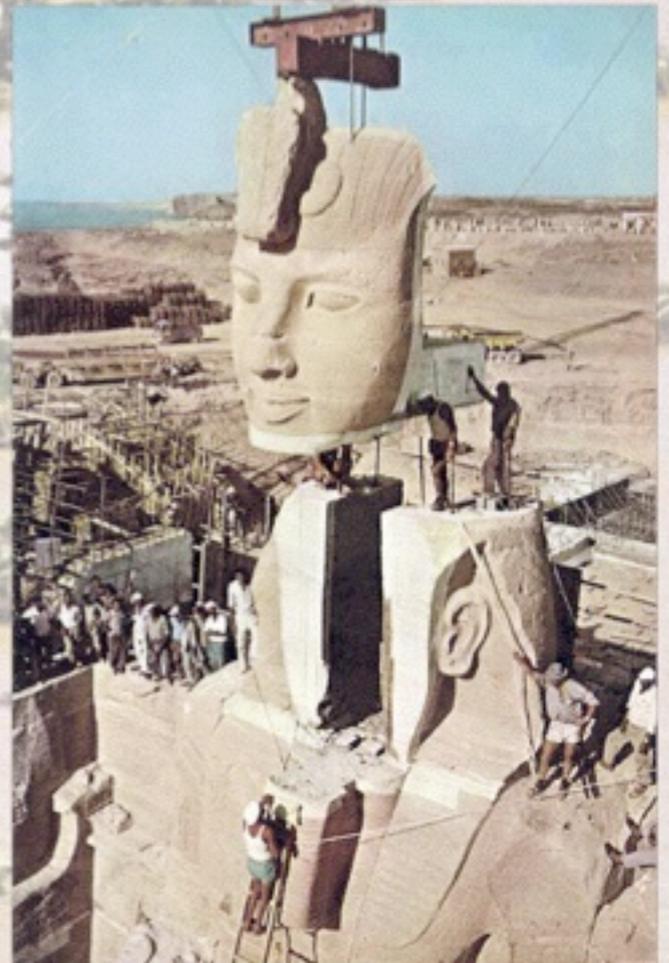
Survival system may work with other related programs on site, e.g., proposed medical opium poppy cultivation for morphine/sedative production for emergency situations, grown and organized by Oakland street gangs and a flag signal system in case of power outage.



SUPPORT STRUCTURE STUDIES



NEAR FT. MASON, 1906 - ONE OF MANY REFUGEE CAMPS AFTER THE SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE



ABU SIMBEL WAS RAISED OVER 200 FT. ABOVE ITS ORIGINAL SITE IN THE LATE 1960'S

SITE SCULPTURE CONCEPTUAL STUDY: LAKE MERRITT ESTUARY CHANNEL PROJECT  
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