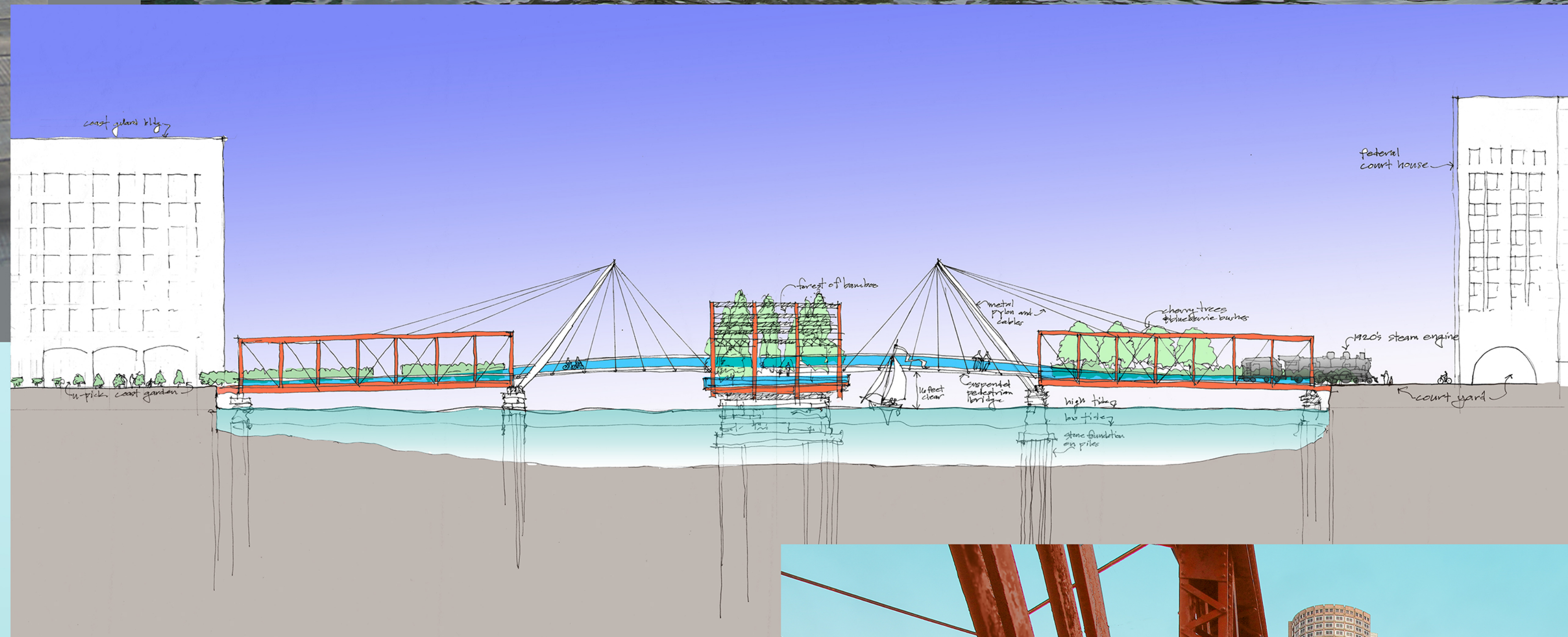




Bamboo Island Bridge

A New Boston Harbor Island

Northern Avenue Bridge Ideas Competition
4.30.2016



design philosophy + why bamboo?

Taking a cue from the Emerald Necklace, the open-space park concept of the Rose Kennedy Greenway is extended onto Northern Avenue; the bridge, and to the newly made square defined by the Courthouse, the Envoy, and the Barking Crab.

With the bridge destination programmed as a pleasure garden, the east and west bridge approaches are seen as working gardens. These community gardens are for anyone to pick their own vegetables, and to remind us of the agrarian link to the land.

After cleaning and repairing the iron bridge structure, it is to be painted bright vermilion to enliven this historic artifact of Boston's industrial age.

New pedestrian suspension bridges soar up and pass through the iron truss work signifying a new philosophy of "small footprint" yet aspiring impact. Guardrails are of deep blue tinted tempered glass, symbolic of the sky and ocean.

Conjuring visions of exotic lands, the swinging bridge becomes a forest of bamboo. It is a link to the seafaring past of clipper ships traveling the seas to far away islands in the 1820's. This commerce helped generate the wealth and richness that built Boston, and in turn fostered the construction of this bridge in 1908.

To lose the Northern Avenue bridge would be to lose a symbol of where we have been, who we are, and what direction we choose for the future.

Bamboo Island Bridge

Northern Avenue Bridge is left in an open position and repurposed as a public park with trees, plants, and seating to capitalize on its location as a unique and new "Boston Harbor Island."

The existing bridge deck is to be covered with new curving boardwalk paths and shallow planting beds. With minimal soil and little maintenance, bamboo will quickly flourish creating a dense and exotic forest in the middle of Fort Point Channel.

The bridge is transformed into a new open-space destination rather than merely a piece of connecting infrastructure. Access is only by foot, bicycle, wheel chair, mini-electric bus, or small boat. The absence of cars will foster an island respite, room for a lunch time retreat, a place to enjoy live music while sitting on the curving steps of the amphitheater, snack at the cafe, or just take in the view of the city beyond, framed by the old iron truss work.

Two new connected light weight suspension bridges for bikes, pedestrians, and small MBTA electric buses. The bridges arch upwards just enough for 16' clear height navigation below, and be comfortable for wheel chairs.

Restored steam locomotive of 1920's vintage and tracks to signify the primary function of the bridge

u-pick cherry trees and blueberry bushes

Envoy Hotel

Federal Courthouse

Barking Crab

Bridge Tender's Cafe

Performance stage

boat slip

US Coast Guard

Coast Garden

free to the public u-pick vegetables

James Hook Lobster

