



PETER VANDERWARKER

## Drinking Bird Bridge

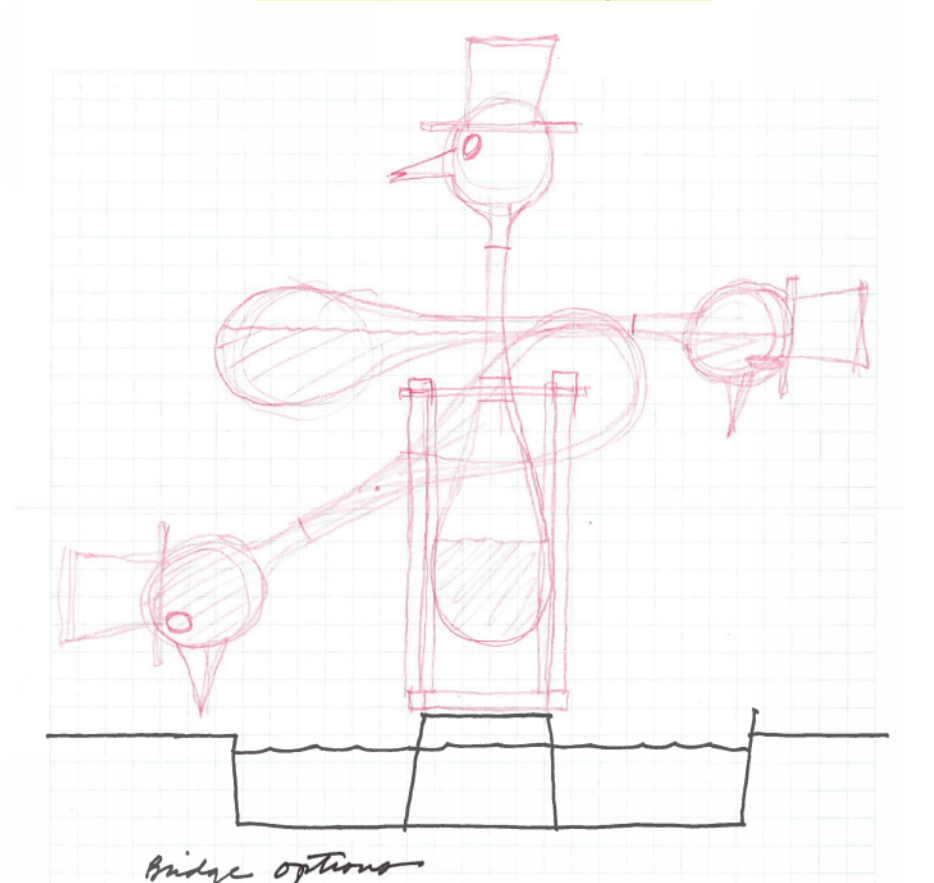
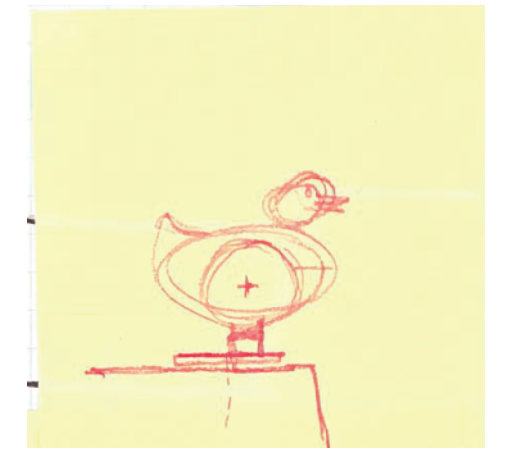
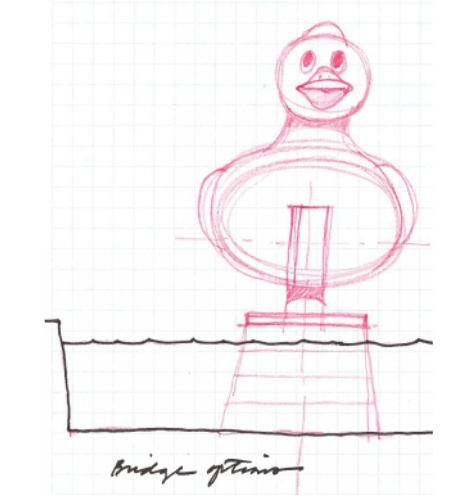
If there is not sufficient political will or public support to restore the historic Northern Avenue Bridge.... then a new bridge image that shares or reinforces the dynamic kinetic motion of the original structure is needed to create a vision of our time as an appropriate gateway to the South Boston Seaport "Innovation District" that is equal to the architectural vision of this emerging neighborhood.

Unlike another ubiquitous, place-less, cable stay bridges, the proposed monumental "Evaporation Bird" or "Drinking Bird" is a perfect summary of our times in that it is energetic, has an irrefutable work ethic, is larger than life, has a hypnotic universal populist appeal, moves with a dynamic dance determined by the very environment within which it exists while, at the same time, by its very physical nature strives to solve a global appetite for renewable sources of energy by seemingly generating its own source of limitless power.

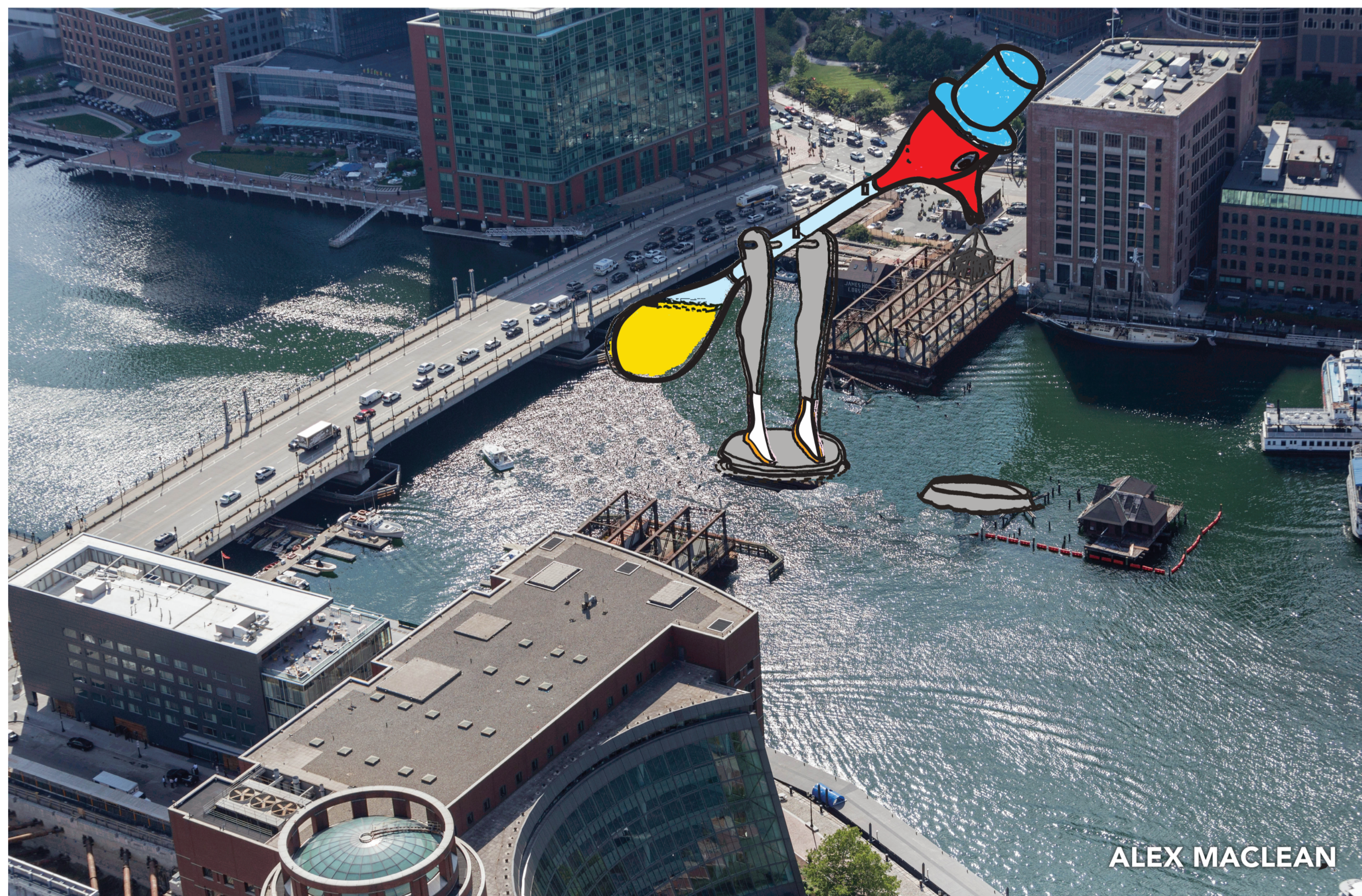
Located on the original bridge's pivot base foundation, the bird would be able to rotate from the North to South sides of the site picking up the crossing travelers in transparent cradles, located on either side, within the framework of the original approach structure. Each transit of the waterway would begin with travelers boarding the cradle-like capsule, followed by a dramatic vertical lift skyward, followed by a majestic panoramic swiveling across the channel to the opposite abutment, concluding with a gentle placement of the cradle back to earth on the opposite side. Welcome to Boston!

When not actively transporting travelers across the channel the bird would replenish itself by drinking from its water bowl placed directly in front of the restored Bridge Keepers House repurposed as a control room for the operation of the bird. Some might notice that while in the drinking position, the bird makes a subtle editorial comment on the aesthetic virtues of the Moakley Bridge with each sip of water. Like our own physical requirements, the act of drinking the precious harbor water initiates the life of the bird. With the intake of water the temperature differential between the fluid in the tail of the bird and the vapor in the head changes resulting in a thermodynamic change (ideal gas law) to the vapor resulting in a change to the center of gravity of the bird causing the bird to rise to a standing position, proudly looking out to the inner harbor. The mechanical energy inherent in this cycling of motion up and down, would be harnessed to provide electrical power to storage batteries used to propel the cradle lifting and rotational functions of the structure.

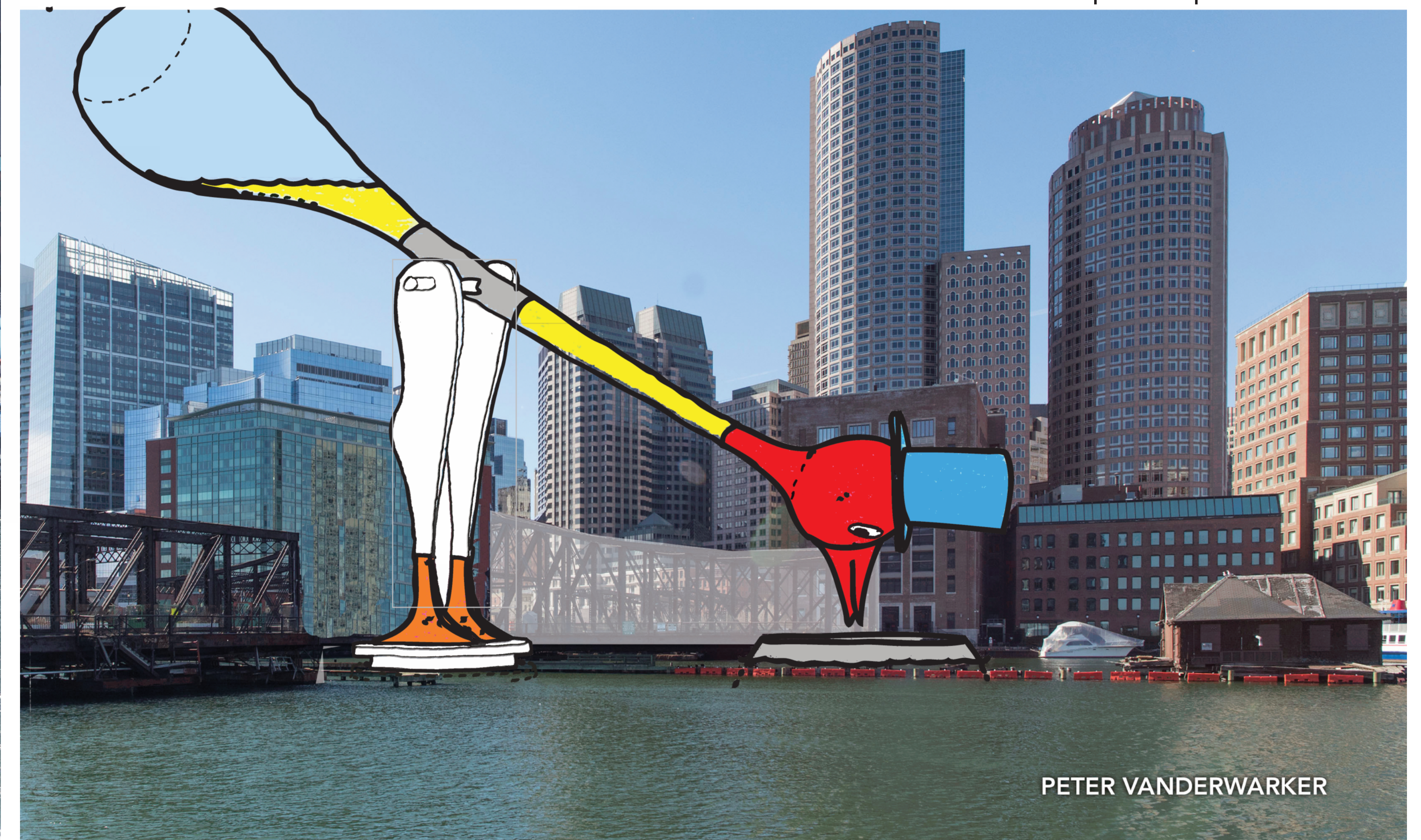
The bird's appeal is meant to be timeless, welcoming each future generation to Boston with a positive non-judgmental transport across Fort Point Channel to either historic Boston or the New Boston with the crossing giving the observant the chance to surmise the future or reflect on the past as they view the horizon.



Sculptural Options



ALEX MACLEAN



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