

Embellished with an imagery that recognizes and celebrates *the past-embraced-by-the-present* the Northern Avenue Bridge is a pedestrian activity center that serves as a link between downtown Boston and the Seaport District. The bridge offers a variety of experiences - including shops, restaurants, performances, public gathering - while providing a clear uninterrupted passageway for pedestrians and bicyclist to cross over the Fort Point Channel.

What is shown here is a conceptual montage. The actual eventual elements, parts and pieces would be derived from the master plan - which is a flexible and always evolving program. The resulting master plan and guidelines are open to the interpretation and creative input of the numerous contributing people required to ultimately build the entity.

The height of the bridge is set by the minimum clearances already established by the neighboring Seaport Blvd. Bridge.

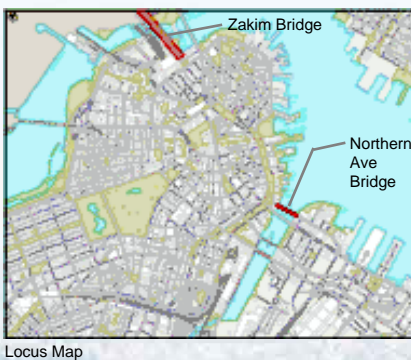
Open air gathering plaza
Uses to include a market and outdoor eating. The plaza is at and accessible from street level as well as connected to other bridge activities via stairs and ramps.
Ties into the Rowes Wharf harbor view walkway. Vehicular traffic is limited to maintain access to existing loading docks as well as servicing bridge functions.

Pedestrian ramp connecting the Greenway to the Bridge and to the Seaport District. One of the great problems confronting the city is the disconnection of downtown Boston and the Seaport District. By ramping up from within the Rose Kennedy Greenway a direct and uninterrupted pedestrian and bicycle link, without vehicular interference, is established.

Small scale buildings serving to support:
-Food Service
-Shops
-Public rest rooms
This cluster of functions adds to vibrancy of the bridge. Places of destination. Places to travel through. Places to bring life and activity to the bridge.

Water Connection--
Access to boats and boat-service is highly under utilized in Boston. It's time to offer easily accessible shuttles, taxis and perhaps an "Uber-ized" boat service at this gateway to both Fort Point Channel and the harbor.

Interior restaurant / bar below walkways above with seating along glass walls overlooking the water at the bridge and emphasizing harbor views with vistas across the bay.



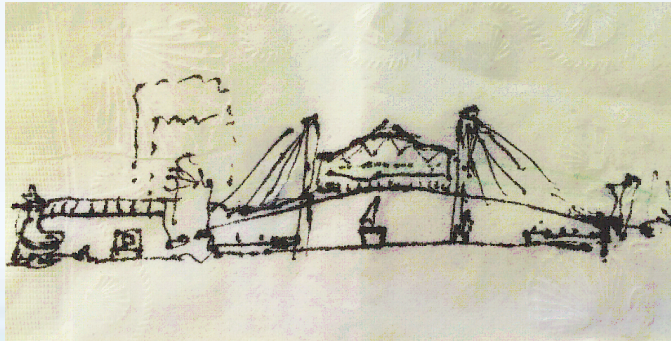
Locus Map

The imagery of the Zakim Bridge is used for a few reasons. One reason is to endorse and celebrate this new iconic symbol of Boston. Viewing the city from across the harbor the two bridges flank and frame downtown Boston and thereby contributes to the visual coherency of the city on a larger and grander scale. Aesthetically the dynamic use of the tension-based structure is powerful and visually pleasing.

The center and high point "crowning" moment of the bridge experience. The imagery here recalls the old bridge - constructed of steel members assembled in the style and spirit of the original iron bridge. Like the tension cables the replication is not literal but rather more or less interpretive and a suggestive reminder of the original structure.

The grand stairway spilling into Seaport. Inspired by the Spanish Steps the stairs serve as circulation, as public gathering, as seating focused on the arched entry plaza and as a monumental statement. Surrounding the stair are ramps which serve as an alternative to the stairs, maintaining the bicycle path and offering dynamic views as the construction provides cantilevered sweeps over the water.

Seaport Grand Arches entry plaza. Picking up on the theme of archways utilized by the Court House (and Rowes Wharf) these additional arches signify the arrival to the Seaport District. They also reinforce the continuity of the water walkway which traverses through the arched focal point. The arch motif has the opportunity to extend further along the walkway and be established as a symbol of the walkway. The Stage at the Arches - The steps descending from the bridge high point are focused on a small stage-like platform. The stage provides pianos inviting the public to play.



Napkin Concept Sketch

Lighting at night is a feature. The Northern Avenue Bridge hosted several experimental lighting exhibitions in recent years which received great acclaim and enthusiastic approval. The lighting scheme maintains the large scale association with the Zakim Bridge by emulating such on a smaller scale. Festive lighting keeps the public spaces alive into the night.

One of the Grand Arches open into, and defines, another public space between the Envoy Hotel and the Barking Crab. This open area is enriched and fueled by the waterside restaurant, the bar, restaurant and other public amenities at the Envoy Hotel ground floor level as well access to the Boston Harbor Sailing Club. One passes through the activities when traveling the continuous waterside walkway.

ORIGINAL PHOTO by ALEX MACLEAN

THE NORTHERN AVENUE BRIDGE COMPETITION