

U.N.H.Q. / Davids Island, NY

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Mont Saint Michel in Normandy
Spiral Jetty in the Great Salt Lake
Piazza San Marco in Venice
Isola Bella in Lago Maggiore

When thinking about the relationship between programmatic and formal conditions of this proposal for Davids Island these are the precedents that come to mind. Each of these environments has a symbiotic relationship with water where water affects the experience of place and becomes not merely a boundary but acts as a defining and inhabitable condition of the -scape. Water in and around the architectures of the place sets the inhabitants within the realm of the ebb and flow of the world, be it the seasonal flooding at San Marco or the daily tides of Saint Michel. Dealing with and enhancing the natural occurrences of our physical world as we inhabit it is truly one way of being "universal" or "international." It offers a

common way to mediate and blur the line between what we call the "natural" (that other than man) and the "artificial" (that made by man). Beyond any functional specifics of the site this notion is the best opportunity for enriching Davids Island and making it memorable.

The specifics of this proposal are to relocate the Headquarters of the United Nations here, to Davids Island. The premise is that, after 50 years in Manhattan, the UN has outgrown the great laboratory of the city, out worn its welcome, and as it did in its initial headquarters needs to regain its role as a benchmark of "-urbanism." The project offers a reconfiguration of Davids Island where surface areas are layered so that the different tidal conditions of Long Island Sound can ebb and flow over the garden conditions of the site, making human activity here requisite to and didactically related to the patterns of our world.



Fig. 1. Tidal heights (lowest to highest) and their resultant garden permutations.

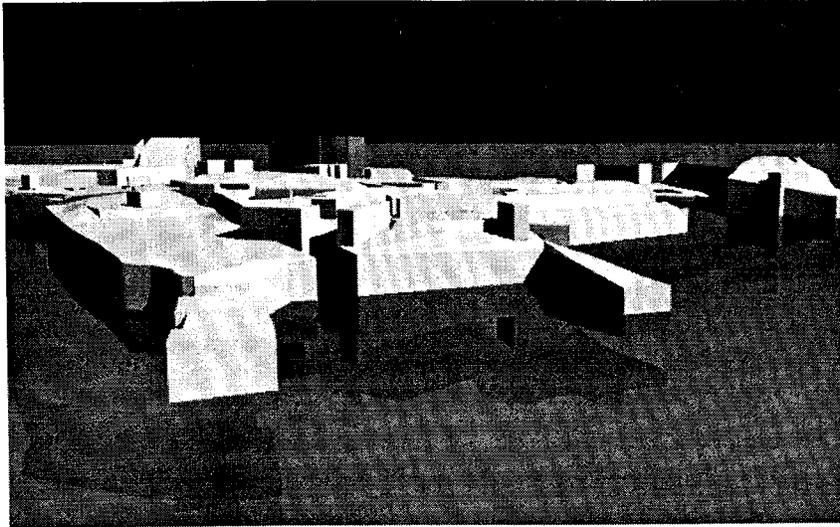


Fig. 2. View from harbor.

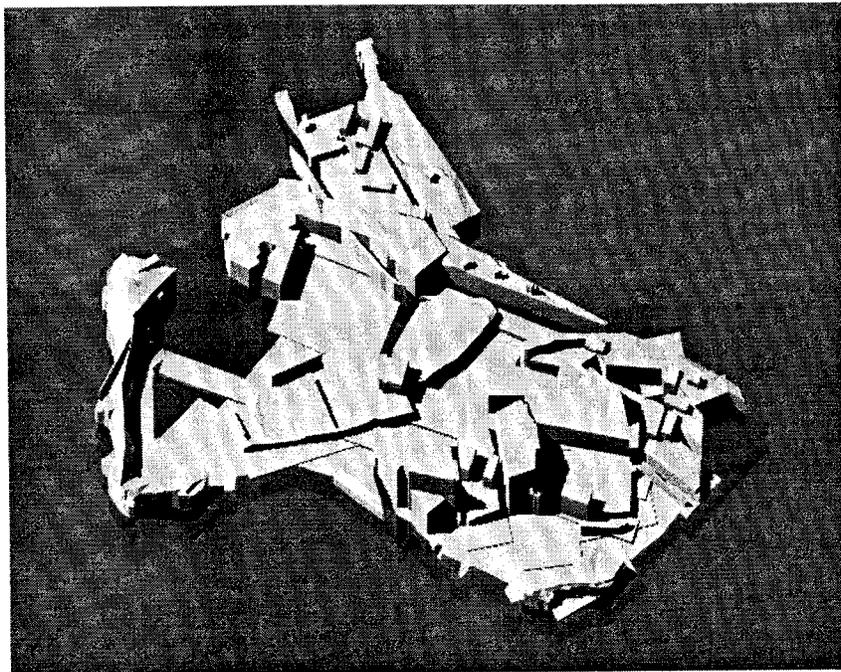


Fig. 3. Aerial view.



Fig. 4. Secretariat zone.

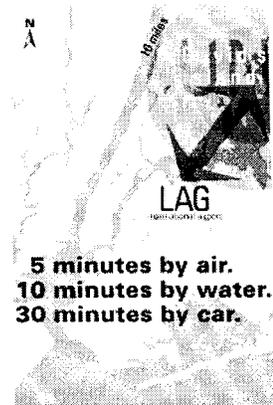


Fig. 5. Diplomat's map.

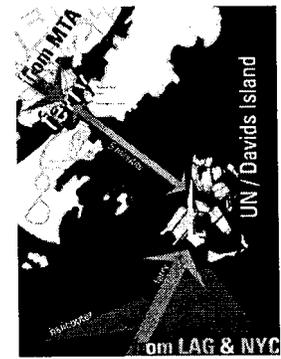


Fig. 6. Bureaucrat's map.