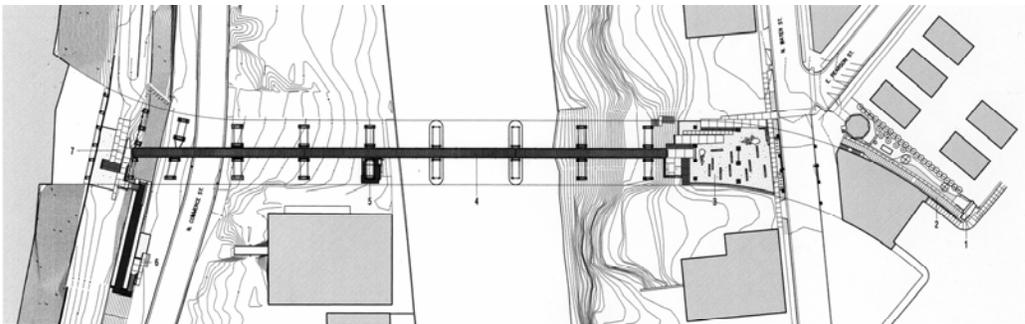


ALONG, WITHIN, & THROUGH

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Marsupial Bridge & Urban Plaza

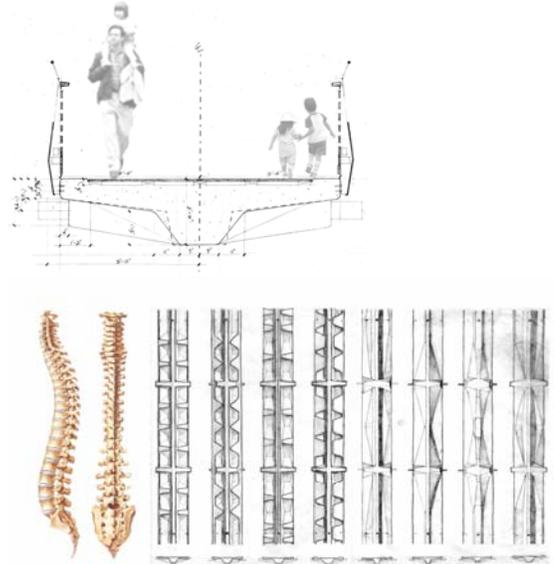
Like many North American post-industrial cities, Milwaukee is replete with leftover interstitial spaces that are the byproducts of urban infrastructure. This multi-phased project involves the regeneration of such a zone surrounding the 1925 Holton Street Viaduct that crosses the Milwaukee River. The project consists of three interwoven components *along*, *within*, and *through* the historic viaduct: a bus shelter that serves as a gateway into the project (*along*); an Urban Plaza that acts as a civic connector and media garden (*within*); and a 'Marsupial' bridge that offers a new pedestrian and bicycle connection (*through*). The existing viaduct is located in the heart of the densest neighborhood in southeastern Wisconsin, an emerging area for regeneration within a city that has experienced dramatic population loss since the middle of the 20th Century. This submission focuses on the **Marsupial Bridge and Urban Plaza**, addressing the conference's "fresh air" theme as a contemporary example of public space.



The new Marsupial Bridge weaving through the existing viaduct.

In a gesture of civic optimism, a coalition of neighborhood groups sought a transformative intervention to activate this Brownfield zone, currently surrounded by neglected spaces, empty storefronts, abandoned industrial sites, and poorly planned traffic patterns. The project provides a pedestrian and bicycle connection across the river, as well as a series of public spaces that renew this unclaimed territory. It also gives the urban traveler a new vantage point for experiencing the spaces created by the viaduct in a manner not originally intended. The three components of the project were in progress for six years. The project was fueled by a coalition of

public/private partnerships, generating civic support from government officials and resulting in a federal grant of \$2.6 million dollars, \$400,000 in matching city funds, and additional funding from nine public and private organizations.



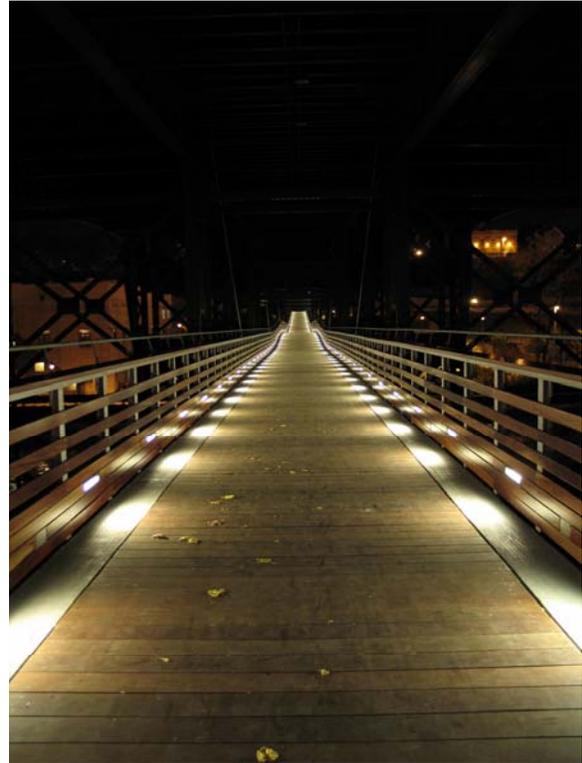
Studies of the undulate cast-in-place underside of post-tension concrete.

The Marsupial Bridge: Completed in early 2006, the Marsupial Bridge is woven through the viaduct, using the existing structure as its "host." The viaduct was originally engineered to support trolley cars, a transportation system which was abandoned with increased automobile use in the early 1900s. The Marsupial Bridge hangs opportunistically from the over-structured middle-third of the viaduct, responding to the changing transportation needs of the city for greater pedestrian and bicycle connections. The bridge is a "green highway" that activates the unused space beneath the viaduct, encourages alternative forms of transportation, and connects residential neighborhoods to natural amenities, Milwaukee's downtown, and the Brady Street commercial district.

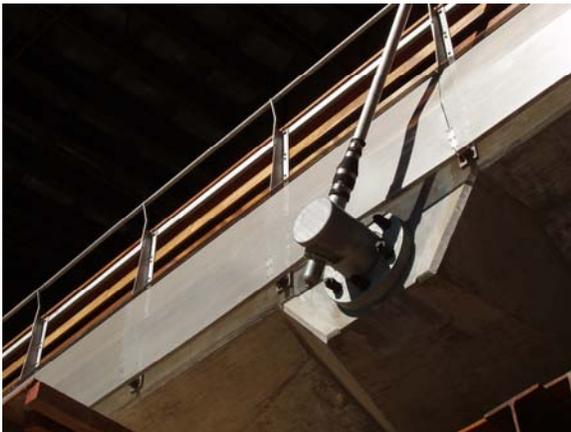


The Marsupial Bridge suspended from the 1925 steel.

The Marsupial Bridge's undulate concrete deck offers a counterpoint to the existing steel members of the viaduct, inspired by the notion of weaving a new spine through the structure. Recalling the wood docks along the Milwaukee River, formerly an industrial corridor linking northern territories with the Great Lakes, the concrete deck is finished with wood deck and handrails, stainless steel stanchions and a diaphanous apron. Floor lighting is integrated behind the apron, and precision theatrical fixtures are mounted above to create a localized ribbon of illumination with minimal spill into the riparian landscape below.



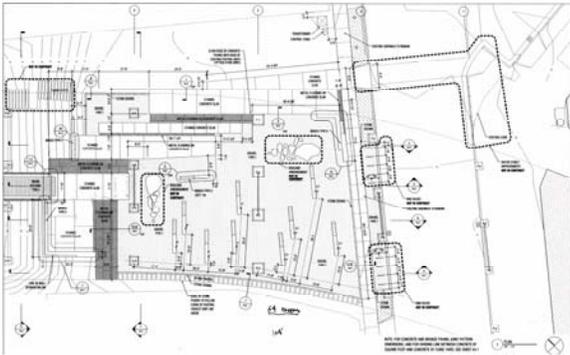
The undulate deck of the Bridge weaves through the viaduct.



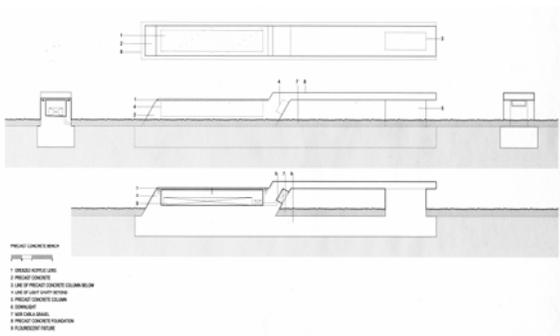
Marsupial Bridge connection detail.



Railing of mahogany and stainless steel.



Plan of Urban Plaza.



Precast Bench Details.

Marsupial Bridge and Urban Plaza

Project Credits

Architect: La Dallman Architects Inc.
 Structural Engineer: Bloom Consultants
 Lighting Designer: Noele Stollmack
 Electrical: Powertek Engineers
 Photography: Jim Brozek
 Masterplan: La Dallman Architects
 with Crisman + Petrus