

Components of the Plan

Design Structure

Overall Plan

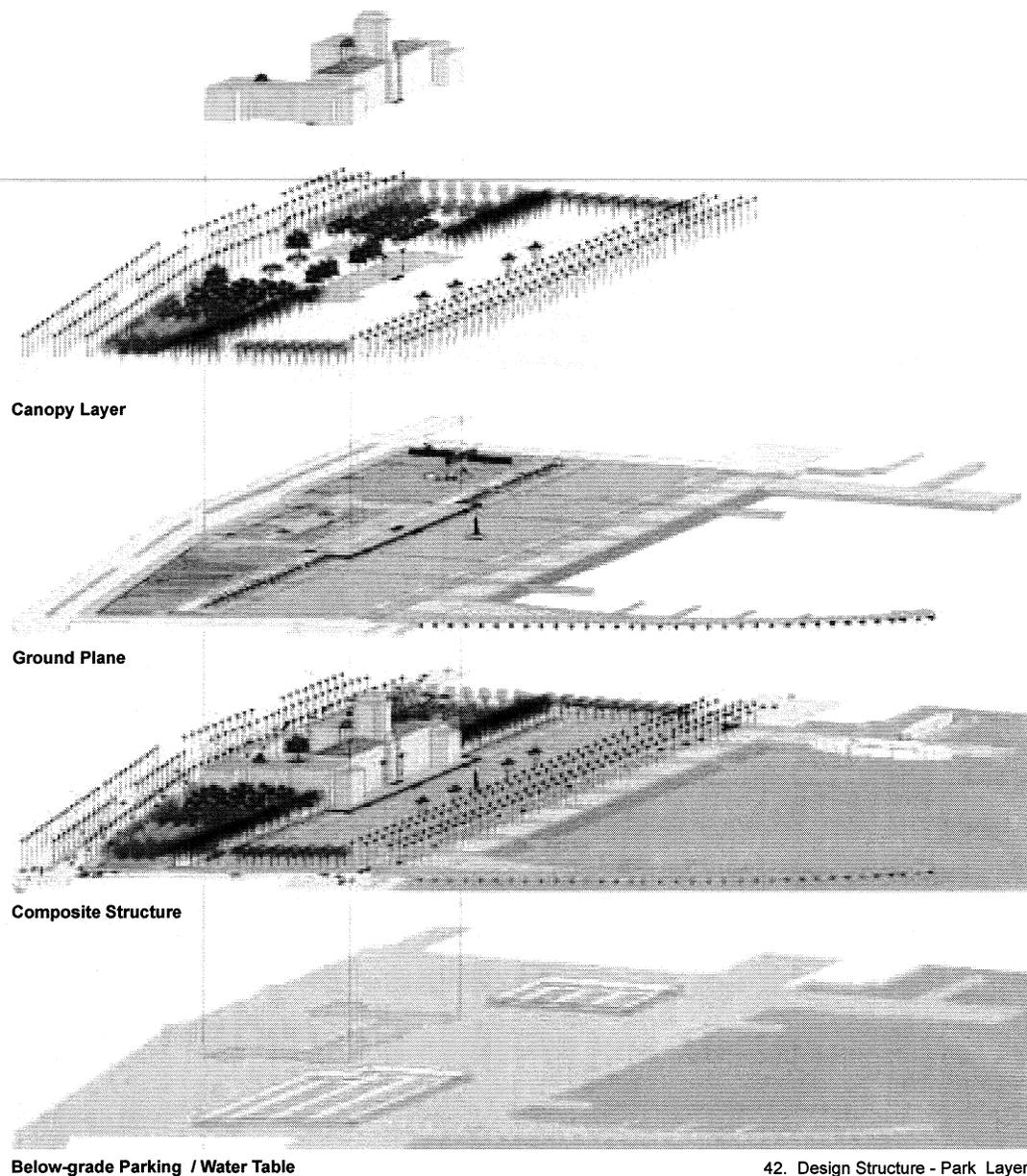
Garden Rooms North

Garden Rooms South

Fountain / Upper Promenade

Civic Park / Green

Esplanade / Civic Plaza / Water Terraces



Canopy Layer

Ground Plane

Composite Structure

Below-grade Parking / Water Table

42. Design Structure - Park Layers

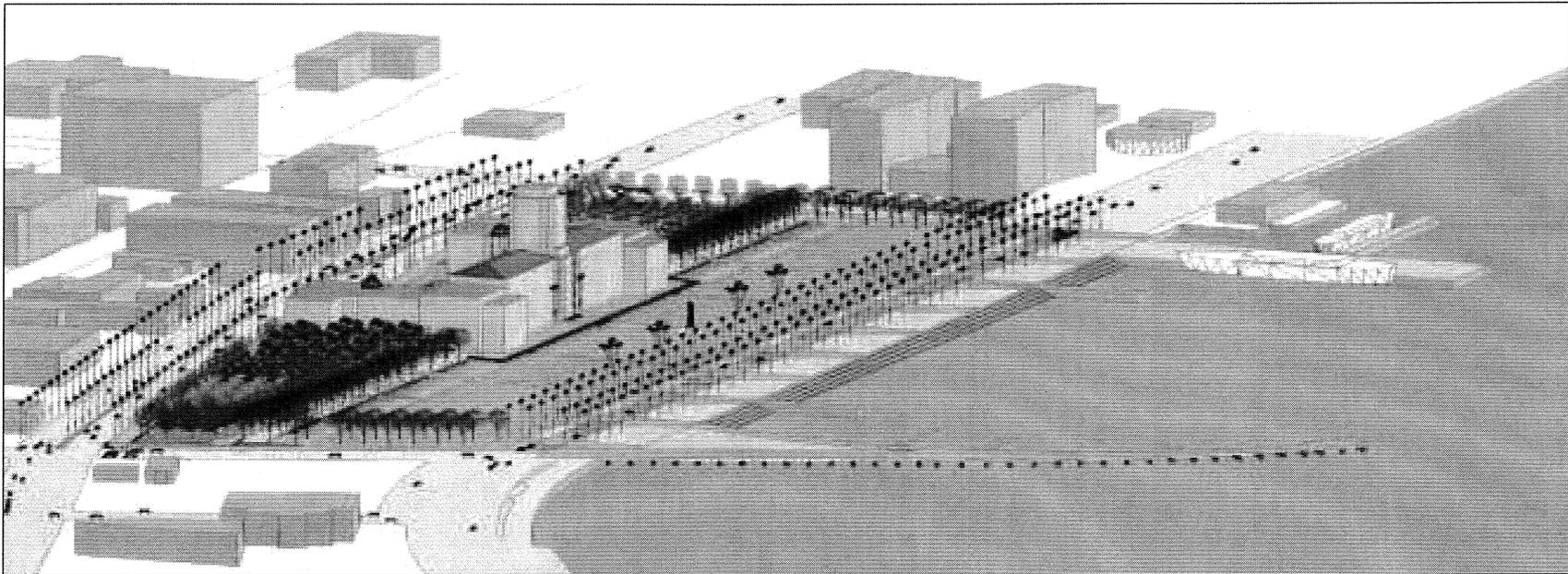
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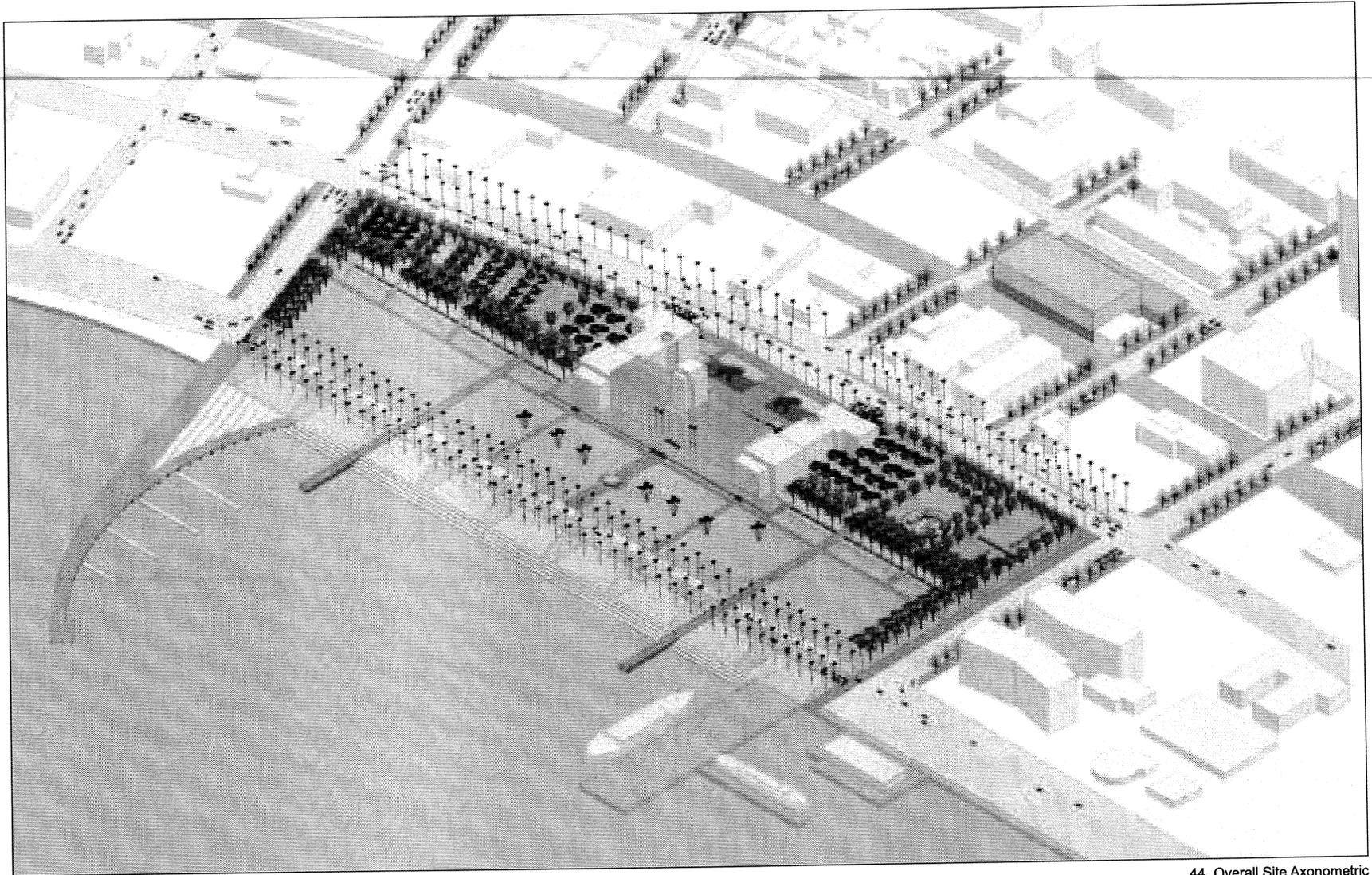
Responding to the demands of the evolving North Embarcadero District, this Master Plan proposes a Waterfront Park designed to meet current specific needs, while remaining flexible enough to satisfy unanticipated future demands.

The design specifies a wide diversity of spaces and programmed uses: active and passive, sunny and shaded, exposed and sheltered, ambulatory and sedentary, garden, grove, lawn, plaza etc.... Collectively these spaces create a comprehensive and cohesive Waterfront Park, well integrated with its neighborhood and historical context.

The following chapter describes each of the major park spaces in more detail. Perspective sketches, giving an eye-level impression of the character of these spaces, supplement the details taken from the overall axonometric drawing to the right.



43. Overall Site Axonometric



44. Overall Site Axonometric

Components of the Plan

Garden Rooms North

Garden Rooms extend north and south from the CAC building. They are contained between a central path, emanating from the north and south entrances of the CAC building, and Pacific Highway. They are predominately green, with an emphasis on planting, and offer a feeling of enclosure and intimacy, in contrast to the vast open Civic Green. A 2.5-3' grade change and vegetation screening adds to a perception of separation from the road traffic and noise of Pacific Highway. Ample fixed seating, tables, chairs, and lighting help create intimate and occupiable spaces. Garden Rooms could be venues for organized activities such as weddings, holiday celebrations, music events, performance, botanical tours, and various passive activities.

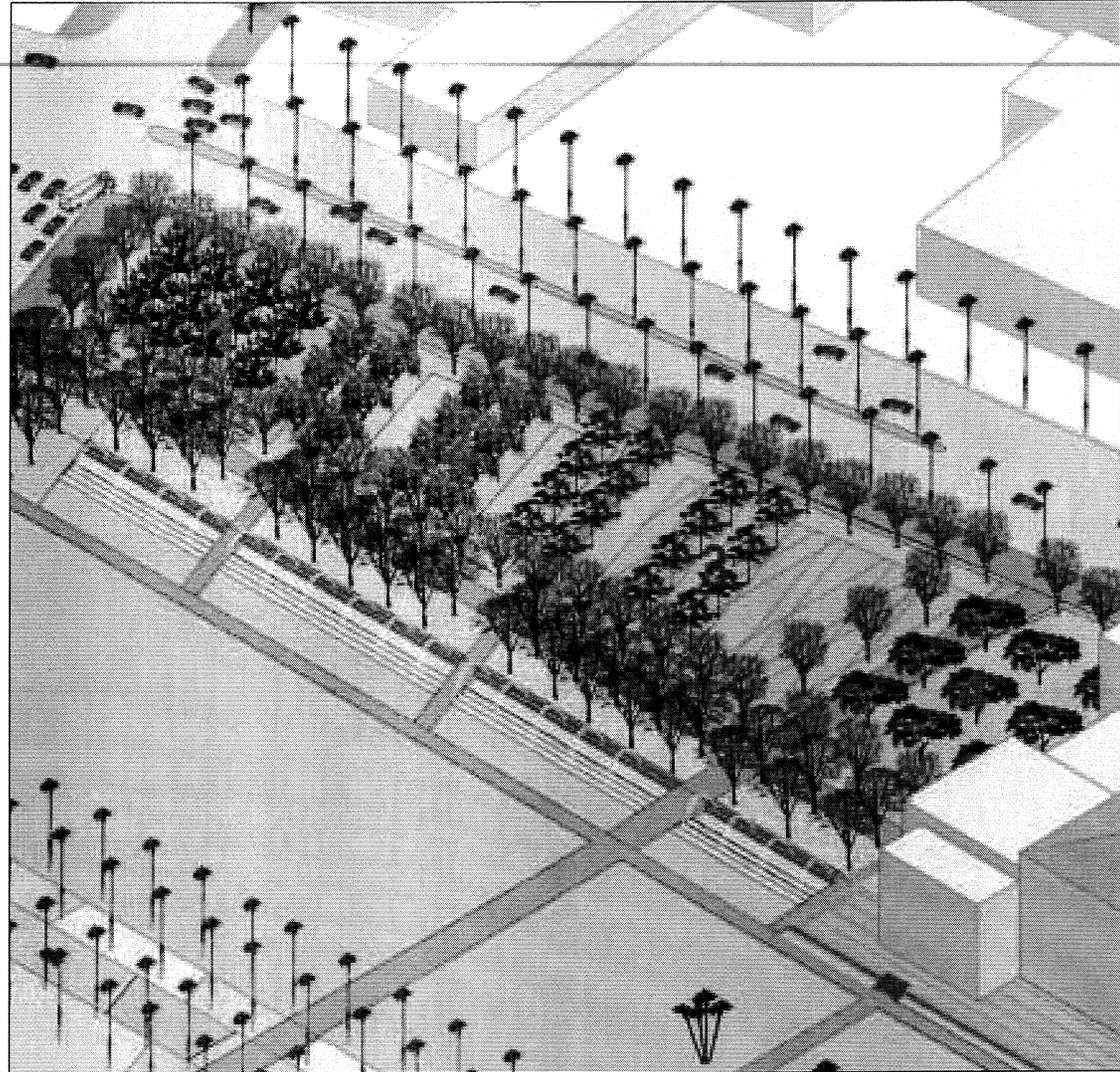
The North Garden Rooms emphasize botanical collections and display gardens; native plants, Mediterranean plant materials, grasses, and groves.

Room 1 - Dense grove of trees and shrubs screen the busy intersection of Grape Street and Pacific Highway while providing a shaded place of respite.

Room 2 - Tree rows are inter-planted with native and water conscious plant display gardens.

Room 3 - Diverse grasses and low hedge plantings create a highly textured mosaic on the ground plane in spaces defined by tree rows.

Room 4 - This Diversity Garden represents the wide range of exotic plants well adapted to San Diego's unique climate. A widely-spaced grove lightly shades the gardens below.



45. Garden Rooms North

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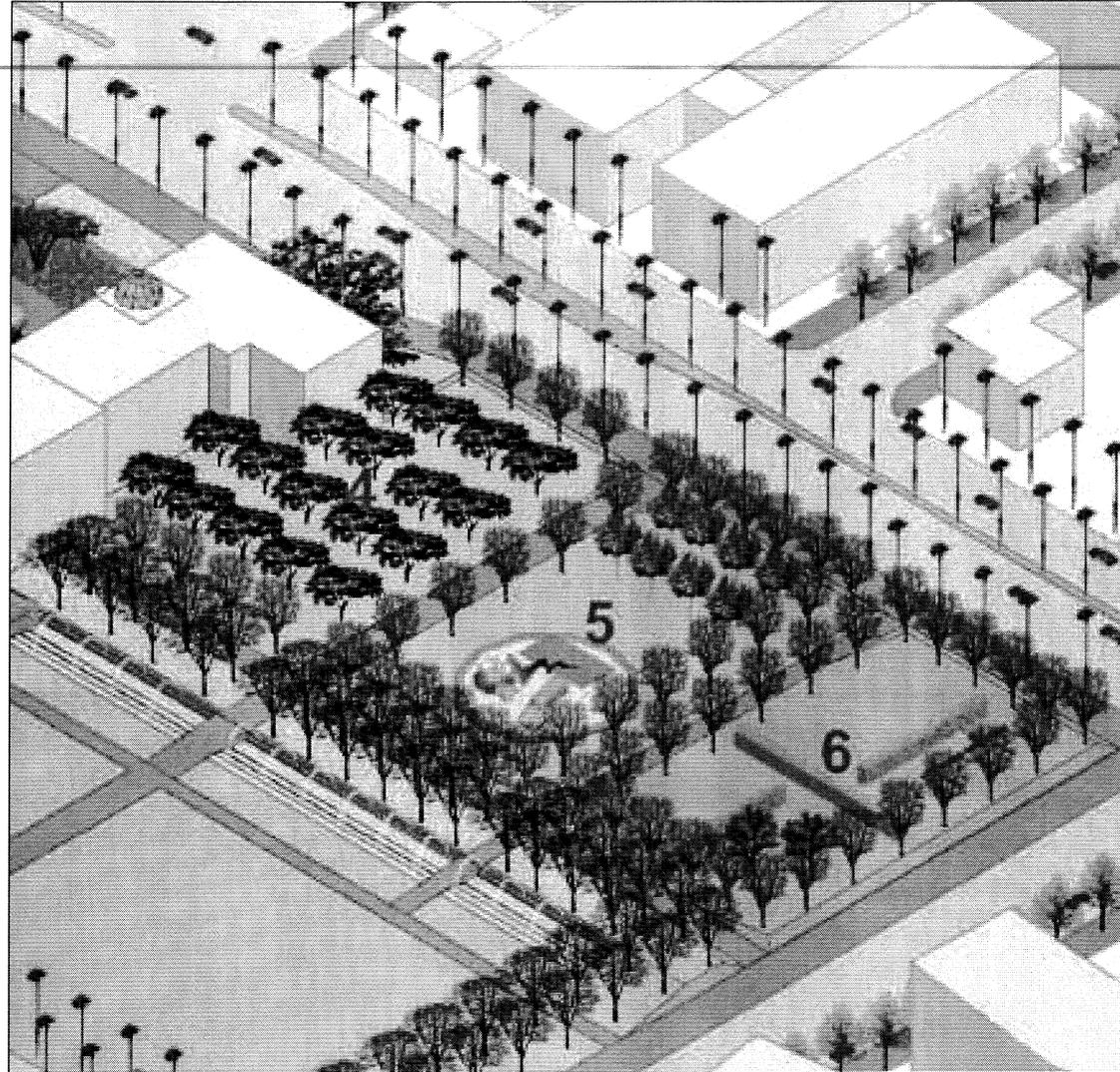
Garden Rooms South

The South Garden Rooms are characterized by a combination of plantings and program. Trees, hedges and vines define garden rooms in which program plays a significant function.

Room 4 - This Diversity Garden represents the wide range of exotic plants well adapted to San Diego's unique climate. A widely-spaced grove lightly shades the gardens below.

Room 5 - A children's Play Garden is separated from Pacific Highway by a grove of whimsical trees. Plant materials that children can interact with are selected for textural variation, color, scent and durability. The Children's Play Garden enhances the park's connection to adjacent neighborhoods.

Room 6 - The Sculpture Garden at Pacific Highway and Ash Street creates a cultural link with downtown. Intimate sculpture rooms are defined by hedge and vine "walls". Civic-scale sculpture is placed along streets for external viewing, while smaller pieces are placed within interior spaces.



47. Garden Rooms South

Components of the Plan

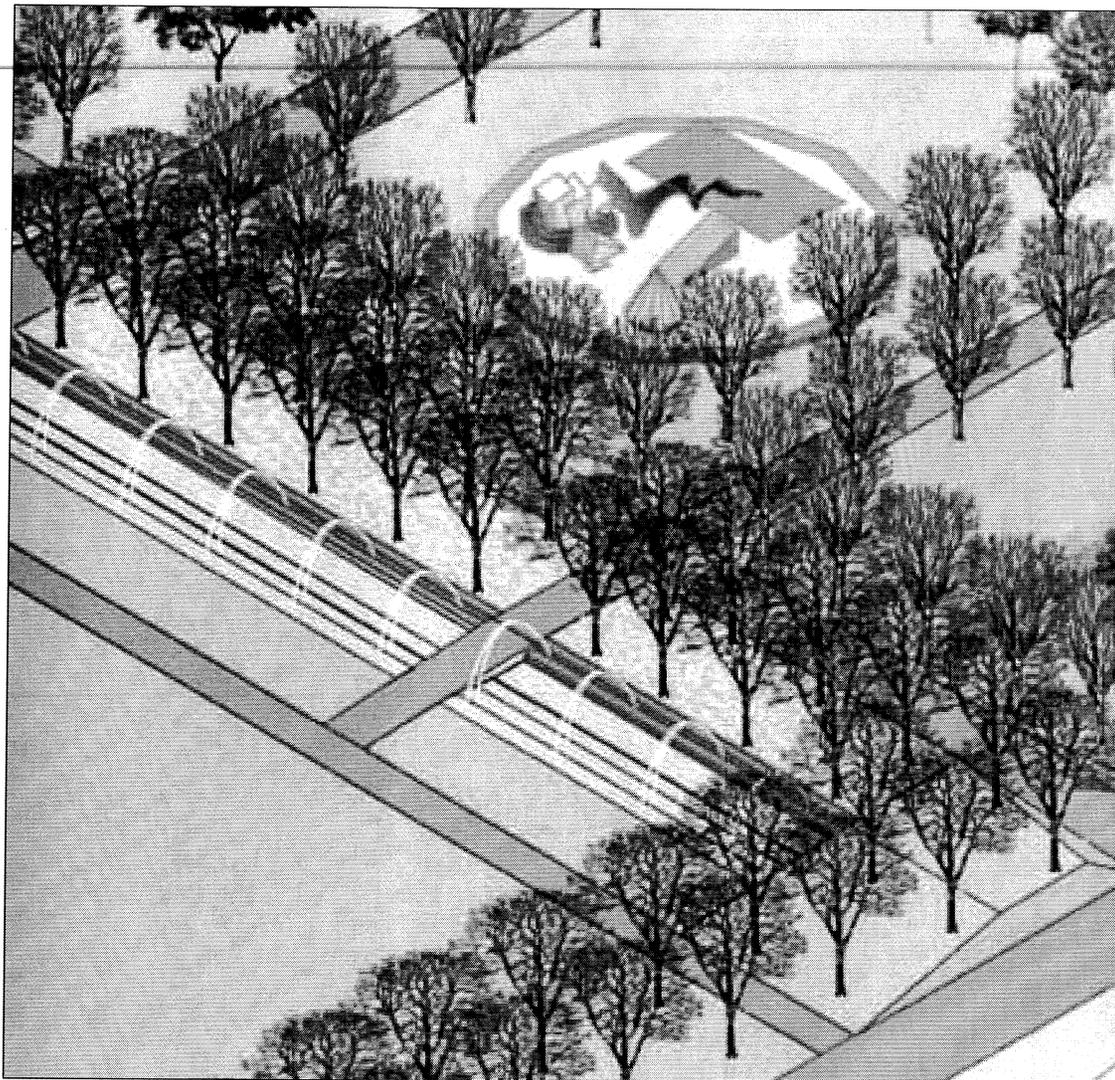
Fountain / Upper Promenade

The Upper Promenade and Civic Fountain cumulatively define a spine of passive/contemplative space running the length of the park. This area is well insulated from the noise of Pacific Highway, and the activity of the Civic Green; the Civic Fountain creating a sound wall of white noise to the west, and the Garden Rooms buffering highway noise and visual chaos from the east. The slightly elevated Upper Promenade and Fountain steps offer commanding views of the Civic Green, Esplanade and San Diego Bay.

Fountain steps, capitalizing on the grade change between the Garden Rooms and the Civic Green, serve as integral seating overlooking fountain activities and the broad vistas beyond. Shallow wide steps on the west edge of the fountain serve as a play area for children or adults who want to frolic in the cascading water. The Fountain, extending wing-like from the CAC building, creates a perceptual connection between the Park and the Bay. Jets emerge from the higher ground and cascade toward the Bay. East / west paths ramp down between fountain jets, connecting the higher grade of the Upper Promenade and Garden Rooms to the lower grade of the Civic Green.

Ample back-to-back benches, a double row of trees, and pedestrian-scale lighting define intimate rooms within the larger Upper Promenade. These rooms are well suited to passive activities such as people watching, sitting, or walking. The permeable decomposed granite surface allows intensive use without diminishing growth of trees. The Fountain and Upper Promenade create a threshold between the very public Civic Green and the intimate Garden Rooms.

CAC Waterfront Park



49. Fountain