Natural phenomena | Urban form | Equilibrium

THRESHOLDS

PEIYI LIU
MLA CANDIDATE 2017
Rhode Island School of Design
A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Landscape Architecture Degree in the Department of Landscape Architecture of the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island.

By Peiyi Liu
May 30, 2017

Approved by Masters Examination Committee:

Scheri Fultineer, Department Head, Landscape Architecture

Michael Blier, Primary Thesis Advisor

Daniel Hewitt, Secondary Thesis Advisor
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Overview

Research topic
My research topic is finding methodologies to address thresholds between natural processes and the urban network to achieve equilibrium between the two at Battery Park community.

Phase 01
In this phase, this investigation will seek to look at the definitions of thresholds, and then generate a system to categorize the operations of thresholds in order to understand and access more possibilities for thresholds within landscape.

Phase 02
Phase 2 will build on phase 1 by looking at the existing features and subtle processes of the site in order to understand its potentials and problems.

Phase 03
Phase 3 will build on phase 2 by figuring out design approaches in order to understand the operation.

Site

Battery Park is a public park located in lower Manhattan. My thesis project will focus on analyzing and reading thresholds within different conditions [the interfaces between the coastal environment, the river, civic spaces, the residential community and the Manhattan skyline] in Battery Park and its neighborhood.
Phase 1 Investigation
Research
Abstract

I chose this research project because I’m curious about the elements that create places which are naturally appealing to people. These kinds of places seem to have a special connection with the unconscious mind and effortlessly attract people. However, a place like this acts more like a transition, leading people through an exit immediately followed by an entrance, encouraging people to move along or pause. A threshold would be an exact place that contains all of these spatial qualities. The concept of “Threshold” exists almost everywhere in our world, from the highest mountain peak to the lowest ocean trench. Thresholds are where transformations take place, where exchanges between unlikely conditions happen and where the result of dynamic relations occurs. If well noticed and designed, thresholds help to integrate systems and can create unpredictable further effects.

Introduction

In phase 01, I focus on researching the definitions of threshold and generate a system to categorize the operations of thresholds to understand how they operate in different scales.

Methods

1. Exploring the definitions of threshold.
2. Generating a system to categorize the operations of threshold.
3. Analyzing precedents to understand how they operate in different scales.
Phase 1 Definitions — Threshold

01
A threshold is a linear interface between systems/ ecotones engaging ecological processes or open-ended environmental processes. Blurred edge / gradual transition / gradient

Engaging ecological processes / open-endedness environmental processes
A process of immersion ➔ New identity / Unique atmosphere

02
Threshold is a space allowing natural phenomena, daily cycles and seasonal cycles to approach the building or becoming compromised results. Thresholds can also be a new space which shows the identity and atmosphere of a place in spatial terms, the same way façades or materials do.

Reveal natural phenomena / environmental changes

03
Threshold could be a punctuation to mark or give specific identities, thus convincing people to pause and notice the place.

Punctuation ➔ To give emphasis / to mark
Breathing space

Apparatus
An active and ongoing condition creates something further and unpredictable.

Threshold is a pluralistic concept, full of potential. “Thresholds” are where transformations happen, where exchanges between different things begin, and where identities are demonstrated. They are the result of dynamic relations, between architecture and landscape, the public and the private, work and recreation, inside and outside. They resist closure in terms of both meaning and space. The relationships between the interfaces are continuous and reciprocal.

The engagement of exterior and interior/spaces.
Entry space

A place / structure to arrive, leave, rest, wait, shelter, eat, to greet.

Outdoor anteroom

Gateway

The thresholds contain “structures / topographic structures commonly associated with entry spaces.”

Create more stimulation and wonder to make people pause and feel the place, more expectation/anticipation/attraction/imagination.
Hollow
Spaces between larger, higher or lower space.

Edge
The line or part along two surfaces of a solid meet.
The physical and conceptual entities within spaces provide opportunity to be integrated.

A solid meet between two surfaces

Landings and staircases produce integrated or connected thresholds between places serving functions - sitting / stopping / resting.

Enclosed / Integrative
Public, private and semi-private interfaces.
To produce orders of architecture/landscape or spaces sustain new identities as they redefine their origins.

**Landscape/architecture**

Frame / Window

Visual threshold
Frames and windows visually "link one environment with another by connecting the frame with the framed."

Public, private and semi-private interfaces.
To produce orders of architecture/landscape or spaces sustain new identities as they redefine their origins.

**Frame / Window**

Visual threshold
Frames and windows visually "link one environment with another by connecting the frame with the framed."

Public, private and semi-private interfaces.
To produce orders of architecture/landscape or spaces sustain new identities as they redefine their origins.
Horizon

Viewpoint – Tree ceiling - Sky

Spatial quality

Reveal natural process and natural phenomena
Temporality
Daily cycle
Sun path
Light /dark/ shadow
Mist
Time
Seasonal cycle
Forms/ color of plants
Sensory experiences
Spatial sequence

To direct physical contact and convince people to explore the environment. Create more stimulation / wander
Physical contact – begin, change direction, pause, look, glimpse, progress, rest, scent, warmth, stay, continue

Bloedel Reserve

A landscape place that holds significance to me is Bloedel Reserve designed by Richard Haag on Bainbridge Island. I was immersed in a work of harvested second-growth forest art by looking closely at the boundaries between the forests as well as the main sequence of the four gardens—the Garden of Planes, the Moss Garden, the Reflection Garden, and the Bird Marsh.

--- Sequence of Gardens ---

- Garden of Planes

The garden is composed with geometric hills to represent the attitude to face nature and pause time at the moment.

The place revealed the effects of time, change and growth. The land controls body movement to help form the ground, penetrating to fall into the moss-grown land.

- Moss Garden

The garden is composed with geometric hills to represent the attitude to face nature and pause time at the moment.

The changing light of the geometric pools, the split in the surface filled with rising groundwater, the straight yew hedge and the surrounding forest, all together successfully create an amazing dialogue with the viewer.

- Garden of Reflection

A long walk that led to the Bird Marsh, a watery, light-filled region full of cheep chirps of birds.
Tectonic clarity — Materiality

Textures/ patterns/ colors/ natural/ man-made
Materials and textures are crucial factors to control people’s subconscious and natural positive responses, forcing people to focus and create immediate or close-up sensory experience.

It is a tool to index and express temporality/ old and new, to support a phenomenological reading of a place, to create sensations/ relief/ natural positive responses/ attraction to react to the weather/ the another material.

To index and express temporality / weather conditions

Wind
Sunlight
Mist
Shadow

The reflective material to mirror views and existing groves - a way to make people aware of the environmental features and influence people’s subconscious.
The arrangement of bricks represents the texture of the tree trunk to maintain consistency.
The old factory wall made with irregular stones and orderly bricks represent the contrast.
The clean and simple concrete material allows the existing tone and traces to be visible.
The ordered steel makes light and shadow visible. The surface of steel is very similar to the texture of leaves which extends the spatial quality from the forest.
The ground surface made with gravel and stone shows the existing geological features.

Parc de Clot

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Scale/ proportion

Vastness vs. intimacy
The relationship between human size, site and emotional responses.

The precedents, Fürstenwald Cemetery and Bamboo Garden, both provide comfortable proportions in framed or enclosed spaces within landscape. The framed views and vistas offer a sense of continuity, anticipation and the mystery of the mountain views and dense bamboo community.
2.6 - Ha
Athletics Stadium

3.5 - Ha
Parc del Clot

Threshold
Park
A threshold between glade and forest
The athletics stadium is a glade between an oak forest and Olot city. Upon my first glimpse of the place, the entrance as an invitation welcomed me. A triangular geometric gate made with a framework is covered by engraved strips inclining with the existing landform as punctuation, creating the entry. Part of the strips help to turn light and shadow into a sensual experience. The powerful and attractive structure helps to accentuate the views, the forest and the glade. When I came closer, I found the texture of the surface is made with elaborate leaf-like stamps. Meanwhile, an overlook platform came into view. Nature from afar became the most magnificent view here. I could imagine shadows casting perfectly on the gateway and ground, marking the cycle of each day. The ground surface, made with steel and gravel, synthesizes with the texture of oak leaves, merging the subtle changes in the sequential spaces. I was pulled deeper into the space. The shifts of mass and texture of the plantings caught my attention.

Another part of the park is a vast athletic field, 700 feet long and 450 feet wide. Several mounds were built at the center of the athletic field as a gradient to reveal and enhance the connection with the existing oak forest. In alignment with the existing landform, seating areas were built with natural forms upon the mound to stay in harmony with the existing woodland. The whole setting reinterprets the connections between the dense grove, the clearing, the magnificent views of the mountain and the city, and allows people to feel and beware of the stories.
Physical components - a dramatic and primeval space type

Forest + Clearing

Glades provide contrasting landscape experiences
- Dark to light
- Enclosure to openness
- Shade to sun.

Spatial sequence

Transforming existing features - forest, light, shadow and reorganizing choreography for people experience the site.
Spatial concept

Forest + Clearing

Glades provide contrasting landscape experiences
- Dark to light
- Enclosure to openness
- Shade to sun.
Spatial concept - create gradual immersion into nature/ oak forest

A transition of immerse
Gateway - a punctuation to mark /create expectation/ anticipation/ attraction

Create more stimulation and wonder to make people pause and feel the place. 
Reveal natural phenomena / light, shadow
Tectonic clarity - integrates systems, surfaces and spaces to maintain integrated and consistent quality, providing intimate perception and natural positive response.
Parc del clot, Barcelona, 1986
Designer / Daniel Freixa and Vicent Miranda

A threshold between glade and forest

"Parc del clot is located in the centre of the Clot district. It stands on a site between the district council building and a market. The park expresses how urban cultures and memory connect with a natural setting."

The major spatial components of the park are a sunken square and a raised hill. A "director box" forms the western part composed of four light structures which bind all components together in two raised routes that cross the plaza and stop at the urban topography.

A way defines and connects the borders of the plaza and green space. Also, each entrance frames crucial thresholds between the urban setting and the natural environment. Historical traces such as the factory walls combine with new light masts, water features and footbridges as a reminder that the past and present coexist, as well as acting as a threshold to integrate the edge of the western part of the park. The edge of the northern part was composed of a brick factory wall, steps and a plaza punctuated by ordered trees which frames a spatial sequence that directs people into the park.
Physical components - a inner-city open space

Special character
Reuse and preserve existing chimney, arches and walls from old factory buildings.

Spatial sequence

Stressful Non-stressful Stressful

Square Green space

Man-made Wild
Spatial sequence

The contrast between new and old - existing chimney, arches and walls from old factory buildings VS clean and simple material concrete
A threshold between glade and forest.
Water Mirror Plaza is a space open to all within the city, reorganizing the connection to Place de la Bourse, buildings, the pattern of planting, and responding to the volumes of solid and void along it. The plaza reflects adjacent buildings, river scenes, and people. With simple languages, a new order is created in dialogue with urban languages. Its effortless words come with subtle changes.
The vast tranquil surface helps to turn natural phenomena such as the daily cycle of light into sensuous experiences. It also invites people, sky, and the horizon to occupy this playful and joyful place. It increases participation and anticipation, not just focusing on people and activities but also the views, architecture, river, water, light, natural phenomena, even the entire city. They are like catalysts, enhancing the vibrance of this space. They unite, mitigate, and reorganize the order. The power of simplicity allows for more possibilities and imagination.

This work increases participation and anticipation, not just focusing on people and activities but rather the views around, architecture, river, water, light, natural phenomena, even the entire city. They are like catalysts, enhancing the vibrance. They unite, mitigate, and reorganize the order.
Physical components - reveal the continuity with the city

City + Civic space + River

To reorganize connection with the context - urban fabric, planting pattern
Reveal anticipation and atmosphere

City + Civic space + River

This work increases participation and anticipation, not just about people and activities but rather the views around, architecture, river, water, light, natural phenomena, even the entire city. They are like catalysts, enhancing the vibrance. They unite, mitigate, and reorganize the order.

Still water surface

Still water surface + mist + fog

Disturbed water surface

121.5 - Ha

Designer / Michel Desvigne

The Greenwich Peninsula was originally made up of agricultural fields, marshes and a large millpond, and was historically known as Greenwich Marsh. The area became heavily industrialized from the late 1880s onwards with gas and chemical works and a major shipbuilding yard. There was no green space left on the Peninsula by 1968 except the British Gas Playing Fields where the Sainsbury’s and Comet superstores are now located.

Create clarity in a complex situation

* The project we do mainly have to empty space, to give readability and hierarchy, which is why they must be very simple. 12 Desvigne uses trees to create density and variations, the trees develop a strong spatial structure. The initial structure will vanish and develop into a natural forest in another scale which is corresponding to the scale of existing forests near by.

In the central parkland, rows of Hornbeam trees were planted on a grid 1.5m x 1.5m grid.
Central Park — Bethesda Terrace, New York, 1980

**Wooded area + Terrace + The lake**

The terrace serves as a connection between the sweeping promenade and the lake. It also contains different levels to serve different functions – resting, arriving, etc.

The Mall

Sweeping Promenade

Wooded area — elm tree

The terrace at the end of the Mall overlooking the naturalistic landscape of the Lake

Designer / Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux
Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden, New York, 1953

Crowded city + Courtyard + Building

MOMA garden is an outdoor show room maintaining a continuous spatial quality between exterior and interior spaces.

Designer / James Fanning
Paley Park, New York, 1967

Crowded city + Breathing space + Building

Paley Park is a breathing space providing relief and a place to pause for people within busy city streets.
Findings + Conclusions

A well-designed threshold creates places of a natural appeal to people. These kinds of places seem to have a special connection with the unconscious mind, and effortlessly attract people. However, a place like this acts more like a transitional space, leading people through an exit immediately followed by an entrance, encouraging people to move along or pause.

Clarify Physical components + Spatial concept

Physical components
1. Reveal existing features — Continuity
   Urban fabric
   Large contexts
   Cultural composition
   Industrial traces

Spatial concept
2. Spatial sequence
   Direct physical contact and entice people to join the environment.
   Create more stimulation / wonder

3. Reveal natural process and natural phenomena
   Temporality / Daily cycle
   Sun path / Light/dark / Shadow
   Mist
   Sensory experience

4. Tectonic clarity — Materiality
   Texture / pattern / colors / natural / man-made
   Immediate or close-up sensory experience
   Control people’s subconscious and natural positive response
   It is a tool to index and express temporality / old and new.
   to support a phenomenological reading of a place.
   to create sensations / relief / natural positive response / attractions

5. Reveal time
   Life cycle
   Seasonal cycle

Assessment

This phase of investigation provides data and knowledge about what threshold can be, but there is a disconnect between the urban system and the public in New York City.

Phase 2 will build on phase 1 by looking at the continuity and discontinuity of Battery Park in order to access the urban system and local scale of the site.

The next step should be more analytical, considering how to apply the findings and investigation to the site.
Battery Park is a public park located at lower Manhattan. Battery Park is the centerpiece of a mixed-use development area at the tip of Manhattan. The park is a landmark, where the water, continuous waterfront parks, and transit link Financial District to the Harbor. The park is an orientation allowing people to coordinate movement and emotion, the spectacle create wonder and attraction by manipulating phenomena, perception and social activity. Along this spine, Battery Park will be a premier environment with recreation, amenity, and natural environment.
Site analysis

History - Shoreline

1609

1775

1817

Now

Battery Park was created by landfill starting from 1855, achieving in a huge green space at the foot of the heavily developed area of downtown.

Castle Clinton, originally called the West Battery, it was built as a fort just prior to the War of 1812. It became property of the city after the war and was renamed Castle Clinton.
Site analysis

Existing features - Traces

The control of the space

Castle Clinton — Built to keep people out; now welcomes millions in. It stands where New York City began, and represents not only the city's growth.

Battery Park

Continuity / Discontinuity
The continuous waterfront greenway weaves through the different regions: Battery Park, Promenade, Financial District, Residential area and the harbor. The region’s distinct charm is the variety of places in the dense woodland, the harbor and the extensions on the surrounding streets. Different buildings, commercial, residential and transitional uses make each area stand on its own merits.

Site analysis — Connections to large context

Connections to large context - Land use

Battery Park has convenient transit spine – ferry, metro and bus transit system link each district along the city and the neighbor islands, with a series of stops that pick up a ten-minute walk radius. Through the connected transit systems, Battery Park should be able to provide spaces and accesses to support functions.

Transportation
Site analysis

Metro route

Bike route

Bus route

Ferry route
Site analysis

Urban fabric

Battery Park commands a position on the urban setting and the harbor front. Water and the highly dense urban wall define Battery Park, the spatial component makes the connections between park and the city lacking physical strength and under pressure. So, it’s crucial to reorganize and tie the connection between local wonder and urban system.

The routes to the park are eminently walkable with narrow, populous streets and huge façades. These huge buildings scraped the skies over Manhattan, so different from the low horizontal ridges of Brooklyn or Queens.
Site analysis

Section

A - A'

B - B'

The harbor — Promenade
Castle Clinton
Battery Park
Whitehall St.

Battery Pl
Battery Park Restaurant

Evacuation Day Plaza
Bridge St.
Bond St.
State St.

Park — City
Edge
Park

The harbor — Promenade
Site analysis

Section

C - C'

D - D'

The harbor — Promenade

Park

Edge

Park — City

Horizons

Tree canopy

Ground level

The harbor

Battery Park

State St.

Horizon

Time concept

Hudson Bridge

Washington St.

Greenwich St.

Broadway St.

Whitehall St.
Site analysis

Spatial composition — Interface / Lower Manhattan — Battery Park — The harbor
Site analysis

Gateways and the sequence of arrival — Battery Place Road

Connected potential: West Thames Park and Robert F. Wagner Jr. Park
Road length: 38’ and 40’
Walkway Length: 50’

The illustration is a typical street section demonstrating the physical character and dimension found on Battery Place Road. The street contains sidewalks on both sides of the paved roadway. Sidewalks are commonly 30’ wide and include a 4’ wide furniture zone to accommodate street trees and street furniture. The roadway consists of 4 two-way travel lanes with parallel parking on one side.
Site analysis

Gateways and the sequence of arrival — Hudson River Greenway St.

Connected potential: West Thames Park and Robert F. Wagner Jr. Park
Road length: 38’ and 40’
Walkway Length: 50’

The illustration is a typical street section demonstrating the physical character and dimension found on Hudson River Greenway St. The street contains sidewalks on both sides of the paved roadway. Sidewalks are commonly 15’ wide and include a 4’ wide furniture zone to accommodate street trees and street furniture. The roadway consists of 4 two-way travel lanes with parallel parking on one side, underpass, bike lanes and linear park.

Concrete paver
Stone paver

London Plane tree
Red maple
Elm
Honey locust
Callery Pear
Magnolia

Distance to Battery Park 400’
Site analysis

Gateways and the sequence of arrival — Washington St.

The illustration is a typical street section demonstrating the physical character and dimension found on Washington Street. The street contains sidewalks on both sides of the paved roadway. Sidewalks are commonly 12' wide and include a 4' wide furniture zone to accommodate street trees and street furniture. The roadway consists of a one-way travel lane with parallel parking on one side.
Site analysis

Gateways and the sequence of arrival — Greenwich St.

Connected potential: Elizabeth Berger Plaza
Road length: 24'
Walkway Length: 14' and 12'

Distance to Battery Park 250'
Connected potential: Elizabeth Berger Plaza
Road length: 24'
Walkway Length: 14' and 12'

Concrete paver
Stone paver
Concrete paver
Stone paver

The illustration is a typical street section demonstrating the physical character and dimension found on Greenwich Street. The street contains sidewalks on both sides of the paved roadway. Sidewalks are 24' and 18' wide and include a 4' wide furniture zone to accommodate street trees and street furniture. The roadway consists of a one-way travel lanes with a drop off zone on one side.
Site analysis

Gateways and the sequence of arrival — Broadway St.

Connected potential: Evacuation Day Plaza
Road length: 38'  
Walkway Length: 13'

The illustration is a typical street section demonstrating the physical character and dimension found on Broadway Street. The street contains sidewalks on both sides of the paved roadway. Sidewalks are commonly 13' wide and include a 4' wide furniture zone to accommodate street trees and street furniture. The roadway consists of two two-way travel lanes with drop off on one side. This area has Evacuation Day Plaza which is a promise to do transitional connection to Battery Park.
Concrete paver
Stone paver
Distance to Battery Park: 300'}
Site analysis

Gateways and the sequence of arrival — Bridge St.

Connected potential: Plaza
Road length: 22’
Walkway Length: 12’

Concrete paver
Stone paver
Concrete paver
Stone paver

Distance to Battery Park 250’ and 400’
London Plane tree
Red maple
Elm
Honey locust
Callery Pear
Magnolia

The illustration is a typical street section demonstrating the physical character and dimension found on Bridge Street. The street contains sidewalks on both sides of the paved roadway. Sidewalks are commonly 12’ wide and include a 4’ wide furniture zone to accommodate street trees and street furniture. The roadway consists of a one-way travel lane with parallel parking on one side.
Site analysis

Gateways and the sequence of arrival — Pearl St.

Connected potential: Plaza
Road length: 23'
Walkway Length: 23' and 14'

The illustration is a typical street section demonstrating the physical character and dimension found on Pearl Street. The street contains sidewalks on both sides of the paved roadway. Sidewalks are commonly 23' and 14' wide and include a 4' wide furniture zone to accommodate street trees and street furniture. The roadway consists of a one-way travel lane with parallel parking on one side.
Site analysis

Gateways and the sequence of arrival — Peter Minuit Plaza and State St.

Connected potential | Plaza
Road length: 55’
Walkway Length: 25’

The illustration is a typical street section demonstrating the physical character and dimension found on State Street. The street contains sidewalks on both sides of the paved roadway. Sidewalks are commonly 23’ and 14’ wide and include a 4’ wide furniture zone to accommodate street trees and street furniture. The roadway consists of 4 two-way travel lanes with parallel parking on one side. This area has Peter Minuit Plaza, which has potential to function as a transitional connection to Battery Park.
Site analysis

Existing features - Natural process Sun path / light / shadow / Daily cycle

The parks are close-by or immediately adjacent to the spaces to the buildings, the shadows are more diffuse than other places.

7AM-9AM - Shadows reach the eastern part of Battery Park.
11AM-2PM - Shadows almost sweep across the whole Battery Park, especially affected during summer.
4PM - 5PM - Shadows gradually fade away Battery Park after 4PM.
Site analysis

Vegetation pattern

Battery Park has convenient transit spine—ferry, metro and bus transit system link each district along the city and the neighbor islands, with a series of stops that pick up a ten-minute walk radius. Through the connected transit systems, Battery Park should be able to provide spaces and accesses to support functions.

Life cycle
1. The park has potential to coordinate the balance and connection between man-made wonder (huge facades) and natural wonder (ocean views, woodland).

2. The external environment triggers emotions in people without conscious control.

3. The future will depend on the strength of the linear connections along the edge of Battery Park and the links to the neighborhoods so that these places have an intense connection leading people through the busy exits immediately followed by an entrance to the casual beauty.

4. The tree masses act as a filter to slow down busy pace, visit getting a good look / casual beauty and release their fragrance within the busy city around stressful financial district.

5. The tree masses have potential to provide spatial orientation and gregarious groves.

6. Perspective could be activated by tree masses that contain the foreground and diminish as they are layered into the distance.

7. Promote social connections/activities.

Problems:

1. The existing condition lacks integration and connections within the edges between financial district and Battery Park.

2. The connection of pedestrian network and neighborhoods.

3. Heavy turning and pedestrian crossings conflicts.

4. Lacks taxi/bus/van drop offs.

5. Street vendors occupy walkway and entrance.
Phase 3 Investigation
Implementation
Threshold — the edge between Battery Park and the neighborhoods of Battery Park

The existing condition lacks integration and connections within the edges between financial district and Battery Park. The connections of pedestrian network and neighborhoods are weak.

Project Area — To create local interconnectivity

Design concept

The following inventories describe the existing urban form around Battery Park including building type and use, streetscape, pedestrian amenities, and materials.

The map illustrates the project boundary area which is bordered to the North by the Broadway Street, and which extends to the edge of Battery Park. Within the project area is a designated interval connection, which crosses through the project area from Battery Place Road to State Street and which includes significant commercial buildings, Evacuation Day Plaza and Peter Minuit Plaza.
After looking at these streets, I found all of them have a quality of light which could attract people into the park. Light gives people warmth, and it also creates a unique atmosphere enticing people to move along. My design strategy focuses on the strength of the phenomenological reading of the place, the linear connections along the edge of Battery Park and the links to the neighborhood along the park’s edge, so that these places have an intense magnetic effect, leading people through the busy exits, immediately followed by an entrance into the casual beauty of Battery Park.
Proposed Section — Type B

Proposed Section — Type C

Maintain sidewalk materials and grade across driveways.
Implementation

Section perspective view 01 — The integration between Battery Park and Washington St.

My design strategy focuses on the linear connections, adds crossovers and vegetations along the edge of Battery Park and the links to the neighborhood along the park’s edge.
Implementation

Section perspective view 02 — The integration between Battery Park and Pearl St.

My design strategy focuses on the linear connections, adds crosses and vegetations along the edge of Battery Park and the links to the neighborhood along the park’s edge.
Create different scale of continuity

For the design I have few considerations in order to achieve different scales of continuity between Battery Park and Plaza.

01
On context:
To strengthen the relationships between the park, the plaza and the entrances and programs of the buildings.

03
On color and texture:
The colors and textures of these building are very complicated. To integrate them, it would be best to use concrete in order to unify the spatial qualities. Also, using simple textures and colors for ground materials could help reveal natural phenomena, intensifying the sensuous experience, which would intensify the light effect, which would encourage people to move through.

Paving
Concrete

Vegetation
Lawn
Mesalina triumfii 1.5’—3’
Lady mantles 15”—18”
Birch London plane tree

Birch
Beach wormwood 1.5’—3'Meadow Rue 4’—6’
Create different scale of continuity

02

On light and shadow

The tree groves help intensify the daily cycle and seasonal cycle in different moments.

04

On form

The planting strategy uses trees to create density and variations. The trees develop a strong spatial structure to make a gradual gradient expanding to Battery Park. The tree species are not only based on indigenous conditions but also include heterogeneous qualities, achieving continual and durable qualities – a diverse collection rather than a uniform of green.
Implementation — Evacuation Day Plaza

Trees
- London plane tree — to create continuity to Battery Park
- Birch — to create continuity to Battery Park

Shrubs
- Meadow Rue 4"—6"
- Beach wormwood 1.5"—3.5
- Lady mantle 15"—18"
The larger paver is 3’ by 3’ for major passage and gathering space.

Road pavers are composed of coarse surface to slow down the speed of traffic.

Road crossing pavers are composed of coarse and smooth surfaces to slow down the speed of traffic and make people aware of safety issues.

Walkway pavers are composed of smooth surfaces to slow down people’s steps in the busy city.

The pavers of the plaza are composed of smooth surfaces and grass to create the gradient effect, blurring the edges of the plaza.
Implementation

Section perspective view 01 — Evacuation Day Plaza

The east – west section perspective illustrates the how tree groves create connections between light, Evacuation Day Plaza and Battery Park.
Implementation

Section perspective view 02 — Evacuation Day Plaza

The south–north section perspective illustrates how tree groves create connections between light, Evacuation Day Plaza and Battery Park.
Overall Assessment
Final Findings + Conclusions

Finding methodologies to address thresholds between natural processes and the urban network to achieve equilibrium between the two at Battery Park community. Here I developed one language, achieving a gradient immersion to make connection between Battery Park and Evacuation Day Plaza. Other place may need different strategies.

For Evacuation Day Plaza, I develop more detail to strengthen the connection between the plaza and Battery Park. In this stage, I spent time trying to figure out design approaches in order to understand the operation from phase one and two.

The fabric that gradually emerges—consisting of parks and public spaces that are shared, private, or semicollective—is an intermediate urban fabric to moderate the complicated urban form and wild casual beauty. This fabric also considers expanding in an organic way to define the relationship between public space and built components. The tree groves create density and variations as strong special structures which blur the boundary between Battery Park and the plaza. The interaction of sequences, and the cultivation and intervention from construction is generating a new landscape. The trees and natural phenomena could create a sense of wonder and encourage people to move along. They create the sense of continuity and reveal natural phenomena in dynamic and unpredictable ways.

Final Assessment

This phase of investigation provides strategies and design approaches about the qualities of the potential threshold between Battery Park and the city. The interaction of sequence, cultivation and intervention from construction is generating a new landscape which is a process of immersion. It is a way to promote more interaction between people, natural phenomena and our setting—a new order is created in dialogue with urban languages, and its effortless words come with subtle changes.


Phase 2


Phase 3


Colophon

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Size and Leading : 11in *8.5in & 10/12
Edition May 2017
Designing for thesis By Pei-Yi Liu
This book was created using Adobe suite.