

FLOAT YOUR BOAT!

Why Philadelphia Should Get Over (and Under) the I-95 Corridor

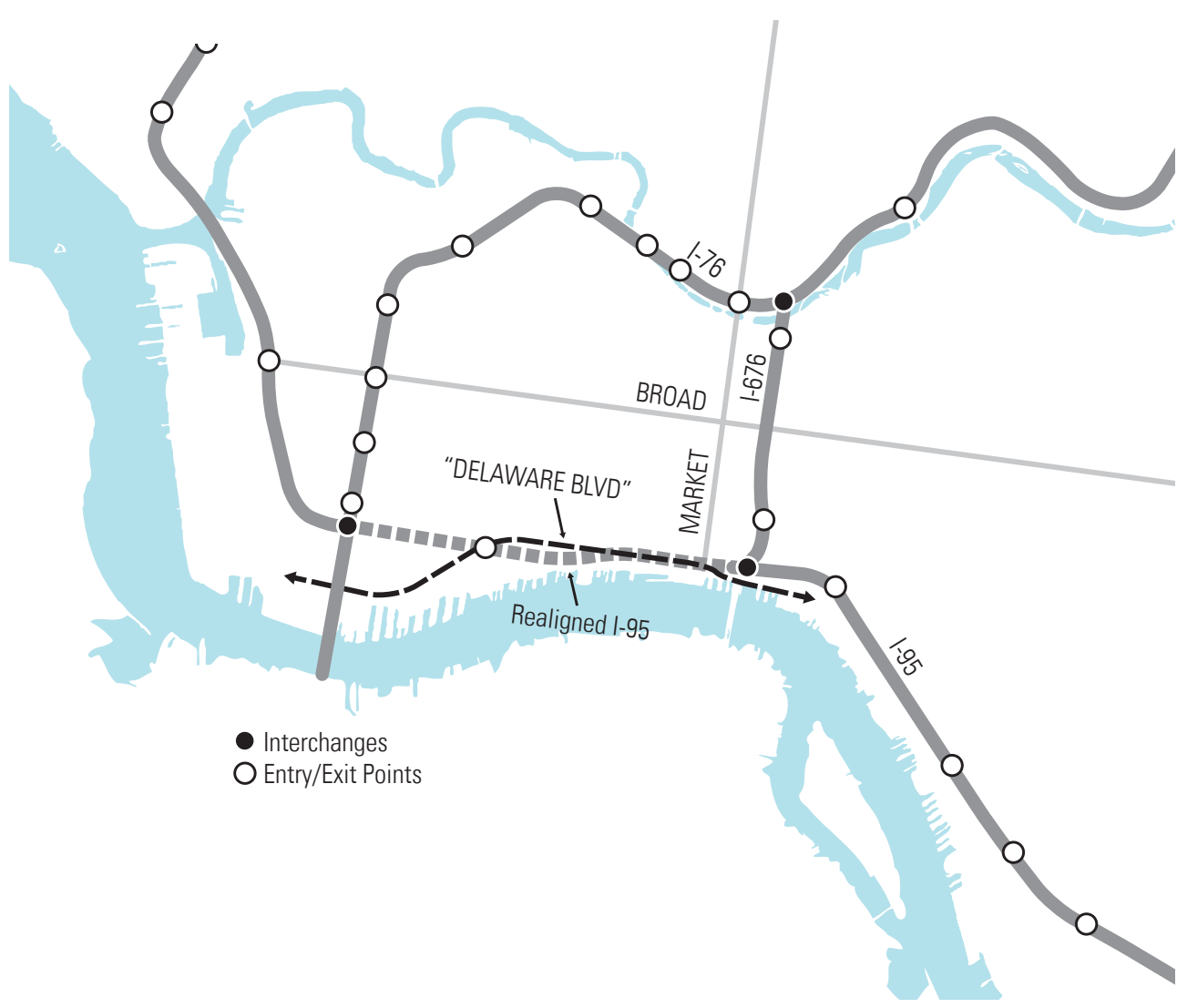
Interstate 95 is one of the most important highways in the United States. However, since the 1960s, it has acted as dramatic barrier between Philadelphia and its waterfront. Initial concessions that were made—including the depressing of the Center City portion of I-95 and the construction of the Penn's Landing Complex—should be recognized as failures. The fact remains Philadelphia is a waterfront city that currently sits estranged from its waterfront. The Delaware River—the very reason for Philadelphia's existence—remains for most Philadelphians an abstraction, an object in the distance, a very large dotted line between Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

While reconsideration of I-95 must be honest about the major costs involved, it must also be honest about the imperative to reconnect the city and the Delaware. *Float Your Boat!* promises a new waterfront for all: industry, commerce, visitor, pleasure boaters, and above all, ordinary citizens. In Center City, I-95 is tunneled entirely to seamlessly link the city to the water. To the south, it remains raised, but an innovative array of building designs and parks link the two sides of the highway.

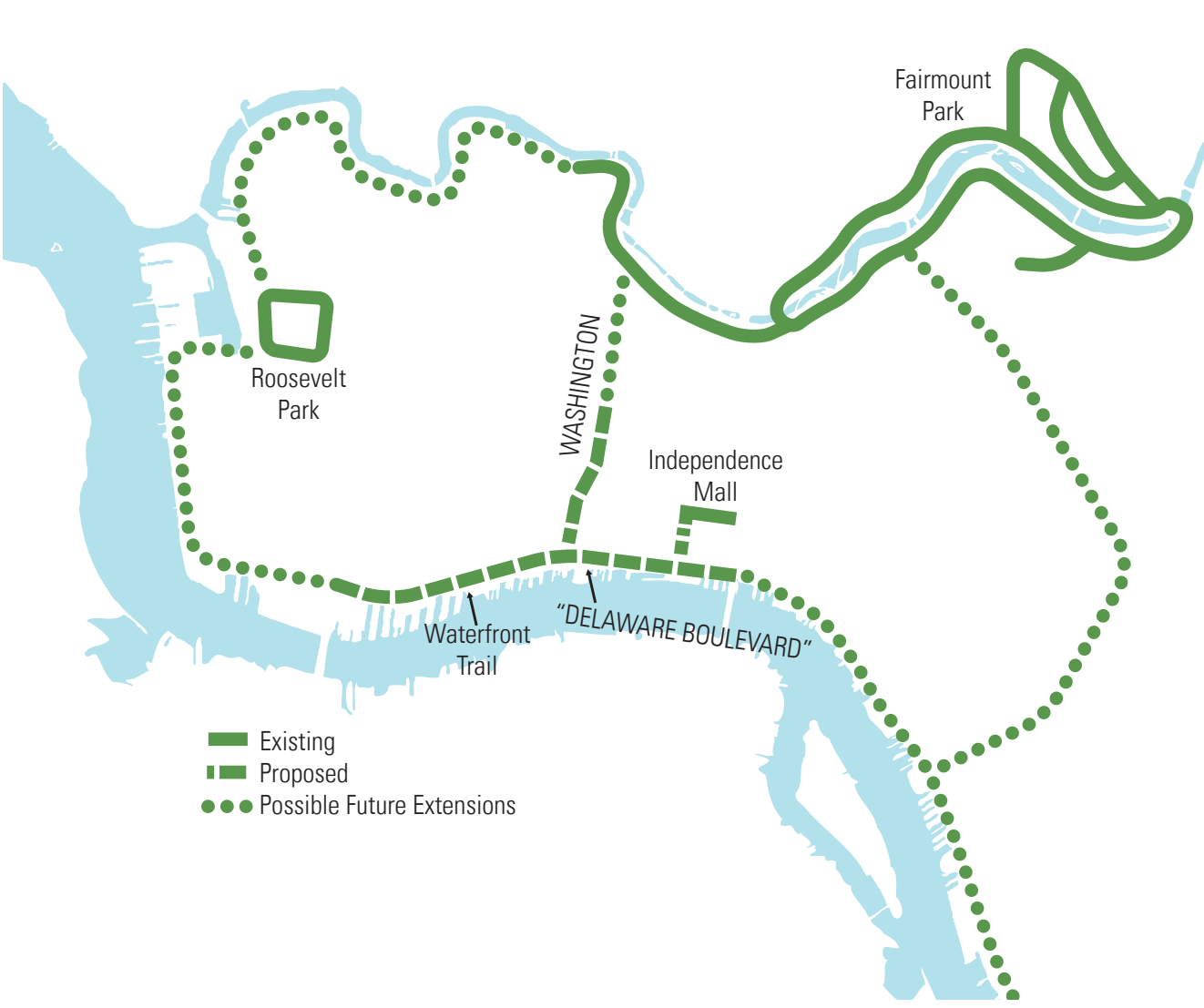
In the process, *Float Your Boat!* partially merges Front Street and Columbus Boulevard into a single thoroughfare, named "Delaware Boulevard." With an integrated light rail line and ample pedestrian realm, Delaware Boulevard creates a new north-south spine for multiple modes of north-south movement. At the same time, a waterfront promenade for pedestrians and bicycles allows citizens to experience the river in a car-free environment. (Car access to the water is mostly provided by east-west streets only). The highway itself continues to hold as much traffic as before, but with a reduced number of exit/entry points, thereby freeing up more room for buildings, open space and people.

We invite Philadelphia to get over (and under) the aging I-95 corridor and, at last, uncover the potential of the Delaware waterfront.

Highway System



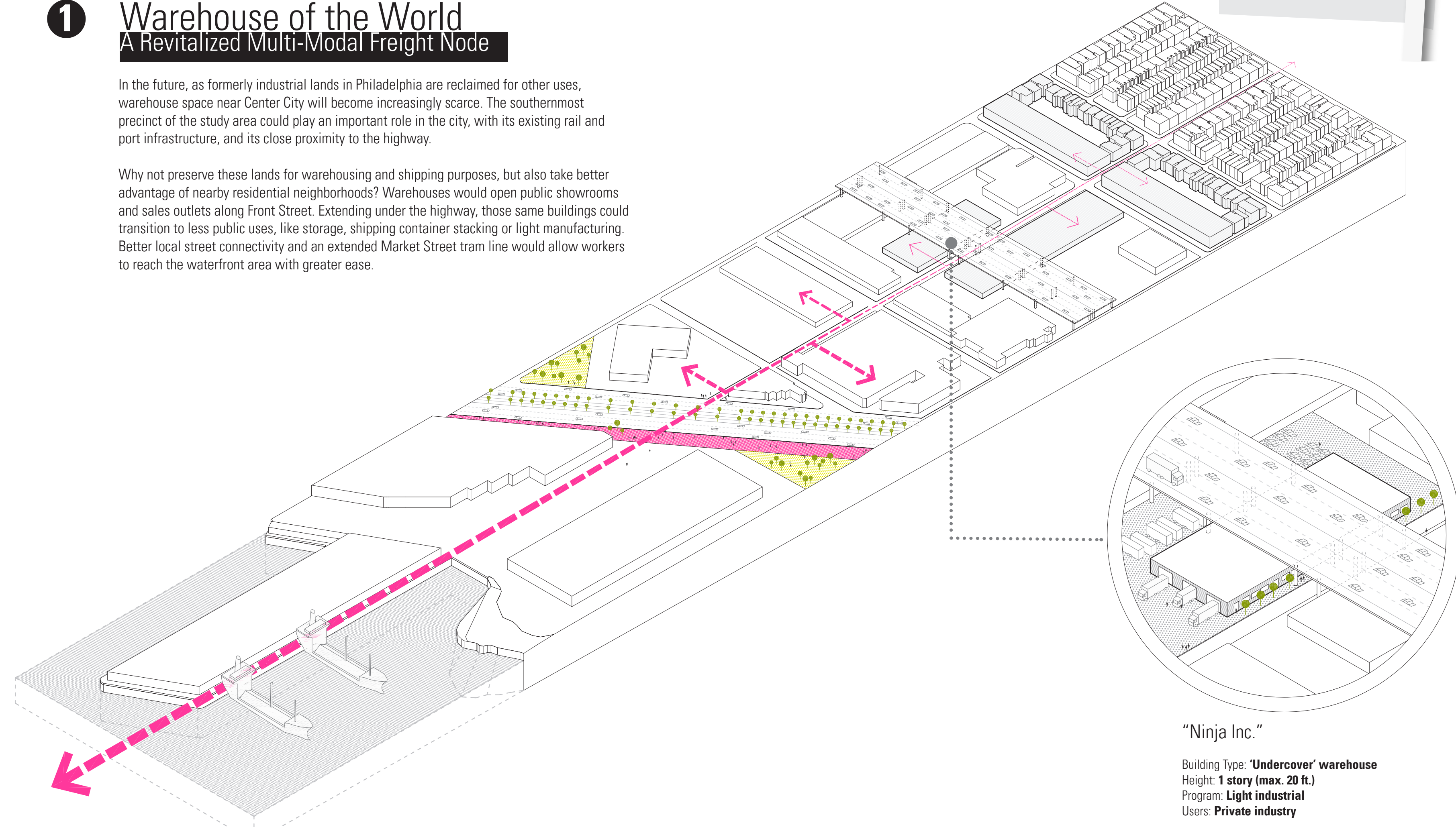
Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail System



1 Warehouse of the World A Revitalized Multi-Modal Freight Node

In the future, as formerly industrial lands in Philadelphia are reclaimed for other uses, warehouse space near Center City will become increasingly scarce. The southernmost precinct of the study area could play an important role in the city, with its existing rail and port infrastructure, and its close proximity to the highway.

Why not preserve these lands for warehousing and shipping purposes, but also take better advantage of nearby residential neighborhoods? Warehouses would open public showrooms and sales outlets along Front Street. Extending under the highway, these same buildings could transition to less public uses. The storage, shipping container stacking or light manufacturing. Better local street connectivity and an extended Market Street train line would allow workers to reach the waterfront area with greater ease.

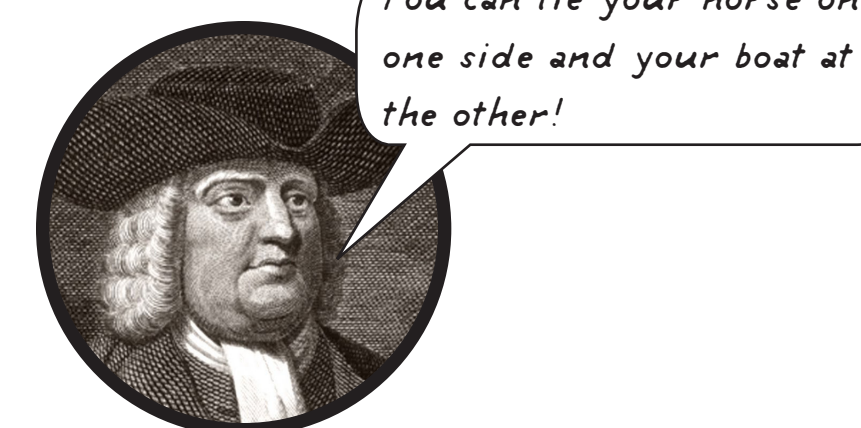
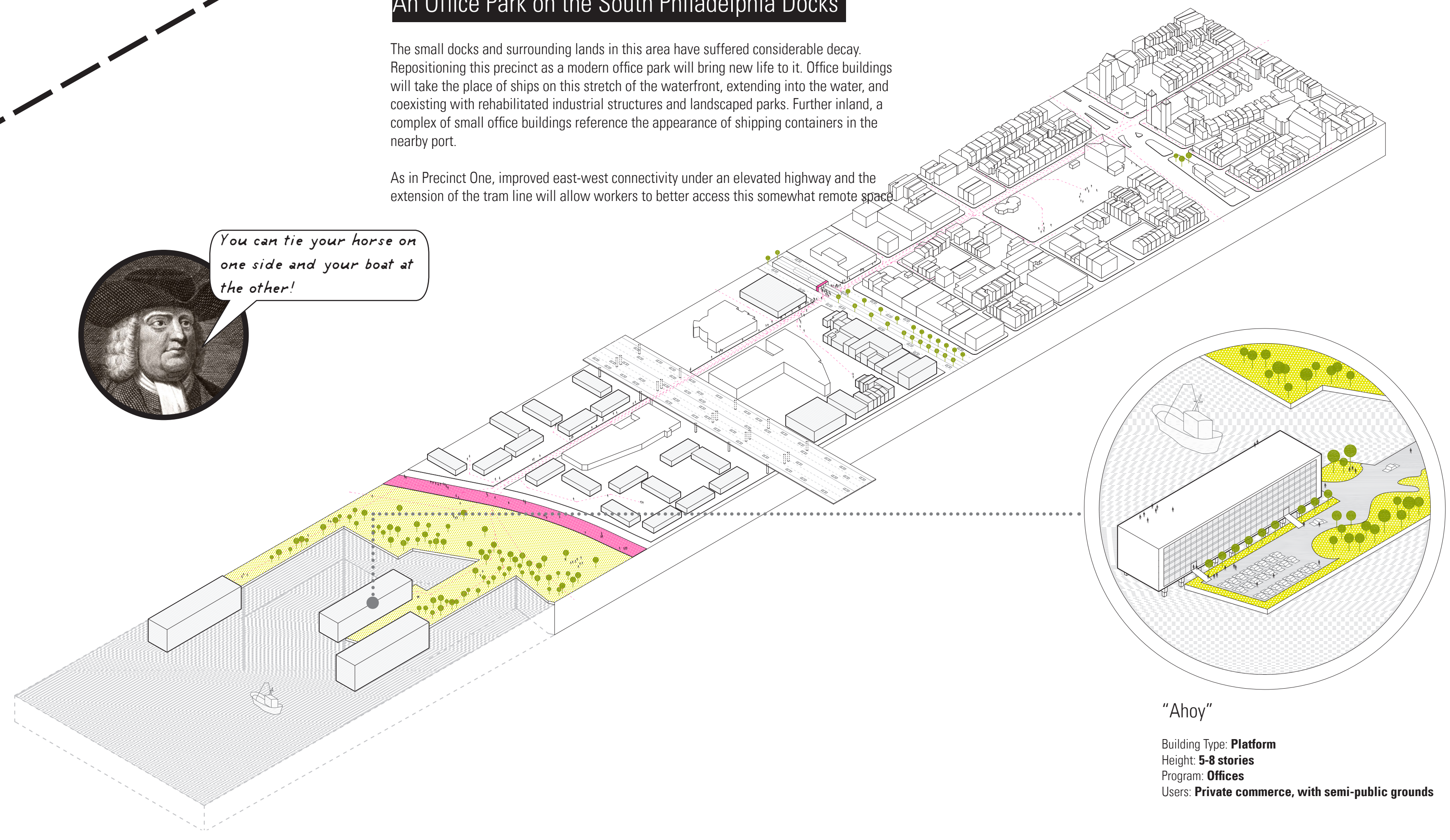


"Ninja Inc."
Building Type: Warehouse/warehouse
Height: 1-story (max. 20 ft.)
Program: Light industrial
Users: Private industry

2 Commerce on the Water An Office Park on the South Philadelphia Docks

The small docks and surrounding lands in this area have suffered considerable decay. Repositioning this precinct as a modern office park will bring new life to it. Office buildings will take the place of ships on this stretch of the waterfront, extending into the water, and coexisting with rehabilitated industrial structures and landscaped parks. Further inland, a complex of small office buildings reference the appearance of shipping containers in the nearby port.

As in Precinct One, improved east-west connectivity under an elevated highway and the extension of the train line will allow workers to better access this somewhat remote space.



"Ahoy"
Building Type: Platform
Height: 2-story (max. 20 ft.)
Program: Offices
Users: Private commerce, with semi-public grounds

3 Canoe Central Nature and Recreation in the Heart of the City

Looking for a place to dip your paddle in the water, have a jog, or attend an art show? Taking advantage of existing parks and open spaces, including the grounds of the historic Gloria Dei Church, a major recreation node will be created, just south of Center City.

Picture Washington Avenue augmented by a finely landscaped green corridor, and this portion of the waterfront would become a junction of city-wide trails, linking to Fairmount Park and beyond. That same linear treatment will extend under the highway, terminating at an arts center (that we imagined named after Alexander Calder).

A new north-south waterfront trail for pedestrians and cyclists, extending through all of these precincts, will link recreation and arts facilities along the water.



"Calder-ium"
Building Type: Rehabilitation
Height: 2-story
Program: Art center
Users: General public

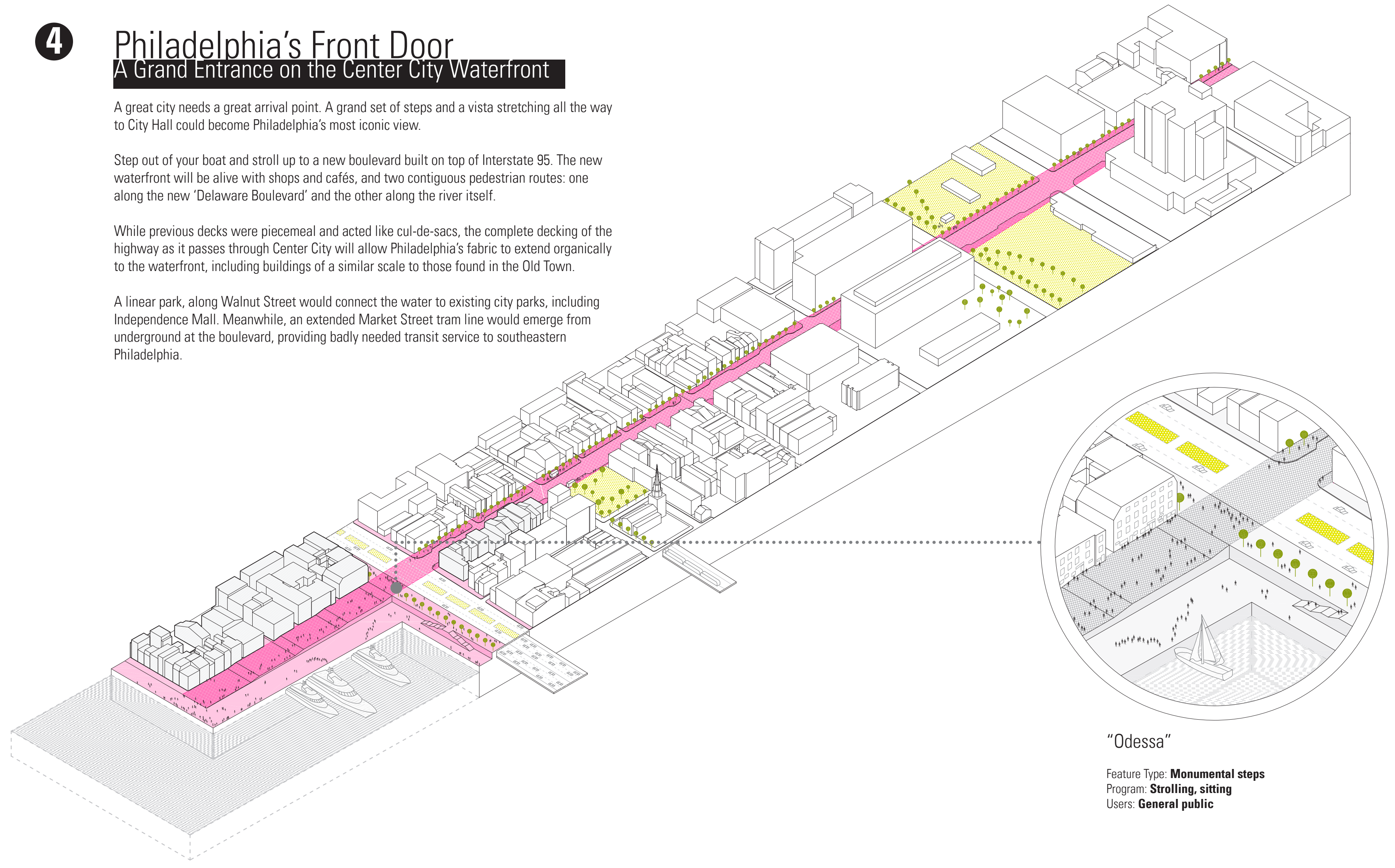
4 Philadelphia's Front Door A Grand Entrance on the Center City Waterfront

A great city needs a great arrival point. A grand set of steps and a vista stretching all the way to City Hall could become Philadelphia's most iconic view.

Step out of your boat and stroll up to a new boulevard built on top of Interstate 95. The new waterfront will be alive with shops and cafes, and two contiguous pedestrian routes: one along the new "Delaware Boulevard" and the other along the river itself.

While previous docks were piecemeal and acted like cul-de-sacs, the complete decking of the highway as it passes through Center City will allow Philadelphia's fabric to extend organically to the waterfront, including buildings of a similar scale to those found in the Old Town.

A linear park, along Walnut Street would connect the water to existing city parks, including Independence Mall. Meanwhile, an extended Market Street train line would emerge from underground at the boulevard, providing badly needed transit service to southeastern Philadelphia.



"Odessa"
Building Type: Monumental steps
Program: Shopping, dining
Users: General public

