

Framework for a 21st Century City
Made Tangible Through The Arts

**CITY
AS
LIVING
LABORATORY**

**THE PASSAGE:
A MOVING MEMORIAL**

Mary Miss
February 24, 2010

THE PASSAGE: A MOVING MEMORIAL
The Journey of Immigration

STATEN ISLAND
COURTHOUSE MEMORIAL GREEN

STATEN ISLAND
COURTHOUSE MEMORIAL GREEN
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Project Summary	06
Elements	07
Means	08
Stages of the Journey	09
Geological Pattern	10
Columnar Marker	12
The Path	16
Alternative Designs	17
Claiming the site	22
Night and Day	26

STATEN ISLAND COURTHOUSE MEMORIAL GREEN PROJECT SUMMARY

This proposal intends to make the journey to the Staten Island Courthouse Memorial Green an integral part of tourist experiences available in New York Harbor. The ride on the Staten Island Ferry is turned into an opportunity to follow the experiences of immigration: stories of departure, crossing and arrival are sequenced from Manhattan, to the ferry, to the Staten Island Terminal, to the Memorial Green. This is a unique opportunity to reveal glimpses of the experience of immigration as a journey rather than through the static experience of being inside a museum.

Beginning at the Manhattan Ferry terminal where commuters and visitors to NYC from all over the world gather, multiple aspects of the story of immigration will unfold and be made available. A series of markers located in the public space of the terminal will alert the public to audio and text messages that will reveal pieces of a narrative showing the complexity of the story of immigration. For instance, at this terminal the focus may be on the reasons people were leaving their homes and villages in the first half of the 19th century to begin new lives in this country. The historian Thomas H. Bender is collaborating on this project.

On the ferry ride, a new set of audio/text messages reveal more about the immigrants' experience, perhaps focusing on the voyage

itself. The possibility of being in the harbor on the water while these stories unfold provides a unique opportunity. Upon docking at the SI terminal the narrative shifts to the experience of arrival.

As will be noted in the new Staten Island Visitors Center and by additional markers found in the terminal, visitors are able to follow a trail of markers to the new courthouse and the Memorial Green. Here, stories about the Marine Quarantine facility can be revealed along with other stories of the settlement of Staten Island. These narratives may be based on historical research and/or the stories of current Staten Island decedents of people who landed here.

This project builds on existing circumstances and infrastructure that are in place: tourists already coming for the ferry ride and the experience of being in New York Harbor; the public spaces of the terminals, ferry and soon to be completed courthouse invite engagement. THE PASSAGE: A MOVING MEMORIAL adds an additional layer of content to transform and extend this outing into New York Harbor and onto Staten Island.

STATEN ISLAND COURTHOUSE MEMORIAL GREEN ELEMENTS

The faceted, serpentine rock, a geological characteristic of Staten Island, provides the foundation for the language of intervention. The pattern may manifest in multiple 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional forms. Multi-faceted steel and glass columns, six feet tall, are an extruded variation of this hexagonal pattern. The columns operate as markers that engage visitors and tell the stories of immigration. As the column is approached, the visitor sees a ruby red facet of glass the height of the column on one side with a clear glass panel opposite (tempered glass with a Plexiglas cover layer). A red glow emanates from the glass onto the person standing near the column. When the sun shines directly onto the glass a long red mark is cast on the adjacent ground surface. At night a lighting element inside creates a red glowing column of light.

The inside of each hexagonal column is lined with mirrors so that people are compelled to stop and notice the text as it multiplies, like looking into a kaleidoscope. The text addresses the topic of this particular marker and gives the number to dial or text to get more information. Where columns are not appropriate, narrow strips of ruby red Plexiglas and mirror with engraved text are attached directly to window surfaces or appear as signage on a wall.

The columnar markers may appear in both Ferry Terminals as well as along the route to the new

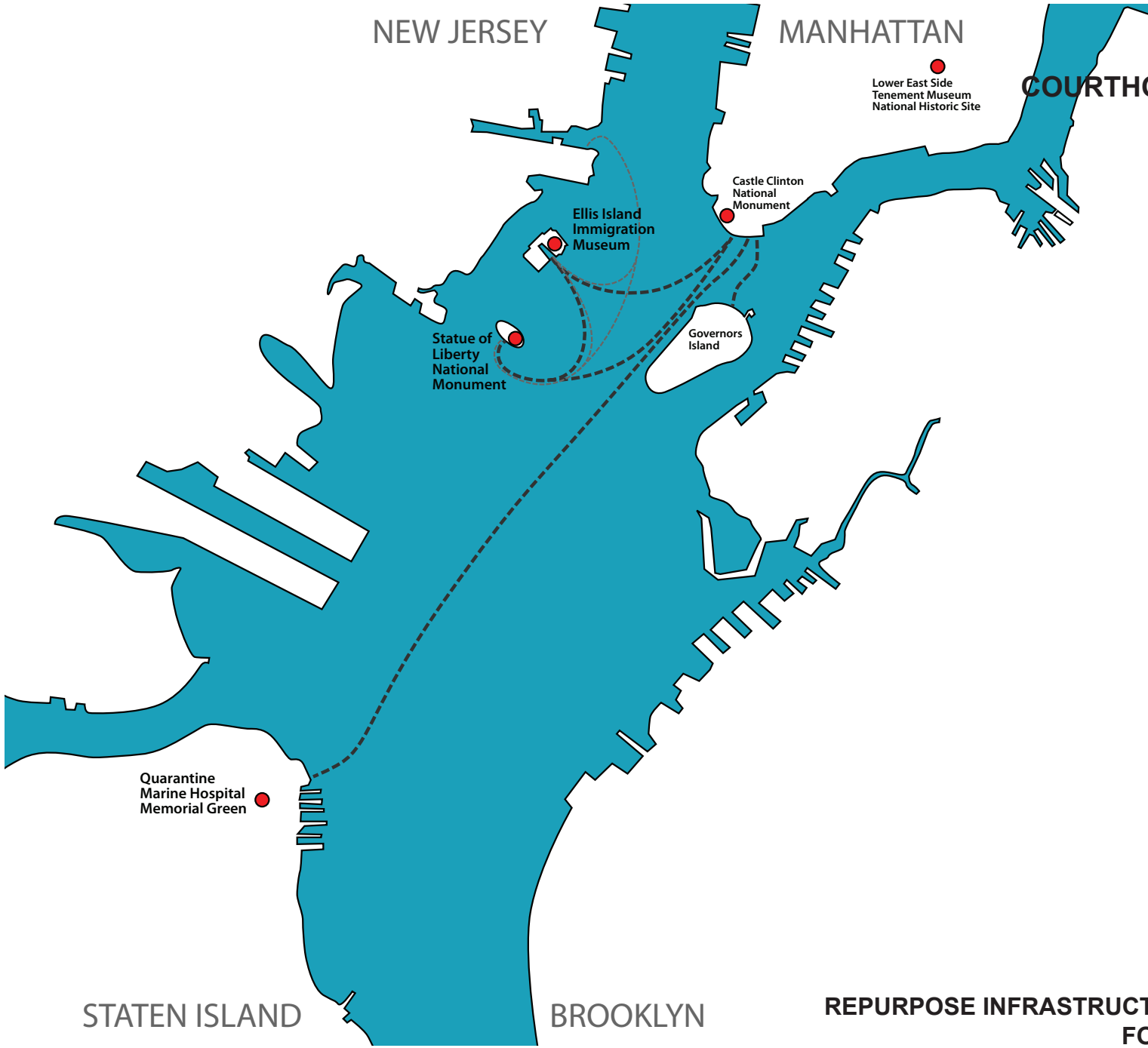
Courthouse Green. On the Green itself, clusters of columns mark this as a special place of note and in turn reveal the history and stories of the cemetery site. The red glow from the columns marks the site -- as well as its visitors -- creating a visceral engagement with the place and its stories. They seem to be appropriate markers for the unidentified remains that are beneath the surface of the Green. At night a red lights glows from each of the markers tracing the path to the Courthouse site and creating a place of memory, making this piece of history visible.

NEW JERSEY

MANHATTAN

STATEN ISLAND
COURTHOUSE MEMORIAL GREEN

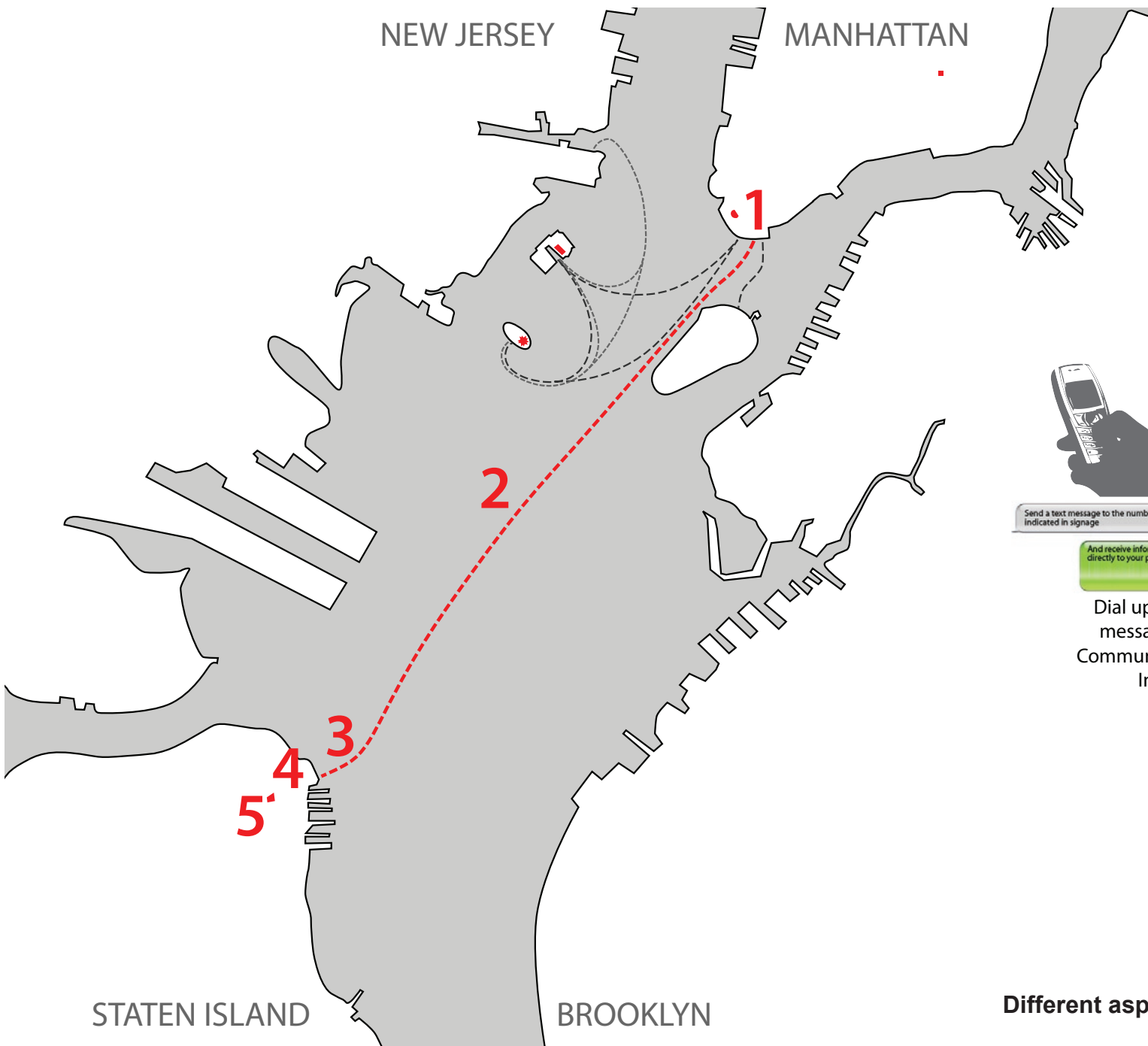
MEANS



STATEN ISLAND

BROOKLYN

**ADDITIONAL TOURIST SITE
REPURPOSE INFRASTRUCTURE - INTRODUCE NEW USE
FOR TERMINALS AND FERRIES**



Send a text message to the number indicated in signage

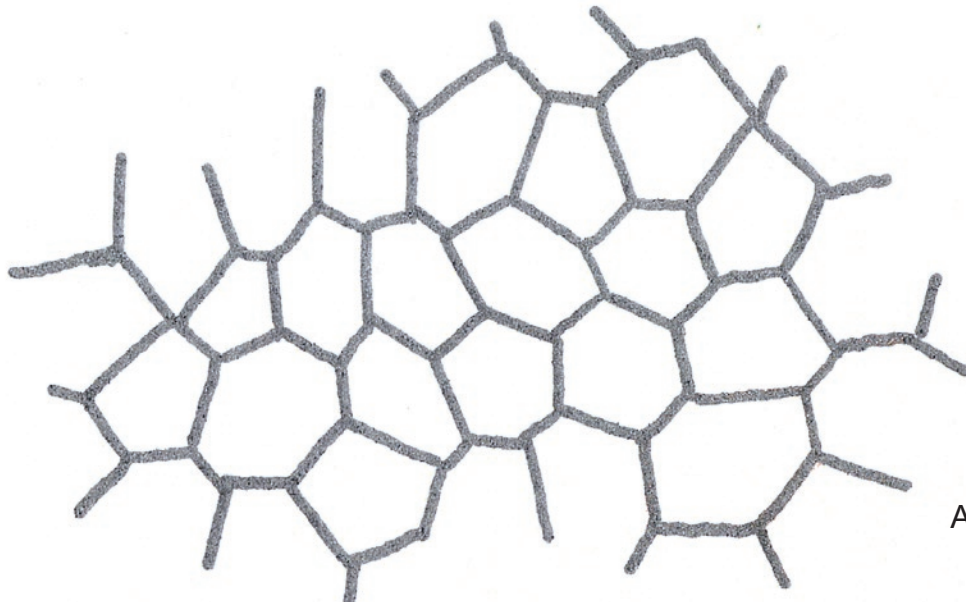
And receive information directly to your phone

Dial up or text messaging as Communication Interface

STAGES OF THE JOURNEY

Different aspects of immigration revealed:

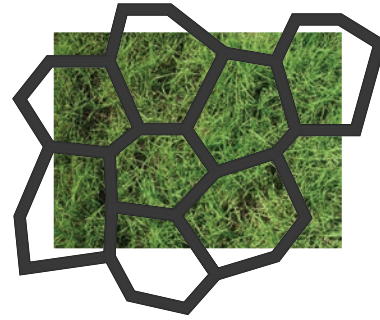
- 1** NY Terminal
- 2** SI Ferry ride
- 3** SI Terminal
- 4** Pedestrian route to site
- 5** Memorial site



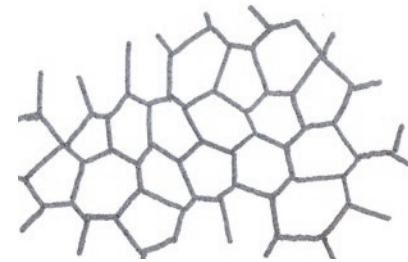
GEOLOGICAL PATTERN - MULTIPLE MANIFESTATIONS

Serpentine rock formation of Staten Island
Abstraction of the pattern used as formal language for intervention

Inscribed, impressed upon soft surface



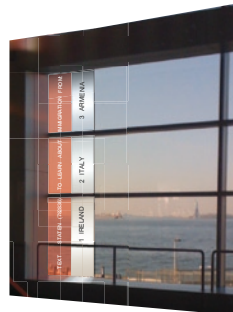
On surface, for existing hardscape



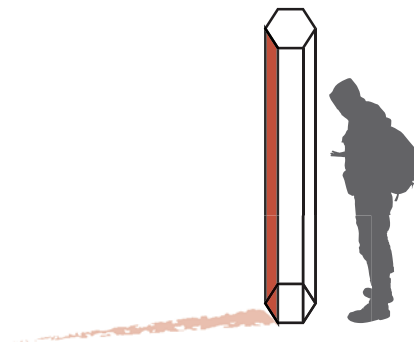
Faceted wall with seating



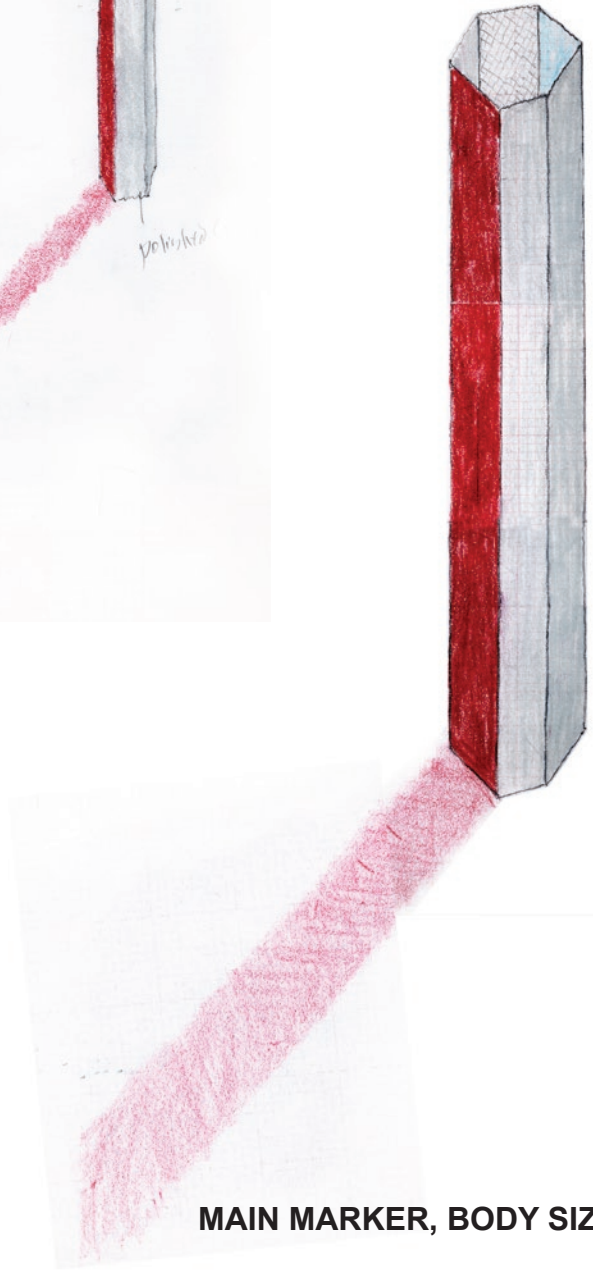
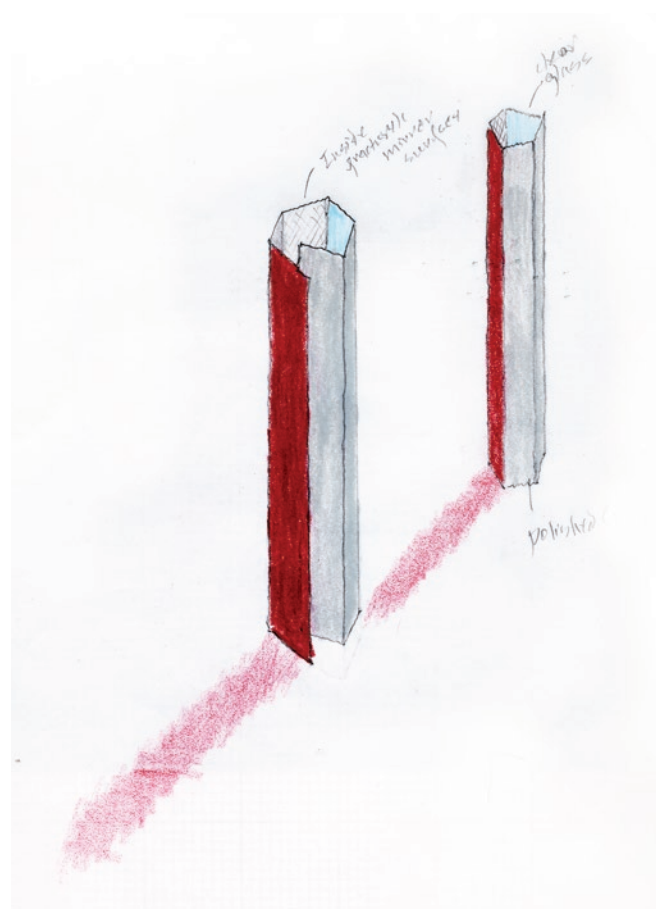
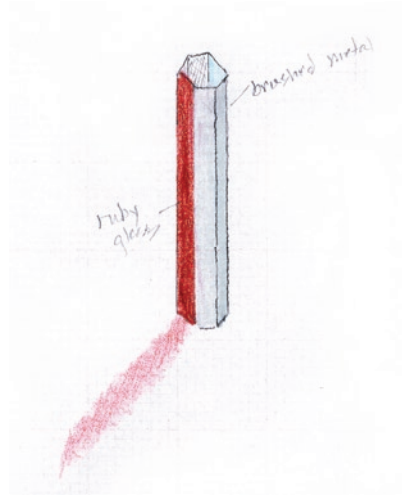
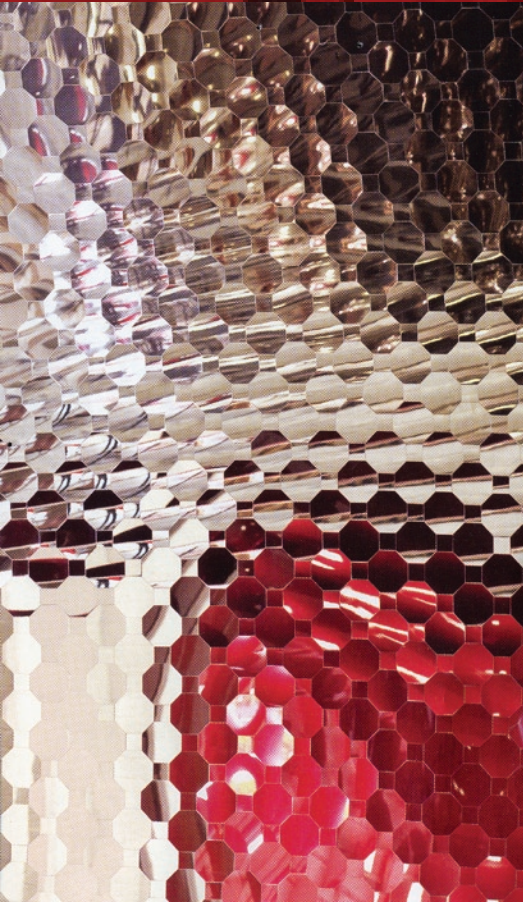
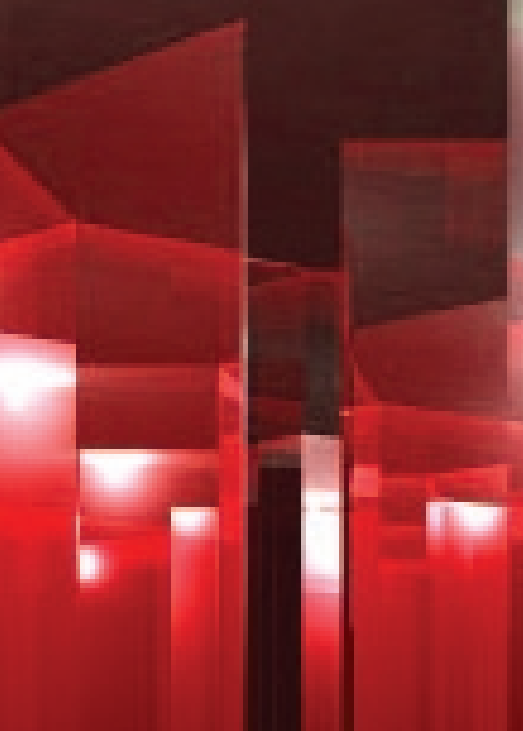
Window text



Columns, free-standing



MULTIPLE MANIFESTATIONS



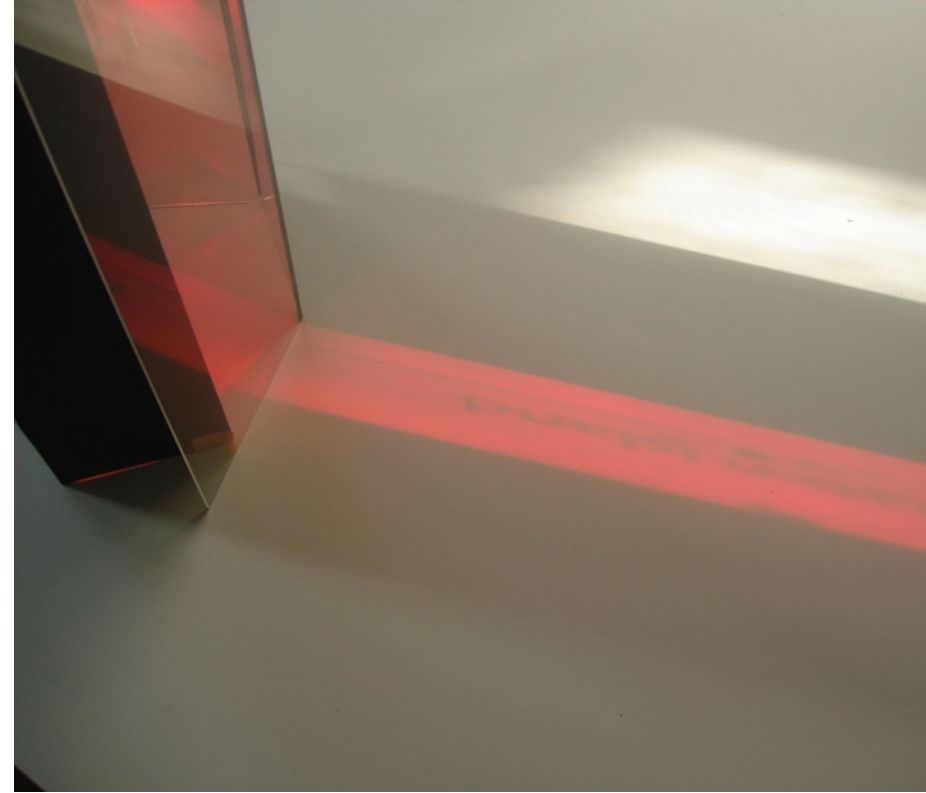
MAIN MARKER, BODY SIZE



VISCERAL EXPERIENCE

Stained glass
casts a red glow on observers





MARK A PLACE



INTERIOR
INFINITE REFLECTION



THE PATH

DESIGN ALTERNATIVES

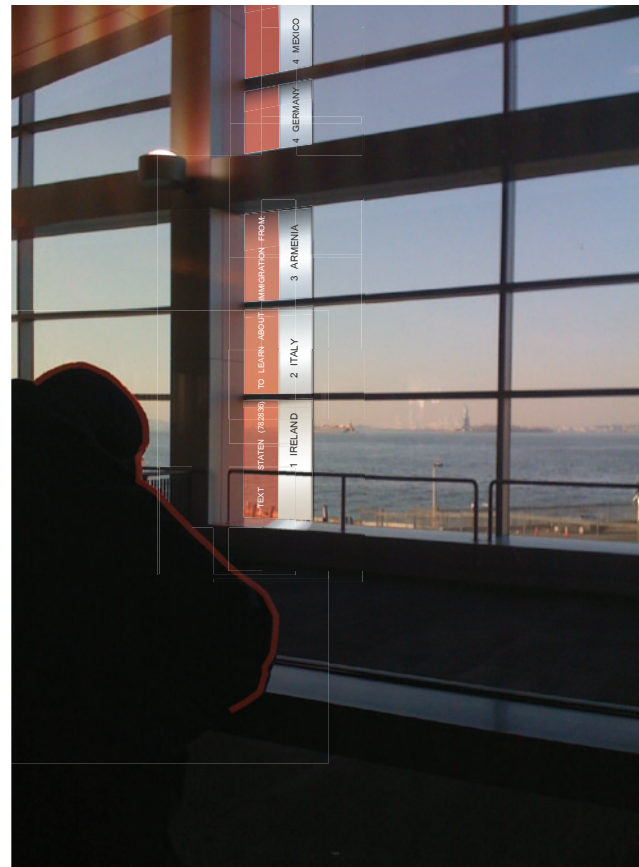
To implement the full project additional sites have been identified that expand the narrative, starting from the Manhattan Ferry Terminal and continuing onto the ferry, the Staten Island Ferry Terminal and on the route to the courthouse property.



1. MANHATTAN FERRY TERMINAL

Glass panes attached to existing railings and columns

DESIGN ALTERNATIVES



1. MANHATTAN FERRY TERMINAL

Glass panes attached to existing railings and columns

DESIGN ALTERNATIVES



2. FERRY RIDE

Red Glass and mirrors installed on exterior of ferry windows

DESIGN ALTERNATIVES



3. STATEN ISLAND FERRY TERMINAL

Interior: Glass and mirror panes installed on existing columns and railings
Exterior: Elements incorporated into existing columns of shade structure

DESIGN ALTERNATIVES



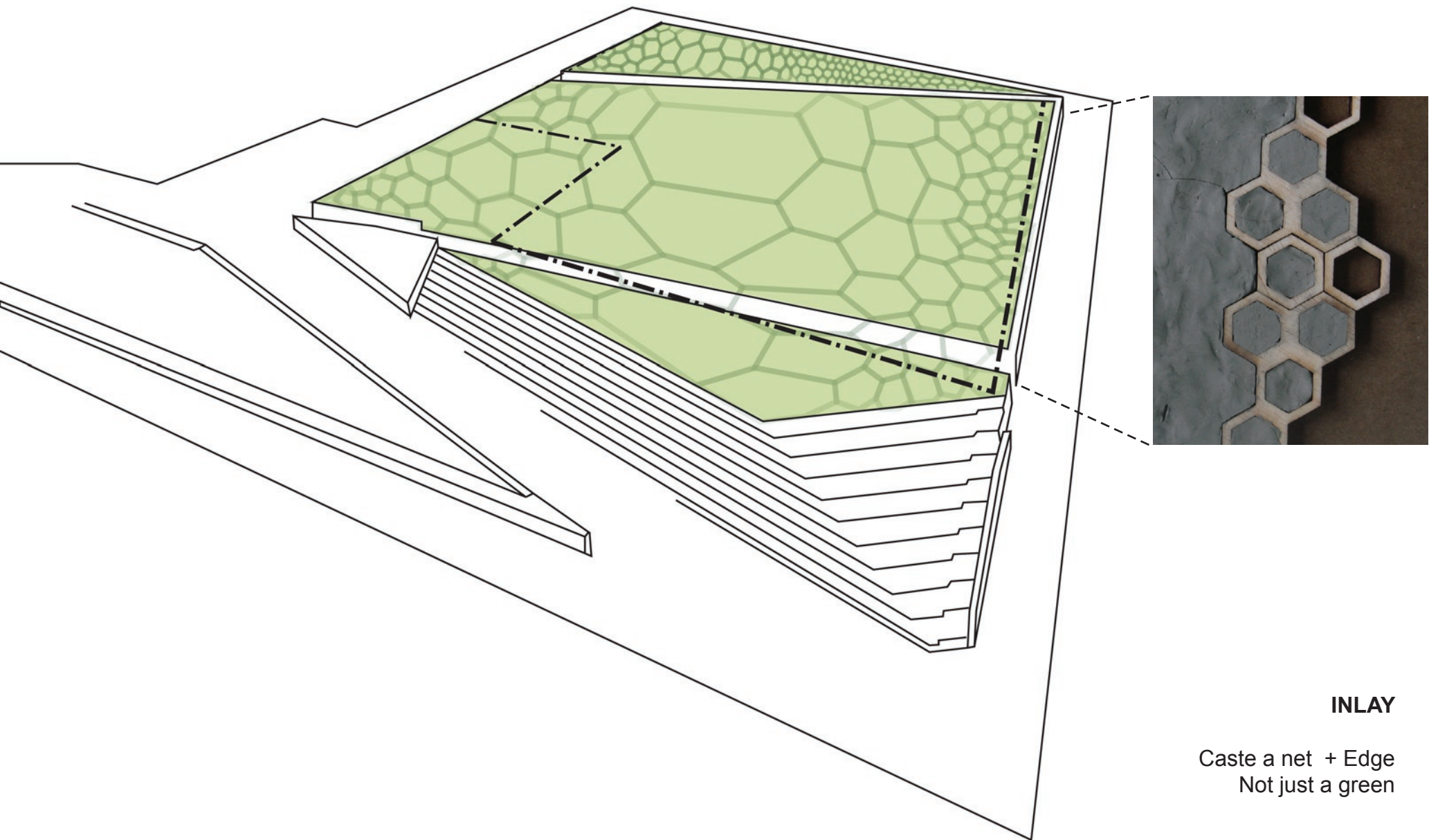
4. PATHWAY TO MEMORIAL GREEN

Freestanding columnar elements along path,
on sidewalks and medians



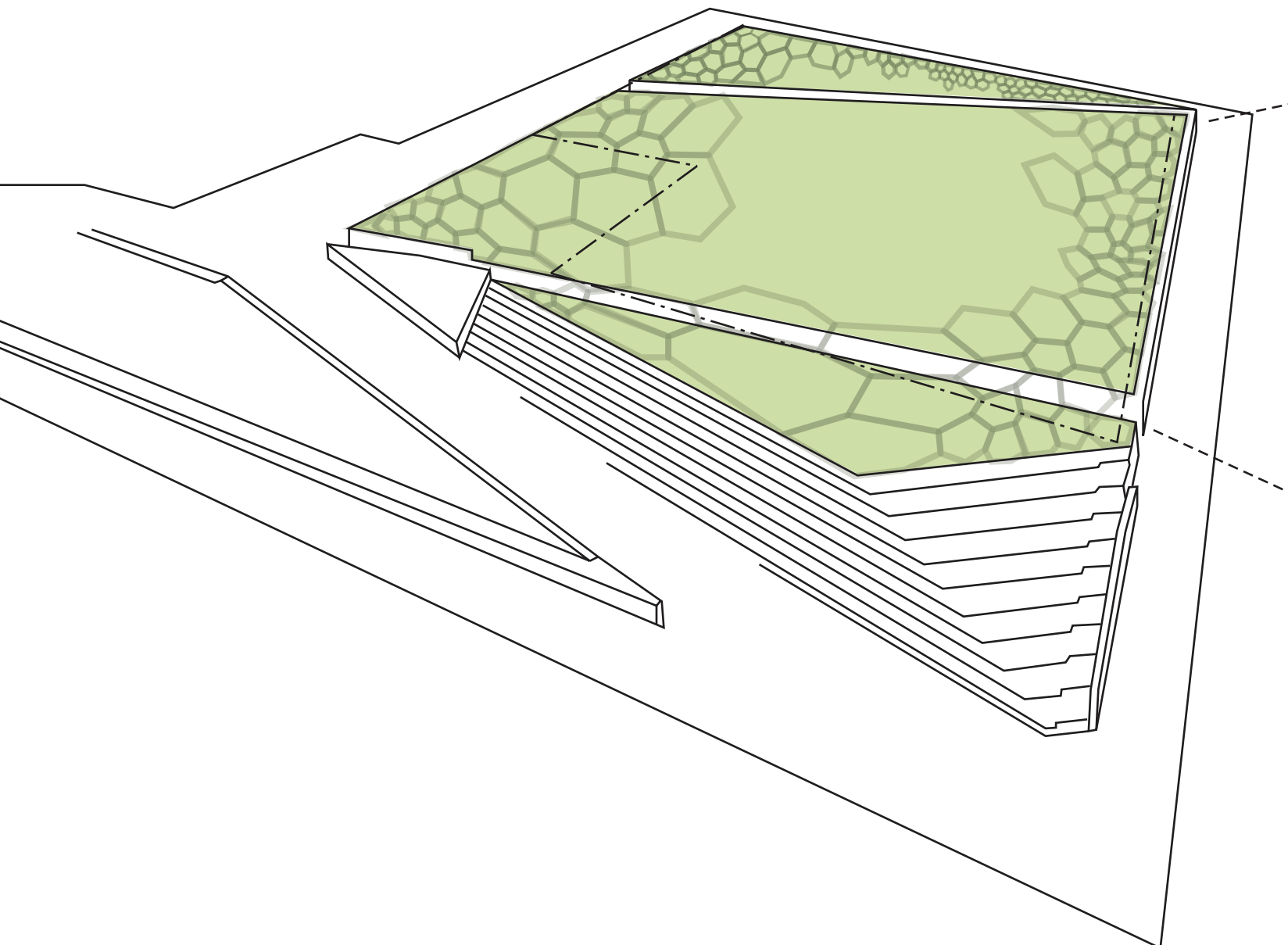
DIFFERENT APPROACHES

How to fully CLAIM the site



INLAY

Caste a net + Edge
Not just a green



INLAY

Partial edge of green Seating

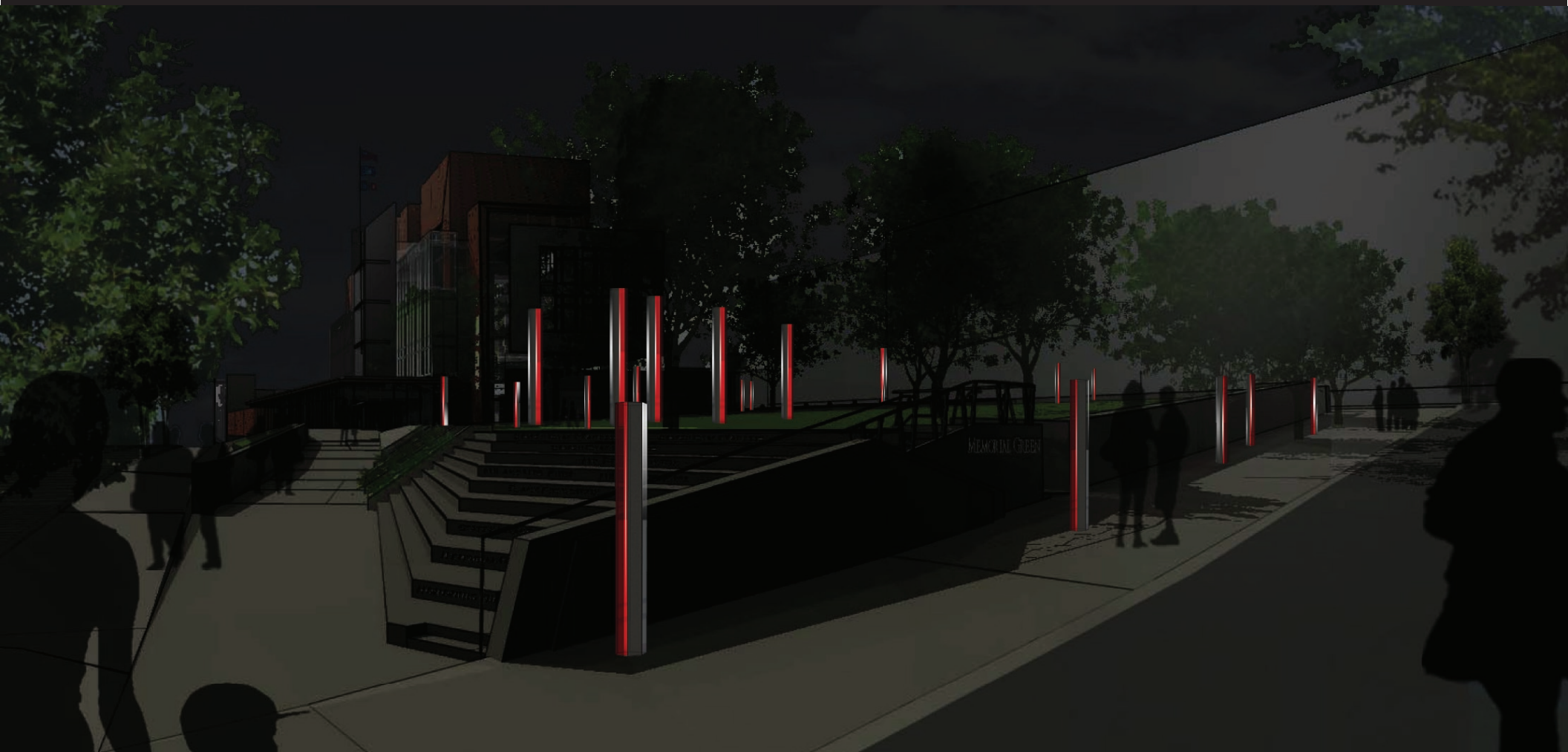


STATEN ISLAND QUARANTINE MARINE HOSPITAL
СТАТЕН АСЛАНД КУАРАНТИНЕ МАРИНЕ ХОСПИТАЛ



NOT A MONUMENT

Commemorate the Quarantine
Dead and Living
Multiple histories, stories



MARK SITE

Cast light during day
Illumination by night

