The Story of Market House

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Our encounters of space are charged with narratives of the past. These narratives help us define who we are, speaking to our values and providing us with our identity.

The Story of Market House is an exploration into the narratives of the 245-year-old Market House of Providence, Rhode Island. Like the additions and alterations to its form, Market House is layered with generations of unique Providence history.

This project aims to remember and tell an unbiased and empathetic narrative, true to the comprehensive histories of this unique place; and from this present an architectural proposal that projects a new chapter in the story of Market House.

Starting with a Question :

How can architectural memory and memory of a place be utilized as a design tool in the architectural design process?

Thesis Statement :

Memory is deeply embedded in place.

By uncovering this memory through research and analysis one begins to understand the identity of a people through their story.

From here the architect can design with an informed understanding of a place, that both reflects the values of an existing diverse people, and projects how the built environment can adapt for a continually changing future.

Chapter One:
House, Land, & Water

1865

House : Market House

1865

Land : Market Square

1865

Water : Providence River

1775

Original Building

1800

Used as City Hall

1775

British Tea Burning

"Near this Spot The Men and Women of Providence Showed their resistance to Unjust Taxation by Burning British Taxed Tea in the night of March 2nd, 1775. The Boston Tea Party occured on December 16, 1773"

1775 - 1850

Market Ship Port

1800 - 1950

Covered River

1948

Aquired by RISD

2020

Today

1862

Civil War Draft

Civil War draft Letter
to Providence man

1897

Emma Goldman

Feminist,
anti-anarchist,
free speech activist
Emma Goldman

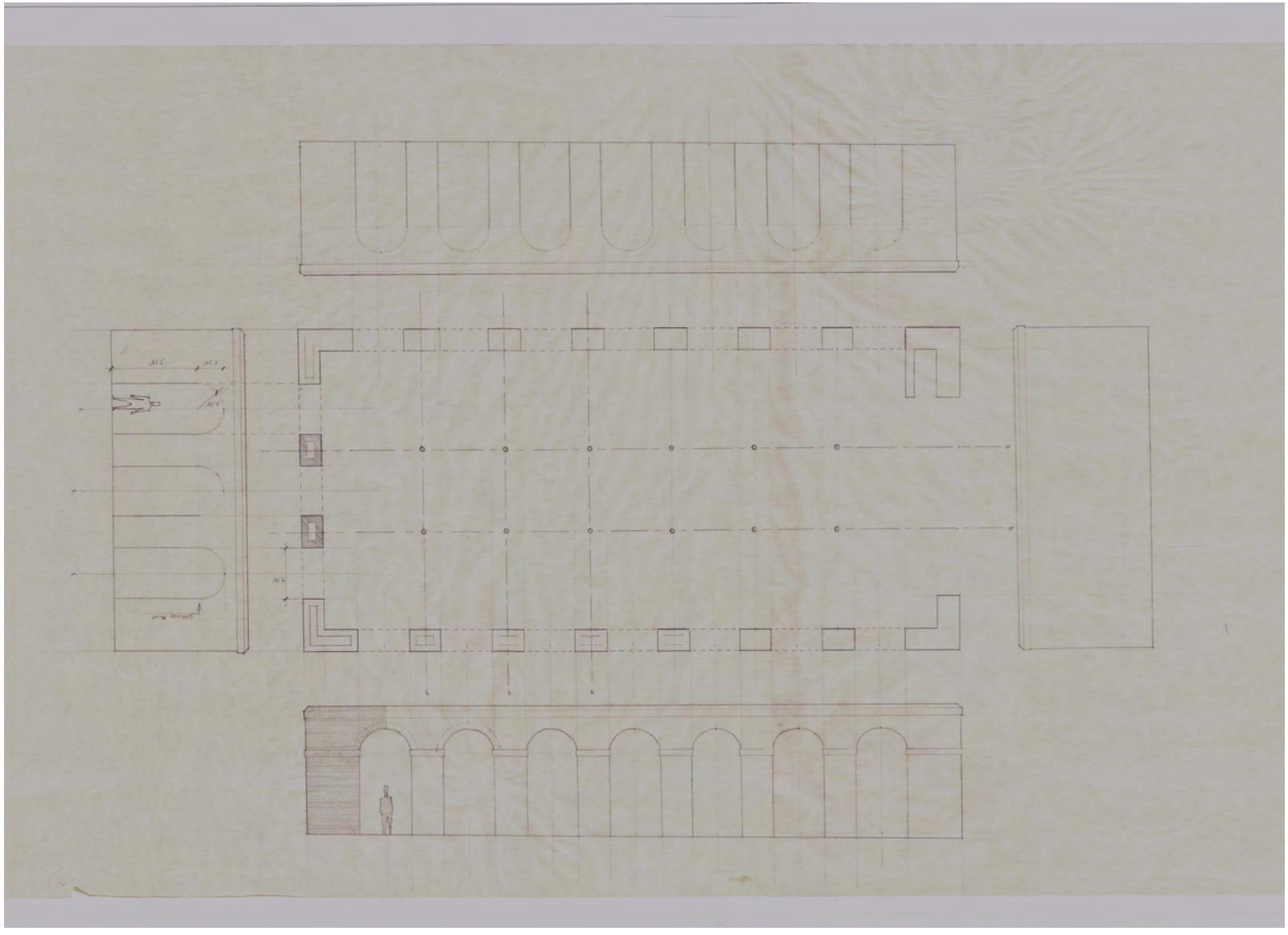
1948

River Relocation

Analytical Drawing

1880
Rear Elevation

1775
Front Elevation / Structural Section

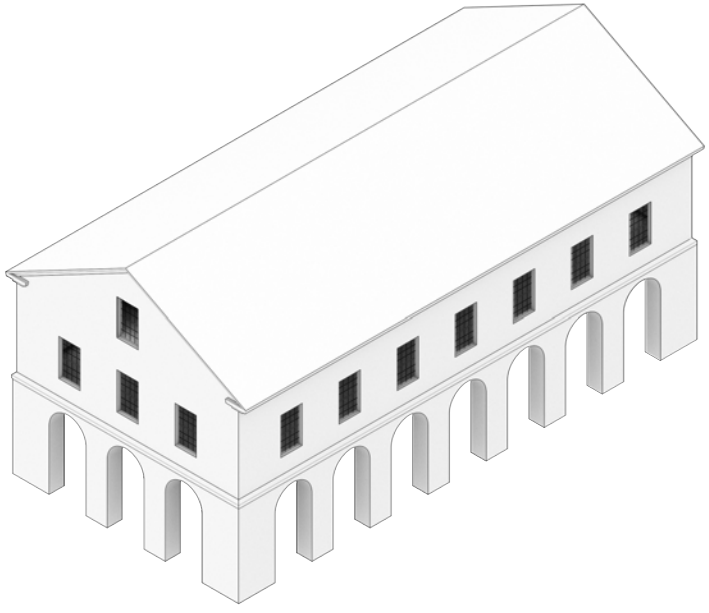


1775
Arcade Plan & Elevations

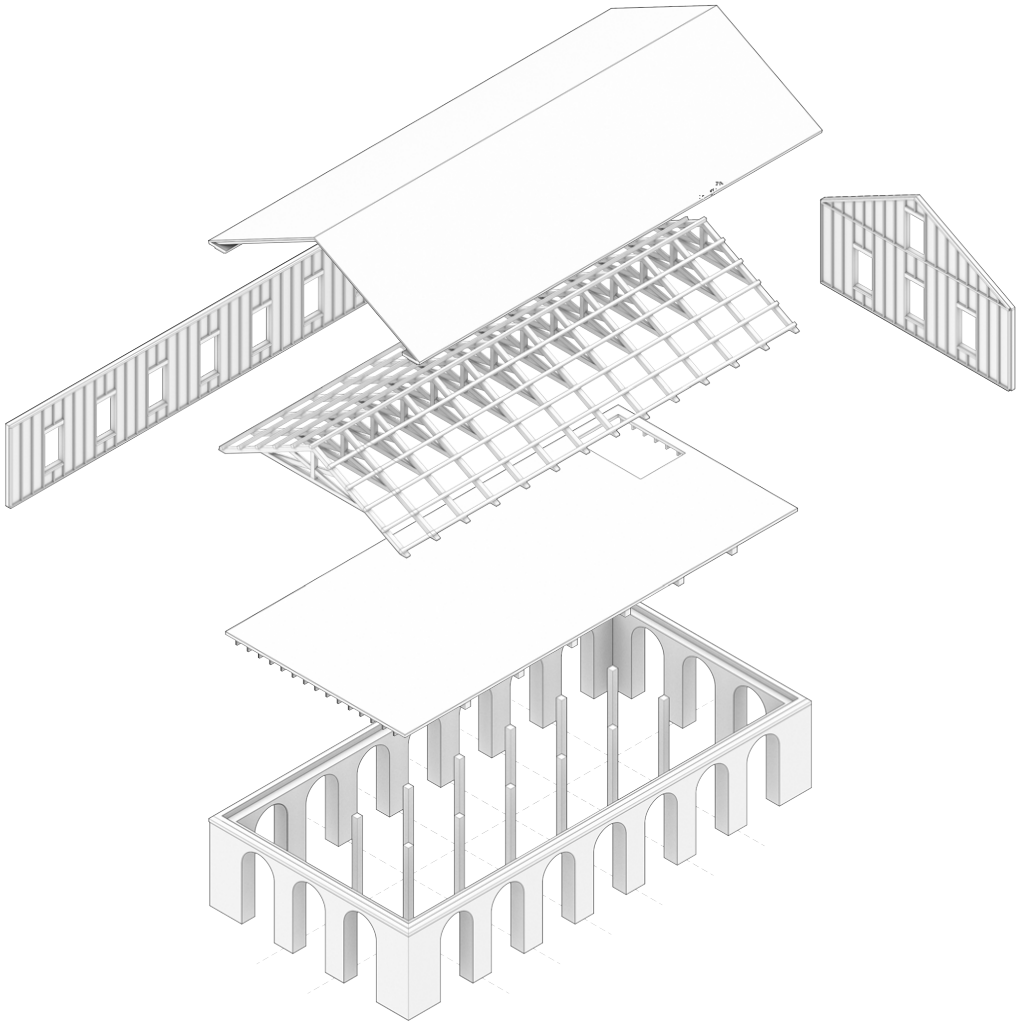
Market Square Tree

Today - Front Elevation

Analytical Modeling

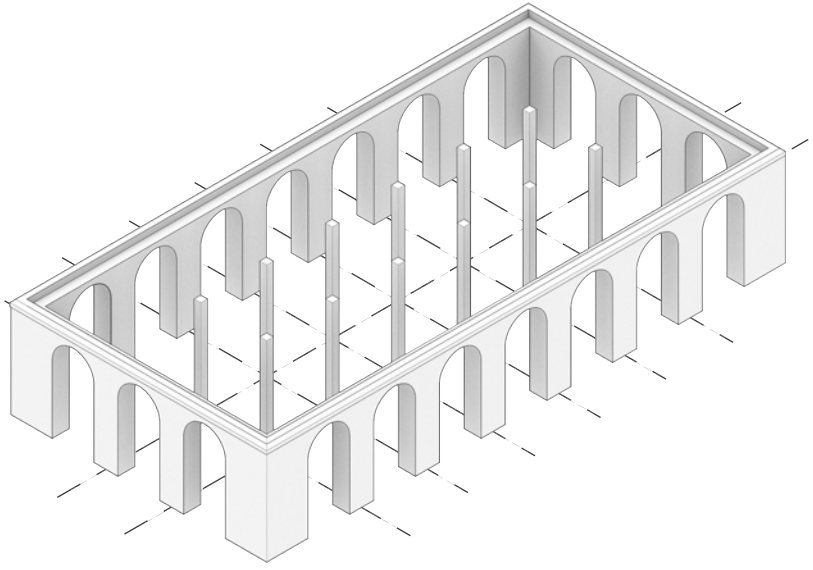


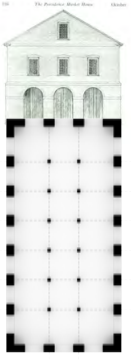
Breaking Down the Elements
of Market House



Arcade

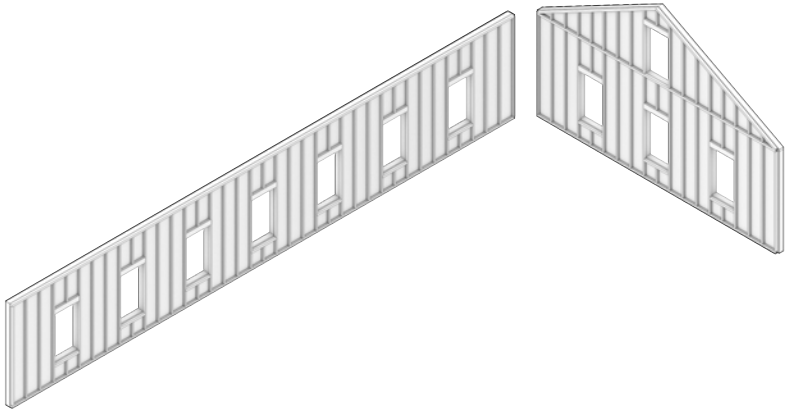
Market House arcade was designed as an open air market. Vendor stalls were placed within the structural grid





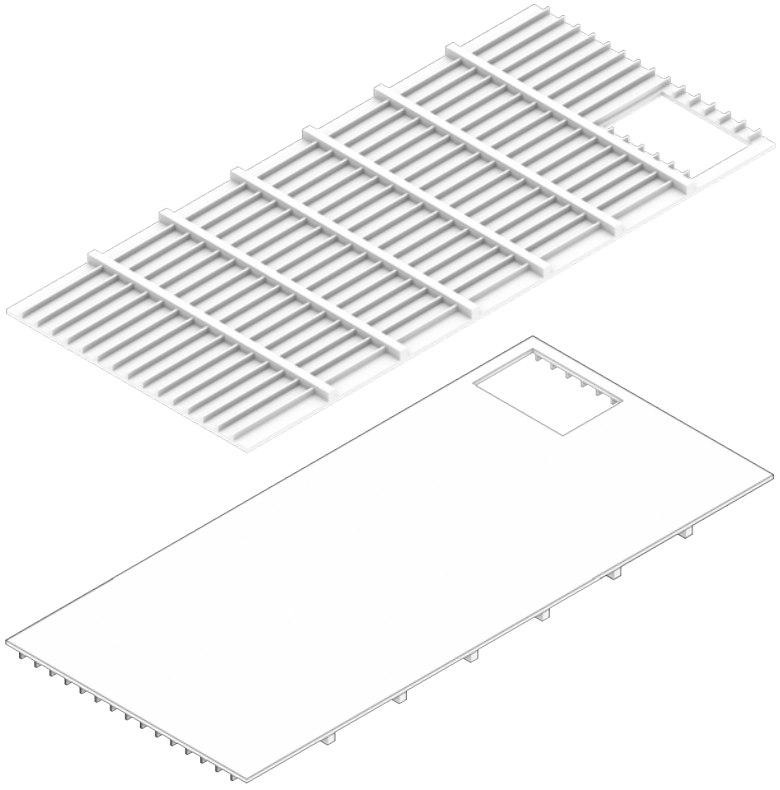
Wall

The walls of market house, built of brick and wood studs were structural and load bearing



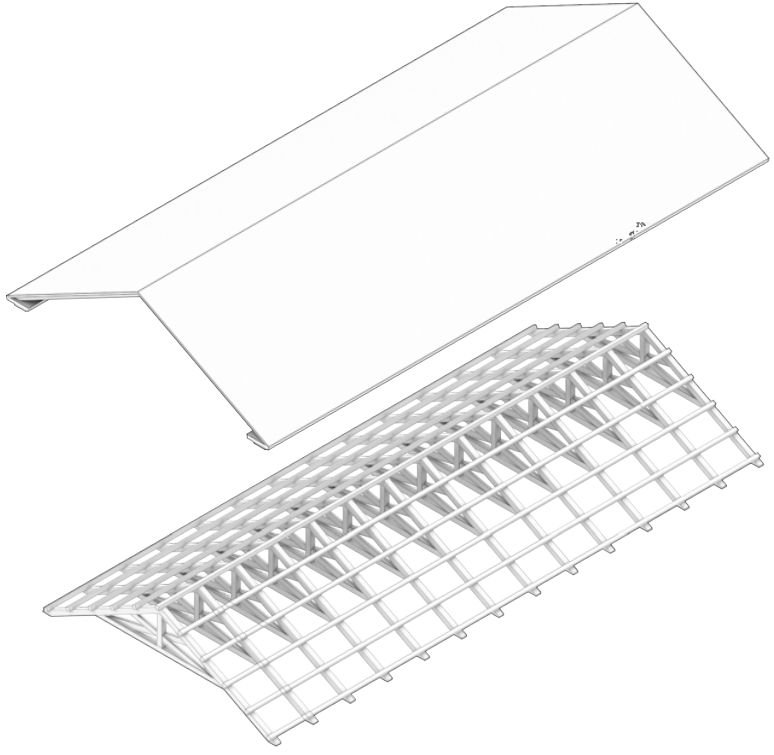
Floor/ Ceiling

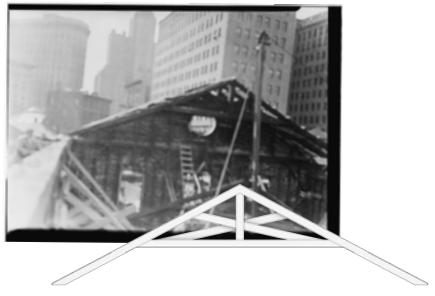
The wood ceiling beam structure was exposed and visible inside the Market house arcade

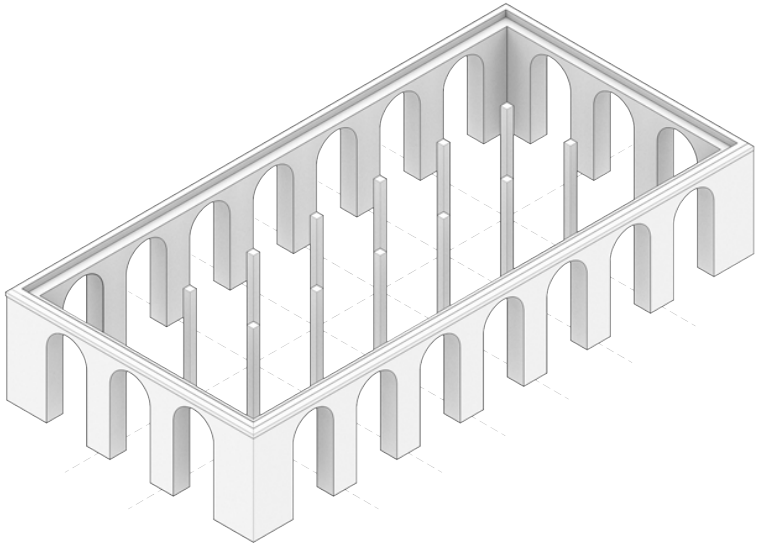


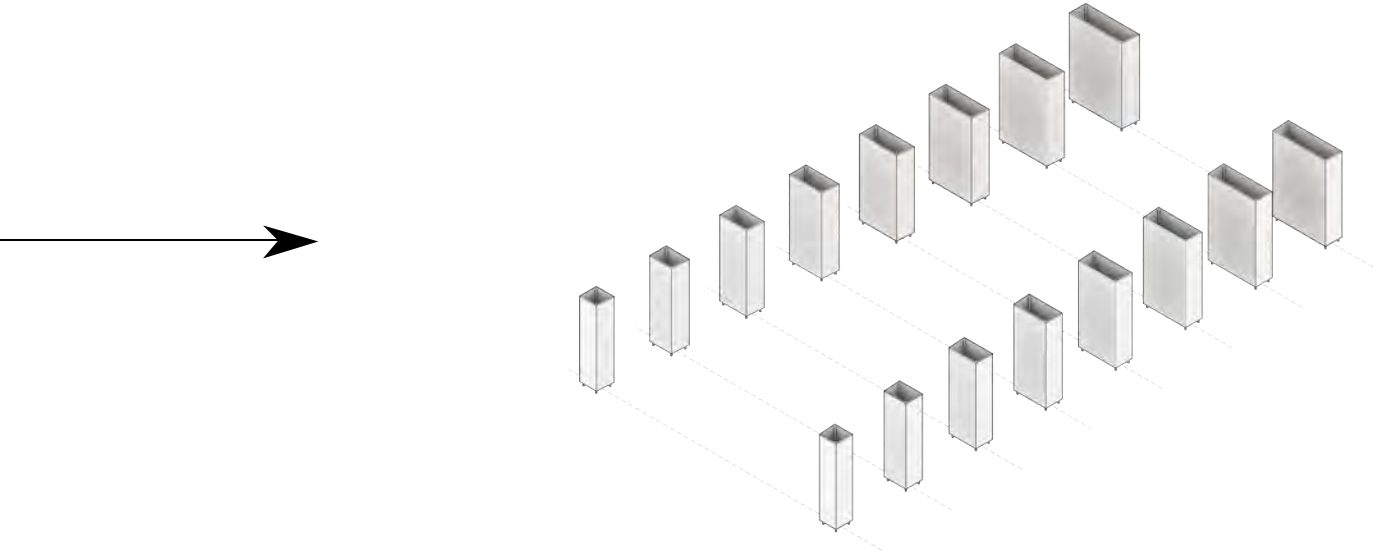
Roof

A cross beam wood lumber truss once spanned the walls of Market House. These have since been restored to steel beams



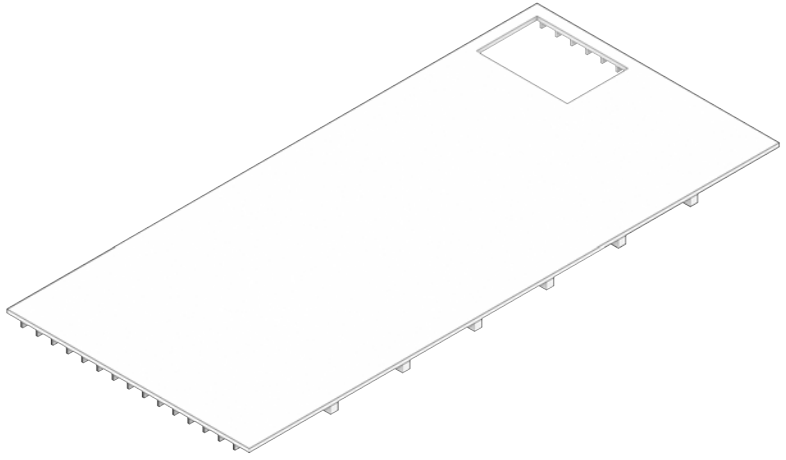






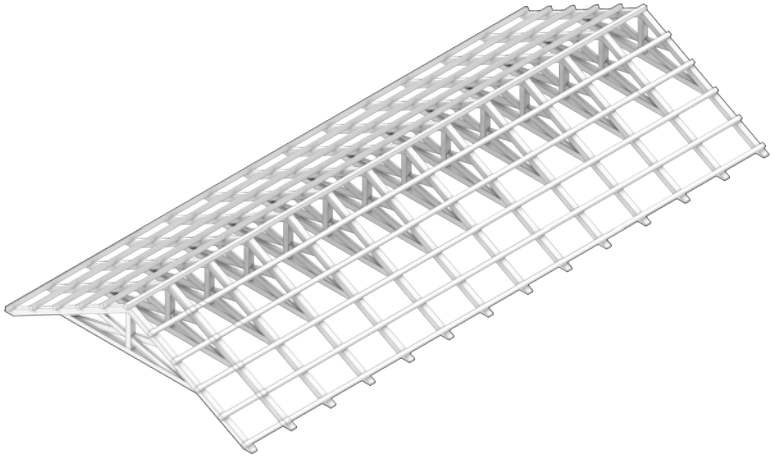
Arcade

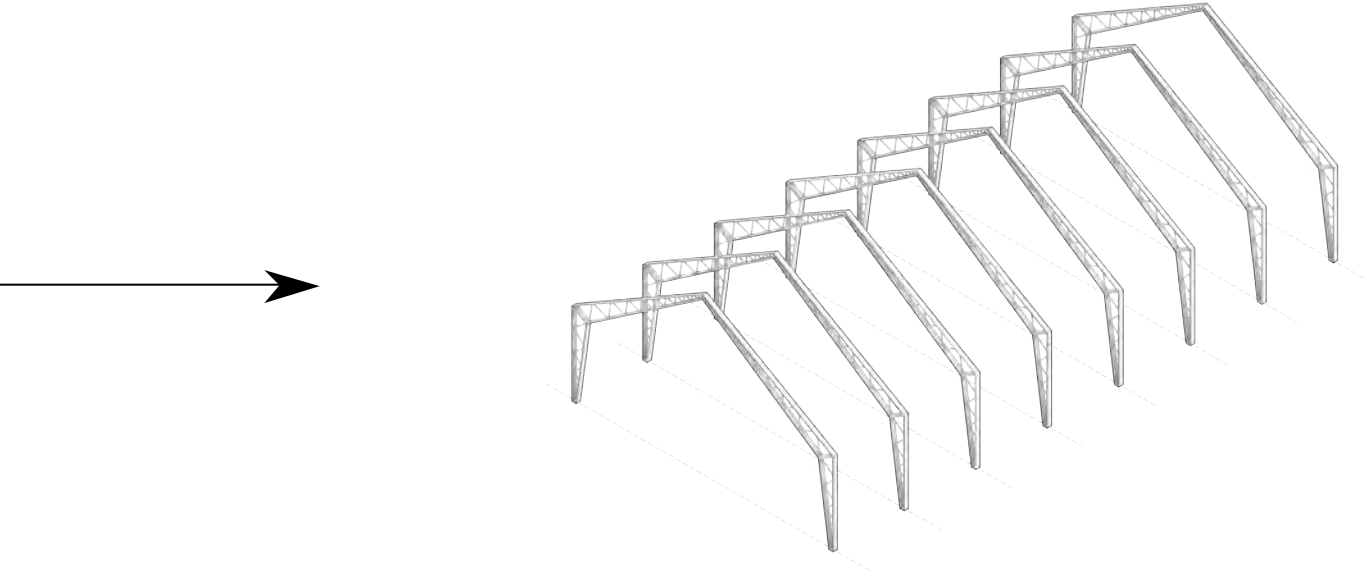
The translated arcade ghosts the originals footprint, uses the same wall thickness, and defines a new structural grid



Floor / Ceiling

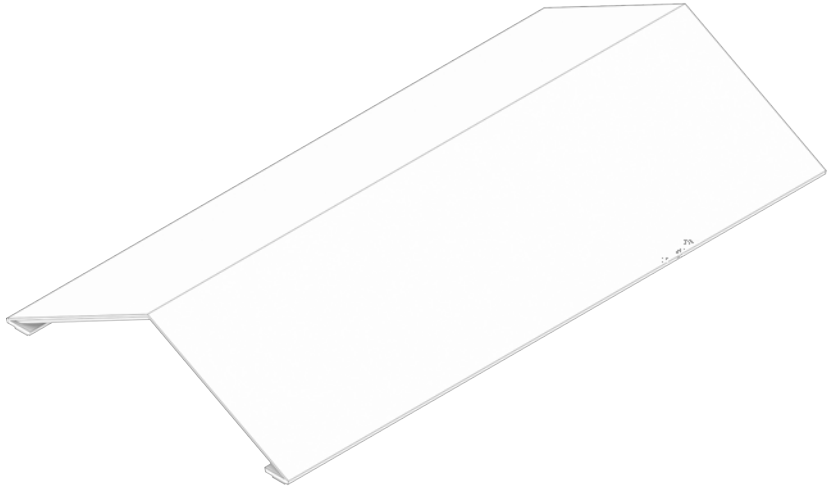
The beam structure is exposed both inside and underneath the bridge

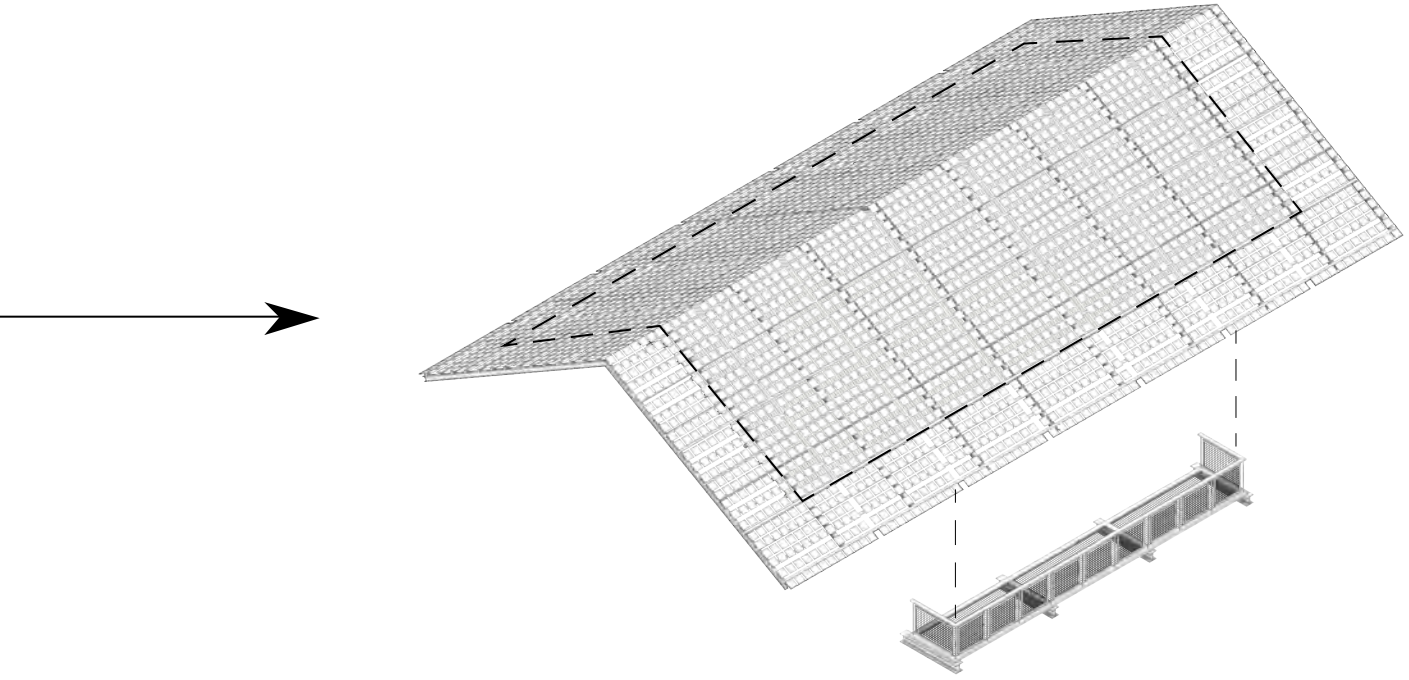




Truss

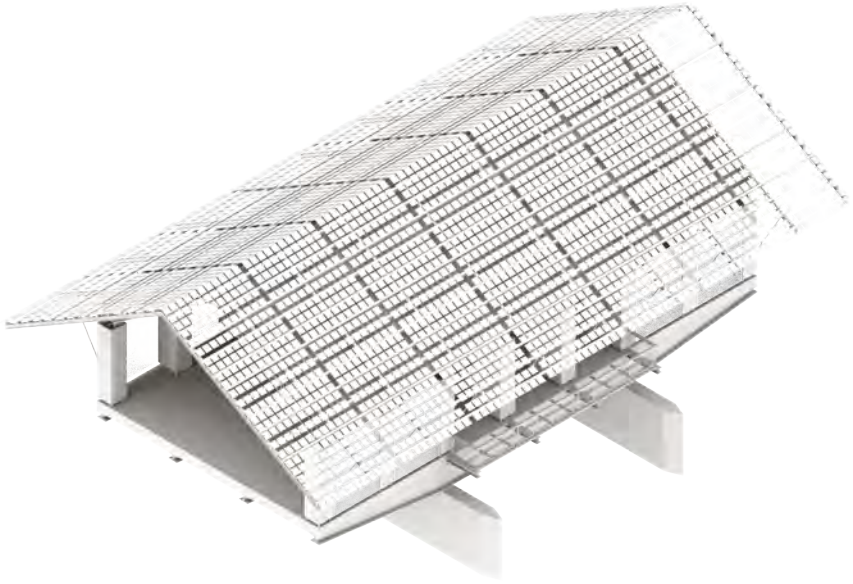
The translated truss uses steel and is integrated into the walls of the plan



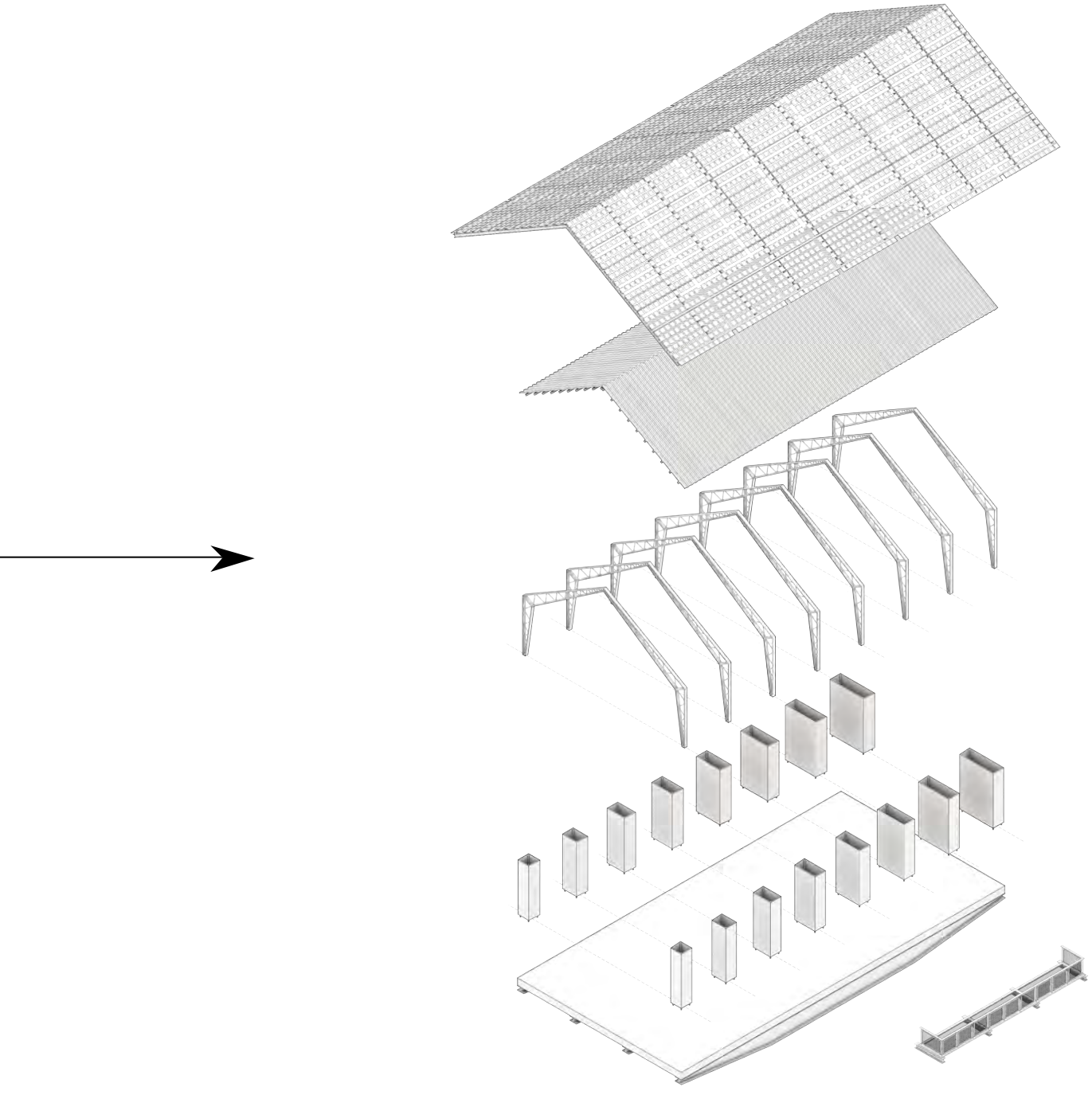


Roof

The bridge roof extends over walkways surrounding the bridge and uses a solar panel tile to generate its own electricity

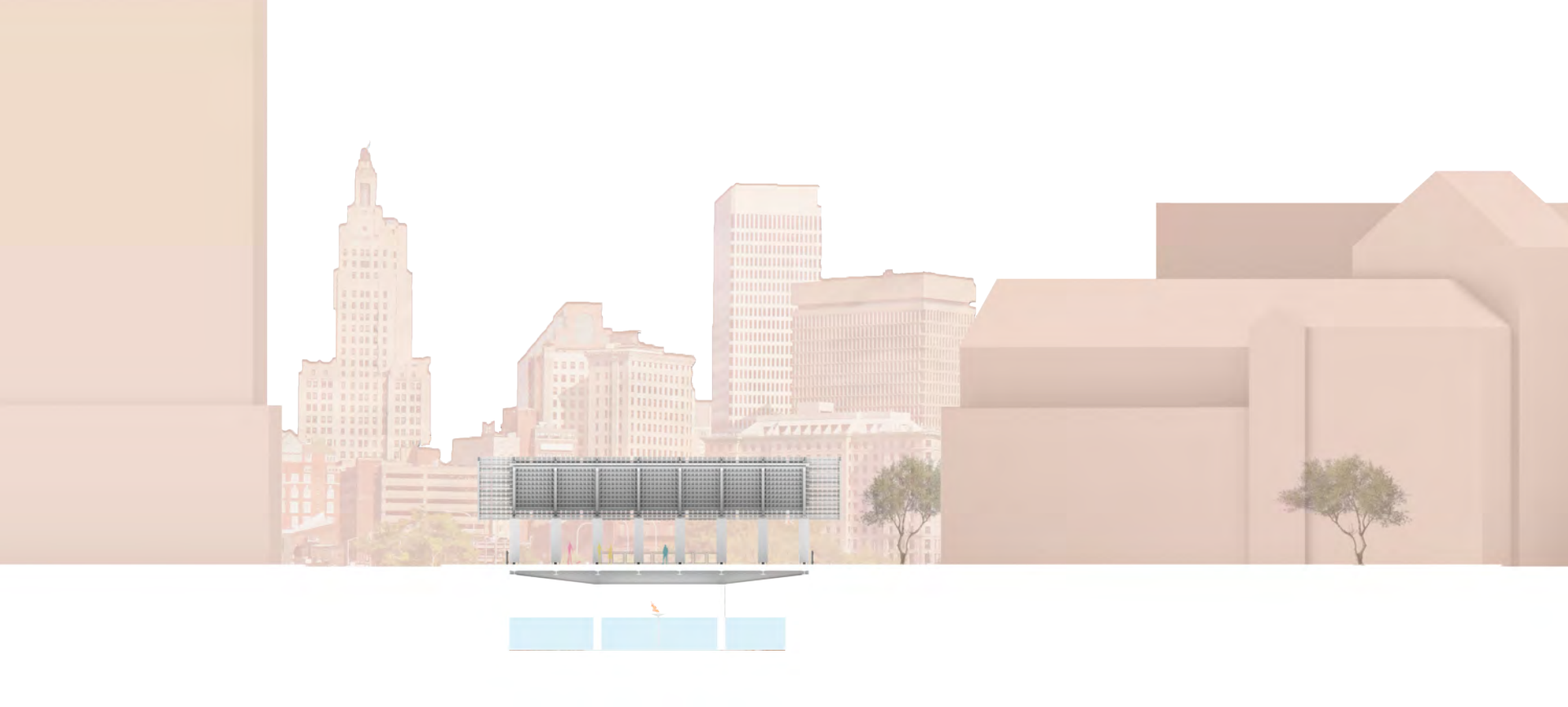


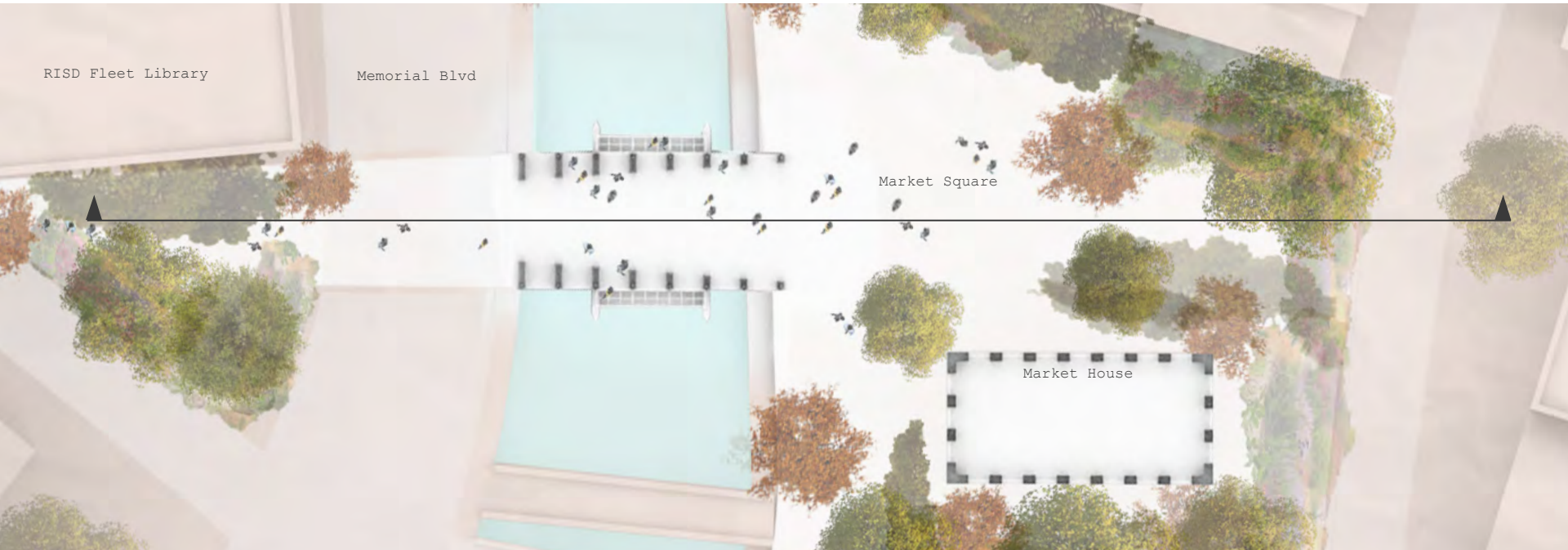
Proposed Market Bridge

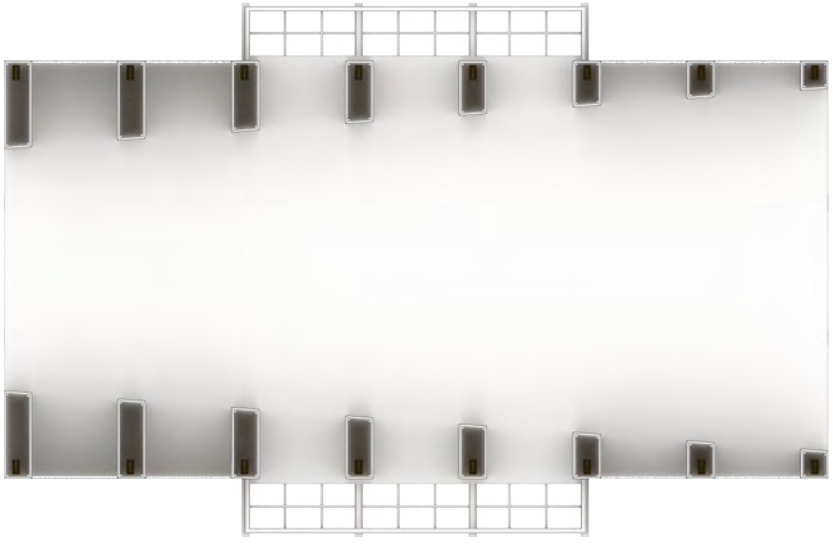


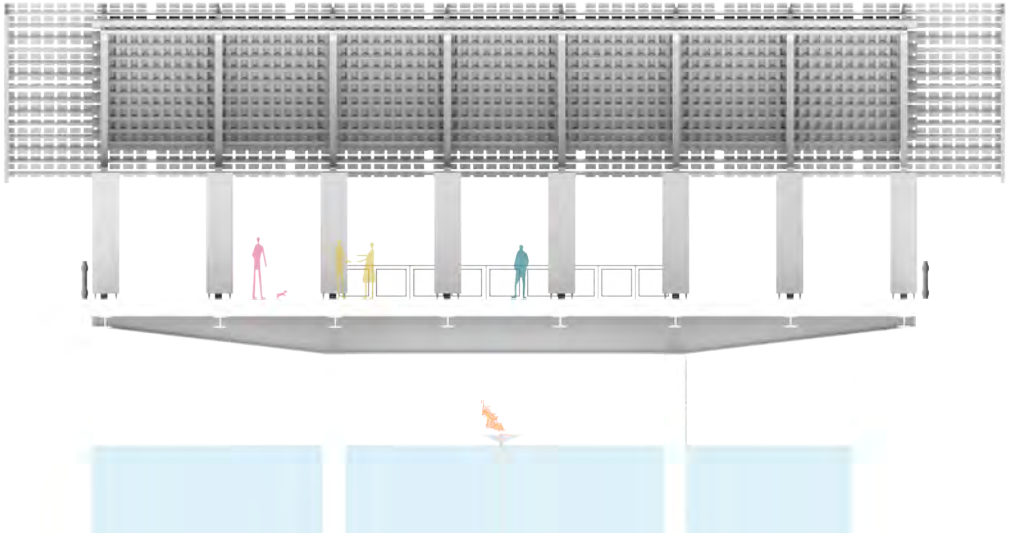
North Main Street
Market Square
Market House
Proposed Market Bridge
College Street
Westminster Street

South / North Section

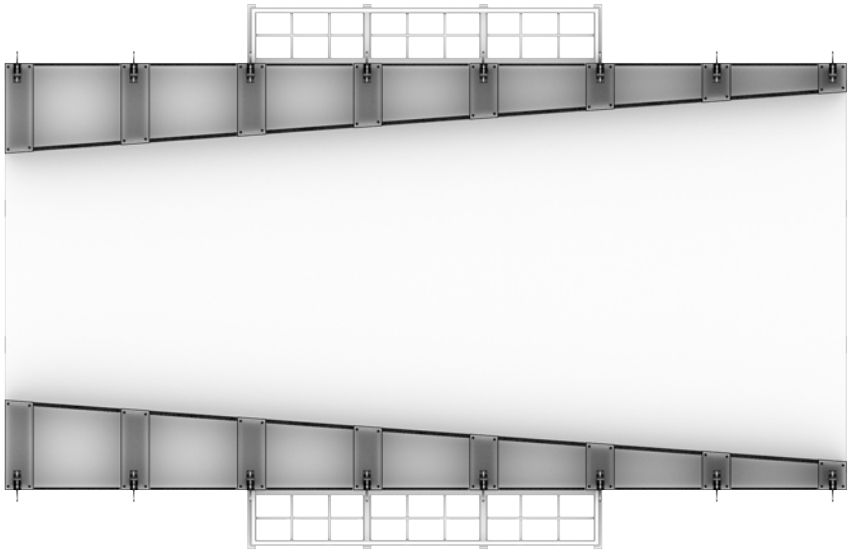


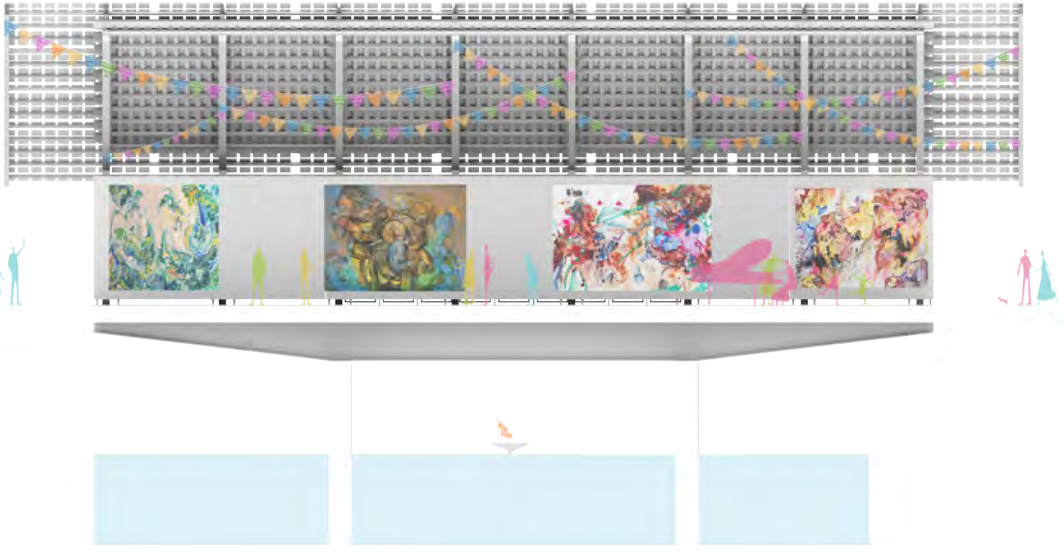

RISD Fleet Library
Memorial Blvd
Market Square
Market House





When the stall door of the arcade are open, Market Bridge
becomes a a pedestrian friendly market thoroughfare





Celebrating student work Market Bridge becomes an exhibition gallery when the stall doors are closed creating a blank canvas for RISD students

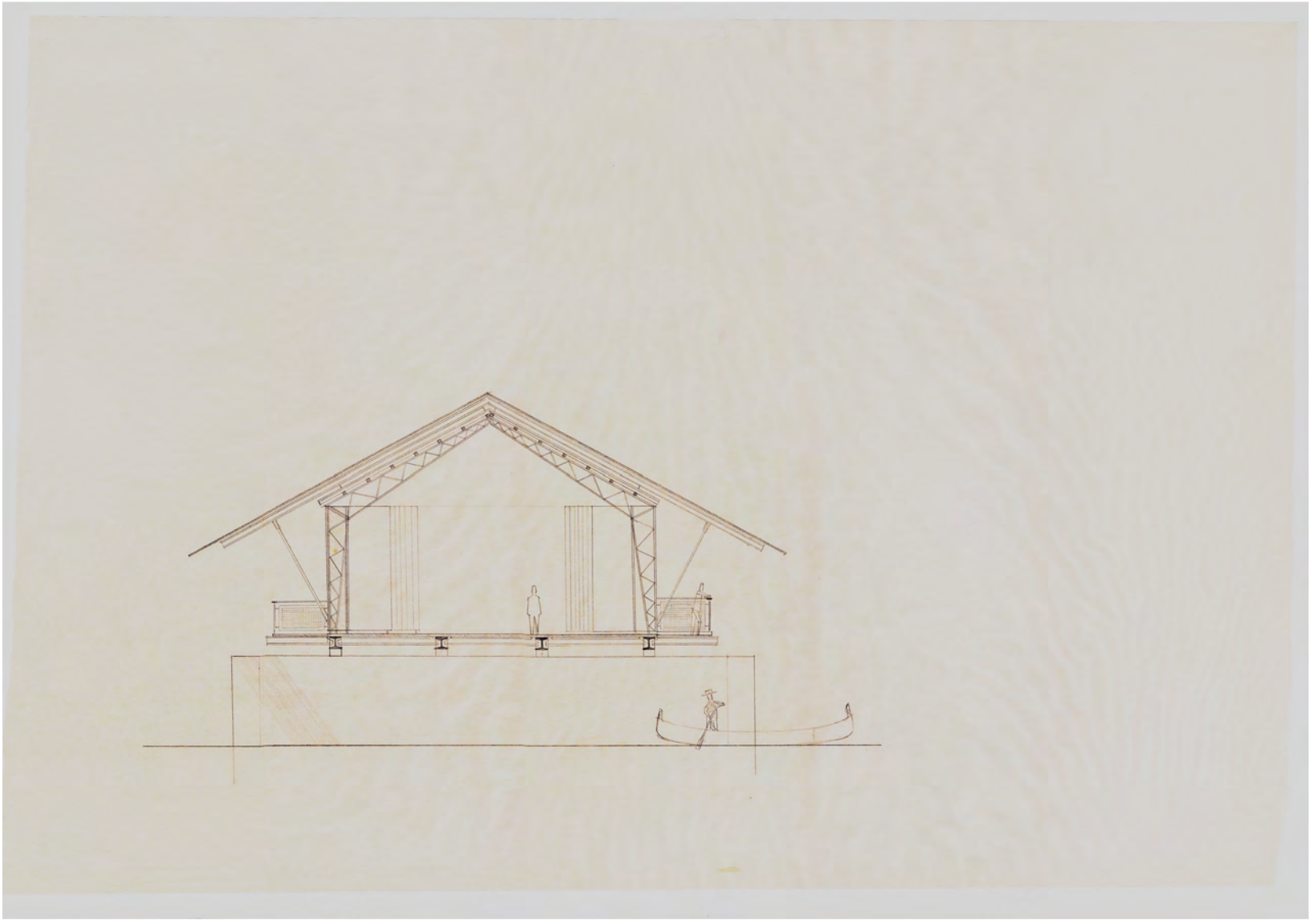
Like an open invitation Market Bridge offers a community connection from west to east and from local to visitor

Reimagined as a healing garden, Market Square becomes a place people come to relax and stay a while with other Providencians

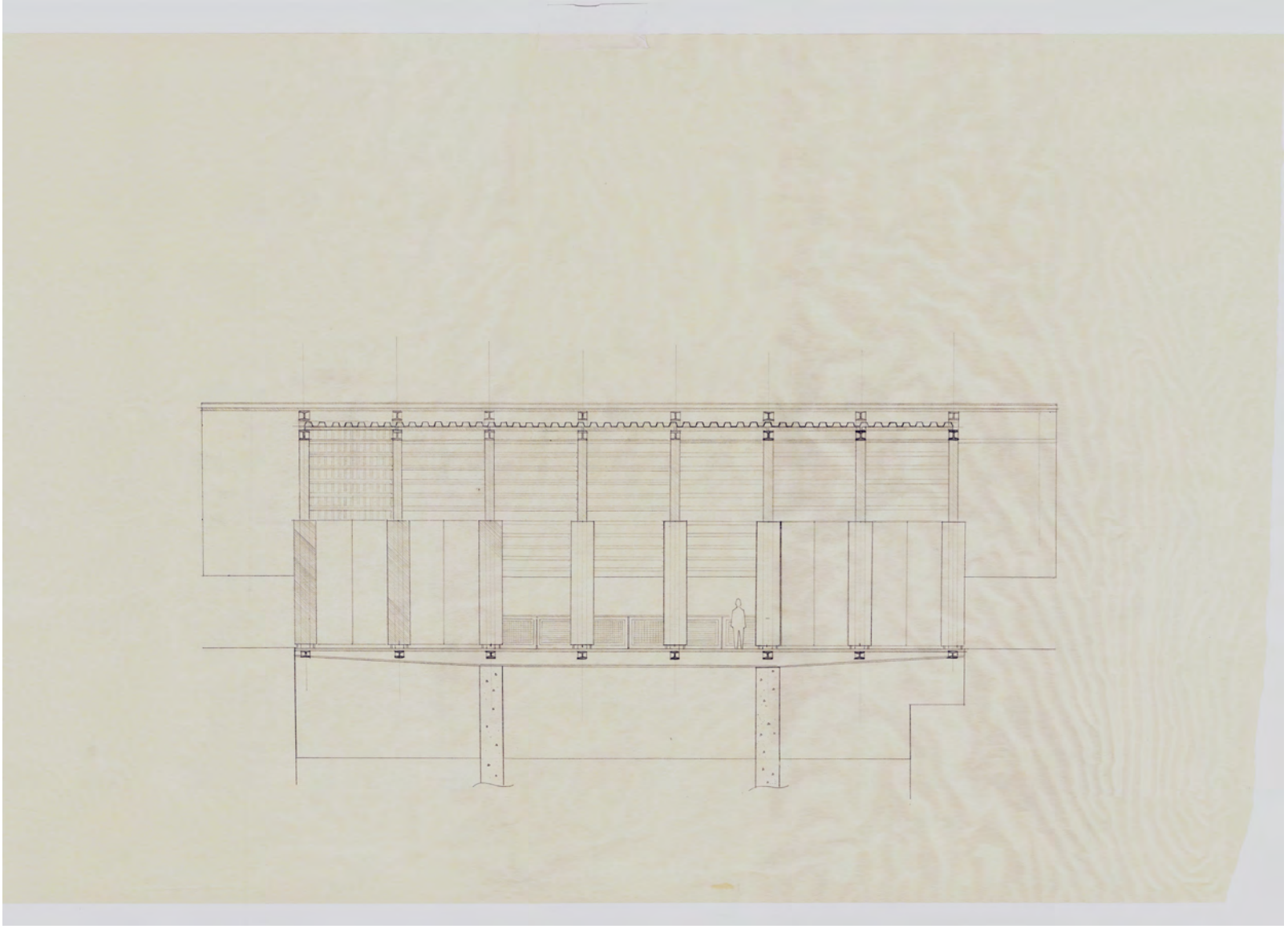
Market Bridge fills with people on a sunny weekend day to see the new pieces exhibited by RISD students in the bridge

CORY
BROS.
Pianos
&
Organs

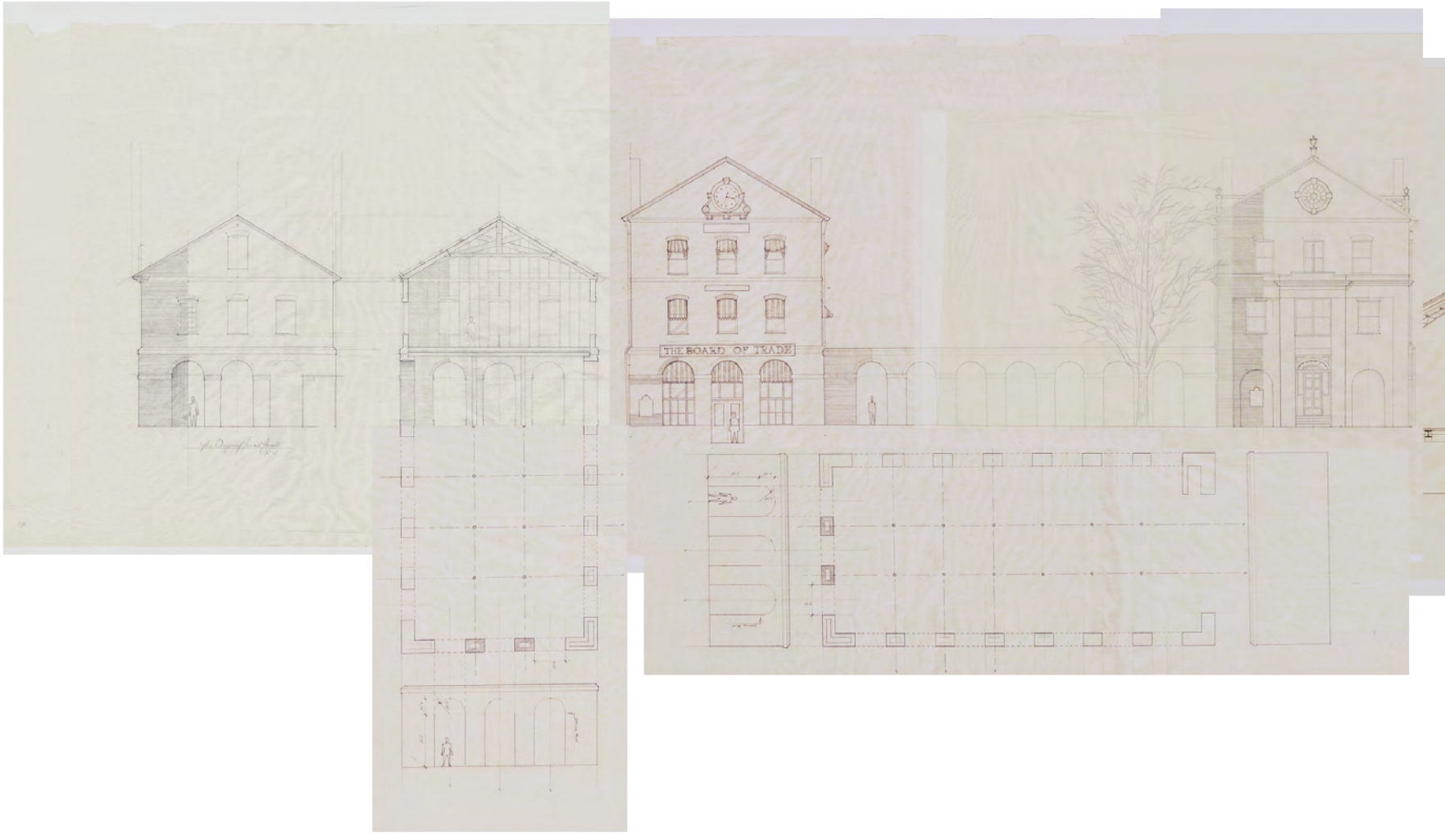
The open air arcade of Market Bridge invites
foot traffic to pause and take in the
Providence river and city sky



North / South Section



East / West Section Cut


THE BOARD OF TRADE

Glossary / Index

Keywords & Phrases

Memory
The mental impression of past events through recollection over time.

History
Factual accounts made over time of past events.

Layering
The result of collective memories overlapping within a group of people.

Memory Vehicles
A methodology for understanding a community

Collective Memory
The collection of a group of persons individual memories creating an understanding of community value.

Familiarity
The sense of comfort in knowing a place or people.

Replacement
The demolition and reconstruction of an existing building.

Community Member
Each individual citizen within a community.

Respect for place
A carefulness.

Tracing
A physcial marking within a community that represents an artifact of both value and time.

Explicit memory
A memory directly recalled by a person, usually in the form of a story.

Reconcile
Cross pollinating multiple forms of data collection resulting in new connections. A way of using memory vehicles.

Gentrification
The supplanting of an existing community by wealthier people. A result of increased property value rent price.

Belonging
A sense of ones identity being tied to a place.

Erasure
Cross pollinating multiple forms of data collection resulting in new connections. A way of using memory vehicles.

Displacement
People leaving their community due to social changes or conflict.
See also gentrification.

Community strengthening
The ability for a people to thrive from within.

Agency
Cross pollinating multiple forms of data collection resulting in new connections. A way of using memory vehicles.

Sensory trigger
Any sight, smell, sound, touch, or taste that causes the recollection of a memory.

Identity
The defining characteristics from the collective memory of a group of people.

Emotional Core
The projects driving factors, as determined by an understanding of the values of a community.

Mapping
Cross pollinating multiple forms of data collection resulting in new connections. A way of using memory vehicles.

Memory Projects

Pequot Museum
I've become intensely interested in how our memories are integral to our identity.

Marwen Art School
Wheeler Kearns Architects. Chicago

Ground Zero Memorial
I've become intensely interested in how our memories are integral to our identity.

Lakeview Pantry
Wheeler Kearns Architects. Chicago

Stille Strasse
I've become intensely interested in how our memories are integral to our identity.

National Memorial for Peace & Justince
Mass Design Group. Boston.

Anti-Memory Projects

Haussman Plan
Urban planning for the city of Paris

RISD Student Center
WorkAC. New York City

Oculus Transit
Santiago Calatrava. New York City

People / Offices

Juhanni Palassma
I've become intensely interested in how our memories are integral to our identity.

Peter Zumthor
I've become intensely interested in how our memories are integral to our identity.

John Ruskin
I've become intensely interested in how our memories are integral to our identity.

Marc Treib
I've become intensely interested in how our memories are integral to our identity.

Esther de Costa Meyer
I've become intensely interested in how our memories are integral to our identity.

Gaston Bachelard
I've become intensely interested in how our memories are integral to our identity.

Francis Yates
I've become intensely interested in how our memories are integral to our identity.

John Ruskin
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