

# Inhabited Bridge in Manhattan

From Public Realm of Streets to the Urban Stage

Thesis in Master Degree in “Architecture of Multi-Scale Project”

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Inhabited Bridge is a system of open/closed public spaces and it is created according to the public realm of Manhattan.

Manhattan almost is recognized by its GRID and the physical result of it "bold blocks and skyscrapers" as Rem Koolhaas has declared it in his manifesto of "Manhattanism" and "Culture of Congestion".

The other side of this urban structure of GRID, is how it has been affected and created a special form of public behavior as "Public Realm of Street". It has been studied in the works of William Whyte as "The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces" in 1980s. In his work, he studied the public behavior of Manhattan inhabitants and resulted in it that the island's inhabitants are experiencing urban spaces by WALKING.

Hence the project starts with the question of "How is public realm of Manhattan and where it happens?"

It's true that Manhattan lacks the elegant squares, axial boulevards and civic monuments around which other cities designed their public spaces. But it has evolved a public realm of streets and sidewalks that creates an urban theatre on the grandest level. No two blocks are ever precisely the same because the grid indulges variety, building to building, street to street."(Michael Kimmelman, The Grid at 200: Lines That Shaped Manhattan)

The urban life in Manhattan is in different layers, from the city inside the city of the skyscrapers to the subway tunnels and stations. But the public life, in which different social groups encounter each other, is actually in STREETS which are created by the GRID pattern of the island and surrounded by the skyscrapers. The famous streets such as Broadway, is one of the most active urban public places in Manhattan. Intersection of grid and Broadway, has defined some popular open public spaces in the shape of plazas and squares, such as Times Square, or Union Square.

Moreover, the other active and alive public spaces, such as the High-Line Park and the under construction Hudson Boulevard Park has followed the linearity of the streets and in urban morphology aspects, they have transformed and modified the grid.

After studying the main public spaces in Manhattan such as High-Line, Hudson Boulevard and Broadway, the linearity of the intervention is chosen which is coherent with the "public realm of streets" and also with the morphological character of Manhattan urban structure, so the new system in the Hudson Yards is a strong spine.

In the matter of inhibition, the other result of GRID is separating between Skyscrapers and void which are streets. It can be considered as "inhabited blocks" which are private and streets which are public.

It has been affected the relationship of inhabitants and urban space, as they are enclosed with tall, not human scale buildings. So, this project seeks inhabitation in Manhattan in a transformed case of grid and block in which street/path/public domain is inhabited by closed public spaces/blocks. Hence, the public flow are able to experience their situation above "block" in a daily path way and by all of the barriers in site such as avenues, Hudson Yard rail stores, so the spine is elevated as a Bridge which connects different levels of the site and existed building(News Building) with the Hudson River.

The conclusion is a linear system of closed/open public spaces which provided multiple closed public spaces as main theater complex, theatre academy, folk art museum, folk performance tower, artisan bazaar, maritime museum and the roof level which is a bridge with open public spaces such as green areas and access to the below closed public spaces as a new type of public spaces in coherence with the public realm of the inhabitants.