

DESIGN RATIONALE

Plaza of Nations is a new waterfront neighborhood in North East False Creek, located southeast of BC place, between Pacific Boulevard and the Seawall. It is one of Vancouver's last undeveloped waterfront properties and will become an integral component of the Event & Entertainment District, a vibrant area also comprising BC Place Stadium and Rogers Arena.



Aerial Plaza of Nations View

DESIGN RATIONALE

MASSING

Moving away from Vancouver's standard tower-podium typology, the Plaza of Nations masterplan proposes a terracing typology that enhances the backdrop of the North Shore Mountains.

The terracing typology has been further developed in both plan and section, cascading gradually down to the water's edge.

An important feature of the design was to maintain views of BC Place, a vibrant icon in Vancouver's skyline and a celebrated center in the surrounding community. The terraced topography was therefore shaped to frame views of the stadium, while respecting the city's established viewcones.

Strategically positioned to capture natural sunlight, this habitable topography wanders along the seawall providing new pedestrian infrastructure, multiple public spaces and stunning views to the city and False Creek's Waterfront.

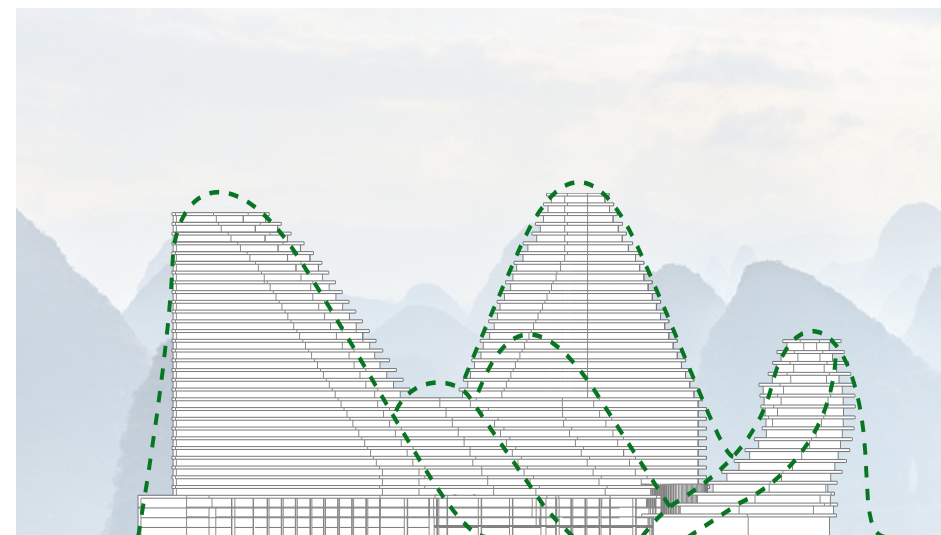
Merging landscape and architecture further enhances Vancouver's strong natural and urban interface and contributes to a unique sense of place.



Vancouver Photograph



Stawamus Chief Mountain



Conceptual Massing Diagram

URBAN / VERTICAL FOREST

The existing Expo waterfront forest located adjacent to the plaza's steps, will be enhanced to promote biodiversity at the waterfront edge.

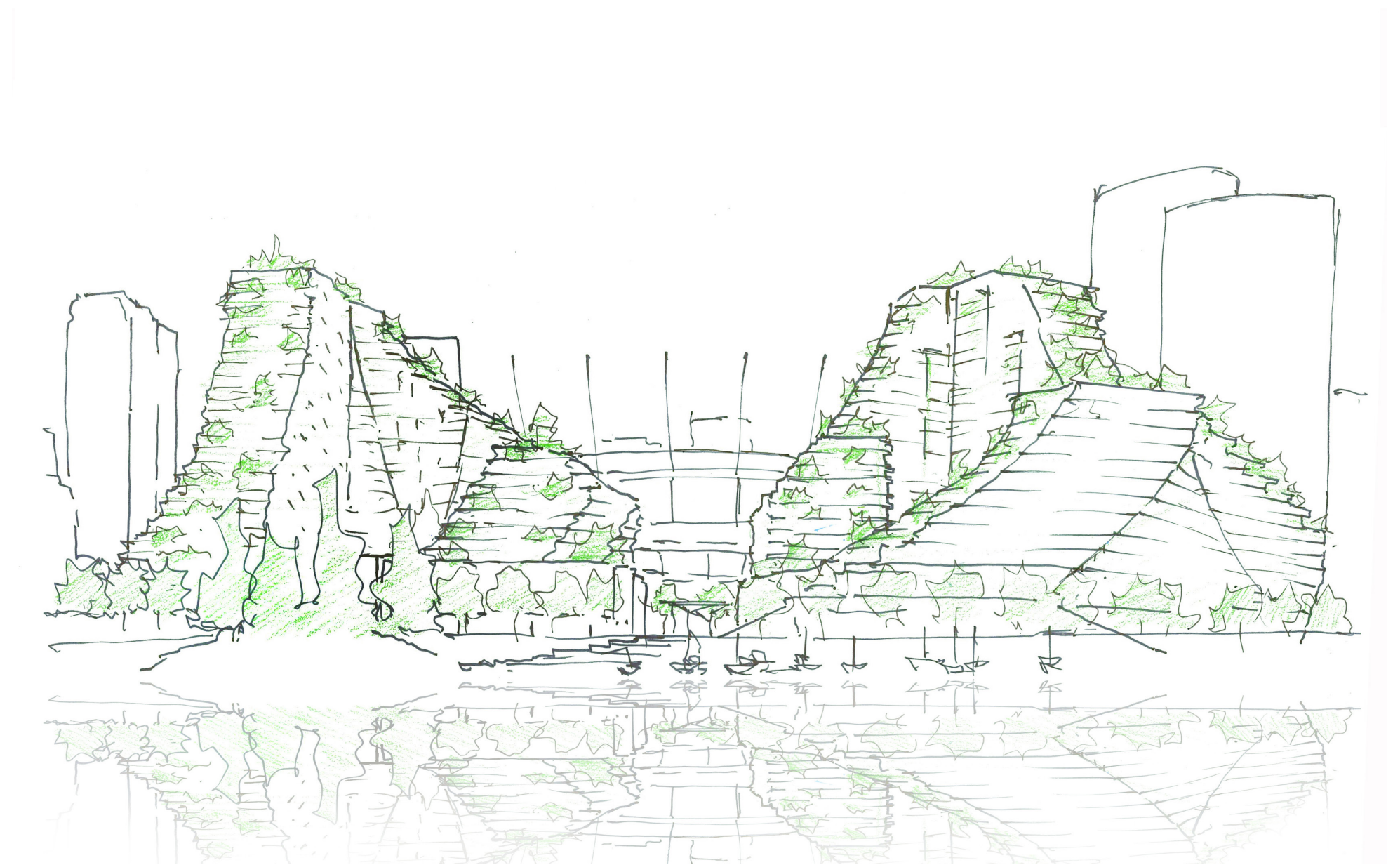
These natural spaces, in addition to the sites with terraced landscaping and gardens will provide habitat for birds and urban wildlife.

The concept of urban forest is further developed into the vertical forest throughout all levels of the proposed project.

Introduction of various scaled planters on all stepped terraces allows for biodiversity of multi-scaled trees and greenery, providing an iconic visual identity for the project.



Expo Waterfront Urban Forest



DESIGN RATIONALE

PUBLIC REALM

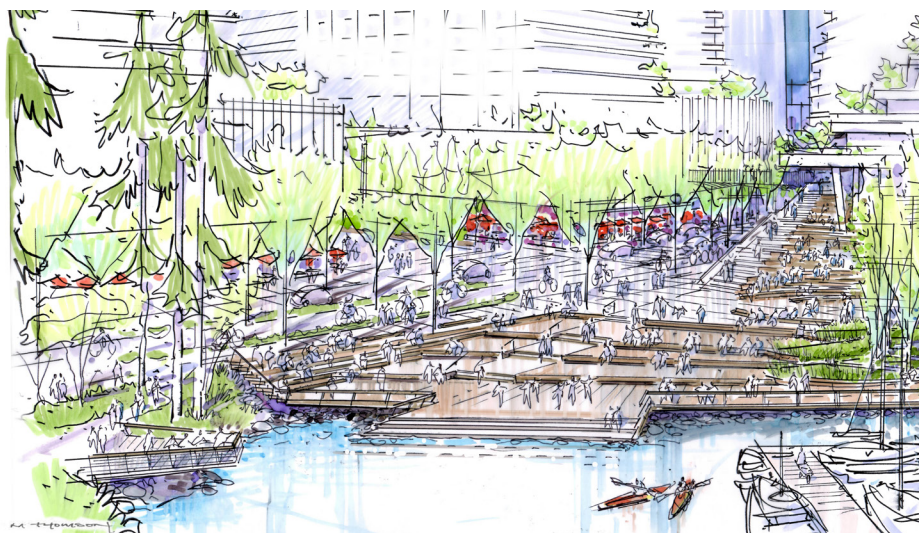
Vancouver's Seaside Greenway, a continuous public promenade and cycle lane along the waterfront, is an integral feature of the site. Public uses and attractions are located along its waterfront edge, like a 'string of pearls' to enhance the public experience. This urban walk along the seawall, leads individuals from the Plaza of Nations to the Georgia Street Plaza. This urban promenade along the water's edge is uninterrupted by cars and lined with a variety of active shops, floating restaurants, and a small urban forest.

A central axis extends from BC places' Southern Entrance towards the seawall. This central axis leads spectators towards the site's central plaza, a vibrant pedestrian corridor lined with various shops and restaurants. This public space, partially covered from the elements, aims to foster social interaction among the community. The plaza becomes a flexible gathering space that can host a multitude of events year-round.

The proposed public grand stair gradually slopes down to the water's edge with a series of steps and platforms, providing unobstructed views of False Creek. Strategically positioned to capture the afternoon sun, these steps will become a favourite spot to catch the sunlight in the summer. This gradual amphitheater also provides flexible opportunities for cultural and performing art events.

The proposed ramp access from the southern seawall will naturally bring up pedestrians from the waterfront promenade to a public terrace located on the south west corner of the building. This proposed public terrace will provide unobstructed panoramic views of False Creek and Cambie bridge.

This proposed upper public viewing platform is connected to the grand stair, providing access to a new pedestrian bridge connected to the Civic Centre, enabling a secondary upper level public route throughout the proposed complex.



Grand Stair & Waterfront Sketch



Seawall Sketch

DESIGN RATIONALE

HISTORY

This project also seeks to celebrate the historical and contemporary significance to the aboriginal community. False Creek was once heavily used for fishing, harvesting and hunting by the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. Engagement of these groups will include all three Nations.

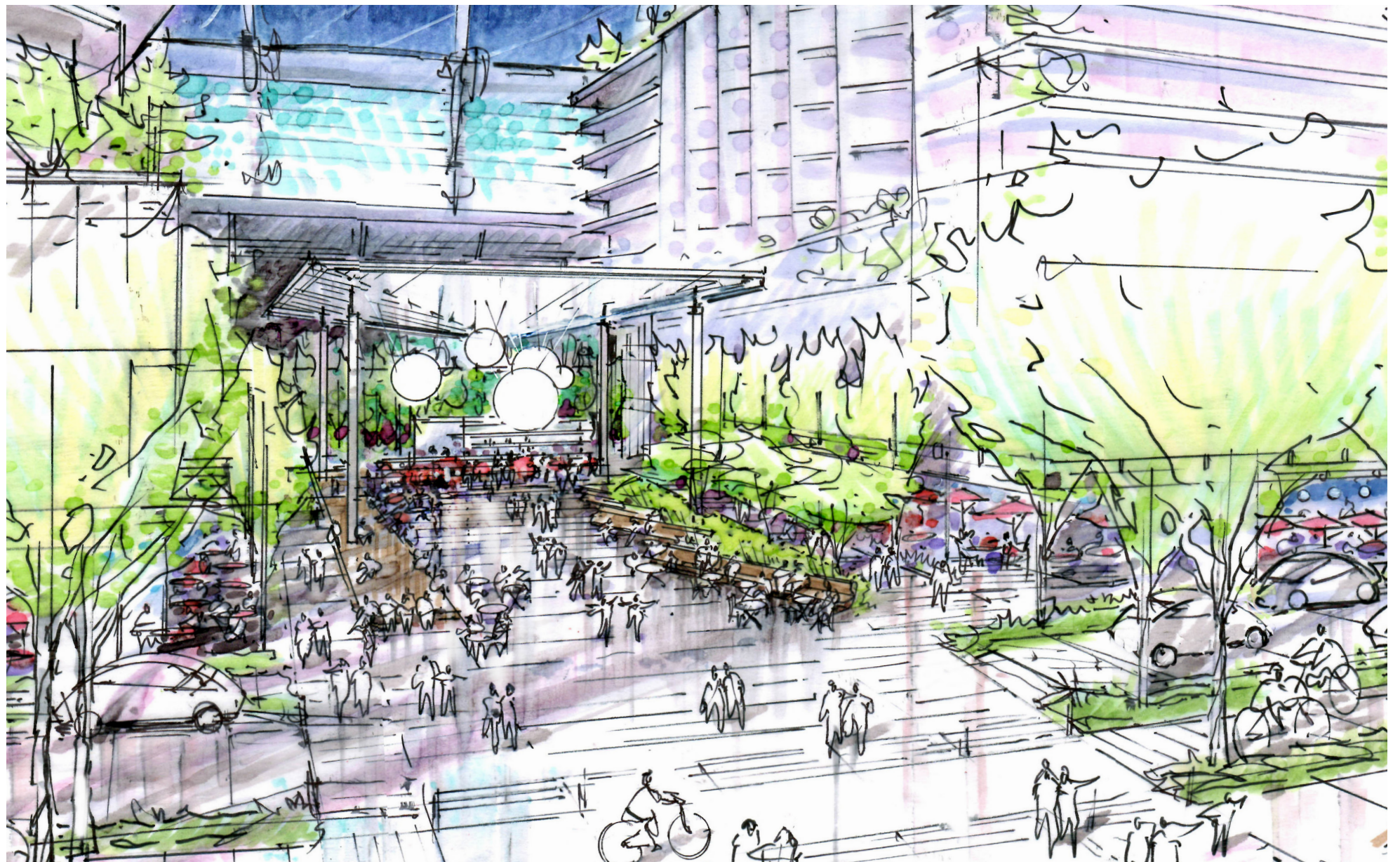
USE

The project consists of a wide range of uses. Community facilities with an active street frontage promote inclusiveness and social connection within the community. These facilities include music venue, childcare, recreation, ice arena, and multi-purpose functions. Restaurants and shops animate street frontages with a fine grain pattern, whereas larger commercial frontages and office space occupy the second to fifth floor levels. Residential units are arranged above these active and fine grain uses, within a cohesively terraced landscape.

DIVERSITY

Diversity at varying scales is a key concept for the project. The terraced typology of the Plaza of Nations provides a unique opportunity to provide a diversity of expressions while enhancing the City of Vancouver skyline. The project embraces a fine grain character, achieved through it's distinct character zones, varying scales of uses, special public realm moments, playful facade articulation opportunities and more.

The base building is diversified in terms of scale and character and directly respond to the varying character zones of the public realm. Furthermore, the Civic Centre provides an anchor for the block with great scale and identity. Retail anchors are proposed at the corners on each individual block along Pacific Boulevard and contrast the smaller scale retail facades on the water's edge and local streets.



Central Plaza Sketch