THE SLIPS

One of the key components of a successful urban waterfront is bringing people to the edge. Several slips were identified as ‘cross-grain connections’—key arteries that can draw people from the various neighborhoods of the city to the East River. Historically the slips were an area where the water ‘slipped’ into the grid, bringing waterfront activity into the city. Today, these slips have been filled in and paved. By reestablishing activity and public open space in these areas, the slips will once again become a vibrant part of the waterfront. Several of these slips like Old Slip, Wall Street and Fulton Street are part of other planning initiatives and therefore not included in this summary. Burling Slip, currently a large parking lot for the Fish Market will become a children’s playground. Peck Slip, also used as a parking lot and potentially one of the great civic spaces in Lower Manhattan, will be converted into two small parks with a pool of water that will reinforce the historic character of the slip. A ‘landscape prototype’ has been developed for Catherine, Rutgers and Montgomery Slips that will establish these slips as gateways to the new waterfront. Pike/Allen Street will establish a major enhanced connection from the waterfront to Houston Street and the East Village.
BURLING SLIP

Currently a parking lot, Burling Slip can become a direct public amenity once the Fish Market relocates. The tremendous growth in the population downtown and specifically the east side of Lower Manhattan creates a desperate need for additional public open space and amenities for the growing number of families in the neighborhood. This proposal addresses this need while maintaining access to merchants on the slip and a future expansion of the South Street Seaport Museum. Burling Slip also enjoys the benefit of having very limited vehicular traffic around it. The stairs and concrete pavers bring components from the esplanade into the city, while planted berms, sand and swings provide a place for families and a safe area for children.
THE SLIP PROJECTS

PECK SLIP
An exceptionally underutilized public space in the only remaining neighborhood in Manhattan with authentic, historic maritime architecture. Peck Slip provides a unique opportunity to reestablish Lower Manhattan’s once rich connection with the East River. Situated on a gently sloping incline with dramatic vistas of the Brooklyn Bridge and Downtown Brooklyn, Peck Slip can become a great public space. As a way to reinforce the historic character of this slip, a plaza with a pool of water will be located where water from the East River was once flowing. In the winter this pool can become a skating rink for children in the neighborhood to enjoy. A small planted seating area will transform a parking lot into a vibrant piazza which will become the central focal point of this historic and important neighborhood.

PECK SLIP - AERIAL VIEW - WINTER

PECK SLIP - AERIAL VIEW - SUMMER

PECK SLIP - EXISTING CONDITION
Catherine Slip, Rutgers Slip and Montgomery Slip require little effort to become a much needed public amenity. A landscape prototype will be developed that can be adapted to each location. This prototype will include benches, new paving and cobblestone which employ materials and design cues from the esplanade. Plantings will include riparian trees and vegetation. These slips will become gateways with greatly enhanced access for the surrounding neighborhood and signal the presence of a new waterfront.
PIKE / ALLEN

One of the primary corridors connecting the East River to the heart of Manhattan, Pike/Allen Street is a grand boulevard that runs to Houston Street. The remnant space from an elevated train has been converted into pedestrian malls. Today, the malls do not function properly, they have become islands, cut off from one another by traffic on the boulevard and cross streets. Pike/Allen presents an opportunity to connect the East River Waterfront to the diverse communities of Chinatown, Lower East Side and the East Village in a way that directly reflects the unique character of each neighborhood. The under-utilized pedestrian malls will be replaced by planted medians with areas for seating and social interaction in ‘pedestrian zones’ at each of the cross streets. These plantings will reflect the local character of each neighborhood with the addition of more maritime plants as the boulevard nears the East River.