Maryland Avenue Axis

The Jefferson Memorial from the park around the Tidal Basin - at the southwestern end of Maryland Avenue.

Legend
1. Capitol Building
2. Jefferson Memorial
3. Proposed Aquarium site
4. Maryland Avenue
5. Railroad tracks severing Maryland Avenue

The Capitol Building viewed from the northeastern end of Maryland Avenue
Proposed Revitalization

By covering over the railroad tracks that had divided Maryland Avenue the powerful axis that was lost now becomes a tree lined pedestrian walkway.
Site Plan

The Aquarium design was generated as an anchoring point along the Maryland Avenue axis. This site, being one of high profile, required a project that responded to a pedestrian function.

Context and relationship to the city played important roles in the site layout. The two major elements of the ocean exhibits hold the corners of the site and help to reinforce the Maryland Avenue axis.

Legend
1. Maryland Avenue descending to the park.
2. Threshold element over 14th Street.
3. New Maryland Avenue pedestrian thoroughfare.
4. Research and Support Facility for the Aquarium.
5. Research and Support Facility courtyard
6. New node along Maryland Avenue
7. Courtyard entrance from Maryland Ave.
8. Pacific Ocean Exhibit
9. Main Center Entry and Fresh Water Exhibits
10. Atlantic Ocean Exhibits
11. 14th Street

The Atlantic Ocean exhibit encroaches into the axis announcing the presence of the aquarium project from a distance. Continuing along the axis the elevated walkway between the two ocean exhibits frame the entry courtyard of the aquarium and provide a slight release from the containing walls to follow The perimeter walls of the Pacific Ocean exhibit and the Research Facility become compression elements that then release the visitor to the park beyond.
**Threshold**

Maryland Avenue ends in a donut shaped plaza over 14th street. Suspended by sixteen guy wires anchored to a concrete mast. The sixteen points represent the 16 points of the compass and hint at the nautical nature of the adjacent Aquarium.

The donut shaped plaza creates a series of shadow to light transitions that gives the impression of threshold as drivers commuting to DC from Virginia pass through.

The plaza also denotes the end of the Maryland Avenue pedestrian corridor as it relates to the park and Jefferson Memorial.

As Maryland Avenue crosses 14th Street it divides into three separate parts. There is a ramp and stair system that descends into the park and a third part cantilevers over the tidal basin for an overlook of the Jefferson Memorial.
Partial Plan & Section of Saltwater Exhibit Building

Legend
1. Arboretum – Atlantic Ocean/southern swamp, Pacific Ocean/temperate rain forest
2. Support – Food Prep, Veterinary
3. Secondary Exhibit
4. Atrium – Open to first floor

The atrium element at the lower left encloses a full height display area and houses a grand stair. It also provides, through views into the Maryland Avenue entry courtyard, an opportunity for visitors to pause and reorient themselves within the city.