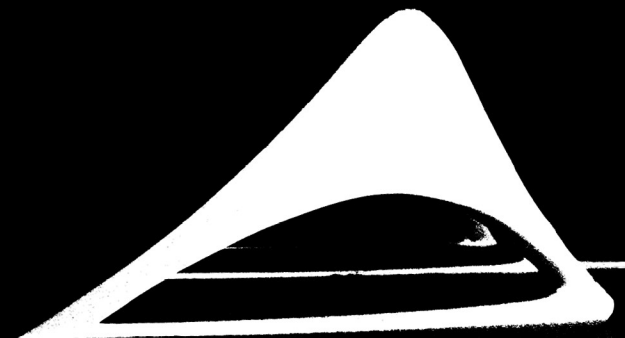
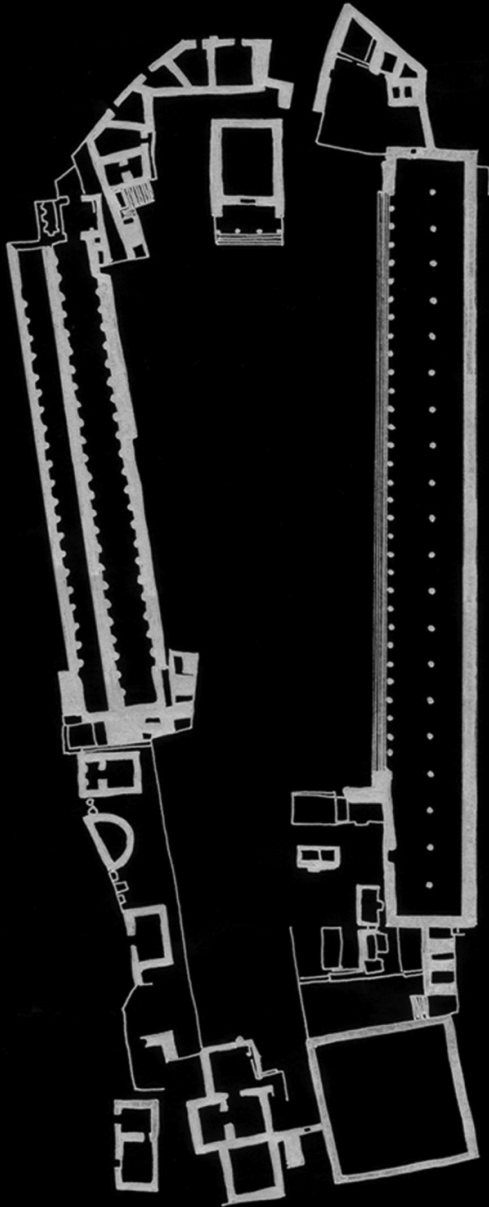


A Public Space

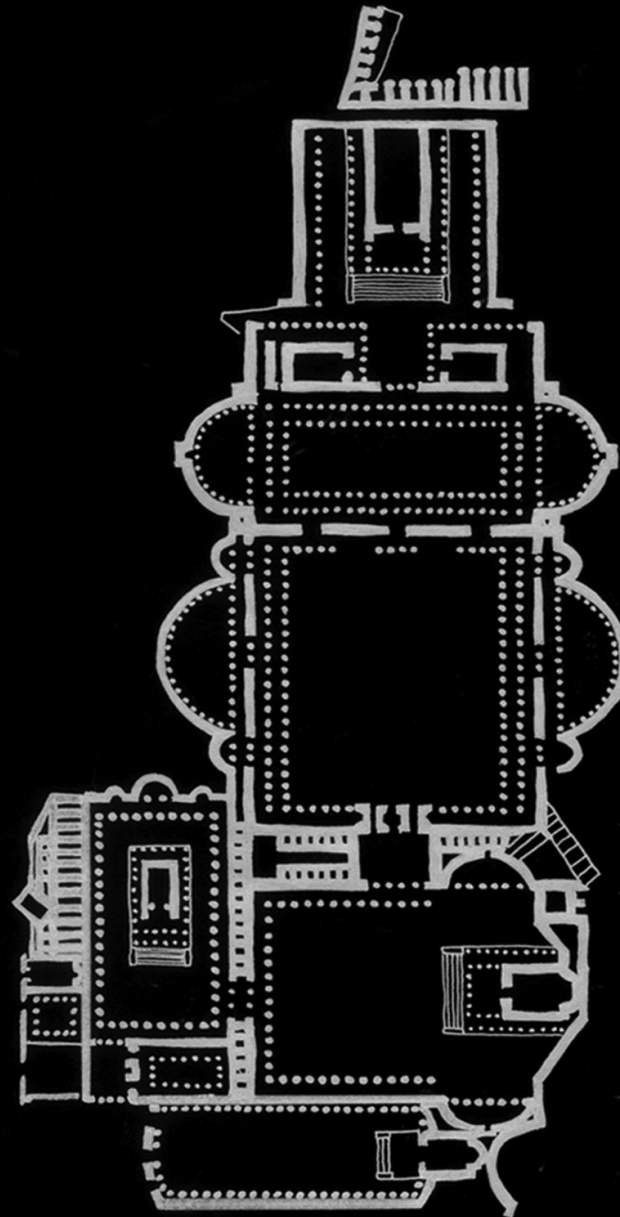
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Greek Agora of Assos



Forum Romanum



Due to the location of my site, and the nature of a threshold of land to water as a node for transportation, I desired to incorporate a public component to the program of my building. The opportunity to include a water taxi terminal, along with a modern public market seemed appropriate considering that the site is currently very public. If the space is public, it also functions well as a landmark and entrance to the town from the water.

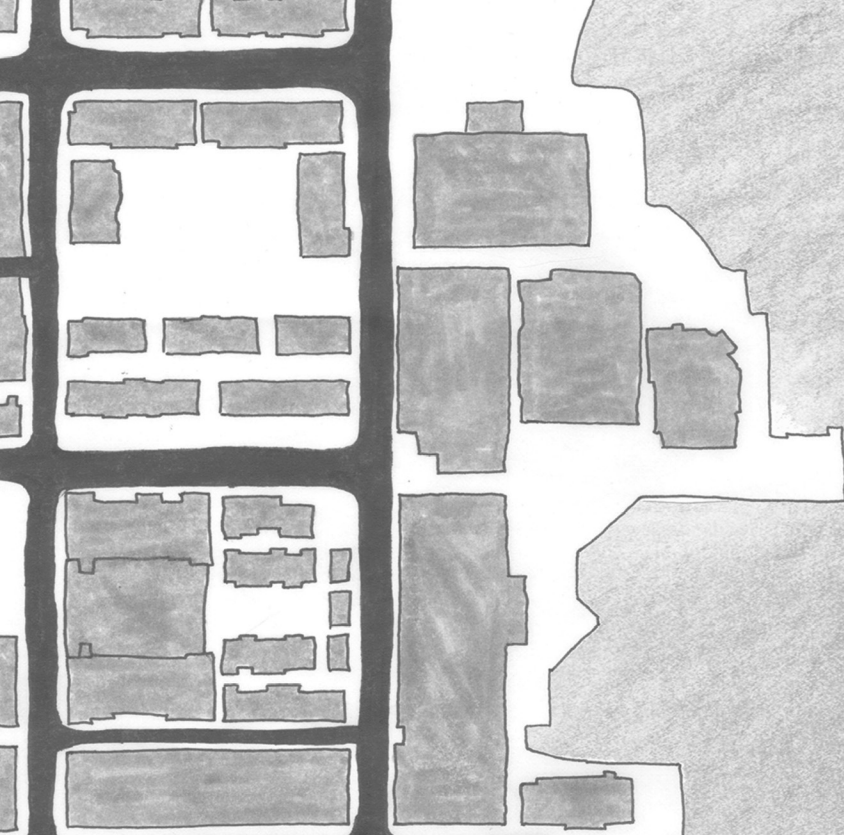
After considering the idea of a public market, I looked back to historic examples of public space. First, the Greek agora served as a marketplace. The merchants' stalls were lined in a linear fashion along what was called the stoa. In the example illustrated to the left, the stoa flanks the right side of the agora. At the top end of the agora was a temple, and public baths lined the left side. This agora was built in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE. The typical format involved an open area surrounded by the functional elements of the agora.

The second example is the Forum Romanum, which was the center from which Rome grew. It housed basilicas for commercial and judicial activities, along with temples, a meeting place for the senate, and the residence of the kings. Once again, a common, open space is defined by a perimeter of public buildings.<sup>3</sup>



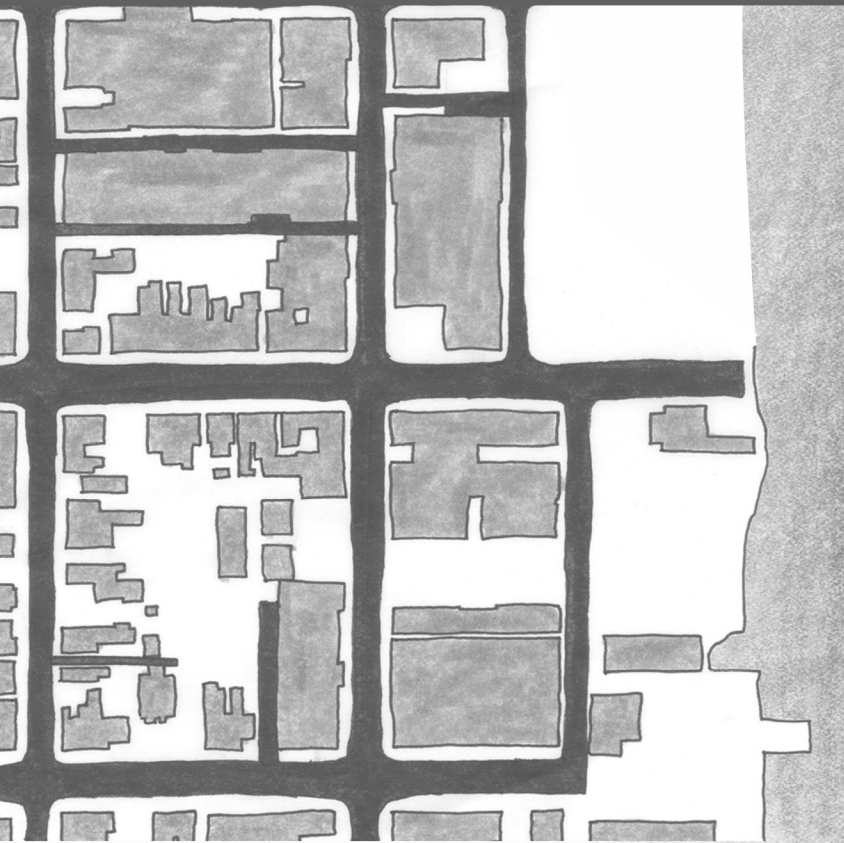
Examples of modern public markets: Portland, Maine Public Market (top right), public market in Budapest, Hungary (far left), market in Athens, Greece (immediate left).

All images on this page are by the author.

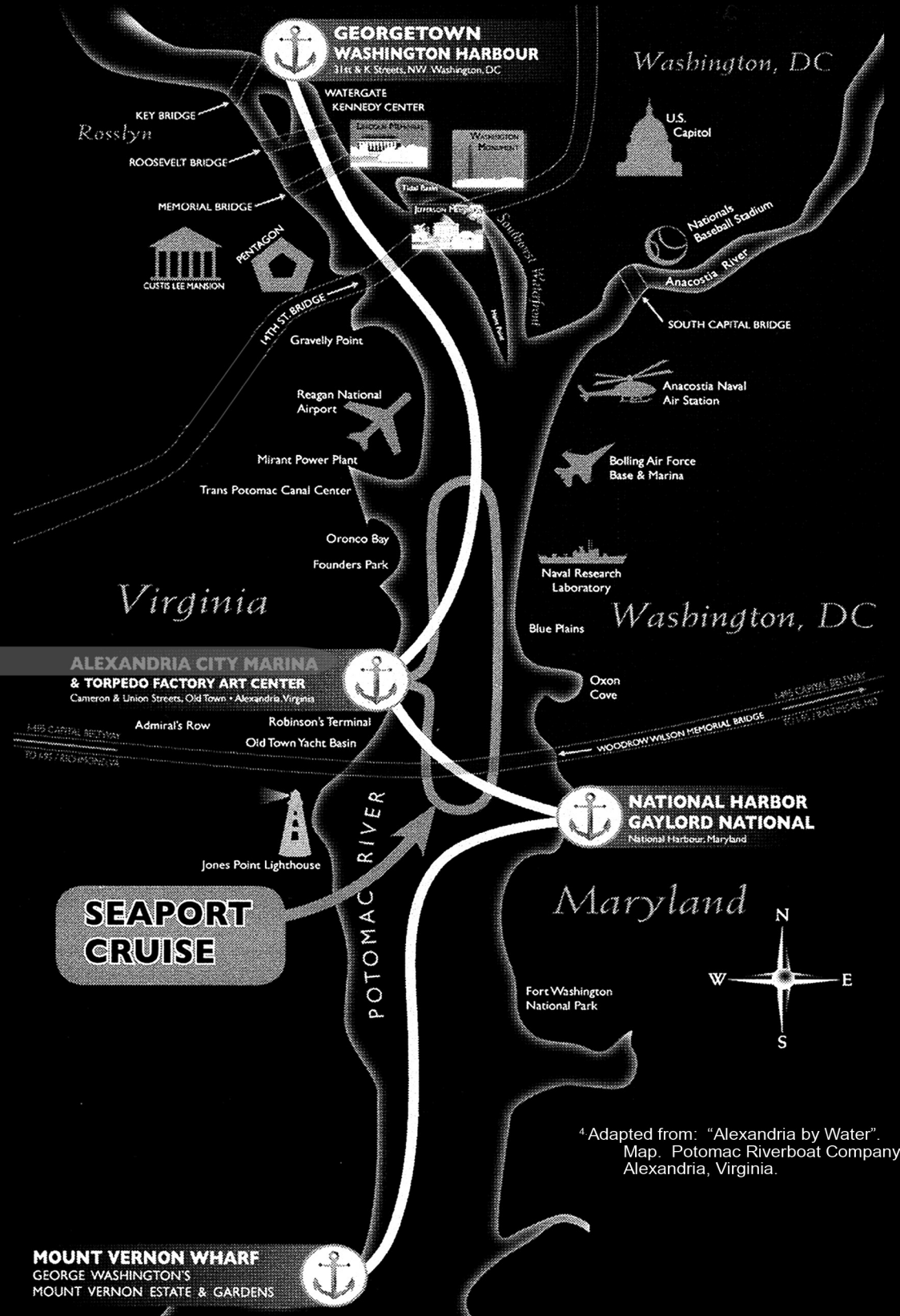


During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, King Street ended at the Potomac River with a ferry terminal. This means of transportation became obsolete with the construction of multiple bridges connecting Virginia to Maryland.

Currently, with the construction of the National Harbor in Maryland, a revitalization of the ferry system is expected through the use of a water taxi to transport people to Alexandria and then up to Georgetown.



The program of my building incorporates a water taxi terminal, along with a public market. The opportunity to use the end of King Street to become a node, instead of a terminus, was critical. King Street could become the gateway for both ends of the town. A building housing a water taxi terminal could become the riverside landmark for Old Town Alexandria, in contrast to the inland side's landmark: The Masonic Temple.



<sup>4</sup> Adapted from: "Alexandria by Water". Map. Potomac Riverboat Company, Alexandria, Virginia.