

Birmingham Markets Park

An approach to prioritizing green space at Smithfield

CityPark4Brum

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Birmingham Markets Park Design Concept: Peter Culley Spatial Affairs Bureau

CityPark4Brum

Headline aims for the Smithfield Markets site in Central Birmingham:

Realize a once in a lifetime opportunity to create a green park in the centre of Birmingham on land already owned by the people

Set the balance of development with a bias towards spaces that people can sit, relax, and breathe

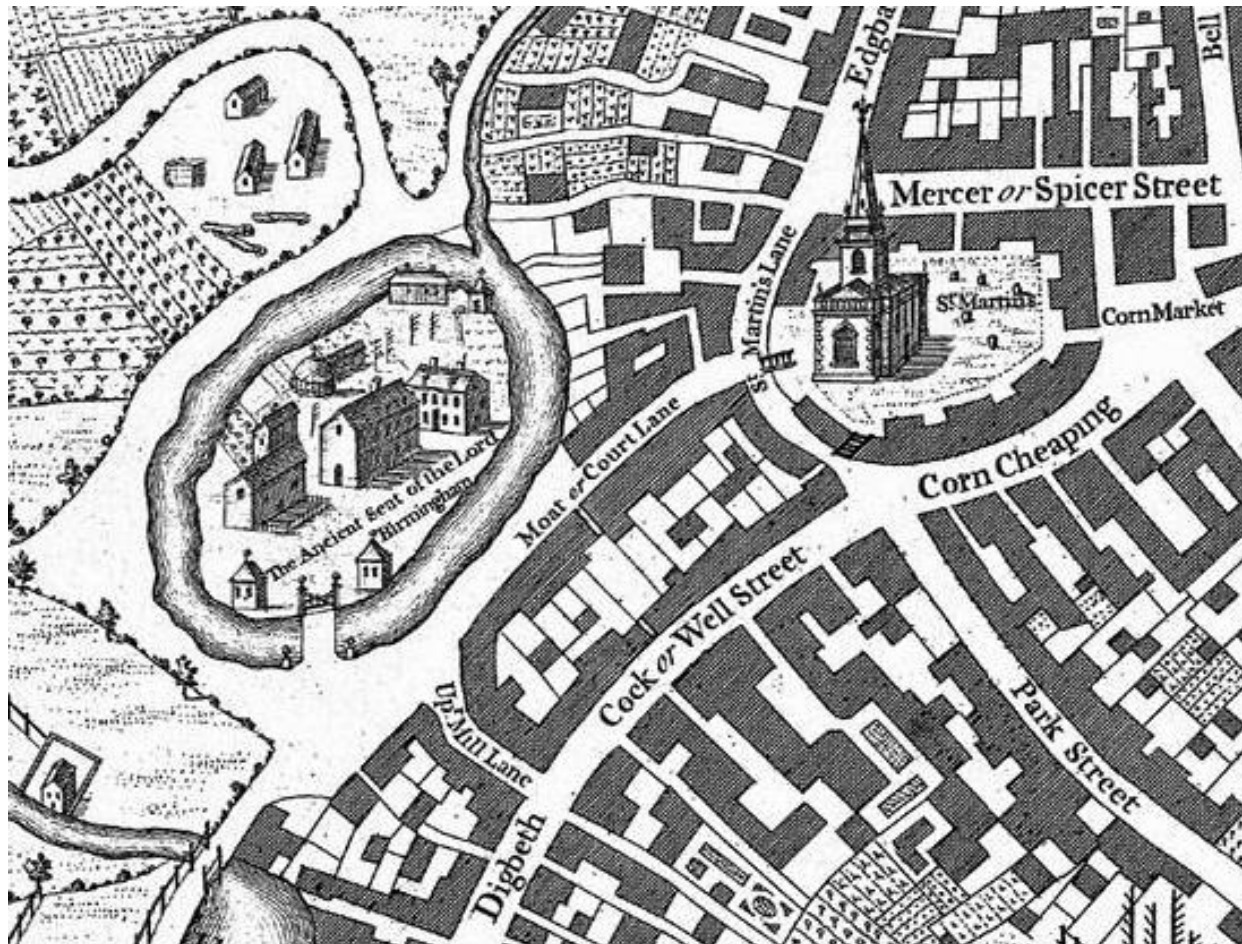
Become inline with other Birmingham-sized cities around the world that have plentiful green spaces right in their centres

Build on Birmingham's wonderful green spaces and parks at the perimeter of the city that are notably lacking at its heart

Recognise that a city with growing numbers of people housed in the centre need green spaces close by

Understand the health benefits to residents and ecological benefits to humans and wildlife through urban green space

Birmingham Markets Park – a park that doesn't forget Birmingham's market town origin



What is now the Smithfield site was the original seat of power in the feudal origins of the city, surrounded by a moat



A developing Birmingham – a balance of agriculture, spirituality and governance ? – add full width picture to show Smithfield



Legacy of successive markets on the Smithfield site – a stone plaque moved to the 1970's horticultural market from the formalised market complex of the 19th Century



Smithfield Market today – cathedral-scale spaces hidden in the middle of the city



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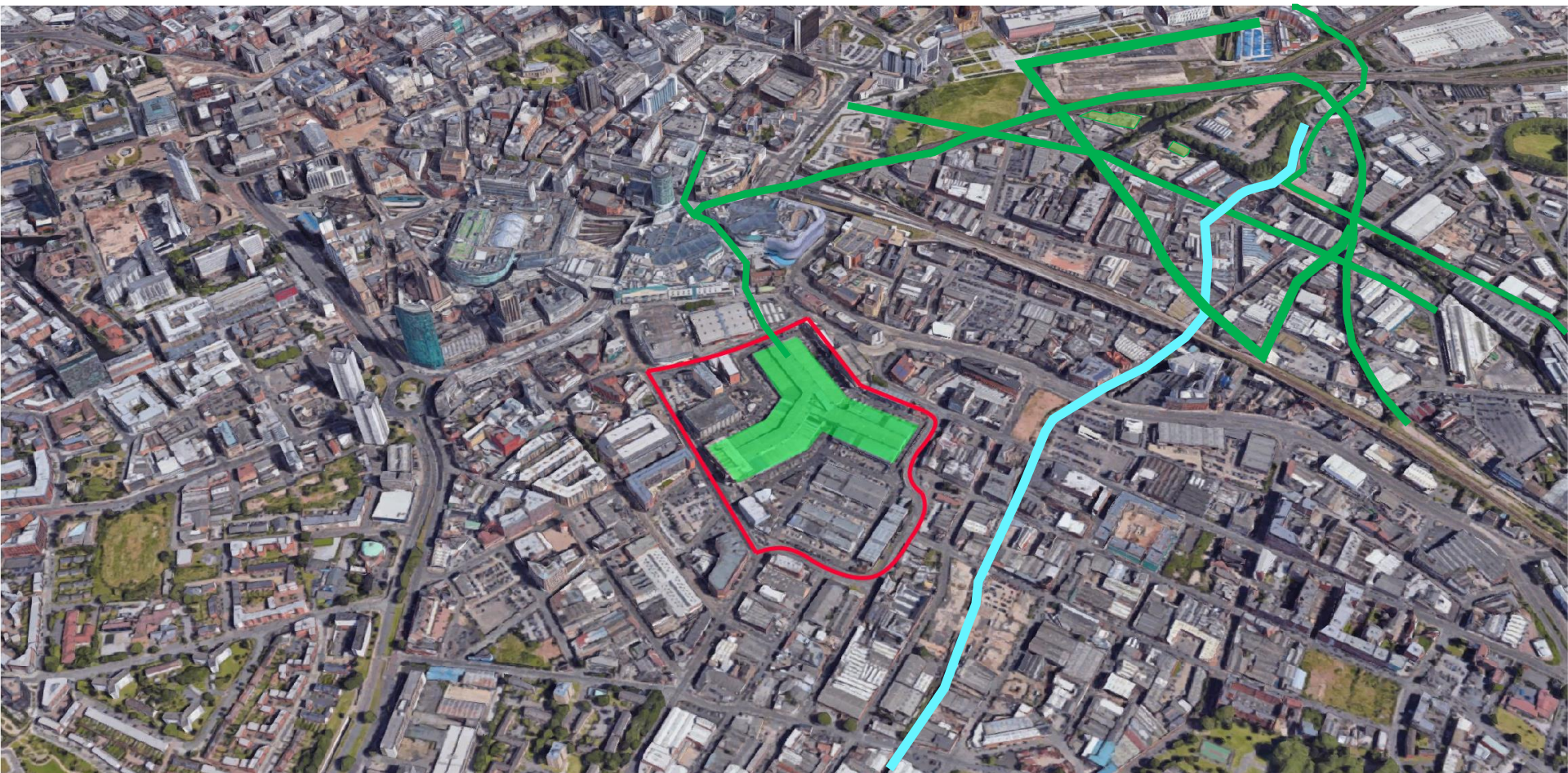
Hidden icons – buildings around the site that are candidates for adaptive re-use that are already familiar



One of the most iconic views of Birmingham exists, 'unknown' from the Smithfield site



Smithfield as an existing 'open space' footprint in the centre of Birmingham



Smithfield as an existing 'open space' footprint in the centre of Birmingham



Smithfield as potential green oasis in the notably 'non-green' ? centre



Orsteds Park
Copenhagen 7.3 Ha



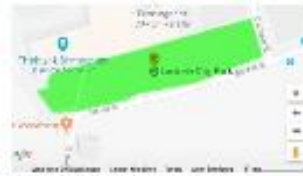
Museumplein
Amsterdam 3.5 Ha



Lohsepark
Hamburg 3.1 Ha



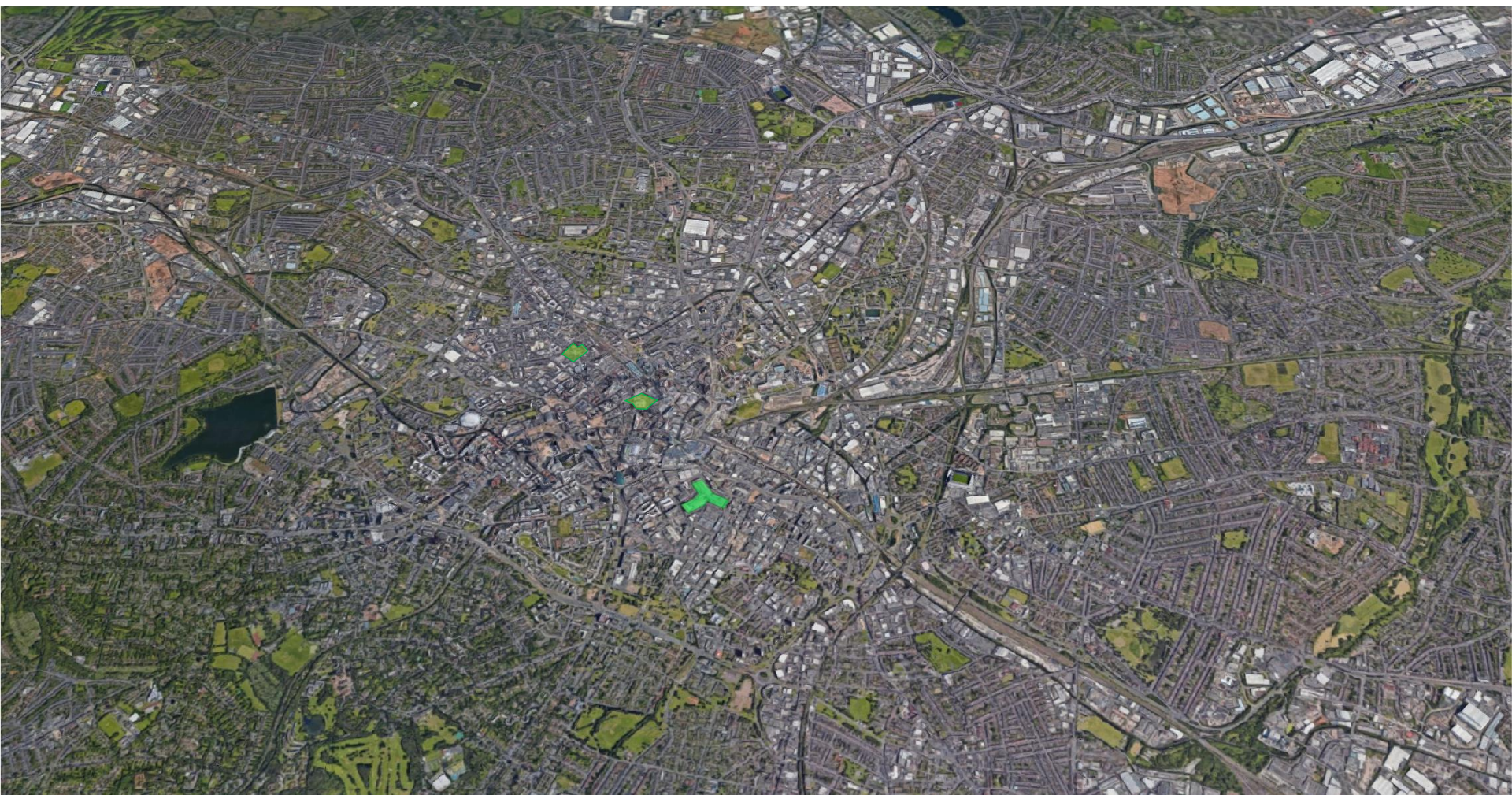
Radhusparken
Aarhus 2.9 Ha



Eastside City Park
1.5 Ha



Markets Park Smithfield
4.3 Ha



The Smithfield footprint as potential green space link in the context of Birmingham's impressive green ? outside the centre

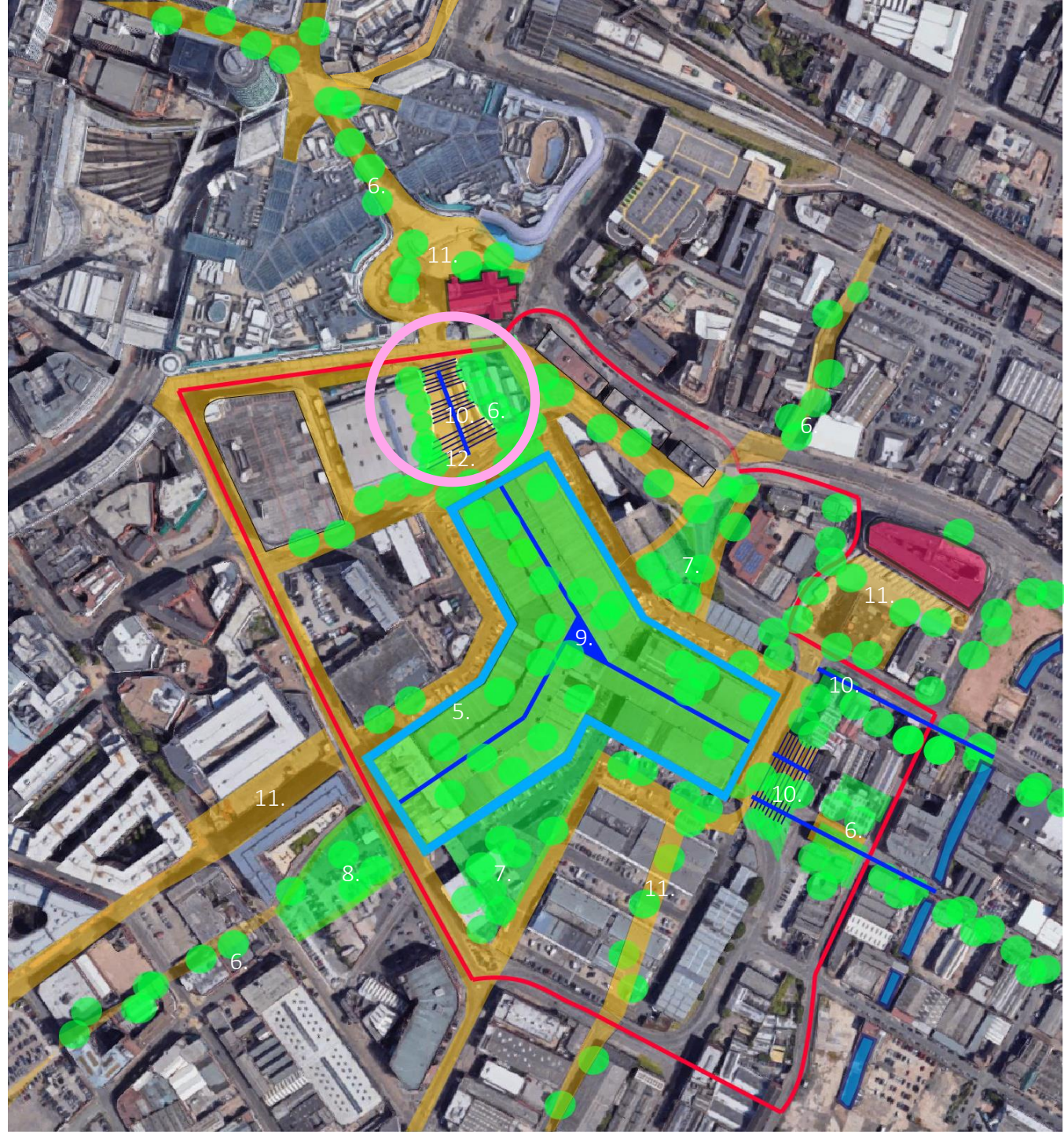


In the Metropolitan area context, only the centre of Birmingham is notably lacking in public green space

- 1. St Martin's
- 2. Coach Station
- 3. River Rea
- 4. Horticultural market



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- 5. 'Moat'
- 6. Green links
- 7. Green space 'setting'
- 8. Arts District extension
- 9. Water feature
- 10. Site-wide sustainable hydro strategy
- 11. People streets and plazas
- 12. Birmingham's *Spanish Steps*

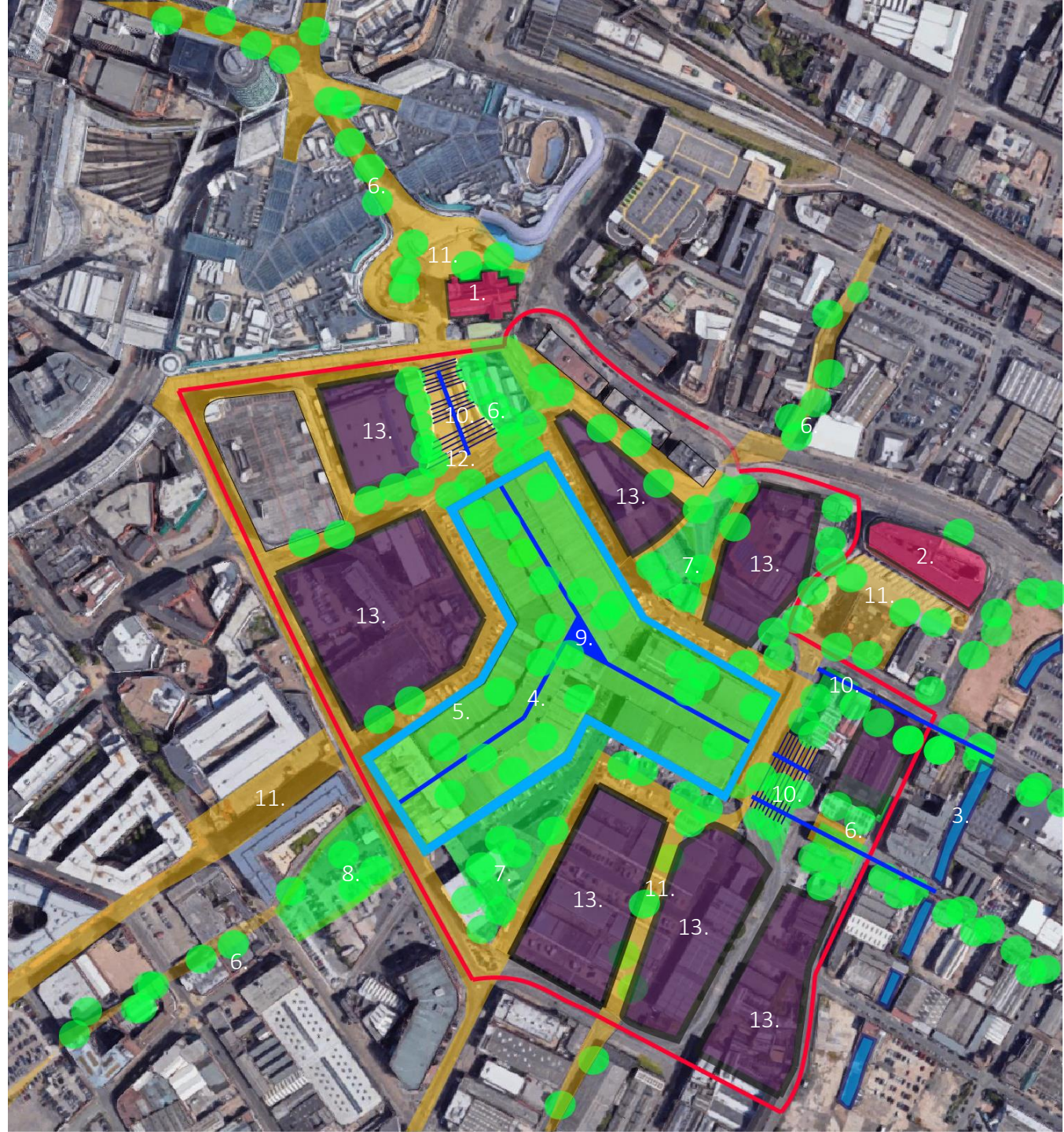


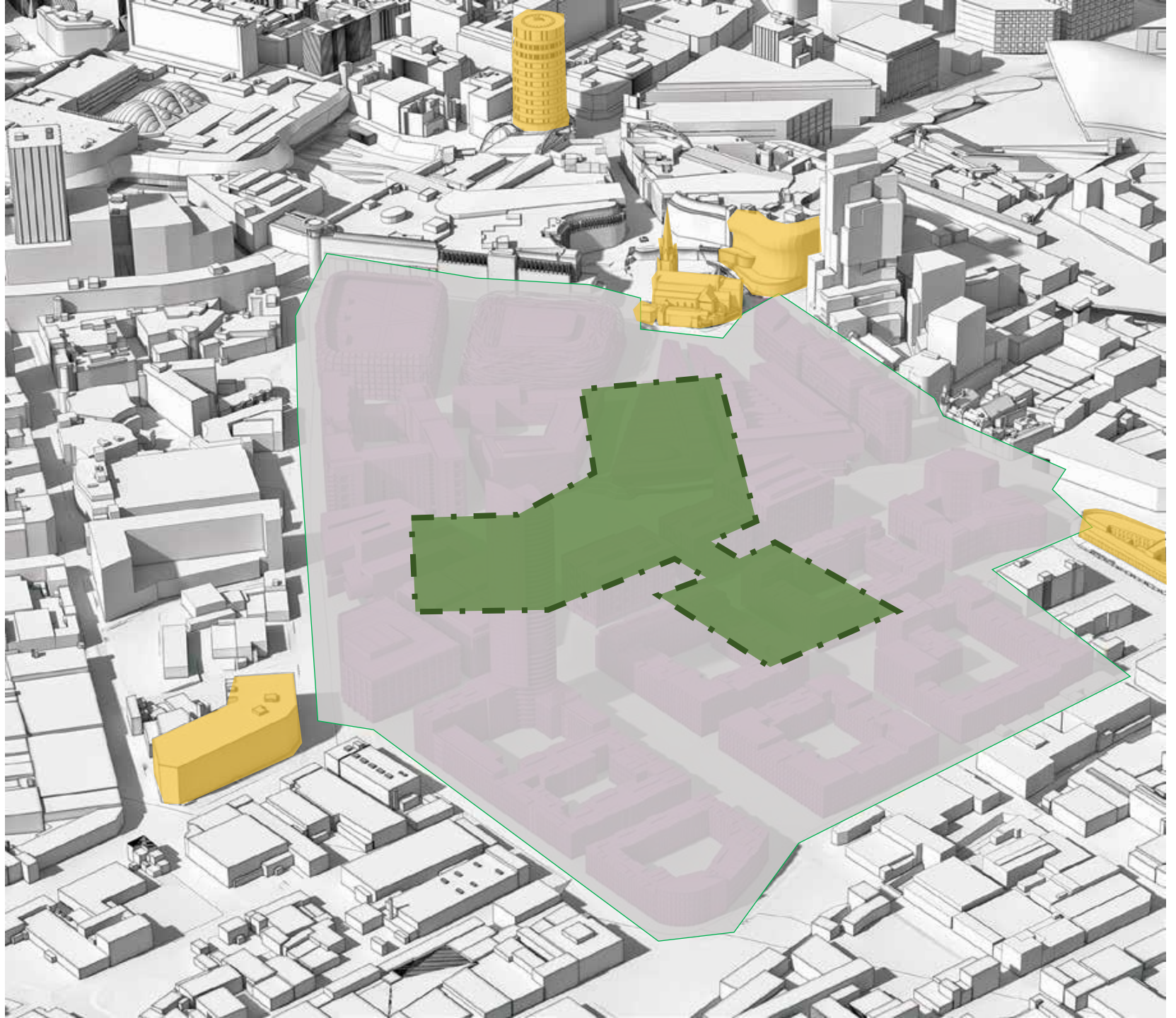






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- 13. Development sites





- 1. Shallow water edge as reference to the Birmingham moat
- 2. Green corridors
- 3. 'Art Park' museum and sculpture park
- 4. Metro Line
- 5. Prime frontage
- 6. Market spaces
- 7. Income-generating high value towers overlooking park and creating new Smithfield skyline
- 8. Further high-density but lower-rise developments. All outdoor space is focused to public access





Birmingham Art Park

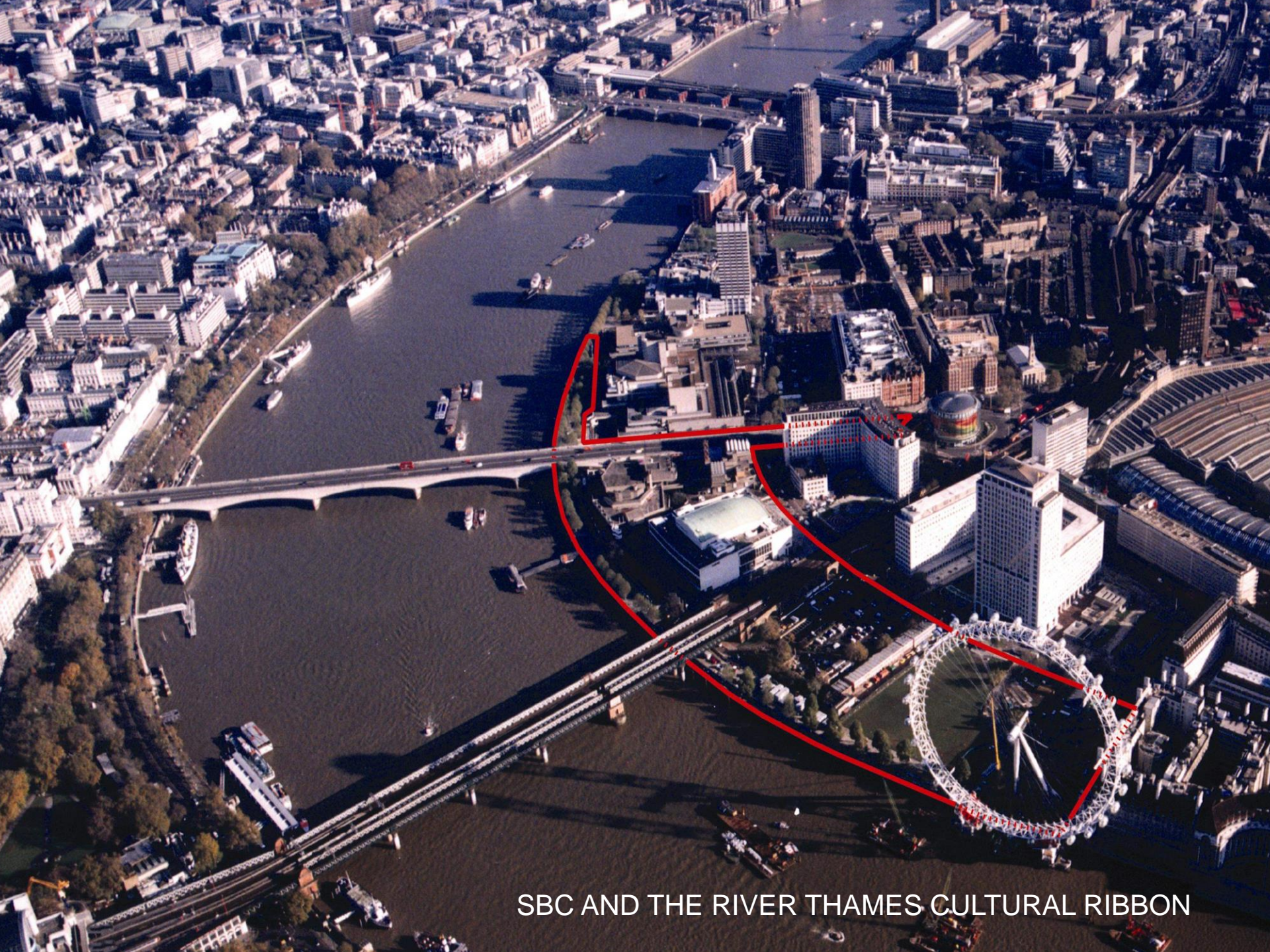




Relevant economically tested projects that adapt problematic existing conditions to become major public orientated open space, adding substantial financial value, each led by Peter Culley

1. Southbank Centre Masterplan London as Associate Partner for Rick Mather Architects

The UK's National Art Centre



SBC AND THE RIVER THAMES CULTURAL RIBBON

1. Southbank Centre Masterplan London

Putting the growing arts needs in an appropriate balance with the urban realm responsibilities

Finding a balance between:

- commercial development
- cultural frontage and 'street presence'
- generosity of public space and clarity of movement for pedestrians
- logistical needs for access and servicing concert halls and art gallery

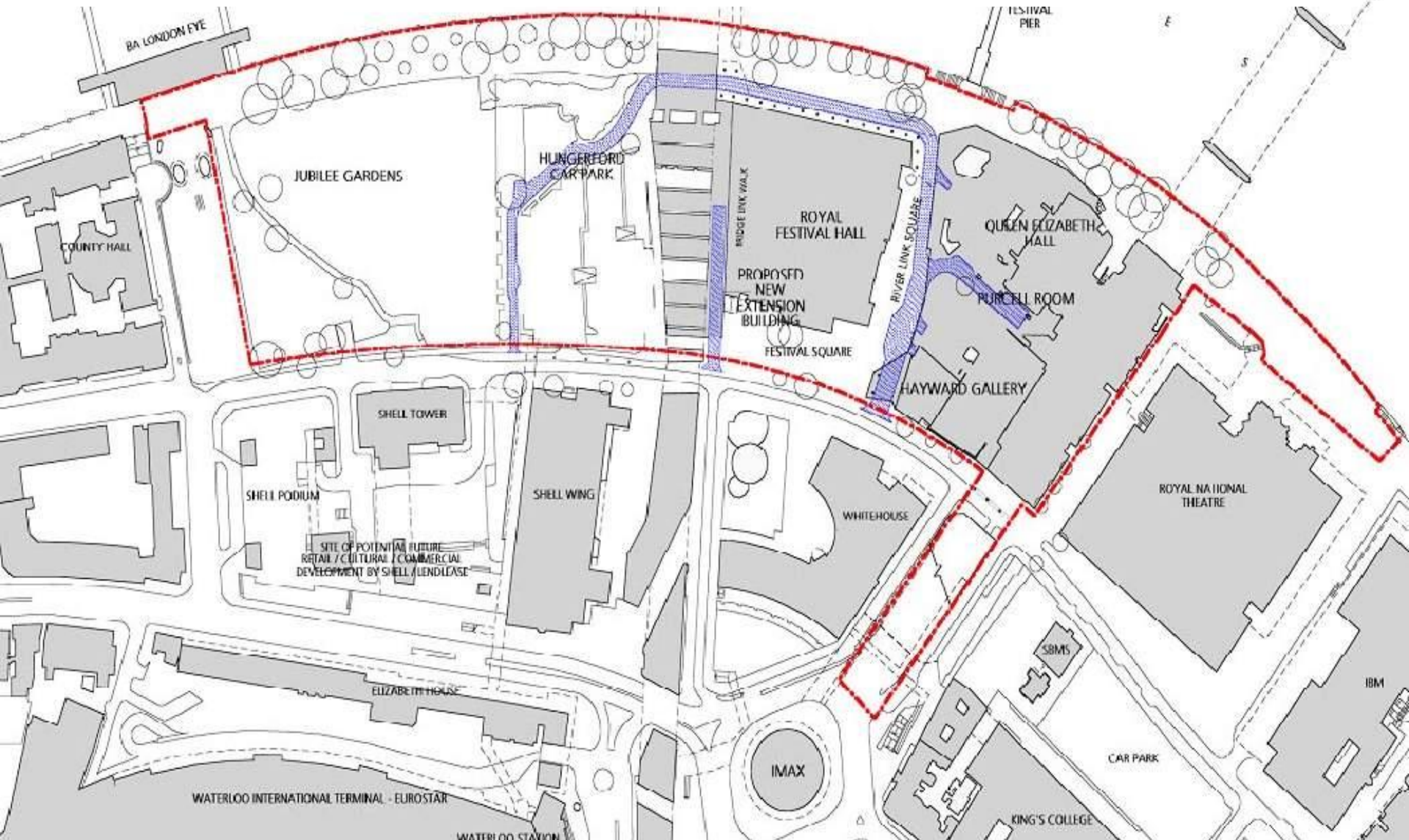
Recognising without the ability to build new income-generating buildings, altruistic aims of the plan would not be possible

Unlocking the value of the setting:

Economic analysis showed the added value of the site brought via urban improvements created highest value rents for restaurants of any location in London

Previous:

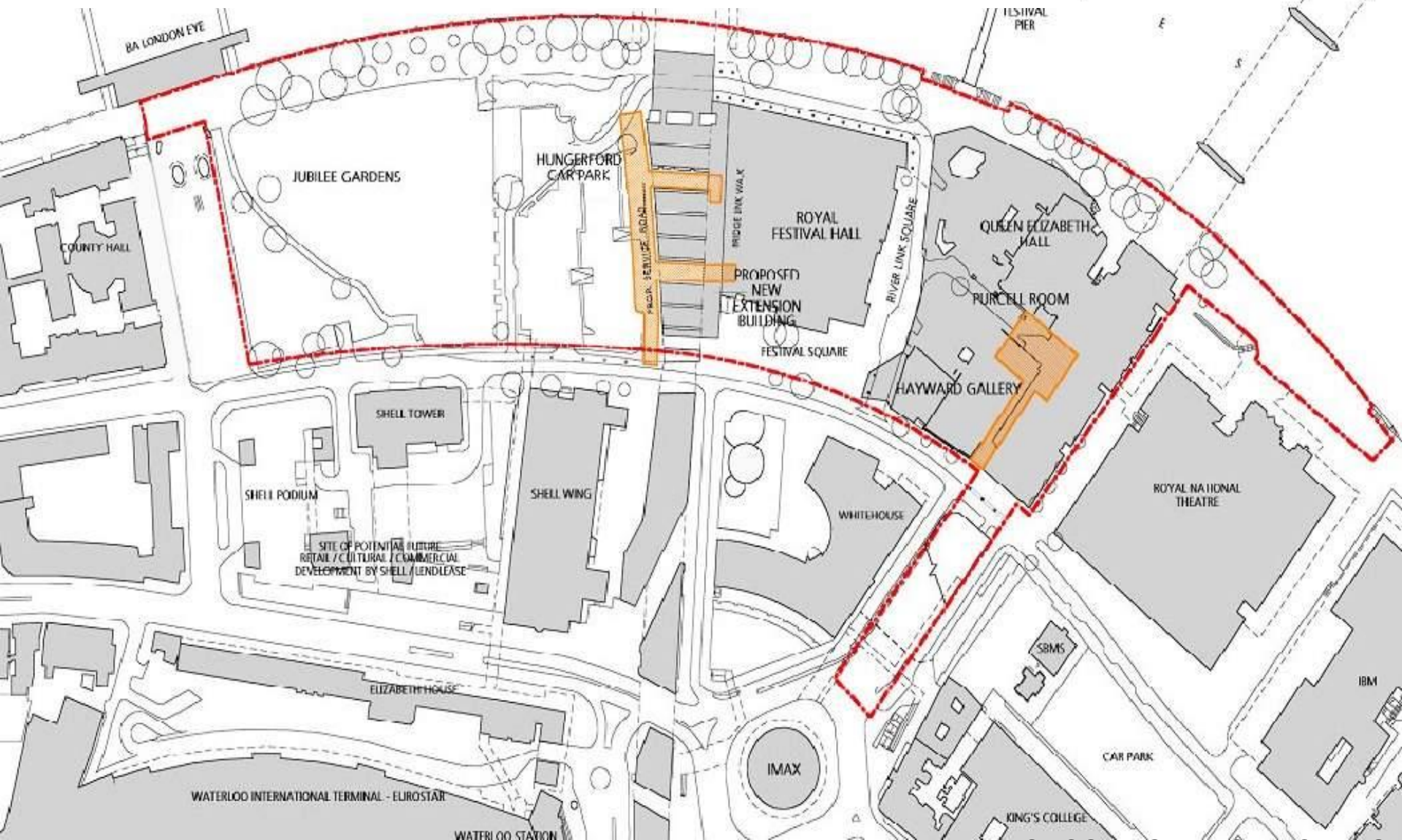
- vehicular access and service roads constrain the buildings and severely compromise the public spaces around them
- ability to navigate the site without extensive signage is almost impossible
- people don't engage with the wider site



EXISTING SERVICE-ROUTES

After:

- vehicular access and service roads relocated so hidden from public space
- all fronts of buildings are permeable
- urban environment is clarified and feels more generous, even if new buildings are added



PROPOSED SERVICE-ROUTES

1. Southbank Centre Masterplan London



1. Southbank Centre Masterplan London



1. Southbank Centre Masterplan London



2. Crosstown Concourse Memphis. **Spatial Affairs Bureau and LRK**

Masterplan and Design, Crosstown Contemporary Arts Space, Crosstown Theater



2. Crosstown Concourse Memphis USA

Humanising a former storage warehouse to become an environment fit to house people for work, school, hospital care, living, shopping, eating, art and theater going

Recognizing adaptive re-use maintains an important link to people's memories (everyone in Memphis has a story related to Sears) as well as conservation of embodied energy

Unlocking the value of the setting:

The old building itself is the value, despite being previously seen as a blight when in its ruined state. The problem is transformed to being the solution

By truly combining city functions across the board, a relevant new community can prosper.

Crosstown Concourse has the following uses inside:

- 250 homes

- Charter school

- Contemporary art centre including art-making facilities for rent

- New 450-seat theatre

- Cancer outpatient center

- School of nutrition

- Radio station

- Restaurants, grocery

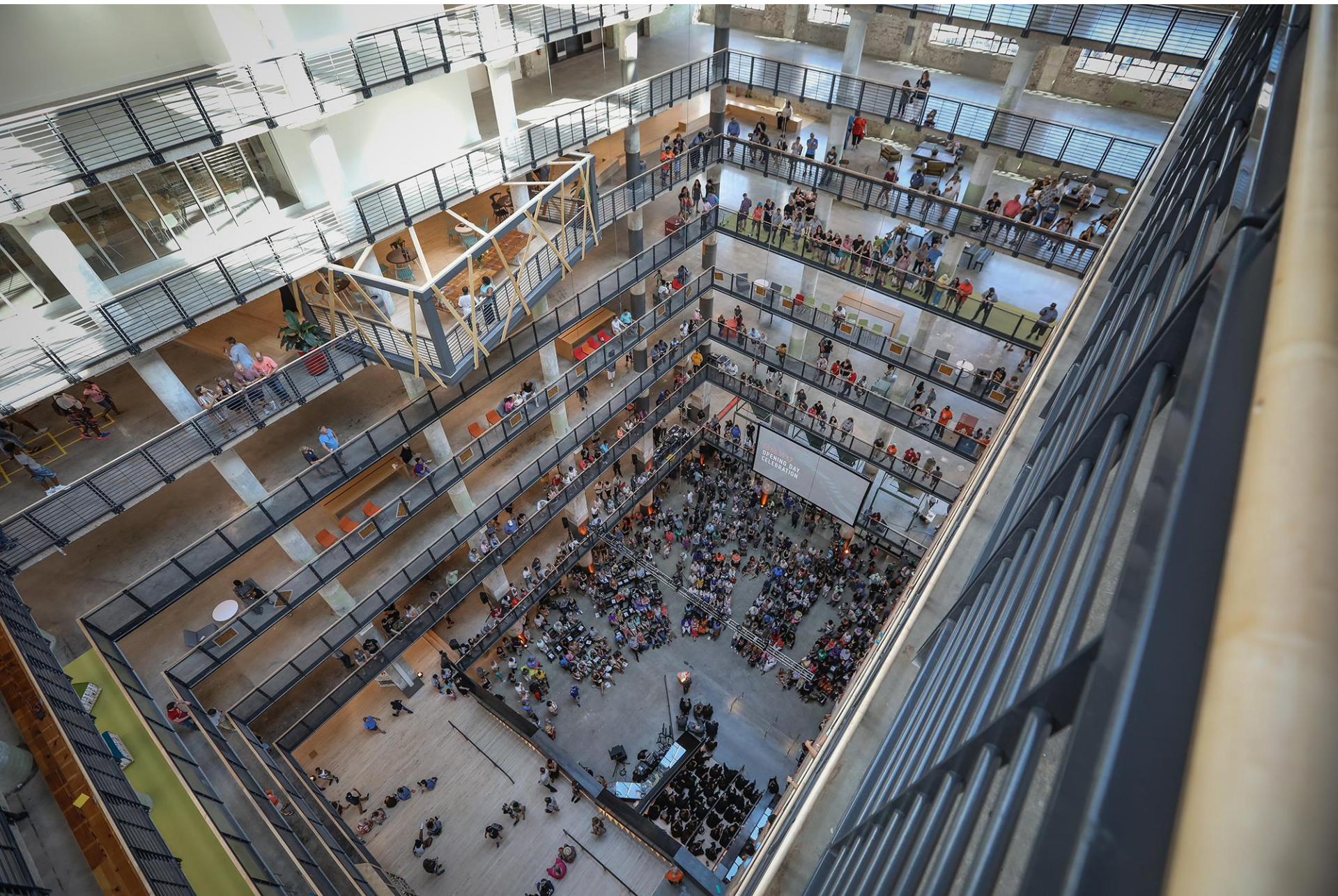
- Offices for multiple local organisations



1927 Façade - After











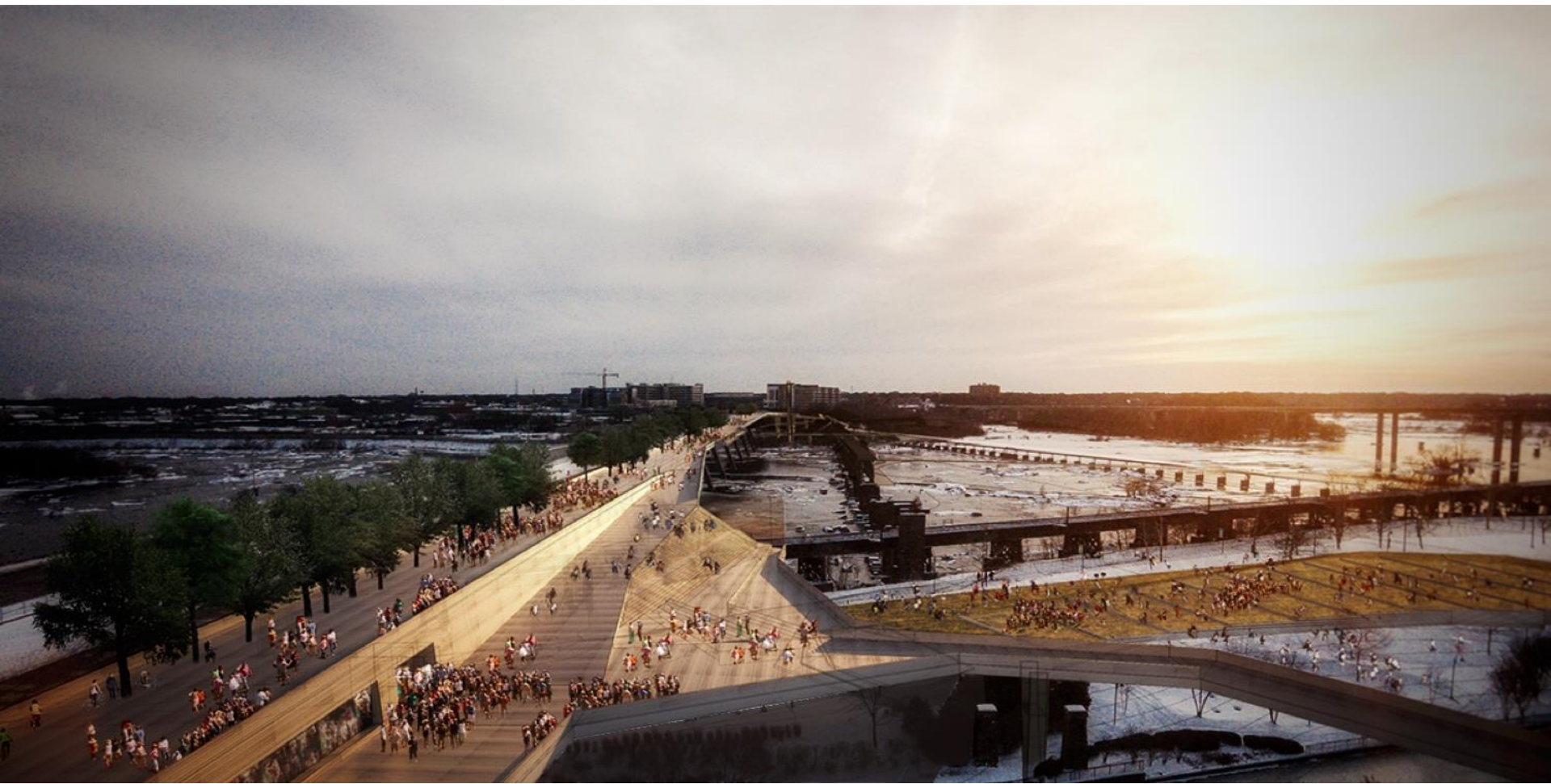






3. Richmond BridgePark Virginia USA **Spatial Affairs Bureau**

Masterplan and Design



3. Richmond BridgePark Richmond VA USA

Re-appropriating existing infrastructure to give space back to the people and heal the city

Recognizing that earlier 'mistakes' can be turned into contemporary wins – wholesale demolition is not the way

Vegetative strategies that allow true ecologies to emerge and develop – a biophillic environment

Careful referencing of earlier moments in our histories that need to be recognised and retold

