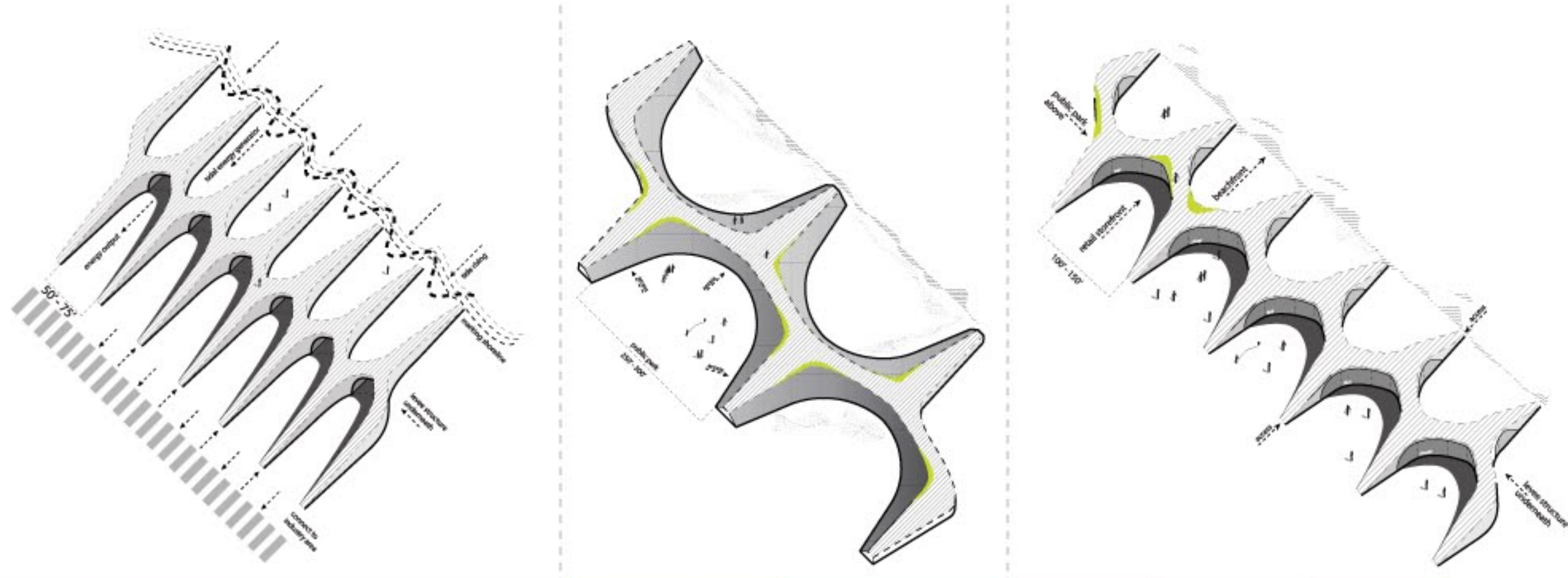
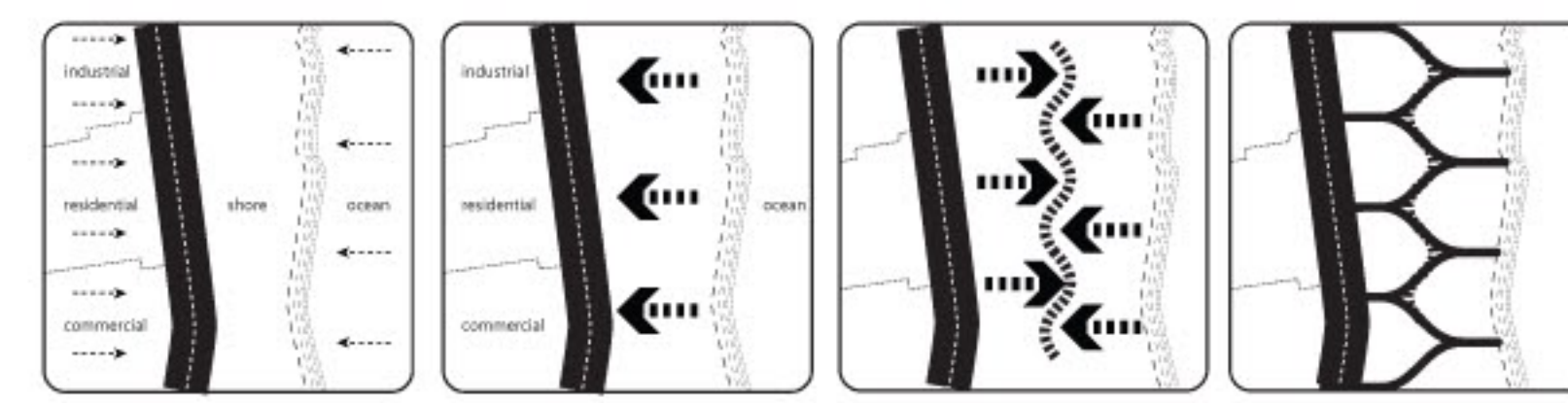


Urban Sponge : absorbing the impact of rising tide with urbanism

LANDSIDE
COMMERCIAL
RESIDENTIAL
INDUSTRIAL

SPONGE
CONCERT VENUE
RETAIL
PARKING
ZOO
AQUARIUM
BEACH
TIDAL ENERGY



The shoreline is becoming a rare commodity in the face of rising tides. As the tides rise, consuming more and more land, we imagine an urban sponge which absorbs urban programs and the rising tide, creating a network of micro-programs. Adjacent to the western commercial zone, a concert venue utilizes the vacant night-time shift and capitalizes on the intersection of two major roads to broadcast its events. The residential zone is complemented by an array of retail district, zoo, aquarium, and beach-front. To offset the cost of this development, the industrial zone will be adjacent to tidal generating turbines located underneath the pedestrian path.

The levee is reduced to a 6' thick wall that zigzags beneath the path to allow for retail components in the structure accessible from one side or the other but not both. In its initial pre-flooded state, these openings allow retail components on both sides of the main path. As the tides rise, the sea-side retail components become replaced by tidal generators.

In confronting the rising tide through dynamic urbanism rather than static infrastructure, we understand that nature will never be fully tamed by building alone; it must be tamed through spectacle and use. Future generations will understand the peril of rising tides by the partially flooded piers which still mark the edge of early 21st century shoreline.

