

DanielStathamArchitects

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TIMES SQUARE REDEVELOPMENT, NEW YORK CITY, USA

The junction at Broadway and Seventh Avenue in Manhattan creates the public space of Times Square. Circulation for pedestrians in this frenetic part of the city is most of the time difficult. Vehicular traffic comes in six lanes (two Avenue's) from the North of the site and intersection creating a labyrinth of pedestrian crossings which aid to disorientate. The Times Square Alliance who police the design issues in this location required innovative solutions that enhance the flow of people and maintain the iconic views of this site.

The proposal took the conceptual approach of raising the ground plane to create a public space for pedestrian use only. This made a clear separation between traffic and people by creating two levels. Ground level for traffic and the upper level for people who would either use the space in a transitional capacity or to take in the sightseeing attraction of this well known New York City landmark. This would in theory result in a more cohesive space and ease the congestion and safety issues that were raised by the client.

Ramp and lift options within the scheme address the fundamental ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements. Features included are auditoria outdoor space, vegetation, seating, water features, Information pavilions and space to move safely across this transitional nucleus of Manhattan.

The scheme is currently in its infancy as a fully developed solution but with further collaboration with the Times Square Alliance and Billings Jackson we will propose a fully developed scheme in 2010.