Discovery Through Iterations
My initial response to the site and program was to focus on a strong colonnade that would direct people to the end of the building, where it would then be over water. The colonnade was a strong element of the stoa in the Greek agora, a condition that I wanted to recreate in a modern public market. The columns were intended to sprout from the ground, creating a large capital that would support a larger upper floor.

This initial exploration focused my attention on the growth of the building as it approached the water. A colonnade that grew in size was a prime element that I came back to in my final building proposal.
A second iteration involved a strong duality in the building. The idea that part of the building was of the land, and another part being of the water was a driving force. Once again, borrowing from historic examples, this rendition assumes a common central space, with merchants’ stalls flanking either side in a linear fashion.

The concept of a duality remained a strong theme in further iterations. It related directly to my primary thesis: a meeting point between land and water and how a building should respond to it. The water element was the central part, or spine of the building, while the land element was the side pieces, or ribs, that attached to the core. Two distinct parts that come together at the same moment that land meets water.
The act of moving from the end of King Street toward the water was intended to be like a procession. The movement from the body of the building to the arm that propels one out to the water would allow the individual to realize a transformation as the building became less opaque and elongated.

The framing of the building took the gridiron plan of the town and created a diagonal at its intersection. The diagonal then became the axis of the procession, directing the individual toward the water, away from the city. This notion of movement as a transitional catalyst was maintained in the final proposal.
After looking back at my initial formal observations relating to water, I wanted to include a component of growth through repetition. The goal was for the building to grow as it approached the water. This growth was not just in relation to the water, but in relation to the change in scale from that of narrow streets to the vastness of a wide river. The growth would indicate to the individual that a threshold is approaching, that one is leaving one environment and entering another.

The arches were derived from the duality concept. They would become the spine, or water element, of the building.
These are two sections of the building showing how the earth elements, or ribs, would meet the spinal core. The ribs would maintain a linear pattern parallel to the grid of the town. The spinal arches would follow a diagonal, representing the current of the river. The two elements would meet at a critical point. The arches would support the ribs and a second floor, emphasizing the symbiotic nature of the two elements.
These are the first floor plan (left), second floor plan (center), and roof plan (right) indicating the diagonal core and parallel ribs. These drawings show the intention of having the water taxi enter the building. The gangplank comes around the last two arches, allowing for a water taxi to enter the water side of the building.
A recurring consideration was for the building to respond to the wind patterns and solar path. These are examples of a horizontal louver system to shade against summer sun, yet allow winter sun to penetrate. The drawing on the right is a shading and ventilation system to allow for natural ventilation through the spinal core using the stack and Bernoulli effect.