The area surrounding the North Branch of the Chicago River between Fullerton and Diversey illustrates how consumerism has shaped our urban landscape. Big-box stores and an expanse of empty parking lots line the street, while the river behind them sits hidden and forgotten.

This proposal reconsiders the street from a pedestrian's point of view. A new green buffer of landscaping creates a more comfortable experience and encourages more walking and biking in the area. The edges of the parking lot are filled with two-story work/live modules, featuring small local businesses on the first floor and efficient living spaces above. With each module designed to replace two to three standard-size parking spaces, the empty parking lot perimeter is transformed into a unique marketplace with options for shopping, dining, and entertainment.

This active edge and new streetscape are reinforced by landscaped pathways connecting to Logan Boulevard, the river's west bank, and access to the historic Lathrop Homes. The results are lively connections within and beyond the 1st Ward.
De Laak is a high-density housing area situated along a connective waterway on the western boundary of the Vathorst district in Amersfoort (south-west of Amsterdam). The urban plan for this development follows the theme of a “Water City,” transforming this once diminutive channel into a 20-meter wide canal; one side contains the built-up housing development, while the opposite bank abuts an expanse of open landscape. The district’s streetscape is of a decidedly human scale, enriched with allées of trees and generous public areas. Although the buildings of De Laak are situated in close proximity to one another, each has a vibrant facade facing the public space – with a clearly identifiable entrance – both elements are instrumental in defining the identity of this new urban development.