Descending into Community
QueensWay Connection: Elevating the Public Realm
ENYA 2014 National Design Competition

The location of the site as the former Ozone Park Station Rail line in Queens, New York provides the opportunity and much needed social change through the creation of an urban plaza. This area is one of the most diverse areas in all of New York. The community struggles with how to provide space and encourage cohabitation of the spaces by all ethnicities.

Existing Conditions

Spaces Along the Queensway

The northern most edge of the site borders 101st, a mixed use district. Placing additional spaces for shops on this edge continues the commercial district and connects both sides by the Queensway.

A covered open-air courtyard provides a space to relax after shopping on 101st or enjoying a cup of coffee.

Amphitheater stairs are cut into the north side of the hill. This provides a place to enjoy a picnic on a Saturday afternoon. Outdoor concerts or cultural performances activate the space at night.

Descending into Community provides the opportunity for users of the Queensway to downpour to the level of the community, bridging the diversity and encouraging connections. By making the width of the Queensway smaller, a large open plaza on the street level is created and 99th street, the plaza becomes a completely pedestrian space.

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