extend

Extending the prominence of the Fort Pitt Bridge into the median islands creates an iconic entry into Pittsburgh from the sky to ground level.

scrub & soak

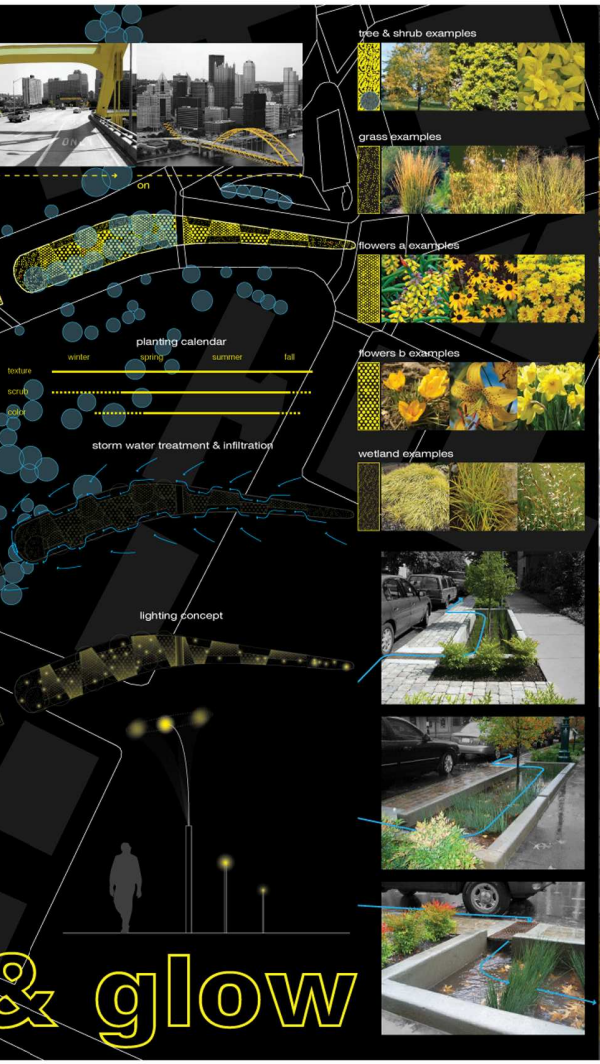
Rain gardens carved into the median islands clean and infiltrate storm water reducing the volume of polluted runoff.

glow

At night the shimmering glow of small solar powered LED lights hover above the ground and create an artful and intriguing foreground to the city lights above.

repeat

This strategy of amplifying the existing character of the bridges, cleaning water and introducing artful solar lighting can be varied and repeated at other points of entry into Pittsburgh.



Entering and leaving the golden triangle via the Fort Pitt Bridge is a kinetic experience. Suspended over the river, the iconic bridge presents massive cross braces and arches that flash views of the city beyond through triangular yellow frames of steel. You reach the end, and then it's over... It is a powerful and memorable sequence. This design proposal extends this sequence by translating the bridge geometry into the city through the ground plane and down to a human scale.

As you exit or approach the bridge a landscape of diagonal swaths of yellow and gold color and texture unfolds. Shrubs and tall ornamental grasses to the west transition in scale to perennial flowers and bulbs to the east. Rich textures in the palette assure visual interest throughout the seasons of the year. Inserted between existing trees, rain gardens clean and infiltrate storm water into the ground. As green infrastructure the islands augment the city storm water system and deliver better quality water to the river. At night the approach to the bridge glows with accents of light that seemingly hover above the landscape.

Δ north
40'

extendscrubsoak & glow

bionic
landscape architecture/site planning/urban design
san francisco