AQUAURBAN | Michael Blaeser

AquaUrban is developed around the premise that water is the lifeblood of Milwaukee. It is the driving component of the design in the form of a stormwater feature and water management strategies. The new system links rooftops to cisterns, which subsidize local water needs, before moving through the canals that support local ecological life. Water, along with the newly added pedestrian bridge linking the 4th Street parking garage to the new development south of Highland Avenue, are the primary wayfinding tools on site.

The elevation of the new bridge and its changing topography allow for a series of terraced urban spaces overlooking the arena and main gathering area for large events and Milwaukee Bucks games. Pedestrians can also enjoy a unique set of interactive light beacons. The beacons are visible throughout the site and serve as another wayfinding device. The lights can also be used to display functional information or be used purely for entertainment purposes. They anchor the new diagonal path crossing in front of the arena and can be seen from all locations on the site.
site plan of new development linking residential and entertainment uses to the arena plaza

opposite from top:
site section highlighting light beacon and covered escalator

site section showing underground parking and new pedestrian bridge
from top: aerial view of area development
stormwater management diagram
opposite: new streetcar and bridge along 4th Street