

The Gowanus Urban Field Station

The pressures Gowanus currently faces – economic, cultural, morphological, and ecological – are both significant and haphazard. As a “field station”, our project is not only a place which can be used to craft an urban strategy to address these forces, it is an embodiment of the strategy itself, which focuses on three of Gowanus’s most notable characteristics: (1) its variety of flexible building typologies, (2) its rich and diverse collection of programs/uses and (3) its scarcity of iconic architectural landmarks.

Recognize and Unite.

Gowanus is already a collection of rich and varied businesses and flexible building typologies. Leveraging this neighborhood strength, our proposal for an “urban field station” does not call for a new building. Rather, it posits that the field station program – exhibits, academic space, workspace, auditorium, and recreation – already exists in the current physical and economic field of Gowanus. It simply needs to be knit together logistically. We see the urban field station as a flexible alliance of local businesses that share their space and time for the purposes of serving as a community center. The field station works as a collection of existing buildings on a neighborhood campus, meeting the physical requirements of the program, while simultaneously cultivating a strong bond between local businesses and the Gowanus community.

Represent.

New York is a city of icons. The Empire State Building, World Trade Center, and the Statue of Liberty are all material representations of a civic ethos. Gowanus can contribute to New York’s legacy of postcard-worthy icons with its own architectural landmark. Reassembling the recently dismantled “Kentile Floors” sign letters along the axis of the Gowanus Canal is a proposal similar in spirit to the idea of the field station itself. Not only will it bring back a meaningful neighborhood icon in a new way, it will also serve as a powerful reflection of Gowanus’s identity as a neighborhood: vibrant, diverse, gritty, and resilient.

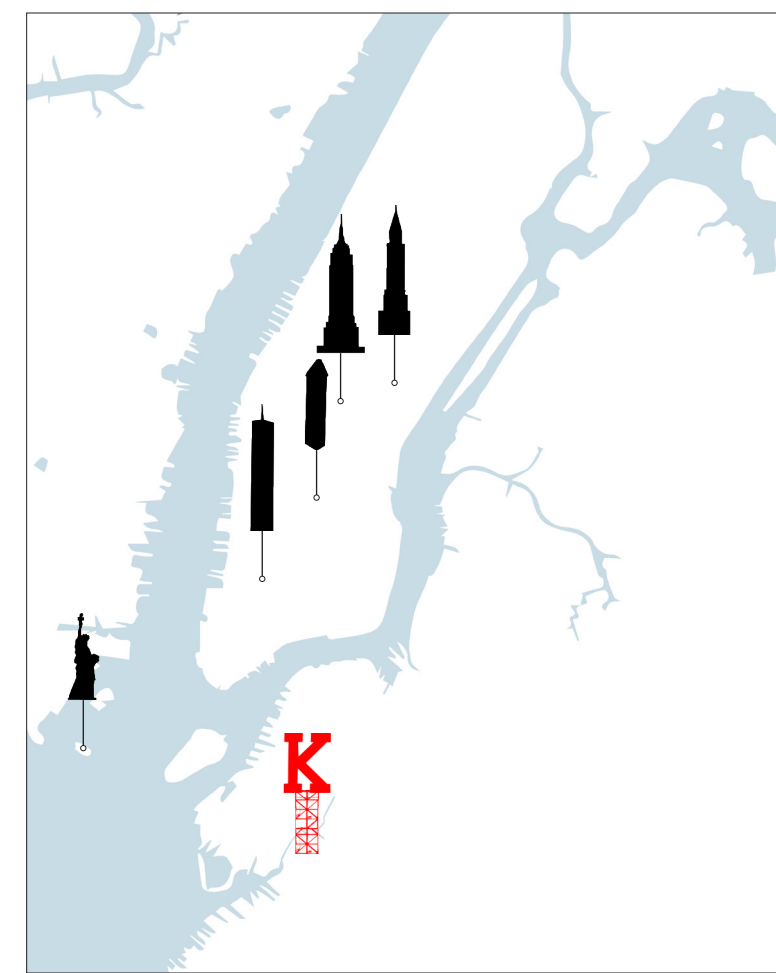


- New York City Zoning -

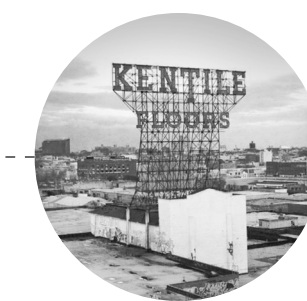


- Gowanus Zoning -

ZONING	USES
Commercial	Workspaces
Industrial	Cultural
Institutional	Academic
Mixed Use	Research
Residential	Recreation
Transportation	Exhibit
Vacant Lots	Auditoriums
	Residences



- New York City Landmarks -



- 1950's - Sign Installed



- 2014 - Sign Dismantled



- 2015 - Sign Stored



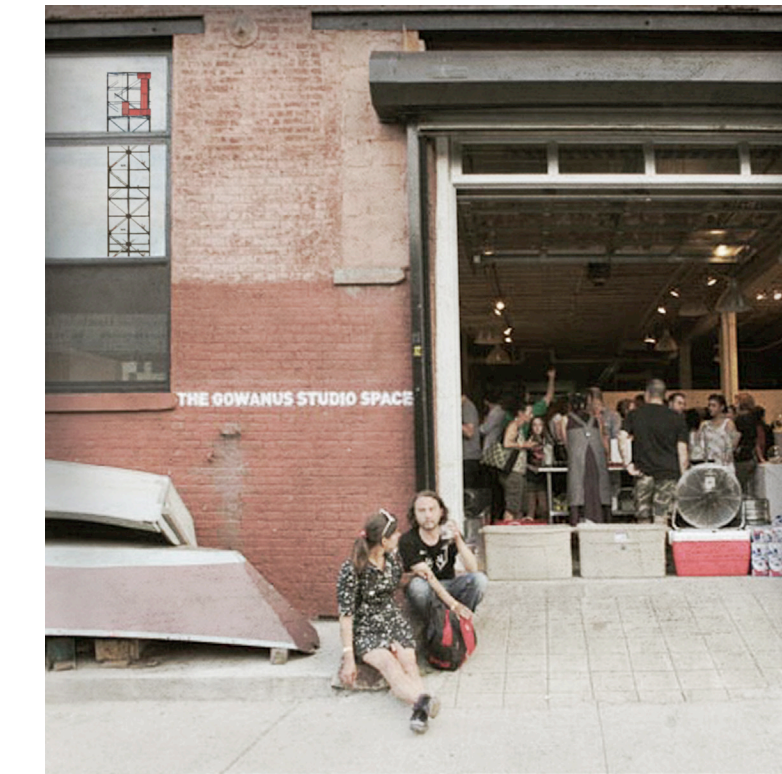
- Gowanus Uses -



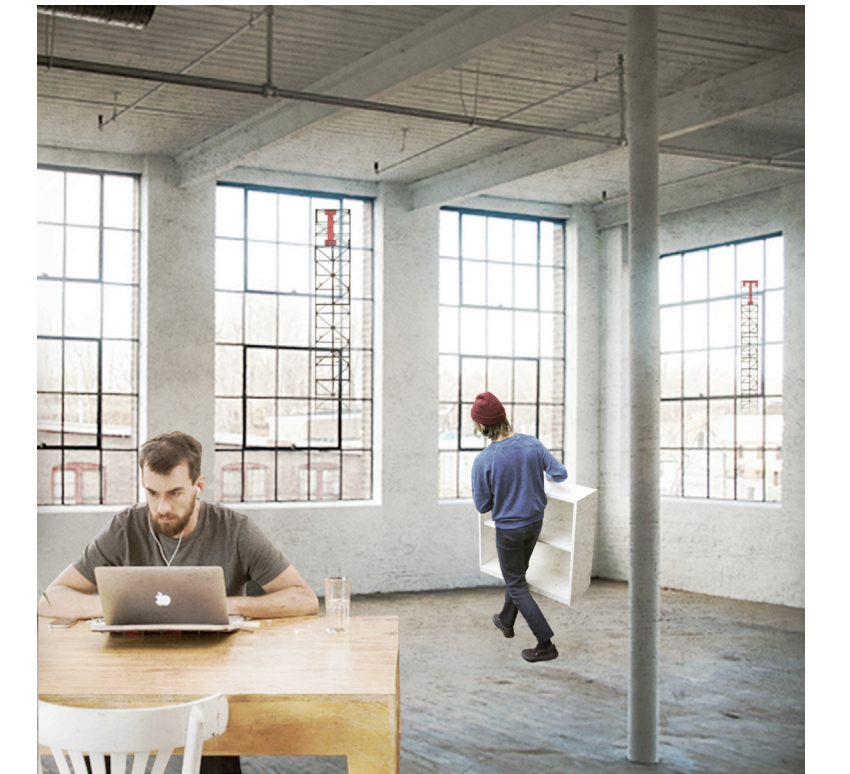
- Cultural: Rooftop Films -



- Recreation: The Gowanus Dredgers Canoe Club -



- Exhibit: The Gowanus Studio Space -



- Workspace: Brooklyn Creative League -



- Academic: Going to Public School 32 -



- Auditorium: The Bell House -



Douglass and Degraw Pool
Public Pool

Brooklyn Art Space
Art Gallery

Coworks
Workspace

Proteus Gowanus
Interdisciplinary Gallery and Reading Room

Shape Shifter Lab
Performance Space

Public School 32
Primary School

The Gowanus Dredgers
Canoe Club

The Bell House
Event Space

Brooklyn Boulders
Entertainment/Recreational

Gowanus Ballroom
Arts Collaborative

Morbid Anatomy Museum
Museum of Death

Gowanus Canal Conservancy
Conservation Department

Royal Palms Shuffleboard
Entertainment/Recreational

Brooklyn Creative League
Workspace

The Green Building
Event Space

The Secret Science Club
Science Events

Trestle Gallery
Contemporary Art Space

Brooklyn Bax
Exhibit Space

Threes Brewing
Brewery, Bar and Event Space

Littlefield NYC
Performance and Art Space

Court 16
Tennis Club

The Gowanus Studio Space
Workspace, Shop and Exhibit Space

Gowanus Nursery
Gardenery

Room 58
Arts Organization

The Old Stone Ho
Community Resso

Rooftop Films
Non-profit Film Group

