The Other is someone or something that is outside of oneself and therefore different. We are all intensely curious about the Others, which is how you grow as a culture, and it is that curiosity that propels discovery. Unfortunately, our applications of modern technology and liberal eloquence to media entities have led our society to a realm in which we do not genuinely interact with one another. This abstraction hinders progress and as a result prohibits our society from the growth that was historically overlaid by a nation of Others, a nation of immigrants.

Lower Manhattan’s Coast Guard Recruitment center, just east of Battery Park is the site of my architectural proposal. It was chosen with the intent of unearthing the remnant history which first welcomed the Other into the country, reawakening a dialogue which brought the edges of land into the sea, and celebrated the bravery required for such journeys. From the park, the same park from which the great city of New York spread, an emblematic articulation of architecture will be erected to frame the old “Gateway to America” with the new. The public, both citizens and immigrants, will be invited to rediscover themselves and interact with one another. This abstinence is that curiosity that propels discovery. Unfortunately, our society may once again expand its richness of that history and frame the Other.

The original building form designed and constructed in the 1960s was adapted to the needs of its time the following 50 years, between the West Indian trade companies with Fort Amsterdam into the future. Driven by the ancient Greeks had a limited understanding of the Other. They accomplished this by exploring the edges of the world. The edge of knowledge is what is unknown. An edge is the separation of one thing from another, an abstraction inherent in the nature of that abstraction. It was chosen with the intent of unearthing the remnant history which first welcomed the Other into the country, reawakening a dialogue which brought the edges of land into the sea, and celebrated the bravery required for such journeys. From the park, the same park from which the great city of New York spread, an emblematic articulation of architecture will be erected to frame the old “Gateway to America” with the new. The public, both citizens and immigrants, will be invited to rediscover themselves through the stories of others which can be found in the cultural library. This proposal also showcases the union of cultures in its grand celebration space which also facilitates the growth of America through the United States Citizen Immigration Service offices (USCIS).

THE PROGRAM:

- Culture Library
- Celebration Space
- USCIS Offices
- Courtroom

THE FORM:

- The original building form designed and constructed in the 1960s
- A stairwell located in the northeast corner of the building connects the atrium and the basement area. Due west of that a low sloping ramp connects the atrium and the basement area. A stairwell located in the northeast corner of the building connects the atrium and the basement area.
- Stairs and Ramps

CIRCULATION

- An opening gesture to create alignment with the city
- An opening gesture to create alignment with the city
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CELEBRATION SPACE

The site chosen to frame the Other is the iconic Battery Park, the site from which the city grew and came to engulf the city.

Today

1623
- Fort Amsterdam
- The fort was constructed in the 1620s. It was built to protect the land from both Dutch and English invasion. It was named after the 6th governor of New Amsterdam.
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1790
- Fort Clinton
- The fort was constructed in the 1790s. It was built to protect the land from both Dutch and English invasion. It was named after the 6th governor of New Amsterdam.
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1815
- Castle Garden
- The fort was constructed in the 1815. It was built to protect the land from both Dutch and English invasion. It was named after the 6th governor of New Amsterdam.
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CULTURAL LIBRARY

- A space to come together and celebrate the union of cultures (naturalization ceremonies, weddings, small concerts, etc.) The edges of this space frame the history which first welcomed the Other into the country.
- An intimate arrangement of space spread across three levels where people are invited to learn about the various cultures that make up the Other. A space in which they can engage with the stories of the Other.
- An expansion to unearth the remnant history which first welcomed the Other into the country.
- A space to come together and celebrate the union of cultures (naturalization ceremonies, weddings, small concerts, etc.) The edges of this space frame the history which first welcomed the Other into the country.
- An intimate arrangement of space spread across three levels where people are invited to learn about the various cultures that make up the Other. A space in which they can engage with the stories of the Other.