

WAVE OF THE FUTURE

"Our Museum is dedicated to inspiring young and old alike about the technology of today and tomorrow—a mission that fits well with the spirit of this dynamic new project and its giant 'wave' of the future."

Oliver Strimpel

The Children's Museum—in partnership with The Computer Museum—has announced plans to construct a \$10-million waterfront project in front of the Museums' shared building on Boston's Fort Point Channel. This unusual joint project will include a 45-foot-tall wave-shaped structure, a public park featuring free festivals and exhibits, and a floating urban education center. The announcement was made at a joint press conference in April, attended by Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn.

Internationally acclaimed architect Frank Gehry designed the project. His latest work includes the American Center in Paris and the Family Entertainment Center at the Euro Disney theme park near Paris.

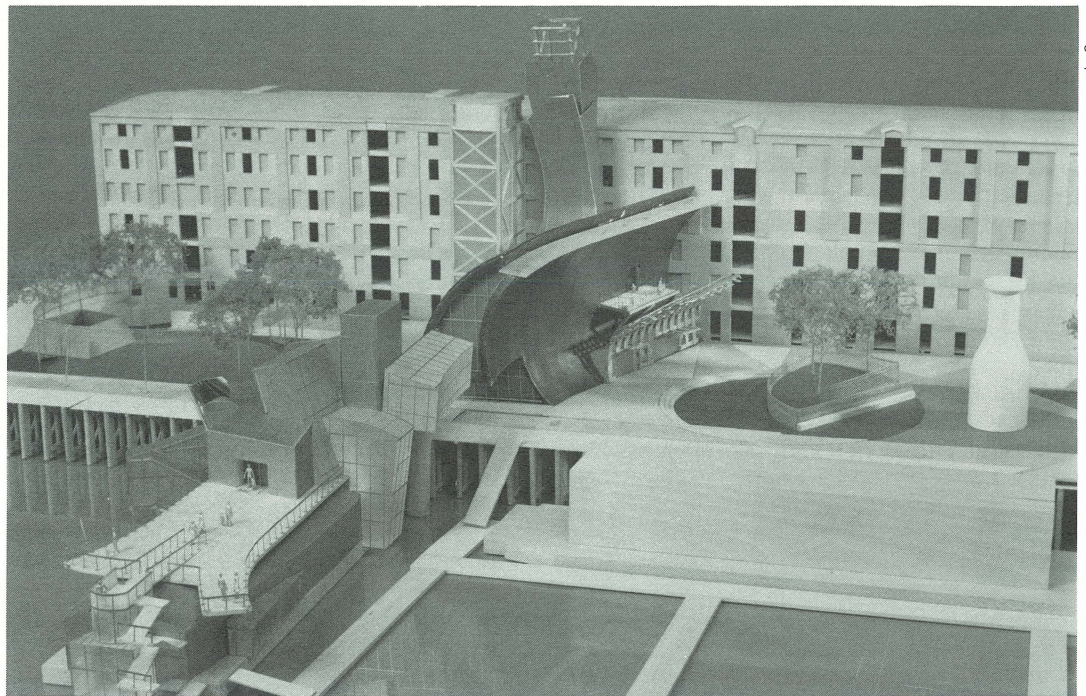
Both Museums will build the waterfront park and wave-shaped building, while The Children's Museum will construct the floating education center.

"We want to give Boston a new, exciting and vibrant public space—a place where children and adults can come together to enjoy and interact with the urban world around them," said Children's Museum Director Ken Brecher.

The Museums hope to secure city and state approval of the project by late 1992, begin the 14-month construction phase in fall 1993, and stage a grand opening in late 1994.

"The alliance between The Children's Museum and The Computer Museum is remarkably fitting," noted Strimpel. "No one knows children better than The Children's Museum. And nowadays no one knows computers like children! Today, computers are the tool and the toy of choice for children from age 3 and up. As a leader in interactive computer exhibit design, The Computer Museum understands the interaction of young people and computers like no one else.

"At a time when children's issues are at the forefront of the national agenda—when there is a national crisis in education, especially science education—the great hope for the future of our young people may well be the kind of exciting informal interactive learning that is the specialty of both our institutions and which this dynamic new structure stunningly symbolizes.



This model shows the giant "wave."

"The new 'wave' will enable both institutions to enhance significantly the experience of their visitors, offering them a dramatic new approach to our Museums and bringing excitement to Boston's waterfront," added Strimpel.

When the project is completed, visitors will enter both Museums through the "wave," a dynamic four-story, skylit, contemporary structure. The 5,900-square-foot wave will provide an expansive indoor space—free and open to Museum and non-Museum visitors alike—that will feature art, exhibits, an indoor/outdoor cafe, and public seating.

A pedestrian bridge 12 feet above the entrance area will offer views of the harbor, skyline and public space below. The bridge will connect The Children's Museum to a new "urban exhibition and harbor education center" that will float on Fort Point Channel.

Once inside each Museum, visitors will walk into newly renovated lobbies. In The Computer Museum, the lobby, expanded to 4,200 square feet, will better serve the 150,000 people who visit annually from around the world.

The new public waterfront park—about three-quarters of an acre—will stretch out on both sides of the wave. Both Museums will keep the park as a free open public space. "We hope the park will help tourists—who make up half of The Computer Museum's visitors—experience Boston as a wonderful place to live, work and play," Strimpel remarked.