Corridors
After documenting the existing terrain of the Mill City District, it became evident that there was great potential for a stronger connection to the Mississippi River. The existing conditions showed a stark division between the high-rise towers in the downtown core and the periphery buildings adjacent to the river. The Mill City District provided the perfect opportunity to design a connecting space that would unite these unique urban areas. To join the riverfront to downtown, the idea of "terracing" was introduced. Terracing offered a subtle means to slowly step up to the level of the tower buildings without creating a jarring discrepancy between building heights, intersected by three main streets leading directly to the river. These three streets, Hennepin Ave, 3rd Street, and Portland Ave, became corridors leading the bustle of downtown towards the riverfront.

Riverfront
The neighborhood directly adjacent to the Mississippi River was re-named the Mill City Terrace. Its prominent waterfront location offered an unmatched ability to physically experience the river. We saw this space as a chance for engagement, where urban residents could interact with the natural world at an intimate level. It was also important to draw a connection to the river from further inland. Washington Avenue, the main thoroughfare traversing the district, would be intersected by three main streets leading directly to the river. These three streets, Hennepin Ave, 3rd Street, and Portland Ave, became corridors leading the bustle of downtown towards the riverfront.