

If I owned the Waterfront

A suggestion to NED

Walking through Waterfront West every morning I try to imagine what I would do, if I had all the money that Karp & Co. have and were intent on developing their space. This is what persists as a vision:

Rising from the level of the current boatyard, a very grand Georgian period 'House' in the centre, from either end of which would extend widely angled wings. (Picture a large version of the Newburyport Public High School complete with lantern or clock tower.) Beneath and supporting the central main 'house' would be a two level parking facility, recessed behind massive black granite pillars. The wings based at ground level would rise about four stories on either side, attached to the main house. They could provide retail space on the bottom level, and from the next level up, housing in the form of town houses or condominiums of lesser square footage. Elevator access from the street and from the parking facility for all three sections.

A sweeping drive from east to west would provide access to retail places as well as to the parking facility and would describe the southern border of a formal garden extending toward the water with paths and seating to serve both residents of the development and of the city.

The overall appearance would be of a grand Georgian country house with every dwelling having a water view. (The next best thing would resemble the Circus in Bath.) This, in my mind's eye, would be a true addition to the city, would provide adequate housing and retail facilities as well as parking.