

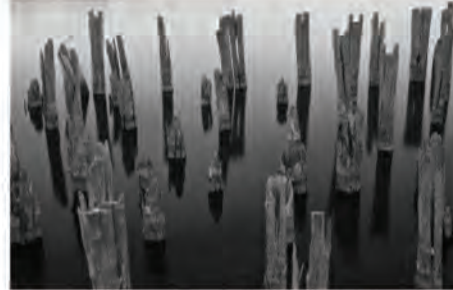
# Landscape line + palimpsest plane

UT foundation studio fall 2009

## SITE

In the southeast corner of Old Town is Jones Point Park, a geographic point along the Potomac River. On the southern portion of the sixty-acre site is the oldest inland lighthouse in the United States, the Jones Point Lighthouse and one of the four original cornerstone markers of the District of Columbia's diamond boundary. The 1791-1792 survey of the boundary began at a spot that was then at the tip of a cape, and today remains in a seawall several yards south of the lighthouse. Due to landfill over the years, Jones Point is the site of the only land boundary between Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Two bridges have been constructed over Jones Point, the first Woodrow Wilson Bridge in 1961 and the second in 2006. It slices through the site; on the north side is the parking lot and a forest, and in the south portion are recreational fields, the lighthouse and trails throughout the forest.



## PROJECT STATEMENT

Within the landscape we encounter a variety of lines. The river's edge creates a line where it meets the land and it changes hourly and throughout decades. Some lines are thick, others thin like the remnants of sea foam on the beach from high tide. Some are infinite, others short like those that make up nature's patterns. Some are distinct, others vague like territorial boundaries people establish claiming space. Landscape lines are rectilinear, others curvilinear and some are visible others invisible. Some reference history, culture or ecology. The lines may be broken, dashed or fragmented while others emerge or submerge below the surface. Some are temporal like shadows being cast, others more permanent like state boundaries. Lines designate beginnings, transitions and ends as in the edge of a forest as it changes to an open meadow. Lines establish limits and grant freedom. They reveal and conceal clues and stories about the landscape.

The landscape is a plane. It is many planes. It is a palimpsest, the collection and composition of many layers stacked on top of each other and their remnants break and protrude from the surface. Planes are flat, smooth and reflect perfectly what is overhead. They undulate. They rise up into the air; they are vertical. Like the clothing on a body; a plane wraps and conforms to the earth's surface. Planes are man-made, human inscriptions made through dwelling and interacting with a site. Planes are natural, climatic and ecological which gradually change like the color spectrum.

This project will investigate the implementation of a line within a designated plane at Jones Point Park. Your line and plane should reference some cultural, social, historical or ecological aspect of the site. The project also requires the movement of earth, a cut and fill of at least ten cubic yards, in such a way that it alters the landscape and accentuates the role of the line and plane.