

RANDALL'S ISLAND

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Address: Randall's Island, New York City, NY 10035, USA

Landscape design: Ricardo Zurita Architecture & Planning (RZAPS), MPFP

Completion: 2016. **Size:** 1,942,500 m²

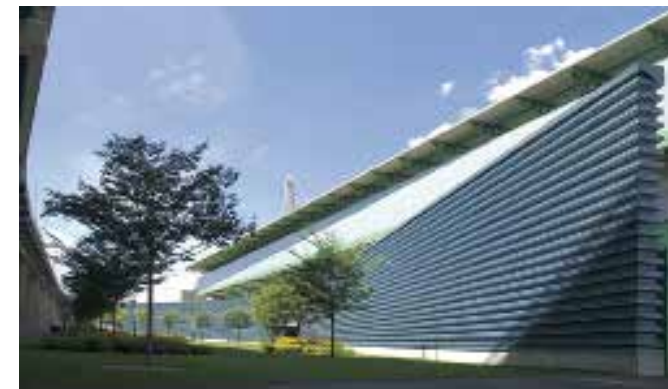
Client: Randall's Island Park Alliance (RIPA), NYC Department of Parks & Recreation and NYC Economic Development Corporation

Offering a balance to everyday life, parks are the ideal setting for leisure and finding the way back to ourselves – for instance by going for a walk or exercising. Surrounded by the East and Harlem Rivers, Randall's Island is a parkland oasis and a regional center for sports and athletics. One of the city's largest parks, the project to redevelop Randall's Island was the largest city-funded park initiative in over a century.



Working with the Randall's Island Park Alliance, the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, and the NYC Economic Development Corporation, RZAPS created a redevelopment master plan that included over 60 sports playing fields, natural open spaces, waterfront edges, as well as pathway and roadway systems. The design included several new world-class sports facilities for the island, most notably Icahn Stadium and the Sportime/John McEnroe Tennis Academy. The master plan also included the entire infrastructure and new buildings, including comfort stations and an electrical substation designed by RZAPS.

The buildings were designed as objects within the landscape that guide visitors through the varied topography and provide



a visual identity to the island. For example, the bright orange comfort stations are designed to be seen from many directions, serving as markers within the extensive landscape areas of the park. The master plan also addressed circulation issues around the playing fields, maintaining the open nature of the park with large expanses of grass playing surfaces and restoring existing wooded areas. The environment was additionally reinforced in the island's waterfront and wetlands that were fortified to provide resiliency against future storms. The high-quality facilities and parklands resulting from the master plan allowed Randall's Island to offer an unparalleled experience for locals that also draws in visitors from afar.

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North-east fields. North-west comfort station. South-east side of the park. Icahn Stadium. Sportime/John McEnroe Tennis Academy. Master plan. South-west fields. Icahn Stadium. Credits: Vincent Laforet (236 l., 237 l.), Norman McGrath (237 m.a.), Aimee Boden (1237 r.a.)