

Eleventh Street Parklet

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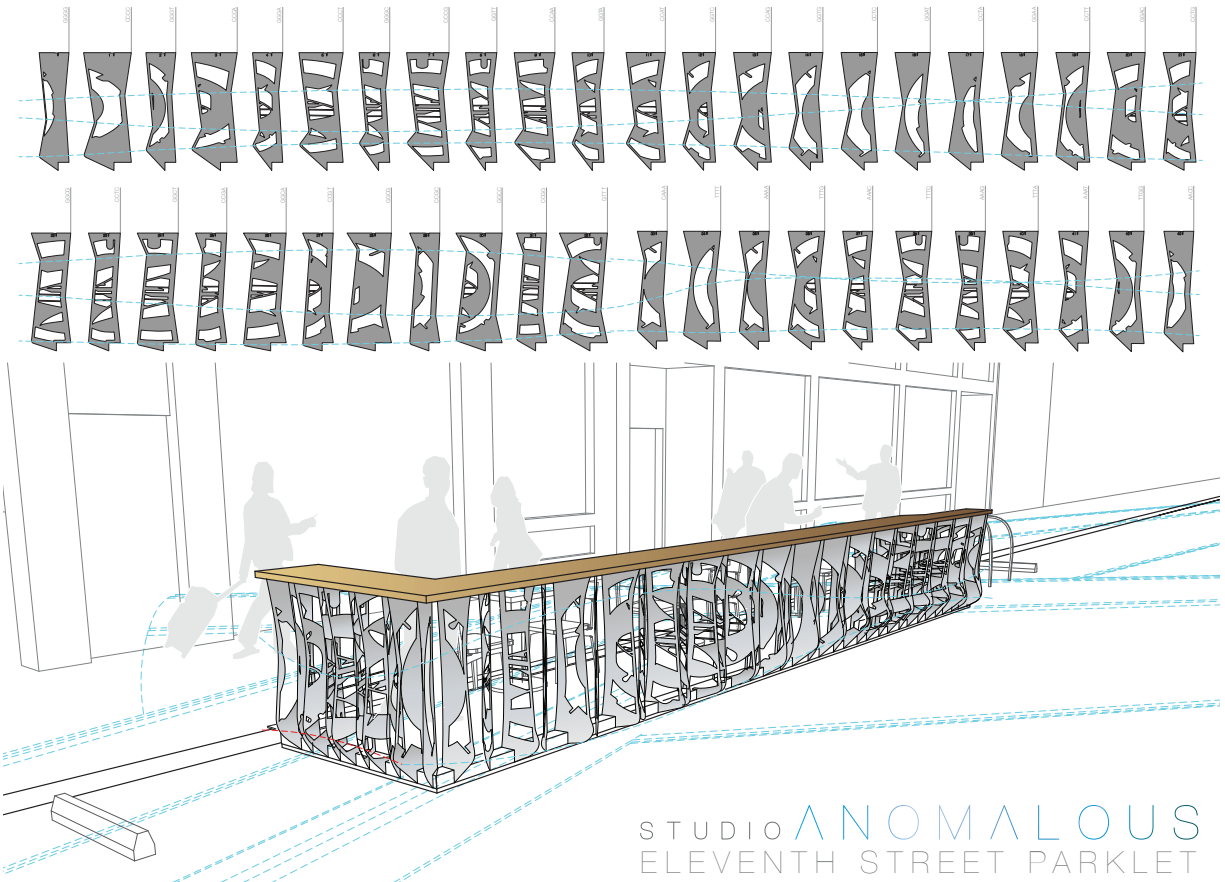
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Parklets, are small spaces serving as extensions of the public space of the sidewalk, typically repurposing parking spaces for cars. Parklets began as guerilla activism initiated by 2005 Park(ing) Day, an event created by the interdisciplinary design studio Rebar. In 2010, this idea was codified by the San Francisco Planning Department through the new Pavement to Parks Program.

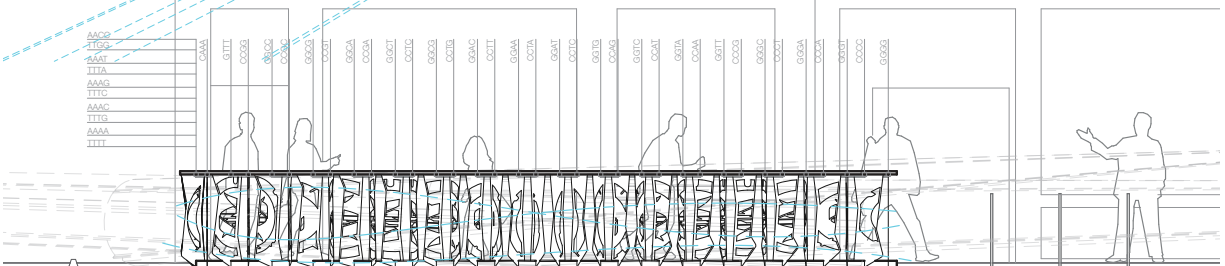
San Francisco has a wide array of fantastic outdoor spaces to occupy on those days that the fog doesn't linger. However, after studying the ratio of public outdoors space to area per neighborhood, the south of Market (SOMA) neighborhood was at the bottom of the list. This parklet is a response to this research, and aims to recalibrate this imbalance, one parking space at a time.

The project expands the narrow sidewalk of Eleventh Street, which sees intense usage in the evenings and heavy traffic during commute times. In response to these conditions of site, the exterior barrier between pedestrians and traffic is constructed from vertical steel supports to sufficiently protect the pedestrians from these times of high traffic. The steel supports oscillate in orientation, using the entry doors to the sponsoring business as their vanishing points. This tactic increases structural rigidity, allowing a lighter gauge steel to be utilized, while also drawing the viewer's eyes towards the points of entry for the neighboring business. This fluctuating edge is further articulated in response to the Eleventh Street traffic. Identifying specific points of view for pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers, the logo of the parklet sponsor is anamorphically projected onto the undulating support fins. This moment of alignment, near alignment and misalignment can not be accurately described through photographs as the interactive nature of the viewer's location in space provides an intriguing additional element to the exterior perception of the parklet. This technique provides an unreadable, yet rich pattern across the parklet face when viewed in pure elevation. In order to further address the range of visual options, further undulations are carved into the outer and inner edges of the steel supports, offering a wave-like movement across the supports when viewed in oblique, ensuring that the parklet offers a unique visual opportunity from every angle.

The process of conception, fabrication and construction was an extremely hands on effort for the design team. From initial proof of concept produced digitally within the three-dimensional space of Rhino, made possible through parametric scripting within Grasshopper, to the final fabrication drawings for the CNC plasma cutter, the team reviewed and adjusted the system through the range of configurable variables. This ensured an ability to reconfigure the visual clarity of the anamorphic projections, and to adjust for support angle accuracy, even as the parklet's location was slightly revised during the Planning Department's iterative design review process.



STUDIO ANOMALOUS
ELEVENTH STREET PARKLET



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