Think in bridges.

CHAPTER 3: WATERFRONTS

POSITIVE PROXIMITY *summary***:** A community can use proximity to its advantage to integrate the talents and skills of residents. Successful revitalization programs use physical ***spaces*** to foster positive interaction. They take on ***projects*** that shape the community identity. Critically, they ***engage*** the spectrum of the community in making these a reality. (Williams calls this *translation*, the act of a town opening up to itself.)

> "First: there are **SPACES**, indoors and out, that naturally maximize the number of good interactions in a town. Generally these spaces have some individual character while still being open enough to accommodate the desires and interests of good citizens." (p. xii)

WATERFRONTS: Questions for Discussion

1. Watch **Finding Main Street Video #3** featuring the emergence of Lynchburg's Riverfront Park?
   a. How do you see the community connecting to the river?
   b. Where else do you see community connections being made?

2. Waterfronts can be seen as mandatory open space, except when industrial use was the primary use above all other uses. The chapter featured **Wilmington, Delaware's** reclaiming of their waterfront.

   a. Does this remind you of any ongoing efforts in your community?
   b. Are there any spaces in your community that are overlooked?

3. Williams points at the **benefits of the waterfront** (p. 68). Consider your waterfront or another public investment. How does it contribute in the following ways? Could it do more?
   a. <u>Public space</u> – to bring together a diverse community
   b. <u>Safety</u> – Safe and accessible outdoor access
   c. <u>Orientation</u> - A compass for wayfinding
   d. <u>Collaboration</u> – No one entity can do it alone, furthers collaboration
   e. <u>Perspective</u> – People using it can see how the city is put together, get another view of neighborhoods.

4. Williams states, "The success of a city is not in the achievement of homogeneity, but in the **peaceful coexistence of heterogeneous groups."** (p. 83) How do you see spaces in your community fostering the peaceful coexistence of many different groups?