A network of floating docks proposed by Assistant Professor of Architecture Richard Garber and colleagues would tap the currents of the Hudson and East Rivers to generate clean energy for New York City and provide new recreational park space. The concept was developed for the 2009 Next Generation Design Competition sponsored by Metropolis magazine. Featured by the magazine in July, the design is work by a team that included Nicole Robertson, Garber’s partner at their firm GRO Architects, NJIT architecture student Brian Novello and GRO associate Justin Foster ’08.

The rivers’ 4-mph currents would be harnessed by means of three vertical turbines on the underside of each dock, generating up to 24 kilowatts of constant energy. Fed into the city’s power grid, this would be sufficient to light 350 LED streetlamps. In addition to supplying power and adding to shared public space, the docks could help to create tidal pools for wildlife as they were extended along the shores of the rivers.