



Pier 17, Benjamin Thompson & Associates, Architects, 1987-92



Photograph by Patrick Batchelder



Courtesy of Phototest

Above: Joseph Mitchell described the scene in the early 1950s: "Every now and then, seeking to rid my mind of thoughts of death and doom, I get up early and go down to Fulton Fish Market. I usually arrive around five-thirty, and take a walk through the two huge open-fronted market sheds, the Old Market and the New Market, whose fronts rest on South Street and whose backs rest on piles in the East River. At that time, a little while before the

trading begins, the stands in the sheds are heaped high and spilling over with forty to sixty kinds of fin-fish and shellfish from the East Coast, the West Coast, the Gulf Coast, and half a dozen foreign countries. The smoky riverbank dawn, the racket the fish-mongers make, the seaweedy smell, and the sight of this plentifulness always give me a feeling of well-being, and sometimes they elate me."

*—Up in the Old Hotel, 1952*

## Fulton Fish Market

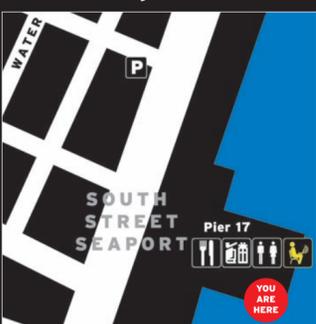
South Street Seaport recently lost its famously pungent neighbor, New York's Fulton Fish Market. Founded in the early 19th century, the market occupied a ramshackle collection of buildings that came to life in the earliest hours of the morning. Some 180 years of fishmongering on these streets finally ended on November 14th, 2005, as the market—largest of its kind in the country—moved to 400,000 square feet of modern facilities in Hunts Point in the Bronx.

## Pier 17

Pier 17 stretches out into the East River, a three-story glass and steel pavilion forming part of The Rouse Company's original plans for the South Street Seaport. General Growth Properties, which acquired the Seaport in 2004, is planning new residential and retail development, including restaurants, hotels, and a community center—as well as expanded open space and water vistas. The rambling 1907 Tin Building from fish market days will be preserved and relocated to the end of the Pier, perched at the water's edge. In nice weather, visitors can climb the Pier's outside staircases to the upper level, stretch out on a deck chair, and feel like they've landed a berth on an ocean liner—enjoying Downtown's famous silhouette, views of the bridges up river, the Brooklyn port down river, and Brooklyn Heights beckoning on the opposite shore. (841)



### Also in the Neighborhood



For more information, refer to the large map on the other side of this panel.

### South Street Seaport

South of Pier 17, the piers at the South Street Seaport host half-a-dozen historic boats, including the *Peking*, a German-built four-masted bark of 1811, and the *Wavertree*, an 1885 iron full-rigged ship, both open to visitors.

### Brooklyn Bridge

North of Pier 17, South Street enjoys a spectacular view of the world's most beautiful bridge, inspiration of tributes by poets from Walt Whitman to Hart Crane, and by painters from Joseph Stella to John Marin. World's longest suspension bridge when it opened in 1883, John and Washington Roebling's engineering masterpiece spans almost 1,600 feet between its majestic, twin Gothic-arched towers.



The mission of the Alliance for Downtown New York is to be the principal organization that provides Lower Manhattan's historic financial district with a premier physical and economic environment, advocates for businesses and property owners and promotes the area as a world-class destination for companies, workers, residents and visitors.

The Downtown Alliance manages the Downtown-Lower Manhattan Business Improvement District (BID), serving an area roughly from City Hall to the Battery, from the East River to West Street.

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Looking for more information about Downtown? Stop by the visitor information kiosks at City Hall Park, the Staten Island Ferry Terminal, the PATH station, and 1 World Financial Center, and be sure to stop at our Heritage Site Markers located throughout the neighborhood.

Also, don't miss our FREE Wall Street Walking Tour! This 90-minute guided walking tour weaves together the history, events, architecture and people of Downtown. The tour meets every Thursday and Saturday at noon at the front steps of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, 1 Bowling Green. For more information, please call 212.606.4064.