

Clause embodied in Report No. 12 of the Planning and Transportation Committee, as adopted by the Council of the City of Toronto at its meeting held on November 6, 7 and 8, 2001.

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**Update on City of Toronto Architecture and
Urban Design Awards Program**

(City Council on November 6, 7 and 8, 2001, adopted this Clause, without amendment.)

The Planning and Transportation Committee recommends that the Commissioner of Urban Development Services be requested to establish a working group consisting of interested members of the Planning and Transportation Committee and the design and development community with a mandate to identify additional opportunities to create incentives for excellence in design and architecture, and to review approaches such as convening a symposium on design in Toronto and providing an annual award in the form of a tax benefit.

The Planning and Transportation Committee reports having received the report (October 2, 2001) from the Commissioner of Urban Development Services.

Purpose:

To respond to Councillor Flint's request for an update on the City of Toronto Architecture and Urban Design Awards Program.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that this report be received for information.

Background:

On April 26, 2000, City Council adopted the recommendations of November 15, 1999, (Planning and Transportation Report No. 7, Clause 7) and March 8, 2000, (Policy and Finance Report No. 5, Clause 1) from the Commissioner of Urban Development Services on the creation of a new unified City of Toronto Urban Design Awards Program. The report recommended that "a unified Architecture and Urban Design Awards Program be established for the City of Toronto; and Urban Planning and Development Services staff be requested to develop in detail a program for the 2000 Architecture and Urban Design Awards". The new unified program replaced those

that existed in the former municipalities. At its October 3, 4, and 5, 2000 meetings, Council received for information a report from the Commissioner of Urban Development Services on the Update on City of Toronto Architecture and Urban Design Awards Program.

Comments:

The Architecture and Urban Design Awards Program, established in the year 2000 by City Council, recognizes, promotes and celebrates the key role that good urban design and architectural excellence play in Toronto's quality of life and the beautification of the city. The program is based on the best practices of existing programs in former municipalities and is funded through private corporate sponsorships. This year's sponsors are: Central Ontario Regional Council of Carpenters, Concord Adex Developments Corp., Drywall and Allied Workers, Context Development Inc, Deltera Inc., Diamante Development Corporation, Menkes Developments Inc., Minto Developments Inc., Monarch Construction Ltd., Oxford Properties Group, Tridel Corporation, Zeidler Grinnell Partnership/Architects and National Post.

The competition for this year's awards started in April 2001, the judging was done in June 2001, with the announcement of the awards to take place at a ceremony on October 18, 2001. In early April 2001, 4,000 entry forms/posters with a description of the competition were prepared and distributed to architectural, landscape architectural and development firms in M and L postal code areas. Working with Corporate Communications staff, press releases were sent to all local daily papers, professional associations, local design schools, (University of Toronto and Waterloo, Guelph University and Ryerson), Urban Development Institute, Canadian Urban Institute and construction and professional newspapers and magazines. All information, including an electronic entry form, was available on the City's website. City Councillors and Directors (levels 1, 2, 3) were also provided with entry forms/posters. Entry forms were distributed to all Civic Centers, libraries, Parks and Recreation centers, the Press Gallery and the News Digest. As a result of this wide distribution and advertising, a total of 73 entries were received.

The purpose of the Urban Design Awards Program is to acknowledge projects that make a significant contribution to the improvement of the public domain, that successfully integrate art, architecture, landscape/or heritage elements which contribute to the enhancement of the public realm. The six categories in which the City accepted entries are: Elements (i.e. doorways, gateways, light fixtures) – 2 entries received; Buildings (i.e. residential, industrial, commercial buildings, building renovations and transformations) – 33 entries received; Small open spaces (i.e. courtyards, plazas, gardens, forecourts) – 3 entries received; Large places or neighbourhood designs (large parks, campus plans, streetscapes) – 2 entries received; Visions and master plans – 22 entries received; and Student projects – 11 entries received.

The criteria for the jury composition and selection were derived from the best practices of existing programs in former municipalities. In order to raise the profile and prominence of the competition, provincial associations of architects and landscape architects are asked to submit their nominations for jurors. The four jurors selected for the 2001 competition were: Larry Beasley, planner, Peter G. Ellis, architect, Donna Hinde, landscape architect, David Oleson, architect. The evaluation and selection of the award winning projects were based on the following criteria:

- (1) Physical Quality - Does the nominated project add to the overall quality of urban environment? – through a superior definition of urban spaces; treatment of edge or boundary conditions; a superior relationship between the parts; attention to material, colour, scale proportion detail; and as architecture.
- (2) Function – Does the nominated project provide leading example of its kind in an urban environment? – through a match of program to physical elements; by unique and appropriate response to contextual influence; by an enhancement of the environment or natural system of the city; through unique and functional solutions to movement systems of all kinds; by leading in aspects of safe city design and function; through prominent recognition; through fulfilling a public mandate; by expanding the public realm in a valuable way.
- (3) Cultural Qualities – How does the nominated project extend past physical properties into cultural makeup of the city? – through historical interpretation; by contributing to cultural richness of one of the city’s neighbourhoods; by interpretation of multicultural society; through inclusion of the visual performing arts; by creating a place for social interaction.

The judging of all entries took place on June 15 and 16, 2001. The jury reviewed all written and visual material and visited short-listed sites. The jury prepared an independent report on their findings. The results of the competition are kept confidential until the special event on October 18, 2001 where the winners are announced by the Mayor, or his representative, and the Commissioner of Urban Development Services. All Councillors, sponsors, submitters and winners are invited to this ceremony.

Conclusions:

The Architecture and Urban Design Awards program recognizes the importance of promoting design excellence and stimulating the beautification in the City of Toronto. At the same time this program acknowledges the foresight of the development industry and recognizes the skills of its architects, landscape architects, engineers, artists and designers.

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(City Council, on November 6, 7 and 8, 2001, had before it, during consideration of the foregoing Clause, the following report (November 2, 2001) from the Commissioner of Urban Development Services:

Purpose:

To supply additional information on the 2001 City of Toronto Architecture and Urban Design Awards Program.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that this report be received for information.

Background:

The background of this supplementary report is covered in detail in the Report No. 12, Clause No. 6, "Update on City of Toronto Architecture and Urban Design Awards Program", that was received for information at the Planning and Transportation Committee on October 2, 2001, and is also included on this agenda.

Comments:

On October 18, 2001, the winners of the 2001 Toronto Architecture and Urban Design Awards were announced in a ceremony at the Design Exchange. This event was made possible by the generous support of twelve sponsors that share the City's commitment to design excellence. Over 200 guests from the design and development community, media, Councillors and City staff joined the reception. Deputy Mayor Case Ootes handed out the awards as the Commissioner of Urban Development Services announced each winner.

The professional jury chose four Awards of Excellence and seven Honourable Mentions.

Awards of Excellence:

- 1. The Isabel Bader Theatre – Buildings Category – Architect: Lett/Smith Architects; Landscape Architects: The MBTW Group; Owner: Victoria University.*
- 2. Ways Lane Residence – Buildings Category - Architect: A.J. Diamond, Donald Schmitt and Company; Owner: Claire Ironside.*
- 3. Upper East Side – Large Places or Neighbourhood Designs Category – Architect: Wallman Clewes Bergman Architects; Landscape Architect: Corban & Goode Landscape Architects and Urbanists; Developer: Cohen & Alter Developments.*

4. *Investing in the Landscape: University of Toronto, St. George Campus Open Space Master Plan - Visions and Master Plans Category – Designers, Planners and Architects: Urban Strategies Inc., Lead Consultants, Taylor Hariri Pontarini Architects, Corban and Goode Landscape Architecture and William Greer, Heritage Consultant; Owner: University of Toronto.*

Honourable Mentions:

1. *Prince Arthur Arch – Elements Category - Architect: Page and Steele Architects/Planners Incorporated; Landscape architect: Ferris and Queen Associate Inc.; Artists: Susan Schelle and Mark Gomes; Owner/ Developer: Minto Corporation.*
2. *Sackville Infill Housing – Buildings Category - Architect: Baird Sampson Neuert Architects Inc.; Owner/Developer: James Lorimer.*
3. *Meeting Place – Buildings Category - Architect: Levitt Goodman Architects; Landscape Design: Perennial Gardens; Artists: Scott Childs, Steve Marshall & Beth Halstead; Owner/Developer: Saint Christopher House.*
4. *Twenty – Buildings Category - Architect: Wallman Clewes Bergman Architects; Landscape Architect: James Floyd; Developer: Cohen & Alter Developments.*
5. *College Street Creative Landscape for making a Living – Visions and Master Plans Category – Architect/Urban Designer: Brown and Storey Architects; Owner/Developer: Harbord Village Residents Association.*
6. *RE-CREATE Waterfront REC-RE-ATE Toronto Port Lands – Student Projects Category - Designer: Bryce Miranda, University of Toronto.*
7. *Land Shift – Student Projects Category - Designer: Peter H. North, University of Toronto.*

All winners are depicted in a full-colour, illustrated brochure that is widely distributed for promotional purposes. The City's Web site includes a link from the "Highlights" section of the front page, as well as photos and full jury comments of all the winners on the dedicated Architecture and Urban Design Awards page.

The Globe and Mail, Toronto Star, CBC Radio and City TV covered the event. The National Post will publish photos and credits of the winners in an upcoming weekend edition. To continue to focus on the positive results and benefits of the awards and to further increase the profile and excellence of Toronto's architecture and urban design, a follow-up News Release will highlight the winners, with selected comments from the jury on the merits of each project. The News Release will include the schedule for a travelling exhibit showcasing the awards. Now at the Scarborough Civic Centre, the exhibit will continue on to the East York Civic Centre, Etobicoke Civic Centre, Metro Hall, the North York Civic Centre, the Design Exchange and City Hall until March 1, 2002.

Communications staff is also distributing information through professional associations, as well as schools of architecture, urban design and landscape architecture across Canada.

Conclusion:

This year's jury stated that it "applauds the City of Toronto for its Campaign for programs like the Architecture and Urban Design Awards that will set good examples for designers, as well as provide encouragement to clients." They also commented: "Our jury was proud of Toronto's culture of design as represented by this year's submissions. We were also proud of what these submissions say about the state of Canadian City building expertise."

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