

April 26, 2007

City Council approves panel members for Design Review Panel Pilot Project

Toronto City Council has approved a 12-member advisory panel launching the two-year Design Review Panel Pilot Project. They will provide independent advice during the development approvals process for public and municipal development in selected areas across the city, with the goal of helping to ensure a high level of urban design that fits well into the cityscape.

The panel includes six architects, three landscape architects, two urban designers and one engineer with a broad range of experience and a high calibre of design expertise. The pilot project will help determine the feasibility of a city-wide design review panel.

“Toronto is home to some of the world’s leading architects, planners and designers and we are extremely honoured to have 12 of these professionals on the City’s first design review panel,” said Mayor David Miller. “Council’s approval confirms the City’s commitment to high quality design of buildings and public spaces and is another step toward building a dynamic, vital and beautiful city.”

Design review panels have been successfully used in other Canadian and international cities to improve the design quality of the public realm. Panels provide professional, objective advice on design issues including buildings, streets, parks, open spaces and new urban design policy.

“The design review panel will help to implement a key goal of the Official Plan and City Council’s Clean and Beautiful City Initiative to achieve high quality architecture, landscape architecture and urban design that improves the public realm,” said Ted Tyndorf, Toronto’s Chief Planner. “The members participating on the panel are highly experienced professionals who will make a significant contribution to the application process.”

The 12-member volunteer panel will begin training to review regulatory frameworks and procedures. The first public meeting of the panel to review applications is scheduled for summer 2007. For more information on panel members and the Design Review Panel Pilot Project please visit www.toronto.ca/planning.

Toronto is Canada's largest city and sixth largest government, and home to a diverse population of about 2.6 million people. It is the economic engine of Canada and one of the greenest and most creative cities in North America. In the past three years Toronto has won more than 50 awards for quality and innovation in delivering public services. Toronto's government is dedicated to prosperity, opportunity and liveability for all its residents.

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Further information: Robert Freedman, Director, Urban Design - City Planning, 416-392-1126
Diane Chester, Senior Communications Coordinator, 416-392-4311