

June 7, 2010

Adamson Associates Architects and Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners win St. Lawrence Market North Building Design Competition

Today, Mayor David Miller and Councillor Pam McConnell (Ward 28 Toronto Centre-Rosedale) officially announced the 'Red Design' by Adamson Associates Architects and Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners as the winning design in the St. Lawrence Market North Building Design Competition.

"On behalf of the people of Toronto, I'd like to thank all of the five short-listed teams for their submissions and congratulate Adamson Associates Architects and Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners who have exceeded our expectations for what the North Market can become," said Mayor David Miller. "Through their creativity, Adamson Associates Architects and Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners have imaginatively re-introduced the new North Market Building as a place to reconnect with the rich history and heritage of the St. Lawrence neighbourhood, celebrate the St. Lawrence Hall and St. Lawrence South Market, and experience the vibrant life in the market's surrounding streets and areas. This new, winning design will make the North Market building in the St. Lawrence Market Complex a truly vibrant place, like no other in the city."

Included in the new, winning design is a four-storey structure that allows market shoppers to view life and activities on Front Street, Jarvis Street and on Market Lane Park from within its glass atrium, effectively creating an open indoor market that resembles a fresh, outdoor setting. Shoppers will also be able to see the South Market from inside the building and appreciate a dramatic view of St. Lawrence Hall to the north, creating a strong visual connection with all three buildings of the complex.

Also included in the new, winning design is an underground garage, three floors above the market space for court rooms, administrative offices for Toronto Court Services, facility amenities that fulfill the Toronto Green Standard, a new green roof, and a geo-thermal system to make the North Market a model for energy efficiency and sustainability.

"The winning design successfully combines a market with a court house and is an excellent example of green architecture in a city that strives to be one of the greenest on the planet," said Councillor Pam McConnell. "Adamson Associates Architects and Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners have created a design for a market for all seasons and a facility that will strengthen the St. Lawrence Market's position as an anchor and central part of life in the community."

The winning design was chosen after five architectural design teams were selected from a field of 30 from around the world in February 2010 to develop full architectural designs in Stage 2 of the St. Lawrence Market North Building Design Competition. On May 7, 8 and 9, the five teams each exhibited a design at St. Lawrence Hall and online at www.toronto.ca. Thousands of Torontonians viewed the short-listed designs and over 1,000 individual comments, letters, e-mails and essays from citizens were received and submitted to the panel of jury members for their consideration.

The jury, made of some of the most distinguished members from across North America in markets, architecture and culinary arts, unanimously selected the submission from Adamson Associates Architects and Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners. Until today, the corresponding identities of each individual team relative to each design remained anonymous for fairness and equity in judging.

"On behalf of the jury, I'd like to congratulate and thank all of the short-listed teams who have all worked hard to provide a unique interpretation for the North Market building," said Peter Berton, Professional Advisor for the competition.

“Having deliberated for two full days, and after extensive detailed examination, the jury is proud to have unanimously selected the best design for the City of Toronto to help it realize its vision for this property.”

The five design teams that have been selected from a field of 30 to compete in Stage 2 of the St. Lawrence Market North Building Design Competition were:

- Adamson Associates Architects and Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners (Red Team)
- Cohos Evamy + Hotson Bakker Boniface Haden Architects (Blue Team)
- Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg Architects (Orange Team)
- NORR Limited, Architects Engineers Planners (Green Team)
- Taylor Hazell Architects and Montgomery Sisam Architects (Yellow Team)

The seven members of the competition jury included:

- Christine Couvelier, President of Culinary Concierge
- Dr. Ron Dembo, Founder and CEO of Zerofootprint
- William N. Greer, B.Arch., FRAIC, CAHP, Professional Heritage Consultant
- Andrea P. Leers, FAIA, Principal at Leers Weinzapfel Associates
- Russell Smith, Canadian Novelist and Newspaper Columnist
- Peter Ortved, B.Arch., OAA, FRAIC, Principal of CS&P Architects
- Claire Weisz, Founding Partner of WXY Architecture

The St. Lawrence Market Complex, consisting of St. Lawrence Hall and the South and North Market buildings, has served for over 200 years as the City's social centre and premier marketplace, and even as a City Hall. The North Building at 92 Front Street East no longer meets the needs of market vendors, shoppers and the community, due to its lack of building amenities. The strategy to redevelop the North Market property was approved by Toronto City Council in November 2008.

The new North Market building in the St. Lawrence Market Complex is expected to be completed and operating in 2014, and during its construction, the Saturday Farmers' Market and the Sunday Antique Market will continue to operate at a temporary market structure at 125 The Esplanade.

Visit http://www.toronto.ca/stlawrence_market/design for more information.

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. Toronto has won numerous awards for quality, innovation and efficiency in delivering public services. Toronto's government is dedicated to prosperity, opportunity and liveability for all its residents. For information about non-emergency City services and programs, Toronto residents, businesses and visitors can dial 311, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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