

SUBMISSIONS | LOW-SCALE BUILDINGS IN CONTEXT

Project Title

40R_Laneway House

Address

40R Shaftesbury Avenue

Project Team

ARCHITECT + LANDSCAPE / GREEN ROOF:
superkül inc | architect

Client

Elena Soni and Jorge Soni



2009

TORONTO Urban Design Awards

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The conversion of a nineteenth-century industrial shed to an 850sf single-family home makes a case for a strategic approach to urban sustainability and revitalization.

Sitting tight to its property lines and a right-of-way, the conversion was an exercise in the calibration of space in zero-tolerance conditions. With no usable outdoor space at grade and unable to make any additional openings in the exterior walls (for privacy and life-safety reasons), the design strategy revolved around drawing light, air and views from above. A shaft with operable skylights runs the length of the west wall, providing day-lighting and passive ventilation. From the second-floor courtyard, there is a stair up to a green roof and terrace; rainwater is collected in a cistern at grade.

The salvage and re-use of the building's steel cladding and rolling steel door were both practical and poetic: they evoke the shed's history and knit it into its context (host to both residential and light-industrial use); along with the plywood and cedar that clad the remainder of the building, they are suitably durable materials for the laneway site.

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