

SUBMISSIONS | PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN CONTEXT

Project Title

Monsignor Percy Johnson
Catholic Secondary School

Address

2170 Kipling Avenue

Project Team

Architect: ZAS Architects Inc.
Landscape: Victor Ford & Associates

Owner/Client

Toronto Catholic District School Board



2009

 TORONTO Urban Design Awards

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As one of Toronto's major arterial roads, Kipling Avenue often struggles with continuity of urban form and transition between its neighbourhoods. This is the backdrop for the creation of a new secondary school - where a more urban attitude to the pedestrian and civic building is prioritized over the needs of parking vehicles. As part of the Board's facility renewal program, an existing 1960's era school was demolished on this site to make way for a new and larger school for 1000 students. A new three-storey building was developed on this small suburban site, resulting in two distinct zones. The "Kipling Zone" is developed as two courtyards, one an urban forecourt with built-in street furniture, and one a landscaped green space that contains mature trees. In contrast, the "Berry Creek Zone" is a recreational court that contains a basketball courts, sports field, and is bordered by a new walkway that hugs the edge of the naturalized Berry Creek valley lands. Together these zones create a very accessible site design that blurs the boundaries between the frontyard/backyard condition found at many other suburban school sites.

2009