

# SUBMISSIONS | VISIONS AND MASTER PLANS

## Project Title

FLOCK

From Parking Lots to Playgrounds: a public space for children

## Site

Queen St. W. and Portland St.

## Project Team

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2009

TORONTO Urban Design Awards

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FLOCK

From Parking Lots to Playgrounds:  
a public space for children

## Site

Queen St. W. and Portland St.

FLOCK proposes to:

- 1 Increase the prominence of children in Toronto, making them a recognizable part of the city identity.
- 2 Extend the debates about public space to public space for children.
- 3 Create a high quality, well-designed public play space for children.
- 4 Incorporate elements of nature into the city in an urban way, breaking down the perceived division between nature and urbanity.

Children are not part of Toronto's self-image.

FLOCK is an attempt to redress the exclusion of children from the identity of Toronto and to expand the discourse about public space to all ages.

Much of Toronto's public space is unsuitable for children: streets, which make up a significant portion of public space in Toronto, are dangerous due to traffic; many of the generous open areas are parking lots. We are proposing an inversion of this hierarchy of cars over children.

What if the space devoted to parking lots was instead devoted to playgrounds? Or, more simply, what if one parking lot at Queen Street West and Portland Street, was transformed into a quality public play space for children?



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