

SUBMISSIONS | STUDENT PROJECTS

Project Title

The Islington Gallery of Art:
An Architectural Implementation of
'The Third Place'

Site

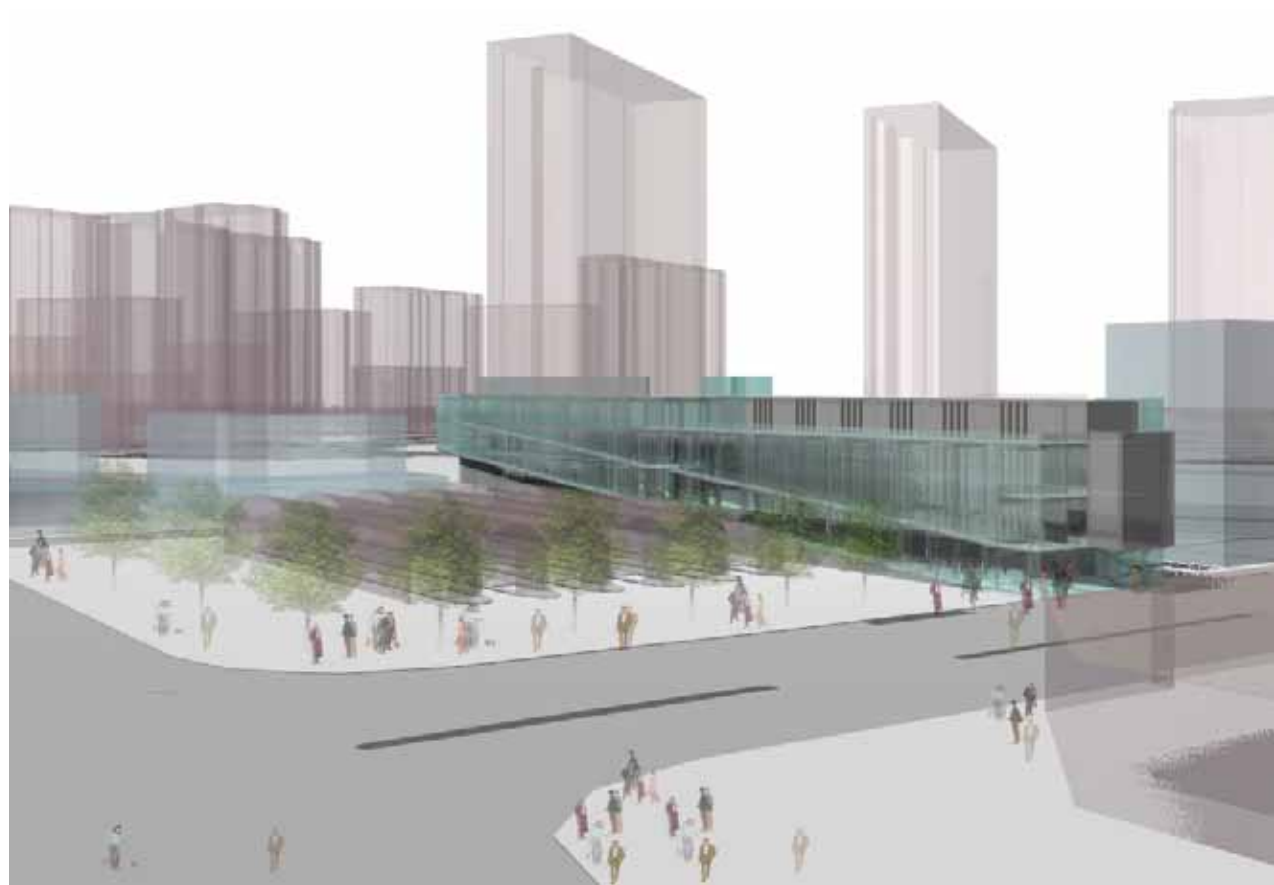
Islington Subway Station
Intersection:
Bloor St W/ Islington Ave

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University

University of Waterloo



2009



TORONTO Urban Design Awards

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This thesis proposes turning a Toronto subway station into a gallery that will display temporary exhibitions of contemporary art. Islington subway station, on the corner of Bloor Street West and Islington Avenue, will anchor a future civic and cultural centre and will become the social and public focal point of Etobicoke Centre.

This proposal has been inspired by urban sociologist Ray Oldenburg's concept of the 'third place'. In contrast to the first and second places of home and work, the third place encompasses the social realm, being a neutral space where people can gather and interact. The proposal for the Islington Gallery of Art also adapts the theory of the 'Transit Oriented Development' where the subway station is the central node in the neighbourhood. This gallery will transform the public space of infrastructure into a setting for informal public life. A third place will be created where one currently does not exist.

The three narratives of public space, public transportation, and civic culture are combined in the design of a mixed-use building. This thesis explores how transportation infrastructure and architecture can combine with contemporary art to instigate the development for a new kind of place, one that isn't a traditional street or square, near the periphery of the City of Toronto.

2009