

Harbourfront Neighbourhood Centre

Harbourfront, Downtown Waterfront, Toronto

What makes this neighbourhood work for children & youth?

- **Community Hub:** Child care, school and community centre uses are vertically integrated and share space.
- **Outdoor Focus:** High-quality, safe outdoor play space and adjacency to a waterfront recreational trail.
- **Flexible Design:** Interior spaces designed as flexible space for youth to socialize. Programming makes full use of building spaces for different users throughout the day.



The building was designed to be a flexible social space and encourage users to rest and socialize in the central amphitheater area overlooking the gymnasium. This daylight area is in the central atrium which enables passive surveillance by staff and volunteers.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Address: 627 Queen's Quay West

Developer: TDSB / City of Toronto

Architect: CS&P Architects in association with Patkau Architects

Year Completed: 1997

Built Form Typology: 3 storey mid-rise

BREAKDOWN

The Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre (Formerly Harbourfront Community Centre) is a non-profit centre run by the City of Toronto, and supported by a volunteer board of community members.

At the heart of the thriving Bathurst Quay neighbourhood, a community hub building was conceived as a social space for all ages, with a focus on youth and seniors programming. It is conveniently located along the waterfront recreational trail, within a mixed-income, mixed-use community in mid-rise and tall buildings. The site is adjacent to the Canada Malting buildings between Ireland Park and Little Norway Park, which includes active sports fields, a scent garden and a playground.

The building brings together many community uses into one shared facility with common spaces like the gym used by different groups according to their operating hours. The building is integrated by locating the community centre and childcare on the main floor, and schools on the upper levels. The centre maximizes community use and access to the facility is available seven days a week in the daytime and evenings.

The centre was designed to appeal to teens with an outdoor basketball court serving as the forecourt to the facility. The centre has a culinary focus and offers a food kiosk and a community teaching kitchen. Other shared community facilities include change rooms, a weight room, dance and aerobic studios, multi-purpose rooms, and a youth room. The centre is often used for performances, art exhibitions, sports events and other local activities.

The school is located on the upper two levels. The entrance at the second floor is located at the top of a wide walkway which gradually slopes up from the public sidewalk. The Waterfront Public School was designed for students from junior kindergarten through to grade 8. Since that time the facility is now shared with the City High School. The larger gathering spaces such as the lunchroom were located on the second floor to facilitate shared use by the school communities.



Proximity to Parks & Open Green Space



Proximity to Child Care/ School



Proximity to Public Transit



Proximity to Shops/ Services



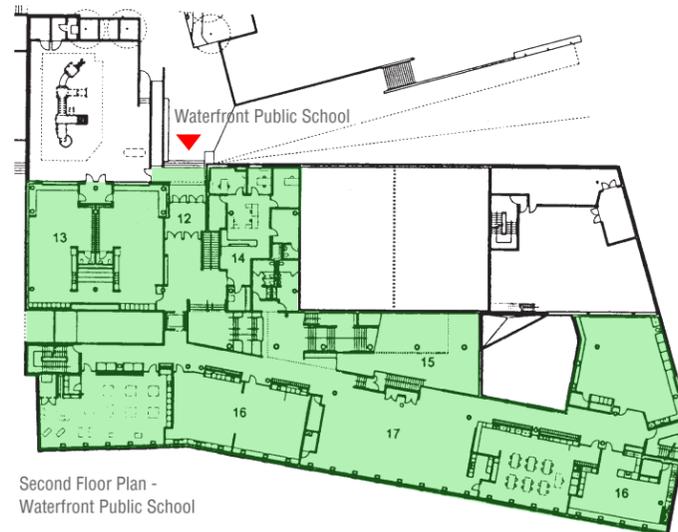
Proximity to Community Centre



Active Transportation (safety)



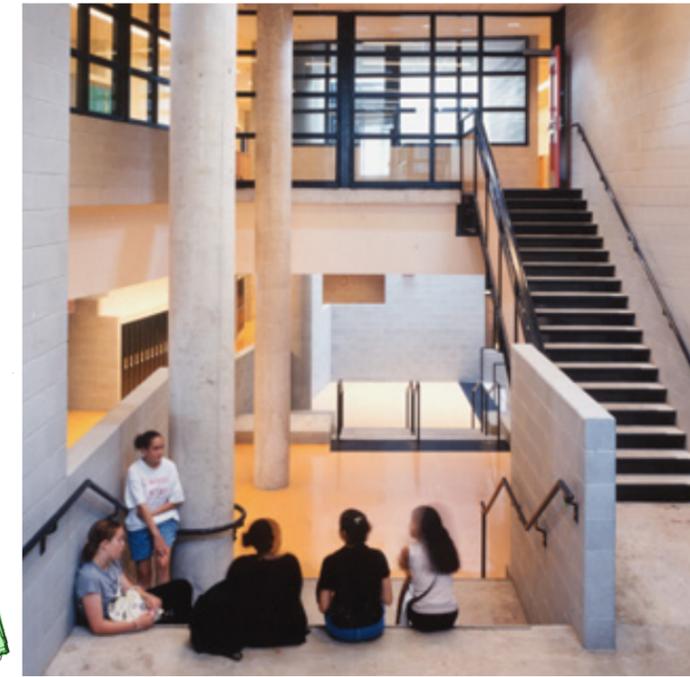
First Floor Plan - community centre, child care and shared spaces.



Second Floor Plan - Waterfront Public School



Third Floor Plan - The City High School
Day care (light blue), Community Centre (pink), School (green), Shared (yellow)



Circulation space was designed with generous proportions to encourage interaction through informal seating and socialization.



The community centre entrance is on the left, the school entrance is on the right, at the top of the ramp. This grading strategy allows easy access to a use on the second floor.



Aerial of the waterfront area with the centre and outdoor play fields in red outline.