



2017

JURY REPORT

TORONTO URBAN DESIGN AWARDS

FOREWORD

Our environment influences the way we behave and it reflects our values as a community.

Urban Design is critical in a rapidly growing city as a way to ensure long term livability, and the Urban Design Awards play a role in delivering on that. At this unique moment in time, Toronto has an opportunity to ensure a livable, comfortable, vibrant, diverse, safe and beautiful city for today and tomorrow's citizens. When done well, urban design supports a high quality of life for the people who inhabit the city, today and tomorrow.

Since the last Urban Design Awards in 2015, Toronto has seen a new vision for the next generation of transit investments; new visions for living in a denser, more vertical city; the construction of more mid rise buildings along our avenues; more bike lanes, new investments in civic spaces and public buildings, and new ideas for future parks and open spaces. These are all indicators that support Toronto as one of the most livable cities in the world.

Urban design occurs incrementally through individual projects, both private and public. It therefore needs to be guided by a 'big picture' vision, and a 'piecemeal' implementation process to support the city as it grows. The results, which we see around us everyday, are the cumulative evidence of the vision, passion, hard work and talent of the people who make up our industry: architects, students, planners, landscape architects, developers, constructors and City staff.

The 2017 Toronto Urban Design Awards play an essential role in recognizing and celebrating an impressive range of projects built in Toronto in the past two years. This year, 124 submissions were considered in nine categories.

The jury members, David Anselmi, Elsa Lam, Gary McCluskie, and Betsy Williamson met over two days to review and consider each submission in detail. Their thoughtful comments, some of which are included here, highlight the high caliber of design and the depth of thought and care that went into each submission.

After viewing the submissions and going out to the short list of projects located in Scarborough, Etobicoke, North York and Toronto & East York. The jury chose 12 Awards of Excellence, 9 Awards of Merit, and one special jury award entitled 'Urban Activation'.

Thank you to all of those involved: Sponsors, the practitioners behind this year's 124 submissions, and City staff in Urban Design (Civic Design and Graphics+Visualization Units), and Strategic Protocol and External Relations.

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Chief Planner & Executive Director

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AWARD CATEGORIES

The City of Toronto accepted entries for the 2017 Urban Design Awards in the following categories:

ELEMENTS

A stand-alone object, public art installation, landscape element or small-scale piece of a building which contributes significantly to the quality of the public realm. Submissions may include, but are not limited to: benches, doorways, signage, canopies, porches or colonnades, gateways, light fixtures, walkways, stairways, barrier-free access, fences and works of art.

PRIVATE BUILDINGS IN CONTEXT

An individual building or a composition of buildings, that achieve(s) urban design excellence and is precedent setting for a project of its type through its relationship to the public realm, pedestrian amenity, detailing and massing, and the natural environment. Submissions should document and highlight how the project contributes to successful city-building through its contextual relationship, design quality and measures of sustainable design. All types of buildings are eligible whether “landmark” or “background,” new construction or a restoration/transformation. Projects in both urban and suburban contexts will be considered. The Buildings in Context category consists of three sub-categories that reflect a range of scales:

a. Low-scale

A low-scale project is four storeys or less, notwithstanding its land use. Submissions may include, but are not limited to: multi-family residential uses such as low-rise apartments and townhouse developments; and retail, office, mixed-use or industrial facilities on main streets and arterials. Single-family dwellings (e.g. houses) are not eligible for entry.

b. Mid-rise

A mid-rise building is generally taller than four storeys, but no taller than the width of the adjacent street right-of-way (i.e. typically between 5 and 11 storeys). Submissions may include, but are not limited to: mixed-use “Avenue” buildings, small apartment/condo buildings, commercial and industrial buildings.

c. Tall

A tall building is generally taller than the width of the adjacent street right-of-way. A building that has both tall and mid-rise components should be entered in this category. Submissions may include, but are not limited to: residential or commercial buildings.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN CONTEXT

An individual building or a composition of buildings, with a primary function to serve the public and/or is largely accessible to the public. Public Buildings are focal points for communities of various sizes, from small neighbourhoods to a national body. Submissions should demonstrate urban design and architectural excellence through a relationship to the public realm, pedestrian amenity, detailing and massing, the natural environment and sustainable design. In this category, all building scales are eligible (low-scale, mid-rise and tall), as well as new construction and restoration/transformation.

Buildings in both urban and suburban contexts will be considered. Submissions may include, but are not limited to: education, health care, recreation, cultural, community and civic buildings.

SMALL OPEN SPACES

A small open space, generally related to and defined by adjacent buildings or natural/built elements, which provides an extension and addition to the public realm in an exemplary way. The small open space need not be publicly owned, but must be publicly accessible. Submissions may include, but are not limited to: courtyards, plazas, forecourts, gardens, trails, mews and small neighbourhood parks.

LARGE PLACES AND/OR NEIGHBOURHOOD DESIGNS

A design plan for a new or renovated large-scale area of the city. The project must be completed to such extent to allow the jury to clearly understand and evaluate the plan. The submissions in this category should state the existing conditions and demonstrate how City objectives for establishing a clear public structure of streets, parks, open spaces and building sites are met. The submission should also highlight major areas of innovation, particularly those related to infrastructure, environmental management and sustainable design, as well as provide evidence of community involvement and acceptance. Submissions may include, but are not limited to: large parks, area/ district plans, neighbourhood plans, subdivisions, industrial parks, campus plans and streetscapes. Both urban and suburban contexts will be considered.

VISIONS AND MASTER PLANS

Unexecuted visions for the city, studies and master plans of high inspirational value with the potential for significant impact on Toronto's development. Submissions in this category may include but are not limited to: theoretical and visionary projects, as well as any project fitting the description of Large Places or Neighbourhood Designs that are unbuilt.

STUDENT PROJECTS

Students in urban design, architecture, landscape architecture and other design programs are invited to submit theoretical or studio projects set in, or relating to Toronto. Students should co-ordinate with design studio professors/advisors to select projects that are suitable for submission.

SPECIAL JURY AWARD

Special jury award for urban activation.

Note: The jury reserves the right not to present awards in every category. The jury also reserves the right to reallocate submissions into categories which they deem to be most appropriate.

JURY STATEMENT

Every two years, the City of Toronto Urban Design Awards program provides an opportunity to assess the progress of the city's built environment, and to recognize those buildings that strengthen the public realm. The program looks at buildings in their context to identify those that make a positive contribution to the life of the city, and to assess how well they respond to their surroundings.

Above all, the jury seeks to identify projects that are unequivocally public—that engage people through their presence in or proximity to the public realm, adding noticeably to the civic experience.

These considerations can't be measured solely through presentation panels and project texts. So, after compiling a shortlist of projects, the jury piles into a mini-van to visit every chosen site as a group. Over the course of two days of touring and deliberations, this year's jury travelled to the city's furthest reaches—from City Hall, to Etobicoke, to North York, to Scarborough—to arrive at the present list of award-winning projects.

The selected projects share a number of common characteristics. Aside from being exemplary in their contributions to the public realm through siting, programming, or composition, all the winning projects also demonstrate conceptual rigor, fine detailing, and equally fine craftsmanship in their construction.

The quality of a project's detailing and construction is critical in contributing to the experiential quality of the city and raising the bar for public projects. Craftsmanship is exemplified in two projects that received awards of excellence in the Elements category. The public art installation *Two Circles* and the pavilions at the East Point Bird Sanctuary are each made of a single, carefully manipulated material—ceramic tile and Corten steel, respectively—with results that demonstrate discipline and restraint, and that add to the works' settings both from afar and up close.

The reuse of heritage buildings also requires a degree of craftsmanship, as well as a vision for an existing building's potential. The jury found this embodied in the Queen Richmond West development, in which a new block is perched atop two heritage warehouses, supported by sculptural columns in a publically accessible atrium—a stunning blend of old and new. As a more traditional adaptive reuse, the revitalized Broadview Hotel shows a commitment to superb workmanship and intelligent programming, giving new life to a long-neglected neighbourhood landmark.

A good maintenance regime was also important to the awarded projects, particularly those that involved a public space or landscape component. The jury visited several projects that caught their attention in photos, but in reality proved under-maintained or poorly constructed in the first place. It is critical that there is a commitment to maintenance, whether by the City or private ownership, especially when projects are outside the norm. Forward-thinking design should not be driven by yesterday's maintenance procedures. On the flip side, projects designed with ease of maintenance in mind stood out: Joel Weeks park, for instance, used a limited palette of easy-to-care for plants, which thrived as a result.

Parallels can be seen in architectural projects. For instance, the commercial infill project at 619 Queen West was simply detailed, but included elements such as signage in its scope—keeping urban clutter at bay by intentionally controlling the integrity of the design.

Projects may be excellent whether they choose to blend in or stand out from the urban fabric. Branksome Hall's Athletics and Wellness Centre, for instance, is a relatively discreet presence along Mount Pleasant Road. The smart deployment of its large-volume spaces to achieve this effect is pivotal to its success. On the other hand, a building such as the Ryerson Student Learning Centre is designed a landmark, and strongly announces Ryerson's presence amongst the hubbub of Yonge Street. A building such as Toronto Public Library's Scarborough Civic Centre Branch walks a fine line. As a small-scale building, it asserts itself to be seen against the monumental Civic Centre complex, yet ultimately defers to the larger building and allows the Civic Centre to take its rightful place at centre stage.

This year's awards also recognize a number of large public places: notably the West Donlands public realm, the Central Waterfront portion of Queens Quay Boulevard, and the revitalization of Front Street adjoining Union Station. This group of awards gives credit to current efforts to make significant improvements to the public realm as downtown Toronto continues to densify and develop. The West Donlands project is particularly notable for anticipating the future growth of a new neighbourhood, and setting in place a public realm plan of streets, parks, and lanes that will give structure to the area as it continues to take shape.

The jury chose to give a special award to Luminato's use of The Hearn to host its 2016 performing arts festival. This award for Urban Activation recognizes the importance of bringing this massive piece of infrastructure—as well as the Port Lands area that it sits on—into the urban imaginary. Temporary installations, often built for Toronto's arts festivals, can potentially be seen as proof-of-concept exercises that imply a greater permanent contribution to the public realm, rather than being only one-off art installations.

Creative, context-sensitive efforts at all scales—from activating old power plants with performing arts festivals to designing finely crafted infill projects—will continue to be important as Toronto grows towards the future.



Jury members (l-r)

Betsy Williamson, Gary McCluskie, Elsa Lam,
David Anselmi

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

ELEMENTS

TWO CIRCLES

22 Adelaide Street West

Project Team

KPMB Architects
Design Architects

Adamson Associates Architects
Architect of Record

Entuitive
Engineer

Micah Lexier
Artist

Rina Greer
Art Consultant

Lisa Naftolin
Design Assistant

Developer/Owner/Client

Brookfield Properties

Contractor

Mosaika Art & Design Inc.
Fabricator



Jury Comment

The power of this work of public art is in its ability to embody dualities. Two simple shapes—a black circle on a white backdrop, and the outline of a black circle on a white background—break through the visual clutter of the streetscape. The two identically sized circles are simultaneously heavy and buoyant, activating the public realm with their sublime presence.

As you approach, the work becomes tremendously complex, as the phenomenally high level of detail and precision with which the circles are made unveils itself. The work draws you in, inspiring a sense of amazement that shifts from the power of the simple forms, to the impressiveness of the repetition behind the mass customization of the mosaics. The jury enthusiastically supports not only the vision of the artist, but the entire team that made this work possible.



Photo credit: Steven Evans Photography

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE ELEMENTS

EAST POINT PARK BIRD SANCTUARY PAVILIONS

East Point Park

Project Team

PLANT Architect Inc.
Architects

PLANT Architect Inc.
Landscape Architects

Blackwell
Engineer

Developer/Owner/Client

City of Toronto Parks Forestry
and Recreation

Contractor

Hawkins Contracting Services Ltd.
General Contractor

Iron Bridge Fabrication Inc.
Steel Fabricator

Jury Comment

This project demonstrates an admirable level of restraint in its simple palette of materials and its very limited imprint on an otherwise wild, somewhat secluded landscape. The pavilions themselves—formed from folded, perforated Corten steel sheets—are simple, well-proportioned shelters. They include a viewing station and a blind, which fit comfortably on the edge of a pond that supports a diverse plant and bird habitat.

The design of the structures is simple, elegant, robust and precisely detailed. At the viewing station, the perforated patterns—including silhouettes of flocking birds and the species names of the vast number of birds present in the sanctuary—add an element of lightness and transparency.

All in all, this is a beautifully handled element within a landscape that all Torontonians should add to their must-see list.

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

PRIVATE BUILDINGS IN CONTEXT
— LOW-SCALE

BRANKSOME HALL ATHLETICS AND WELLNESS CENTRE

10 Elm Avenue

Project Team

MacLennan Jaunkalns Miller Architects
Architects, Interior Design, Signage & Wayfinding

PMA Landscape Architects Ltd.
Landscape Architects

Blackwell Structural Engineers
Structural Engineers

Smith + Andersen
Mechanical Engineers, Electrical Engineers

MGM Consulting Inc.
Civil Engineering

&Co
Planning Consultant

Developer/Owner/Client

Branksome Hall

Contractor

Gillam Group
Construction Manager



Photo credit: Shai Gil

Jury Comment

Although this building has a large square footage, its sensitive placement renders it relatively discreet and appropriately scaled to its urban context. A generous bus drop-off area creates a buffer alongside Mount Pleasant Road, where the building presents a predominantly brick façade—a tough face towards a tough arterial road. However, even here, transparency is added by a glowing revamped pedestrian bridge, transparent second-story fitness area, and full-height clerestories that bring daylight to the lower-level swimming and rowing pool.

The complex includes not only the aquatic hall, but also a competition-height volleyball gymnasium and dining hall that serves the student body, all adjoining a ravine site subject to conservation regulations. A sensitive deployment and stacking of these large volumes allows the building to accommodate the needed functions with only a minor variance to the existing zoning. The new building's placement also frames a series of small courtyards with the existing structures on the site, giving a proto-urban feel to the west side of the Branksome campus.



AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

PRIVATE BUILDINGS IN CONTEXT – MID-RISE

383 SORAUREN

383 Sorauren Avenue

Jury Comment

383 Sorauren is a residential design that exemplifies a range of strong urban design characteristics. The massing of the 10-storey building continues and extends the scale of the existing loft buildings on Sorauren Avenue to the south, and participates in the transition of scales from the low-rise residential neighbourhood on the west side of the street to the mid-rise scale that continues to develop towards the east.

The two-storey townhomes that address the street ensure animation and activity at the street-edge. Critical to their success is the landscaping treatment that encloses the front-facing private courtyard areas and provides a semi-private space for residents that is very much in the public realm. As the landscape matures, there will be a better level of privacy for the users of these spaces. The diagonally slanted corners of the building give it a distinctive character. The open brick frame of the top storey represents a creative solution to maintaining the street edge, while simultaneously stepping back the mass of the building to reduce the presence of the upper-storey units.

Project Team

architectsAlliance
Architects

NAK Design Strategies
Landscape Architects

Able Engineering Inc.
Mechanical and Electrical Engineer

Jablonsky, AST & Partners Inc.
Structural Engineer

Johnson Chou
Interior Design

Developer/Owner/Client

Gairloch Developments

Contractor

Bluescape Construction
Management Inc.

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

PRIVATE BUILDINGS IN CONTEXT
— MID-RISE

THE BROADVIEW HOTEL

106 Broadview Avenue

Project Team

ERA Architects Inc.
Architects

Atkins + Van Groll Inc.
Structural Engineer

Novatrend Engineering
Mechanical and Electrical Engineer

Design Agency
Interior Design

Marcel Dion Lighting Designer
Lighting Design

Ridley
Windows

Developer/Owner/Client

Streetcar Developments

Contractor

Phoenix Restoration
Heritage Contractor



Photo credit: Marcus Mitanus

Jury Comment

The Broadview Hotel is an example of a strong corner building, addressing both Queen Street East and Broadview Avenue. This finely executed restoration and renovation is notable for the care that has been focused on a heritage asset. It is also noteworthy as a building that re-contextualizes an appropriate scale and mass for the continued development and renewal of the Queen Street East neighbourhood.

The integration of a new three-storey addition at the north end of the building introduces a contrasting architectural character with a careful massing, resulting in a balanced overall effect. The hotel program—hearkening back to the original use of the structure—will be a strong resource for the local community and will broaden the range of commercial and residential functions that are currently flourishing in the area. Of particular note is the dramatic nighttime lighting design, which celebrates the rich three-dimensional character of the masonry façades.



Photo credit: doublespace photography

Jury Comment

Queen Richmond Centre West is noteworthy for the manner in which it maintains the form and identity of two existing loft buildings. A new atrium bends through the development, providing gracious public access to the interior, while extending and maintaining the legibility of the existing buildings on all four of their sides.

The dramatic angled columns that punctuate the atrium, while remarkable as sculptural objects, gain integrity through the added purpose of supporting the new construction that seemingly floats above the existing buildings. The material contrast between the glass façades that enclose the new construction and the masonry of the existing buildings establishes a clear identity for the upper volume. Finally, the spatial separation between the new and old structures establishes separate identities for the components, while adding complexity and character to the visual ensemble.

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

PRIVATE BUILDINGS IN CONTEXT – TALL

QUEEN RICHMOND CENTRE WEST

134 Peter Street

Project Team

Sweeny & Co Architects Inc.
Architects

NAK Design Strategies
Landscape Architects

Mulvey & Banani International Inc.
Electrical Engineer

The Mitchell Partnership Inc.
Mechanical Engineer

Stephenson Engineering Ltd.
Structural Engineer

Ecovert
LEED Consultant

Walters Group Inc.
Steel Fabricator

Cast Connex
Structural Steel-Cast Node

Developer/Owner/Client

Allied Properties REIT

Contractor

Eastern Construction

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN CONTEXT

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY, SCARBOROUGH CIVIC CENTRE BRANCH AND CIVIC GREEN

156 Borough Drive

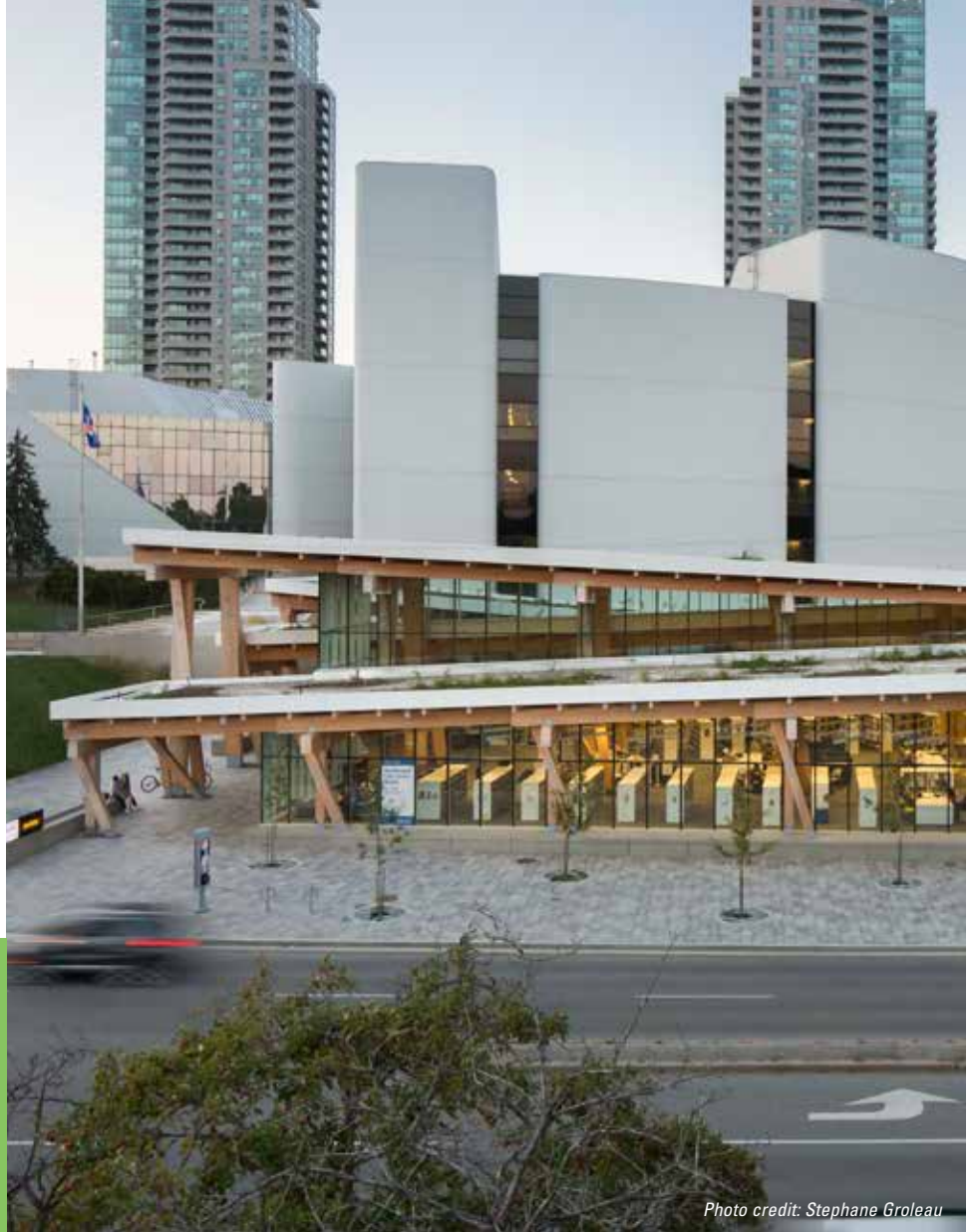


Photo credit: Stephane Groleau

Project Team

LGA Architectural Partners
Phillip H. Carter Architects
in Joint Venture
Architects

STLA a division of FORREC
Landscape Architects

Blackwell Structural Engineers
Structural Engineer

Enso Systems Inc.
Mechanical and Electrical Engineer

Fabian Papa & Partners Inc.
Civil Engineer (branch)

Urban Watershed Group
Civil Engineer (green)

Phillip H. Carter
Heritage Consultant

Developer/Owner/Client

Toronto Public Library

City of Toronto

Contractor

Aquicon Construction

Jury Comment

This low-slung library activates an important edge of the superblock that houses the monumental Scarborough Civic Centre. It relates to the Civic Centre through the gentle curvature of its form, deferring to the larger structure while echoing its curved volumes. Both buildings share a muscular quality, interpreted in the contemporary materials of their time—concrete in the case of the Civic Centre, and canted, large-scale glulam columns and beams in the case of the library.

The library faces a wooded area and is sited to preserve a mature stand of trees; its wood columns are visible from all sides through extensive glazing and visually continue the rhythm of the tree trunks. A significant investment in the library's green roof was apparent to the jury, producing a verdant "fifth elevation" that can be seen from the approach to the Civic Centre along the north edge of the library, as well as from surrounding tower apartment blocks. The jury admired the clean-lined, formally landscaped park that fronts the building, providing a generous, green approach to both the library and the Civic Centre.



Photo credit: Snøhetta

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN CONTEXT

RYERSON UNIVERSITY STUDENT LEARNING CENTRE

341 Yonge Street

Jury Comment

This contemporary, signature building creates a strong urban gateway to Ryerson University, marking the campus' presence in the heart of downtown Toronto. Its south-facing plaza holds the corner, yet is also inviting: a geometric-tiled canopy provides a sheltering ceiling in "Ryerson blue," while broad, sunny steps are well-used by students and passers-by. The invitation up and into the building is continued throughout the project. By programming the building as public, and not as a building exclusive to the Ryerson community, the school has made a powerful statement about its location on Yonge Street and how it can contribute to the public realm.

The jury noted that the geometric patterns on the façade give the building a seemingly opaque skin from the outside, while maintaining an open feel from inside. To the west, the building continues the retail storefronts of Yonge Street. Overall, the building has a youthful, engaging feel that is appropriate to Ryerson University and to its downtown context on Yonge Street.

Project Team

Zeidler Partnership Architects
Executive Architects

Snøhetta
Design Architect / Design Landscape Architect

Ferris + Associates Inc.
Executive Landscape Architect

Yolles, a CH2M Hill Company
Structural Engineer

Crossey Engineering Ltd.
Mechanical, Electrical and Telecom Engineer

Aeroustics Engineering Ltd.
Acoustical Engineer

R.V. Anderson Associates Ltd.
Civil Engineers

exp. Services Inc.
Geotechnical Engineer

CEL Gruen Sustainability Group
LEED Consultant

Bousfields Inc.
Planner

Consullux Lighting Consultants
Lighting Design

Developer/Owner/Client

Ryerson University

Contractor

EllisDon Corporation

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

SMALL OPEN SPACES

JOEL WEEKS PARK

10 Thompson Street

Project Team

Janet Rosenberg & Studio, Inc.
Landscape Architects

exp. Services Inc.
Civil, Mechanical, Electrical Engineer

Halsall Associates
Structural Engineer

Mary Ann Barkhouse & Michael Belmore
Artists

Office for Urbanism
Community Facilitation

GreenFuse Design
Consulting-Community Garden Planting

Eventscape
Public Art Fabricator

Creative Irrigation Solutions Inc.
Irrigation Consultant

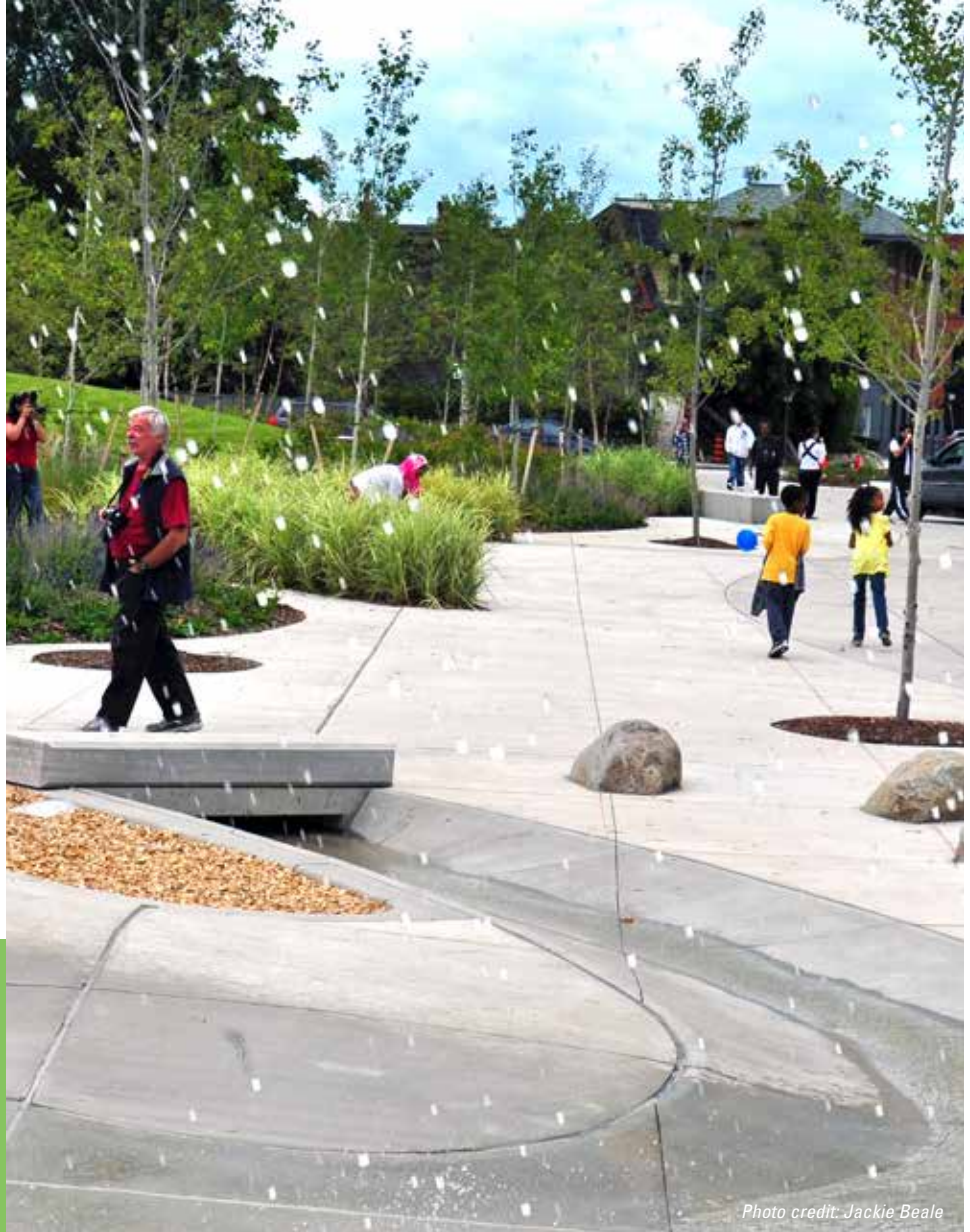
Central Tree Care
Arborist

Developer/Owner/Client

City of Toronto: Parks Forestry & Recreation
Department with Toronto Community
Housing Corporation

Contractor

Pine Valley Enterprises Inc.



Jury Comment

While the jury was initially drawn to the imagery of the Don River as interpreted in the park's water feature, it is the complex layering of strong forms that delivers the brilliance of this community space.

The park has been well-organized into sections with distinct uses. Spaces for play, gathering, sport and sanctuary are layered and defined by beautifully detailed planters and strong plant species selection. A simple and well-proportioned grassy berm allows the active zone at the north end of the park to be both visually and acoustically separated from the quiet, shaded spaces at its south end. This formal move makes the dense urban park feel gracious and welcoming to the vibrant residential community that rings the block. It is too simple to call this park an asset to the community. It is an essay in the profound humanity that well-designed landscaped spaces bring to urban living.



Photo credits: Brett Hoornaert

Jury Comment

This project is an ambitious and unequivocally public undertaking that sets out to frame and connect an equally ambitious neighbourhood development that will evolve over several years. The scope of the project—including streetscape design, pedestrian-first woonerfs, parks and public art—is handled cohesively on a neighbourhood scale.

Four stated drivers guided the design team: sustainability, innovation, landscape and public art. The designers were tasked with delivering the public realm first, ahead of the residential and mixed-use development blocks. This strategy—along with the strong urban design that has been evidenced—results in a public realm that will be the connective tissue that holds the neighbourhood together as it densifies, and gives it an inherent sense of place.

The generous and well-detailed sidewalks, playful public art, intermittent landscape and play elements within the linear park, and strong linear tree plantings give a legibility and clear identity to the neighbourhood.

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

LARGE PLACES AND/OR
NEIGHBOURHOOD DESIGNS

WEST DONLANDS PUBLIC REALM

Mill Street, Front Street, Eastern Avenue,
Cherry Street, Cooperage Street, Rolling
Mills Road, Tannery Road, Palace Street,
Trolley Crescent, Underpass Park

Project Team

The Planning Partnership with PFS Studio
Landscape Architects

Cole Engineering, SCS Consulting, R.V.
Anderson Associates Ltd., MMM Group
Infrastructure Engineer

Hammerschlag & Joffe
Lighting

Golder
Geotechnical

Quinn Dressel
Structural

Jill Anholt Studio, Paul Raff Studio, Jennifer
Marman and Daniel Borins with James
Khamisi, Tadashi Kawamata, Mark di Suvero,
Scott Eunson and Marianne Lovink, Hadley
+ Maxwell
Artists

&Co
Urban Design

ERA Architects
Heritage Consultant

Smart Watering Systems
Irrigation

Developer/Owner/Client

Waterfront Toronto, City of Toronto,
Infrastructure Ontario, Dundee Kilmer
Developments

Contractor

EllisDon Corporation / Ledcor, UCC Group
Inc., CRCE Construction Ltd., Aldershot
Landscape, Eastern Construction

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

LARGE PLACES AND/OR
NEIGHBOURHOOD DESIGNS

QUEENS QUAY BOULEVARD, CENTRAL WATERFRONT

Queens Quay West between Yonge Street
and Yo-Yo Ma Lane

Project Team

West 8 + DTAH in Joint Venture,
Landscape Architects

ARUP

Civil, Municipal, Transportation and Design Engineers

WSP/MMM Group

Site Engineer

TSL Consulting + Design Group Ltd.

Electrical, Streetlighting and Signalization

WSP Global (Parsons Brinckerhoff Halsall Inc.)

Structural

James Urban and Associates

Urban Forestry

A.W. Hooker Associates Ltd.

Quantity Surveying

BA Group

Traffic Management

Smart Watering Systems

Irrigation

DPM Energy Inc.

Utility Coordination

LVM Franz and Golder Associates

Environmental and Geotechnical

Developer/Owner/Client

City of Toronto

Waterfront Toronto

Contractor

Eastern Construction Company Ltd.



Photo credit: Waterfront Toronto

Jury Comment

The redesign of Queens Quay Boulevard clarifies the multiple modes of transportation that occupy the boulevard. Through a process of condensing and compressing the space used by car traffic, additional space is created for adjacent public and commercial functions, including a streetcar corridor, cycle lanes, and enlarged sidewalks.

The distinct material palette associated with each mode of movement ensures the clear identity of each zone, and allows for the flattening of the pedestrian plane (via curbless edges) between the adjacent layers of movement. The design's sensitive but robust details draw on a graphic iconography celebrating Canadian and nautical themes, resulting in an unusually coherent, multi-layered urban realm. These are just a few aspects of this design that set a new precedent for North American urban design.



AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

STUDENT

FLEX

794 Dundas Street West

Project Team

Yupin Li

Jury Comment

It is commendable when a design student tackles a tough building typology, and exceptional when the author discovers real invention within that typology. The developer-driven world of mid-rise residential housing requires just such invention and new thinking.

This project promotes flexibility by creating multi-functional units that combine the rental and private ownership markets. Flexible spaces can be divided off as rental apartments, then absorbed back into the units as families grow, providing a high-density solution that many families require. The development of permeable and landscaped back-of-house laneway spaces is a nod to a new attitude towards the notion of livable laneways that can support increased density. All these ideas are combined in a rigorously investigated and beautifully designed project.

AWARD OF MERIT

PRIVATE BUILDINGS IN CONTEXT
— LOW-SCALE

619 QUEEN

619 Queen Street West

Project Team

Quadrangle Architects Ltd.
Architects

Vertechs
Landscape Architects

Dorlan Engineering Consultants
Structural Engineer

Integral Group
Mechanical and Electrical Engineer

Isherwood Geotechnical Engineers
Shoring

DGS Consulting Services
Specifications

Smith and Andersen
Lighting

ERA Architects
Heritage

Developer/Owner/Client

Hullmark Developments Ltd.

Contractor

First Gulf Developments



Jury Comment

By recreating the façade of a heritage building destroyed by fire, this infill project presents a unique approach to Queen Street's Heritage Conservation guidelines. Simply detailed, the sleek metal panels—with the image of the previous building composed through various-sized perforations—is clearly evocative of the site's past, while being unapologetically contemporary.

The jury applauds not only the design acumen of the team, but also the amount of restraint required to create just the right amount of texture to contrast with the façade's minimal details. It is important to recognize new forms of craftsmanship, such as the digital fabrication used for these panels. The synergy that is achieved in this case—by also referencing the craftsmanship of the past through imagery—elevates this work above its peers.



Photo credit: Scott Norsworthy

Jury Comment

This is a beautifully detailed project that shows the potential of infill to incrementally elevate the design quality of the city. Red brick window frames give the façade an unusual depth, while relating to the proportions of neighbouring structures. Just beyond these frames, an interior three-storey atrium brings light deep into the building.

A ground-floor retail space reinforces a pattern of street-related uses established throughout the neighbourhood. The care taken with detailing continues on the storefront, with bespoke handrails, shop entrance, and display windows adding to the contemporary, yet quietly conservative character of this design—a style that will endure well over time. The architectural craft of this building exemplifies how a small, low-scale private building can contribute to a broader streetscape and neighbourhood.

AWARD OF MERIT

PRIVATE BUILDINGS IN CONTEXT
— LOW-SCALE

URBAN INFILL IN THE VILLAGE OF YORKVILLE

92a Scollard Street

Project Team

Shim-Sutcliffe Architects Inc.
Architects

Blackwell Structural Engineers
Structural Engineer

BK Consulting Inc.
Mechanical and Electrical Engineers

Haddad Geotechnical Inc.
Geotechnical Engineering

David Hine Engineering
Building Code

EE Stairs America Inc.
Stair

Custom Millwork Solutions Inc.
Millwork

Two Degrees North Inc.
Custom Furniture

Torp Inc.
Windows & Doors

ERA Architects Inc.
Heritage Consultant

Developer/Owner/Client

Greg and Tony Sharp

Contractor

Duffy and Associates

AWARD OF MERIT

PRIVATE BUILDINGS IN CONTEXT
– TALL

RIVER CITY – PHASE 2

51 Trolley Crescent

Project Team

Saucier+Perrotte Architectes / ZAS
Architects in Joint Venture
Architects

The Planning Partnership
Landscape Architects

Adjeleian Allen Rubeli Ltd.
Structural Engineer

Smith + Andersen
Mechanical and Electrical Engineer

WSP / MMM Group Ltd.
Sustainability

Developer/Owner/Client

Urban Capital

Contractor

Bluescape Construction
Management Inc.

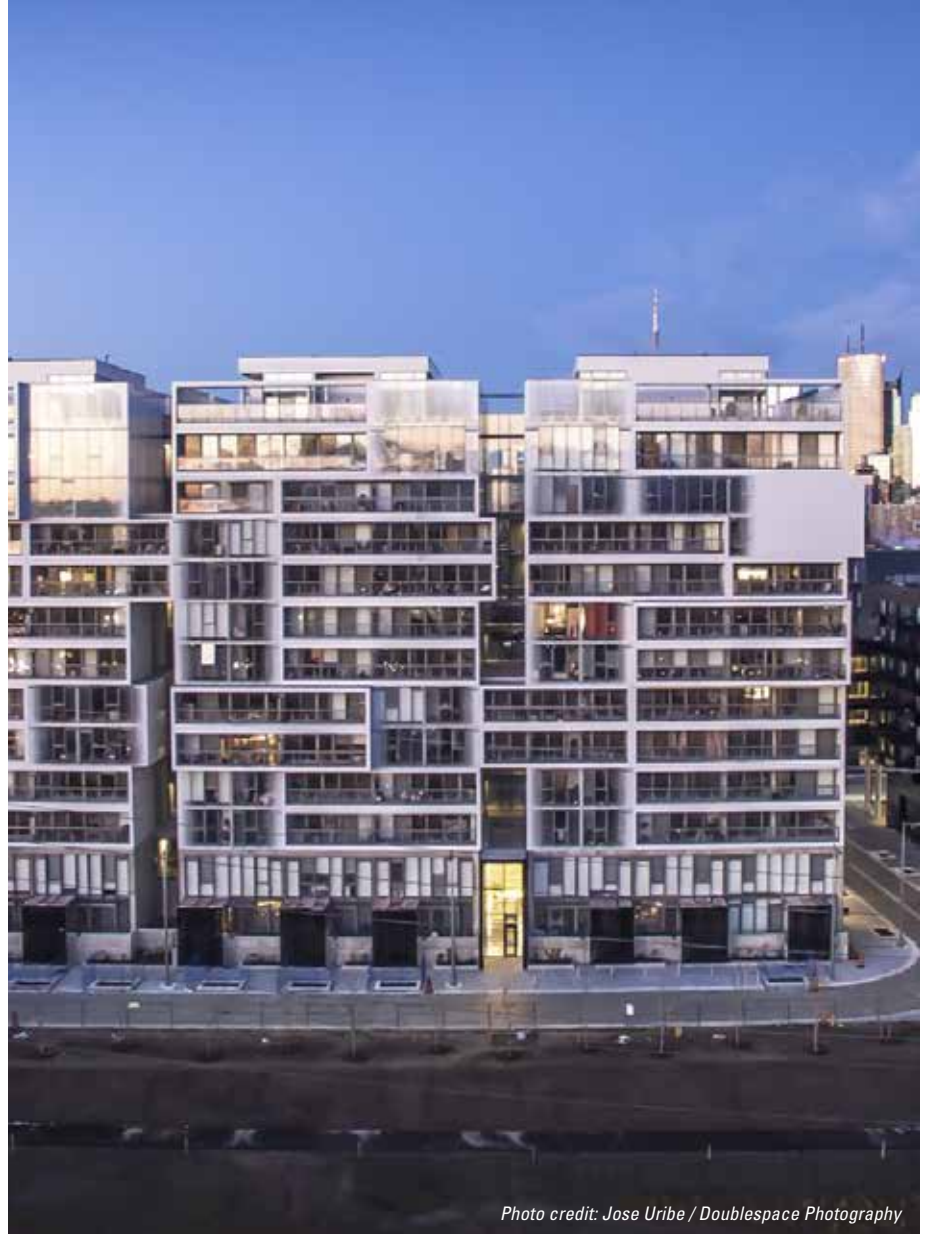


Photo credit: Jose Uribe / Doublespace Photography

Jury Comment

River City Phase 2 participates in the urban design fabric of the city at three distinct scales. At the macro scale, the striking condominium building acts as a gateway to a new residential precinct on the west side of the lower Don Valley. The white boxes that cantilever out from the east face of the structure are legible from a distance, reading as well-composed foreground elements against the plane of the façade.

At the intermediate scale of the neighbourhood, the building marries well with the form and character of the district. The distinct white colour of Phase 2 contrasts with the black of River City's Phase 1 building, while the consistency of the design ensures a unity and coherency for the entire development. It is anticipated that this effect will be reinforced by the completion of the 3rd and 4th phases of the project.

The project's strong urban design features can also be seen at the pedestrian scale, where the building interfaces with the sidewalk. Features such as the black-mirrored porches that screen the private space on the façade at the street edge, and the cast-in-place concrete base of the building create a tactile environment that interacts well with the character of the sidewalk and pedestrian-friendly street.



Photo credit: Tom Arban

Jury Comment

The courtyard and public art at this new condominium project in Toronto's South Core stood out to the jury as noteworthy aspects of the development. The courtyard is a well-designed public space with a refined palette of materials, and is finely detailed and consistent throughout. The water feature, paving, custom seating and birch grove provide a beautiful backdrop for exquisite public art that successfully holds the space. The ground level of the condominium itself—both in its open glazed sections and the opaque utility sections—is designed and properly scaled to complement the courtyard.

Currently, the courtyard seems to be used infrequently and is somewhat difficult to access, as it is tucked in the intersection of two side streets. However, it is part of an emerging public realm in this part of downtown, and will become an important open space as the development of South Core continues, and as the thousands of people that will be living and working in the area discover it.

AWARD OF MERIT

SMALL OPEN SPACES

ICE CONDOMINIUMS AT YORK CENTRE

12-14 York Street

Project Team

architectsAlliance
Architects

NAK Design Strategies
Landscape Architects

Jablonsky, AST & Partners Inc.
Structural Engineer

The HIDI Group
Mechanical and Electrical Engineer

Vong Phaophanit + Claire Oboussier
David Trautimas
Artists

Munge Leung
Interior Design

Public Art Management
Art Consultants

Developer/Owner/Client

Lanterra Developments / Cadillac Fairview

Contractor

Lanterra Developments

AWARD OF MERIT

LARGE PLACES AND/OR
NEIGHBOURHOOD DESIGNS

FRONT STREET REVITALIZATION

Front Street West between York and
Bay Streets

Project Team

AECOM
Landscape Architects

AECOM
Engineer

T2 Utility Engineers
Subsurface Investigations

HH Angus & Associates
Streetlighting Photometrics

DTAH
Material Selection Input

Environmental Assessment

Planning Partnership & LEA Consulting Ltd.

Developer/Owner/Client

City of Toronto, Transportation Services /
City Planning

Contractor

EllisDon Corporation



Jury Comment

The central section of Front Street, including the public realm associated with Union Station and the Royal York Hotel, has been skillfully redesigned to embrace its role as one of the city's most important precincts. With a restrained palette of high-quality materials and a clear intention to balance pedestrian movement with that of vehicles (without one dominating the other), this urban streetscape now works seamlessly from building face to building face.

Broad sidewalk areas, flush curbs, parking lay-bys, designated crossings, pedestrian-scale lighting and street tree plantings are all perfectly integrated.

The project also demonstrates an ambition to improve upon conventional road cross-sections and traffic planning. This effort has been carried through with resolve, resulting in a vastly improved and memorable public realm for the many thousands of visitors that see Toronto for the first time as they step out of Union Station.



Photo credit: Geoff Grenville

AWARD OF MERIT

LARGE PLACES AND/OR
NEIGHBOURHOOD DESIGNS

BRIDGEPOINT ACTIVE HEALTHCARE

14 St. Matthews Road

Jury Comment

The design of the public realm surrounding the newly constructed Bridgepoint Active Healthcare is a positive addition to the neighbourhood that clearly and sensibly guides future development for the site. The site is organized as a nine-square grid, with the historic Don Jail at it's centre. The jail has been restored and adaptively reused as a hospital administration/research centre, with an interior community space accessible through both front and back doors. The main hospital sits to the northwest of the site, occupying two squares of the grid adjacent the Don Valley.

A formal park fronts the jail building, while the main entrance to the hospital enjoys a forecourt that maintains a single grade by blending pedestrian and vehicular traffic areas—an appropriate strategy that makes the outdoors more accessible to rehabilitating patients. To the north, a series of terraces step down to connect the hospital with Riverdale Park.

The design also delineates three parcels that will serve for future development, in anticipation of later institutional growth. In the interim, these parcels are left as open green spaces: they are accessible for community use, and are continuous with the precinct's permanently landscaped parcels.

Project Team

Stantec Architecture, KPMB Architects
Planning, Design and Compliance Architects

HDR Inc., Diamond Schmitt Architects
Design, Build, Finance and Maintain Architects

PFS Studio
Landscape Architects

The Mitchell Partnership Inc.
Mechanical Engineer

Aeroustics Engineering Ltd.
Vibration, Noise, Acoustic Engineer

Urban Strategies Inc.
Urban Planning

R.V. Anderson Associates Ltd.
Site Servicing

BA Consulting Group
Traffic

Golder Associates
Environmental

Archeological Services
Archeological

Bruce Tree Expert Tree Co. Ltd.
Arborist

ERA Architects Inc.
Heritage Consultant

Developer/Owner/Client

Bridgepoint Health, Ministry of Health and
Long Term Care, Infrastructure Ontario

Contractor

PCL Constructors Inc.

AWARD OF MERIT

VISIONS AND MASTER PLANS

SIX POINTS INTERCHANGE RECONFIGURATION

Bloor Street & Kipling Avenue

Project Team

SvN
Architects

SvN
Landscape Architects

HDR Corporation
Engineer

Moon Matz Ltd.
Electrical and Illumination

LGL Ltd.
Environmental

Multiview
Subsurface Utilities

Archeoworks
Heritage Consultant

Developer/Owner/Client

City of Toronto



Jury Comment

This important project aims at providing an exemplary pedestrian environment in an area that previously was entirely vehicle-oriented. While the real test of the project's success will be in the detailed design and execution to come, the plan is to be commended for its commitment to a full-scale reconfiguration of a complicated web of streets that currently pass over and under each other, rather than intersecting.

By rethinking how this network of streets can work at grade, the designers have set the stage for the emergence of a public realm that includes pedestrian-friendly ambitions, great street continuity, opportunities for stronger street tree planting, and increased adjacent development blocks and parkland. It should be seen as a precedent-setting plan that reclaims city streets from being treated as highways and reimagines them as functional and engaging public realm amenities.



AWARD OF MERIT

VISIONS AND MASTER PLANS

REGENT PARK LIVING LANE

Regent Park Blocks 16 & 17

Project Team

Brook McIlroy
Architects

Brook McIlroy
Landscape Architect

BA Group
Engineer

Developer/Owner/Client

Toronto Community Housing Corporation,
The Daniels Corporation

Jury Comment

This pilot project envisages creating a laneway that's more than a second-tier servicing corridor, and instead encourages pedestrian use, bicycle activity, and social functions. The plan includes streetscape design, with elements such as catenary lights, tree clusters, permeable paving, seating areas, and bespoke "bike forest" racks.

Importantly, the design also extends to the adjacent buildings: aligning service and parking entrances, including bike repair shops and storage rooms flanking the lane, and planning for live/work units and offices to look down onto it. The intention is to provide animation through active use, as well as a measure of safety by deploying the principle of Jane Jacobs' "eyes on the street."

If successful when built, this prototype could be replicated in part or in whole for both existing and new developments. It has the potential to become a valuable precedent in the ongoing discussion of how to best use the city's vast network of service lanes.

AWARD OF MERIT

STUDENT

GREENING ST. JAMES TOWN

St. James Town

Project Team

Thevishka Kanishkan

Camila Campos Herrera



Jury Comment

This dramatic landscape proposal takes the new typology of the curbless woonerf as the structure of an expanded public realm in St. James Park, and merges it with an organic landscape form informed by Toronto's ravines. The bold proposal not only adds to the amount of landscaped area in the park, but brings urbanity into the ravine by physically connecting the expanded park and the ravine system. Further investigations into how the new landscaped areas can work with the existing structures—and what it means to bring the ravine into the urban world—are this project's next steps.



Photo credit: Andrew Williams

AWARD OF MERIT

SPECIAL JURY AWARD FOR
URBAN ACTIVATION

THE HEARN: LUMINATO FESTIVAL 2016

440 Unwin Avenue

Project Team

PARTISANS
Architects

Blackwell Structural Engineers
Structural Engineer

Luminato Festival
Production Team

Charcoal Blue
Theatre Consultant

LRI Engineering Inc.
Code

Developer/Owner/Client

Luminato Festival

Contractor

Luminato

Jury Comment

During the 2015 Luminato Festival, the decommissioned Hearn power station was used as a venue for a set of late-night concerts. In 2016, it became the central venue for the performing arts festival, with events including seated performances, parties, and a variety of artistic installations. To accommodate this expanded use, the massive industrial building was equipped with a series of interventions, such as a restaurant, a theatre, and the world's largest disco ball. Circulation through the site was masterplanned to accommodate pedestrian, cycling and transit routes.

The jury commends the organizers and designers for choosing The Hearn as the venue for this arts festival, and thereby making it widely accessible to Torontonians. The decision to hold Luminato at The Hearn brought the building into the conversation about the eventual adaptive reuse of the structure, as well as advancing the broader discussion of future development in the Port Lands. This vast area on the edge of Toronto is set to be a major site for downtown expansion, and its long-term plan currently envisages the continued existence of The Hearn as a central landmark.

2017 JURY MEMBERS



DAVID ANSELM Director, Real Estate for Canada Lands Company CLC Limited, OALA, FCSLA

David Anselmi is Director, Real Estate for Canada Lands Company CLC Limited, an arms-length, self-financing federal Crown Corporation owned by the Government of Canada. Canada Lands purchases surplus federal properties at fair market value, improves them and sells them in order to optimize their financial and community value. Canada Lands also holds and operates selected assets such as the CN Tower in Toronto.

Canada Lands Company and Downsview Park have recently amalgamated whereby Canada Lands has direct responsibility for the Real Estate development of the Downsview Lands, leveraging their experience and proven track record in community building.

Downsview Park itself consists of 231.5 ha (572 ac) of land in the north-west quadrant of the City of Toronto, and in the heart of the Greater Toronto Area. The vision for Downsview Park is to create a great urban community, combining significant public open space, recreation and cultural activities with residential and mixed-use neighbourhoods.

David's primary responsibility is for the overall planning, design and implementation of all aspects of the Downsview Lands and the execution of capital projects throughout the site and its 1.7 million square feet of existing buildings. David is also involved in Real Estate planning and development activities on other projects throughout the Ontario and Atlantic Provinces region of Canada Lands.

David is Chair of the City of Toronto Public Art Commission, a member of the Toronto Community Housing Design Review Panel, a member of the City of Mississauga Urban Design Advisory Panel, and a past member of the Nathan Philip Square Revitalization Public Advisory Committee. David was an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design from 1990-1997, A Past President of the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects from 1996-1998 and a Fellow of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects.



ELSA LAM Editor, Canadian Architect

Elsa Lam is editor of Canadian Architect magazine. She holds a doctorate in architectural history and theory from Columbia University, completed under the supervision of Kenneth Frampton and Vittoria di Palma. She previously studied architectural history at McGill University and architectural design at the University of Waterloo.

Lam was the 2012 winner of the Phyllis Lambert Prize for writing in architecture, awarded for her doctoral dissertation "Wilderness Nation: Building Canada's Railway Landscapes, 1885-1929." The dissertation explores the role of Canada's railway hotels, western national parks and other railway-sponsored buildings and landscapes in forging a sense of national identity.

Lam has written extensively for architecture and design magazines, as well as collaborating on the editing and writing of several books. Previous to her role at Canadian Architect, she worked with the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montreal. She is currently co-editing a book on modern and contemporary Canadian architecture since 1967, to be published by Princeton Architectural Press.



GARY McCLUSKIE Principal, Diamond Schmitt Architects

Gary McCluskie is a Principal with Diamond Schmitt Architects. In over twenty-five years with the firm, he has led the design of award-winning cultural, institutional and residential buildings with a focus on public and assembly spaces.

He is currently leading the design team (in collaboration with Heatherwick Studio) for the re-creation of David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center, the home of the New York Philharmonic in New York City. The design brief calls for the new concert hall and public spaces to support the evolution of the symphonic art-form for the next 50 years, and to engage both new audiences and new technologies.

A significant focus of Gary's work has been the design of performing arts spaces, where design themes have explored creating a community within the performance spaces as well as reimagining the engagement of the building within the urban context. He was the Managing Principal for the Four Seasons Centre for

the Performing Arts in Toronto; Montreal's concert hall, La Maison Symphonique; Sidney Harman Hall in Washington D.C.; the New Mariinsky opera house in St. Petersburg, Russia; and the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, a four-stage venue in St. Catharines, Ontario that opened in 2015. And most recently, the Lyric Theatre at the Toronto Centre for the Arts opened in 2017, where the innovative design wraps the audience with interactive LED lighting to extend the immersive character of the stage to the entire audience chamber.

Gary also designs libraries, where the evolution of this building type in the age of digital media has led to designs that refocus the institution in support of a broader range of community activities. Completed projects include the academic e-learning library in North Bay, and the Gerstein Library at the University of Toronto. Two projects currently under construction continue the exploration of these themes: the Robarts Common, a new wing to Robarts Library at the University of Toronto that focusses exclusively on the creation of 1200 study spaces; and the renovation of the North York Central Library, a re-imagining of Toronto's busiest branch library to include additional individual and group study spaces as well as public access to emerging technologies such as 3D printing.

He has also led the design of other public building types including city halls, such as the LEED Gold certified administration building in Cambridge, Ontario; recreation facilities including the community-focused McCormick Community Centre in Toronto; and museums including the interactive environment of the Weston Innovation Centre at the Ontario Science Centre.

Many of his projects have been recognized with design awards including the Governor General's Medal for the Richmond Hill Library, the Award of Excellence from the Ontario Association of Architects for the Etobicoke Memorial Pool, and the American Library Association Award for the Pierre Berton Resource Library as the best public library in North America.

BETSY WILLIAMSON M.Arch, OAA, FRAIC, Principal, Williamson Williamson Inc.

Betsy Williamson is a principal in the architectural design studio Williamson Williamson, an office committed to using both built and unbuilt work as vehicles to explore contextual specificity, materials research, fabrication methods and diverse issues of sustainability.

Betsy is a registered architect with the Ontario Association of Architects and a Fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. Through her years of experience in small award winning design firms, Betsy brings to the profession her enthusiastic commitment to architectural practice and high quality design. She has developed expertise in detail clarity and creative solutions balanced by focused project management skills.

Betsy received a Master of Architecture from Harvard University and a Bachelor of Arts with Honors in Architecture from Barnard College. Her office's work has been awarded the 2014 Emerging Architectural Practice Award by the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada and the 2014 Emerging Voices Award by the Architectural League of New York. Betsy was also named a finalist for the Architects' Journal 2015 Emerging Woman Architect of the Year Award. In its early days her office was awarded the Ronald J. Thom Award for Early Design Achievement from the Canada Council for the Arts and won the Canadian Prix de Rome for their research in the field of innovative wood construction.

Betsy continues to foster her commitment to engaging the city in a greater capacity through volunteer work on a number of boards and committees. As a member of the Waterfront Toronto Design Review Panel, she actively contributes to a culture of quality at an urban scale by signaling that high quality design is a critical consideration for the development of Toronto's waterfront and the city.

Her work with the RAIC's Age Friendly Housing Task Force addresses the responsibility of the architectural profession to create design solutions that assist older individuals to live well and safely in their community of choice. Her office's work has engaged this subject directly over the years, having done a number of intergenerational homes on small lots in Toronto that have allowed families to address this important issue.

Betsy is also a tireless advocate for equality in the profession. With a group of like-minded architects, she founded and professionally advises BEAT, Building Equality in Architecture Toronto. BEAT is dedicated to the promotion of equality by creating events and web content for the advancement of women in the profession and by providing mentorship, networking and leadership opportunities.



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