



2023

TORONTO URBAN DESIGN AWARDS

JURY REPORT



FOREWORD

Toronto continues to be one of the most desirable places to live and one of the fastest growing cities in North America. The development activity is intense and easily identifiable by the ever-changing skyline. Hundreds of cranes across the skyline serve as daily reminders of the busy pace of development within the city. In the past five years we’ve seen more than 100,000 new residential units and over three million square metres of non-residential building space added to Toronto.

Homes and jobs alone don’t make a great city. The quality of the public realm, streets, parks and open spaces and the buildings that frame these spaces contribute significantly to the livability of the city. As Toronto’s population continues to grow, new and enhanced places and amenities for residents and visitors are needed and are being delivered.

We acknowledge and celebrate the pursuit of design excellence through growth and development by the City and by the design and development communities as acknowledged and celebrated through the Toronto Urban Design Awards.

City building is a collaborative process and the Toronto Urban Design Awards recognize the visionaries, policy makers, proponents, and planners, the design community and the builders who are all ultimately building a better Toronto for today and for future generations.

Growth brings challenges around affordability, equity, connectivity, sustainability and resilience. We are all invested in working together for a common goal – to make Toronto the best that it can be for everyone. Beautiful and sustainable buildings, comfortable and safe streets for walking and cycling and connections to transit and green spaces are essential to building a climate adapted and resilient city. High quality urban design present in all corners of the city contributes to the creation of an inclusive and equitable Toronto. Great public spaces support social interactions and casual encounters, allowing people to be comfortable outdoors and to enjoy the spaces and experiences that make a great city.

The projects recognized by Toronto Urban Design Awards contribute significantly to the quality and design excellence of our built environment. This year, we received 84 submissions in nine categories. The Jury met in May to review and deliberate on the submissions and visit the extensive short list of projects. The Jury created a Special Jury award for Community Activation and selected 10 projects to receive an Award of Excellence, and 10 projects to receive an Award of Merit. Congratulations to all the award recipients!

The Toronto Urban Design Awards are made possible through the generous support of sponsors and the efforts of a small team of enthusiastic City staff that delivers the program. The team prepares promotional materials, reaches out to potential sponsors, compiles all the submissions, facilitates the jury process, prepares the Jury Report and organizes the awards presentation.

We thank all those who have made the 2023 Awards program possible: the groups who prepared the excellent submissions, the Jury of esteemed professionals who contributed their time and expertise, dedicated City staff, our generous sponsors and City Council for their continuous and long-standing support of design excellence.

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Chief Planner & Executive Director

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September 2023

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AWARD CATEGORIES

The City of Toronto accepted entries for the 2023 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 Private Buildings in Context category consists of three subcategories 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 five 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.



AWARD CATEGORIES

■ 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 and/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 community 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.



The Oculus Revitalization, Photo credit: Doublespace Photography

JURY STATEMENT

Our great city of Toronto continues to evolve as a major centre for excellence in urbanism. With nearly 285 cranes dotting our skyline, there is an endless array of construction activity at every turn, and the vigor that permeates our city is clear. There is no wonder that great work is being produced at every level. From small place-making spaces, to community impactful developments, to projects that repair or positively contribute to the city’s fabric, each project in its own way has added to the overall quality and character of Toronto.

This year’s 84 submissions represent a wide range of scales and complexity, each contributing to the quality of the urban fabric. The Jury was generally pleased with the variety of the submissions, and encouraged by the direction of many of these projects. The city is evolving in a compelling way. The built form is reflecting our cosmopolitan ambitions while balancing our utilitarian needs as a diverse group of people, with a range of lifestyles and means. However, while the Jury saw entries with ambitious public realm designs aiming to serve the diverse needs of communities and contribute to a high quality of life, the Jury would like to be clear regarding our shared concern for the civic responsibility we have as designers of the public realm to promote greener streetscapes that are more performative from an ecosystem perspective.

The Jury spent a day together, touring many of the built projects and concluded with the shared opinion that “Seeing is Believing”. To view a project in person and really understand it in its context is the only way to appreciate its nuances. This includes how a project responds to its program, the street, as well as the neighbourhood, and thus how it contributes to the broader city. It was clear from the site visits, that successful urban design goes beyond just the beautiful design of a building or place, it has an impact on our society. This may be achieved either by mitigating the effects of global warming through sustainable approaches, or by creating cultural impact through the enhancement of the urban fabric where the streets become occupied, activated, and connected.

While some projects promoted interesting planting models and the deployment of important species that tune into lifecycle design, fundamentally, we need more green spaces. The most impactful projects are those that have successfully integrated the built form and public realm, and in which the public realm was most enhanced, and thus enjoyed.

It is evident that Toronto needs better performing green spaces: designed with ecological integrity; aimed to achieve more sustainable as well as resilient typologies; and models that improve our city. We need to think of this city and its streets more as a series of ecological conduits that connect urban ecosystems and direct our stormwater into a tapestry of sponges and robust green ribbons. Simply put, the application of street trees, green infrastructure, and the enhancement of the public realm is essential. The importance of addressing the public realm needs to be emphasized, along with the way it contributes to the surrounding context, and enhances the pedestrian experience.

We are at a critical time for urban design. It is not a choice whether to promote a greener urban fabric or not; it is an absolute necessity. We look forward to future Toronto Urban Design Award submissions better channelling this approach, and finding more innovative solutions. This applies to buildings, landscapes and all places and spaces in between.

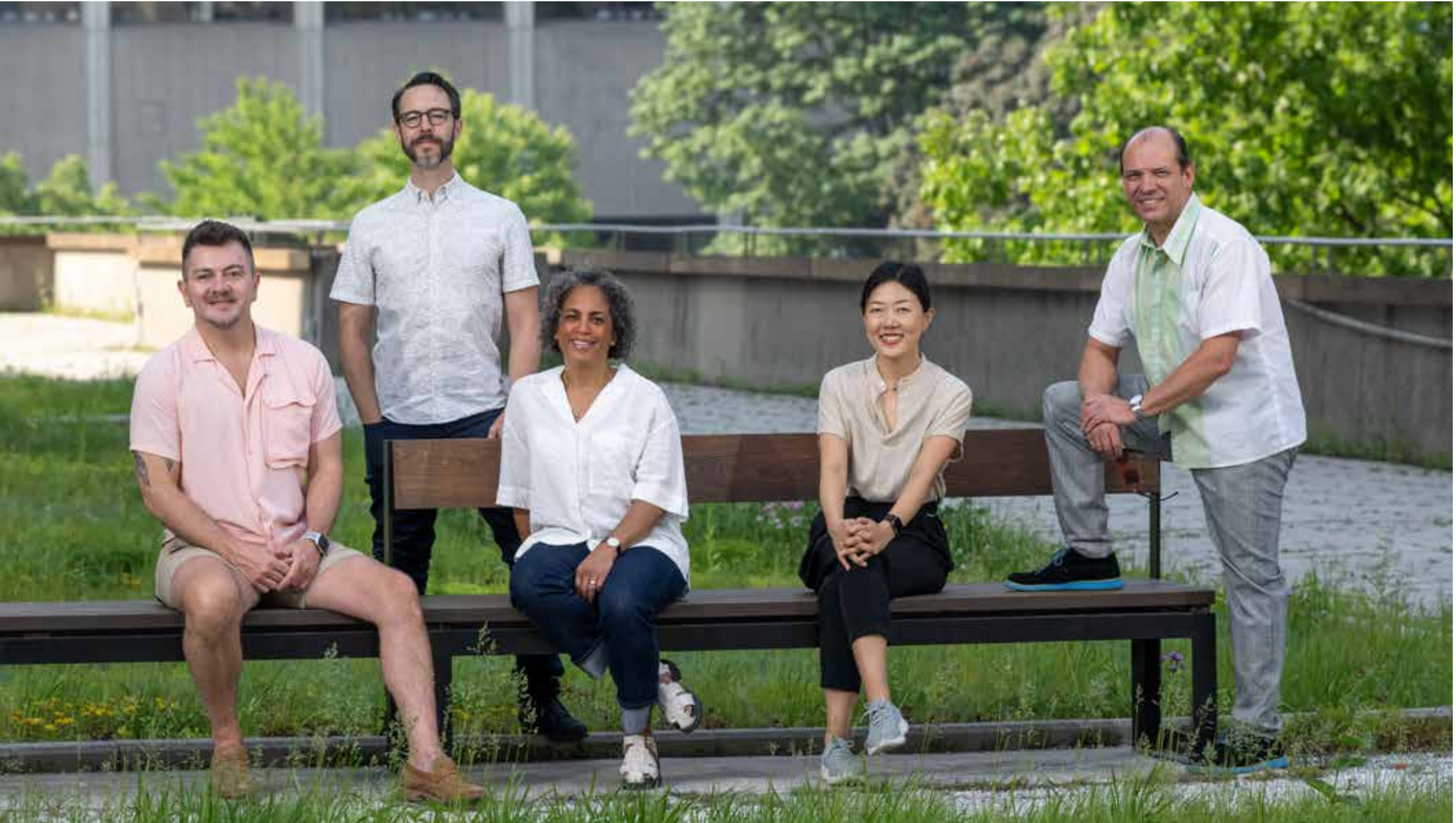
Many projects were worthy of recognition even though they may not have received an Award of Merit or Excellence. In their own right they have added to their neighbourhood in a positive way, and in some cases have been impactful to an unprecedented level, like the award-winning project RendezViews. Through art and colour, this parking lot was transformed from an unexpected space in the city into one of the most dynamic urban places where diversity, equity and inclusion are the themes.

Moreover, a significant number of projects were about connections to community, or community coming together. The Special Jury Award has been given to a project where the community rallied to protect, preserve, and repurpose a late-fifties park pavilion, The Oculus

Pavilion, nestled just north of the Lake on the Humber River Recreational Trail in South Humber Park. The community petition effort, which sought to save the pavilion by reprogramming its use with an educational focus, has made a difference, and as a result it will remain for another sixty years. A number of projects successfully addressed the ground plane and the spaces between the buildings; many created unique moments that are needed in the city, where we continue to yearn for public realms that engage us or provide a moment of respite.

Students from schools of Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Urban Design and Planning should be encouraged to continue to make high quality submissions so that we can foster the urban design professionals of the future. The Jury encourages more senior student works and thesis projects in future submissions. We strongly encourage students to participate and submit their work. Afterall, it is these idealistic concepts that may become reality in the future.

In summary, projects at times were difficult to evaluate against the awards criteria, absent contextual diagrams, drawings or street photos illustrating where and how they fit into the block or street. Some submissions tried to sway our emotions through night views and images, but where possible, projects must be powerful and impactful day or night and in all seasons. All projects must be legible for a Jury to properly evaluate; thus, proponents should consider the quality and completeness of their submissions. In the end, the recipients of the awards have demonstrated a passion for the city through their work and have successfully contributed to and enhanced the quality of the public realm of the city through design excellence.





| AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

THE DRAKE HOTEL MODERN WING 1150 Queen Street West

■ Jury Comment

The reimagined addition to the existing Drake Hotel honours the original essence and character in a way that not only preserves it well but amplifies it. Spanning across two buildings, the hotel lobby brings together all elements onto the ground plane, which become an extension of the sidewalk. The white façade of the new wing is a palimpsest that traces the Victorian era of Queen Street West.

Seamlessly sliding into the unique urban fabric of Queen Street West, the Drake Modern Wing is a perfect example of visual integration achieved by respecting the cultural and visual context of its site. This project expresses details that reveal themselves over time. With careful observation, the complex relationship between the new and the old becomes apparent through massing, materiality, and datum. The Jury specifically noted how hard it was to differentiate the “modern wing” as an addition at all.



■ **Project Team**
Architect: Diamond Schmitt
Landscape Architect: Alexander Budrevics + Associates
Structural Engineer: Blackwell
Interior: DesignAgency, +tongtong & The Drake’s in-house team
Mechanical and Electrical: BK Consulting
Sustainability: Footprint

Developer/Owner/Client
The Drake Hotel

Photographer
doublespace photography

Artists
Rotating

 [@diamondschmittarchitects](#)

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AWARD OF EXCELLENCE PRIVATE BUILDINGS IN CONTEXT — LOW-SCALE



SUMMERHILL OFFICES 1133 Yonge Street

■ Jury Comment

The retrofit of the 1133 Yonge Street building successfully demonstrates the importance of reducing embodied carbon while at the same time modernizing the architectural expression from the 1980's. In addition to notable sustainability interventions that are part of this revitalized structure, the Summerhill Offices is an exemplar of heritage conservation and transition to a contemporary era. With a new modern form, the building reflects a refreshing renewal of the heritage fabric that it is a part of and that defines this stretch of Yonge Street. It complements the adjacent railway station retrofit, together contributing to an assembly of iconic heritage assets along the street that are visibly dynamic both day and night. This building transformation is simply a beautiful example of how to capture the architectural essence of what was and bring it into a new time.

The building provides a new weightlessness to its adjacent twin building, but the architectural translation and transformation does so in a respectful way. It is not a “better than” but a new “addition to” in terms of architectural expression and contemporary contribution. The existing height, massing, and prominent horizontal lines are maintained so that it continues to belong to the group of related buildings along the street. Even the solid character of the building has been maintained, but in a different way. The solid expression is now a transparent solidity, each floor held together by the strong horizontal lines. The exterior sustainable design interventions are visibly showcased in an innovative and attractive way but are positioned so that they do not detract from the renewed front façade. The greening of the lower south façade brings the aspect of nature to the building, which further exemplifies the sustainability commitment and adds to softening of the architectural language and the adjacent parking lot. The retail street datum line is maintained and the new café at the lower ground level helps to animate the street and mitigate an often-awkward grade change. Although, it is unfortunate that a more suitable and animated use is not part of the prominent building corner and pedestrian experience at grade.



■ **Project Team**
Architect: Studio JCI
Structural Engineer: WSP
Mechanical Engineer: The Aquila Group
Electrical Engineer: Scheinman Group

Developer/Owner/Client
Clifton Blake Asset Management
Oldstonehenge Development Corporation

General Contractor
Silvercreek Commercial Builders

Photographer
Michael Muraz
Scott Norsworthy

 [@studiojci](https://www.instagram.com/studiojci)

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE PRIVATE BUILDINGS IN CONTEXT — MID-RISE



HARRIS SQUARE 21 Lawren Harris Square

■ Jury Comment

The emergence of the new Corktown neighbourhoods has been a provocative and effective study of reprogramming urban spaces, and significantly elevating our collective value. This project is beautifully designed, and while it hovers in a way that nicely engages the overpass and adjacent architecture, perhaps more interesting is how it meets the ground plane - providing building access (elevator in particular), in an exciting and whimsical sort of way, pulling a faceted metal texture to a granite walking surface, wrapping the building with a vibrant colour, and framed nicely by the streets and a seamless connection to the adjacent Underpass Park.

The Harris Square building is a very good example of an innovative and attractive play in massing, form, texture, and colour to achieve a good fit on a very tight site and to integrate with the surrounding public realm. The result is a building that sits as a landmark in the heart of the surrounding development and extends a light touch to the public realm at ground level. The positioning of the building provides an attractive terminus to the treed parkette to the south and lifts “off the ground” at the entry to allow for an open and comfortable front foyer space and a continuous flow of the pedestrian realm from the treed parkette to the underpass park. The standalone single building column at the entry feels like an integrated art piece within the space. The volume of the single mass building is broken up and tempered by the twisting of the upper floor levels, the lighter tone of the ground level canopy, and the yellow splash of colour of the lower floor levels.

Minor interventions could be introduced to improve the public realm experience including making the retail space at grade more transparent to allow for visible animation and adding more of the yellow colour to the south ground level façade to help brighten the pedestrian experience. Although the building is fronted by a robust bosque of trees in the parkette, and acknowledging below grade parking constraints, more innovative streetscaping could have been considered within the site boundary to reduce the hardscape, mitigate settling of the paving seam at the property line, and create a more seamless landscape transition to the parkette (bringing the grid of trees across the street).



■ **Project Team**
Architect: Saucier+Perrotte Architectes & ZAS
Architects and Interiors

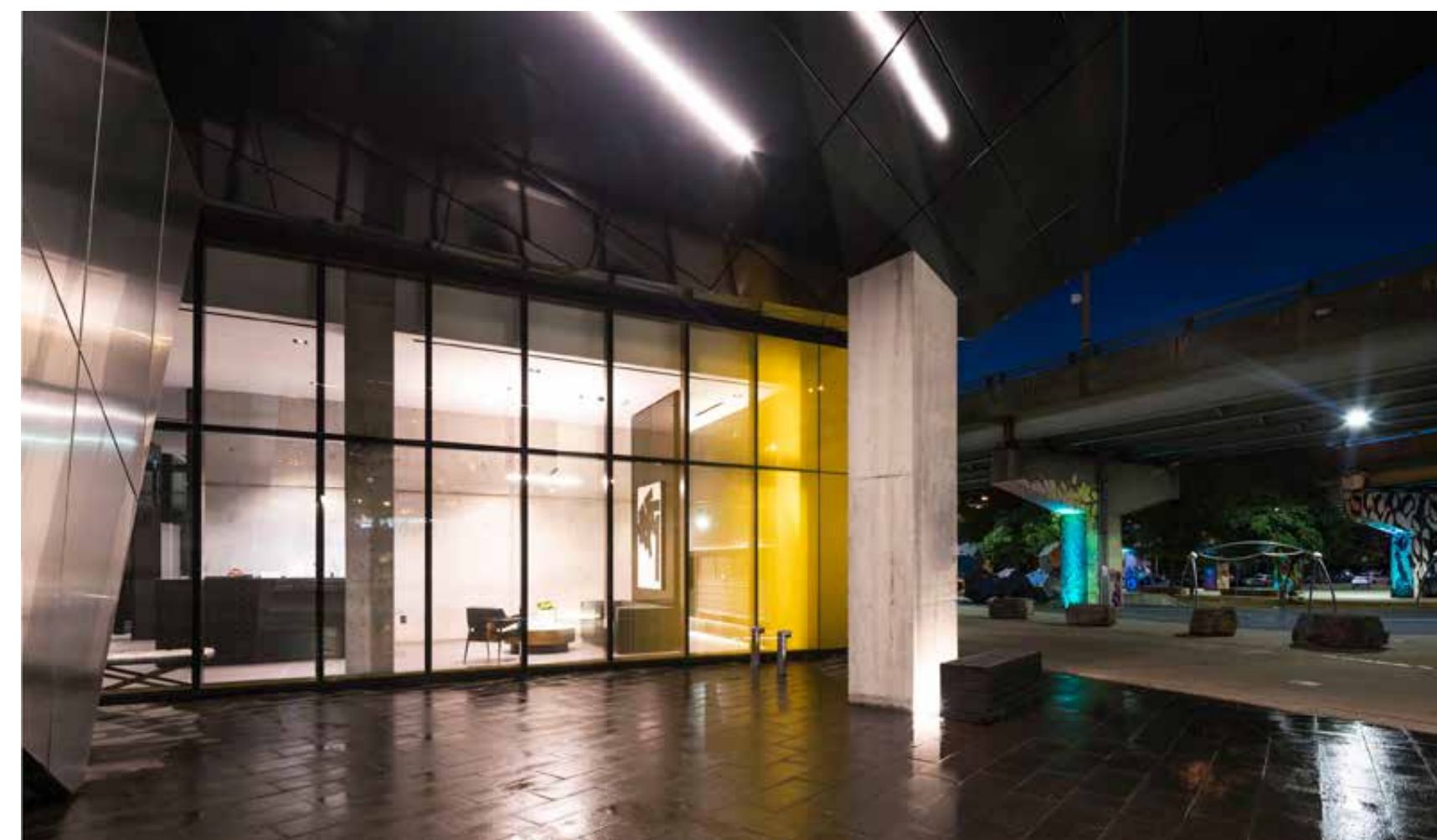
Developer/Owner/Client
Urban Capital

General Contractor
Bluescape Construction Management

Photographer
Pureblink
S+P/ZAS

 [@saucierperrotte](https://www.instagram.com/saucierperrotte)

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE PRIVATE BUILDINGS IN CONTEXT — TALL



81 BAY - CIBC SQUARE PHASE 1 81 Bay Street

■ Jury Comment

This is a beautiful, refined tower; it is a sharp and bold addition to the city's skyline. Everything about the CIBC Square building is attractive and engaging, from the unique architectural design to the integration of art, the sensitivity to quality furnishing and landscape detail, and the experiential elements of surprise in the different interior and exterior spaces. The public realm is defined by a series of quality experiences that are welcoming and comfortable. This starts with the entry plaza fronting the building with large granite seating to hang out on and enjoy the sun and street vibrancy. You are drawn into the large transparent volume of the interior open space by the beautiful, unique art within and the quality of the stone environment. If you choose to take the exterior journey ascending to the upper-level terrace, you are first captivated by the incredible view corridor along Bay Street to the waterfront. Upon entry, the experience is magical and unexpected as you are met with a beautiful, attractive, quality space with places to sit, have lunch, work, view the city, or simply lounge and take in the innovative art form of the furnishings, landscape, and art pieces. It is a true sign of successful integration within an urban city context when the public realm is so engaging and enjoyable, that the architectural form or the height of the building becomes secondary in the overall experience of place.



■ **Project Team**
Architect: WilkinsonEyre
Landscape Architect: Public Work
Planning Consultant: Urban Strategies Inc.
Architect of Record: Adamson Associates Architects

Developer/Owner/Client
Ivanhoé Cambridge & Hines

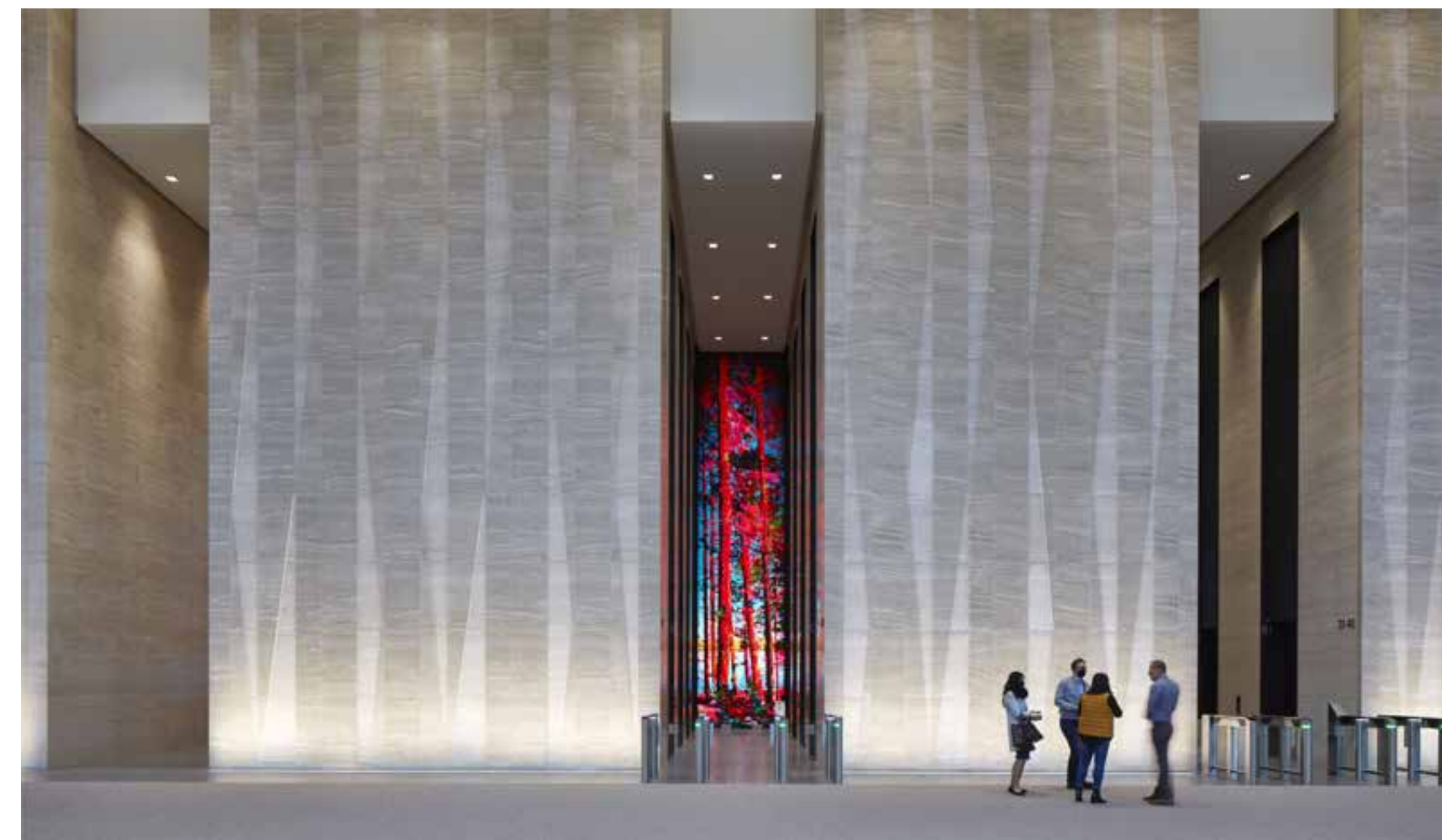
General Contractor
Ellis Don

Photographer
Sierra Curtis Photography
James Brittain Photography
Nancy Kim Photography
A-Frame Studio

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 [@WilkinsonEyre](https://twitter.com/wilkinsoneyre)

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE PRIVATE BUILDINGS IN CONTEXT — TALL



TOMMY THOMPSON ENTRANCE AND PAVILION 3 Leslie Steet

■ Jury Comment

Design is often best when it does not try to do more than it needs to. This project met the Jury with this expression: a beautiful building; scaled appropriately; built from appropriate materials; and detailed with the evolution of the site in mind. Despite its modern stature, expressive rooflines, and generally some contemporary notes, this building feels like something that might have always been here, with materials pulled from just underneath the surface, and beautiful gabion baskets to reinforce them. Simple; refined; elegant.



■ **Project Team**
Architect: DTAH Architects Limited
Landscape Architect: DTAH
Structural Engineer: Faet Lab
Electrical and Mechanical Engineer: Thomas A. Fakete Limited
Civil and Stormwater Management Engineering: SCS Consulting Group Ltd.
Ecology: North-South Environmental
Cost Consultant: A.W. Hooker

Developer/Owner/Client
City of Toronto

General Contractor
Somerville Construction

Photographer
Scott Norsworthy

 [@dtahtoronto](https://www.instagram.com/dtahtoronto)

 [@DTAHToronto](https://twitter.com/DTAHToronto)

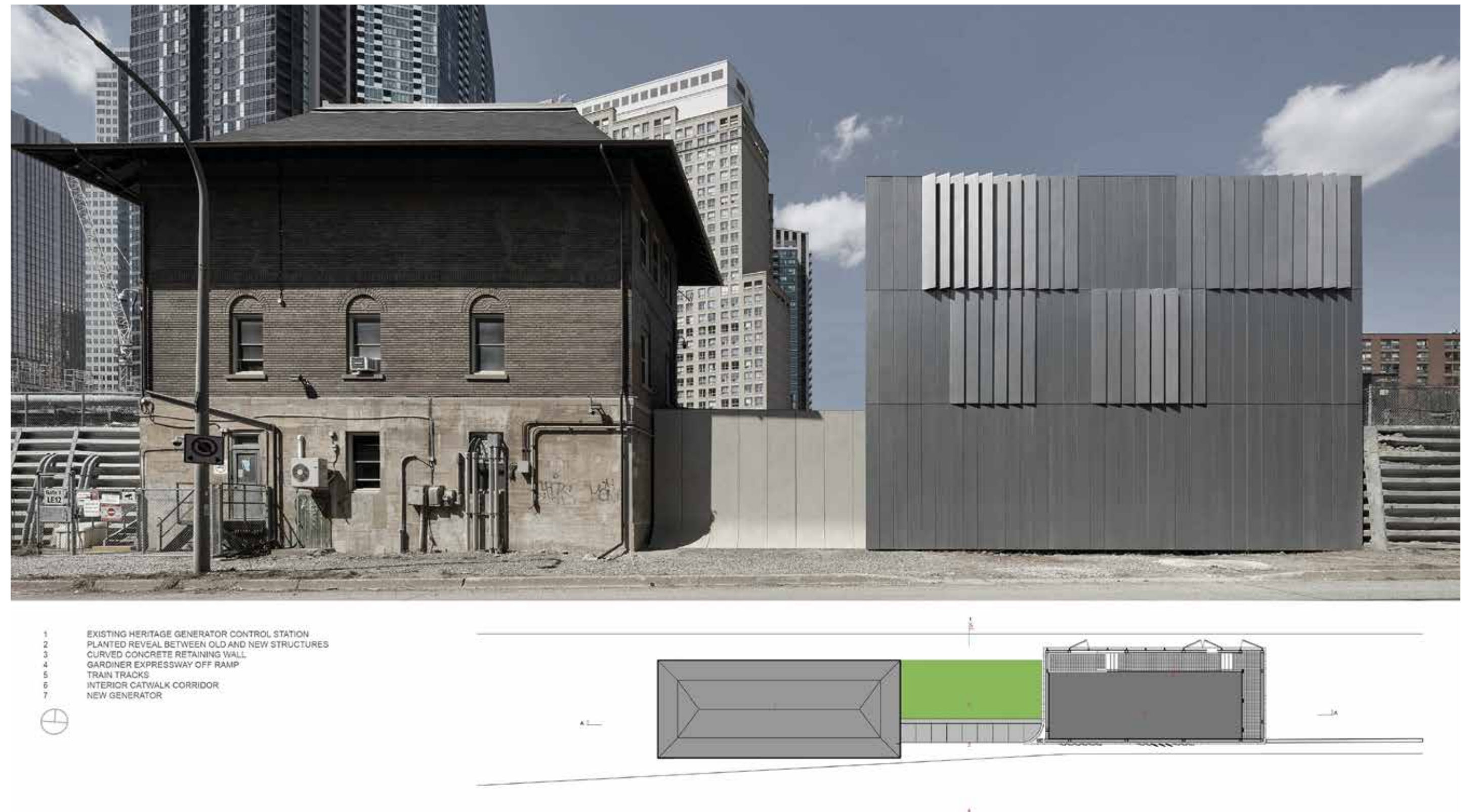


SCOTT STREET INTERLOCKING SIGNAL TOWER GENERATOR

Union Station Rail Corridor, Mile 0.30 East

Jury Comment

The newly added infrastructure enclosure is well thought out and balances the historic Scott Street interlocking signal tower. It is carefully designed to honour the historic building, while turning a functional engineering requirement into a beautiful architectural and sculptural expression at a location that could have been easily ignored. The level of detail shown in this project, including the reveal space between the old and new structures, demonstrates a sensitivity that is often overlooked for public infrastructure within the city's urban context.



Project Team
 Architect: RDH Architects (RDHA)
 Structural Engineer: Entuitive
 Mechanical & Electrical: Smith + Andersen

Developer/Owner/Client
 Metrolinx

General Contractor
 Black & McDonald

Photographer
 Tom Arban

 [@rdharch](https://www.instagram.com/rdharch)



WYCHWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD BRANCH LIBRARY RESTORATION AND ADDITION 1431 Bathurst Street

■ Jury Comment

The Wychwood Library is an exemplar of the application of core heritage conservation principles that reflect a respectful and complementary relationship between an existing heritage building and a new modern addition. It also reflects the importance and role of a well-designed, quality public realm in making this relationship successful. The heritage building is well-preserved and enhanced; it remains the prominent feature of the overall built form on the site, especially during the day. The new building addition is respectfully recessed back from the existing façade so that it does not detract from the heritage form and elements. The balance of solid and transparency also adds a lightness to the new building, in contrast to the solidity of the existing building. The materials used for the addition – in particular the dark stone emphasizes this recessed positioning and creates a quiet façade to respect the prominence of the red brick and the intricate detailing and architectural design of the existing building. In the daytime, the existing building has more presence and is obviously the architectural form that is celebrated. Conversely, at night, except for the arched entranceway, the existing building almost disappears into the darkness, giving room for the new addition to be centre stage as it glows as a beacon along the street.

The design of the public realm brings the old and new built form together by creating a cohesive context, using a simple palette of quality hard and softscape materials that are complementary to both building styles. The neutral colour and materiality of the hardscape is continuous to the base of the heritage building, which helps to ground the building in place and create a sense of calm ground plane. Even the choice of plant material is well thought through, using red maples that provide a green contrast in the summer and are a complementary to the building in the fall, together with a simple mass planting of purple flowering sage adjacent to seating which creates a welcoming visual and sensual experience for those using the front plaza. The public realm along the adjacent side street is planted with linden trees which will achieve a canopied gateway that is additive to a very green neighbourhood. The rear of the building provides an element of surprise in which the hipped roof tower form and stack of the heritage building is remarkably framed and accentuated by the grey stone and structure of the new built form.



■ **Project Team**
 Architect: Shoalts & Zaback Architects Ltd.
 Landscape Architect: The Scott Wentworth Landscape Group Ltd.
 Engineer: H.H. Angus & Associates Ltd.
 Heritage Consultant and Collaborating Architect: Philip Goldsmith Architect
 Structural Engineer: RJC
 Civil Engineer: Josselyn Engineering

Developer/Owner/Client
 Toronto Public Library

General Contractor
 Steelcore Construction Ltd.

Photographer
 Doublespace Photography

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN CONTEXT



BLOOR-ANNEX BIA PARKETTES

320 Robert Street, 290 Major Street,
306 Brunswick Avenue & 2 Howland Avenue

Jury Comment

The urban rhythm in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood is expressive, dynamic, and tight; there is always something exciting going on. This rhythm brings an energy that required some space to properly appreciate; few chances to linger on sidewalks that are extremely well-used and require a gaited shuffle to successfully navigate. These parkettes take some of this pressure off the street edges, and find moments on the intersecting corners to program for those more passive moments that currently are not well-documented along this corridor.

There are beautiful details in this project worthy of noting as well, and these subtle moments were appreciated by the Jury. The bike rings designed by students; the public process of the murals; the targeting of quarry offcuts, to purpose an element otherwise destined for discarding, giving home and purpose to an otherwise unvalued material; and the timbers, having originated from Honest Ed's, being repurposed as passive elements of our public realm, geared now toward pedestrian comfort, and taking pause on the otherwise vibrant is also a thoughtful detail that the Jury appreciated.

This project was appreciated simply for what it is, and what it is doing for the public realm, but these little details, and some of those thoughtful moments, collectively are what made this project award worthy.



■ **Project Team**
Landscape Architect: DTAH
Artist: Robert Cram

Developer/Owner/Client
City of Toronto
Bloor-Annex BIA

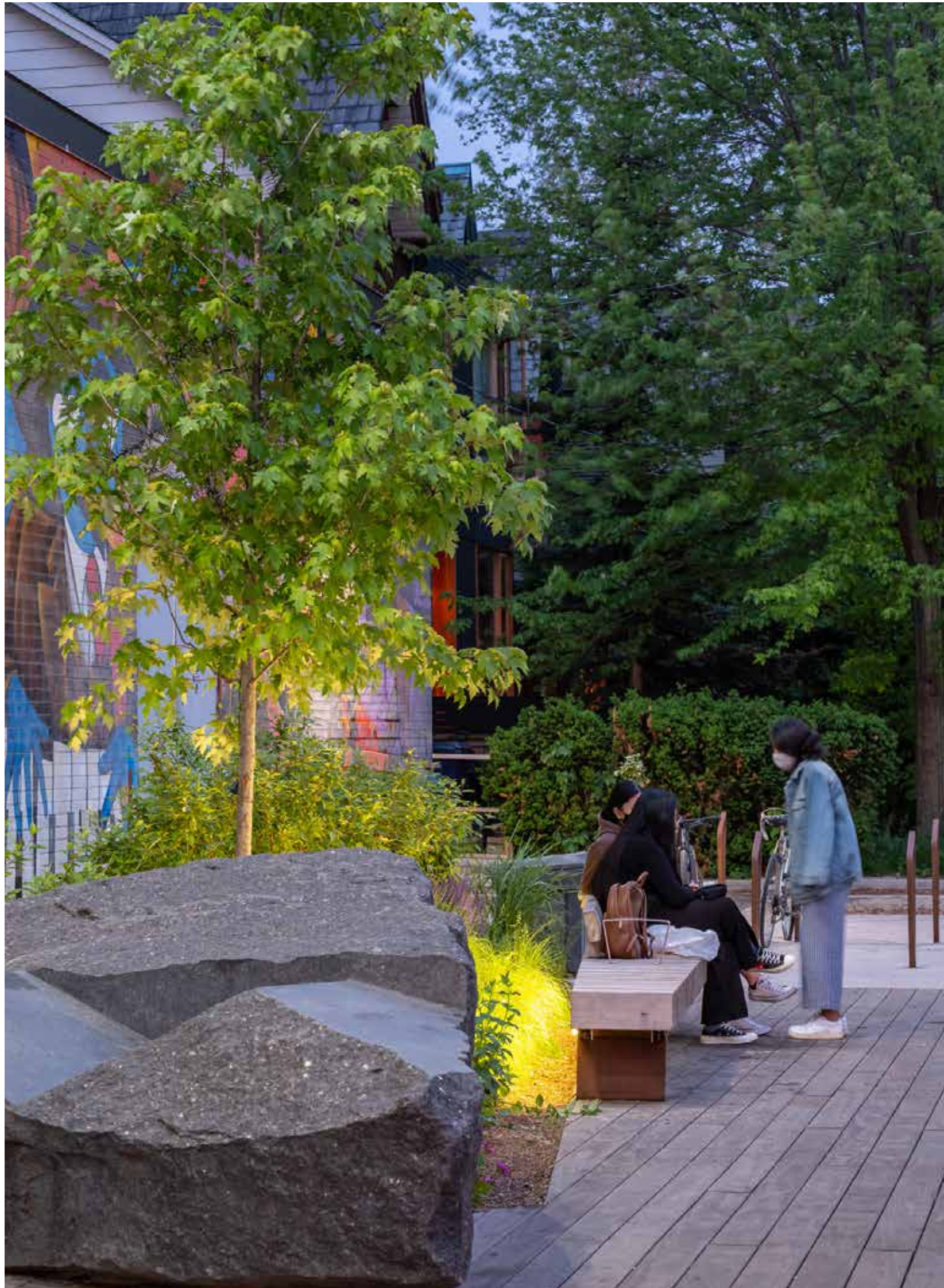
General Contractor
Sanscon Construction Ltd.

Photographer
Scott Norsworthy

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AWARD OF EXCELLENCE SMALL OPEN SPACES



RENDEZVIEWS 229 Richmond Street West

■ Jury Comment

This simple and colourful installation of picnic tables and paint has transformed, on a granular level, a left-over parking lot in the core of Toronto in a way that is unexpected. RendezViews exemplifies what can be achieved when we prioritize spaces for people to gather on the sidewalk level through minimal design.

This is a perfect example of “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it” and that we do not have to do everything everywhere. The vivid tonality of this project, and the fundamental ideas of slowing, sitting, and appreciating is something that we need more of in Toronto. This project is stunning; its vibrancy and simplicity supports this.



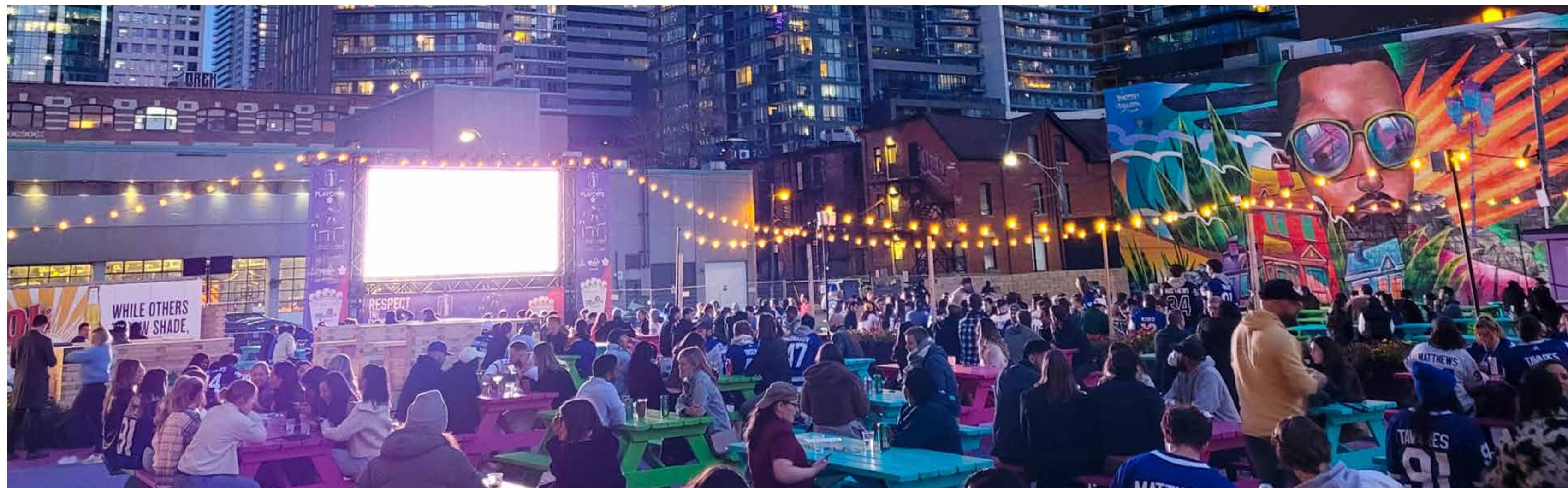
■ **Project Team**
Architect: Oliver Geddes, The Fifth Group
Artist: Bruno Smoky + Shalak Attack

Developer/Owner/Client
Oliver Geddes, The Fifth Group

Photographer
Curtis Messam

 [@rendezviewsto](https://www.instagram.com/rendezviewsto)

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE LARGE PLACES AND/OR NEIGHBOURHOOD DESIGNS



DOWNSVIEW FRAMEWORK PLAN Downsview Airfield Toronto

■ Jury Comment


This is truly an extremely inspirational project. If built as envisioned, it could reset how larger tracts of land can be comprehensively designed around resiliency and climate change. The approach is sophisticated with its layers of systems that each relate to the other, while contributing to the larger whole. The nature focused “green spine” will bring the community together, offering a unique dedicated pedestrian open space. It has the potential to be the “highline” at grade. Our hope is the future interventions, and that implementation is commensurate with the framework, with quality architecture, and dynamic landscapes thus resulting in a rich urban neighbourhood. The key to the success of the site will be for developers and the like to be strongly kept to the principles, goals and vision of the site.



■ **Project Team**
Architects: Henning Larsen (Urban Design); KPMB Architects (Architecture)
Planning: Urban Strategies Inc.
Landscape Architects: SLA
Engineers: BA Group (Transportation), Transsolar (Energy)
Municipal Infrastructure: ARUP
Equity Advisors: Monumental Projects Inc.
Sustainability: Ramboll (Climate Resilience), Purpose Building

Public Engagement: Third Party Public,
The Department of Words & Deeds
Indigenous Engagement: Nbisiing Consulting Inc.
Communication Design: Future Simple Studio

Developer/Owner/Client
Northcrest and Canada Lands Company

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AWARD OF EXCELLENCE VISIONS AND MASTER PLANS





PLANT IT FORWARD 144 King Street East

■ Jury Comment

Whimsical, playful, and unique are three words that describe the Plant It Forward installation, temporarily located at the south end of St. James Park. The work exuded whimsy and wheelbarrows in a unique and functional combination of garden tools, as well as plantings. The installation created a sense of place, fitting into a stretch of King Street East while sparking joy for streetcar riders and pedestrians alike. The seating structure cleverly disguised itself as a wheelbarrow race and a trellis all at once, while the plantings climbed the structure to provide shade from the southern sun. This installation extended the living space and the living vegetation of the park proper onto King Street, enticing our city to stop, sit, and smile.



■ Project Team
Artist: John Notten

Developer/Owner/Client
City of Toronto

General Contractor
John Notten

Photographer
John Notten

 [@johnnotten](#)

 [@johnnotten](#)

 [@johnnotten](#)

AWARD OF MERIT ELEMENTS



URBAN FIRE BENCHES Bloor Street

■ Jury Comment

It is beautiful when an element can do so many things for the public realm. Not only do we need more seating in the city, but we need seating that is more engaging, and promotes better opportunities for social interaction. These benches are designed in such a way that we can gather inwards, or gaze outwards, promoting a variety of social engagement opportunities within the vibrant Bloor Street corridor between Church and University Avenue.

Beyond the engaging seat itself, it gathers us around a tree, exploiting the benefits of the canopy overhead. The variety of leaf area provides a diversity of dappled shade throughout the corridor and a range of experiences.

This was already exciting as an urban element in the city; however, the incorporation of dynamic lighting, which can be choreographed to represent the theme of the day, brings a warmth and calmness to an otherwise frenetic street, and they invite you into them with the lights acting as beacons.

Lastly, the design incorporated some repurposed granite elements of the street that were not being used the way they were intended, and through this repurposing have found their place as granite bookends to these curved benches. A beautiful outcome that ties together different design intentions through the decades.



■ **Project Team**
Architect: Dialog, DTAH
Electrical Engineer: Mulvey & Banani
Design Lead: Mulvey & Banani Lighting

Developer/Owner/Client
Bloor-Yorkville BIA

General Contractor
Somerville Construction

Photographer
Osvaldo Sepulveda, Mulvey &
Banani Lighting

 [@Mulvey & Banani Lighting](#)

 [@mulveyandbananilighting](#)

 [@mulveybananiMBL](#)

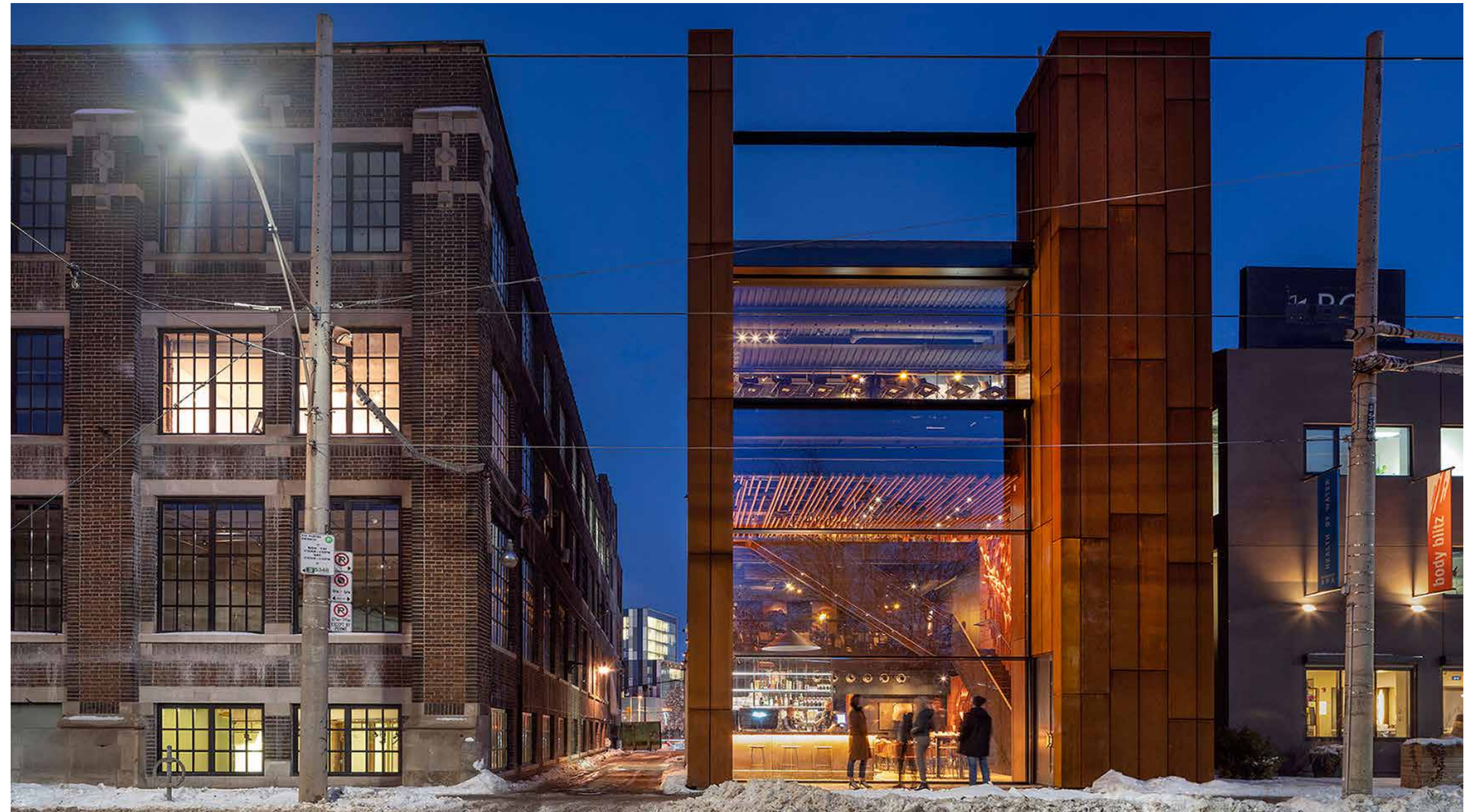


GUSTO 501 501 King Street East

■ Jury Comment

Gusto 501 is one of the most beautiful restaurants in the city and is a great addition to King Street East. The transparency of the façade itself is a “billboard” for the eatery; through this transparency, the ground floor animates the street and invites you in. The massing and scale are compelling as well as compatible to the neighbouring architecture; the building blends in well yet has its own presence on the street. The oscillating façade responds well to all seasons as a result of the large-glazed ground level. Rising up, the transparent façade and dynamic interior visually activate the streetscape on, literally, multiple levels. The diaphanous ground floor allows the threshold of interior and exterior to disappear, and with that blurs the urban realm. The structure and weathering steel is in harmony with the interior materials creating a warm inviting atmosphere, enticing you to visit. The composition is simple, vibrant, and visually dynamic.

From an equity and inclusion perspective, it is at odds with the layered stair arrangement. Of note, and of high concern to the Jury, the building is not accessible beyond the ground floor.



■ **Project Team**
Architect: PARTISANS
Engineer: Blackwell Structural Engineers
MEP: BK Consulting
Masonry Engineer: PICCO Engineering

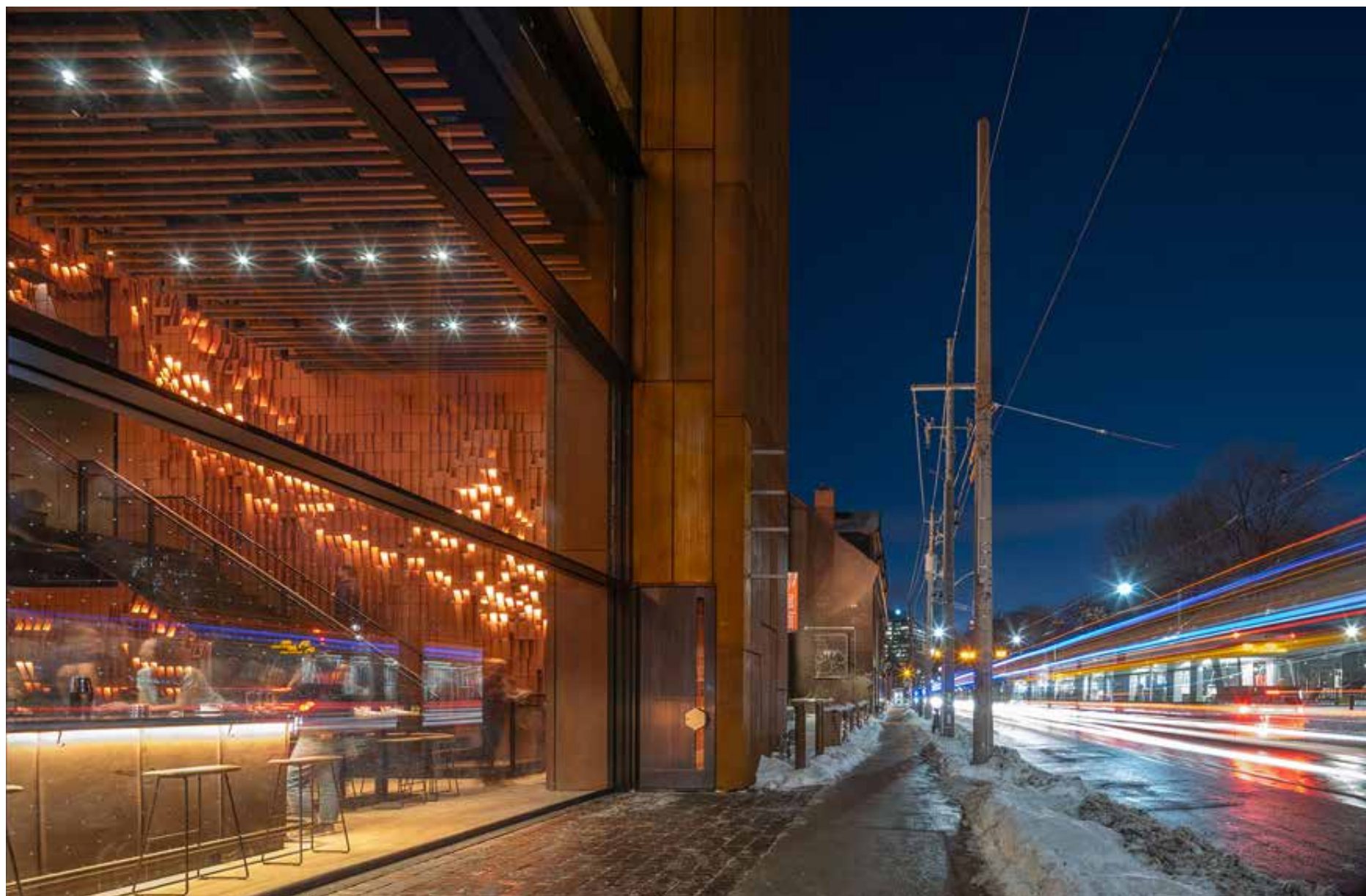
Developer/Owner/Client
Gusto54 Group

General Contractor
Boszko & Verity Inc.

Photographer
Nic Lehoux
PARTISANS

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AWARD OF MERIT PRIVATE BUILDINGS IN CONTEXT — LOW-SCALE



THE BROADVIEW TERRACES 377 Broadview Avenue

■ Jury Comment

The transformation of these properties is astounding, and the Jury would have loved to have seen images of the original façades to truly understand how this ultimate change came about. Ingeniously, this simple screen ties the three properties in a way that gives it new life while adding to the dynamism of the street. The simple moves by the design team resulted in an upgrade to the “missing middle” housing needs of the city and for this they should be applauded.

The new skin and layered façade add to a beautiful massing that fits in well with the existing context. The angled metal screens play off each other – they are well-crafted pieces that add depth to the building’s fenestration. Conversely, the layered rear compositions, with a similar colour palette, add private roof terraces for the residents, thus creating their own private oases within the service rear. The decision to retain the existing structures is the simplest sustainable approach.



■ **Project Team**
Architect: Studio JCI
Structural Engineer: Blackwell Structural Engineers
Mechanical and Electrical Consultant: The Aquila Group

Developer/Owner/Client
K'nexx Management and Consulting Inc.

Photographer
Scott Norsworthy
Michael Muraz

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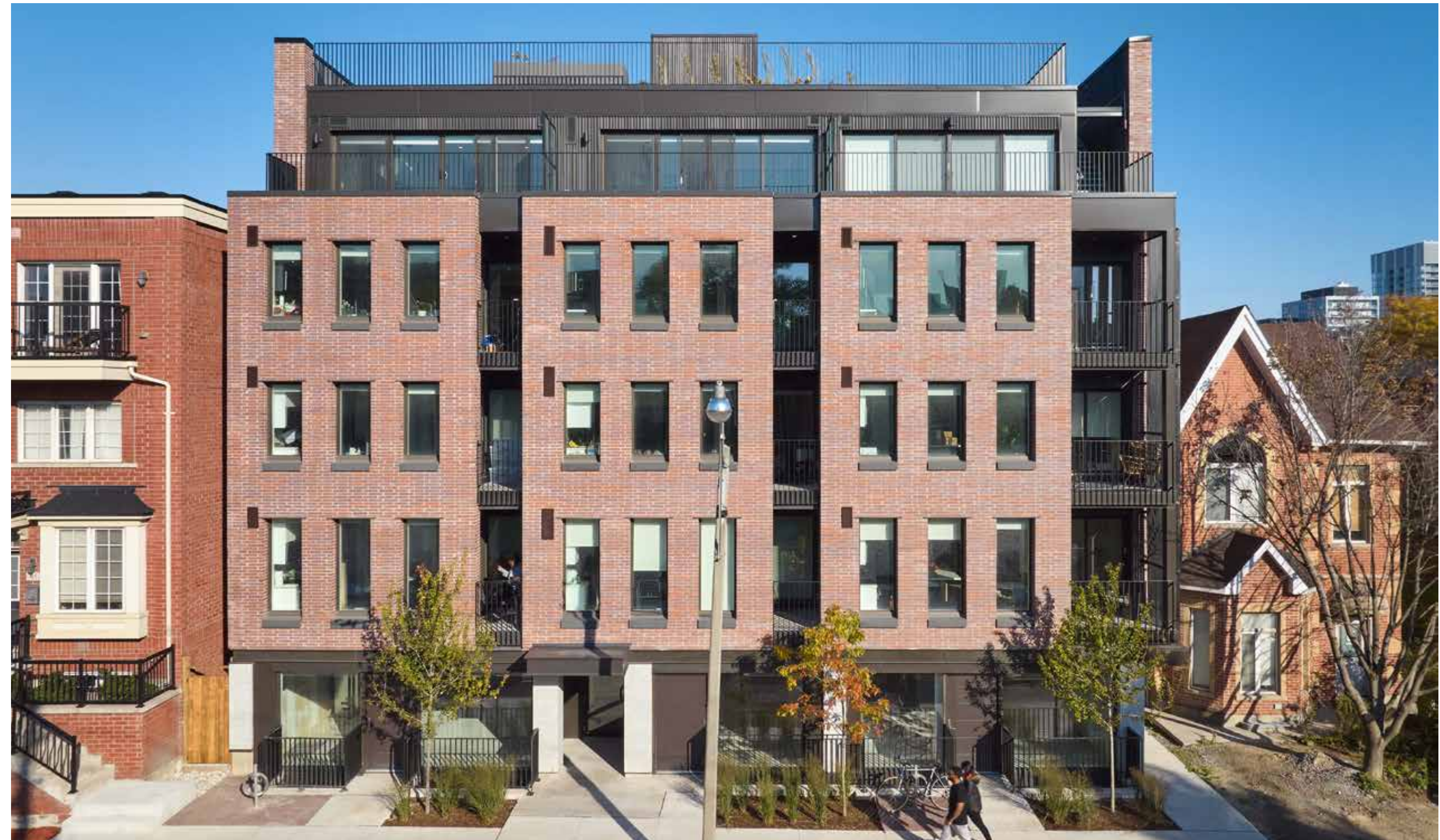
AWARD OF MERIT PRIVATE BUILDINGS IN CONTEXT — LOW-SCALE



RIVER STREET INFILL 41 River Street

■ Jury Comment

This is a great example of affordable housing with strong sustainable aspirations. Achieving sustainability at this scale, including geothermal, is a huge commitment. It is challenging at best and the developer and design team should be applauded for this achievement on an infill project. The articulated façade is appreciated for its contribution to the street and neighbourhood. The materials are modest, simple and commensurate with this typology. As a result, the character of the street is retained. The development has been appropriately set back from the street to allow space for street trees and other complementary landscaping. The rear was a great surprise with a sense of belonging and navigates its neighbours through clever tectonic moves. The recessed balconies provide private space for the residents and the rooftop terraces, recessed from the façade, also create outdoor private spaces in a dense part of the city. This is a great example of how affordable targeted housing can elevate its sustainable responsibility and should be an example for all developers.



■ **Project Team**
Architect: Studio JCI
Engineer: Atkinson + Van Groll Inc.
Mechanical Consultant: RDZ Engineers Ltd.
Civil Consultant: Cole Engineering Group Ltd.
Sustainability Consultant: ECOVERT

Developer/Owner/Client
Percy Ellis Holdings Inc.

General Contractor
Wilkinson / Percy Ellis Construction

Photographer
Michael Muraz

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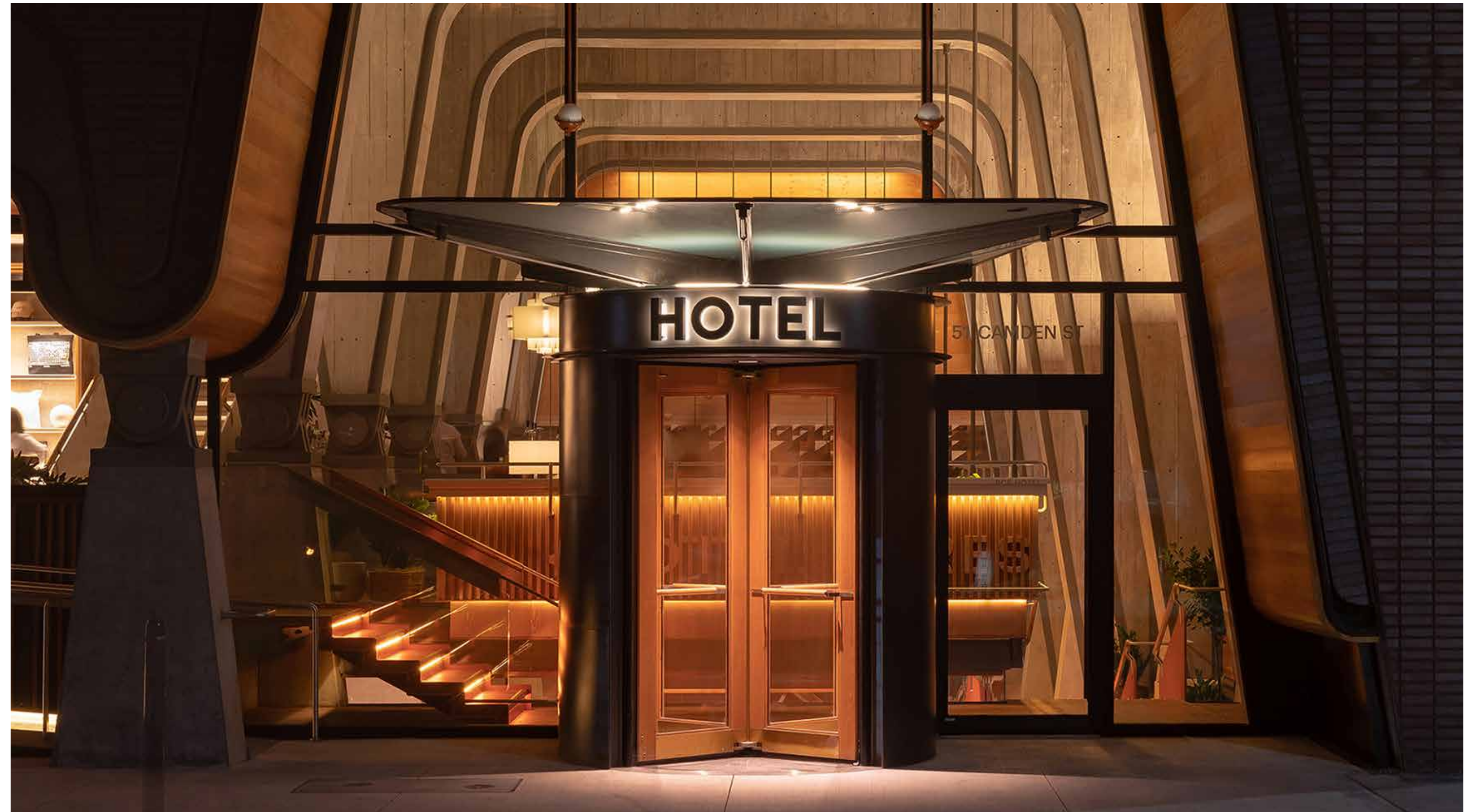
ACE HOTEL TORONTO 51 Camden Street

■ Jury Comment

Every great square needs a great hotel to anchor it, and the Ace is the one to do it in this neighbourhood. The building's massing and materiality tie into the context of the west Fashion District and establishes a strong architectural expression on this hidden yet important corner.

This is a well crafted “brickworks” project that contributes to the quality of the block. The building does a lot for the fabric of the city and the nearby park. The materials at-grade are substantial, and the structural elements are delicate and iconoclastic. It is refreshing to see a deliberate approach to the history of the neighbourhood through the colour and choice of the materials, which is the obvious focus of the composition and the basis for the design. There is a warmth to the ground level of this project. This project digs deeply into how it fits into the layers of history and thus responds accordingly with an elegant architecture. The glazed ground façade brings the park inward, extending the interior lounge to the city.

Located in a long forgotten, but up and coming neighbourhood, the Ace provides a visual and cultural anchor to the west side of Portland Street. The geometry and structural expression of the extruded entrance anchors the corner. However, its success could have been strengthened if the entrance faced the park to further enhance and animate this relationship. As a result, a side street has more prominence than the park edge.



■ Project Team

Architect: Shim-Sutcliffe Architects
Interior Architecture: Shim-Sutcliffe Architects in collaboration with Atelier Ace
Landscape Architect: NAK Design Strategies
Planning Team: Bousfield Inc. and Stikeman Elliot
Structural Engineer: RJC Engineers
Civil Engineer: Cole Engineering
MEP: MCW Consultants Ltd.
Construction Manager: Alterra Construction Management Ltd.
Hotel Management: Ace Hotel Group

Developer/Owner/Client

Alterra Developments, B-right, Finer Space Corporation, Prowinko, Zinc Developments

Photographer

Scott Norsworthy
Doublespace Photography





STACKT MARKET 28 Bathurst Street

Jury Comment

So often, we as designers over-program space to a point where it starts to exclude users, becoming stagnant and of its time. The success of the Stackt Market has been its ability to evolve and change since its inception; it continues to do so as use and program demands shift. This may be attributed to the fact that the market is deemed temporary, which provides the luxury as well as ease of change and adaptation until it is dismantled. The success of the market is also enabled by the level of flexibility and adaptability in the design of space and use.

It is a fresh new concept for Toronto, in which sustainability – the retrofitting of containers – is the driver behind the creation of a new city destination that has grown beyond the concept of a market. It has become an iconic artform, an animator of a once derelict place, and a unique public space to simply come and enjoy. It has become a political statement, an initiative that challenges our approach to design and city policy. It is one that calls for a resurgence of spontaneity and design innovation unincumbered by restriction that simply allows a space to grow and evolve as the citywide community grows and evolves.



Project Team
 Architect: LGA Architectural Partners
 Landscape Architect: North Design Office
 Structural Engineer: Blackwell
 Mechanical Engineer: Hidi
 Planner, Transportation: MHBC
 Civil: Crozier
 Shipping Container: Giant

Developer/Owner/Client
 Stackt Properties LLP

General Contractor
 EllisDon

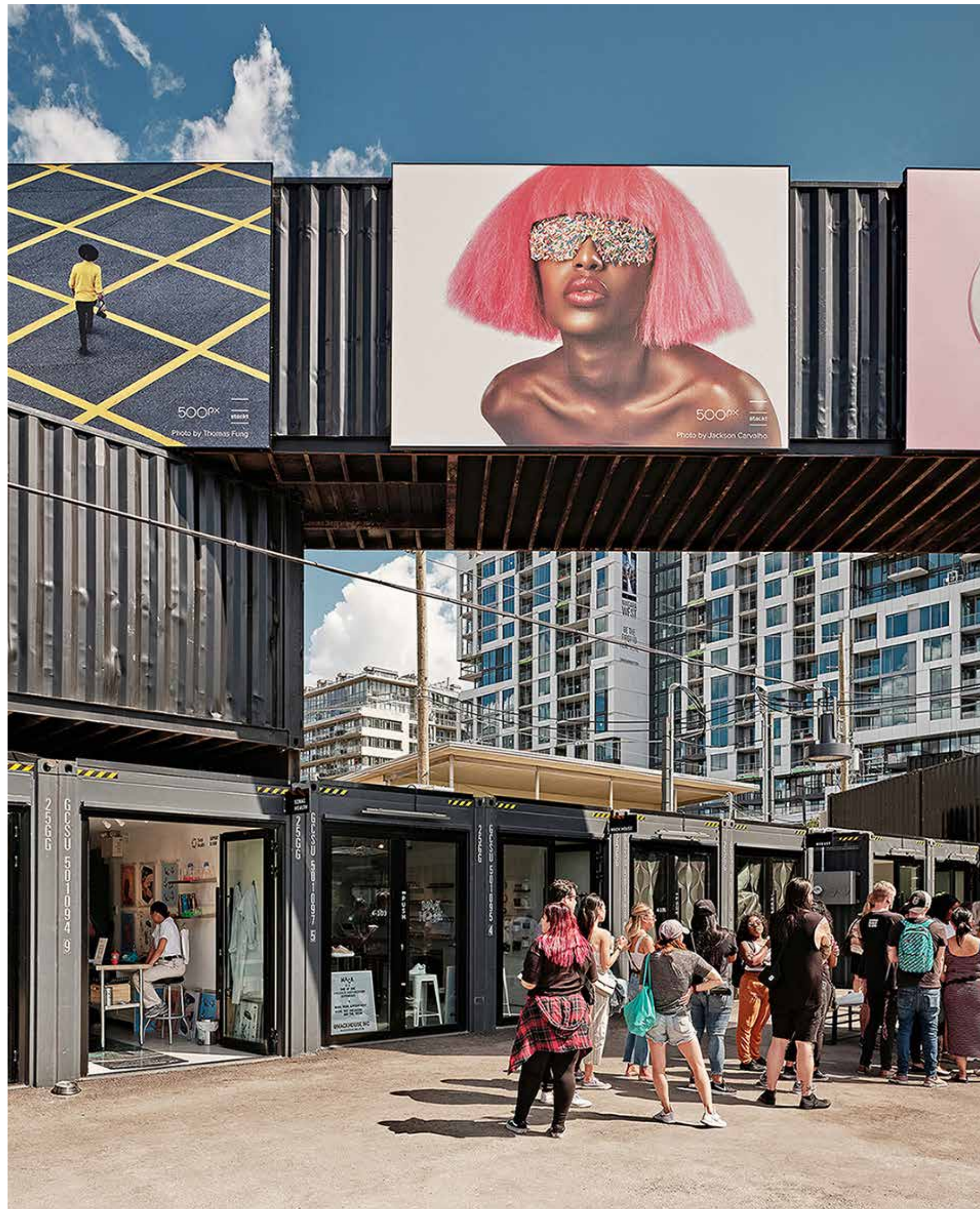
Photographer
 Industryous Photography

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AWARD OF MERIT SMALL OPEN SPACES



BUILDING IN THE 'JUNKSPACE' Parliament Street and Lake Shore Boulevard intersection

■ Jury Comment

The student project Building in the 'Junkspace' is an exercise in thinking through the various applications of sustainability – both in built materials and landscape interventions. This is a celebration of sustainable initiatives and interventions, looking at ways in which to recycle material, create art form, reduce carbon impacts to the environment, create both innovative and accessible interior and exterior useable space, increase biodiversity, and educate and increase awareness of the current state of our planet.

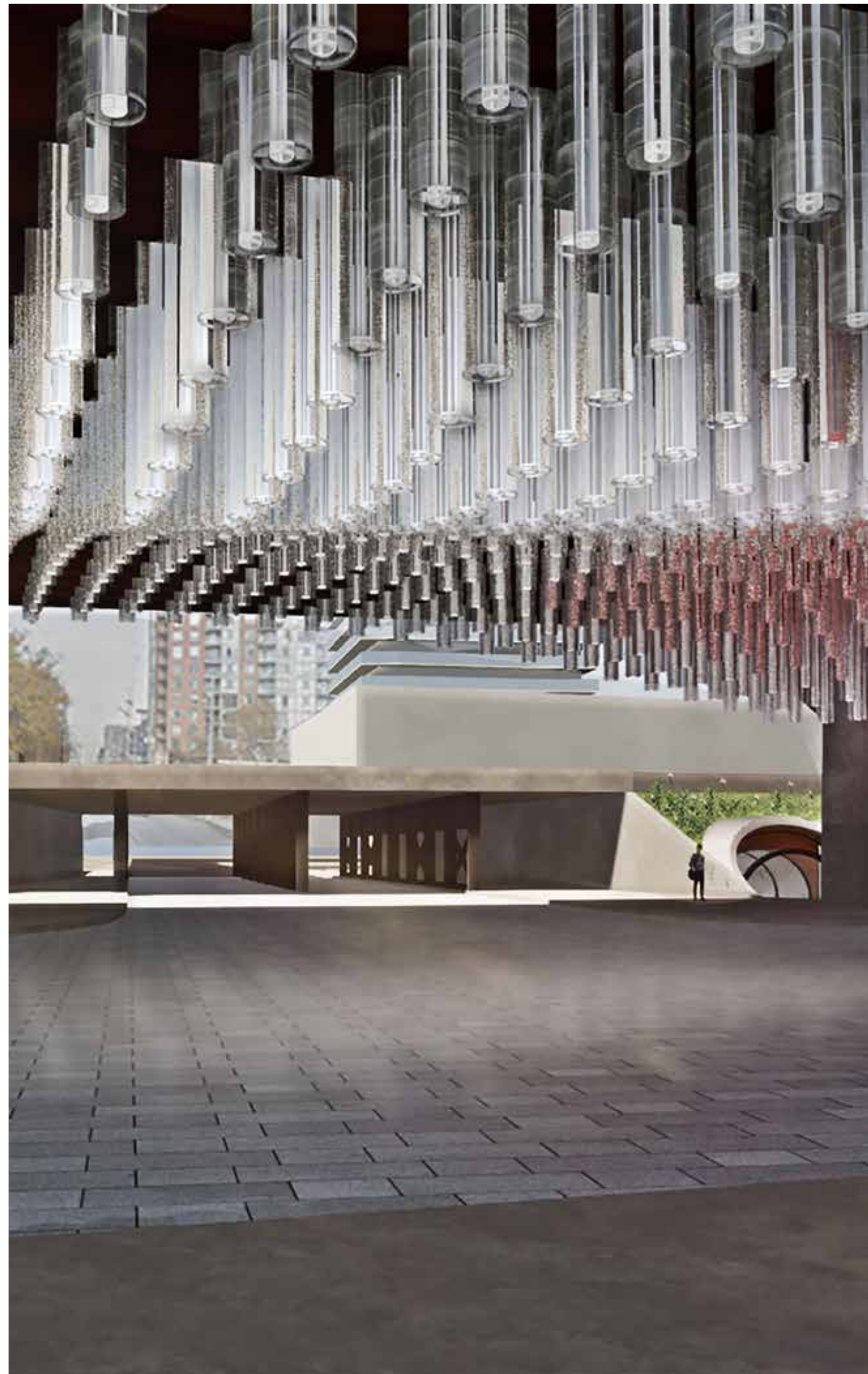
While the graphics on this project are impressive, it is the idea expressed here that has warranted the student award. We do not expect, or even want students too hung up on the impediments of urban design, or too focussed on pricing. What we want our students doing is getting excited about design; pushing the envelope on their ideas and beginning a commentary on the current nature of design and the priorities we promote in our profession. Fresh eyes are valuable tools and encourage less biased conversations.

Beyond that, while there would be some safety issues, this is an interesting idea that promotes better connection and movement in the city, and it does so at a location that could use some better and more defined pedestrian connections. The materiality is reminiscent of culverts, which feels good as a design decision, given what they are doing. Altogether a straight-forward project, that is not trying to do too much, and then matching with an interesting materiality and orientation. It is a great starting point in which all aspects of design are considered through a sustainable lens, and the ideas should be pushed further in the context of a thesis project.



■ Project Team
Tess Macpherson
Kavita Garg

Visualization
Tess Macpherson
Kavita Garg





| SPECIAL JURY AWARD FOR
COMMUNITY ACTIVATION

THE OCULUS REVITALIZATION South Humber Park

■ Jury Comment

Selected as a Special Jury award due to its unique and strong community commitment to its revitalization, the Oculus is a landmark that we are happy to have restored and persevere as part of our urban landscape. This restoration and preservation project was initiated by strong community action. The restoration of the structure itself from the original concrete, stone, and steel pavilion is a testament to its durability of construction and longevity of the simple yet powerful design. As a marker of the built heritage of Toronto, losing this structure would have been an irreplaceable loss for our city. This is a heartwarming initiative that we are recognizing and a clear reminder of the power of infrastructure and the impact it can have on the urban environment. The Jury applauded the grassroots efforts of the community and their engagement to maintain the architectural heritage of this city.



■ **Project Team**
Co-Lead: Architectural Conservancy of
Ontario, Toronto Branch (non-profit co-lead)
Architect: Giaimo

Developer/Owner/Client
Park People
City of Toronto

General Contractor
Walton GC

Photographer
Doublespace Photography
Giaimo

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AWARD OF MERIT SPECIAL JURY AWARD FOR COMMUNITY ACTIVATION



PLAZAPOPS: ALBION ISLINGTON SQUARES 2655 Islington Avenue, 2627 Islington Avenue, 979 Albion Road & 950 Albion Road

Jury Comment

We live in a constantly changing city; evolving with thoughtful urban design over time, bending to best practices of the current paradigm, and trying to achieve multiple goals. Sometimes though, we have a space that is either underutilized, programmed for only part of the day or week, or is in a planning or approval cycle that will take time. Toronto needs more projects that can repurpose our urban spaces to make better use of them and are scaled, as well as programmed, to the specific needs of the neighbourhood.

The plazaPOPS project seems to do all of the above. It does so in a thoughtful way, that sets a good example for the city. We need more spaces that act like this, and we need more designers promoting temporary uses of spaces. Beyond that, there is something whimsical, playful, and vibrant about the design of this space. So, while the idea is award-worthy already, it is the specific execution here of design elements and expressiveness that added up to an award for this exciting, temporary project.

We look forward to seeing it live on and be redeployed in other urban neighbourhoods.



Project Team
Landscape Architect: ERA Architects
Artist: Magic F WonG (Street Mural)
Others: Albion Islington Square BIA, Rexdale
Hub, University of Guelph Landscape
Architecture, plazaPOPS

Developer/Owner/Client
plazaPOPS

General Contractor
Building UP

Photographer
Tupac Espinoza
Duane Cole

 [@plaza_pops](https://www.instagram.com/plaza_pops)

 [@plaza_POPS](https://twitter.com/plaza_POPS)

AWARD OF MERIT SPECIAL JURY AWARD FOR COMMUNITY ACTIVATION



2023 JURY MEMBERS



■ **Matthew Hickey**
OAA, MRAIC, B.Des., B. Ed., M.Arch., LEED A.P. Partner, Two Row Architect

Matthew is Mohawk from the Six Nations of the Grand River Reserve, receiving his Masters of Architecture from the University of Calgary and his Bachelor of Design from the Ontario College of Art and Design. His Mohawk background continues to have a significant impact on his work. Practicing architecture at Two Row Architect for 16 years, he currently oversees design and development for the firm. Their core focus is on Indigenous design and architecture, designing buildings, landscapes, and installations, on and off-reserve in locations all over Turtle Island.

Matthew’s focus for sustainability is on regenerative and restorative design – encompassing ecological, cultural, and economic principles. His work pushes the concepts of Universal Inclusivity through integrated landscapes, food equity, the importance of water, and place-keeping for all species, including humans. His research includes Indigenous history in architecture of Northern & Middle America and the realignment of western ideology towards historic sustainable technologies for the contemporary North American climate.

He believes that giving back and encouraging younger generations is the key to moving our way of thinking about design and architecture forward. Further, he has lectured across Canada, including most recently at the Architecture Now Series at the University of Lethbridge. Art being in his blood, he is proud to be a Director on the Board of Toronto Artscape Inc. and a member of the Waterfront Toronto Design Review Panel.



■ **Juhee Oh**
M.Arch, EcoDistricts AP, Envision SP
Director, Climate Strategy, Choice Properties

Juhee joined the Sustainability and Placemaking team at Choice Properties in July 2023, as the Director of Climate Strategy. In this role, Juhee is overseeing the development and the rollout of climate-related activities as Choice Properties pursue their commitment of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. She is advancing climate-related design on both the development pipeline and the existing portfolio of over 700 properties. Juhee is also currently serving as the Sustainability Specialist for the City of Toronto Design Review Panel.

Juhee has extensive knowledge in sustainability advisory, reporting, and standards across a broad range of sectors, including buildings, transportation, energy, and land-use planning. Previously at WSP, she managed and led a team that specializes in facilitating sustainability-informed decision-making at the strategic level. Juhee has led a multitude of multi-disciplinary teams in developing and delivering complex sustainability plans, policies, programs and frameworks for cities and the private sector. With a background in architecture and urban planning, Juhee Oh has worked on Sustainability and Energy projects with various design teams and municipalities for the past 15 years. Juhee has been involved with sustainability projects across the full building and infrastructure life cycle spectrum – from urban planning to design and operation.



■ **Michael Ormston-Holloway**
BSc, MScP, GDHort, ISA, MLA, ASLA, OALA, CSLA Landscape Architect, Certified Arborist, Urban Ecologist
Partner, The Planning Partnership
Adjunct Faculty, University of Toronto

Michael is a Partner with The Planning Partnership, and Adjunct Faculty at University of Toronto, working as a landscape architect, certified arborist, and urban ecologist, with over 20-years experience working in the related fields. Michael specializes in the urban environment, integrating the experience of thoughtful landscape design with the importance of functional ecological systems; working toward better connections with people and their natural environment.

With insight as a designer, arborist, horticulturist, and soil scientist, Michael has successfully integrated the skillsets of design and ecology; working to enrich the built environment with tangible examples of ecological principles and healthier landscapes. Together this has provided him with a strong scientific knowledge set that we apply to our projects to inform our designs with increased attention to the natural environment. Michael believes that a detailed understanding of the biotic realm of landscape architecture, and a strong understanding of performance-driven living systems, ensures a more valuable landscape experience.

2023 JURY MEMBERS



■ **Patrick Saavedra**
B.Arch. Sc, M.Arch, MUP, OAA, FRAIC, AIA, NCARB
Assistant Vice President, Planning & Capital Project Management, Columbia University, New York, NY

Patrick Saavedra is the Vice President, Planning & Capital Project Management, at Columbia University. A licensed Architect, Urban Planner and Educator with 30 plus years professional experience, previously the University Architect at York University where he oversaw Planning and Design. Leading over \$1 billion in new capital projects and major renewal projects for over 14 years. He holds multiple degrees, a Bachelor of Architectural Science from Ryerson University, a Master of Architecture and Master of Urban Planning from the University of Michigan, and has completed Design Studies at University of Copenhagen.

Patrick has been a guest critic at several architectural schools, a keynote speaker at numerous events, and member of several advisory roles for the City of Toronto’s Public Art Commission, the City of Mississauga’s Urban Design Review Panel, and has advised City Councilors on community related redevelopment projects. Patrick has been a Jury Member and Chair of several awards programs and a key member of professional committees including the OAA and the RAIC.

With over 15 years teaching experience Patrick currently teaches in a post-professional program at Toronto Metropolitan University. As adjunct professor he taught at The Catholic University of America in Washington DC in the graduate program at the School of Architecture.

In 2019 Patrick became a Fellow of the RAIC, and is member of the Ontario Association of Architects, Toronto Society of Architects, American Institute of Architects, National Certification Architects Record Board, and Society for College and University Planning. In 2019 the Building Transformations (CanBIM Council) recognized Patrick with a national Professional Achievement Award for his significant contribution to the advancement of digital innovation in the Canadian AEC industry.



■ **Gail Shillingford**
B.L.A, Urban and Landscape Design Principal, B+H

Gail has a strong background in urban design and landscape architecture, a combination that has allowed her to create successfully integrated and balanced built form and open space environments. Her focus on all projects is entrenched in building community and creating attractive high-quality public realm spaces that foster socialization, inclusivity, cultural diversity, and healthy living. In each of her designs, the role of the public realm is heightened beyond creating notable destinations, to also revitalizing communities, incorporating sustainability and resiliency, and positioning open spaces as catalysts for social and economic vitality and viability.

With more than 25 years of experience, Gail has led the urban design, master planning, and detailed design of diverse projects at a variety of scales, ranging from city planning to detailed streetscape design. Her projects include community and campus master plans, heritage conservation district plans, downtown plans, waterfront master plans, community improvements plans, secondary plans, open space master plans, detailed streetscape design, and landscape design. She has played a significant role as project manager and senior urban designer on several award-winning projects.

In addition to her experience, Gail leads Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion conversations and creates opportunities for safe forums for discussion. She pursues Indigenous education and knowledge building to respond to and enable Truth and Reconciliation. She leads the pursuit of innovative and challenging transdisciplinary projects, builds client and business relations, manages, trains and mentors teams, and leads multiple initiatives to build and foster firm-wide collaboration and design excellence.

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