JURY REPORT

2019

TORONTO URBAN DESIGN AWARDS

City Planning

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FOREWORD

Toronto is home to 2.8 million citizens and welcomes 43 million visitors a year. The daily experiences of us all are profoundly shaped by the urban environment including transit, parks, sidewalks, streets and the buildings that surround them.

The City of Toronto is committed to promoting excellent design, and has hosted the Toronto Urban Design Awards (TUDA) every other year since 1990 to acknowledge the significant contribution that architects, landscape architects, urban designers, artists, design students and city builders make to the appearance and livability of our city.

Urban design is critical in a rapidly growing city as a way to ensure a high quality of life and long-term livability. Excellence in urban design is fundamentally about how the design reaches beyond the individual site, to respond to the challenges a city faces and positively impact the public realm. Toronto has a responsibility to ensure comfortable, vibrant, diverse and safe spaces for the people who inhabit the city, now and in the future. As residents continue to experience growth differently across the city, the relationship between design and equity is more important than ever before.

In the past two years, we have engaged in conversations around the need for more open spaces, the role of technology, density in neighbourhoods and the lack of affordable choices, amongst many others. And we have seen our design community respond with innovative visions, beautiful buildings, smart technologies and thoughtful details. It is proof that Toronto is indeed home to some of the best design thinkers and problem-solvers in the world.

This year, the City received 113 submissions in nine categories. Over the course of two days, the jury reviewed the submissions, deliberated on all aspects of the entries, visited the short-listed projects and finally selected nine projects to receive Awards of Excellence, 12 projects to receive Awards of Merit and one Special Jury Award for Catalytic Infrastructure.

TUDA is made possible through the generous contribution of the sponsors and the efforts and commitment of a small team of City staff that work diligently to carry out the program. The team prepares promotional materials, contacts potential sponsors, compiles the submissions, facilitates the jury process, prepares the Jury Report and organizes the gala ceremony.

I would like to thank all of those involved – City staff, sponsors of the Awards, the jury that contributed an extraordinary amount of time and the teams of practitioners behind this year's submissions – for their hard work and commitment to the promotion of exceptional urban design in Toronto.

Gregg Lintern
Chief Planner & Executive Director

Lorna Day
Director of Urban Design

City Planning
September 2019

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AWARD CATEGORIES

The City of Toronto accepted entries for the 2019 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 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.

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 catalytic infrastructure.

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

In reviewing and visiting the Toronto Urban Design Awards 2019 submissions, the jury was struck by certain recurrent themes and challenges that our city faces, in an era of climate change and urbanization. Challenges, which good urban design has the potential to address and positively contribute to on all levels: planning, design, materiality, introducing unexpected elements and landscaping. This, we believe, is exactly the strength of the Toronto Urban Design Awards: it brings together diverse projects in time and context which are then appreciated in conjunction. This allows us to take a step back to observe, evaluate and most importantly, to applaud the designers who added value to this city's growth and innovation. Here, we would like to highlight our observations and the success stories we encountered along three themes we believe to stand out as future design challenges for Toronto.

GREENSPACE

The three parks stood out above the other projects, each in their own way. In general, densification, the cost of square footage and an increasing income gap, increases the need for high quality, public green space for socio-cultural and ecological health and well-being. Green space is also the answer to reduce the impact of climate stresses in the city; heavy rainfall, extreme heat and cold – even biodiversity can successfully be addressed by small open spaces. As a relatively large-scale redesign and retrofit, with a very carefully considered functional rearrangement, the Grange Park refurbishment is an impressive neighbourhood activation. The project includes high quality planting using local, indigenous materials and playful water elements at all levels. The project also involves carefully placed and designed structures that correspond to the creative and architectural qualities of the surrounding Art Gallery of Ontario and Ontario College of Art and Design University buildings. Berczy Park is a good concept on paper and is a true magnet in real life. The design of this popular plaza is a witty and ironic comment on social life in Toronto, while at the same time providing very functional, well thought and carefully designed space for all ages. At Trillium Park, the designers managed to create an incredible sense of space on a relatively small plot, which feels more like an Ontario nature reserve than an urban park.

EQUITY

Some of the stronger entries touched on equity. With housing prices rising and the income gap growing, this is an increasingly important topic. These submissions tackled critical planning issues, drawing attention to and visualizing important directions for large-scale and longer-term thinking, including the need to address laneway housing, affordable housing, the downtown core and employment areas. The entries included urgent policy directives, offering longer-term visions that can help lead to a more enjoyable, equitable and sustainable city. In particular, we'd like to emphasize those that stressed the importance of equity in the development of urban form. Equity was also addressed in balancing heritage and new build. The jury would hope for more visible, legible indigenous presence in the urban landscape and built environment. The indigenous cultural markers, Trillium Park and Odeyto addressed this in very interesting, yet different ways. The jury would like to stress the value of creating space for and by indigenous stakeholders, not only in the design process but also at the inception phase where placemaking is at hand.

SYSTEMS APPROACH

The TOcore Parks and Public Realm Plan shows the need and desire for a strong public realm and for quality open space. Moreover, it embraces the role and the maturity of landscape architects and urban designers to contribute to the city's liveability and sustainability. The plan invites us to think of a systems approach rather than a plot-by-plot analysis. This plan sheds light on the quality of the watersheds, greenspace, informal grids and underutilized space. Consequently, there were a number of plans that propose ways in which to activate these underutilized spaces. The idea of Laneway Housing and the street-level condos of DUKE are concrete examples of what the design of an inclusive city may look like and confirm the need of a healthy mix of typologies and uses. Buildings also show the maturity of city design through a good balance of landmark function and high-quality fabric buildings which should now be the standard for a city like Toronto.

SPECIAL JURY AWARD FOR CATALYTIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Last but not least, the importance of public infrastructure in all its aspects is evident in the Port Lands Flood Protection and Enabling Infrastructure Project's holistic system of blue and green infrastructure, streets and streetscapes, and quality engineering structures. The Port Lands project is a tremendous opportunity for Toronto to unite all these aspects of good city building and more. Projects in the built environment can show leadership by mitigating climate change, acknowledging urban nodes, servicing multimodality and delivering transit oriented development. For example, lessons can be learned from the new bike parking at Nathan Phillips Square. Because of the pressing issues and opportunity for excellent urban design, we have chosen to reward the Port Lands project's bridge design and engineering in a category of its own. The bridge addresses multimodality, beauty and functionality in equal parts, literally bridging the gap between old and new. The jury's hope is that this will encourage comparable leadership and design solutions in the near future. This is also a way to applaud the vision and long-term commitment of the Port Lands project that continuously seeks to tie into the existing urban fabric and infrastructure, while at the same time, positively seeks new answers to long-existing questions of process and design.

Jury members (L-R) Nina-Marie Lister, Jane Hutton, Alexandru Taranu, Emmy Scholten, David Miller

2019
TORONTO URBAN DESIGN AWARDS

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

The Luminous Veil

Prince Edward Viaduct

Jury Comment

While the Bloor viaduct and the safety installation have been around for some time and are familiar to the passersby, the recently added lighting creates a new dimension for this very important landmark in the city.

The project shows the opportunity to transform through design safety, “defensive” structures in striking public realm features. The project also demonstrates the importance of lighting in the city, in particular in the long winter nights, the ability of design to create attraction, to slow the daily rush to a time of delight and to change a piece of infrastructure into a place.

Project Team

Dereck Revington Studio
Artist and Prime Consultant

Mulvey & Banani International Inc.
Lighting and Electrical Engineers

Blackwell Structural Engineers
Structural Engineers

Developer/Owner/Client

City of Toronto

General Contractor

Guild Electric

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE | ELEMENTS

Photo credit: Dereck Revington

The Blue Room

802, 834, 940 College Street

Jury Comment

The Blue Room art pieces on College Street are delightful conceptual gestures that animate the College Promenade Streetscape & Parkettes. The Blue Room is an engaging, interactive element that draws attention to and elevates the ordinary.

The saturation of the ground and wall planes and any object in the field in blue focuses the view in surprising and unexpected ways. The blue lighting increases this effect, almost a separation of the space from its context.

The Rooms have day and night personalities. The daytime view draws attention to a banal and ubiquitous urban condition while the night view produces an almost stage set transformation of this space.

The jury applauds the integration of these public art pieces with the streetscape initiative and was impressed with the simplicity and modest means in achieving such an impactful project.

Project Team

uoai
Artist

PMA Landscape Architects Ltd.
Landscape Architects

DPM Energy
Electrical Engineers

Developer/Owner/Client

College Promenade Business Improvement Area, City of Toronto

General Contractor

CRCE Construction

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE | ELEMENTS

Photo credit: Stanislav Jurkovic

Albion Library

1515 Albion Road

Jury Comment

It is striking how this building affects its surroundings and adds value, instead of being submitted to the existing setting, thanks to its design, use of daylight, natural wayfinding and chosen materials and colors. Despite the challenging suburban context, the attractive exterior is as colourful as the neighbourhood is diverse. The quality of the design and building materials, such as the terracotta spirals that form the facade and the sloped green roof, feel like a breath of fresh air, not only compared to neighbouring commercial buildings, but also in the wider context of Toronto's often chosen colour scheme. The design excels in using clear lines and daylight for natural wayfinding around and into the building.

Direct pedestrian access from the adjacent bus stop and landscaping around the building and in the parking lot, offers an inviting welcome. The landscaping also divides the large parking lot into a smaller, transformable public space for outdoor markets and activities.

The jury commends the designers for introducing design excellence in a challenging context and for going beyond the mission to build an outstanding library.

Project Team

Perkins and Will
Architects

DTAH
Landscape Architects

The Hidi Group
Mechanical Engineers

Blackwell Structural Engineers
Structural Engineers

Developer/Owner/Client

Toronto Public Library

General Contractor

Aquicon Construction

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE | PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN CONTEXT

Photo credit: Doublespace

Daniels Building

One Spadina Crescent

Jury Comment

The University of Toronto Daniels Building and landscape at One Spadina Crescent grapples with a challenging but glorious site. The landmark roadway circle and heritage building were inherently disconnected from adjacent streets and the University of Toronto campus, but remained a highly visible and historically significant site in the city. The designers have ingeniously exploited these constraints delivering an iconic landscape and building expansion that serves as a significant anchor to the University campus and, playing up its 360 degrees of exposure, addresses the public around the circle. To the south, the original building stands proud above new tall grasses. To the east and west, entrance plazas serve to connect to adjacent neighbourhoods, and to the north, a planted amphitheatre forms a dramatic space for outdoor events and lounging.

In particular, the jury applauds the striking and experimental landscape design which is bold enough to make a statement in this space of non-stop traffic. Sloping planted landforms and a wild plant palette challenge expectations of more mundane campus landscape design and offer great diversity in a relatively small area. It serves as a marker of design experimentation — an important indication of the activities within the building's walls.

Project Team

NADAAA (Design)
Architects

PUBLIC WORK
Landscape Architects

TMP, Entuitive: Consulting Engineers, A.M. Candara
Engineers

ERA Architects
Heritage

Adamson Associates Architects
Executive

Developer/Owner/Client

The John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, University of Toronto

General Contractor

Eastern Construction

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE | PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN CONTEXT

Photo credit: Nic Lehoux

Trillium Park & William G. Davis Trail

955 Lake Shore Boulevard West

Jury Comment

In 2017, the same year the Toronto Islands were closed to the general public due to rising water levels in Lake Ontario, there was timely relief in the form of new green space at Trillium Park. This valuable piece of land and the former leisure destination Ontario Place, have long been closed and overlooked. Meant as a seed investment for Ontario Place redevelopment, the designers of Trillium Park and the William G. David Trail have certainly gone beyond the ambition of merely drawing future investment. This park sets an example of what a resilient, climate-proof waterfront looks like and what small open space can do for urban dwellers.

The designers did not miss any opportunity to tie into the context and history of this magnificent location. Trillium Park shows how well the use of natural materials for fencing and flood proofing can work. Integrated Indigenous elements inspire, teach and awaken curiosity in a respectful and accessible way, which is the result of a collaborative design process. The William G. Davis Trail offers linkages to the existing trails and a very careful selection and placement of the local and indigenous vegetation, and of local materials recalling Ontario's landscape character.

Looking through the pines at the elevated trail and finding the CN Tower peeking through, the view delivers a modern take on a Group of Seven painting. Albeit narrow, through land manipulation the design manages to create a variety of spaces and an open dialogue with the city surrounding it. Trillium Park does not feel urban or suburban: it is a small yet extremely impactful representation of Canadian nature and heritage in a contemporary setting.

Project Team

LANDinc (Lead Consultant)
Landscape Architects

Christopher Wallace Architect
Architect

West 8 (Pavillion and Landscape)
Co-Designers

Blackwell Structural Engineers
Structural Engineers

Commonwealth Historic Resource Management
Heritage Consultant

Developer/Owner/Client

Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport / Infrastructure Ontario

General Contractor

Urbacon (Main Contractor)
Aldershot Landscape Contractors / A-CON / UCC / Oriole (Sub-Contractor)

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE | SMALL OPEN SPACES

Photo credit: Nadia Molinari

Grange Park Revitalization

26 Grange Road

Jury Comment

At a time when urban greenspace is at an all-time premium, the revitalization of Grange Park is a welcome redesign that feels at once fresh and timeless, and does a lot with relatively little space for its program. Generous paths balance open sight lines with sheltered nooks and "rooms," with welcome shade from a carefully maintained mature tree canopy. The jury noted that the paths loop around a central lawn that doubles as green infrastructure to soak and slow stormwater while providing much-needed open public space for gathering, playing, celebrating and sitting. The enclosed dog run in the wooded southern section provides a safe and separated solution for four-legged friends, while the playground offers fountains, climbers and adventure in an understated but creative corner. The jury was impressed with the park's quiet confidence and capable program, offset against the gravitas of the Art Gallery of Ontario, a stately backdrop for this people's park for the 21st century.

Project Team

PFS Studio (Lead Consultant); thinc design (Local Landscape Architect)
Landscape Architects

Hariri Pontarini Architects (Pavillion)
Architects

SCS Consulting Group Ltd
Civil and Stormwater Engineers

MMM Group Limited
Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Blackwell Structural Engineers
Structural Engineers

Developer/Owner/Client

Art Gallery of Ontario
and the City of Toronto

General Contractor

Aldershot Landscaping (General)
Earthscape (Custom Play Equipment)

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE | LARGE PLACES AND/OR NEIGHBOURHOOD DESIGNS

Berczy Park

35 Wellington Street East

Jury Comment

Since opening in 2017, Berczy Park has already become a much-loved, favourite gathering place for the St. Lawrence neighbourhood. This small but prominent public space with its iconic playful fountain reinterprets the Toronto park for the next century. Through intelligent and rigourous use of a limited and complex site, coupled with a creative and whimsical approach to public realm design, Berczy Park is much more than a one-liner "dog park." The jury was as impressed as entranced by the diversity of park uses and users, from sunbathers to dog watchers and walkers, to office workers and families. As such, the park serves and delights a disparate bandwidth of citizens and activities. The success of this urban gem lies both in its surface of whimsy and fun (from water spouting dogs to birds-on-a-lamppost, to an independent sculpture) underscored by its rigourous program and technical design (from soil cells to sunny banks to paving patterns). If anything is clear from the love being shown in and to this park, Toronto's next generation of parks wants and needs more Berczy.

Project Team

Claude Cormier et Associés
Architects and Landscape Architects

Odan/Detech Group Inc.
Civil Engineers

Smith and Andersen
Electrical Engineers

Blackwell Structural Engineers
Structural Engineers

Luis Jacob
Artist

DEW Inc.
Water Feature

Developer/Owner/Client

City of Toronto

General Contractor

Somerville Construction

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE | LARGE PLACES AND/OR NEIGHBOURHOOD DESIGNS

Photo credit: Industryous Photography

TOcore: Downtown Parks and Public Realm Plan

Downtown Toronto

Jury Comment

TOcore is an essential vision for the future of downtown Toronto's precious public realm. Responding to the rapid intensification of Toronto's urban core, the document argues that the improvement of the network of parks and public spaces is critical to the success and livability of the city. The plan lays out a comprehensive strategy of five transformative ideas that address and support the city's ongoing growth: The Core Circle, Great Streets, Shoreline Stitch, Park Districts and Local Places. Significantly, TOcore reflects Toronto's greatest assets back to itself, identifying valuable existing public resources and connecting them to create a strong network of public spaces. TOcore offers an optimistic vision for dense urban conditions – one where greater density could support a higher quality of life, lived outdoors, connected to others and rich in natural and cultural amenities.

Project Team

PUBLIC WORK
Landscape Architects/Urban Design

Gehl Studio
Public Space / Public Life

Swerhun Facilitation
Public Engagement

Sam Schwartz Engineering
Transportation Planning

Developer/Owner/Client

City of Toronto

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE | VISIONS AND MASTER PLANS

Image credit: PUBLIC WORK

THE URBAN LIVING ROOM

Toronto Port Lands

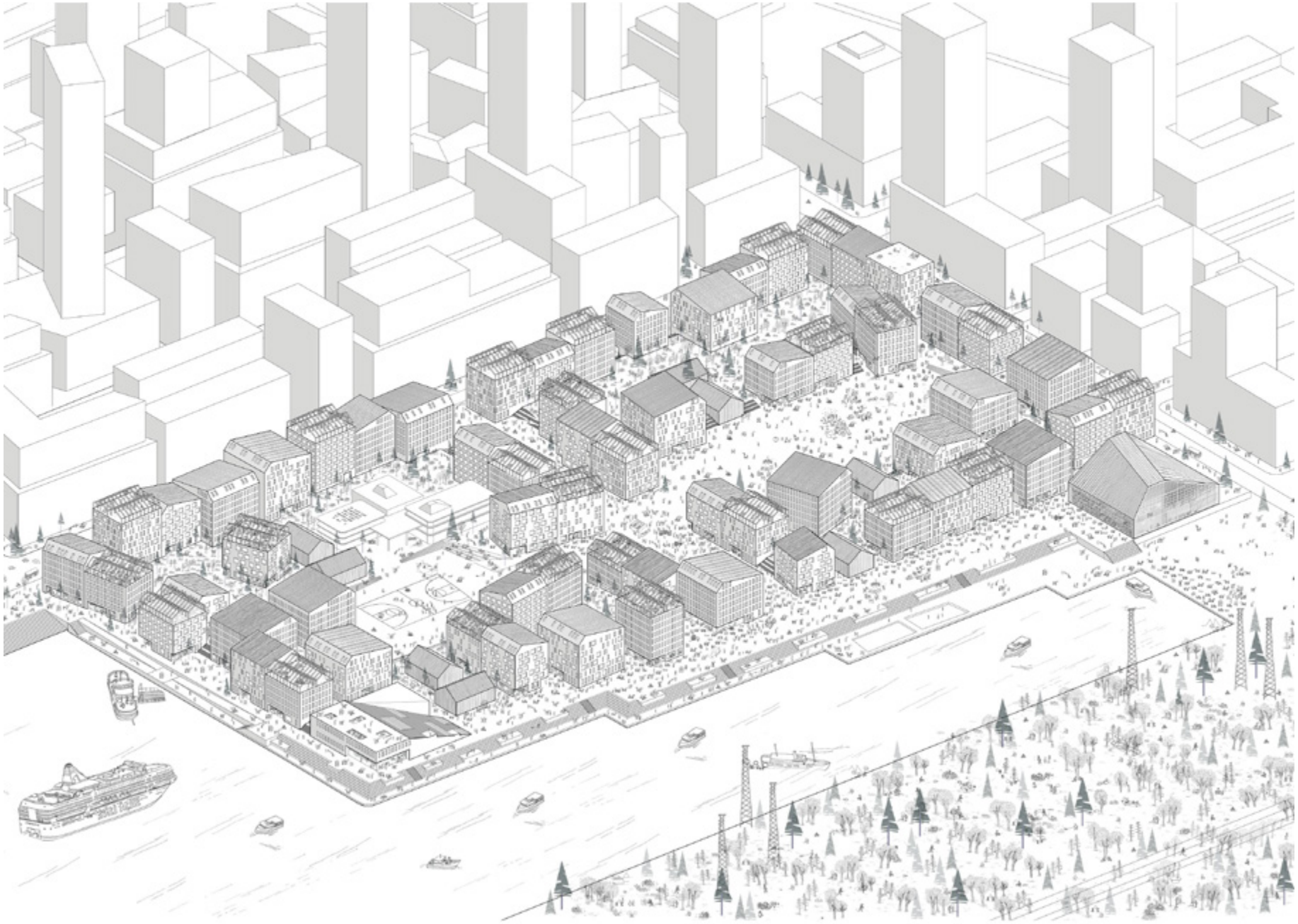
Jury Comment

A commendable, fresh approach to the general current development patterns in the city where speculative, homogenous, repetitive development results in a disjointed mix of new towers, older buildings and sprawling low rise, and where largely private spaces dominate, contributing to increased social division and isolation. Inspired by contemporary Scandinavian approaches to development and city building (which for many, also constitute a model for Canadian cities), with a focus on extensive, strong public realm, this project puts emphasis on people, liveability and a truly sustainable new development model.

Project Team

Zoal Razaq

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE | STUDENT



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AWARD OF MERIT

Indigenous Cultural Markers

Humber College North Campus and Humber College Lakeshore Campus

Jury Comment

As urban elements, the Indigenous cultural markers at Humber College offer a subtle but significant complement to the landscape of the Lakeshore campus. The structures are both a physical testament to land acknowledgement on the site of the historic victorian Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital, and figurative storytelling devices that honour the past and present Indigenous peoples and their lifelines on the land through legibility and resilience. The steel structures frame an inclusive public space in the heart of the campus, and demarcate a perimeter path around the central green, one branch of which leads to a pavilion and fire space for Indigenous healing and gathering. The jury recognized the power and potential of the cultural markers to uplift and celebrate Indigenous history, geography and culture centred in the landscape and woven into the heart of the campus as a public step towards truth and reconciliation.

Project Team

Indigenous Design Studio/Brook McIlroy
Architects and Landscape Architects

Ryan Gorrie/David Thomas
Artist

Developer/Owner/Client

Humber College

Contractor

Lafontaine Iron Werks
Metal Fabricator

Wood Anchor
Wood Fabricator

Photo credit: Jocelyn Squires

Nathan Phillips Square Bicycle Station

100 Queen Street West (underground)

Jury Comment

The City of Toronto leads the way with this project, offering the first contemporary bicycle parking in downtown Toronto. A clear and contemporary separation from the car park, double-tier bike stands and amenities to change, refresh or repair a bike, mark a giant leap forward from the common chicken-wire fenced bike lockers. Making space for a bicycle station also signifies the City is acknowledging growing numbers of cyclists and a vision that accommodates multi-modal transportation away from individual car use.

The jury applauds the designers for offering customers an experience that goes beyond providing an underground utility. Users are treated to a true archival treasure hunt — visuals of the 513 entries for the 1958 New City Hall International Design Competition line the core of this facility, including the winning design by Finnish Viljo Revell.

There is still much to be done in the city to offer safe bicycle infrastructure, including a connected grid, and appropriate entry and exit points to bicycle parking. Overall, merit goes to City Hall and the designers for showing leadership and paving the way to better bicycle parking solutions, contributing to urban mobility and improving the quality of the streetscape and the cycling experience in Toronto.

Project Team

uoai
Architects and Artist

Axon
Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Blackwell Structural Engineers
Structural Engineers

PLANT | Perkins and Will architects in joint venture
Overall Revitalization Project

Developer/Owner/Client

City of Toronto

General Contractor

Martinway Contracting Ltd.
Struct-Con Construction Ltd. (bike station phase 1)

Photo credit: Scott Norsworthy

Casey House

119 Isabella Street

Jury Comment

The Casey House project is recognized for its very sensitive approach and design treatment to a much-needed facility with an important social role in the area. By integrating an impeccably restored former mansion with a very sensitive contemporary addition, this project continues the city's tradition of adaptive reuse and integration of heritage with carefully designed, contemporary but contextual new development, while at the same time bringing it to the next level.

The sophisticated and precious play of locally inspired materials and finishes on the new addition, as well as the play with contrasts and weightlessness, produces surprise and adds layers. The neutral glass separation adjacent to the historic building is a step ahead of standard practices.

The jury particularly appreciated the use of landscape (a screen of beech trees) as a facade treatment and filter to balance privacy and light access, combined with the interior courtyard bringing nature close to a facility where design helps the healing process.

Project Team

Hariri Pontarini Architects
Architects

Mark Hartley Landscape Architects
Landscape Architects

Entuitive: Consulting Engineers
Consulting Engineers

WSP Canada
Mechanical Consultant

ERA Architects
Heritage Consultant

Developer/Owner/Client

Casey House

General Contractor

Bird Construction Company

Photo credit: Doublespace Photography

109 OZ

109 Ossington Avenue

Jury Comment

A much-needed built form in the city, the mid-rise at 109 Ossington is a colourful and well articulated contribution to a lively and vibrant street. Simple but effective ground floor treatments take advantage of the thriving retail environment of the street and provide street animation. Well executed, small plane changes in the facade and balconies, combined with a playful use of colour, create a warm frontage and very positive street presence.

Toronto needs a lot more like this – well articulated fabric buildings, contributing positively to the street frontage, bringing people together and creating a dynamic street life.

Project Team

RAW Design (Design Architect), Graziani+Corazza Architects (Architect of Record)
Architects

Strybos Barron King
Landscape Architects

Jablonsky, Ast and Partners
Structural Engineers

Developer/Owner/Client

Reserve Investments

General Contractor

TMG Builders

Photo credit: Jonathan Sabeniano

DUKE

2803 Dundas Street West

Jury Comment

DUKE, at Dundas and Keele, is a contemporary addition to the Junction, one of Toronto's newly developing neighbourhoods.

This mixed-use project is a promising addition to the revitalization of the area and a demonstration of a much-desired typology, the mid-rise building. The seven storey infill development intensifies the neighbourhood in a positive way. The variegated facade and terraced form soften the scale of the building and lessen the shade impact on neighbouring residential building.

The project presents as a disciplined contemporary building in black and white, yet a brick materiality ties it to the neighbourhood. The jury was impressed with the thoughtful consideration of the urban connections at grade. The Dundas Street elevation is a fully glazed retail space, the entrance to the residences is sensitively designed and residentially scaled facing Indian Grove, and the laneway is animated by live/work units.

Project Team

Quadrangle
Architects

Brook McIlroy
Landscape Architects

Smith and Andersen
Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Blackwell Structural Engineers
Structural Engineers

Developer/Owner/Client

TAS Design Build

General Contractor

Darcon Construction Management

Photo credit: Bob Gundu

SQ at Alexandra Park

55 Cameron Street

Jury Comment

This tall condominium building stands out in creativity. Everything from the shape, height, plinth and colors, shows that mid-rise and tall buildings too, can have a positive and inspirational effect on the Toronto skyline.

Instead of marking its place by sticking out as a vertical condo island, this building clearly looks for interaction at ground level, and an understanding with the existing mixed-income neighbourhood.

The jury applauds the designers for taking initiative in a segment that is now much-needed: tall buildings that have mid-rise components, that are innovative in terms of design and performance and seek to activate the streetscape.

Project Team

Teeple Architects
Architects

Janet Rosenberg & Studio Inc.
Landscape Architects

GHD
Civil Engineers

Jablonsky, Ast and Partners
Structural Engineers

Novatrend Engineering
Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

EXP Global Inc.
Environmental Engineers

Developer/Owner/Client

Tridel / Toronto Community Housing Corporation

General Contractor

Deltera

Photo credit: Scott Norsworthy

Odeyto Indigenous Centre at Seneca College

1750 Finch Avenue

Jury Comment

This gem of a project speaks volumes about both its context and location. Nestled into an unassuming corner of the campus, beside a loading dock and the back entrance to an academic building, the Odeyto Indigenous Centre at Seneca College adds a lot of life, an open door and a full heart to what would otherwise be a back alley seen from parking lot. The building is technically an addition, its form suggesting a canoe on its side, and serves as a home to the FirstPeoples@ Seneca, providing a dedicated gathering place for Indigenous students and elders on campus. Careful detailing makes for an elegant small pavilion: from its cedar ribs to a skin that suggests fish scales or bark and a welcoming entrance flanked by a food and healing landscape of herbs, medicinals, vegetables and bee hives. Of interest, along with the bees, pollinators insurgently "overtake" the parking lot bioswale and the garden entrance to the neighbouring building. The jury found this small and contemplative building to be bigger than its footprint in impression and ambition, and a welcome addition to a growing landscape of Indigenous cultural and educational facilities that are both overdue and much-needed.

Project Team

Gow Hasting Architects
Architects

Two Row Architect
Indigenous Design Architect

FORREC Ltd.
Landscape Architects

V&R Engineering
Engineers

Read Jones Christoffersen Ltd.
Structural Engineers

Developer/Owner/Client

Seneca College

General Contractor

Mettko

Photo credit: Tom Arban

University of Toronto, Myhal Centre for Engineering Innovation and Entrepreneurship (MCEIE)

55 St. George Street

Jury Comment

The Myhal Centre occupies the last unbuilt site on St. George Street, the main University of Toronto campus thoroughfare. There is a tradition of exemplary university architecture on this street and the Myhal Centre is a rigorous and thoughtful addition. The ground floor is warm and inviting to the street and the two-storey colonnade fronts four facades respecting campus sight lines and exterior passageways around the building.

Notably the centre is the most energy-efficient building on the St. George Campus. The designers have achieved this with an elegant resolution of the building envelope. The exterior precast concrete sun shading superimposed over the brick and glass envelope produces facades of depth and interest.

Project Team

Montgomery Sisam Architects Inc. in association with Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios
Architects

NAK Design Strategies
Landscape Architects

Smith + Andersen
Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Read Jones Christoffersen Ltd.
Structural Engineers

Developer/Owner/Client

University of Toronto

General Contractor

Bird Construction

Photo credit: Tom Rideout

College Promenade BIA Streetscape & Parkettes

College Street Promenade (Havelock to Shaw)

Jury Comment

The College promenade streetscape and parkettes have been developed along College Street between Havelock and Shaw streets. The project is a community-led initiative to preserve the heritage of the street by developing and improving the basic elements of good urban street fabric such as sidewalks, tree planting, bicycle parking and, commendably, the integration of public art.

The design introduces a unified paving palette, flush tree grates that expand the pedestrian space and a system of bronze inlaid branding to provide individuality to the street. The system of parkettes, that integrate seating and planting are excellent solutions for a busy neighbourhood sidewalk.

The jury felt the integration of public art through the artist-designed seating, bicycle parking and in particular, the Artist's Call that resulted in the Blue Room installations, should be applauded.

Project Team

PMA Landscape Architects Ltd.
Landscape Architects

DPM Energy
Electrical Engineers

uoai inc., Scott Eunson Studios
Artist

Developer/Owner/Client

College Promenade Business Improvement Area and the
City of Toronto

General Contractor

CRCE Construction

Photo credit: James Brolly

Laneway Suites: A New Housing Typology for Toronto

Jury Comment

The jury was impressed with this citizen-led initiative in concert with Councillors and City of Toronto staff. The public consultation was comprehensive and has produced guidelines on massing, green space and design requirements for privacy and proximity. The policy was originally adopted in Toronto and East York and was recently expanded city-wide.

This type of grassroots approach and the willingness of the City to support and adopt viable proposals to intensify housing in an increasingly restrictive market should be celebrated.

Project Team

Lanescape Inc.
Architects

Evergreen
Consultants

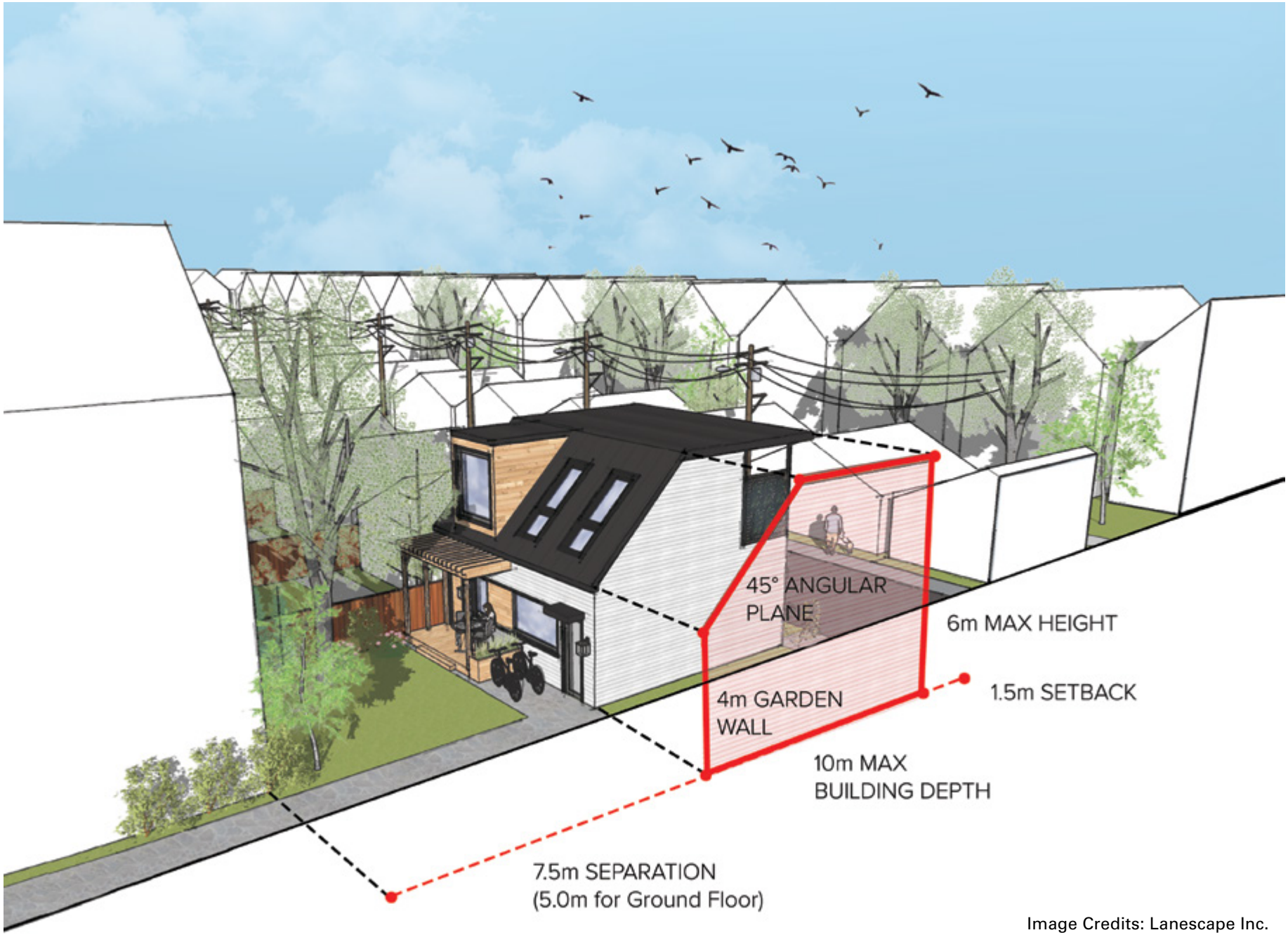


Image Credits: Lanescape Inc.

Humber Bay Park Master Plan

2225 Lake Shore Boulevard West

Jury Comment

This Master Plan offers a strong vision and future design direction for Humber Bay Park at the mouth of Mimico Creek at Lake Ontario. As one of the largest waterfront parks in Toronto, Humber Bay Park is an essential ecological and recreational space in a city feeling the pinch of rapid densification. The jury commended the plan for integrating a long-term vision that privileges large, biologically diverse open areas and animal habitats, with smaller scale, immediately implementable designs that serve a diverse public, from art viewers to craft-boaters to dog walkers. The project pairs a schematic master plan with compelling on-the-ground images that allow us to imagine the evolving park.

Project Team

DTAH
Project Lead, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design

Mott MacDonald
Engineering Consultant

Schollen & Company
Landscape Restoration Specialists

Developer/Owner/Client

City of Toronto and TRCA

Image Credits: DTAH

Spaces for Economic Diversity

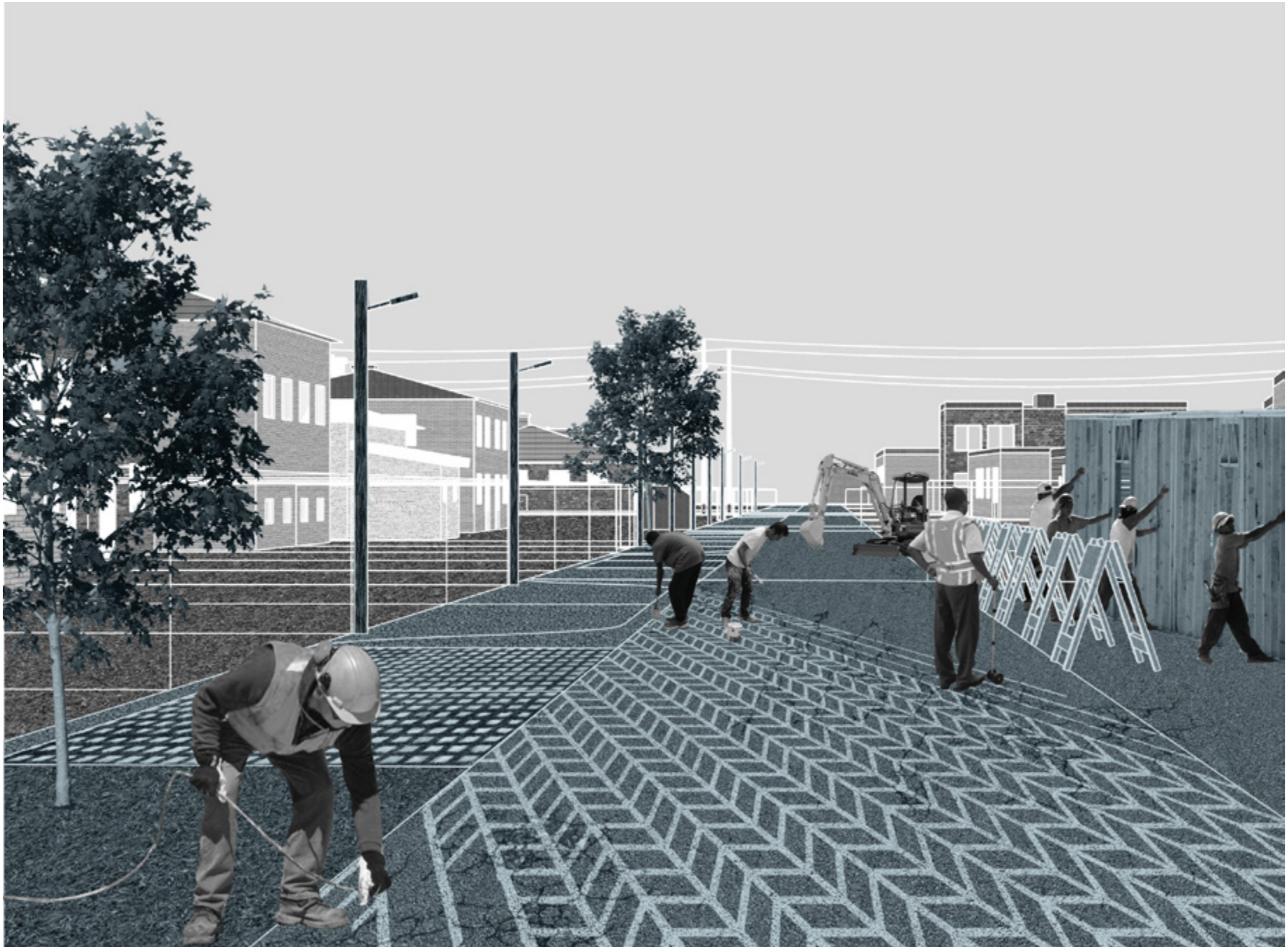
North York & City-Wide

Jury Comment

This research and design proposal argues that the City of Toronto's employment zones are shrinking and under significant development pressure because they have been too narrowly defined by zoning by-laws and that by allowing only very specific uses, employment areas haven't served the diverse range of productive activities that Toronto residents could otherwise benefit from. The author explores how this may have created a physical and social divide for Toronto's populations and proposes to alter the current zoning map with an "Overlay for Economic Diversity." This new layer would make it possible to develop new employment opportunities in currently unused spaces between employment zones and residential areas, making employment zones more accessible to a range of different people and different scales of operation. *Spaces for Economic Diversity* is a thoughtful and provocative proposal for how we might reimagine work and life in the city.

Project Team

Yuxun Emmeily Zhang



Port Lands Flood Protection & Enabling Infrastructure Project (PLFPEIP) - Bridge Design and Engineering

Keating Channel/Don River and Lake Shore Boulevard to the north, the Toronto Inner Harbour to the west, Ashbridge's Bay to the east, and Lake Ontario and Tommy Thompson park to the south

Jury Comment

The jury reviewed this submission and its context, the Port Lands, with particular interest in terms of its civic significance, visibility, economic importance, scale, innovation and overall impact on the city. For this reason, the jury elected to recognize this project with a Special Award for Catalytic Infrastructure. To this end, the jury recognizes the timeliness and significance of the Port Lands Flood Protection and Enabling Infrastructure Project (Bridge Design and Engineering), and in particular, notes that this is part of a much larger public infrastructure initiative that is being undertaken and delivered at a critical juncture in Toronto's history. As such, the Port Lands project is one of landmark importance, as a large-scale post-industrial redesign that unlocks new community and green space for Toronto while providing a timely design solution to climate resilience and flood protection, underscored by design excellence and longevity. The bridge as an element in this project specifically represents critical infrastructure for multimodal active transit (pedestrian, bikes, transit) and as such, will provide a vital link between the new Villiers Island community at the centre of the Port Lands precinct to the city core. Under the leadership of Waterfront Toronto, in partnership with the City, this project shows significant advancement and promise in the dual challenges of urban growth and climate change, with a specific focus on sustainability, resilience, innovation and design excellence.

Project Team

Entuitive: Consulting Engineers
Prime Consultant and Bridge Structural Engineer of Record

Grimshaw Architects
Architects

Quinn Design Associates
Landscape Architects

Planmac Engineering Inc.
Civil and Marine Engineers

Mulvey & Banani International Inc.
Lighting and Electrical Engineers

Schlaich Bergermann Partner
Bridge Structural Designer

Ken Greenberg
Urban Planning

Ellis Don
Construction Manager

Developer/Owner/Client

Waterfront Toronto
City of Toronto

Cherry North
View from Keating Channel Promenade
Image Credits: Grimshaw Architects

2019 JURY MEMBERS

Jane Hutton Assistant Professor, University of Waterloo School of Architecture, OALA

Jane Hutton is a landscape architect and Assistant Professor at the University of Waterloo School of Architecture. Her research looks at the expanded relations of material practice in design, examining linkages between the sources and sites of common building materials. Hutton has recently completed a book manuscript (titled Reciprocal Landscapes: Stories of Material Movements, to be published by Routledge in 2019) that traces five seminal landscape materials which ended up in New York City over the past century. Her research has been supported by fellowships from the Macdowell Colony and the Canadian Centre for Architecture in 2019. Hutton is a co-founding editor of the journal Scapegoat: Architecture, Landscape, Political Economy, and is and is co-editor of Issues: 01 Service, 02 Materialism, and 06 Mexico D.F./NAFTA, which look at the political dimensions of material practice in design. Recently, she has collaborated with artists Sameer Farooq, Kika Thorne, and Adrian Blackwell as a collective titled GTA (Gentrification Tax Action) that is building, through exhibitions and communications, a campaign to support the construction of locally managed public housing through taxation of gentrification-based profits.

Prof. Nina-Marie E. Lister MCIP RPP Hon ASLA, Associate Professor, Ryerson University, Graduate Program Director, Urban & Regional Planning, Director, Ecological Design Lab, Founding Principal, PLANDFORM

Nina-Marie Lister is Graduate Program Director and Associate Professor in the School of Urban + Regional Planning at Ryerson University in Toronto. From 2010-2014, she was Visiting Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture + Urban Planning at Harvard University, Graduate School of Design. A Registered Professional Planner (MCIP, RPP) trained in ecology, environmental science and landscape planning, she is the founding principal of PLANDFORM, a creative studio practice working at the nexus of landscape, ecology and urbanism. Prof. Lister's research, teaching and practice centre on the confluence of landscape infrastructure and ecological processes within contemporary metropolitan regions, with a particular focus on resilience and adaptive systems design. At Ryerson University, Lister founded and

2019 JURY MEMBERS

directs the Ecological Design Lab, a collaborative innovation incubator for ecological design research and practice. She is co-editor of Projective Ecologies (with Chris Reed, Harvard and ACTAR Press, 2014) and The Ecosystem Approach: Complexity, Uncertainty, and Managing for Sustainability (with David Waltner-Toews and the late James Kay, Columbia University Press, 2008), and author of more than 40 professional practice and scholarly publications. In recognition of her international leadership in ecological design, Lister was awarded Honourary Membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects. In 2017, Lister was nominated among Planetizen's Most Influential Urbanists.

David Miller OAA FRAIC

As a founding partner of MJMA, David helped to establish a body of work defined by design excellence and a commitment to elevating the public realm. Raised and educated on the East Coast with formal training in Europe, David brings a grounded cross-Atlantic perspective and a European urban design sensibility to the work of MJMA–producing some of Canada's most innovative multi-use community projects. David possesses an innate design ability and unique skill in identifying and illuminating essential aspects of a project, producing a consistent and distinguished style marked by bold spatial compositions and the integration of natural light–each of which exude a quiet confidence, elevating the overlooked and commonplace.

MJMA has won 17 Urban Design Awards and over 50 Design Awards including two Governor General's Medals in Architecture.

Emmy Scholten LLM, Head of Business Strategy Benthem Crouwel Architects - BNTHMCRWL, Amsterdam

Emmy is an international strategist with a passion for urban design excellence in the era of climate change. At Benthem Crouwel Architects she translates their mission to enhance urban quality, into tangible partnerships and projects.

During her ten years in public service, Emmy worked on policy and international relations;

promoting business development and the creative industries. She worked at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, and the Embassy in New Delhi. She holds a degree in international and European law from Nijmegen University, including Master programs from Rome and Copenhagen.

Before joining Benthem Crouwel as Head of Business Strategy, Emmy lived and worked in Toronto serving the Dutch diplomatic corps. As deputy consul general, Emmy fostered public-private partnerships and knowledge sharing on the intersection of city planning, climate change, resilience and design excellence. These connections informed major Toronto revitalization projects and shaped networks of Dutch and Canadian experts.

Alexandru Taranu **FRAIC, FCIP, OAA, RPP, CanU**

Alex is an urbanist, urban designer and architect with extensive experience in Canada and abroad, working in consulting as well as government positions on a wide variety of projects. He has established and managed Brampton's Urban Design section for many years with focus on Central Area planning and design, city-wide urban design policy, development design review, heritage preservation, urban design studies and public buildings/special projects management. He is currently Senior Advisor, Architectural Design, leading game-changing programs such as the Riverwalk and providing architectural and urban design advice for key corporate projects and striving to make Brampton more urban, sustainable and liveable.

Alex is a strong advocate for sustainable and healthy urbanism and for design excellence. He is a founding member and past director of the Council for Canadian Urbanism (CanU) and founding member and past chair of Ontario Professional Planners Institute Urban Design Working Group. He is a frequent presenter on urban design, sustainable and healthy urbanism at major national and international conferences, guest lecturer and critic at universities and colleges, member of professional juries and of the design review panels for the cities of Ottawa, Burlington and Metrolinx. Alex is Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Planners and of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

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