

urban design awards

2023

2023 Edmonton Urban Design Awards

Edmonton

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from residents
to professionals,
every single
edmontonian
shapes the way
our city grows
and evolves

foreward from mayor sohi



On behalf of City Council and the people of Edmonton, welcome to the 2023 Urban Design Awards!

The submissions in this year's Awards publication demonstrate the role good urban design plays in creating great places.

Great places are not just attractive, they are safe, accessible, vibrant and inclusive. They are imagined, designed and built to lessen their environmental impact, and allow us to adapt to our changing climate. And great places are the fundamental building blocks of city-building.

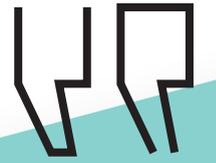
Many of the projects also address important issues our city currently faces including energy transition and climate resilience, as well as our continued challenges with housing accessibility and affordability. I'm particularly impressed by the number of projects that have embraced and created space for Indigenous culture. The thoughtfulness and creativity of these projects give me hope that as a community we can continue to tackle these critical issues of our time.

To the designers, artists and community groups of Edmonton, you should be proud of your accomplishments. This booklet is evidence of our growing design culture, and proof that the quality of urban design in Edmonton is second to none. Your work is an inspiration to us all.

Enjoy the shows!

A. Sohi

Yours truly,
Mayor Amarjeet Sohi



great places
are the
fundamental
building blocks
of city-building

Mayor Amarjeet Sohi

57 submissions

45 days of open competition

overview



Photo credit: Philam Nguyen

Photo credit: David Bhopari

Photo credit: Melanie Andony

Location: Churchill Square

urban design awards overview

Urban design and architectural excellence play a critical role in enhancing the quality of life in Canadian cities. For this reason, the Edmonton Urban Design Awards were established in 2005 to recognize individuals, organizations, firms and projects that have contributed to enhancing the quality of life in Edmonton.

Urban design projects can be submitted in one or more of the nine categories in this year's awards program. Winning submissions in the categories of Urban Design Plans, Community Projects, Urban Architecture, Student Projects, Civic Design and Urban Fragments



this year's submissions pushed the technical and creative boundaries of their respective disciplines and took on the myriad challenges facing cities today with care and humility

Peter Speary, Chair

will be eligible to participate in the National Urban Design Awards, hosted by the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC), the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) and the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA), in cooperation with Canadian municipalities. Winning submissions in the Heritage Projects category are eligible to participate in the National Trust Awards Program hosted by the National Trust for Canada.

In 2023, the Edmonton Urban Design Awards program introduced new categories for sustainable urbanism and housing innovation, to reflect the increased immediacy of these issues within the broader city building conversation. Likewise, this year special recognition will also be given to projects which embody, and in turn advance, the 'Big City Moves' of The City Plan.

the jurors were truly impressed with the forward looking nature of the work being undertaken here in edmonton

Peter Speary, Chair



2023 edmonton urban design awards committee

Adrian Benoit,
Edmonton Design Committee

Cynthia Dovell,
Royal Architectural Institute of Canada

Natalie Goulet-Sorenson,
Alberta Association of Landscape Architects

Neal LaMontagne,
Alberta Professional Planners Institute

Katelynn Schutz,
Media Architecture Design Edmonton

Kasia Galica,
City of Edmonton

David Holdsworth,
City of Edmonton

Ian Mulder,
City of Edmonton

Matt Sloan,
City of Edmonton

Mary-Ann Thurber,
City of Edmonton

Peter Speary,
City of Edmonton (Chair)



urban design categories



urban design plans

This category is for a plan or study of a significant area within Edmonton that provides a development or redevelopment strategy for urban transformation in the mid-term to long-term. Urban design studies, master plans, redevelopment strategies and community plans of high inspirational value with the potential for significant impact on the city's sustainability or development may be submitted.



urban architecture

This category is for an individual building or group of buildings, of a high architectural standard, which achieve urban design excellence through their unique relationship with their immediate surroundings because of their site, massing, and pedestrian amenities. Winning projects will also contribute to defining a special relationship with the neighbouring urban fabric.



civic design

This category will recognize a civic improvement project such as a park, a public space, civil engineering or environmental infrastructure, street furniture and lighting elements, etc., which have been implemented as the result of an urban design plan or initiative.



urban fragments

Urban fragments are single, small-scale pieces of a building or landscape that contribute significantly to the quality of the public realm. This category includes small and modest elements such as street furniture, lighting elements, interpretation media, memorials, public art, facade improvement or other forms of intervention.

These are projects that contribute to the beautification, sustainability, enjoyment, and/or appreciation of the urban environment. Projects can be temporary (but not ephemeral) or permanent.



community projects

This category is for any built project, however modest, initiated and implemented by a community-based organization that enhances the public realm. Placemaking, public art, special installations, environmental initiatives, or a banner program are examples of projects in this category.



student projects

This category is open to students enrolled in planning or design programs at a post-secondary level. Student projects must have an urban design focus and have been completed as part of a studio assignment, or as a result of a final project or an individual thesis.



heritage projects

This category is for projects that demonstrate sensitivity and creativity in preserving the heritage value of a building or area. The project should contribute to the sense of place, revitalization or viability of the complex or district while demonstrating excellence in the conservation of heritage values.



housing innovation

This new category is for a residential project of a high architectural standard, of any size and scale, that demonstrates innovation in housing design and promotes community health and wellbeing. The focus of this award is to highlight housing projects that exhibit creative and innovative solutions to address accessibility, affordability, sustainability, housing diversity and neighbourhood intensification.



sustainable urbanism

This new category is for bold projects including plans, studies, buildings, public spaces and other urban design interventions. They should exemplify both technical innovation and creative, thoughtful design to advance our climate goals while enriching the human experience; enhancing human wellness while creating great places.

special recognition

Edmonton is readying itself to grow to a city of two million people. This year, special recognition will be given to projects that align with and embody The City Plan and its 'Big City Moves'. Submissions are encouraged to include additional information about how these projects align with The City Plan; however, this information was not a competition requirement.

about the big city moves

The Big City Moves define bold, transformative priorities to create a different set of opportunities as Edmonton moves toward a city of two million people. The Big City Moves are:

Greener as we grow – Continuing to develop a healthy city while protecting and enhancing our land, air, water and biodiversity.

A rebuildable city – Planning for the flexibility and imagination needed to keep our city vibrant and livable in the face of shifting local and global trends.

A community of communities – Making big city life feel less anonymous and more personal, and developing housing, recreation, schools and employment in all of our districts that can be better accessed through all forms of transportation.

Inclusive and compassionate – Focusing our efforts to improve equity, end poverty, eliminate racism and make clear progress towards Truth and Reconciliation.

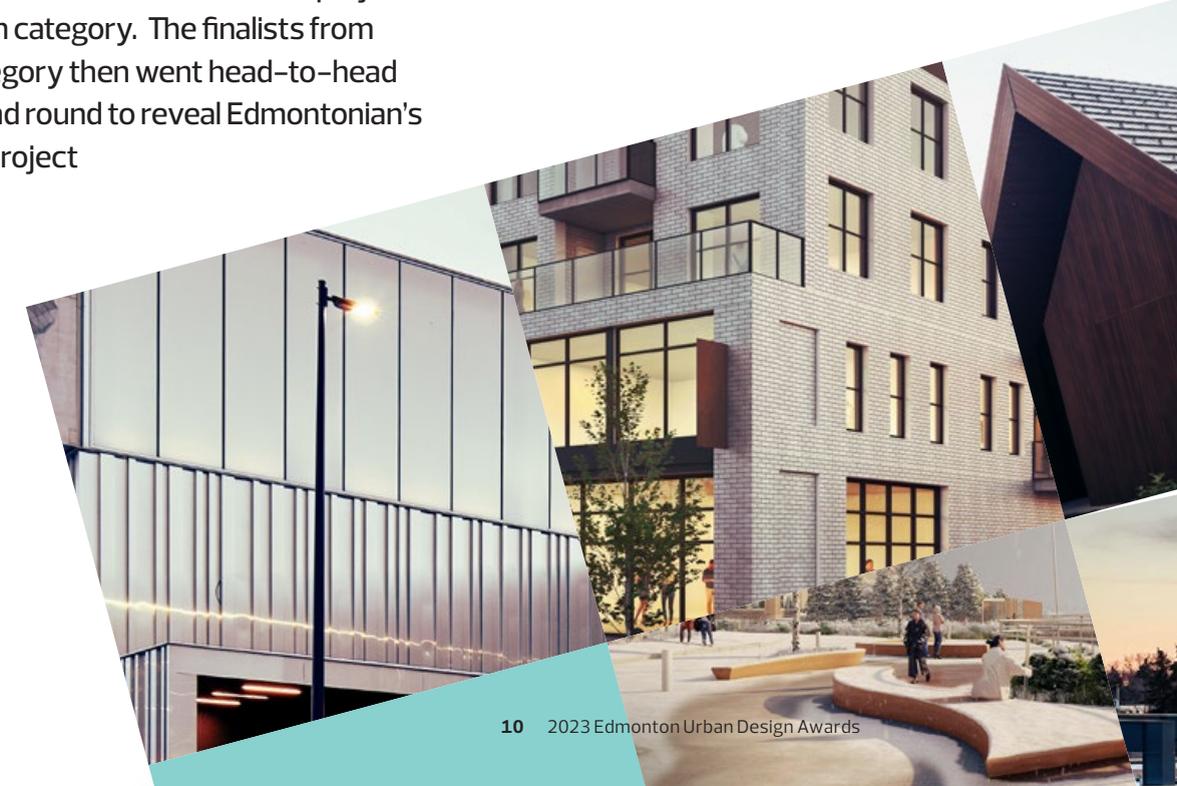
Catalyze and converge – Putting Edmonton into position to continually improve its competitiveness and readiness in a changing world.

For more information on The City Plan, visit edmonton.ca/thecityplan.

people's choice award



The People's Choice Award is chosen by Edmontonians and encourages public conversation about good design while promoting the local design community. This year, the People's Choice Award used two rounds of voting. In the first round, the public selected their favourite project from each category. The finalists from each category then went head-to-head in a second round to reveal Edmontonian's favorite project



submissions



Manchester Square



Confetti

Alberta ENT



@81



The Mercury Block



Edmonton Police Service Northwest Campus
Photo credit: Andrew Latreille



Stanley A. Milner Library Renewal
Photo credit: Andrew Latreille



Stadium Station



Edmonton City Hall Plaza and Fountain



CX Tower

University Commons



Civic Employees Legacy Tower Plaza and Streetscape



Capilano Branch Library



Touch the Water Promenade



Fort Edmonton Park Entry



Whitemud Equine Centre



TELUS World of Science Edmonton - Aurora Expansion



Valley Line LRT - Sustainable Urban Integration



kihikaw aski

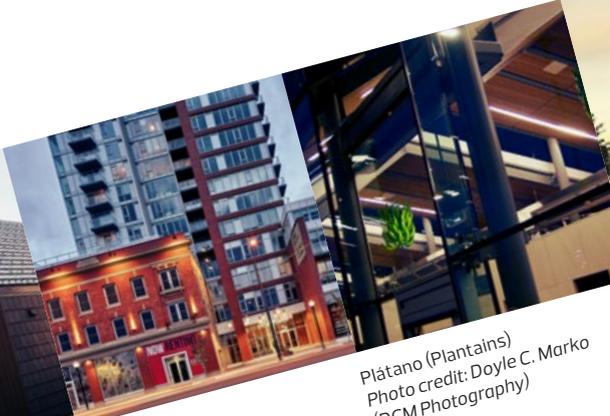


kihikaw aski

submissions



EPCOR Garneau Substation



The MacLaren



Plátano (Plantains)
Photo credit: Doyle C. Marko
(DCM Photography)



Station Lands Public
Realm Master Plan



CANOPY
Photo credit: Philam Nguyen



T5M Connect North Glenora



Contrast & Connectivity:
Celebrating the Clash of History
and Modernity



Autograph Office Headquarters



OEX2



Glenora School Parking Lot
Renewal



Kathleen Andrews Transit Garage,
Photo credit: Raymond Chow



Ellerslie Crossing Urban
Master Plan



If the Drumming Stops



Strathcona Back Street



Roxy Theatre
Photo credit: Jacqueline Young (Stationpoint Photographic)



Edmonton Valley Zoo-
Nature's Wild Backyard



The Strathcona



Boyle Street & McCauley Urban
Design Analysis & Preliminary
Design

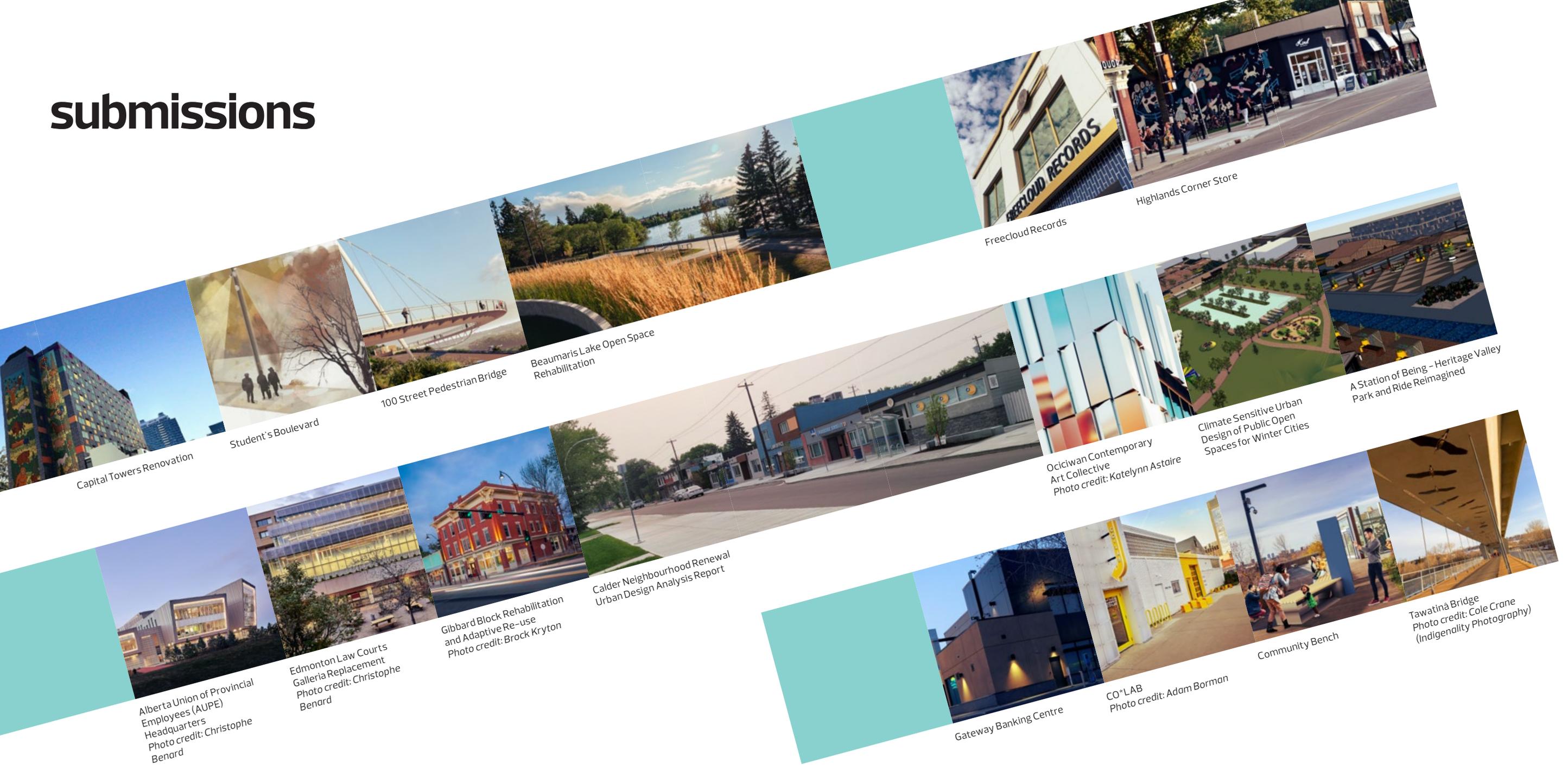


Jasper Avenue New Vision



Westmount Substation

submissions



Capital Towers Renovation

Student's Boulevard

100 Street Pedestrian Bridge

Beaumaris Lake Open Space Rehabilitation

Freecloud Records

Highlands Corner Store

Ociciwan Contemporary Art Collective
Photo credit: Katelynn Astaire

Climate Sensitive Urban Design of Public Open Spaces for Winter Cities

A Station of Being – Heritage Valley Park and Ride Reimagined

Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE) Headquarters
Photo credit: Christophe Benard

Edmonton Law Courts Galleria Replacement
Photo credit: Christophe Benard

Gibbard Block Rehabilitation and Adaptive Re-use
Photo credit: Brock Kryton

Calder Neighbourhood Renewal Urban Design Analysis Report

Gateway Banking Centre

CO*LAB
Photo credit: Adam Borman

Community Bench

Tawatinā Bridge
Photo credit: Cole Crane (Indigenuity Photography)

8

categories

57

submissions

awards



Photo credit: Adam Borman

Photo credit: Andrew Latreille



Location: Stadium Road and 111 Avenue

stadium station



**urban architecture
award of excellence**

GEC Architecture

contributors

ISL Engineering and Land Services



the simplicity, openness, and use of colour in its architecture transform the station and suggests approaches for other transit upgrades

Juror comment

description

As one of Edmonton's original five LRT stations, Stadium Station no longer met the community's evolving needs or the City's long-term development goals. Extensive physical barriers, inward-facing and enclosed public areas, and a below-grade concourse (which provided the only means to access the station) contributed to challenges in providing a consistently safe and accessible experience for patrons.

An ambitious redevelopment project to transform the station into a vibrant urban space was undertaken to address existing shortcomings and pave the way for future development of neighbouring areas into a fully integrated transit-oriented community. The redesigned station revolved around creating a dynamic station plaza, enabling seamless access to LRT platforms and an upgraded bus facility. New linkages spanning the LRT track facilitate connections between neighbouring communities, the river valley and civic amenities. The redeveloped station prioritized sustainable urban integration, universal design, safety and security, comfort and maintainability.

The project involved the removal and replacement of the existing canopy, facilitating an additional platform and extensive public realm improvements. The station, built in 1978, was characterized by an over-scaled steel structure that hindered visual permeability to the platform.



Drawing inspiration from the original architecture, the new canopy incorporates visually striking structural steel gantries as a defining design element. This feature pays homage to the original station, effectively reducing clutter and improving sightlines by suspending station components, such as the roof elements, shelters, and overhead traction power, eliminating the need for columns in passenger areas.

In a nod to the iconic original design, yellow signature elements were incorporated into the station architecture to serve as visual beacons for patrons arriving from Commonwealth Stadium.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles were crucial for the project. The design emphasized improved visibility, ensuring open and unobstructed sightlines, and integrated the station with the adjacent public space. New ancillary facilities, such as a dedicated security monitoring station and upgraded washrooms, were included to enhance user experience and ensure a secure environment for all patrons.

Location: Stadium Road and 111 Avenue



a clean, elegant and streamlined station design which has transformed what once was a dark, unsafe and functionally challenging LRT stop

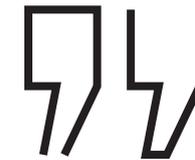
Juror comment

Photo credit: Jacqueline Young
(Stationpoint Photographic)

Location: 10728 124 Street NW

a significant contribution
to place-making and
destination on 124 street...
the bold design and
transparency of the facade
animates the street in the
evenings when the theatre
comes alive

Juror comment

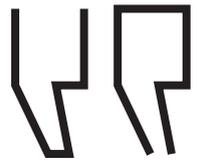


**roxy
theatre**



**urban architecture
award of excellence +
people's choice award winner**

Group2 Architecture Interior Design Ltd.



bringing back an old icon with style! the new roxy does justice to the area and will be an edmonton institution for a long time

People's Choice Awards

Photo credit: Jacqueline Young
(Stationpoint Photographic)



Photo credit: Jacqueline Young
(Stationpoint Photographic)



Location: 10728 124 Street NW



i love the playfulness of the beacon signage, an act to connect with the heritage, while at the same time allowing a contemporary revision... the scale of the project still feels like it fits the community and does not detract from its neighbors

People's Choice Awards

description

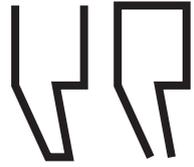
The original Roxy Theatre, lost to fire in 2015, was deeply embedded in Edmonton's theatre scene and an anchor of the 124 Street community. Memories recall lineups snaking down the block, an over-crowded lobby spilling onto the street and restaurants packed with audience members anticipating a show or glowing in its aftermath. The design of the new theatre celebrates these memories and reinforces the theatre's relationship to public space.

The rebuilt theatre occupies the same narrow site, presenting an urban design challenge to maximize the impact of limited street frontage while designing for inward-focused theatre spaces. Massing is tallest at the rear to accommodate the stage and catwalk, descending towards the street in a platonic wedge that concentrates the building's formal energy at the public interface. A generous overhang protects and enhances this pedestrian-oriented space, taking advantage of zoning allowances for overhead construction above City-owned sidewalks. White stucco cladding references the international-style of its predecessor, while anticipating future development of neighbouring properties.

An operable glass wall at grade creates a flexible, permeable connection to the public sidewalk, supporting direct access to the lobby in temperate conditions and offering views to gallery walls inside. A subtle transition from sidewalk to polished concrete floor reinforces the lobby as an extension of the streetscape. The prized second-level frontage is occupied by the rehearsal hall; large windows create a public-facing proscenium where glimpses of upcoming performances are broadcast to the street. Specially selected window blinds double as rear projection screens that further animate the facade.

The iconic sign reaches skyward to the maximum allowable building height; its warm yellow glow visible from afar signals the return of a cultural hub. Bigger and bolder, it is resolutely dedicated to the memory of its predecessor; broken shards recovered from the debris allowed for an exact colour match. In a city where the urban fabric changes quickly the enduring legacy of this sign is an invaluable tool to recast a part of Edmonton's story.





the library is now open and airy, the design is modern and sleek giving the churchill square another focal point... the library has so many interactive features that it encourages the public to visit the space

People's Choice Awards

Photo credit: Andrew Latreille



Location: 7 Sir Winston Churchill Square



sleek, modern, upbeat

People's Choice Awards

stanley a. milner library renewal



urban architecture award of merit

Teeple Architects Inc.

contributors

Stantec (formerly Architecture Tkalci Bengert) (Architect of Record)

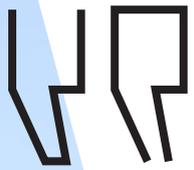
description

Stanley A. Milner Library Renewal was conceived to reimagine and reshape the existing library as a physical expression of EPL's forward-thinking values and civic role – The Library of the Future. With 21st century library amenities including a third space, large galleria spaces, café, children's library, makerspace, teaching kitchen and an Indigenous gathering space (designed in collaboration with local Cree Elders) the renewed building supports the library's position as a social and creative hub.

Inspiration for the dynamic exterior began with the desire for the new "skin" of the building to be more than a cosmetic application. Introduced as a continuous wrap around the building, the new skin was offset and stretched off the original building making visual connections to adjacent landmarks.

Sustainability was an integral component of the design of the renewed library. For the creation of a highly durable, high-performance envelope a zinc metal was chosen to work with the form of the building and reflect the timelessness of the design.

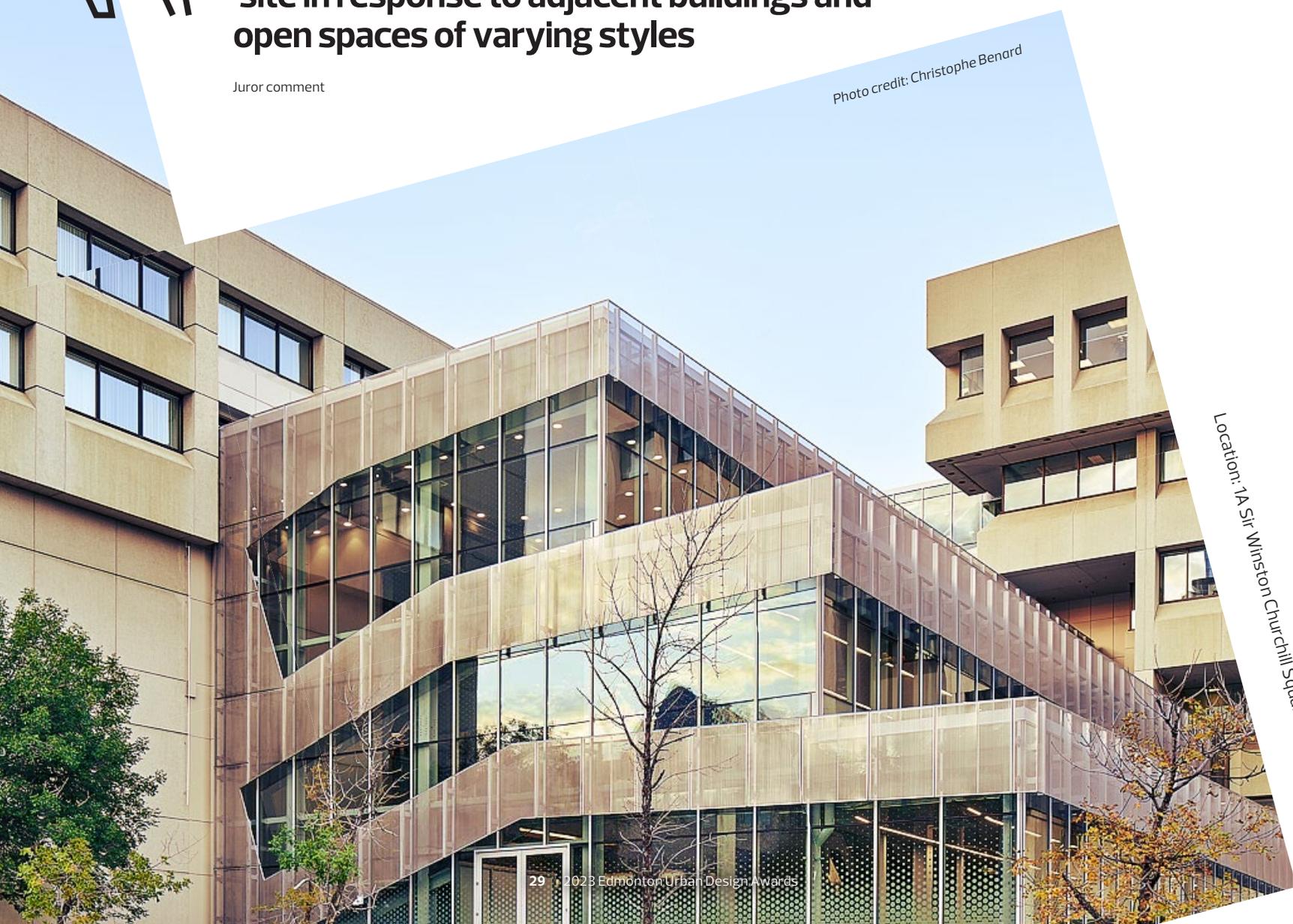




the law courts galleria solves a highly challenging design assignment to redevelop on a constrained site in response to adjacent buildings and open spaces of varying styles

Juror comment

Photo credit: Christophe Benard



Location: 1A Sir Winston Churchill Square

edmonton law courts galleria replacement



urban architecture award of merit

Next Architecture Inc.

contributors

WSP Canada Inc.

description

Located in the heart of downtown Edmonton on Sir Winston Churchill Square, this project involved the careful replacement of a galleria and public concourse that was added to the Edmonton Law Courts in 1984.

The existing galleria was surrounded by and served the original 1973 building and the 1984 addition, and the solution had to deal with the differential movement between the two massive structures while maintaining water and air tightness. A large consideration was maintaining access to justice – in other words, ongoing construction within a fully operational provincial courthouse. The solution was a new structure built over the old, and the old carefully dismantled from within. One major constraint was that the new design could not have overhead glass like the old, and instead needed to be clerestory in nature. The new glazing features a fritted pattern to allow for privacy commensurate with the function of the building, and the stepped shape provides interest, emphasized by the perforated metal panels that tie the strong horizontal lines of the (uneven) storey heights of the existing buildings together and double as sunshades. The green tint of the glass provides an approachable and calming hue to complement the stainless steel panels.



Photo credit: Katelynn Astaire

Location: 10124 96 Street

**it's remarkable
in its appeal**
People's Choice Awards

ociciwan contemporary art collective



**urban architecture
award of merit**

Rockliff Pierzchajlo Kroman Architects Ltd.

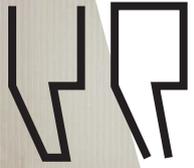
description

Revitalizing a vacant building on a prominent corner of the Boyle Street neighbourhood, the gallery provides a physical home for a local Indigenous Canadian modern artist collective. The new multifaceted mirrored façade is symbolic of the Collective's commitment to innovation and creativity; the ever-changing reflections are a commentary on how the building and the art within can lead to shifting contemporary dialogues around indigenous traditions, breaking normative expectations.

From an urbanistic perspective the focus of the project was on reactivating the building's edges by aligning the largest and most vibrant programs along its perimeter, projecting the art outwards while drawing pedestrians in. Expanded glazing at grade improves the ambient glow emanating from the building at night. Existing exterior alcoves are illuminated with linear LED lights to eliminate dark entryways and remove blind spots both at street level and above. Linear LEDs have also been embedded into the reflective panel façade, appearing and disappearing as one moves past the building at night.

The project has given the art collective their first physical space to call home, respecting the existing fabric of the neighbourhood while creating a new hub for collaboration. Through its current purpose and outward appearance, it breaks new ground while respecting history and context.





for sustainability reasons, urban architecture needs to be much more about reuse of existing buildings and much less about building new ones

People's Choice Awards

Photo credit: Adam Borman



co*lab



**urban architecture
award of merit**

Rockliff Pierzchajlo Kroman Architects Ltd.

Location: 9641 102a Avenue

description

Located in a currently underserved neighbourhood, CO*LAB adapts a modest existing building into a critical piece of infrastructure for the local arts community. Faced with a limited budget, the design team worked through challenging existing conditions to meet the ambitious programmatic needs of the tenant, a not-for-profit arts group. Spaces created include a gallery, black box theatre, workshops, studios, and a café. An additional goal, outlined by the owner, was for the project to engage the street and the community in an authentic manner that current and future residents of the area would embrace.

A bold, graphic approach to colour and illumination create a strong yet genuine identity for the project. Inspired in part by the tenant's annual lantern festival, the building embodies an energy that radiates outward onto the street. The bright yellow fixed seating has been specifically arranged to create a funnel effect around one of the sets of bright yellow garage doors.

An additional set of garage doors was inserted into the south elevation of the multi-purpose space, immediately across from the set facing the avenue, axially connecting the street to the rear courtyard. This connection further encourages community-centric performances, inviting a wide variety of possibilities for arranging events of many scales and audiences.





a very engaging opportunity for riders to experience, learn and immerse themselves in indigenous culture

from the People's Choice Awards



Location: Mill Woods LRT Stop



the project connects us with the history of the land and the papachase peoples as well as current day indigenous arts and culture

Juror comment

if the drumming stops



urban fragments award of excellence

Tania Willard, Peter Morin and Cheryl L'Hirondelle



this project is sensational...promoting visibility of indigenous culture, history and language within the platform in a design that allows the viewer in integrate themselves within stories and teachings

Juror comment

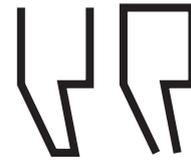
description

"If The Drumming Stops" symbolically connects transit users to stories of the Papaschase Cree territory.

It is the intention of the commissioned artist pair to give voice to the spirit of the language, land, histories and present realities of Indigenous peoples in what has become the current neighbourhood of Mill Woods, but which was and will always be carried in the hearts of Papaschase descendants. Working within their interpretations of the protocol of being a guest in Papaschase territory, the artist pair invited a third artist with family roots in the Papaschase First Nation to join the project. This collaborative work asserts the Papaschase Cree people's belonging and histories within the matrix of the contemporary cultures, peoples and eco-systems of the Mill Woods neighbourhood today.

With this work, the artists show the complex interrelationship of the past and present, highlighting the historical injustice of the Papaschase Indian Reserve dispossession. Each element of the piece was carefully selected, inspired by the histories of Indigenous peoples who lived in the area. The artwork juxtaposes archival images and drawings of the site's original ecosystem and society with the modern, diverse community, allowing a commuter to look through the eye of the buffalo while standing within the glass transit shelter, for example.

Cree syllabics featured on 'woodpecker-red' glass share a traditional 'Wake-up Song' in Cree, and the title of the work relates to historical accounts and current presence of the Papaschase community. The 'Wake-up Song' was sung at the beginning of each day by an osākawēw (camp crier), as for the nēhiyawak (Cree people), the sky is a sacred being. Today, it is still sung at special events and ceremonies across this land.



the process that the artists used to involve the community and the papaschase first nation is commended for its depth and thoughtfulness

Juror comment

Location: Mill Woods LRT Stop





the design is a true reflection of how michael phair has touched edmonton over the years

People's Choice Awards



Location: 1012-1014 Street NW

confetti



community projects
award of excellence

hcma Architecture + Design

description

Urban centres are freckled with utilitarian spaces and forgotten parkettes bursting with unwritten opportunities for intentional community building. These in-between spaces are blank canvases with boundless potential to connect people across cultures and social bubbles through shared experiences centred around art, gathering, and play. Michael Phair Park in downtown Edmonton was the quintessential example of this. An urban fragment diamond in the rough.

Named in 2016 after Alberta's first openly gay former City Councillor Michael Phair, the park celebrates Phair's distinguished career as a politician, a LGBTQ2Ai+ community advocate, and his many contributions to the City of Edmonton at large. However, the original design of the park was not fully realized due to budget constraints, which resulted in the micro-park not fully achieving its potential.

In 2021 the parks renewal plan began when Phair, with full support from the Downtown Edmonton Community League and Urban Development Institute engaged a local firm to conceptualize ways to improve the parkette. The group successfully applied for a City of Edmonton Downtown Vibrancy Strategy grant for three interventions in the park: painted murals on the adjacent building walls, a permanent stage, and overhead lighting to increase safety and extend operating hours.



Michael Phair Park's Confetti (the first intervention) is the physical realization of Michael Phair: vibrant, playful, provocative, celebratory, impactful, and welcoming. The key to Confetti's success is its ability to capture those intentions as a design byproduct of Phair's profound positive legacy, passion for community, and the mark he continues to leave on Edmonton.

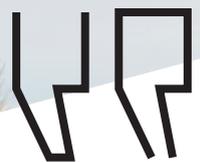
Confetti is thousands of equally sized circles, in 16 vibrant colours, covering the building walls that frame the park and spread across the ground, acting as an iconic unifying component of the entire park area. Their placement is explosive, performative, and random, an exuberant proliferation of colour bursting out of the park. As the paint fades with time, new circles will be added to maintain the vibrancy of the piece and hopefully inspire other areas of the city to reflect Michael's wide ranging impact across Edmonton by adding a little colour.

Location: 10124 104 Street NW



it brings me so much joy and i love how the space has been activated for everyone in the community however they come to the space

People's Choice Awards



there's an almost never-ending source of meaning embedded in the indigenous art pieces

Photo credit: Cole Crane (Indigenuity Photography)

Location: Valley Line Southeast LRT linking Cloverdale and The Quarters

tawatinâ bridge



community projects award of merit

David Garneau

description

Edmonton's 260-metre Tawatinâ Bridge features more than 500 paintings of the surrounding river valley's flora and fauna, and the First Nations, Métis, and settler histories of the area. Bridging the city, the series of acrylic paintings on Dibond vary in size from 6" for the smallest painting all the way up to 4' x 24' for the largest painting. The overall dimensions of the installation are 5 x 250 metres. Together the paintings show the intertwined lives of the people and the non-human beings who live and travel through here. The artist's meetings with First Nations Elders, knowledge keepers, and Métis citizens, and numerous visits to the valley since childhood, are the backbone of these paintings.

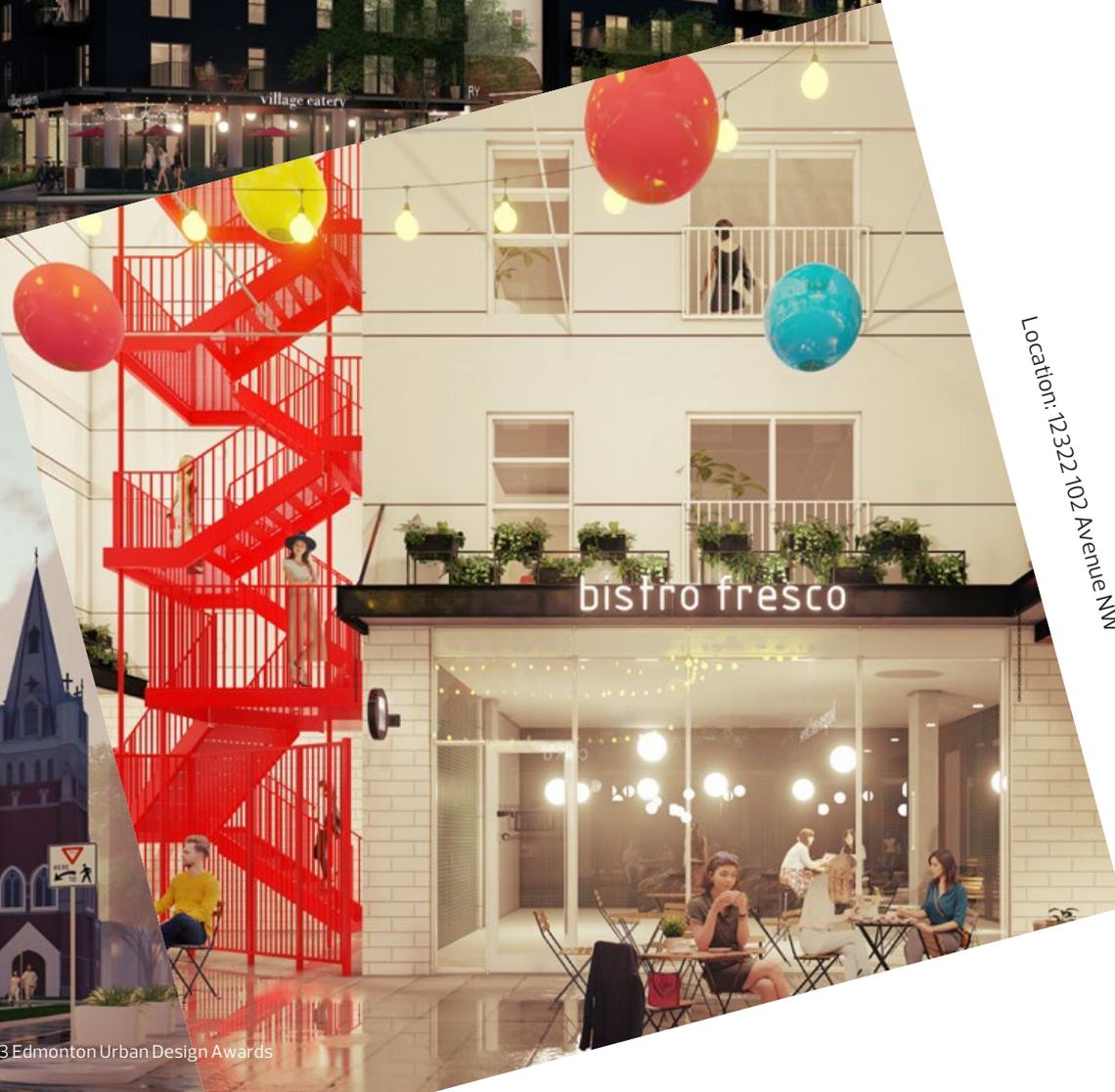
The artist explains that each picture is a prompt to storytelling: "There are well-known histories, lesser-known family tales, sacred stories, hidden messages, and provocative combinations. The images are for everyone, but the stories belong to those who know, keep, and share them. I have heard the stories but will not write them down. They are not mine to share. I hope their keepers will visit here, share their stories, and make these paintings live."





this project goes well beyond the provision of housing to demonstrating a wide range of sustainable and city-making design initiatives

Juror comment



Location: 12322 102 Avenue NW

the mercury block



housing innovation
award of excellence

Hodgson Evans Architects Inc.

contributors

Stantec - Landscape Architecture
Protostatix Engineering Consultants
McElhanney
ECCOM Consulting Inc.
PMW Engineering

description

The Mercury Block is an example of housing innovation going beyond the physical, fostering community health and well-being. Nestled just off 124th Street, in one of Edmonton's most desirable neighbourhoods west of downtown, The Mercury Block is a 7-storey mid-rise, mixed-use development currently under construction with completion in December 2023.

Comprising 163 residential units of various sizes, including junior 1, 1.2, and 3 bedroom units, The Mercury Block ensures inclusivity by providing a variety of housing options for individuals and families. This mix encourages a healthy and socially cohesive community.

At the heart of The Mercury Block's design philosophy is the concept of dynamic public space that defies traditional apartment living. The ground level exterior courtyard, surrounded by small tenant bays, creates a unique and inviting atmosphere that encourages social interaction and fosters a sense of belonging among residents and visitors alike. Moreover, the colourful and vibrant aesthetic, highlighted by a red exterior staircase, promotes healthy lifestyles and enhances pedestrian safety by keeping "eyes on the street."

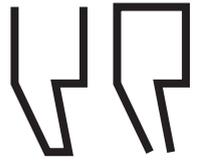
The building's thoughtful approach to incorporating outdoor spaces also extends to the residential levels with 2-metre deep balconies providing occupants ample space to engage with the pedestrian realm and connect with nature. In addition to private amenity space, The Mercury Block also features a large, communal rooftop patio and fitness centre. These areas serve as extensions of the living spaces, encouraging outdoor activities, social gatherings, and healthy lifestyles.

Through curated retail experiences and incorporating universal design principles into the public realm, The Mercury Block becomes more than just housing—it becomes a magnetic community hub that is accessible and inclusive. Retail tenants on the ground floor not only add convenience to the lives of those in the community, but also create opportunities for interaction and shared experiences.

Through its location, versatile residential units, dynamic public spaces, and emphasis on outdoor interactions, The Mercury Block nurtures a thriving community. By transforming a previously underutilized plot of land into a vibrant and playful urban realm, The Mercury Block sets the standard for neighbourhood intensification and showcases the immense potential of thoughtful, community-oriented housing design.



it's a great example of mid-rise development, which we need more of in edmonton



it is commended for its response to the streetscape, provision of accessible units, and a suite of sustainable measures achieving an 80% reduction in carbon impacts compared to conventional buildings

Juror comment



Location: 10904 136 Street NW

t5m connect north glenora



housing innovation
award of merit

T5M Connect

contributors

Flechas Architecture



an important missing middle example... with a diversity of housing options and well-designed infill to fit within existing residential community

Juror comment

description

The T5M Connect North Glenora project is an innovative building that has created housing that is environmentally sustainable, community oriented, and well integrated into the neighbourhood. Creating missing middle housing in a core neighbourhood was a fundamental goal for this project. Through innovative design and thoughtful planning, the project was able to fit the scale of the community while significantly increasing the number of homes on the site. Two single-family home lots that previously housed 1 person, were transformed into 16 homes providing housing for 36 people.

This project uses the proven building science of super-insulation, airtightness, quality windows & doors and efficient mechanical systems to reach Passive House certification, a first for a multifamily building in Alberta. Air source heat pumps and a solar PV system help reduce carbon impacts by 80 percent compared to a standard building.

The building has a diverse mix of housing types including: 1 bedroom suites, 2 bedroom flats, 2 bedroom townhomes, and 3 bedroom townhomes. It also includes 2 units that are fully wheelchair accessible and barrier-

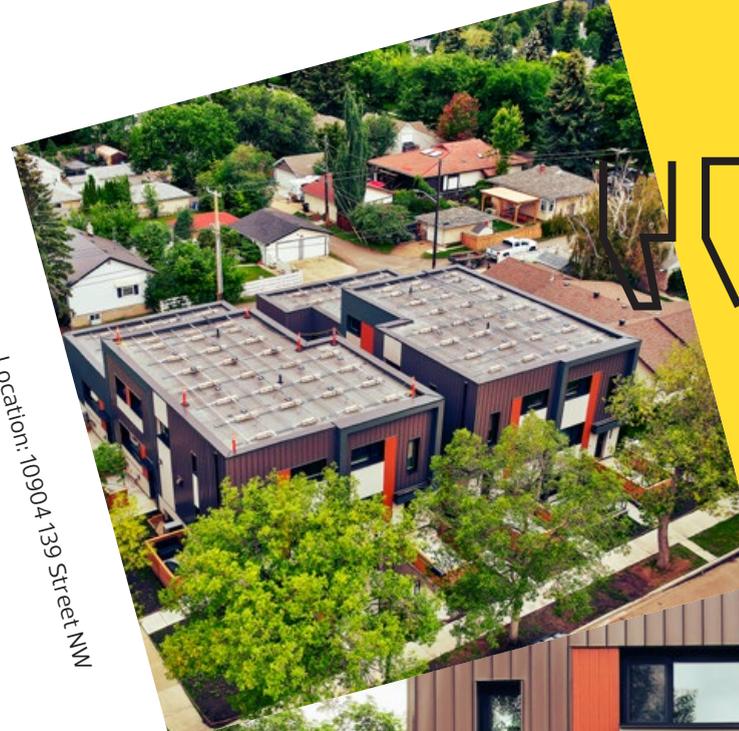
free. This mix of unit-types was intentionally included in the design to encourage a wide variety of people living in the building. The building is now home to people from all stages of life including students, single professionals, young couples, families, and empty-nesters. The barrier-free units have provided much-needed housing where wheelchair users can thrive.

When designing this building, it was important that a sense of community was created both within the building and with the neighbourhood. The unique courtyard design and corner-lot orientation ensured that all units entered from the street, the courtyard, or the side pathway rather than an internal hallway. This automatically orients residents within the community at large and allows connection to other community members.

Other design considerations that were made to integrate the building into the neighbourhood were ensuring that the building height and setbacks were similar to adjacent buildings while also providing a transition to upcoming 4-storey buildings. The rear unit of the building was also lowered in response to the neighbour's concerns about sunlight for her garden.



Location: 10004 139 Street NW



incredible! proof of concept! more please!

People's Choice Awards





Location: 1 St. Winston Churchill Square



the plaza is a largely under-utilized space, and this refresh will make it much more useful and friendly

People's Choice Awards

edmonton city hall plaza and fountain



civic design award of excellence

GEC Architecture

contributors

Janet Rosenberg and Studio



the revitalization of city hall plaza is a highly successful reinterpretation of the original concept for today's expectations of universal accessibility and seamless transformations between daily use and programmed special events

Juror comment

description

The City Hall Plaza and Fountain project, in the heart of downtown Edmonton, holds immense significance in the city's civic life. Serving as a hub for year-round activities, the plaza is an accessible and inviting space for all Edmontonians. Originally opened in 1992, the plaza and fountain required significant reinvestment to meet contemporary urban public space standards, including maintenance, accessibility, and safety requirements.

To maintain the essence of the original reflecting pool, the design team sought inspiration from the 1992 design, incorporating elements such as arched fountains, a formal allee of trees, and a symmetrical layout. Accessibility was a key focus, achieved by raising the plaza to create a gentle slope leading up to City Hall and allowing for zero-entry access to the new fountain. This inclusive design approach ensures that, for the first time, individuals of all abilities can access the front door to City Hall.

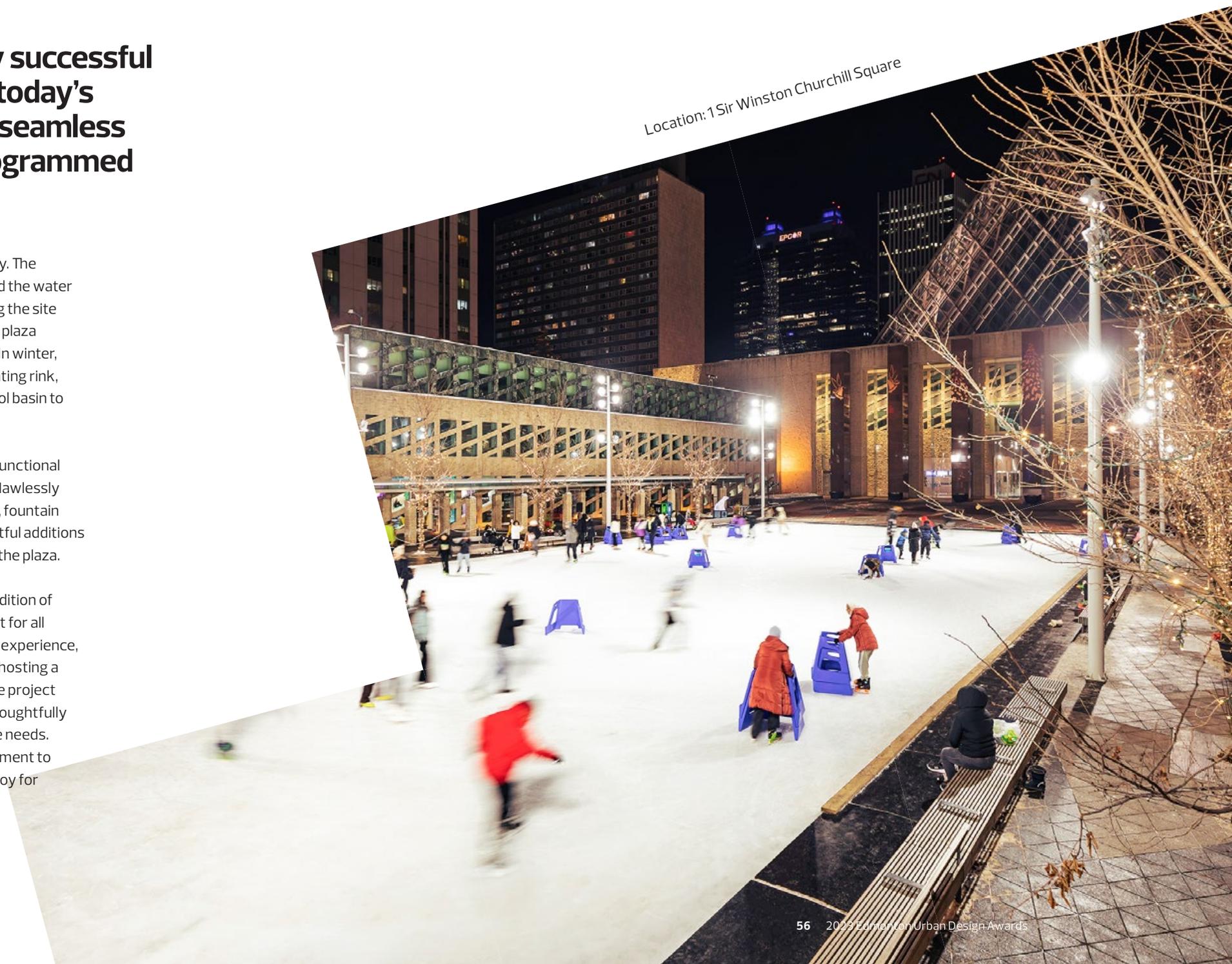
The core feature of the project is its versatility. The wading pool and fountains can be drained, and the water stored in an underground surge tank, allowing the site to be quickly transformed into an open urban plaza ready to host special events and gatherings. In winter, the fountain seamlessly transitions into a skating rink, with refrigeration lines integrated into the pool basin to support ice-making.

The design team also paid close attention to functional elements, ensuring the new granite surface flawlessly incorporated the perimeter drainage system, fountain jets, and tactile warning strips. These thoughtful additions enhance both the aesthetics and usability of the plaza.

The revitalized design carries forward the tradition of a vital civic space, serving as a gathering point for all Edmontonians. It offers a vibrant year-round experience, accommodating day-to-day activities while hosting a wide array of special events and festivals. The project is a welcoming and accessible public space thoughtfully designed to cater to the community's diverse needs. It stands as a testament to the City's commitment to creating inclusive and engaging spaces to enjoy for generations to come.



Location: 1 Sir Winston Churchill Square





the renewal of kinistinâw park in the quarters deftly uses public art to reference both indigenous and métis cultural traditions and the chinese history of the area with playful and colourful design elements

Juror comment

kinistinâw park



**civic design
award of excellence**

DIALOG Architecture, Landscape Architecture,
Structural Engineering and Planning

contributors

- Tiffany Shaw (Métis artist)
- ISL Engineering and Land Services
- Ion Irrigation Management
- Thurber Engineering
- Vincent Helton and Associates

Location: 10249 96 Street NW

description

Located in the Quarters district in east downtown Edmonton, kinistināw park is an important piece in the revitalization of a neighbourhood that is expected to be transformed into a vibrant, inclusive community. Multiple amenities for the redeveloping community are located along this linear park, including open play areas, shaded seating areas, and a natural playground, all woven together by a red steel 'ribbon' canopy offering respect to the area's Indigenous and Chinese history. Public art elements produced by an artist reference traditional Métis beading patterns and are integrated into the canopy. The project also includes a water feature, with fountains splashing onto granite pavers and washing across the traditional floral Métis pattern etched into them, as a symbol of the ways in which elements of the Indigenous and Métis culture have been washed away. The materials and colour palette selected for the park complement Edmonton's changing seasons and bring colour and character to the neighbourhood.

A key goal of the project was to use environmentally sustainable landscape design practices. Following the precedent set by The Armature, low impact design features of the park include an irrigation cistern that captures stormwater run-off from the park. Water captured from the cistern provides water to maintain plantings within the park. All planting beds are irrigated by high efficiency drip irrigation utilizing the collected stormwater, and plantings include a mix of native grasses and trees.



Extensive stakeholder and public engagement were an integral part of the development of the park. Participants involved in the engagement process included City of Edmonton Administration, community leagues and residents of Boyle Street, Riverdale, and McCauley, members of the broader public, as well as representatives from social agencies in the community including the Métis Urban Capital Housing Corporation, Chinese Benevolent Association, and Boyle Street Community Services, among many others.

The park is an important first step in revitalizing the neighbourhood, offering a place of respite in the inner city and proving great design can improve lives.

Location: 10249 96 Street NW



it is a beautiful contribution to downtown and celebrates the stories of Edmonton in a dramatic, equitable way

People's Choice Awards

Location: 14141A Fox Drive NW



the design provides the appropriate sites and supporting infrastructure in simple, symbolic forms that evoke traditional settings but within an urban context

Juror comment



it's the first of its kind in the country and is a long overdue step to indigenous resurgence and promoting spaces of indigenous healing, joy and cultural continuity

People's Choice Awards

kihcihkaw askî



civic design award of merit

Reimagine Architects Ltd.

description

kihcihkaw askî ("sacred earth") is the first of its kind in Canada: a permanent, urban space designed to facilitate Indigenous ceremony, celebration and education. Nestled on Treaty 6 Territory, in the greenery of the River Valley just south of Fox Drive, kihcihkaw askî provides a natural setting for ceremonies, sweat lodges, celebrations, knowledge-sharing activities such as tipi-raising and other land-based learning opportunities.

A circular area edged in stone, and equipped with two permanent stone heating devices and water sources, accommodates up to eight sweat lodges. Nearby,

another circular space is for tipis featuring a permanent fire pit for ceremonies. A lush amphitheatre with a grassy slope emerges from the ground, offering a place to sit and listen, facilitating educational and cultural exchange. A pavilion building houses washrooms, locker rooms, a gathering space and storage for ceremonial items. The ground beneath the amphitheatre is used to store equipment, as well.

kihcihkaw askî's architecture is literally and philosophically grounded in the earth. Its design is minimalist but meaningful. Its structures are simple and sustainable: local materials were used, and they are oriented to maximize solar gain. Solar panels are installed on the pavilion building to harness the generous sunshine Edmonton receives.





**well designed in all aspects...
integrating community access and
environmental concerns**

Juror comment



Location: 10323 83 Avenue NW

strathcona back street



**sustainable urbanism
award of excellence**

EDA Planning + Urban Design Inc.

contributors

Al-Terra Engineering
DES Engineering
EOR



**it demonstrates the
great activation potential
in edmonton's extensive
alleys network**

People's Choice Awards

description

Strathcona Back Street is a pilot project that thoughtfully implements Low Impact Development (LID), to integrate it as a public realm enhancement. In the years preceding project funding, businesses, community and City staff recognized area transformational potential and unfunded concepts were developed. The result, borne of community collaboration, features the conversion of two parking lots and an alley into pedestrian plazas and a shared street built on green infrastructure. Constructed in 2021, ongoing monitoring of outcomes have indicated environmental, social, and economic benefits:

- Preliminary monitoring results indicate reduction of stormwater pollutants including average removal of total suspended solids, total phosphorous, and total dissolved phosphorous by 79.5%, 69.9%, and 76.9% respectively. The project is designed to retain a 1:2 year storm event and increases resiliency of the drainage system and reduces runoff volume discharged into the river valley.
- A steady increase in public use through colourful tables and chairs added as community-led placemaking, festivals and events such as the Art Walk, Farmer's Market, and Fringe Festival program the spaces.
- Improved universal accessibility and visibility to businesses facing the alley and the back street.
- Increased business activity and redevelopment. Since its approval, new businesses have activated the spaces with retail frontages and patios. Nearby businesses such as the Strathcona Hotel and Farmers Market have announced recent and complimentary redevelopment plans.



Being the first of its kind in Edmonton, the project navigated multiple challenges. These included defining and refining City policies for shared streets, securing funding, and collaborating with diverse stakeholders. Technical challenges include retrofitting environmental infrastructure into a constrained urban context.

The project was initiated with minimal funding to repave the alley right-of-way only. Analysis of flood modelling data indicated the site experienced surface ponding and combined sewer overflow during large storm events. The project subsequently became eligible for LID funding under EPCOR's program, and the project sought and was subsequently awarded a grant from the Green Municipal Fund (GMF) through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. The grant is awarded to projects that "reflect the very best examples of municipal leadership in sustainable development – feasibility studies and pilot projects that are expected to lead to high environmental benefit."

Location: 1032383 Avenue NW



**changes the
concept of what
an alley is at an
important location
in edmonton**





Location: 10302 82 Avenue NW

the strathcona



heritage projects
award of excellence

Hodgson Schilf Evans Architects Inc.

description

The Strathcona stands as a striking redevelopment of the historic Strathcona Hotel, an architectural gem with a rich past. Originally constructed in 1891 as a 3-storey wood-frame structure, the hotel underwent expansions in 1903 and 1907. Its prominent corner location in Old Strathcona, Edmonton's historic district, adds to its allure. The hotel's historical significance primarily lies in its role as a vital stopover for immigrants arriving after the railway's advent in 1891. Notably, it holds the distinction of being the oldest wood frame commercial structure in the region.

Recognized on the prestigious Alberta Register of Historic Places, the redevelopment approached preservation with care, ensuring the retention of the late Victorian commercial style's defining features. Existing street front building accesses were maintained, and the addition of new openings was avoided to honour its authenticity.

The redevelopment envisioned the entire building transformed into commercial space across all levels. This entailed converting main and basement levels into diverse retail, food, and beverage spaces, while the upper-level residential suites were adapted into flexible commercial areas. Overcoming the challenge of limited exterior entrances, an innovative multi-storey atrium was introduced. This atrium serves as both a visual and physical bridge, connecting various levels and tenant spaces. An interior link connects the main building entrance on Whyte Ave. to the rear alley through the atrium. Notably, feature lighting within the atrium is the creation of a skilled local industrial designer.

The design thoughtfully fosters exterior tenant spaces along Whyte Ave, Gateway Blvd, the adjacent alley, and even an upper-level outdoor patio. These spaces offer occupants a chance to engage with the vibrant ambiance of the Whyte Ave area.

Despite facing setbacks during construction, including a partial fire that damaged a significant portion of the roof, the renovation remained committed to rebuilding these areas according to the original design.

The tenant mix showcases the diversity of businesses, featuring a tavern, barbershop, wine bar, take-out pizzeria, and nut mylk tea shop. The Strathcona is more than a redevelopment; it's an homage to history, an ode to architectural heritage, and a harmonious blend of tradition and contemporary vibrancy.

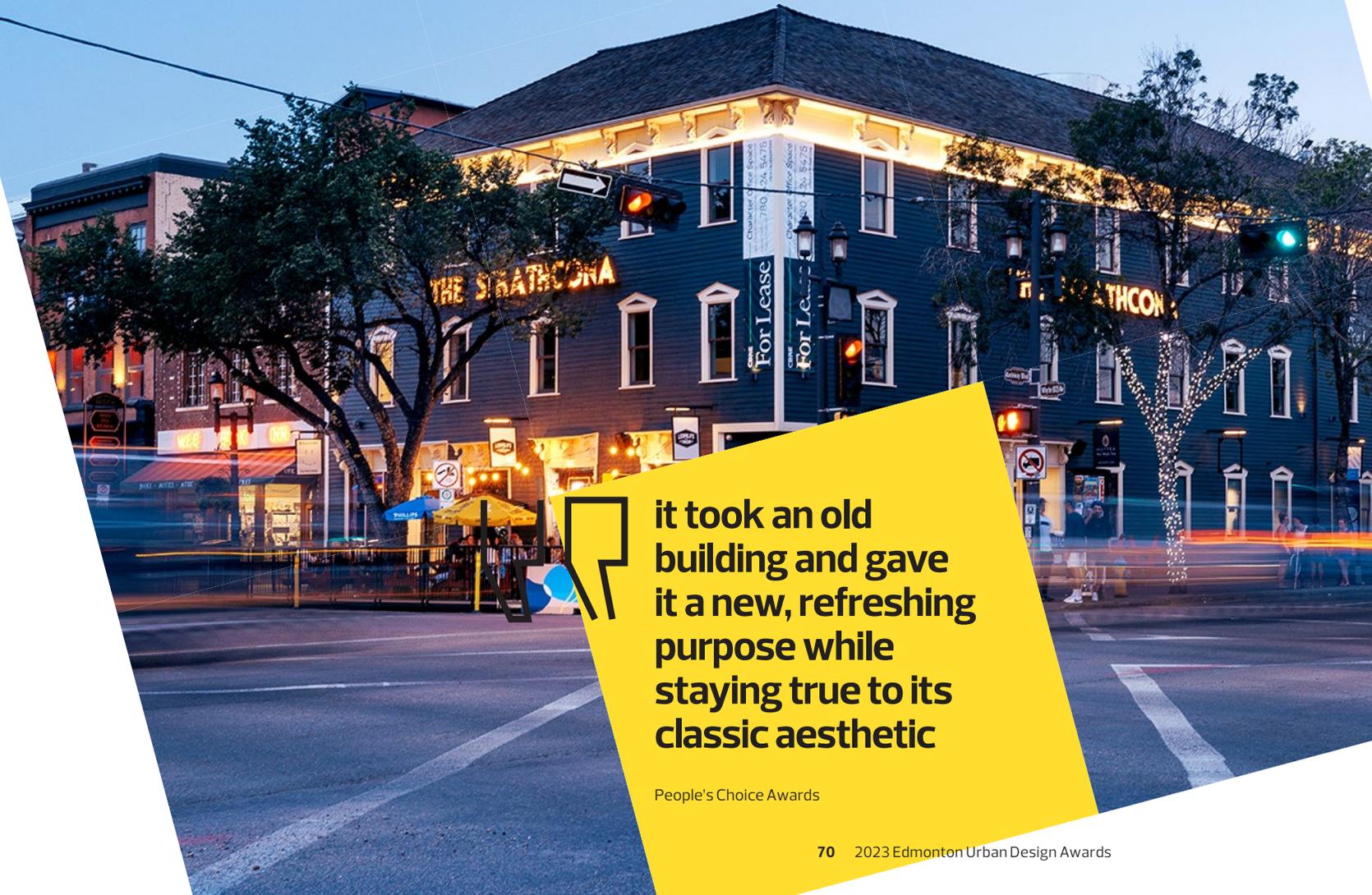


Location: 10302 82 Avenue NW



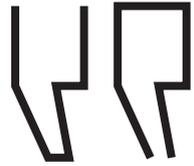
the strathcona project achieves excellence on many levels... it is a respectful and careful renewal of an important heritage building and a much-loved place

Juror comment



it took an old building and gave it a new, refreshing purpose while staying true to its classic aesthetic

People's Choice Awards



**universities are a
cornerstone of the city,
and working with a heritage
building is a tricky balance
of respect and urbanizing...
this project did well at both**

People's Choice Awards



Location: University of Alberta North Campus

university commons



**heritage projects
award of merit**

GEC Architecture

description

At the front door of the University of Alberta's main campus, the Dentistry Pharmacy Building, now known as University Commons, has stood as a cherished historic landmark since 1922. This adaptive reuse includes a dynamic seven-storey addition and a vibrant south plaza, establishing a student hub that fosters interdisciplinary collaboration, inclusion, and social interaction.

The south entrance, reading room, and lecture theatres underwent substantial rehabilitation, forming the heart of the historic core. With a focus on inclusion and accessibility, the main south entry is thoughtfully modified to create accessible entries that link the original and new buildings. A grand arching pathway emerges as a defining feature, shaping the new south plaza and inviting all to enter.

The east façade is wrapped by a new student porch that extends around the north side of the building, providing additional accessible entries and activating the campus through engaging public space. The South Academic Link seamlessly connects University Commons with the South Academic Building, resolving accessibility and connectivity issues within the campus.

With a harmonious blend of inclusivity, sustainability, and cultural appreciation, the building stands as a beacon for the successfully adaptive reuse of heritage buildings, embracing the past while confidently stepping into the future.





an important preservation of an unique historical structure that doesn't resort to facadism and maintains the original structure

People's Choice Awards

Photo credit: Brock Kryton

Location: 6425 112 Avenue NW



gibbard block rehabilitation and adaptive re-use

The project goal was to retain the original 1912 character and design intent, essentially removing the effects of the last century or so, and integrating changes only when necessary. The team followed the "Standards and Guidelines of Historic Places in Canada" during the rehabilitation.

A laser scan of the exterior was used to verify the extant conditions against the original drawings and develop a Building Information Model that could be used to propose amendments to the storefronts. The existing condition of the building was poor, with layers of renovations altering much of the structure and storefronts. The design restored the original geometry of the storefronts, and stripped away the elements that reduced the connection to the street and sunlight.

The outcome of the project is a successful commercial hub, with active street-oriented commercial uses at grade, adapted upper floors with high-density office and short-term rental suites, and a reactivated rooftop terrace.



heritage projects award of merit

Next Architecture Inc.

contributors

Entuitive Corporation
MCW Consultants Ltd.
McElhanney Ltd.

description

Built in 1912 as a commercial block with two primary storefronts and nine luxury apartments, the Gibbard Block once boasted the latest in comfort and detail. Despite the toll of age and changing times, the building has maintained its core integrity. This local landmark is both a Municipal and Provincial Historic Resource.





the idea of capturing the spirit of place and of placemaking is evident in the design

Juror comment

Location: University of Alberta North Campus

students' boulevard



**urban design plans
award of excellence**

ISL Engineering and Land Services

contributors

HAPA Collaborative
Toole Design



the concept for students' boulevard sets a trajectory for the phased redevelopment of a key campus spine that will generate a cohesive campus character while improving circulation in favour of pedestrians and cyclists

Juror comment

description

The Students' Boulevard planning concept at the University of Alberta provides a clear, bold, and celebratory vision for this reimagined campus landscape. Initiated by the University's Campus Planning and Development office, the plan achieves broad based design objectives that reinforce pedestrian safety, improve multi-modal functionality, and enhance the student, faculty, staff, alumni, and visitor experience along one of the University's most noted public spaces, the Students' Boulevard.

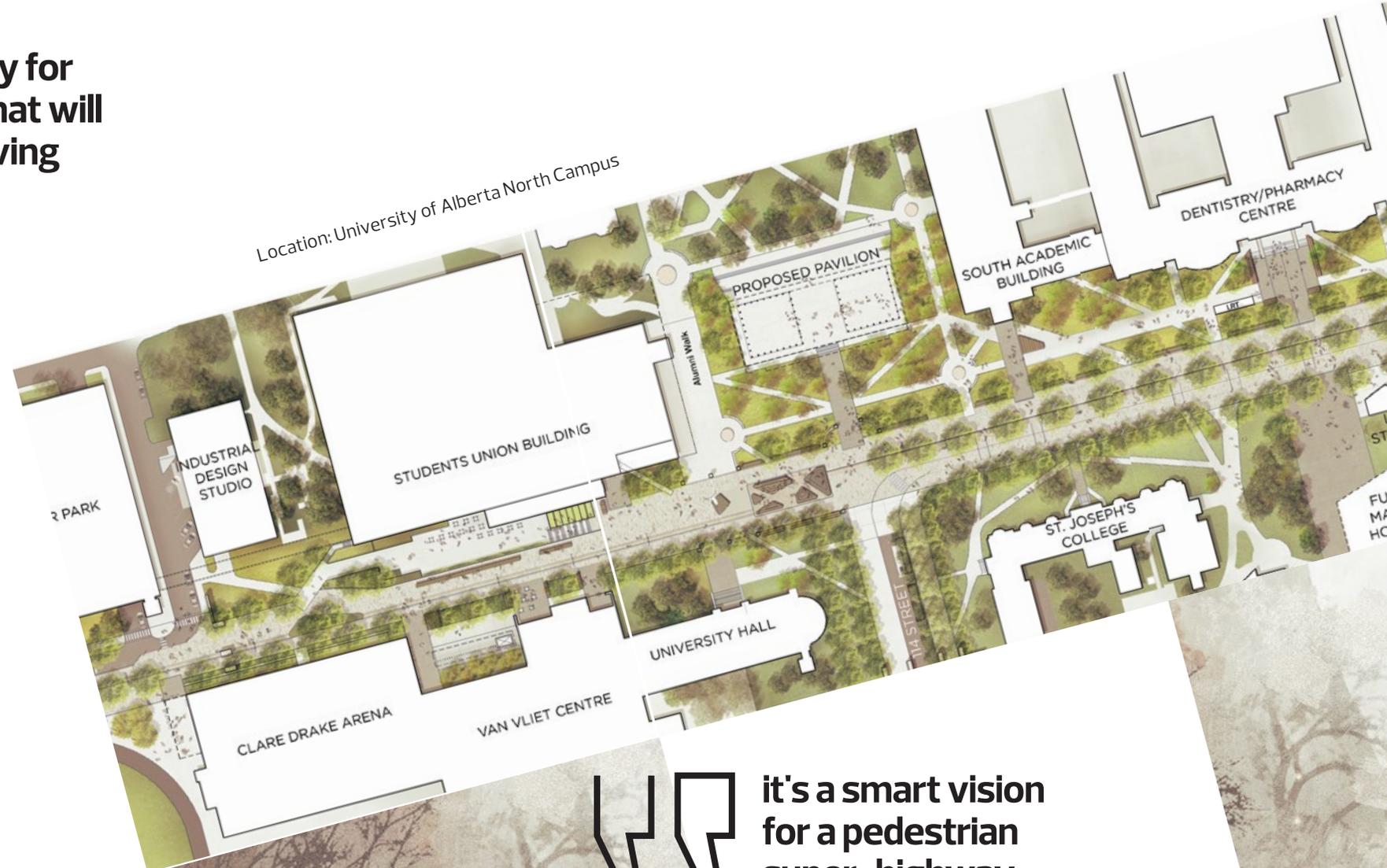
project objectives:

- Reinforcing Students' Boulevard as the central spine of campus, and an organizing space for circulation, movement, social and academic life.
- Enhancing Student's Boulevard as a safe, inclusive, and vibrant space of activity and culture, where users feel welcome, secure, included, and connected.
- Designing Students' Boulevard to be flexible and responsive to future projects as they occur while establishing a landscape that is legible, intuitive, and reflective of the historic campus character.
- Emphasizing Students' Boulevard function as a third place, a place of belonging, and as "the heart of a community's social vitality, the grassroots of democracy."



- Highlighting the 24/7, four-season flexibility of Students' Boulevard as an active, flexible space on campus where students gather to celebrate festivals, events, and other special activities regardless of the weather, or the time of day.
- Expressing the "spirit of place" intrinsic to campus through design elements, materials, and regional specificities, including indigenous plants, colours, paving materials, and microclimate.

The concept connects disparate spaces and functions by offering a highly integrated sequence of interventions, responding directly to the needs of the adjacent facilities. Significant effort was applied to the analysis of the patterns of movement through the spaces, to and from destinations on campus and in the surrounding neighbourhoods. As a result, appropriately scaled facilities are provided for different travel modes, including transit buses, reinforcing the intended hierarchy. Different functional requirements are clearly defined through the thoughtful redistribution of space and the application of materials that respond to the surrounding built form and landscape context. The plan establishes the Students' Boulevard as a vital component of the University environment, facilitating travel, and hosting the dynamic activities that define campus life.



it's a smart vision for a pedestrian super-highway

People's Choice Awards



an elegant asymmetrical bridge that will become a new city landmark

People's Choice Awards



a beautiful and critical gateway from the central downtown into the river valley that has always proved a challenge to access

People's Choice Awards

Location: McDougall Hill Road

100 street pedestrian bridge



urban design plans award of excellence

Entuitive Corporation

contributors

- Grimshaw Architects
- Dub Architects
- schlaich bergemann partner
- O2 Planning and Design
- SMP Engineering
- Matrix Solutions
- Sheffer Andrew Ltd.
- Thurber Engineering
- Hanscomb
- RWDI
- Western Heritage
- Urban Security



useful, beautiful, edmonton-specific... what is not to love?

People's Choice Awards

The project approach and design decisions were informed in response to the local context, ensuring the bridge contributed to the public realm both in terms of immediate infrastructure, economic impact, and primarily in response to a survey of respondents throughout the city.

During preliminary design, the City of Edmonton undertook public engagement activities to promote participation in a public survey to elicit feedback on three major areas: important factors (such as impact to existing natural environment, positive impact on the skyline, and accessibility); bridge concept options (gauging sentiment towards timber, cable-stayed, and suspension bridge designs); and ideas for improvement.



description

In collaboration with the City of Edmonton, the 100 Street Pedestrian Bridge was designed to be an iconic landmark and destination that celebrates the river valley edge and that becomes a signature piece of the Edmonton skyline. The suspension bridge design, which was supported during public engagement, provides a safe and continuous link over McDougall Hill Road and along the edge of Edmonton's downtown. In respect to Edmonton's identity as a winter city, the established design will accommodate active transportation year-round, further celebrating the seasonal transformation of the river valley.

The envisioned implications of the new bridge on nearby businesses, transportation hubs and commuting Edmontonians align with several City plans including the Capital City Downtown Plan, Capital City Downtown Community Revitalization Levy Plan, Bike Plan, and Downtown Public Places Plan.

Preliminary design of the project was approved in summer 2023 and is currently on hold pending funding approval.

The suspension bridge design solution allowed for a unique structure that extends further over the river valley, creating a statement experience as a signature destination. Unobstructed views of the river valley from the bridge will be made possible by one-sided cables, while the asymmetrical bridge design reduces disruption to the city skyline and views of the downtown. Finally, the gentle pathway curve will help the bridge feel comfortable and safe.

Location: McDougall Hill Road



**a dynamic vision...designed
to be functional from a
pedestrian and alternate
transportation perspective
while creating destination
and place at the same time**

People's Choice Awards

honourable mentions

Fort Edmonton Park Entry,
Urban Architecture
Dub Architects

**Kathleen Andrews
Transit Garage,**
Urban Architecture
gh3

**Edmonton Valley Zoo –
Nature's Wild Backyard,**
Urban Architecture
the marc boutin architectural
collaborative

CANOPY, Urban Fragments
Jonathan Monfries

**Highlands Corner Store,
Urban Fragments,**
AECOM Canada Ltd.

**Jasper Avenue New Vision,
Civic Design**
EDA Planning + Urban Design Inc.

**Beaumaris Lake Open
Space Rehabilitation,
Sustainable Urbanism**
AECOM Canada Ltd.

**Westmount Substation,
Heritage Projects**
Hodgson Schilf Evans
Architects Inc.

**Boyle Street & McCauley
Urban Design, Analysis &
Preliminary Design,
Urban Design Plans**
EDA Planning + Urban Design Inc.

↳ a poetic reimagining of entrance and procession that engages visitors to fort edmonton park moving them through the process of arrival

Fort Edmonton Park Entry
Juror comment



↳ so innovative and beautiful! captures your attention and brings beauty and shape to the square

CANOPY
Juror comment

↳ brings jasper avenue into the 21st century, creates a walkable main street and increases its overall appeal

Jasper Avenue New Vision
Juror comment



↳ a bold architectural treatment and large-scale public art applied to a building typology that rarely receives design attention

Kathleen Andrews Transit Garage
Juror comment

Photo credit: Raymond Chow



↳ melds architecture into the natural area so that they are seamlessly integrated

Edmonton Valley Zoo – Nature's Wild Backyard
Juror comment



Photo credit: Philiam Nguyen

big city moves recognition

Stanley A. Milner Library Renewal
Teeples Architects Inc.

Ociwan Contemporary Art Collective
Rockliff Pierzchajlo Kroman Architects Ltd.

CO*LAB
Rockliff Pierzchajlo Kroman Architects Ltd.

If the Drumming Stops
Tania Willard, Peter Morin and Cheryl L'Hirondelle

Highlands Corner Store
AECOM Canada Ltd.

Confetti
hcma Architecture + Design

Tawatinâ Bridge
David Garneau

T5M Connect North Glenora
T5M Connect

kinistinâw Park
DIALOG

kihcihkaw askî
Reimagine Architects Ltd.

Strathcona Back Street
EDA Planning + Urban Design Inc.

The Strathcona
Hodgson Schilf Evans Architects Inc.

Westmount Substation
Hodgson Schilf Evans Architects Inc.

100 Street Pedestrian Bridge
Entuitive Corporation

Boyle Street & McCauley Urban Design Analysis & Preliminary Design
EDA Planning + Urban Design Inc.



an exemplary result of the city's neighbourhood renewal program for its attention to a myriad of complex issues: local character areas and their history and cultural evolution, indigenous collaboration, environmental asset mapping...

Boyle Street & McCauley
Juror comment



the city's commitment to retaining it through redevelopment is commended for its integration into a social hub for the westmount neighbourhood

Westmount Substation
Juror comment



this project creates place and destination within the highlands neighbourhood bringing with it energy and vitality

Highlands Corner Store
Juror comment

6 international jury members

2 days

20 award winners

adjudication



jurors



chris bruntlett

Chris Bruntlett is a Canadian author and urban mobility advocate who strives to communicate the benefits of sustainable transport and inspire happier, healthier, more human-scale cities. His first book, co-authored with his partner Melissa and entitled 'Building the Cycling City: The Dutch Blueprint for Urban Vitality', explored the urban and transport planning decisions that established the Netherlands as a bicycle paradise, and how North American communities are translating these ideas to build their own cycling cities. In 2019, Chris and Melissa, along with their children, relocated from Vancouver to Delft, the Netherlands. As Marketing and Communication Manager for the Dutch Cycling

Embassy, he now uses his knowledge and passion to share practical lessons for global cities wishing to follow the footsteps of the Netherlands, and become better places to live, work, and—of course—cycle. His latest book, published by Island Press in 2021, is entitled "Curbing Traffic: The Human Case for Fewer Cars in our Lives".



marta farevaag

Marta Farevaag is an urban planner and founding principal at PFS Studio in Vancouver who has worked on many complex, urban, multidisciplinary projects over her career. She is a Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Planners and an Honorary Member of BC Society of Landscape Architects. Areas of expertise include large scale master plans for university campuses and major parks, design guidelines, heritage resource planning, programming of public space, commercial area revitalization, and public engagement. She has taught and been a guest critic at The University of British Columbia's School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture and has served on a number of advisory boards, including the Vancouver Heritage Foundation and the Vancouver City Planning Commission, and on many award juries. She is currently on the board of the Urbanarium, a Metro Vancouver non-profit organized to stimulate civic engagement and dialogue towards the goal of intelligent city building.



david fortin

David Fortin was born in Calgary and raised in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. David is a registered architect in the provinces of BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario, and a Professor at the University of Waterloo. Academically, David has been published widely in the areas of science-fiction and architecture, Métis architecture and design, and Indigenous design, with a particular focus on design sovereignty and agency. He has taught previously in the UK and the USA, and previously served as the Director of the McEwen School of Architecture at Laurentian University, the first person of Indigenous heritage to direct a school of architecture in Canada. A citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario, he is principal architect of David T Fortin Architect Inc., a small design firm working primarily with First Nations and Métis communities across Canada, with a focus on affordable housing and mixed-use projects. David is the only person to have been twice selected to co-curate Canada's official entry to the Venice Biennale in Italy (2018 - *Unceded: Voices of the Land*, 2023 - *Not for Sale!*), and in 2022 was recognized as one of Canada's Top 20 Aspiring Innovators of the Year by the Coalition of Innovation Leaders Against Racism.

jurors



mia lehrer

Mia Lehrer, FASLA is president and founder of Studio-MLA, an international landscape architecture, planning, and urban design practice based in Los Angeles and San Francisco. Drawing insight from ecological systems, Mia is recognized for a research-based design process that advocates for resilient and just relationships between individuals, communities, and nature. She has led ambitious public and private projects including Inglewood's SoFi Stadium and associated public parks, Dallas's Fair Park Community Park, San Francisco's Levi's Plaza, the Public Gardens at the LA County Natural History Museum, and many urban river-related planning projects including the Rio Tietê in São Paulo, the LA

River Taylor Yard G2 Park, and the Upper LA River & Tributaries Revitalization Plan. Educated at Tufts University and the Harvard University GSD, she is the recipient of the Cooper Hewitt/Smithsonian Design Museum's 2021 National Design Award for Landscape Architecture, is a Commissioner of the LA Department of Water & Power, and served on President Obama's U.S. Commission of Fine Arts from 2014–2018.



Photo credit: Conor McNally

becca taylor

Becca Taylor (Cree/Irish/Scottish) is an artist and curator. She is a registered member of Fisher River Cree Nation, MB, and was born and raised in amiskwaciwâskahikan (Edmonton), AB. Becca's practice involves investigations of kinship and the constellations of relationships that make up Indigenous communities, with a particular interest in food sovereignty, harvesting, and witnessing through deep listening, conversation, and making.

Becca has curated exhibitions for Walter Phillips Gallery, Satellite Space (*A light left on*, 2016), Urban Shaman (*Traces*, 2017), and TREX Alberta (*Through those trees*, 2020) Blackwood Gallery's Lightbox series *Crossing: Itineraries of Encounters* at the Blackwood Gallery, contributing the second set: *Living Memories* (2021). Notably, Becca co-curated the 4th iteration of La Biennale d'art contemporain autochtone (BACA) with Niki Little, entitled *níchiwamiskwém | nimidet | my sister | ma søeur* (2018), co-led land-based residency, *Common Opulence* (2018), in Northern Alberta and curated *Mothering Spaces* (2019) at the Mitchell Art Gallery. Becca is the Inaugural Director of Ociciwan Contemporary Art Centre in amiskwaciwâskahikan (Edmonton), AB.



naomi minja

Naomi Minja is a registered architect who has called Edmonton home for the last 30 years. During this time, she has practiced architecture and held positions as a Director with DIALOG – a national multi-disciplinary design firm, as Executive Director of The Alberta Association of Architects and most recently as the Regional Manager of Project Management for Public Service and Procurement Canada's Western Region.

Naomi has played a key role in a number of architecture and design related initiatives. Of note, she was one of the founders of the Prairie Design Awards program, was a founding committee member for the Examination for Architects in Canada (ExAC – the registration exam for architects in Canada launched in 2008 which has become a Canadian standard) and was an organizer behind the bi-annual Banff Session. Today she continues her involvement as member of the Canadian Architectural Certification Board's Broadly Experienced Foreign-Trained Architect review committee along with providing mentorship to architectural students and interns. In 2012, Naomi was awarded a Fellowship in the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada for her contributions to the profession.

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