



Worthy Projects Take Home 2017 Toronto Urban Design Awards

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Yesterday evening, hundreds from among Toronto's community of architects, landscape architects, urban designers, artists, developers, contractors, and more, came together at the Palais Royale to celebrate the best of Toronto development from over the last two years. The 2017 Toronto Urban Design Awards presented 21 projects with Awards of Excellence or Awards of Merit, recognizing where great ideas and topnotch execution have improved the city's quality of place.

Split across nine categories, 124 submissions were reviewed by a jury composed of David Anselmi, Director, Real Estate for Canada Lands Company CLC Limited; Elsa Lam, Editor, Canadian Architect; Gary McCluskie, Principal, Diamond Schmitt Architects; and Betsy Williamson, Principal, Williamson Williamson Inc.



Jennifer Keesmaat address the crowd, image by Craig White

Following introductory speeches by Toronto's soon-to-be-former Chief Planner Jennifer Keesmaat, Toronto's Urban Design Director Lorna Day, and Jury representative Betsy Williamson, the awards were handed out. The 2017 winners are:

Large Places and/or Neighbourhood Designs Category

Award of Excellence: West Don Lands Public Realm - Mill Street, Front Street, Eastern Avenue, Cherry Street, Cooperage Street, Rolling Mills Road, Tannery Road, Palace Street, Trolley Crescent, Underpass Park

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Project Team – Landscape Architects: The Planning Partnership with PFS Studio • Infrastructure Engineer: Cole Engineering, SCS Consulting, R.V. Anderson Associates Ltd., MMM Group • Lighting: Hammerschlag & Joffe • Geotechnical: Golder • Structural: Quinn Dressel • Artists: Jill Anholt Studio, Paul Raff Studio, Jennifer Marman and Daniel Borins with James Khamsi, Tadashi Kawamata, Mark di Suvero, Scott Eunson and Marianne Lovink, Hadley + Maxwell • Urban Design: Sweeny & Co • Heritage Consultant: ERA Architects • Irrigation: Smart Watering Systems • Developer/Owner/Client: Waterfront Toronto, City of Toronto, Infrastructure Ontario, Dundee Kilmer Developments • Contractor: EllisDon Corporation / Ledcor, UCC Group Inc., CRCE Construction Ltd., Aldershot Landscape, Eastern Construction

Jury Comment

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

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

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



West Don Lands Public Realm, image by Brett Hoornaert, courtesy of the City of Toronto