



Edmonton

URBAN DESIGN AWARDS

2025 Edmonton Urban Design Awards



RAIC | IRAC
Architecture Canada



CSLA | AAPC
Canadian Society of Landscape Architects
Association des architectes paysagistes du Canada



CANADIAN INSTITUTE
OF PLANNERS | INSTITUT CANADIEN
DES URBANISTES



Photo credit: Christophe Benard

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MESSAGE FROM HIS WORSHIP MAYOR ANDREW KNACK

On behalf of City Council and the people of Edmonton, welcome to the 2025 Urban Design Awards!

This year, we're honoured to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the program. The 51 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 minimize their environmental impact and enable us to adapt to our changing climate. This is reflected in the sustainable urbanism category, where projects advance our city's climate goals, while enriching the human experience.

Many of the projects also address important issues our city currently faces, including housing accessibility and affordability. This year, the category of housing innovation received the largest number of submissions. Winners addressed sustainability, affordability, accessibility, inclusion and engagement with future residents. All of the winning projects prioritize the wellness and quality of life for Edmontonians.

To the designers, artists and community groups of Edmonton, congratulations on your accomplishments. Your work is an inspiration to us all.

Andrew Knack

Mayor, Andrew Knack

Photo credit: Cooper & O'Hara Photography

Photo credit: James Desmarais, Photographer



51 SUBMISSIONS

29 DAYS OF OPEN COMPETITION

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE AWARDS PROGRAM

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. Edmonton's awards program is delivered in conjunction with 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).

Projects can be submitted in the categories of Civic Design, Community Projects, Heritage Projects, Urban Architecture, Urban Fragments, Urban Design Plans and Student Projects. In 2025, submissions were also accepted in the categories of climate resilience and housing innovation.

All submissions are also eligible for the People's Choice Award, in which Edmontonians pick their favorite project.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

On this 20th anniversary of the urban design awards, it's amazing to look back on the great projects and ideas that have contributed to the quality of Edmonton's built environment, and to see the growth of the awards program. In 2005, the first year of the awards, nine projects were celebrated; this year, the jury has given awards to 22 outstanding projects!

Each winning submission exemplifies the notion of design excellence, regardless of size, scope or budget. In working with the jury, I was reminded of the importance of sensitivity to context, a thoughtful approach to the design program, and an exacting attention to detail.

Edmonton is also well represented on the national stage. The 2023 Award of Excellence winner in urban architecture – Stadium Station – went on to win a National Urban Design Award in 2024.

In reviewing this year's winners I think that you'll agree that the contribution design excellence makes to the quality of life for Edmontonians, has never been greater!

Peter Spearey, AALA CSLA
2025 EUDA Committee Chair

2025 EDMONTON URBAN DESIGN AWARDS COMMITTEE

Nicole Cronkhite
Media Architecture
Design Edmonton

Cynthia Dovell
Royal Architectural
Institute of Canada

Craig Dorward
Edmonton Design Committee

Natalie Goulet-Sorenson
Alberta Association of
Landscape Architects

Robyn Stebner
Alberta Professional
Planners Institute

David Holdsworth
City of Edmonton

Ian Mulder
City of Edmonton

Matt Sloan
City of Edmonton

Peter Spearey
City of Edmonton (Chair)



Each winning submission demonstrates a sensitivity to context, a thoughtful approach to the design program, and an exacting attention to detail.

Peter Spearey, Chair

URBAN DESIGN CATEGORIES

This year awards were given in the following categories:



CLIMATE RESILIENCE

This 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.



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. Winning entries designed by registered design professionals will be eligible for consideration at the National Urban Design Awards.



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. Winning entries in this category may be eligible to participate in the National Trust Awards Program hosted by the National Trust for Canada.



HOUSING INNOVATION

This 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.



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. Winning entries designed by registered architects will be eligible for consideration at the National Urban Design Awards.



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 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.



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. Winning entries designed by students enrolled in an accredited program in architecture, landscape architecture or urban planning will be eligible for consideration at the National Urban Design Awards.

SUBMISSIONS

BRENTWOOD RENEWAL



POLYKAR EDMONTON

A MISCHIEF OF
COULD-BE(S) AND



Photo credit: Arsan Buffin



Photo credit: Caitlind Brown

PLAY IT BY EAR

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
OF EDMONTON
BRAAKSMA HALL

Photo credit: Cooper & O'Hara



LAURENT AND ELEANOR
GARNEAU DEVELOPMENT



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA SKYLIGHT
REPLACEMENT AND INTERIOR RENOVATION

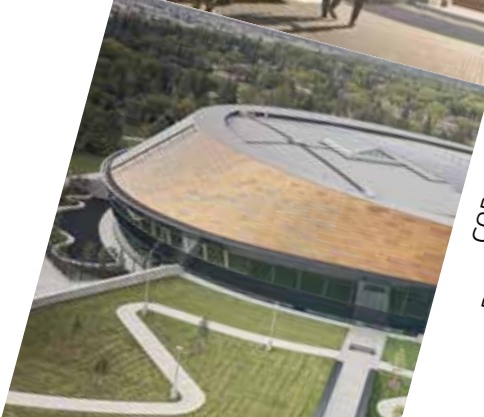


Photo credit: Karey Wood

ROUNDHOUSE PARK AT STATION



CORONATION
PARK SPORTS AND
RECREATION CENTRE



TOUCH THE WATER
PROMENADE



TRILOGY COMPLEX



POINT ACCESS BLOCK GUIDE



THE STACKS

EDMONTON VALLEY
ZOO MASTER PLAN



MILLCREEK WEST



REGIONAL REUSE



STATION PARK



Photo credit: Cooper & O'Hara

THE NEST



e4c



SUBMISSIONS

FORT EDMONTON PARK



REVIVING 104TH ST



CENTENNIAL PLAZA REHABILITATION

Photo credit: Adrien Williams



ST. PAUL'S PLACE AFFORDABLE HOUSING



KLONDIKE PARK REDEVELOPMENT



ROSSDALE POWERPLANT REHABILITATION



JASPER PLACE BOWL



PARALLAX

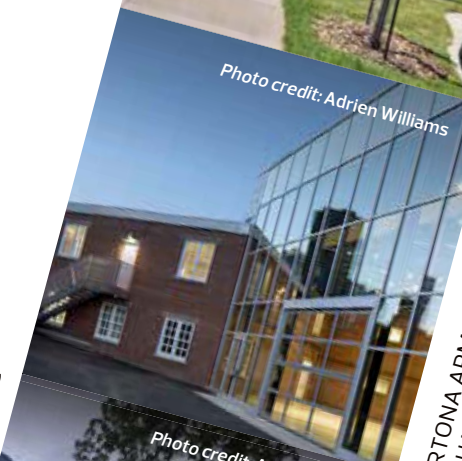


CITY OF EDMONTON - HOLYROOD SUPPORTIVE HOUSING



ORTONA ARMOURY REHABILITATION

Photo credit: Adam Borman



124 STREET RENEWAL



Photo credit: Adrien Williams

GATEWAY BOULEVARD STREETSCAPE



103A AVENUE AND 99 STREET STREETSCAPE



Photo credit: James Desmarais

PLEASANTVIEW NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL



Photo credit: James Desmarais

LULU LANE



GARNEAU NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL



Photo credit: James Desmarais

SUBMISSIONS

88 AVENUE AND CORNER STORES



A WINTER-FIRST REIMAGINING OF WAREHOUSE PARK



OKISIKOW (ANGEL) WAY



105 AVENUE (COLUMBIA AVENUE) STREETSCAPE

CALDER CORNER STORE PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS



NORTHEAST RIVER VALLEY PARK



VICTORIA GOLF COURSE ENTRANCE RENEWAL



MACINNON RAVINE PARK PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

MISERICORDIA EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT



Photo credit: Christophe Benard



Photo credit: Christophe Benard

JASPER 111

ALBERTA UNION OF PROVINCIAL EMPLOYEES (AUPE) HEADQUARTERS



ESTABLISHED NEIGHBOURHOODS REVITALIZATION MASTER PLAN

LAUDERDALE TERRACE



CIVIDA LENDRUM MIXED-USE REDEVELOPMENT



INGLEWOOD LOFTS

GLENWOOD BRIDGE HEALING



8
CATEGORIES

23
AWARDS

AWARDS



Photo credit: Cooper & O'Hara



Photo credit: Adrien Williams



Photo credit: Arsan Buffin

A gorgeous location and a unique resource in Edmonton. The strategic plan really seems to work to protect that for the future.

From the People's Choice Awards

NORTHEAST RIVER VALLEY PARK STRATEGIC PLAN



**CLIMATE RESILIENCE,
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

Public City Architecture

Pays attention to the best qualities of the space and builds upon them.

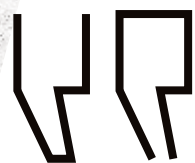
Juror comment



The Northeast River Valley Park Strategic Plan envisions Edmonton's newest river valley landscape as a destination where nature, culture, and community are deeply intertwined to create a place to play, learn, reflect, and connect while the land is restored, protected, and celebrated.

Grounded in detailed site analysis, robust Indigenous and public engagement, and alignment with municipal frameworks like Breathe and Ribbon of Green, the plan positions the park at the intersection of environmental health, cultural identity, and community vitality. The site's layered history, from glacial landforms and Indigenous land use to quarrying and private recreation, inspired three guiding principles to form the Plan: Encouraging Connection and Environmental Stewardship, Embracing Healing and Reconciliation, and Animating the Park Year-round.

Extensive engagement with Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers shaped a design that reflects commitments to Truth and Reconciliation by integrating ceremonial spaces, opportunities for land-based learning, Indigenous language visibility, and shared stewardship models. These elements promote a meaningful departure from colonial approaches to park development and invite diverse communities to shape the park's evolving identity.



A forward-looking model for park planning where culture, ecology, and climate action are inseparable.

Juror comment

Environmental sustainability forms a key component of the Plan. Development is concentrated in already disturbed areas, protecting the southern portion for habitat restoration. Wetlands, riparian corridors, and native plant communities will be revived, strengthening biodiversity and climate resilience. Green infrastructure opportunities will manage stormwater naturally, improving water efficiency and quality. Expansive tree planting and climate-adapted landscapes will expand natural habitats, provide shade, and create year-round comfort.

Biophilic design principles are woven throughout, framing views, engaging the senses, and encouraging interaction with natural elements. Traditional ecological knowledge is honoured through planting palettes, habitat restoration methods, and interpretive storytelling that speaks to both historical and contemporary relationships with the land.

The Strategic Plan balances bold vision with practical action. It redefines what a contemporary urban park can be, positioning the park as an ecological sanctuary, a cultural landscape, and a community hub. With strong community support, innovative design approaches, and a clear commitment to sustainability, the Northeast River Valley Park will become a legacy space that inspires stewardship, strengthens connections, and offers beauty, learning, and belonging for generations to come.



A visionary plan that integrates ecological restoration, Indigenous cultural practices, and inclusive programming. The balance of natural regeneration with new gathering spaces shows high design quality. The emphasis on reconciliation and healing deepens its civic resonance.

Juror comment





A modest intervention with extraordinary impact, this project reclaims the everyday public edge for people. By stitching together walkability, seating, and social space, it demonstrates how small-scale urban design can radically improve neighbourhood life.

Juror comment

CALDER CORNER STORE PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS



The big moves will definitely have an impact on the community.

Juror comment



**CIVIC DESIGN,
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

Green Space Alliance

CONTRIBUTORS
WSP

I like that this project has created a space that doesn't exist much anymore – where neighbours run into each other while running errands or keeping appointments – I wish my neighbourhood had something similar!



From the People's Choice Awards

This project was developed as a part of the Calder Neighbourhood Renewal Program and funded through the City's Corner Store Grants Program. It aims to reinvent a historically significant space within the community. The site is located along 129 Avenue (between 119 Street and 120 Street) within the potential Community Hub area, which includes local landmarks such as schools, the community league building, seniors' housing and related facilities. By reimagining this historic street for the former Village of Calder, the project seeks to activate community spaces, honour local history, and breathe new life into the neighbourhood.

The project offers a lasting contribution to the community by enhancing accessibility, beautifying public spaces, and fostering opportunities for celebration. It accommodates the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles, and prioritizes accessibility for individuals of all ages and abilities. The streetscape design incorporates natural elements, such as tree plantings, and invites opportunities for public art, thereby enriching the visual and cultural landscape. The design was created to ensure the space can host diverse gatherings and improve the pedestrian shopping experience.

The project has helped to establish a distinct sense of place. This area has become a true focal point in the community, inspiring private sector investment through façade enhancements and celebrating Calder's rail history with heritage elements such as interpretive plaques in the plaza and heritage information plaques. The project represents a meaningful collaboration among the public realm improvement team, private landowners and the local heritage society by working together to honour the past while shaping a vibrant and authentic future for the area.

The Calder Corner Store Public Realm Improvements features three dedicated zones: pedestrian, furnishing, and vehicular. Each element in the design is scaled to suit the local context, reinforcing the character of the area with features like a small-scale plaza that invite interaction and usability. By building on existing community assets, the project creates a dynamic focal point that anchors the broader neighbourhood and enhances the vitality of the emerging community hub.

BEFORE

AFTER



An intelligent and elegant design intervention.

Juror comment

Located in the heart of the Edmonton Exhibition Lands, Explore Edmonton's initiative to expand open space for events and programming spurred a significant restoration project. The entire park site was designed as an LID feature, utilizing absorbent landscapes, native plant material, permeable hard surfacing and soil vaults.

The park was designed to direct and slow overland drainage through a series of absorbent landscapes and below boardwalk swales before it is captured by the soil vault matrix allowing time to return a portion of this stormwater to the natural hydrological cycle instead of directing it directly into the City's stormwater system.

The design team was able to transform the former hard surface dominated park space into a landscape that emulates and contributes to the natural hydrological cycle. The park successfully provides a

sanctuary from the heat island of the surrounding event center parking, aided by the retention of 76 per cent of the existing mature tree canopy.

Not being able to ignore the human influence of the surrounding built environment, Klondike Park embraces a novel landscape. The park embraces the native aspen parkland of the Edmonton area and the human influence of the urban landscape.

The previous park space consisted only of introduced plant material species. Introducing over 600 more plants to the space, the majority of which are native trees, shrubs, and forbs, allowing for a highly diverse and resilient landscape that is suitable to the changing climate. The park facilitates a landscape that will self-organize and evolve over the coming years to best suit the microclimate of Edmonton.

A beautiful mix between aesthetic and functional!

From the People's Choice Awards



It's incredibly modest in terms of details but it is impactful in a tough environment like the exhibition grounds.

Juror comment



**CLIMATE RESILIENCE,
AWARD OF MERIT**

groundcubed

KLONDIKE PARK REDEVELOPMENT



105 AVENUE (COLUMBIA AVE) STREETSCAPE



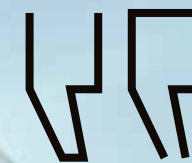
**CIVIC DESIGN,
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

AECOM



A well-executed corridor renewal that balances mobility, ecology, and community uses. The conversion of the roadway into a plaza is particularly strong, creating valuable social and play space.

Juror comment



Makes the space much more enjoyable to be in and to pass through.

From the People's Choice Award





The addition of the play structure is great. It makes a contained edge to the street and ensures use on weekends and evenings at a minimum. The design elements are robust but appropriate to the context.

Juror comment

105 Avenue (Columbia Avenue) Streetscape is over two kilometres from 97 Street to 116 Street and moves towards active modes integration, as well as to address much needed drainage improvements. 109 Street to 116 Street was recently completed and revitalized the appearance and function of the avenue for pedestrians, cyclists, and community members.

105 Avenue is now a sustainable, vibrant, and multi-modal district on the edge of downtown. Protected bike lanes on both sides of the road balance active modes and pedestrians, curbside management and loading, and public realm improvements. The project integrates stormwater management and low impact development via soil cells.

A portion of the road right-of-way was closed and converted to a plaza and green space, between 112 Street and 113 Street. The stakeholder and community vision for the plaza was realized, a flexible space that safely accommodates a wide range of activities and programs for immediate and long-term use. The plaza design provides a mix of spaces for seating, play, and events. Low feature walls separate and define spaces and provide opportunities for sitting.

With the nearest playground over 500 metres away, and transition from industrial to residential along the avenue, the inclusion of a play feature in the plaza was integral to the community and design. The unique spatial net equipment provides maximum play value, and its wooden material plays on the past of the rail line that once existed along this corridor. A first within right-of-way, the play equipment anchors and provides scale, as well as a meeting point for the community to interact and socialize.

As a year-round space, yellow furnishings lift the vibrancy and plant material provides all season interest. Finishes and strategically placed vertical elements guide wheeled modes from the separated unidirectional on street bike lanes through the plaza shared space.

105 Avenue Plaza is a true adaptive reuse of right-of-way, an exceptional and special urban fragment. The streetscape has spurred infill redevelopment along the corridor; it is exciting to see a cosmopolitan and dynamic edge to downtown come alive.



The adaptive reuse of right-of-way into plazas and play spaces shows how infrastructure can serve as both utility and community catalyst.

Juror comment

I love how it transformed
this blank square.

From the People's Choice Awards



Centennial Plaza, a key public space in downtown Edmonton, lies just south of the renovated Stanley A. Milner Library. Despite its prominent location, the plaza had been underutilized due to its fragmented design and weak integration with the surrounding urban context. Its expansive concrete surface, punctuated by aging ventilation pavilions and obstructive vehicle ramps, lacked cohesion and deterred regular use. A disused amphitheatre element further signalled its decline, primarily due to safety concerns.

To align with relevant civic plans and policies aiming to revitalize the downtown core and promote family-friendly environments, a bold redesign was proposed: transforming the space into a Sensory Garden. This vision enhances design excellence by engaging all senses—sight, smell, sound and touch—to leverage play as a mechanism for fostering age-inclusivity. As environmental conditions change, so too does the Sensory Garden, creating a vibrant place that presents a new experience to uncover with each visit and across all four seasons.

A central design strategy involved softening the existing hardscape with new green mounds built atop the structural roof of the underlying parkade.

These undulating forms break up the uniformity of the concrete and introduce flexible programming opportunities—from community gatherings to smaller, more intimate spaces of conversation. Integrated seating and lighting elements frame these green spaces and offer enhanced amenity to visitors while creating microclimatic pockets of sheltered and exposed conditions.

Importantly, the plan improves the public realm by strengthening connections to the Milner Library. A dedicated, secure outdoor play space extends the library's daycare services, blurring indoor and outdoor programming boundaries. This reflects how urban design directly shaped the use and experience of the site.

Vertical elements such as the old pavilions and vehicle ramps are reimagined as assets through topographic manipulation and the application of perforated, illuminated screen assemblies. These transformations animate the site's vertical axis and contribute to the visual identity of the plaza. In addition, a series of sculptural canopies provide both shade and lighting, reinforcing the site's new identity as a safe, welcoming, child-centric urban destination.



Photo credit: Adrien Williams Photographer



Reinvents a forgotten civic space as a sensory garden that is inclusive, playful, and dynamic across the seasons. By softening hardscape and reimagining vertical remnants as illuminated design features, it creates a new urban identity and social anchor.

Juror comment

CENTENNIAL PLAZA REHABILITATION



**CIVIC DESIGN,
AWARD OF MERIT**

MBAC

CONTRIBUTORS

PFS Studio



It's sick...

From the People's Choice Award

Jasper Place Bowl replaces an aging grandstand within a suburban campus of high schools and recreational buildings. While the wider public realm feels haphazard, it houses a collection of charismatic mid-century modern buildings. This project called for expanded grandstands, spectator amenities, change rooms and upgraded field infrastructure. This provided the opportunity to build on the thoughtful municipal infrastructure while leveraging the topography of the existing "bowl" into a more integrated and connected public realm.

The low-slung, sculpted form follows the spirit of landform architecture and modernist prairie architecture, emerging not as an object placed upon the earth, but as an extension of it. The building's tilted form and tiered seating mirror the surrounding landscape's natural bowl shape. This canted posture evokes geological formations and subtly directs the gaze of spectators — as though the building itself is leaning in to watch the field. Functionally, the design prioritizes integration and embraces the ground plane in order to tie the "in-between" spaces of the park into a more cohesive landscape.

The structure reveals an interplay of lightness and embeddedness. A steel frame, clad in copper frames with infill planes of aluminum and polycarbonate, provides a counterpoint to its earth-hugging volume. The thinness of the metallic skins belies the form's apparent heft, offering delicate edges to its otherwise grounded presence. The weathering of the natural copper helps to fuse the contrasting imagery of planar skins and earthen mounds.

Simple moves coming together for a bold yet humble public structure.

Juror comment



Upon approach the quiet facade features luminous polycarbonate, which give clerestory daylighting to change rooms within. The entrance is centred between the two schools to serve those arriving from both the north and south. The building is pulled apart at centre field to create a public entrance plaza. The Spotters Box spans over the plaza, creating a portal that celebrates arrival and control ticketing. Upon entering, you arrive at an elevated arrival platform, allowing for places to gather and giving barrier-free seating with optimal viewing near centre field.

The design aspires to be a clear and deliberate architectural frame that enhances play and spectatorship while also being a quiet, enduring presence in the everyday life of schoolyard.

JASPER PLACE BOWL



**CIVIC DESIGN,
AWARD OF MERIT**

Dub Architects



The design of this project blends into the landscape of the natural bowl and becomes apart of it rather than looking like it was placed upon it.

From the People's Choice Award



A sensitive adaptation and integration between heritage built elements and natural context.

Juror comment

FORT EDMONTON PARK



**HERITAGE PROJECTS,
AWARD OF MERIT**

DIALOG

CONTRIBUTORS

Clark Builders (Phase 1), PCL (Phase 2)



More and better accessibility for the elderly and disabled. A place where all Edmontonians can enjoy.

From the People's Choice Awards



Fort Edmonton Park, located in Edmonton's river valley, is a heritage theme park featuring historic and replica buildings arranged and programmed to engage visitors through representations of urban form relevant to significant eras of Edmonton's past.

Recent rehabilitation efforts required a significant review not only of aging structures and site infrastructure, but of the public realm experience, site accessibility and visitor safety. The resulting upgrades to the park enhance the user experience, creating seamless interventions that prolong the life of the buildings while allowing visitors of diverse ages and abilities safe access to experience spaces that provide insight into our shared heritage.

Working closely with the City of Edmonton, Construction Managers, Heritage Planners, and other interested parties allowed the interventions to the park to carefully balance historic authenticity with current best practices in public realm access. Research and utilization of traditional building techniques is showcased through timber joinery, stretched-skin window

coverings, forged iron-work, and the reintroduction of once-forgotten log-chinking recipes. New washroom facilities were introduced alongside improved walking connections while previously inaccessible spaces are available for exploration or use as public venues with modern accessibility, life-safety, lighting, and mechanical systems.

Overall, the project has given Fort Edmonton a renewed lease on life, offering a more comprehensive educational experience within these existing, cherished assets. The rehabilitation prioritized preservation and retention as much as possible, downplaying or contrasting necessary upgrades in ways that respect authenticity and reinforce the feeling of stepping onto a street in 1885, 1905, or 1920 or exploring the labyrinth of a fur-trading 1840s fort along the banks of the North Saskatchewan.

Phase 1 was completed in 2022, Phase 2 is in construction with about 50 per cent turned over.



I love that it makes use of underutilized land in the city and attempts to deal with housing affordability and houselessness in a way that emphasizes the dignity of residents.

From the People's Choice Awards



The design proposal is very clever and if it could be realized, a great addition to city making. It's modest in scale but not in ambition. The fact that these can be reused in several locations, makes it very flexible.

Juror comment

THE STACKS



**HOUSING INNOVATION,
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

Thomas Perl

Edmonton, Alberta is a true winter city, where subzero temperatures and long nights define the season. For individuals facing homelessness or housing insecurity, this climate can be life-threatening. Even before the pandemic, affordability was a growing issue in Canada, but it has since worsened—spreading from major cities across the country. With the rising cost of living, more Canadians are at risk of losing stable housing.

As of 2022, Edmonton reported 2,519 unhoused individuals, and 12.9 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line. Winter temperatures frequently dip below -20°C , with wind chills nearing

-50°C . In just the first 78 days of 2023, 72 people died from exposure in Edmonton.

Meanwhile, the city holds a large number of underused vacant lots—about 492 in the downtown core alone, covering 31 hectares. Many remain empty for decades, even though they are close to essential services like healthcare, transit, and social support.

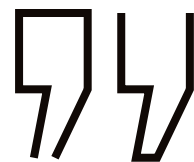
The Stacks is a proposed affordable housing initiative responding to this crisis by providing safe, affordable, and rapidly deployable housing. It offers incentives to landowners to use their

vacant lots while preserving future development potential. Each unit is a 25 m^2 pre-fabricated module, designed to house two adults comfortably with a kitchen, bedroom, living area, and washroom.

Modules can operate entirely off-grid or be connected to city infrastructure when available. They are stackable up to three stories, enabling efficient use of space—housing up to 24 people on a 100 m^2 lot. Built off-site and easily relocated, these homes offer a flexible, sustainable solution.



An innovative modular housing model addressing urgent winter city needs. Highly flexible, scalable, and replicable.



An exemplary housing-with-supports model for women and gender-diverse residents. The cylindrical gathering space is both symbolic and functional. Strong integration of housing, programs, and multicultural input.

Juror comment

e4c



**HOUSING INNOVATION,
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

Dub Architects



A significant site next to Kinistinaw Park, key social services, and durable architecture.

Juror comment





The very innovative programming forms a unique social infrastructure and a very ambitious project. It's great to see the range of accommodations incorporated into the residential portion.

Juror comment

e4c, a non-profit established in the 1970s, is dedicated to limiting poverty in Edmonton. To better serve its mission, e4c is consolidating its operations from multiple inadequate facilities into a single building. This new facility's core purpose is to provide short-term and transitional housing for women and individuals who identify as women. For many, e4c is a last refuge; they often arrive without possessions, income, or support, frequently grappling with mental health issues or escaping difficult circumstances. Residents are committed to finding long-term housing and stabilizing their lives through capacity building and recovery.

The project is firmly rooted in a "housing with supports" model, offering intensive case management and comprehensive wraparound support. This approach guides residents on their personal journeys toward achieving housing goals and enhancing their overall wellness. The interior design reflects e4c's deep operational knowledge, with spaces organized for central oversight and shared use. A standout feature is the cylindrical gathering room, which acts as a central orientation point. This unique space provides residents with a place for contemplation, smudging, and refuge, its design abstractly evoking tree-like growth with a central trunk extending upwards and limb-like canopies reaching outwards. A weathering

steel skin provides a protective, time-worn layer, while the gathering room and lobby interiors are warmly lined with cedar, extending to exterior soffits. These design elements contribute to a sense of lived experience, growth, and transformation.

While the primary focus is housing, the building integrates a diverse mix of uses. The upper level will consolidate e4c's significant administrative and outreach operations. The ground floor is designed for neighbourhood engagement, featuring public/retail uses and pedestrian-friendly frontage that extends from the adjacent park. A publicly accessible community garden serves both residents and the community.

The design embraces the diverse backgrounds of its residents, including a strong representation from the urban Indigenous community and international newcomers. The facility aims to be multicultural, incorporating invaluable feedback from e4c's advisors, community elders, clients, and staff. The project has obtained development permit approval and achieved funding targets with support from municipal, provincial, and federal levels, with construction slated to begin in spring 2026.



As part of efforts to encourage growth in housing supply and diversity, the City of Edmonton commissioned a Point Access Block Guide and Alternative Solution Guide, reshaping the architectural possibilities for multi-family housing in the city. This initiative is a strategic embrace of design flexibility, aimed at fostering more vibrant, efficient, and ultimately, more livable urban forms within the city. The initiative was supported by the CMHC through a Housing Supply Challenge project.

Point Access Blocks are buildings where apartments cluster around a single stair, eliminating long hallways and making them a more efficient design. Now, cities are reconsidering old building codes that limited their use, viewing them as a key solution for creating more affordable and diverse housing options. Edmonton's new guide establishes a clear pathway for "alternative solutions" to prescriptive codes. By demonstrating through these solutions that a Point Access Block design can be just as safe and effective, developers can achieve equivalency through mitigation measures such as compartmentalization and ventilation. This multi-departmental endorsement underscores the thoroughness and safety-first approach of the initiative. Moreover, by setting clear expectations for review and approval between the City and industry, the guide streamlines the development process.

A key aspect of the Guide is its dedication to visually demonstrating the array of design possibilities that emerge from this framework. It functions not just as a technical manual for explaining the submission process, but as an inspirational catalogue of potential Point Access Block typologies. The guide offers several detailed examples of what these innovative buildings could look like, from varying heights to diverse unit mixes. Furthermore, it provides a comprehensive catalogue of examples that cross-reference zoning with common lot sizes, illustrating how Point Access Blocks can be tailored to specific urban contexts and integrated into existing neighbourhoods. This focus on design demonstrates spatial efficiency and enhanced livability, as apartments can feature windows on multiple sides, maximizing natural light and cross-ventilation, leading to brighter, healthier, and more comfortable living spaces. This initiative empowers a design-led approach to housing, encouraging architectural innovation that contributes to housing diversity in Edmonton.



An interesting study that could improve options for housing. I appreciate how this small change in the building code could create better living arrangements.

Juror comment

POINT ACCESS BLOCK GUIDE



**HOUSING INNOVATION,
AWARD OF MERIT**

Dub Architects



A gorgeous location and a unique resource in Edmonton. The strategic plan really seems to work to protect that for the future.

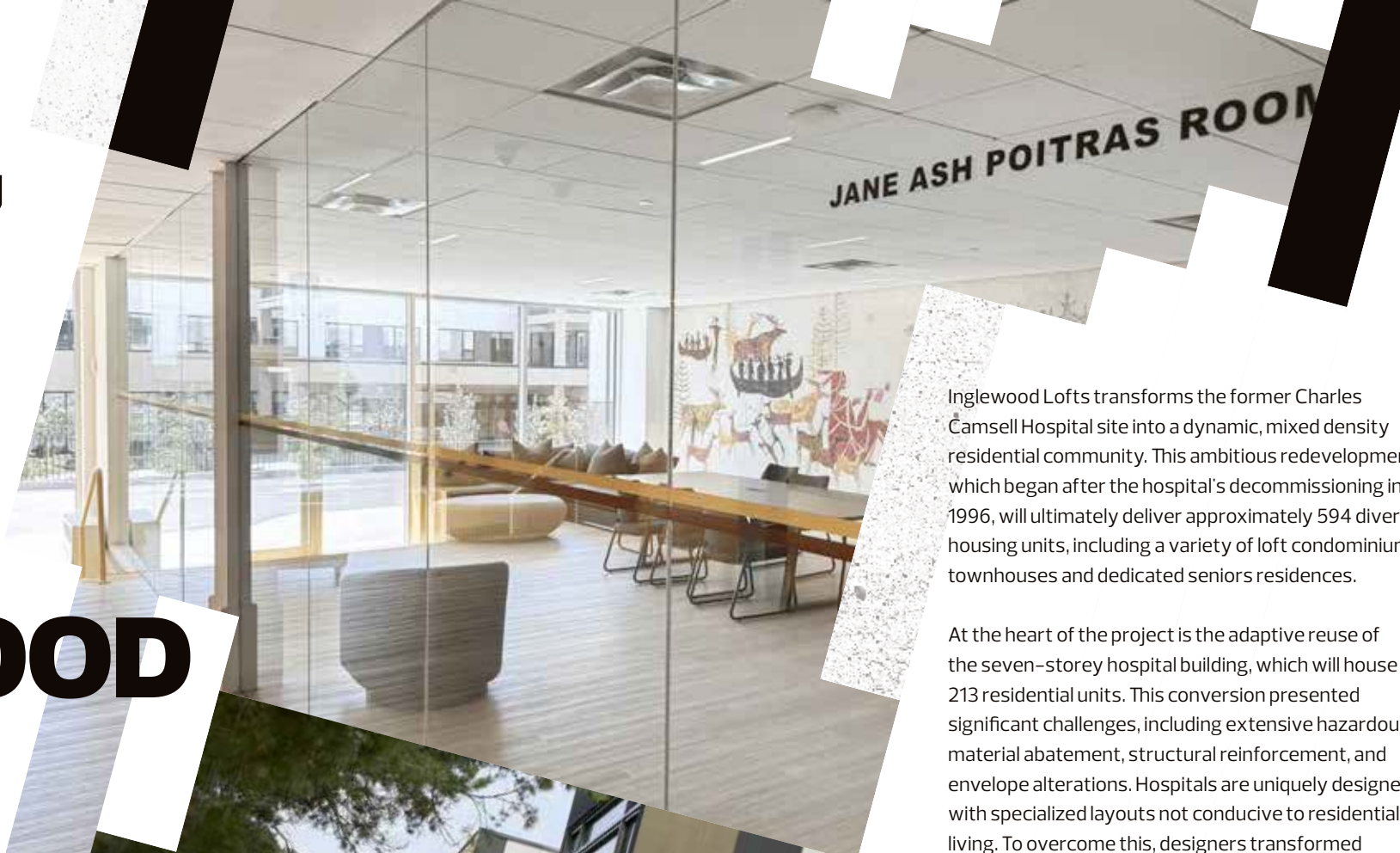
from the People's Choice Awards

INGLEWOOD LOFTS



**HOUSING INNOVATION,
AWARD OF MERIT**

Dub Architects



Inglewood Lofts transforms the former Charles Camsell Hospital site into a dynamic, mixed density residential community. This ambitious redevelopment, which began after the hospital's decommissioning in 1996, will ultimately deliver approximately 594 diverse housing units, including a variety of loft condominiums, townhouses and dedicated seniors residences.

At the heart of the project is the adaptive reuse of the seven-storey hospital building, which will house 213 residential units. This conversion presented significant challenges, including extensive hazardous material abatement, structural reinforcement, and envelope alterations. Hospitals are uniquely designed with specialized layouts not conducive to residential living. To overcome this, designers transformed expansive wards into unique loft-style units, leveraging the building's industrial aesthetic, high ceiling, and deep floor-plates. The redevelopment required substantial structural upgrades and the integration of entirely new building systems within the existing shell, showcasing a commitment to sustainable urban revitalization by utilizing the existing carbon footprint rather than opting for demolition.

The architectural vision extends beyond the main hospital structure to encompass the entire site, creating a comprehensive and integrated community. New constructions of varying heights and types



surround the former hospital building, including townhouses to the north. A completed 101-unit seniors housing development offers barrier-free suites (525 to 1,250 sq ft) designed for aging-in-place, complemented by common amenity spaces. The master plan also allocates a park and spaces for single family homes to the east and a mixed-use residential and commercial development to the west. This diverse approach to density and typology creates a cohesive urban environment that blends into the mature neighborhood.

Crucially, the Inglewood Lofts project acknowledges the complex and often painful history of the Charles Camsell Hospital which primarily served indigenous patients, many of whom experienced trauma due to forced removal from their communities for tuberculosis treatment. Throughout the project, engagement and consultation with indigenous communities have guided appropriate ceremonies led by local elders and site investigations. This collaborative approach ensures respectful integration of Indigenous perspectives, creating a place that honours the land's full history and its people. Ongoing work with impacted communities includes plans for a garden, gallery, indigenous memorial, and programming to support reconciliation.

This project flows from the client's brief, redeveloping an existing affordable housing site and in the process redefining what a safe, sustainable, and inclusive senior's community looks and feels like. The final design aims to physically establish this concept by densifying the site; calibrating the appearance of each unit to demonstrate both individuality, yet also create a sense of belonging within a larger community.

As a recipient of the Federal Government's Rapid Housing Initiative funding, this project employed the use of modular and prefabricated construction to allow for a shorter turnover period. The final construction densifies the site's one acre capacity from six bungalow duplexes to a combination of 38 apartments and row housing. This hybrid typology of both a multi-storey and one-storey building allows for a gradual integration into the surrounding residential neighbourhood, while simultaneously supporting a large communal green space for resident's leisure between the masses. With paved pathways bridging each unit to public transportation off of 103rd Street and the private resident parking, transportation to and from the site is both convenient and safe for every resident.

The facility further encourages a sense of community through the use of external circulation, creating spaces for casual encounters and visiting between residents. This external circulation was strategically located to face eastward onto a regional pathway, allowing for strategic oversight of the public space, while allowing for residents to participate passively in the activities that the greenspace promotes. Individual entries into the units promote doors on the street approach to urbanism, generating more stewardship of the spaces around the housing complex.



Modular construction delivers rapid, dignified seniors housing. A strong emphasis on community interaction through external circulation and gardens.

Juror comment

LAUDERDALE TERRACE



**HOUSING INNOVATION,
HONORABLE MENTION**

DIALOG (Formerly RPK Architects)

A landmark well tuned to the quirkiness of its neighbourhood. A creative use of this prominent corner!



Juror comment

STATION PARK



**URBAN ARCHITECTURE,
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

HSEA Architecture

Photo credit: Cooper & O'Hara Photography



It has brought exciting activity to the location, with spaces for both indoor and outdoor activity.

From the People's Choice Award



Station Park is a transformative redevelopment located at the corner of Whyte Avenue and Gateway Boulevard in Edmonton's Old Strathcona neighbourhood. The project integrates a privately owned site and an adjacent City-leased parcel zoned PSN – Neighbourhood Parks and Services, reimagining a previously underutilized space into a vibrant urban destination that marks the southern gateway into the Arts and Entertainment District and downtown Edmonton.

Immediately south of the site is the historic Strathcona Canadian Pacific Railway Station, a designated heritage building recognized for its architectural and cultural significance. Once considered the "end of steel," this station served as the first point of arrival for many newcomers to Edmonton in

the early 1900s. Despite its prominence, the station had long existed disconnected from the pedestrian-focused Whyte Avenue.

The redevelopment prioritizes reconnection. A pedestrian pathway now meanders through the site, entering from Whyte Avenue through a distinct gateway and leading into a central plaza. Along this route are several free-standing seacan pavilions that face inward, activating the public realm with micro-retail and food service opportunities. These modular pavilions, inspired by the site's rail history, create a lively environment for local entrepreneurs, outdoor markets, and pop-up events, further enriching the area's cultural offerings.

Photo credit: Cooper & O'Hara Photography

A three-storey building anchors the south end of the site and serves as a visual and functional bridge to the historic station. Thoughtfully set back to preserve sightlines from Whyte Avenue, this structure continues the industrial materiality of the seacan pavilions. At grade, it supports additional micro-retail and food service fronting Whyte Avenue. The second level houses a food hall with an outdoor patio offering views toward downtown, while the third-floor functions as a flexible event space. Access to these upper levels is provided through two entrances along Gateway Boulevard—one for elevator access and another through a dramatic feature stair.

Station Park enhances the pedestrian experience while celebrating its historical context. It creates a dynamic indoor-outdoor hub that draws people in, supports small business growth, and re-establishes an important connection between Whyte Avenue and the historic railway station—solidifying its role as a cultural and commercial gateway to Old Strathcona.



An Innovative civic hub reconnecting fractured neighbourhoods.

Juror comment





This is one of the most fully resolved designs submitted this year. It's well detailed, ambitious and manages to give equal attention to all the component elements – public realm, building elements and landscape.

Juror comment

ROUNDHOUSE PARK AT STATION LANDS

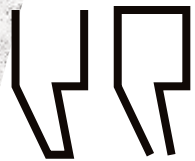


**URBAN ARCHITECTURE,
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

DIALOG

CONTRIBUTORS

ECCOM, ISL, Ledcor Construction



It's such an innovative and modern design... just the facelift that part of the downtown area needed.

From the People's Choice Award

Reimagining a forgotten corner of the city

Station Lands is transforming a long-neglected part of Edmonton's downtown into a vibrant civic hub where neighbourhoods and cultures connect. This mixed-use development models new urban living, linking Chinatown, Boyle/McCauley, and the Civic Centre, and animating downtown's north edge with energy and community. At its heart is Roundhouse Park, a much-needed green space and gathering place.

Honouring a civic legacy

On November 24, 1905, the first passenger train arrived at the Canadian Northern Railway Station, marking Edmonton's entry into the railway era. For decades, the site was a central hub of connection and commerce. Today, Station Lands pays homage to this past, reclaiming the space as a connector for all Edmontonians. This legacy is echoed in the park's name and the signature Trestle Bridge, referencing the area's rail history.

A whimsical, connected civic realm

Roundhouse Park, though only 0.43 hectares, serves as an essential link between city landmarks and neighbourhoods. The human-scaled Trestle Bridge invites exploration and frames the park's core features: the Great Lawn, native pollinator gardens, and a flexible performance stage. A fine-grained network of pedestrian and cycling paths encourages year-round use.

Design innovation and community engagement

Beneath Roundhouse Park lies an intensive green roof, built over a parkade and LRT tunnels. This required innovative soil and planting strategies, enabling a lush landscape in the city's core. The park's design was shaped through broad community consultation, balancing everyday relaxation with active spaces for events. It aligns with the City's Downtown Public Spaces Plan, providing flexible plazas, natural play spaces, and venues for both cultural celebrations and quiet moments.

A lasting civic legacy

Roundhouse Park embodies Edmonton's spirit of bold, joyful placemaking, weaving together history, community, and urban innovation. Its thoughtful design ensures it will remain a beloved civic destination for generations to come.



Celebrates civic history while delivering much-needed green space; strong placemaking and year-round activation of public realm.

Juror comment

Dramatic velodrome form enhances a heritage park context; thoughtful integration with neighbouring landmarks and recreation uses.

Juror comment

CORONATION PARK SPORTS AND RECREATION CENTRE



**URBAN ARCHITECTURE,
AWARD OF MERIT**

hcma architecture + design
and Dub Architects (joint venture)
in collaboration with FaulknerBrowns



It's iconic! I Love the integration of athletic training and community recreation.

From the People's Choice Awards



Recognizing the operational challenges many velodromes face, the City of Edmonton prioritized making the facility a place for a broad spectrum of community uses. As a northern city with extreme winter temperatures, the centre provides year-round opportunities for sport, exercise, and community connections.

The centre is located in the 35-hectare Coronation Park, a heritage park rich with modernist architecture. The building's design respects its surroundings, particularly its neighbours—the Peter Hemingway Fitness and Leisure Centre, the Queen Elizabeth Planetarium, and the Telus World of Science—by using rooflines and landforms to minimize its impact. Three large earth berms surround the building, visually reducing its height and allowing the other significant structures to maintain their prominence in the park. New pedestrian loops also connect to the existing trail system, improving the park's overall pathway connectivity.

Inspired by the geometry of the cycling track, the building's façade features a continuous variation in slope, creating a dynamic appearance that changes from every angle. The roof is twisted to the oval footprint of the velodrome below, creating a striking "shrink-wrap" form that minimizes the building's volume in the park.

This project is designed to serve as both a high-performance sports training facility and a community recreation hub. A key feature is an elevated cycling track, situated a full storey above ground level, with a running track encircling it. This unique placement allows for a variety of community spaces to be located beneath, within and around the cycling track. This design aims to demystify high-speed cycling, making it visible and accessible to the public, and inspire future generations of athletes.

The facility also includes a shared entrance with the adjacent Peter Hemingway Fitness and Leisure Centre, connected by a landscaped tunnel. This link is particularly significant because the Peter Hemingway facility has a 50-meter swimming pool, allowing the two centres to function as a single, year-round indoor triathlon facility—a feature unique in the world. Additional amenities in the new centre include gymnasium courts, fitness studios, a café, play areas and a bouldering wall, all contributing to a vibrant community hub where people are encouraged to gather, socialize, and play.

Demonstrates design excellence by stitching Edmonton's urban fabric to its river valley through an ecologically attuned plan that balances human access with wildlife habitat. Its interdisciplinary approach, grounded in Indigenous engagement, restores degraded landscapes while inviting people to connect with the North Saskatchewan's edge.

Juror comment

TOUCH THE WATER PROMENADE



**URBAN DESIGN PLANS,
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

Dub Architects

CONTRIBUTORS

Stoss Landscape Urbanism, ISL Engineering



The ability to touch the water in an urban setting is so special and there are many cities where this is rare.

Juror comment



While most 21st-century riverfront redevelopments are driven by the demands of urbanization, Touch the Water Promenade is distinct: it seeks to restore and regenerate the ecology of the North Saskatchewan River Valley, while also providing new opportunities for people to experience the water's edge and accommodating critical infrastructural functions. In a unique context within Canada's northernmost major city, the plan strikes a delicate balance between the needs of wildlife and those of Edmontonians who cherish the river.

A wilderness in the heart of the city, the riverfront is essential ecologically, culturally and socially, representing an urban identity specific to Edmonton as an Indigenous space, where gathering, hunting, fishing, and trading has occurred since time immemorial, and a former industrial space whose degradation is finally being addressed. The project responds to this layered history by preserving and enhancing existing character while inviting people to literally "touch the water."

Social and ecological goals are intertwined. The resulting design solution reconnects the urban fabric to the river through a series of gateways at key nodes; navigates technical constraints including steep grade changes, variable water levels, and frequent icy conditions to provide access right at the water's edge; and slopes the majority of pathways to accommodate visitors of varied mobilities. To bring more people into the space in a manner that is compatible with its role as a critical wildlife corridor,

the circulation design takes into account not only different modes of human transit, but also different avian, terrestrial, and aquatic species. This is achieved through the selection of plant species as habitat and food sources for birds, providing unbroken corridors for the movement of larger mammals, and improving feeding and spawning conditions for fish using planting, erosion control, and a softened riparian edge.

This approach was made possible by an interdisciplinary team including fisheries biologists, environmental scientists, hydrologists, paleontologists, and archaeologists. Furthermore, engagement with Indigenous Nations and Communities as well as the general public was an essential component of the process. Elders, Community members, Knowledge Keepers, and Technicians from 26 Indigenous Nations and Communities participated in three phases of engagement.



Humble and impactful, with a solid baseline of inputs and expertise. World class project that brings a hard-to-access river edge into arms reach.

Juror comment

An exemplary riverfront project weaving ecology, reconciliation, and access. Balances habitat restoration with public experience, setting a new benchmark.

Juror comment

A powerful reconciliation-driven project transforming a corridor into a cultural and civic statement. Integration of Indigenous knowledge and symbolic design elements is outstanding. Both socially and architecturally resonant.

Juror comment

OKÎSIKOW (ANGEL) WAY



**URBAN DESIGN PLANS,
AWARD OF MERIT**

Al-Terra Landscape Architecture

CONTRIBUTORS

Al-Terra Engineering, Thurber



The Okisikow (Angel) Way Urban Design Plan is a powerful testament to the essential role of stakeholder engagement and land-based understanding in shaping truly meaningful urban places. Originally, the design team approached this corridor as part of routine neighbourhood renewal planning for the Boyle Street and McCauley Neighbourhood renewal project, unaware of Okisikow Way's deep cultural, historical, and contemporary significance to Indigenous communities. It was only through the proactive intervention of the City of Edmonton's Indigenous Relations Office (IRO) that the team was made aware of the corridor's importance and the need for a fundamentally different, more inclusive approach.

This pivotal moment prompted a genuine transformation in the project's trajectory. With the leadership of the IRO, the neighbourhood renewal team paused and listened to Indigenous Elders, local leaders, and knowledge keepers to support the development of a new vision. What emerged was not simply a set of physical upgrades, but a holistic urban design plan rooted in respect, reconciliation, and cultural celebration.

It's lovely to see the integration of indigenous perspectives into the urban fabric of our city.

From the People's Choice Awards

The reimagined Okisikow (Angel) Way plan weaves Indigenous worldviews and stories into the urban environment. It introduces naturalized spaces for gathering, learning, and ceremony; interpretive features that honour the land's history; and design elements that support both social and environmental resilience. The plan integrates sustainable landscapes, improved active transportation, and flexible community spaces—amplifying equity, accessibility, and wellness for all users.

Deep, iterative engagement empowered the community, shaping priorities, the program, and public amenities. The project incorporated a gradient of teal paving—recognized by Indigenous participants as a healing colour—into the corridor. Plaza planters featuring native and culturally significant plants further support cultural expression and honour Indigenous knowledge and connections to the land. The result is a forward-looking framework that not only aims to beautify and enhance the corridor but also embodies Edmonton's commitment to reconciliation and respect for Indigenous presence and governance.

The Okisikow Way Urban Design Plan demonstrates that authentic stakeholder engagement and respect for both land and people are fundamental to successful urban design—enabling us to honour histories, shape futures, and create places of true significance.

A MISCHIEF OF COULD-BE(S) AND UGO



URBAN FRAGMENTS, AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Edmonton Arts Council,
Erin Pankratz + Christian Peres Gibaut
(Red Knot Studio)



An engaging artwork
accessible for all ages to climb,
play, and imagine! A tasteful
way to introduce play in the
civic space of Edmonton.

From the People's Choice Awards

Photo credit: Arsan Buffin, Photographer

Durable use of colour outdoors, solid piece of public art that enables play. Sophisticated form and finish.

Juror comment

"A Mischief of Could-be(s)" and "UGO" are a pair of whimsical child-friendly public art pieces in two locations of the Civic Precinct. The first component of the project, "A Mischief of Could-be(s)", was unveiled in 2023 and has been wildly successful in its aims to engage children. On busy days in the heart of downtown Edmonton, multiple children can be seen climbing, dangling, swinging and otherwise engaging with the artwork. "UGO" was installed behind the Stanley Milner Library in 2024 and has been similarly well received.

This pair are the first child-friendly public art projects in the City of Edmonton. They were created under the guidance of the Child-Friendly Initiative that is based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Since the project's completion, child-friendly public artworks have become a priority for the City of Edmonton, and making multi-generational spaces is now part of the selection criteria for new public artworks.

"A Mischief of Could-be(s)" consists of five standing sculptures, drawing inspiration from how children freely interpret and imagine the world through play. The tree-like quality suggests the idea of a magical forest, while the ambiguity of the gestural forms allows for other interpretations, such as tentacles or stalagmites. The whimsical shapes and colourful palette imbue the sculptures with a sense of wonder and play, making it engaging for art lovers of any age.

"UGO" presents a fantastic creature that seems to have come from a collage of children's imaginations. This unlikely and colourful creature features five weirdly articulated legs and a strong sense of movement. The organic form sparks curiosity in the viewer, encouraging active and imaginative play in a non-prescribed way and inviting multiple interpretations such as a hand, a cave, or a coral formation.

Said the artists about the artworks, "Although both installations can be experienced individually, they create a world of their own when connected. We wanted to make real the idea that the library is a portal of imagination, and through it, the children's own stories about the two sets of sculptures connect the two locations."



Really playful, beautiful sculptural elements that animate the space in multi dimensions. Looking at them is as pleasurable as climbing on them. They don't fail to delight.

Juror comment



Photo credit: Arsan Buffin, Photographer

This laneway is extra special, celebrating and bringing profile to an important civil rights activist. And the colour – more please!

From the People's Choice Awards

LULU LANE



**URBAN FRAGMENTS,
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

hcma architecture + design

CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS:

Jamelle Davis, Macha Abdallah,
Bashir Mohamed



Lulu Lane bursts with colour, art, and history. These murals animate the walls with Alberta landscapes and Lulu's imagined likeness, turning absence into presence and erasure into celebration. This bold transformation fuses memory, justice, and joy into the urban fabric, proving how design can rewrite a city's story.

Juror comment



Lulu Lane runs from 103 Street to 104 Street south of Jasper Avenue and was named after civil rights champion Lulu Anderson, who 100 years ago, was refused entry to the Metropolitan Theatre because of the colour of her skin. Her story marks a critical milestone in the struggle for racial justice in Edmonton's history.

Two local Black artists, supported by an Edmonton civil rights advocate, were selected to design and paint murals over the colourful backdrop that was designed by the architectural team. The first artist referenced the Alberta landscape through a vibrant mural depicting the province's native plant species. The second artist painted a rendition of Lulu Anderson as there are no photos of her known to exist.

Made possible through the vibrancy efforts of the Edmonton Downtown Business Association, Lulu Lane is enhanced with these bold and bright art installations, decorative lighting and opportunities for event activations. The architectural team found it incredibly powerful to participate in the design process and support the artists in the illumination of Lulu's courage, conviction, and resilience.

In what was once a forgettable alley in the city's core, a vibrant face creates excitement and energy, draws in curious passersby, and illuminates a watershed moment for civil rights in Edmonton and the province beyond.



A bold and effective
transformation of a
marginal space.

Juror comment





K-Days is a 10-day festival with a history going back more than 140 years, and has had several names including Klondike Days – in reference to Edmonton being a stopover for travellers during the gold rush. The event organizers hosted a design competition called Throwing Shade, seeking unique and implementable solutions for a few shade structures to darken pockets of the festival grounds. The urban context includes proximity to Borden Park, major arterial roads, and the ever-present North Saskatchewan River valley. However, these are usually dwarfed by the presence of the midway and seas of enthusiastic visitors.

Parallax gets its name from both the twisting roofline and the slatted walls that produce an effect of accentuated

motion as viewers pass by or through the structures. To determine the optimal arrangement and design for shading, a solar analysis was conducted to monitor the sun's movement during the K-Days period. The design allows convenient access for individuals to enter or pass through, with elevated corners to enhance shading coverage, and sliced sections to facilitate airflow and prevent a sail effect.

Many decisions were made to enhance the safety of the structures including structural integrity, durability, abuse and patina, visual and physical access, barrier free considerations, and most of all – integrating with the fun of the temporary site as indicated by the provided images and



captions. The structures can be disassembled in parts for compact storage off-site when not in use.

Key considerations included historical relevance (utilizing materials commonly employed during the Klondike era), sustainability (favoring recyclable or recycled materials), and ease of assembly. The final material selection was readily available Spruce/Pine/Fir wood coupled with metal hardware. A spectrum of hues were selected to uplift the mood and cultivate a celebratory atmosphere. As a result, the structures provide a multitude of opportunities for visitor interactions at Edmonton's most visited and longest running festival event.



URBAN FRAGMENTS, AWARD OF MERIT

Next Architecture

CONTRIBUTORS

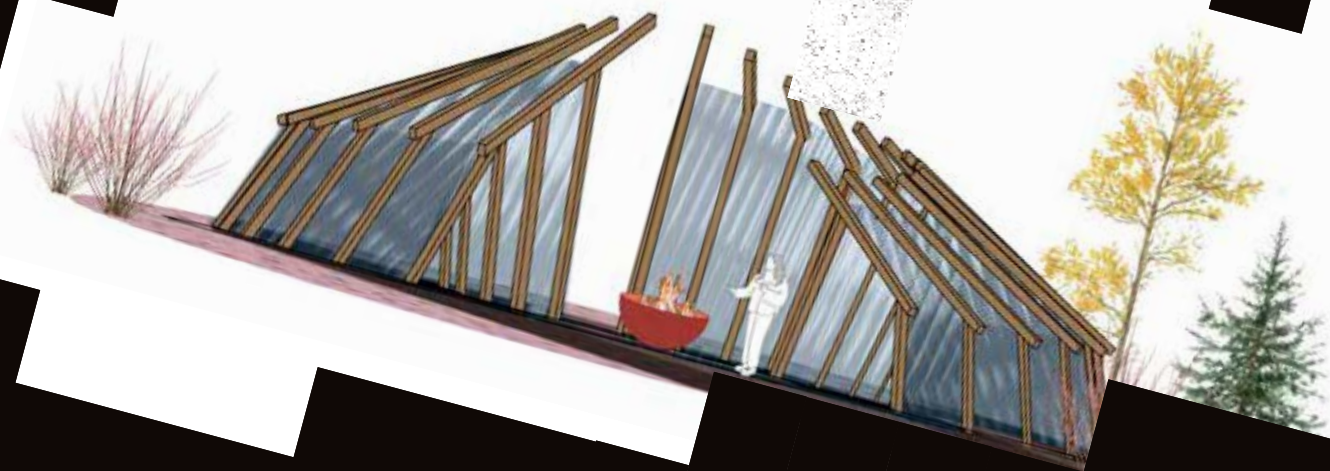
Entuitive Corporation

PARALLAX



Providing opportunities for shade in cities is an ever-growing design challenge and this installation addresses this with a very well crafted series of playful forms that uplift the surroundings.

Juror comment



WINTER CITY URBANISM: A WINTER-FIRST REIMAGINING OF WAREHOUSE PARK



**STUDENT PROJECTS,
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

Danielle Soneff



An exemplary reimagining of Warehouse Park as a winter-first civic space. Sets a benchmark for resilient winter city design.

Juror comment



I particularly enjoyed the winter forward perspective and think more cities need to think creatively about our winter weather and the opportunities. The proposal to renovate spaces to make them "sticky" is very sophisticated.

Juror comment





By embracing Edmonton's winter identity, this project reimagines Warehouse Park as a season-first civic landscape that is both playful and pragmatic. Its inventive programming, climate-sensitive design, and human-scaled interventions prove that winter can be a catalyst for year-round vibrancy rather than a barrier.

Juror comment



It makes me happy to see students grappling with how to design to improve our quality of life in this more challenging season.

From the People's Choice Awards

This speculative redesign of Warehouse Park in Edmonton, originally designed by CCxA and gh3*, reimagines the site to prioritise winter use first while ensuring robust year-round performance. Using a Research-through-Design methodology, the project tests how the park could function if climate-responsive strategies were embedded from inception. Anchored in the winter solstice—the most challenging day of the year—it follows the principle that if a space thrives then, it will excel year-round.

Winter is both a shared experience and a defining characteristic of Canadian culture. Based on the author's master's thesis, the redesign examines how material culture can align with or deviate from planning objectives. Despite focused—yet uncommon—winter planning and design policies, integrating meaningful winter-use considerations into planning and implementation remains challenging. This redesign addresses that gap.

Access and Interface

Edges are reconceived as porous civic thresholds, dissolving barriers between street and park. The "XO" framework is retained for continuity but adapted for winter legibility: public-private interfaces allow spillover, while projected wayfinding and tactile cues guide movement even under snow cover. Visual permeability extends the park's presence into the downtown fabric.

Shelter and exposure

Microclimatic design positions a warming zone in the northwest corner, with fireplaces, shelters, and seating oriented for maximum winter solar gain. Active recreation shifts from basketball in summer to skating in winter. The added Winter Garden—a necessary winter city amenity—anchors the east side, integrating seasonal planting, a café, and centrally located washrooms to encourage lingering.

Everyday amenities and co-location

Following co-location principles, permanent amenities are clustered: a kiosk beside covered seating, adjacent to a fenced tot-lot, and near washrooms. The kiosk—essential for onsite food and beverage—enhances "stickiness" and creates reasons to linger, its design inspired by mid-century kiosks on Jasper Avenue. Convertible amenities and dedicated winter features increase year-round functionality from 53 per cent to 87 per cent. Warming huts and fire pits—often excluded for governance reasons—are reinstated as dignified, human-scaled interventions, with sensory anchors of warmth and ambient sound heightening comfort and sociability.

In this winter-first reimagining, Warehouse Park becomes a civic living room—architecturally legible, climatically attuned, and socially magnetic—capable of sustaining life, connection, and delight in Edmonton's most challenging conditions.



Established neighbourhoods are vital—and literally central—to the City of Edmonton, but their designs, policies, and uses are vastly outdated. With the speed at which Edmonton grows, these areas will be left behind in Edmonton's urban innovations if the City does not act soon. This project is our proposal for ways in which established neighbourhoods can stay up to date.

To organize this project, we analyzed multiple City of Edmonton policies to develop eight big ideas, four focus areas, and one Master Plan. The study area is bordered by 149 Street, 87 Avenue, 170 Street, and Stony Plain Road. The neighbourhoods of focus are Jasper Place, West Jasper Place, Glenwood, Sherwood, Meadowlark Park, West Meadowlark Park, and Jasper Park. We chose this area for its relevance, as the general area is currently experiencing the Valley West Line LRT expansion.

Our eight big ideas uphold the principles of walkable networks, gentle density, sustainable economies, active living, and resourceful placemaking. Our four focus areas detail how we can make these big ideas come to life and in what ways they will benefit established neighbourhoods and their residents. These big ideas and focus areas come together to create our Master Plan: our solution to the otherwise inevitable obsolescence of Edmonton's oldest residential areas. There exists a proliferating gap between established neighbourhoods and City goals — the Established Neighbourhoods Master Plan is the key to bridging this gap.



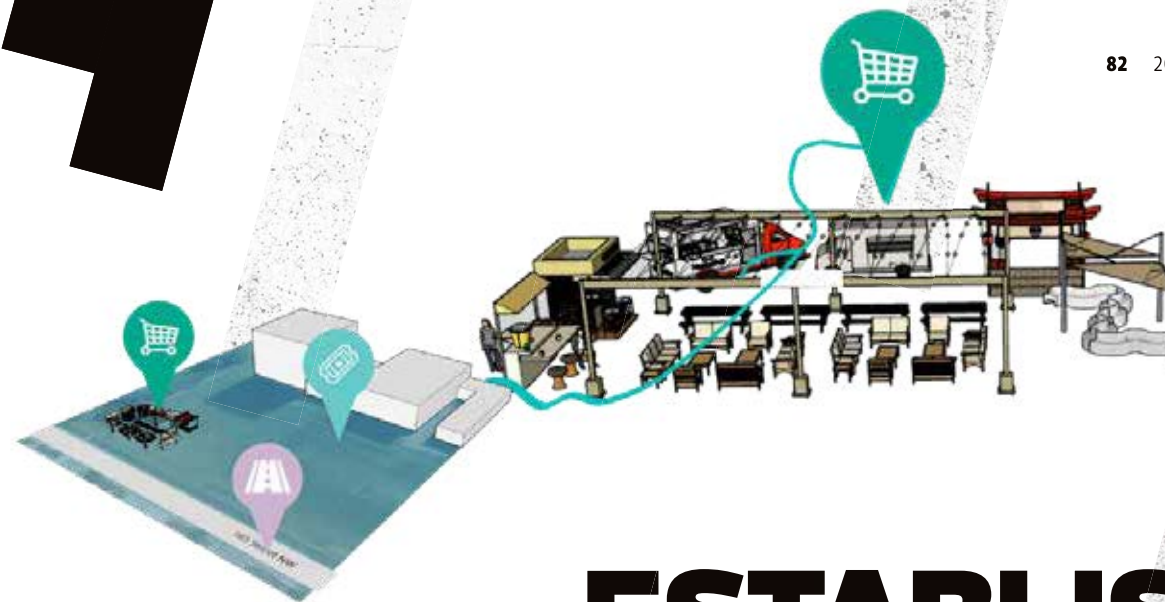
This master plan addresses the challenges of aging communities with an inspired yet practical toolbox for renewal. Through green alleyways, adaptive reuse, and activation of underutilized spaces, it demonstrates how design can weave ecological, social, and mobility benefits back into the fabric of established neighbourhoods.

Juror comment



A comprehensive revitalization strategy for central neighbourhoods, with strong policy integration and community activation.

Juror comment



ESTABLISHED NEIGHBOURHOODS REVITALIZATION MASTER PLAN



**STUDENT PROJECTS,
AWARD OF MERIT**

Neil Roy Choudhury, Gabriella Dunn,
Shirley Le-Huynh, August Millan

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

POLYKAR EDMONTON
FARMOR Architecture

Located in the Discovery Business Park area of south central Edmonton, Polykar's new manufacturing plant is approximately 55,000 sqft in gross area and prominently visibly from the QE2. As an industrial building which was one of the first to go up in this neighbourhood, the vision for the Polykar building was to introduce a high level of urban design through the landscape design and architecture within an industrial context.

A significant majority of our cities with industrial areas suffer from a lack of commitment to high quality architecture and urban design consisting of massive buildings with poor interface with the public realm. Keeping in mind that while the majority of discussions regarding urban design are focused on urban and residential areas, this project aspires to steer the focus of urban design to include industrial areas which are also a significant portion of our city. Polykar's design breaks down the large scale of the manufacturing building with an office frontage design with a dynamic façade that is engaging and well articulated.

Inspired by the concept of the extrusion of plastic films which further get processed into bags and wrapping material, Polykar's design draws upon this concept through the use of large aluminum extrusions on the façade fixed to the elegant curtain wall in a diagonal fashion drawing the eye from one corner of the building to the other. Similarly, the directional gesture of these architectural elements which also function as shading devices are also echoed through the landscape design. Where the louvers extend to the ground, the planting beds for the native vegetation take shape in narrow bands and extend out towards the sidewalks further dividing the large grass areas in front of the building in the same design language as the building.

Further, the elegant entry feature draws the eye to the entrance and front plaza space to create a strong sense of legibility from the street. Adjacent to the entrance, the two storey lobby space features a spiral staircase as interior feature that can be seen from the pedestrian level.



ADJUDICATORS

MARC HALLÉ

OALA, FCSLA

As co-president and CCxA partner, Marc has spearheaded some of the studio's best-loved public spaces. Educated as a landscape architect with an undergraduate degree in civil engineering, Marc is known for his ability to use design narrative to bring together complex design teams and stakeholders to achieve designs of uncommon quality and clarity. With over 20 years experience on award-winning projects and public realms, Marc's experience includes all facets of landscape architecture: urban parks, plazas, waterfronts, master plans, brownfield development, streetscapes and large-scale residential/mixed use communities. He has led several of the studio's renowned competition schemes, parks and waterfronts, including Leslie Lookout Park, Love Park, Berczy Park, Sugar Beach, Evergreen Brick Works in Toronto, and Breakwater Park.

Marc joined CCxA (previously named Claude Cormier et Associés) in 2003 as one of founder Claude Cormier's longest standing team members. He became a Fellow of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architecture in 2021, graduating from the University of Toronto with a Masters of Landscape Architecture in 2004. He grew up in Saskatchewan, completing an undergraduate degree in civil engineering at the University of Saskatchewan before pivoting into landscape design. Marc is a mentor for younger colleagues within the studio and frequent visiting lecturer/critic in the US and Canada.



WANDA DALLA COSTA

AIA, FRAIC, LEED AP

Wanda (she/her) is an architect, a member of Saddle Lake Cree Nation, and a dedicated advocate for Indigenous peoples. She leads Indigenous design and research at TAWAW's offices in Phoenix and Calgary. Her team employs participatory design methods to create meaningful, culturally responsive design solutions for Indigenous communities across North America. Through the work, the aim is to foster cross-cultural dialogue and uplift culture. The firm's work is broad, spanning cultural, education, healthcare, affordable housing, recreation, and urban design.

Before founding her firm in 2010, Dalla Costa spent over a decade in practice in Calgary, working on several high-rise residential and large commercial developments across Canada. Dalla Costa is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada and holds licensure in six regions, including Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, California, and Arizona.



JANNA LEVITT

OAA FRAIC NWTAA

Janna co-founded LGA Architectural Partners with Dean Goodman in 1993 with a vision to help diverse and often under-resourced clients to realize places that spark positive cultural and environmental change. Through research, public consultation, and design, Janna aims to improve lives: creating places that advance equity, wellness and community, educating and mentoring the next generation of designers, and collaborating with artists, scientists and others to draw attention to pressing issues impacting our world.

Janna has earned wide respect for her inquisitive, thoughtful and imaginative approaches that demonstrate fresh possibilities for everyday living. Her diverse initiatives – such as community hubs that foster arts and culture, public spaces that connect citizens with ecology, and residences that contribute to equitable cities – underscore the expansive role that architects play in redesigning our world. Her noteworthy recent projects include the MABELLEarts Pavilion and Park that uplifts a historically underserved, high density neighborhood populated by newcomers to Canada with a dynamic hub for creativity and community; Evergreen Brickworks' Kiln Building 16, that sensitively arrested the deterioration of a historic Toronto landmark and expanded its purpose from artifact to a carbon-neutral event and education centre; Stackt, that transformed a pending development site into an ever-evolving shipping-container retail market and cultural hub; and Rehousing – an online resource that she developed with members of the Daniels Faculty of Architecture, and Design at University of Toronto to empower citizen developers to convert single-family homes into multi-unit housing.

ADJUDICATORS

ELEANOR MOHAMMED

RPP, MCIP, EP, MTCP



Eleanor is a globally recognized urban planner and positive changemaker with over two decades of leadership across Canada and internationally in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. A Partner at DIALOG, she advances transformative solutions in urban governance and land use planning. Currently the Chair of the UN-Habitat Professionals Forum, Co-Chair of UN-Habitat Planners for Climate Action, and a Board Director at Canada's National Capital Commission, she drives local and global initiatives in sustainable city-building and climate resilience.

A former President of the Commonwealth Association of Planners, the Canadian Institute of Planners, and the Alberta Professional Planners Institute, she has spearheaded diverse projects, from sustainable development advocacy and professional capacity building to multilateral international engagement.

She was recognized on the Royal Town Planning Institute's (U.K.) International Women of Influence list and is a passionate professional who is a sought-after keynote at international events. Eleanor holds a Master of Arts with Distinction in Town and Country Planning from the University of the West of England (U.K.) and an Honours Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toronto with a specialization in Environmental Management.

CAROL ROSS BARNEY

FAIA, HASLA

Carol was honored with the 2023 American Institute of Architects Gold Medal, recognizing her as a visionary architect, urbanist, mentor, and educator. Throughout her career, she has relentlessly championed the idea that excellent design should be accessible to all, viewing it as a fundamental right rather than a privilege.

Her commitment to the design of public buildings and spaces that enhance daily life has resulted in distinctive, culturally significant structures. Notable projects include the design of the Oklahoma City Federal Building, replacing the bombed Murrah Federal Building, the Chicago Riverwalk, flagship restaurants for McDonald's in Chicago and Disney World, the Searle Visitor Center at Lincoln Park Zoo, JRC Synagogue, CTA Cermak and Morgan Street Stations, the University of Minnesota Duluth Civil Engineering Building, and the Multi-Modal Terminal at O'Hare International Airport. She also designed the NASA Aerospace Communications Facility, Railyard Park in Rogers, Arkansas, and Chicago's new DuSable Park.

Her work has earned over 200 major awards, including the AIA Gold Medal, Cooper Hewitt National Design Award, fourteen AIA Honor Awards, two AIA COTE Top Ten Project Awards for sustainability, and more than 45 AIA Chicago Awards. An alumna of the University of Illinois, Carol also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Costa Rica, planning national parks, and has taught advanced design studios at Illinois Institute of Technology for over thirty years.





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