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Projects in 12 cities receive 2014 National Urban Design Awards

Calgary, Edmonton, Guelph, Montreal, Nanaimo, Ottawa, Thunder Bay, Toronto, Trois Rivières, Waterloo, Westminster, Winnipeg

OTTAWA, April 16, 2014 — Cities across Canada are seeing "renewed creativity and sensitive attention being paid to the public realm," says the jury of the 2014 National Urban Design Awards.

The winning projects, which range from renewed brownfield sites to improved public transit, show that "urban design in Canada is fostering a rich and interesting shared social life for communities," says the jury.

The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, the Canadian Institute of Planners, and the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects are pleased to announce the 2014 National Urban Design Award winners in the following categories:

Civic Design Projects

Westminster Pier Park (Westminster BC)

PWL Partnership Landscape Architects Inc.

"... responds beautifully to the desire of giving new life to a derelict brownfield site."

Community Initiatives

University of Winnipeg Students' Association bikeLAB (Winnipeg MB) Peter Sampson Architecture Studio Inc.

"This low-cost project was recognized as an example of the power of small gestures."

Student Projects

Collaborative Exercise 2013: An Architecture of Civility (Toronto ON) Ryerson University, Department of Architectural Science, George T. Kapelos, FRAIC, MCIP, Coordinator

"...incorporated student participation and community involvement to focus on the use of leftover spaces."

Urban Architecture

Montreal Museum of Fine Arts – Claire & Marc Bourgie Pavilion of Quebec and Canadian Art (Montreal QC)

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Provencher Roy + Associés

"Compositionally, it is respectful of its historic neighbours while being of its time."

Urban Design Plan

Blatchford Redevelopment Master Plan (Edmonton AB) Perkins + Will Canada

"... potentially transformative in terms of Edmonton urbanism."

Urban Fragments

Jiigew [By the Water] (Thunder Bay ON)
Brook M°Ilroy Architects / SPMB
"Using light, sound and silhouette, each beacon creates a different pattern."

The following are recognized with Special Jury Awards:

Sustainable Development Award

Evergreen Brick Works (Toronto ON)
DTAH Architects Ltd.
"... worthy of a case study – it did everything right!"

Small or Medium Community Urban Design Award

City of Nanaimo Downtown Urban Design Manual and Guidelines (Nanaimo, BC)

D'Ambrosio Architecture + Urbanism

"... demonstrates the validity for small communities to undertake a major urban planning exercise."

Certificates of Merit are awarded in the following categories:

Civic Design Projects

- Place Pierre Boucher and Platon Park (Trois Rivières QC) Urbanex division of Roche Ltd.
- Market Square (Guelph ON) Janet Rosenberg + Studio Inc.

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- The Landscape of Memory: Poppy Plaza (Calgary AB) The Marc Boutin Architectural Collaborative Inc.
- Revitalization of Victoria Park Subway Station (Toronto ON)
 TTC (Concept Design); SGA/IBI Architects (Details Design / Project Architect); Scott Torrance Landscape Architect (Landscape, Green Roof); Brown + Storey Architects Inc. (Urban Design); Aniko Maszaros (Public Art); Toronto Transit Commission (Owner/Client)

Urban Architecture

- Ryerson Image Art Centre and School of Image Art (Toronto ON) Diamond Schmitt Architects
- 11 Division Toronto Police Service (Toronto ON) Stantec Architecture, E.R.A. (Heritage Architecture) gh3 (Landscape Architecture)

Urban Design Plans

 Central Transit Corridor – Community Building Strategy, (Region of Waterloo, Urban Strategies Inc.

Urban Fragments

- NCC Rideau Canal Skateway Chalets (Ottawa ON) CSV Architects
- Pottery Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Crossing (Toronto ON) PLANT Architect Inc.

"It's most heartening to see the renewed creativity and sensitive attention being paid to the public realm across the country," the award jury wrote in a statement.

They noted that the projects reclaim lost spaces and create new opportunities for public gathering and enjoyment. The designs restore historic places, stitch together isolated areas and improve the experience of transit, cycling and walking.

The three-member jury found across Canada "an urban architecture that is generous and extroverted, that extends its reach beyond the confines of its programs and animates the spaces around it.

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"Cities, large and small, are investing in urban design as a way of imagining and shaping their futures," they wrote. "These submissions send a very positive message about the growing interest in urban design as a major contributor to city building."

The jury consisted of:

Michael von Hausen: president of MVH Urban Planning & Design Inc., South Surrey, BC

Ken Greenberg: architect, urban designer, principal of Greenberg Consultants, Toronto

Claude Potvin: chief of landscape architecture and urban design at the National Capital Commission, Ottawa

The awards are part of a two-tier program held in cooperation with Canadian municipalities. The National Urban Awards program judged winners of the 2013 municipal awards and entries submitted at large.

The National Urban Design Awards will be presented during the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada's Festival of Architecture held in Winnipeg from May 28 to 31.

Descriptions and downloadable images of the winning projects are available at www.raic.org

The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada is a voluntary national association established in 1907 as the voice for architecture and the profession in Canada. Representing about 4,800 members, the RAIC works:

- To advocate for excellence in the built environment
- To celebrate the richness and diversity of architecture in Canada; and
- To support architects in achieving excellence

The Canadian Institute of Planners is the national voice of Canada's urban planning profession. Since 1919, CIP has been dedicated to the advancement of responsible planning throughout Canada. In its capacity as the national professional institute and

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certification body for the profession, CIP addresses the issues of professional standards and public policy, both domestically and globally, related to planning and planning-related issues. www.cip-icu.ca

The Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA) is a professional organization with over 1,800 landscape architects as members represented by provincial and territorial associations plus academic programs across the nation. As the voice of the profession in Canada, the CSLA is an advocate for its members on issues such as urban renewal, sustainable development and cultural heritage. www.csla-aapc.ca

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