

Vaughan

2012 Urban Design Awards

November 14, 2012



JURY REPORT

FOREWORD

The City of Vaughan 2012 Urban Design Awards honours commitment to excellence and innovation in urban design by recognizing projects that exemplify the best of architecture, landscape architecture and environmental stewardship in our City. These awards recognize the contributions of development projects to improve the public realm; projects that have a greater impact beyond their boundaries to contribute to the civic pride. Cumulatively, good design builds a beautiful, livable, accessible, and sustainable City.

This year's award nominees included a wide range of projects such as community facilities, open spaces, new community design, office buildings, and high rise development. These awards are intended to inspire developers, architects, landscape architects, planners and urban designers to advance excellence in their own projects and to pursue leadership, civic contribution and community recognition.

The newly opened Vaughan City Hall represents the City's commitment to leadership in sustainability, and sets the standard for innovation and creativity among this year's projects. Another project, the North Thornhill Community Centre, serves as a well-designed community building that promotes vibrant pedestrian activity. These two developments demonstrate a synergy between good design and sustainability.

"Great architecture and urban design transcends the individuality of planning, transportation or sustainability policies. It is a careful and thoughtful process; that we at the City of Vaughan have embraced. The Design Review Panel formed in 2011 is making strides to inform key projects, raising the bar for design, urban form and ultimately human connectivity," said City Manager Clayton Harris.

Congratulations and thank you to this year's winners and participants, and we look forward to hosting the next Urban Design Award ceremony.

Members Of Council Congratulate All Nominees For Making The 2012 Vaughan Urban Design Awards a Great Success!



Front (from L): Ward 1 Councillor Marilyn Iafrate; Hon. Maurizio Bevilacqua, Mayor; Ward 4 Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco; Regional Councillor Michael Di Biase
Back (from L): Regional Councillor Gino Rosati; Ward 2 Councillor Tony Carella; Ward 3 Councillor Rosanna DeFrancesca; Regional Councillor Deb Schulte; Ward 5 Councillor Alan Shefman



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Urban design is a major component in city building – it's about making connections between people, places and creating a series of unique sensory experiences. Good urban design is essential in order to create attractive, high-quality, sustainable places for people to live, work and play. As a rapidly growing community, it is important that we focus on making Vaughan an even better city for tomorrow.

The 2012 Urban Design Awards celebrate the City of Vaughan's commitment to excellence in urban design, architecture, landscape architecture and environmental stewardship. These awards highlight the city's goal to promote and celebrate excellence in urban design. They also symbolize the city's emerging collective consciousness as a place with a unique style and a growing civic pride.

On behalf of the City of Vaughan, I would like to congratulate the 2012 winners and participants. I also want to thank this year's jury members for their time and expertise as well as everyone involved for contributing to the success of this event.

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Award Categories

There are three awards; the number of awards presented in each category is at the discretion of the jury.

- Award of Excellence (the number of awards presented in this category is at the discretion of the jury): This award is presented for projects which exemplify, as much as possible, the judging criteria and the City’s design principles.
- Award of Merit (the number of awards presented in this category is at the discretion of the jury): This award is presented for projects and consultants, with excellence in one or more areas of judging criteria and the City’s design principles.
- Environmental Green Award (the number of awards presented in this category is at the discretion of the jury): This award is presented for projects that achieve a high degree of environmental sustainability through green but not limited to, integration of environmental design; stewardship; prevention; conservation; recycling; enhancement; rehabilitation and energy efficiency.



Jury Members



Ward 1 Councillor
Marilyn Iafrate

Councillor Marilyn Iafrate was elected to Vaughan City Council representing Maple, Kleinburg and Nashville. She currently serves as Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee. She is also a member of the President’s Community Advisory Committee at Mackenzie Health (formerly York Central Hospital), Heritage Vaughan, Pierre Berton Artifacts and Memorabilia Task Force.

As a member of the Provincial Parent Board, an advisory body to the Minister of Education, Marilyn was able to bring the voice of parents to the Provincial table, with great success. She has also gained valuable municipal experience during her nine years working for the City of Vaughan as Executive Assistant to Council.



Ward 4 Councillor
Sandra Yeung Racco

Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco has been representing her constituents of Ward 4 for nine years. Between building an array of new parks; leading art, culture and diversity initiatives; she worked with other levels of government to bring the subway outside of Toronto’s borders and into Concord/Thornhill North.

Coupled with her proven record of cultivating lasting relationships with community stakeholders, her tireless focus on addressing the needs of local youth and seniors, and her commitment to delivering results for the Ward 4 community, it is clear Sandra is prepared to continue building a vibrant and livable community for her constituents.



Commissioner of Planning
John MacKenzie
M.Sc. (Pl) MCIP, RPP

John MacKenzie is the Commissioner of Planning for the City of Vaughan responsible for managing growth while creating a vibrant and sustainable City. John is the Co-Chair of the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Implementation Team, an inter-agency committee formed to realize the City’s vision for its new downtown. For over 15 years John has led interdisciplinary teams on land development, land use policy and infrastructure projects across Ontario. John has also played a major role in preparing and implementing provincial plans including the Greenbelt Plan, Central Pickering Development Plan and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.



Don Schmitt
MArch, OAA, FRAIC, AIA
Architect
Diamond Schmitt Architects

Donald Schmitt is a principal of Diamond Schmitt Architects. His experience includes academic, healthcare and research facilities with an emphasis on sustainable design. His current projects include the Sick Children’s Hospital Research Tower, the Global Innovation Exchange Building at Wilfred Laurier University and the Regent Park Arts and Culture Centre in Toronto. Mr. Schmitt and his firm have won over 160 design awards including six Governor General’s Awards.



Robert Glover
MCIP, RPP, MRAIC, OAA
Architect + Planner
Bousfields Inc.

Robert Glover is an Architect, Planner and an Urban Designer with 30 years of professional experience. As a consultant, Mr. Glover’s work has focused on the intensification of urban design projects and historical areas. He has held many positions including the amalgamated City of Toronto’s first Director of Urban Design (1998-2001) and set up the City’s current urban design structure and program. Between 2002 and 2007, he was a member of the Toronto Preservation Board. He has a Bachelor of Architecture and a MBA from the University of Toronto.

Judging Criteria

The 2012 Urban Design Awards Jury will evaluate projects based on the following criteria that demonstrate the City’s commitment to building attractive sustainable communities with appealing landscape architecture, strong identity and high quality architectural design.

- Significance – City Wide Scale: Contribution to the City design objectives related to City image, visual identity, vistas, streetscapes, recognition of significant sites and location opportunities.
- Significance – Community Wide Scale: Contribution to the quality of environment within a community which demonstrates a regard for the context of the locale, enhancing a sense of place, and conserves and protects the natural environment.
- Sustainability Design: Level of performance in terms of location and linkage, energy efficiency, neighbourhood pattern and design, and green construction and technology.
- Accessibility: The degree of integration for barrier-free accessibility which demonstrates a regard for the Accessibility Ontarians with Disability Act (AODA).
- Compatibility: The integration or blending of built forms and public or private spaces with existing and planned development, and respect for or enhancement of the existing development character.
- Innovation and Creativity: The degree of creative response to program requirements, site constraints and ability to influence urban design trends.
- Execution: The quality of construction materials, and interpretation of the design into reality.



Paul Ferris
B.L.A., O.A.L.A., C.S.L.A
Landscape Architect
Ferris & Associates Inc.

Paul Ferris is a well established Landscape Architect with over thirty years in the industry, having graduated from the University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture in 1976. He is committed to providing high quality landscape design and achieves this by being intricately involved in all aspects of each project. In addition to his design practice, Mr. Ferris also has extensive experience as an expert witness before the Ontario Municipal Board.

Award of Excellence

VAUGHAN CITY HALL 2141 MAJOR MACKENZIE DRIVE

The winning scheme in a design competition held in 2003, the new Vaughan City Hall design symbolizes the transition of Vaughan from an agriculturally-oriented hinterland into an emerging urban centre. The design was conceived to set the tone and standard for environmentally responsible and thoughtful development into the 21st century.

The original design concept was based on the idea of cultivating a civic landscape in two phases. The City Hall represents Phase One. The diverse program for the 325,000 sq. ft. development was broken down into various components to create a civic campus of low-rise structures that define a public terrain of open and enclosed space. In reference to the city’s agricultural heritage, the campus is laid out according to a series of east-west bands that recall the linear pattern of land cultivation which once characterized the region, as well as the larger framework of the concession grid.



The design challenge was to resolve the requirement for over 900 surface parking spaces which would have directly contradicted the City’s civic vision, consumed parkland, and visibly undermined the environmental statement of the City. The solution was a combination of short-term surface parking with substantial underground parking while providing the necessary civic infrastructure to accommodate the long-term development goals for green space and campus expansion.

The design also reinforces the City’s desire to demonstrate its leadership role in sustainability by reducing its dependence on natural resources. The architecture is fully integrated with all facets of sustainable design – site, environment and human asset value. The scheme utilizes a high performance building envelope, passive solar shading strategies, maximum exposure to natural daylight and views, modular central heating and cooling plant, low pressure air delivery systems, building waste heat and cool heat recovery and natural ventilation strategies. The original target of LEED Silver was raised to Gold.

Beyond environmental sustainability, the design is a landmark of social sustainability and demonstrates how one building can have a great impact. It provides improved services for the community, a better workplace for staff, while showcasing beauty, protecting the environment and increasing cost effectiveness. Providing a workplace with many prominent environmental features has helped raise the environmental awareness of employees. In addition to having a more environmentally sustainable workspace, the new building also provides various social amenities for staff including an on-site fitness facility and a future day care.

The jury unanimously agreed that this building was an excellent example of a civic, community building that demonstrated excellence in significance at the city-wide scale. In addition, it felt that the sustainability features of the building and its landscape set the path for good design within the city and was a leader in innovation and creativity. They not only praised the architecture of the building but also felt that the green roofs were successfully implemented and maintained.

Award of Merit

NORTH THORNHILL COMMUNITY CENTRE 300 PLEASANT RIDGE AVENUE

The North Thornhill Community Centre is located on the east side of the Dufferin Street Reservoir Park, next to soccer fields and a secondary school. An elliptical perimeter walking / jogging path reinforces the dialogue of curve in plan, section and elevation, celebrating the community centre as a recreational focus and a social gathering place for the community.

A totally barrier-free building, the centre’s undulating white ‘wave’ roof and insulated translucent paneled south east wall gives balanced illumination to the major Olympic pool area. The building interior is characterized by a clerestory light, 2-storey landscaped pedestrian galleria with brightly coloured, durable tile on walls and floors, coupled with stained glass in the galleria and pool, creating a playful atmosphere for recreation and relaxation.

The built form is articulated with aluminum sandwich panels, brick and insulated precast concrete, interspersed with tinted glazing. Program elements such as gazebos, umbrellas with seating, water and adventure play areas animate the landscape.

The jury felt that although the architecture was not outstanding, this was truly a well-designed community building with an internal pedestrian galleria that added significance at the community-wide scale.



Award of Merit

THORNHILL CITY CENTRE BATHURST STREET AND CENTRE STREET

Thornhill City Centre is a master planned community comprising of four high-rise towers and 61 townhomes built around a vibrant environmentally friendly community park. This residential intensification development located adjacent to a future public transit hub is within easy walking distance to local shops and businesses. Its network of roads and sidewalks connect to the existing neighbourhood, thereby creating a walkable community. The design of the community also offers access to all public areas making it a highly accessible development.

The high-rise buildings provide an affordable residential choice for both first-time buyers and empty nesters who want to continue living in the community. The townhouse form of housing provides a seamless transition between the high-rise condos and the surrounding single family neighborhood, thus enhancing the public realm. The buildings are constructed of a poured concrete superstructure with highly durable precast and glass cladding and are virtually maintenance-free.

The jury commended the development for its good planning and agreed that although the buildings do not represent cutting edge architecture, the mix of uses create compatibility between the built forms. The urban design elements such as framing the park with taller buildings create an urban space that is a significant design gesture exemplary for others.



Award of Merit

LONGO’S SUPPORT CENTRE 8800 HUNTINGTON ROAD

The Longo’s Support Centre comprising of the head office, a food prep commissary and the distribution centre, was the first building erected in the Huntington Glen subdivision – Block 64, and was important to set the bar high for the rest of the development in terms of aesthetics, urban design and quality of construction, in line with the City of Vaughan’s Urban Design Guidelines for this Employment Area.

The building location on site separates the loading dock areas from the landscaped visitor and employee parking areas. The oblong building form of the office block is oriented such that it brings the entrance closer to the street with the employee parking lot tucked neatly at the side. The building is sustainably designed and energy efficient. The site design incorporates bio-retention swales that allow the surface water runoff to percolate into the water-table while improving the quality and reducing the quantity

of runoff to the municipal storm water system. Drought resistant species are planted eliminating the need for irrigation.

The jury agreed that this building was worthy of recognition for its state-of-the-art design and sustainable features. It felt that the building was outstanding for its innovation and creativity to execution and was an exemplary building for other employment areas.



OWNER / DEVELOPER: Longo Brothers Fruit Market
DESIGN TEAM: Gross Kaplin Coviensky Architects
Terraplan Landscape Architects

Environmental Green Award

MACKENZIE RIDGE 10980, 10960 AND 10944 DUFFERIN STREET

Mackenzie Ridge is a planned low density urban residential community with primary access from Dufferin Street. The design team considered all aspects of architecture, engineering, landscape architecture and environmental planning and worked with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the City to establish the development limits. The design involved the provision of buffer zones to the west that were enhanced with native trees and shrub plantings.

The placement of the pond at the entrance of the community is a deliberate effort to encourage both the local and surrounding communities to utilize the public space. A plaza with seating area was developed to complement the stormwater management pond. Together, these form a considerable gathering and open space area with internal walkways that lead users to the pond, plaza and public transit connections. Landscape elements such as the use of vertical wood and steel elements along with masonry, street lights and mixed buffer plantings aided in achieving a dramatic and unmistakable community presence.

The jury applauded the project for its sustainability features including native planting and the stormwater management pond as a community amenity. The stormwater management pond with the hardscape and urban elements creates a well-defined gateway.



OWNER / DEVELOPER: Ventana Homes Inc.
DESIGN TEAM: Cosburn Nauboris Limited
Landscape Architects

Environmental Green Award

MOLISE KLEINBURG WETLAND CHANNEL PROJECT 115 PUTTING GREEN CRESCENT

Castlepoint Investments facilitated the redevelopment of the Kleinburg Golf Club into a residential community. Working with the TRCA and the City of Vaughan, the natural watercourse, modified by the golf club, was re-established to create an on-line pond to provide a supplementary water source for irrigation.

Other project goals were to enhance the aquatic habitat and provide for future fish passage within the re-established tributary of the Humber River, to enhance the valley lands by augmenting the tributary with habitat for a variety of aquatic, amphibian, and breeding birds, and to provide for naturalised areas within the community which could be integrated through a pedestrian trail system.

The design involved the enhancement of the low flow channel through the addition of secondary side channels, backwater pools, vernal pools, shallow and deep wet meadows, and on-line refuge pools. The existing steel pedestrian bridges, which once spanned the on-line pond, were also preserved and integrated into the wetland channel design to form part of the pedestrian trail system.

The jury unanimously agreed that the project demonstrated environmental sustainability through the enhancement and rehabilitation of its habitat. The re-establishment of the on-line pond was a truly remarkable effort in environmental design to reduce impact on the fish habitat through the tributary.



OWNER / DEVELOPER: Castlepoint Investments Inc.
DESIGN TEAM: SCS Consulting Group
Beacon Environmental
Aqualogic, Aboud & Associates Inc.

2012 AWARD NOMINEES

1. Adidas Group

2. Bellaria Residences, Tower Three

3. Keele 407 Office

4. Longo’s Support Centre

5. Lormel Homes Corporate Centre

6. Mackenzie Ridge

7. Maple Nature Reserve Quonset Hut Rehabilitation/Construction

8. Mapleglen Residences

9. Molise Kleinburg Wetland Channel Project

10. North Thornhill Community Centre
11. Pheasant Hollow Park

12. Riverside Village

13. The McMichael Canadian Art Collection - Grounds Renewal

14. The Point at Woodbridge

15. Thornhill City Centre

16. Thornhill Woods - Fieldgate Homes

17. Upper Thornhill Medical Centre

18. Vaughan City Hall

19. Vaughan Fire Station 7-10

20. Vaughan Valley Estates Phase One