




**HALIFAX**

URBAN DESIGN AWARDS | 2018

Jury Report



“Urban Design is the relationship between buildings; the relationship between buildings, streets, public spaces, and parks/open spaces that make-up the public realm; the nature and the quality of that public realm - in other words the complex relationship between all built and unbuilt space.”

- Royal Architecture Institute of Canada

## HALIFAX URBAN DESIGN AWARDS 2018

Urban Design excellence plays a crucial role in maintaining and enhancing the high quality of life throughout the Halifax Regional Municipality. The Municipality, in partnership with the Nova Scotia Association of Architects (NSAA), the Licensed Professional Planners Association of Nova Scotia (LPPANS), the Atlantic Provinces Association of Landscape Architects (APALA), Engineers Nova Scotia (ENS), and the Interior Designers of Nova Scotia (IDNS), wishes to promote awareness of the value of Urban Design.

The 2018 Halifax Urban Design Awards program was established to recognize and celebrate the individuals, organizations, and design firms that have contributed to Urban Design in the municipality. To help best achieve this intent, we have leaned heavily of the expertise of the local design community, local professional organizations and their national affiliates, such as, the Royal Architecture Institute of Canada for guidance.

It has been only with significant contributions and support of our partner organizations and the local design community that we have been able to initiate and implement our first Urban Design Awards program since 2006. We are grateful and excited to be able to re-ignite the conversation around what great Urban Design is in the municipality and we look forward to following this year's celebration with many more in the future.

Sincerely,

Brandon Silver MCIP, LPP  
Professional Advisor  
Planning and Development, Urban Design

**HALIFAX**

  
**LPPANS**  
Licensed Professional Planners Association of Nova Scotia

NOVA SCOTIA  ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS

  
**Engineers**  
NOVA SCOTIA

 Atlantic Provinces Association of  
Landscape Architects

**idns**  
Interior Designers of Nova Scotia

## SUBMISSIONS 2018

Submissions were received for five award categories. Each category had different eligibility requirements and individual criteria for award selection. In addition to being evaluated based on each category's individual criteria, all successful nominees must have achieved the Municipality's Urban Design Goals as stated below:

Design that is human scaled;  
Design that reflects community context; and  
Design that inspires civic awareness and participation.

Awards of Excellence will be received by submissions that meet all of the parameters/ criteria set out for the program and Urban Design Excellence.

Awards of Merit will be received by submissions that may not meet all of the parameters/ criteria set out for the program, but whose contribution to urban design in HRM warrants recognition.

\*Submissions receiving an Award of Excellence will be eligible for submission to the 2018 National Urban Design Awards program

# CATEGORIES

## **Urban Architecture**

This category is for a building (or group of buildings) that contributes to and supports an urban design plan or initiative. The submission shall be of high architectural standard while achieving urban design excellence through its unique relationship with immediate surroundings (considering site, massing, pedestrian amenities, etc.). The building also contributes to defining a special relationship with the neighbouring urban fabric.

## **Civic Design Projects**

This category is for civic improvement projects such as parks, public space, civil engineering or environmental infrastructure, streetscape design, etc. which have been implemented as a result of a larger urban design plan or initiative.

## **Urban Fragments**

Urban elements 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, interpretation media, memorials, public art, atriums, foyers, or other forms of intervention that contribute to the beautification, sustainability, enjoyment, and/or appreciation of the urban environment.

## **Community Connections & Initiatives**

This category is for any built project, however modest, initiated and implemented by a community-based organization that enhances the public realm. Examples include, but are not limited to: street improvement plans, public art, commemorative or interpretive installations, and environmental initiatives.

## **Urban Design Plans**

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

## JURY PANEL

### **Anne Mclroy**

FRAIC, RPP, FCIP

Principal at Brook Mclroy - Toronto

Anne has over twenty five years' experience as an urban designer for master plan projects across Canada and the United States. Anne has particular expertise in the development of design standards for communities, waterfronts, universities and other institutions. She is a recognized expert in the facilitation of design workshops and public consultation forums. Anne has been appointed to the Toronto Community Housing Design Review Panel and to the National Capital Commission's Design Review Panel.

### **Maki Kawaguchi**

RA, LEED AP

Associate at Gehl - New York

Maki is an urban designer and architect with over 15 years of international experience in strategic urban transformation of cities. She enjoys working at multiple scales and is passionate about creating meaningful human experiences in the public realm that lead to greater quality of public life in cities. Her work experience ranges from city-wide strategic planning, master planning, urban design guidelines, public space design to process facilitation for complex projects with multiple stakeholders.

### **Antonio Gomez-Palacio**

RPP, MCIP, MRAIC

Principal at Dialog - Toronto

Antonio's professional experience and research focuses on the intersection of architecture, planning and urban design. He is internationally recognized for transforming cities into vibrant urban places, which respond to their social, economic and environmental context. Antonio has worked on a wide range of projects focused on urban intensification, master planning, mixed-use, transit, heritage, economic development and sustainability, as facilitated through participatory processes. Antonio has acted as the Chair of the Toronto Society of Architects and Vaughan's Design Review Panel.

## JURY STATEMENT 2018

The Jury commends the Halifax Regional Municipality for relaunching the Urban Design Awards program to celebrate the importance of excellent Urban Design. The municipality is experiencing an exciting time for new developments and design. Projects of various types and scales are appearing one by one in the streetscapes and contributing to the public realm. The Halifax Urban Design Awards program provides an opportunity to shine a light on and recognise the efforts made to achieve urban design excellence.

The Jury was impressed with the projects submitted, and in one case, awarding three Awards of Excellence in a single category. A major theme that emerged from the adjudication process was that of projects prioritizing pedestrians. Successful submissions tended to be clearly designed first and foremost for the comfort of people. For example, the Jury paid extra attention to a projects relationship between streetwalls, particularly the ground floor of buildings, and the public realm. Achieving urban design excellence typically requires careful attention to this human-scale relationship because this is where the fabric of the public realm begins.

Another theme that emerged during the adjudication process was contemporary design and materials that fit well within a historically rich city. The jurors noted the success of several of the projects ability to blend with the traditional built environment of Halifax.

As mentioned, a highlight of the program was the ability to award three Awards of Excellence in Urban Architecture – two for public buildings, and one for a private development. These projects include the Halifax Central Library, the Oval Pavilion, and the Southport – all three awarded designs are different from one to the other. However, they are all low- to mid-rise buildings. The Jury expressed how important it was to recognise that, especially in the Halifax context, successful urban design stems from contextual awareness and scale.





Photo credit: Scotty Sherin

## EXCELLENCE IN CIVIC DESIGN

### FORT NEEDHAM MEMORIAL PARK

#### Project Team

Lead Firm:  
Ekistics Planning & Design and  
Form:Media in Consortium  
Sandra Cooke  
Devin Segal  
John DeWolf  
Adam Fine  
Katherine Peck  
Sarah MacLean  
Natalia Ultremari  
Sahisna Chitrakar  
Rob LeBlanc

#### Developer / Owner / Client

Halifax Regional Municipality

#### Contractor

General Contractors:  
Turfmasters

#### Completed In

December 2017

The park uses attractive and subtle details to tell the story of the Halifax Explosion. The translation from historical narrative into material objects is thought provoking.

The jury commends how this difficult historical event was memorialized into poetic details. Design elements are clearly made from a strong and simple design palette, using high quality materials, and are thoughtfully integrated to form a compelling and revitalized park.





## **AWARD OF MERIT FOR CIVIC DESIGN**

### **BRUNSWICK STREET STREETScape REVITALIZATION**

This is an admirable project with good intent for comparable street revitalization projects. The original conditions of the Brunswick Streetscape were difficult to contend with. The re-design of the ground level buildings and the urban design begins to repair the ground floor edge of a 1970's - urban renewal era - residential tower block.

This project is courageous exercise because it tries to deal with a harsh urban fabric and interface. It valiantly attempts to introduce new commercial uses and visual transparency at the ground floor to make a more inviting and active pedestrian realm.

#### **Project Team**

Lead Firm:  
HOK, Inc.  
Bryan Jones  
Shannon Lee  
Angelo Montenegro  
Richard Smith

Associate Firm:  
Outside! Planning & Design Studio  
Sue Sirrs

#### **Developer / Owner / Client**

British Columbia Investment  
Management Corporation  
c/o GWL Realty Advisors

#### **Contractor**

General Contractor:  
Bird Construction

#### **Completed In**

October 2015



## **AWARD OF MERIT FOR COMMUNITY INITIATIVES**

### **HOPE BLOOMS COMMUNITY GREENHOUSE**

#### **Project Team**

Lead Firm:  
FBM Architecture | Interior Design  
George Cotaras  
Matt Jarsky

Brian Lilley (Dalhousie University)

#### **Developer / Owner / Client**

Hope Blooms

#### **Completed In**

May 2015

The jury wanted to celebrate the tenacity and creativity of the community at the grassroots level around the programming of the space with an Award of Merit. This project provides social connections and a place to empower youth engagement. As a community initiative, it is unique in its gestation and governance, and the grassroots youth movement is to be commended.



Photo credit: Julian Parkinson

## EXCELLENCE IN URBAN ARCHITECTURE

### OVAL PAVILION

The Oval Pavilion is especially successful as a social magnet within the park that helps activate the Halifax Common with a relatively small footprint. As a place of encounter, it attracts people of diverse ages and socio-economic groups providing the opportunity of greater social mixing. The simplicity of the architecture as a single form, and the clear expression of its parts is powerful, and simply expressed.

The jury commends the four-season use of the building and its surroundings. Albeit the building requires extensive storage, and other typically back-end uses, these are successfully integrated without having a 'backside.' This is particularly important for this building as it is located at the Halifax Common, and can be seen from every angle. It is a flexible space, and feels light and transparent. The roof design is a dynamic expression for the building as three-dimensional form.

### Project Team

Lead Firm:  
DSRA Architecture  
Peter Connell  
Kevin Reid  
Jordan Rice  
Chad Jamieson  
Devin McCarthy  
Danielle Pottier  
Catherine Hefler

Structural Engineering:  
BMR Structural Engineering

Mechanical Engineering:  
M. Lawrence Engineering Ltd.

Electrical Engineering:  
MCW Group

Landscape Architecture:  
Gordon Ratcliffe Landscape Architects

### Developer / Owner / Client

Halifax Regional Municipality

### Contractor

General Contractor:  
Seagate Construction  
Steve Harris

### Completed In

December 2015



Photo credit: Julian Parkinson

## EXCELLENCE IN URBAN ARCHITECTURE SOUTHPORT

### Project Team

Lead Firm:  
RAW Design

Associate Firm:  
Michael Napier Architecture

### Developer / Owner / Client

Urban Capital Property Group

Killam Properties  
James Bugden  
Michael McLean

### Contractor

General Contractor:  
Marco Group

### Completed In

Spring 2016

This building bridges the public and private realms, and demonstrates a fine grain quality of ‘every day’ architecture.

The Jury commends this project as a precedent-setting example of a mid-rise building typology. The design playfully juxtaposes transparent and solid facades to deliver a human- and residential-scale presence along the street. The jury notes how the building responds to its neighbouring contexts, including its relationship to the ground level along the historic Barrington streetscape, as well as the design references to the heritage of the industrious ports and rail corridor. The jury remarked that successfully incorporating ground floor uses and visual transparency along the public street in a private development sets a good precedent, and hopes that more developers and designers will follow this example.



Photo credit: Adam Mork

## EXCELLENCE IN URBAN ARCHITECTURE HALIFAX CENTRAL LIBRARY

The Halifax Central Library is a true “beacon” building and shows how a mid-rise public building can hold a commanding presence in a city. The building design is truly civic and social-minded, and reimagines what it means to be a library. It is clear why this project is so appreciated and enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

The jury commends the Library for incorporating public space at the core of the design, throughout the building and vertical circulation. This project is an example of how, by incorporating robust places for social gathering and interaction civic architecture and interior design can contribute to the healthy civic life of the neighbourhood and the city.

### Project Team

Lead Firm:  
FBM Architecture | Interior Design  
George Cotaras  
Wayne Duncan  
Susan Fitzgerald  
Mark Gammon  
D’Arcy Dennehy  
Stacey MacInnis  
Sheena Moore  
Greg Fry  
Harvey Freeman  
Maureen Aubut  
Megan Baker

Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects  
Morten Schmidt  
Chris Hardie  
Mette Wienberg  
Stuart Hill  
Jessica Mentz  
Lars Vejen

### Developer / Owner / Client

Halifax Regional Municipality

Halifax Public Libraries

### Completed In

November 2014



Photo credit: TJ Maguire/Waterfront Development

## EXCELLENCE IN URBAN FRAGMENTS

### WATERFRONT HAMMOCKS

#### Project Team

Lead:  
Waterfront Development

Associates:  
Outside! Planning & Design Studio  
Wind Bag Company of Nova Scotia  
Can-Sew Sewing Services  
RKO Steel  
Nova Tree Company Ltd.

#### Developer / Owner / Client

Waterfront Development

#### Contractor

Eagle Beach Contractors Ltd.

#### Completed In

August 2016

The hammocks provide a certain element of ‘stickiness’, an attractor that makes you want to sit, stay, and enjoy the space. This is a project that demonstrates how excellent urban design can be achieved through simple, yet clever temporary gestures. It is a generous project, as it allows people to rest at a scenic view and experience the waterfront in a new way. It also helps people to start imagining the possibilities and potential of what the waterfront can become. The jury notes that the hammocks material is reminiscent of the past and of industrial port and nautical history. When you are sitting at the hammocks, you feel “of the place.”



## **HALIFAX URBAN DESIGN AWARDS**

### **THE TROPHY DESIGNS**

The 2018 Halifax Urban Design Awards honour excellence in the field and celebrate many important contributions to the region. In the spirit of design excellence, the Municipality challenged NSCAD design students to create a trophy that will be presented to winners in each of the five categories.

We are pleased to announce that Sasan Moradian, a fourth-year interdisciplinary student, has created the winning design.

Sasan is a multidisciplinary designer who started his work with a group of artists and young architects as a freelancer in Tehran. Sasan worked as a full-time graphic designer in different design agencies. For nearly a decade, Sasan worked on a range of design projects, including logo and identity design, signage design, environmental branding, website design, and packaging.

This winning design encapsulates the spirit of the Urban Design Awards – a street grid that reminds us to consider the relationship between buildings, streets and public and open spaces. The relationship between a person and the street, at ground level, is what urban design is all about.