

The **RU** Community Experience

Design Report

CKLA 330

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Gateway to Ryerson Design Competition

East Coast Kitchen Party Landscape Design

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Project Manifesto

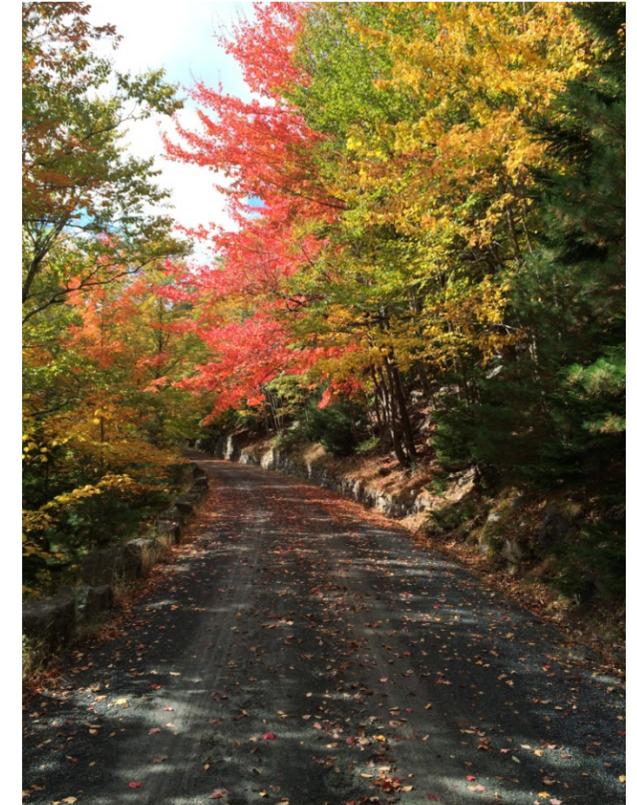
THE RU COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

Renewing, revitalizing and rejuvenating Gould Street is an important step in strengthening the relationship between community and the places they share. An inclusive space celebrating all people as one human family will ultimately lead Gould Street to become a space in which we educate, create, celebrate and form a community.

A unique sense of place that prioritizes the pedestrian and provides multi-sensory experiences discerns Gould Street from all others and encourages visitors to return again and again. Year round programming and activities will ensure that people will be present not only in summer, but also in the heart of winter.

Gould Street will not only become an energetic, vibrant, diverse and dynamic urban destination, but also an urban oasis in the madness of a busy downtown city - an oasis of serenity in a high pressure urban neighborhood.

A much needed infusion of green space will urge people to slow down and stay a while, explore, enjoy themselves, converse, read, eat or take a respite from the pressures of city life. This is our vision for a newly reinvented Gould Street.

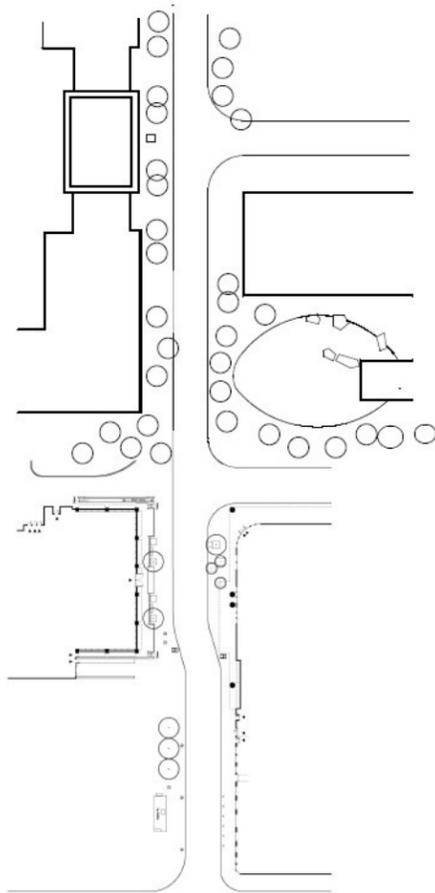


"Cultures and climates differ all over the world, but people are the same. They'll gather in public if you give them a good place to do it."

- Jan Gehl

Existing Site

Our Site is located in the center of downtown Toronto, near Dundas Square and the Eaton Center and is close to the Yonge St. Subway station. It is in a multicultural area and is congested with students, businesses, residents and vehicles. The New Student Learning Centre is built on the former Sam the Record Man location, another historic Toronto landmark. Gould Street currently acts as a thoroughfare connecting many of the vital organs of Ryerson University including the library, Chang School, Image Arts Center and Campus Store. The project site is centered on Gould Street, an east west passage through the campus of Ryerson University. The western border of the site is Yonge Street and vehicular traffic is allowed into the intersection of O'Keefe and Gould. The eastern site border is at Bond and Gould. A large open area currently occupied by Lake Devo lies south of Gould to the Chang Building along Victoria. The parking garage exit signals the end of the project site on Victoria.



https://de.ryerson.ca/de_courses/templates/m/?c=02F657D55EAF1C4840CE8D66FCDAF90C

Site Inventory and Analysis

The following issues and factors have been identified as affecting our project site.

Site Issues

- trees planted in concrete pits restricting the movement of oxygen and vital nutrients
- trees and plants in retaining walls in front of Kerr Hall need attention
- current gateway almost invisible and lacks a sense of arrival
- pedestrians not encouraged to walk in center of road
- non-permeable mixture of paving materials with no cohesive theme
- parking garage on Victoria Street creates dangerous area for pedestrians entering the site
- randomly placed bike racks
- conflict between pedestrians, skateboards and bikes
- insufficient seating
- shadows cast by tall buildings

Environmental Issues

- wind tunnels, cold winds from north and north west
- noise pollution and smog
- vehicle pollution
- odors and moisture from sewage grates
- heat island effects of downtown

Perceptual Issues

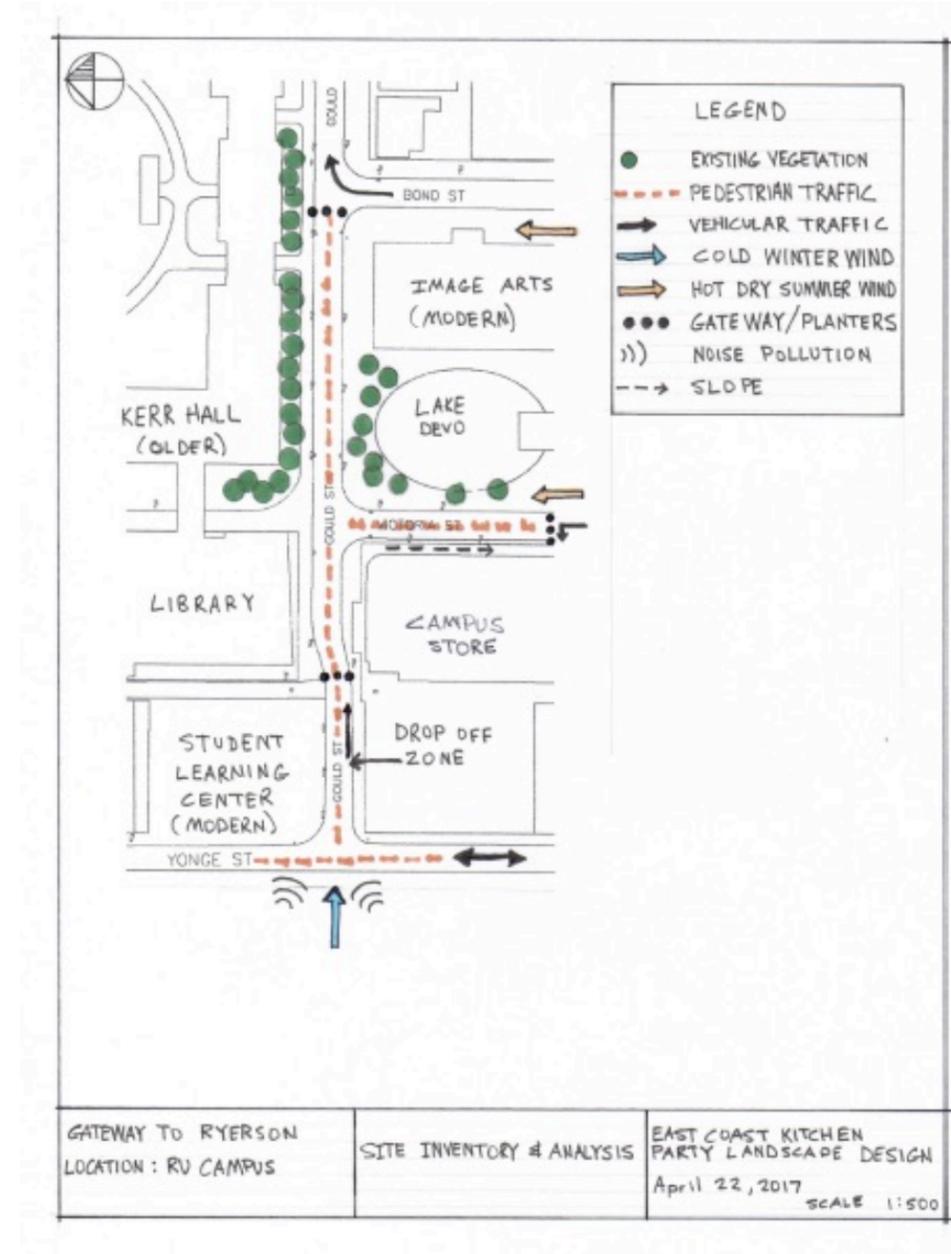
- area viewed as a thoroughfare and generally unwelcoming and cold
- attempts at turning Gould into a pedestrian street appear temporary
- no sense of place
- dominant odors are exhaust, sewage and cigarettes
- dominant sounds are traffic, voices and footsteps
- dominant colors are grays, browns and black

Off-Site Factors

- close proximity to Dundas Square and Yonge St. subway station
- surrounding multicultural neighborhoods
- apartment buildings
- businesses, churches, shopping centers, restaurants

- student housing and homeless populations

Constraints and Opportunities



| CONSTRAINTS | OPPORTUNITIES |
|--|--|
| Lake Devo is a maintenance issue and does not receive intended use. | Create park like area with much needed infusion of greenery, seating and places to sit and relax, giving the area a more human scale |
| Current gateway is barely noticeable and does not entice people to enter and spend time. | Create a contemporary and inviting signature gateway. |
| Cold northerly winds tunnel through site in winter. | Add proper trees for winter wind attenuation. |
| Current measures to close street seem temporary and reversible. | Close area entirely to vehicular traffic with retractable safety bollards (with exception of emergency vehicles). |
| Site lacks sufficient furnishings. | Addition of additional and contemporary furnishings throughout entire site. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Site has trees and gardens in front of Kerr Hall, but lacks the feel of an urban oasis. | Add green space along Gould Street and cleaning up of retaining wall gardens in front to Kerr Hall. |
| Other than the lights of the Image Arts Center, the main thoroughfare lacks a strong focal point. | Add focal point to intersection of Gould and Victoria Street. |
| Lighting is dated and does not add to a contemporary feel of the site. | Add contemporary and properly scaled lighting along Gould and former Lake Devo area. |
| Site needs additional eating and relaxing areas, other than Balzac's Cafe. | Create signature cafe to pay homage to local landmark Sam the Record Man. |
| Currently, a farmer's market and Cuban dance group use the site, but more usable community space is needed. | Allow for spaces in the design for additional programming and community activities |

Goals and Objectives

| | GOALS | OBJECTIVES | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | 1. Create a space with a strong sense of place and community | 1. create a functional, vibrant and energetic space for people to gather, linger, learn, play and celebrate the community 2. create a strong, cohesive visual theme marrying the old with the new 3. design for the future | |
| | 2. Create a space with clearly defined areas of use | 1. create clearly marked areas for: a. eating b. meeting c. relaxing d. walking e. community and school activities | |



| | |
|---|---|
| <p>3. Create a Ryerson University signature cafe experience</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. create a place to eat in a park like setting 2. provide unobstructed views of the stunning lights of the Image Arts Center |
| <p>4. Create new gateway to reinforce the Ryerson identity.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. design sculptural gateway using school colors and official university crest. 2. give the feeling of anticipation that entry will be an experience 3. make people aware they are entering the campus of a school with a strong technological heritage |
| <p>5. Create a central focal point on Gould Street</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. use as a landmark and meeting area 2. provide a place to sit, relax and enjoy the peaceful sounds of moving water 3. provide a pleasing perceptual experience |
| <p>6. Create a park like setting within a busy urban core</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. provide a significant addition of trees, shrubs and plant material 2. create sprawling green areas with numerous benches and seating for relaxation and contemplation |



Concept Plan



Project Elements

GATEWAY TOWERS

The gateway to the Gould Street site has to make a statement. The construction materials and style convey that you are entering an area of technological excellence with the greenery signalling that you are entering a park-like respite from urban life. These towers convey both nicely. In addition to the vertical element of our gateway, we have added a horizontal element as well. The addition of the official school crest as a pavement inlay, makes it clear that you are entering Ryerson University. Lighting will be added to brighten the area at night and showcase the beautiful greenery.



The stainless steel fabrication will be done by Bantry Metal Fabrication (www.bantrymetal.ca) of Mississauga, Ontario who are experienced in stainless steel fabrication. The inserts and design work for the vertical planting will be done by Sheridan Nurseries at 2827 Yonge Street in Toronto. (http://www.sheridannurseries.com/stores/toronto_garden_centre). Thymus serpyllum (Mother of Thyme) will be used and will fill the structure with a lush, low growing creeper that requires little maintenance.

WATER FEATURES AND SCULPTURES

Our water feature on Gould Street provides a relaxing place to sit or kick off your shoes and cool off in the wading pool. It is an appropriate scale for a pedestrian street and will not conflict with foot traffic moving throughout the site. In addition to creating a beautiful focal point, it mutes the sounds of a busy downtown, making the experience more pleasurable and memorable.



Main round fountain on Gould Street



Secondary Sculpture in Park area

Michael Szabo is a Bay Area artist working in site specific designs of stainless, bronze and water. Both of these samples speak to the technological excellence of the host, Ryerson University, while creating a place to sit down, converse and enjoy. (www.michaelszabo.net)

PAVERS AND DESIGN

By using high grade pavers we can create walkways that are not just part of the trip but part of the experience. Techo-Bloc of St. Hubert, Quebec offers high quality pavers that are ideal for adding heating elements and come in many designs. The top picture is a basic design artfully installed. The

bottom is a walkway in South Boston installed by a skilled craftsman with an eye for design. Both are Techo-Bloc installations.

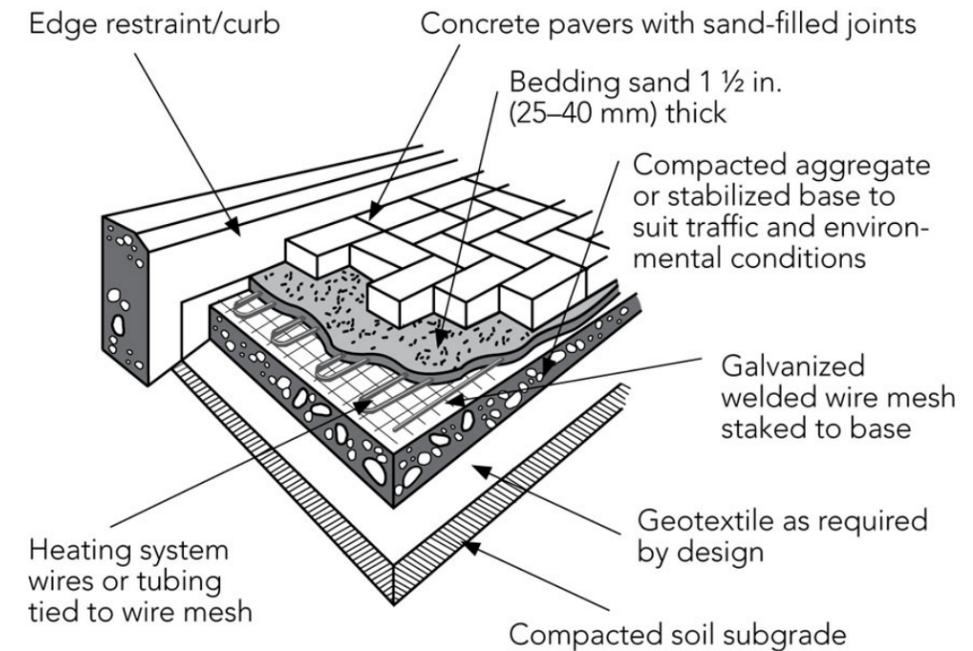


This bottom installation is both eye catching and effective in Toronto's winter as it can also be installed with heating elements. Installation by a master mason would be required in order to capture the designer's vision of a fun, memorable pattern and appearance.

With the addition of a heating element to pavers, Gould Street in winter can be a beautiful site. Without proper snow removal, the beautiful paving designs created by our team can be dangerous. In 1988, the city of Holland, Michigan decided that they would try an experiment and build heating elements into their sidewalks. The results have been safer walks and a lengthening of the life of the pavers themselves. Another side benefit of this approach is lower to no use of chemicals used as snow melts that leach into the grasses, gardens and, ultimately, the aquifer. Finally, the last benefit is that there will be no need for snow removal crews and their heavy equipment causing damage to the infrastructure.

The picture below illustrates the steps needed for successful application:

TYPICAL COMPONENTS FOR A PAVER SNOWMELT SYSTEM



With this application methodology, Gould Street and the walkways in the proposed project site can remain clean and safe year round.

The goal when choosing seating was to continue with an invitation to relax. Whether you are stopping in at Sam's cafe for a quick lunch, joining friends for coffee or relaxing on one of the many

CAFE AND CASUAL SEATING WITH A NOTE ON ACCESSIBILITY

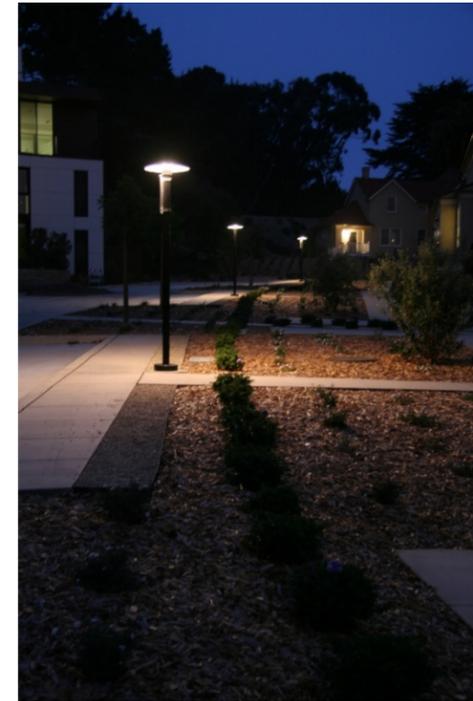
benches to enjoy the water feature and people watch, the furnishings need to match one of the project's goals—an invitation to relax.



The modern designs complement one another and they can be stained similarly. They are both made by Columbia Cascade of Portland Oregon (site-furnishings.columbia-cascade.com) which means they are made for Toronto's winters. Both items are available in a recycled pressed plastic version which zeroes out maintenance while maintaining an attractive appearance.

LIGHTING

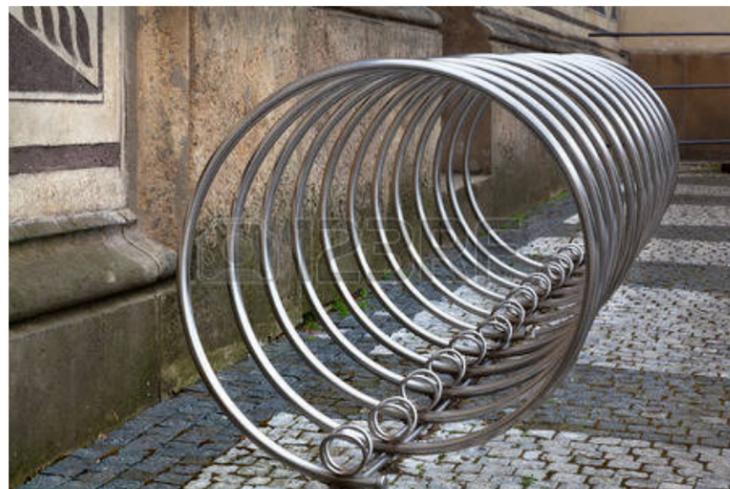
Lighting for the project combines a thin footprint and an appropriate globe height ensuring the light will be dispersed from a low altitude without an oversized presence. These lights from Borden LED light up the Presidio National Park in San Francisco. The daylight view gives you a feel for their compact size and the night time view shows their excellent lighting. Lights from Bega US can also be considered.



The LED lights have a very long life and will cut down on maintenance in the project area.

BICYCLES

Bicycles riders are most welcome on our site. With the short riding distance and the intermingling with pedestrians passing through as well as moving about the Ryerson campus it is best to keep the Gould Street project area a “Walk Bike Zone” for safety. That said, we have to give riders a secure place to walk their bikes so they can have lunch, participate in a community activity, visit the campus or just enjoy the new project area. As a service to the riding community, adding a simple bike service station with tools and a built in pump would help us become a tourist destination. We chose the bike racks for their modern look and unquestioned method of use. They are also compact and look good in multiples.



With these additions the Ryerson community will be encouraged to ride their bikes with a safe area for parking and a service station in the vicinity if needed.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Retractable Bollards

As we create a beautiful environment on the Ryerson campus it is also important to address safety. At each end of the Gould Street project site vehicular traffic is rerouted allowing for only foot and bike travel. It is important that those travelers are protected. We chose retractable bollards from Reliance Foundry of Surrey, British Columbia (www.reliance-foundry.com). A placement of 4 of these across both Gould Street entrances and above the Victoria parking garage will prevent inadvertent vehicular traffic from entering the site and the retract ability will allow safe passage for emergency and delivery vehicles. Ryerson University Security will have access to raising and lowering the bollards.



Call Boxes and Security Cameras

Blue lighted security call boxes will be prevalent on the property. One at each of the main entrances at both ends of Gould Street and by the Victoria Street entrance as well. Cameras should be placed at the bike racks between Kerr Hall and the Library. This will all be provided and installed by Ryerson Security.

GARBAGE/RECYCLING

There are many fine versions of recycling and garbage handling devices on the market. None of them can overcome the public's inattentiveness and propensity to not choose correctly when placing an item of garbage in a can. The best we can do is to place attractive stainless steel receptacles in the café area as well as at each of the three points of entry. The following models look good with the modernist approach we have taken in many of the other features.



The color coding will help the general public to choose wisely. These products are from OCC Outdoor in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Trees

| Botanical name | Common name | Height | Sun/shade | Picture | Notes |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------|---------------------|---|--|
| Amelanchier canadensis | Service berry | 25-30 ft | Full sun/part shade |  | Bloom April to May, edible fruit |
| Acer saccharinum | Sugar maple | 40 ft | Part shade/sun |  | National tree Of Canada, brilliant orange in fall. |
| Acer ginala | Amur maple | 15-20 ft | Full sun/part shade |  | Vibrant red fall color |
| Juniperus Virginiana 'spartan' | Spartan juniper | 15-20 ft | Full sun/part shade |  | Rich green foliage throughout year |

PLANT LIST OF PROPOSED VEGETATION

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------|------------------|--|--|
| Thuja occidentalis 'Janed gold' | Northern white cedar | 8 ft | Sun/part shade |  | Intense gold foliage, excellent for planters |
| Picea ormorika | Serbian spruce | 35 ft | Partial/full sun |  | Dark green foliage, violet seed cones |

| Perennials | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------|---------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Botanical Name | Common Name | Height | Sun/Shade | Picture | Notes |
| Hakonechloa macra | Golden variegated hakone grass | 18 in | Shade |  | Cascading satin-like foliage |
| Tecophilaea canocrocus | 'Chilean' blue crocus | 4 in | Full sun |  | Early spring bloom |
| Crocus luteus | Dutch Yellow | 4-6 in | Full sun/part shade |  | Early spring bloom |
| Lavandula stoechas 'bently' | lavender | 18 in | Full sun |  | Superior heat tolerance, fragrant |

Shrubs

| Botanical name | Common name | Height | Sun/shade | Picture | notes |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------|-----------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Aesculus parviflora | Bottlebrush buckeye | 6-12 ft | Part/full shade |  | Spreading shrub, blooms June/July |
| Rhododendron 'Girards hot shot' | Evergreen azalia | 2-3 ft | Part shade |  | Showy shrub, blooms May |

Conclusion

In March 2006, President Sheldon Levy announced the development of the Ryerson University Master Plan, emphasizing the revitalization and renewal of the university campus.

The three goals of the Master Plan include:

1. Urban Intensification
2. People First: Pedestrianization of the Urban Environment
3. A Commitment to Design Excellence

The design created by East Coast Kitchen Party Landscape Design, addresses the guiding principles of the plan in a creative and forward thinking manner. We have created a community orientated space with a unique sense of place; a community destination within the setting of a well designed and beautiful urban park. Whether you want to take a respite from the madness of downtown Toronto and sit, relax and collect your thoughts in a park like setting, eat in our signature cafe or come for a community event or activity and socialize with your neighbors, our plan allows you to do so.

Safety and accessibility to all are at the forefront of our exciting design. Our heated paving surfaces ensure that people will feel safe from fear of injury due to icy surface conditions. We have ensured that visual access be maintained throughout the area at all times. The curb-less paving throughout ensures universal accessibility to all who visit the site.

Our network of pedestrian walkways ensures unobstructed linkage and connection to the campus buildings and open spaces on site. Retractable bollards prevent traffic from entering the site, at the same time allowing emergency vehicles to enter when needed.

We have significantly increased the green spaces on the site, adding to the sustainability of the site, with abundant native plant materials, which will thrive without the need of extensive watering, weed and pest control and chemical fertilizers. Heated paving will eliminate the cost and damages associated with snow removal and eliminate the need of harmful de-icing salts and chemicals which ultimately find their way into the grass, gardens and aquifer. Program elements such as the recycled plastic seating used throughout the site and the stainless steel garbage and recycling receptacles ensure the longevity of the elements.

The Gateway to Ryerson Design Competition has allowed the members of East Coast Kitchen Party Landscape Design to work in a collaborate manner, and use each other's skills, talents and expertise to design a site that is sure to enhance the longevity and memorable experiences for generations to come.

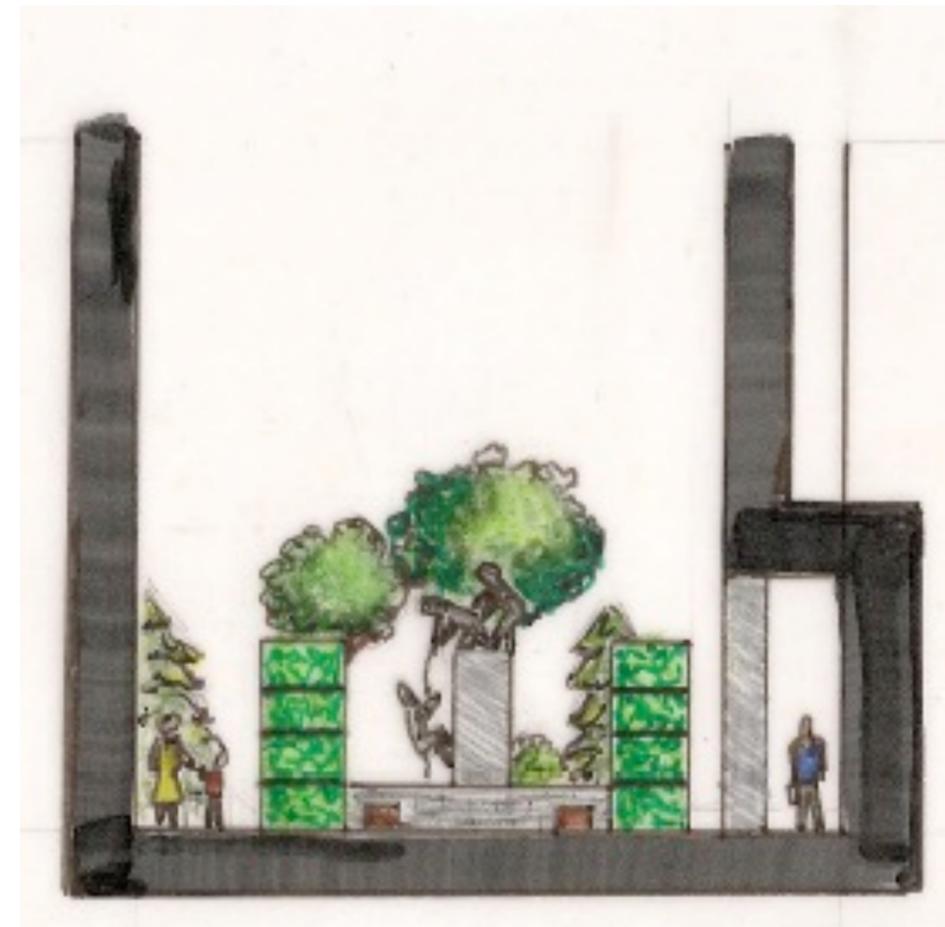


Image References

MANIFESTO

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GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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WATER FEATURE AND SCULPTURES

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CAFE AND CASUAL SEATING

<http://www.site-furnishings.columbia-cascade.com>

SAFETY AND SECURITY

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PLANT LIST

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