AWARD WINNERS AND HONOURABLE MENTIONS.

London Canada
Entries for this category include: an individual building, or a composition of buildings, which achieves urban design excellence through its relationship to the public realm, its massing, detailing and pedestrian amenity. Entrants should document and highlight how the building, or group of buildings, contributes to the quality of place. All types of buildings are eligible whether “landmark” or “background,” new construction or a restoration/transformation. Building types could include: Main Street Mixed Use, Residential (detached, attached, multi-unit), Commercial, Institutional or Industrial.

The primary criteria for assessing the merit of entries in this category will be:
• Positive contribution to the public realm/quality of place;
• Architectural excellence; and,
• Demonstration of fulfilling a clearly articulated urban design intent.
BUILDINGS:
Award Winners
Western University, FIMS and Nursing Building
architects Tillmann Ruth Robinson inc. in association with Ron Koudys Landscape Architects Inc.
Abstract

The FIMS and Nursing Building on Western University’s main campus is the new home for the Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing and Faculty of Information and Media Studies (FIMS). Here, 136,000 square feet provides a range of special purpose studio and library space, as well as research, active-learning and flexible instruction classrooms, which are connected by vibrant social environments where pausing for conversation or casual gathering can take place.

Urban Design Intent

- Mark the corner of this major intersection within the campus.
- Create a gateway to the South Valley campus precinct.
- Connect the new building with the larger campus community.
- Provide a cohesive building which expresses unique identities and entrances for both the FIMS and Nursing programs.

Contribution to the Public Realm/Quality of Space

Several key initiatives described by the Campus Master Plan guided the dynamic form of the FIMS and Nursing Building. The first initiative directed our team to support effective campus connectivity, strengthening the existing movement of students and faculty travelling through campus. Starting with choreographed paths that cross through the site, the new Building has a permeability that expresses not only campus wide connections; it is the physical representation of collaborative synergies created by the convergence of people and ideas.

The FIMS and Nursing Building is positioned on a significant gateway intersection as identified by the Campus Master Plan, marking the entry to the South Valley campus precinct. A cantilever that is at the scale of a major campus landmark signals the importance of this place. The generous space created underneath forms a substantial outdoor room for gathering and pausing between destinations. Western University’s Master Plan also stipulates new buildings are to use collegiate gothic architecture, a beloved campus tradition. The characteristic scale, colour, texture and vertical articulation seen in older stone buildings are refreshed in the FIMS and Nursing Building. A balanced play between the mass of stone and planes of glazing, make it clear that this is a new landmark building on campus.

Essential to the success of FIMS and Nursing is the expression of a unique identity for each of the School and Faculty. The 3-storey south wing – the School of Nursing – is adjacent to the Labatt Health Sciences Building. The dedicated entrance to Nursing, provided on Huron Drive is defined by a covered portico and located to connect with the adjacent building. The width of the wing sets up a rhythm of solids and voids along the streetscape which is consistent with the campus scale in this area. The north wing is primarily the FIMS wing, with its entrance on Lambton Drive. At grade it angles towards the intersection and the Music Building across the intersection. The upper two floors remain perpendicular to the street edge and cantilever towards the river to the east and the South Valley precinct to the west, acting as a gateway to this area of campus.

The General Resource Library on level three in the FIMS wing forms the major building cantilever. A terrace at the edge provides dramatic views to the Thames River. The third floor of the Nursing wing is pulled back on the south side to reduce the building mass. The resulting benefit is outdoor space as well as a means to subtly direct views from the offices within to the green space to the east. The third floor of the Nursing wing also includes a smaller cantilevered meeting room that overlooks the courtyard, breaking through the formality of the vertical rhythm and providing transparency to the program within.

Natural light is a key design component. The massing of the building places the 3-storey wing to the south, maximizing daylight within the courtyard and providing daylight deep into the interior of the building. One elevation of the courtyard is formed by a 3-storey atrium that opens directly to the exterior. The courtyard – also a campus connector – offers outdoor areas for collaboration and expansive views linking the Building’s inhabitants to the playing fields and river beyond.
St. Joseph’s Health Care, Milestone 2, Phase 3
architects Tillmann Ruth Robinson inc. in association with Kirkness Consulting Inc. and Ron Koudys Landscape Architects Inc.
Abstract

St. Joseph’s Health Care acute care hospital has enjoyed a long and supportive history in London. Its continued growth reflects the changing City and the hospital’s evolving role in the well-being of citizens. Located on a major north-south street, the St. Joseph’s Hospital is surrounded by a well-established residential area that dates back to the late 19th century. Following a recent mandate set forth by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, St. Joseph’s has prepared for a new function as a major academic acute ambulatory care centre with a renovation and addition of 300,000 square feet.

The Design of M2P3 was Developed with the Following Intent:
• Enhancing diverse site edge conditions.
• Unifying the site as a whole.
• Transforming the pedestrians and vehicle experience.

Contribution to the Public Realm/Quality of Space

The most significant urban feature in the transformation of St. Joseph’s Hospital is the garden located at the corner of Richmond and Grosvenor Streets. This significant intersection on a busy north-south street is the true gateway to St. Joseph’s repurposed patient care, teaching and research centre. On this site, the remaining stone foundations of a 1923 hospital wing have been carefully retained to form a new, accessible healing garden that is now a quiet respite for patients, family and staff. Extending from these foundations are green living walls with openings that recreate the rhythm of the former hospital’s windows. The selection of plant material considers year-round seasonal colour in this urban oasis.

The largest area of new construction in the M2P3 project, the St. Joseph’s Health Care Grosvenor Campus, performs a number of roles in forming a positive St. Joseph’s experience. Clearly visible from the healing garden, the Grosvenor Campus is the new entry to St. Joseph’s Health Care. An elegant tower signals the new front door, the beginning of a careful sequencing of spaces contributing to ease of wayfinding at St. Joseph’s. Once located on a lower level, the new barrier-free entrance aligns with the first floor of all buildings on the hospital site.

Along Richmond Street, the new St. Joseph’s Health Care Grosvenor Campus, connects to a historically designated chapel. Using the scale, strong vertical expression and structural rhythm of the chapel, the Grosvenor Campus carefully integrates modern and transparent elements that contribute to a contiguous and strong street presence along Richmond.

Connecting these elements is an entry court shaped by the new main entrance from Grosvenor, and the healing garden. Here, welcomed pedestrians connect the past to the present through the retention and relocation of original statues, date stones and stone foundations. A statue of St. Joseph which was gifted to the Sisters of St. Joseph in the early 1950’s by Peter Tillmann, provides comfort along the pathway from the main entrance to the garden. Other similar elements that create high-touch richness and texture in the pedestrian realm are materials that link new spaces with older hospital environments. Finishes such as brick and wood improve the quality of space and visitor experience.

Urban strategies to transform St. Joseph’s Hospital guided the renewal of the Grosvenor and Wellington Street elevations as well. New aluminum composite panel cladding has become the unifying signature that expresses a future-forward major hospital and connects a lifetime of additions over the three-block Campus.

Sustainable design supports not only energy management and thoughtful use of resources, it embraces the emotional needs of our clients. Health-care environments can often be an overwhelming and intimidating experience. Together with St. Joseph’s Healthcare, we set out to create the environments that reflect concepts of wellness. The LEED process was selected to guide our endeavors. M2P3 has achieved LEED Silver certification.
BUILDINGS:
Honourable Mentions
Villas of Wortley
The Tricar Group with Stantec Consulting Ltd. in association with HGA Architects
Abstract

Project Objectives

The project objectives for the Villas of Wortley were to bring development diversity to the Old South neighbourhood; Ensure the surrounding heritage district and its stakeholders accepted the new building; Create a luxury rental apartment building; Provide a residential development that, through the combination of its massing, orientation, pedestrian entrances, architectural detailing, and material selection, will blend well with existing features and align with the vision for the community; Create a development that will adhere to a high standard of urban design and architectural principles, and compliment the future Wortley Village Heritage Conservation District; Design an enhanced landscape plan that compliments the building, and provides an attractive interface between the property and the public realm; Maximize the available capacity within existing infrastructure; and Implement a land use that is consistent with Official Plan policies.

Architectural Excellence

The Villas of Wortley employs a high degree of architectural design excellence in a manner that allows the building to relate very well to its context. The four storey residential mid-rise building accomplishes design excellence in three significant ways including its response to: scale, materiality, and articulation.

The building’s height and massing helps it fit in with the context of detached houses. The materiality of the red brick with the ground floor composed of limestone block masonry is respectful of the context and its articulation contributes to the buildings sense of scale. Characterized by red brick, the Villas of Wortley carries forward the traditional character of the neighborhood. Red brick can be found on many of the surrounding buildings.

The articulation of the building is further defined by its top, middle, and base. The top is articulated with a strong cornice line that helps define a series of masonry bays. The middle of the building has characteristic punch windows with a limestone lintel in a series of masonry bays defined by inset balconies. The base of the building is well articulated by wood trellises that create shelter over the ground floor patio spaces.

The culmination of the building’s sense of scale, materiality, and articulation represent the merits for design excellence from an architectural perspective.

Contribution to the public realm/quality of place

Successful communities are created where inventive design of outdoor spaces seamlessly intersects with everyday life. The Villas of Wortley landscape treatment was designed to complement and enhance the building architecture, integrating the building into an established streetscape while respecting and incorporating the character of the Old South community. Foundation plantings frame the private entrances and create privacy between the ground floor patios. The plant material selected thrives within urban conditions and adds seasonal interest to streetscape.

Demonstration of fulfilling a clearly articulated urban design intent

Given the building is located within the proposed Wortley Village Heritage Conservation District and its associated architectural and streetscape aesthetic, a high standard of design was implemented. Such design standards include, but are not limited to: best practices for built form design, pedestrian linkages and a shared public streetscape, and a landscape plan designed to complement the character of the built form both within the site and the larger heritage district.
PUBLIC SPACES AND LANDSCAPES

Entries for this category include: public spaces, which generally relate to, and are defined by, adjacent buildings or natural/manmade elements that provides an extension to the public realm in an exemplary way.

Examples include:
- Courtyards
- Plazas
- Forecourts
- Gardens
- Trails
- Mews
- Parks
PUBLIC SPACES AND LANDSCAPES:
Honourable Mentions
Market Lane
Hapa Collaborative in association with Arthur Lierman Landscape Architecture
Abstract

Hapa Collaborative was selected as the winner of the Market Lane design competition, a proposal (originally titled Figure Ground) to revitalize a narrow, but critical, linkage in the urban fabric of downtown London, connecting Covent Garden Market with Dundas Street, the Budweiser Gardens and Richmond Street.

A small but vital component of downtown London’s urban renewal, the landscape design concept draws inspiration from the rich, local landscape and agrarian history of southwestern Ontario, including the Thames River valley that weaves through the city. The Carolinian Grove provides filtered shade into the lane and is comprised of native, Carolinian honey locust trees in addition to the interlacing natural and man-made art canopies. The natural canopy includes existing linden trees, and the art canopy, also known as the Light Sky Ceiling, yields 1,200 LED lights programmed by students of Fanshawe’s Centre for Digital and Performance Arts. Fanshawe’s arrival on the west edge of Market Lane was in January 2014, shortly after the lane’s unveiling in the winter of 2013, timely to serve as a venue for the 2013 World Figure Skating Championships.

Following the competition, Hapa worked with the City of London to bring the project to reality, completing full working drawings and contract administration services on site with the local assistance of Arthur Lierman Landscape Architecture. EOS Light Media from Vancouver assisted with the design and installation of the ephemeral Light Sky Ceiling. The theatrical lighting and potential for temporary projection on the adjacent building walls elevates a greater function for the lane as a venue for the school and City’s events and activities. The contrast between organic and hi-tech forms is a continuous theme of the lane, as indigenous stone paving is juxtaposed with a cast concrete bench, evoking the fluidity of the Thames bordered by the Riverbank Garden. The Border Garden is a mix of grasses, native perennials, shrubs and bulbs commonly found in the shady river valleys in the Thames watershed. The luminescent ottoman forms dubbed the Otto-Bot provide night lighting, heating during cold months and a casual seat directing the route.

Its close proximity to Dundas Street enabled Market Lane to recently host Nuit Blanche in 2016. With potential to be elevated beyond a downtown shortcut into a venue for cultural events and activities, Market Lane provides an extension to the public realm for the larger London community—its reputation for higher learning, medicine and technological innovation.
Battle of the Atlantic Memorial
Ron Koudys Landscape Architects Inc.
Abstract

HMCS Prevost, located at the Forks of the Thames in the heart of London, is home to the Royal Canadian Navy’s Battle of the Atlantic (BOA) Memorial, a co-operative venture between Prevost and the Naval Association of Canada (NAC). This memorial has been visited by survivors of the lost ships, their loved ones, hundreds of naval veterans, and thousands of members of the public, who pass by on a municipal walking and biking path.

The Memorial consists of 28 granite stones along Prevost’s hillside, representing the sacrifice and loss of HMC Ships and Merchant Navy ships. The stones are accompanied by a Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) monument and HMCS Fraser’s main armament. This is the only memorial commemorating the sacrifice and victory of the RCN and Merchant Navies during the Battle of the Atlantic.

To commemorate Canada’s 150th Anniversary of Confederation, the site was revitalized in 2016 under the creative direction of RKLA. The intent of the project was to raise the site’s prestige to that of a natural war memorial, in concert with significant revitalization of the Forks being undertaken by the City. The redevelopment transformed the site into a welcoming and accessible place of inspiration and remembrance, enhancing the visitor experience and conveying the story of sacrifice for present and future generations.

A series of paved platforms, stairs, and pathways brings veterans and other visitors up close to the existing granite marker stones, allowing for a meaningful and intimate experience with the memorial. Along the way, views of the river and the historic heart of the city link the site to its surroundings. Benches invite visitors to reflect quietly, while a paved parade square accommodates larger groups for formal ceremonies. Other landscape treatments include decorative fencing and stately entry pillars coordinated with those on adjacent sites at the Forks. These increase the visibility of the site and provide a sense of arrival.

On the hill, large, curving planting beds embrace the marker stones in wavelike formations. Plants in these beds were selected for their blue hues and movement in the wind, evoking images of a restless ocean. Additional planting areas have been designed to ensure the site is attractive and comfortable in all seasons.

Future plans for signage and multimedia educational experiences will further enhance the site both functionally and aesthetically, preserving the legacy of those who lost their lives in the Battle of the Atlantic.