AWARD WINNERS AND HONOURABLE MENTIONS
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
EMS HEADQUARTERS
architects Tillmann Ruth Robinson inc. in association with Arthur Lierman Landscape Architecture
ABSTRACT

Overview

The County of Middlesex has completed a new 45,000 square foot Emergency Medical Services Facility (EMS) that connects Middlesex County communities with the services providing healthier outcomes. New spaces for Middlesex-London’s EMS include administrative offices, logistics, training, a 20-bay ambulance garage and a 2-bay working ambulance station. All are future-ready and flexible environments that anticipate a continually evolving delivery of emergency and non-emergency services.

Driving the Conceptual Design of the Middlesex-London EMS Facility was a vision for a municipal facility of superior quality that would proudly be an identifiable home for Middlesex-London’s EMS. Central to the aspirations for the look and feel of the EMS Facility is how this building responds to its site at two different scales. On a larger scale, large areas of glazing on the east and west façades are visible from Highway 401 and act as “lanterns” that are visible at night to highway traffic. At a neighbourhood scale, EMS’s decision to locate on Adelaide Street breathes new life into a light industrial area in the south end of the City where existing buildings contribute very little to the public realm.

Middlesex-London EMS is a precedent for future development that sets the standard for how built form can enhance strong relationships between buildings, streets and open spaces. As an example of a strong street presence, EMS carefully balances a welcoming and transparent street presence with the need for a safe and secure facility.

Comfort, human scale and civic pride are essential to making this a meaningful place for the individuals who provide for the personal safety of area residents. Interior spaces are designed to reduce stress and anxiety. Calming textures, natural materials, views out and the abundance of daylight contribute to emotional and psychological well-being. An exterior wellness garden enclosed by three glazed walls integrates calming, natural elements to assist staff with managing decompression and resilience following traumatic calls.

High touch finishes such as stone and wood also provide a timeless quality to the exterior and interior building elements, contributing to an elegant civic icon that proudly displays EMS’s core values and mission. A well thought out balance with modern materials such as glass and metal adds a contemporary, well-crafted feel to the forward-looking Middlesex-London’s EMS.

Urban Design Intents:

• A project that symbolizes EMS’s vision and commitment to care for and serve the citizens of London – Middlesex.

• A contemporary, forward-looking building that celebrates the pride and culture of the EMS.

• A design that is transparent, accessible and welcoming to the public.

• To provide a work place that is accessible safe, functional and supports the purpose and personal well-being of the EMS staff.
BOSTWICK COMMUNITY CENTRE
MJMA in association with a+LiNK Architecture
ABSTRACT

Overview

Contribution to the public realm/quality of place: The new Bostwick Community Centre, YMCA, and Library project becomes the new social heart of an expanding peripheral community. Hockey, Library, Fitness, Aquatics all merge to create a whole greater than the sum of their parts. The triumph is not just the integration of three unique public service partners but that the space created ‘in between’ which becomes ‘the place to be’. This space between the activities ignites and connects the diverse interests of this community.

The City of London, the Western Ontario YMCA, and the London Public Library have come together to create a unique and exceptional facility for the community to gather. The primary program includes a twin pad arena, multipurpose rooms, studios, fitness space, gymnasium, track, community kitchen and a two basin natatorium. The design maximizes benefit for each partner, recognizing a variety of operational issues specific to each including hours of operation, levels of service access, and zones beyond check-in areas. Of greatest focus is the creation of public spaces that truly define the facility as a community hub.

Site Sustainability: Site sustainability was a key driver for this project. The western site’s boundary creates a substantial open-air storm channel, doubling as a headwater for the local watershed, and serving as a habitat for a variety of flora and fauna. Rainwater is harvested from across the site and is filtered through natural bioswales, regulating precipitation flow and filtering impurities before being redirected to the storm channel. Although intensely programmed, with a large parking area and building, residual surrounding spaces were planted with indigenous species to reinforce and increase areas of wildlife refuge and user repose.

Demonstration of fulfilling a clearly articulated urban design intent:

Located on the periphery of London Ontario, the Bostwick Centre is strategically situated to become the geographic and social centre of this emerging community. An underused site was selected to serve both the adjacent existing neighbourhoods as well as a new high density planned community of mid-rise residential towers assembling around it.

The building is situated at the front of the site; a lantern of activity creating strong identity and urban address. This leverages the strong street presence and visibility from the main Southdale Road with its parking disposed to the rear. Planning required the main entrance to face the main street. With the majority of users arriving from the rear, the design solution provides two entrances both arriving into the unified central hub. One entrance serves the parking with its considerable accessibility, pedestrian and drop off functions, while the other serves a sheltered pedestrian civic plaza facing the calmer access road to the East. This is designed as a highly visible and enticing diagonal promenade drawing you from the arterial intersection to the northeast, connecting with bus, pedestrian, and bike arrival and the existing residential communities to the north.

The building is fully integrated with the opportunities of its site. A deep drainage channel along the western edge of the site is re-naturalized to enhance and define the character of its western edge. Views from indoor and outdoor walking tracks connect with this re-naturalized feature. A full perimeter walking loop, a heavily planted sustainable parking space, centralized playground, skate and bike amenities, and generous exterior public spaces are designed to attract diverse community use. Spaces are designed to flexibly accommodate large events and interior programming that can ‘spill out’ of the building in good weather. A generous central pedestrian spine bisects the planning of the parking and connects through to the south end of the site to its future residential developments.
Entries for this category include: a residential building, which achieves urban design excellence through its relationship to the surrounding neighbourhood, its massing, siting and detailing. Entrants should document and highlight how the building contributes to the overall character as well as to the quality of place in the neighbourhood in which it is located. All types of small scale non-apartment residential buildings are eligible, whether new construction or restoration/transformation. Building types could include single detached residential; townhouses; semi's; 2-, 3-, or 4-plexes.

The primary criteria for assessing the merit of entries in this category will be:
• Positive contribution to the character of the existing neighbourhood/quality of place;
• Architectural excellence; and,
• Demonstration of fulfilling a clearly articulated urban design intent.
BUILDINGS
SMALL-SCALE RESIDENTIAL:
AWARD WINNER
ABSTRACT

Overview

The infill home at 759 Clearview Crescent celebrates contemporary design, while complimenting the modern influenced character felt throughout the distinct neighbourhood. The street and surrounding houses were developed primarily in the late 1970’s through to the 1990’s with the goal of creating a community where custom architectural homes express the vision of their occupants while embracing the naturalized riverside landscape. Rather than expressing a consistent style or language, the area reflects a contemporary and eclectic mix of well-designed one and two storey houses.

The new single-family residence is a one-storey, barrier free home for a senior couple. The design is articulated to fit with the neighbourhood by way of its front courtyard, flat roof, and orientation of garage, expansive glazing, materials, and natural landscaping. The residence assumes an L shape, common to the area. The north facing side of the house, and its main façade, promotes an interesting streetscape. The garage entrance runs perpendicular to the street, eliminating a façade dominated by a large garage door. The L shape forms the basis for an outdoor courtyard space, formed by two sides of the house and enhanced by landscaping and courtyard walls. Adjacent to another contemporary home, the courtyard is designed as an interior yard, commonly found in the area, and allows for privacy for both properties. The sidewalls of the house extend to the back providing garden privacy from neighbours and the adjacent street.

The low and linear form provides a subtle massing set into the natural environment. The 2,700 sq. ft. three-bedroom house features an open concept with the majority of glazing facing the south-east view of the river. Fenestration, on all sides, is balanced for privacy, natural light and aesthetics. Entrances and fenestration are key design elements that allow for privacy from the public streetscape and a connection to nature through relating interior and exterior spaces. Front entrances in the neighbourhood are commonly recessed from the façade and feature large overhangs for shelter. Solid front doors with floor to ceiling sidelights offer both privacy and a connection to the street. The residence relates these characteristics in featuring a recessed front entrance, roof overhang to provide shelter, and front door entrance with sidelights.

The roof overhang of the house is customized to suit specific functions at given locations around the house, relating form to function for the home and its specific environment. For example, the front entrance overhang projects out 8 ft. to highlight the entrance of the house while providing shelter from the elements and a modern ‘front porch’ sensibility in relation to the street. The roof extends out 4 ft. from the south facing glazed wall to allow for sun shading from intense summer heat gain while promoting passive solar heat gain in winter. The roof extends over a rear screened-in-porch and provides complete protection from the elements. The west facing side of the house, facing MacKellar Avenue, takes into account the owner’s requirement for privacy while articulating an interesting composition of windows, a side entrance feature, roof overhang and garage, purposefully stepped back, to break up the façade and provide additional interest. The style of the house is modern, yet its large roof overhangs provide a link to the past and future. Many contemporary dwellings lack the use of such traditional design devices that enable the expression of geometric simplicity and passive solar heating and cooling.

The dark brick blends into the landscape and compliments the tones of the adjacent houses. Significant amounts of glazing reflect the green and hues of the natural surroundings. Trees selected to supplement the existing landscape include river birch, redbud, dogwood and cedar. The deep earthen toned brick colour allows the built form to be in harmony with the changing, seasonal foliage of these species and for nature to be celebrated.

Extensive landscaping has been designed specifically to complement the existing, mature vegetation of the area including both native and cultivated landscapes. The existing streetscape is well established with large street trees and lush front gardens, both manicured and naturalized, with plant diversity. The adjacent Thames River valley to the south is a mixture of mature native vegetation and volunteer regrowth resembling a naturalized landscape. The intent of the landscape is to provide a stylized wilderness, both within the property and along the perimeter edges, while respecting the maturity and naturalized character of the existing context. An existing cedar hedge along McKellar Avenue is retained as well as four large mature coniferous trees located at the northwest corner of the site.
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: AWARD WINNER
KENT DRIVE PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY
architects Tillmann Ruth Robinson inc. in association with Arthur Lierman Landscape Architecture & Yuna Hur Lighting Design
ABSTRACT
Overview

Western University has recently embarked on an open space strategy that will establish a core precinct on campus, within which priority in design, function and use will be given to the pedestrian. The overall initiative to achieve a pedestrian-oriented campus will change the emphasis on roadway treatments within the campus. The improvements envisioned to the access corridors across the campus will prioritize pedestrian connections by distinguishing them from other nearby modal movements, while providing appropriate surface materials, landscaping, signage and amenities to create a safe, accessible and comfortable network for pedestrians.

As this strategy was being developed the renovation and modernization of University College was underway. The $21 million project was focused solely on the building, but not long after construction had begun the University asked architects Tillmann Ruth Robinson to look at improving the environment outside the building, especially the main east façade and Kent Drive with the open space strategy in mind. This was the first project on campus to put the elements of Western’s vision into practice.

Kent Drive is laid out across the entire east face of University College running parallel in a north-south direction. Kent Drive was an active vehicle roadway with parking for about 45 cars. The conflict between students, faculty and staff with the automobile had existed for decades.

Lighting was poor and the overgrowth of the vegetation added to the feeling of an unsafe and not terribly welcoming environment. Architects Tillmann Ruth Robinson made some bold moves to remove the ivy from the building and some aging trees coupled with the removal of vehicles from Kent Drive. Collaborating in this effort was Arthur Lierman Landscape Architecture and Yuna Hur Lighting Design.

As University College is the original and iconic building on campus, it was imperative that the landscaping, lighting and material selections complimented and not compete with this majestic building. The design team was also certain that there needed to be places of interest along Kent Drive that would allow the community to relax, read and enjoy the setting atop University Hill at any hour of the day.

The existing asphalt roadway was removed and replaced with a simple stone paver pattern that could be easily replaced elsewhere on campus. A new stone retaining wall at seating height, complete with in-wall lighting and power was built up on the west side of the Drive. At the north end of Kent Drive, a reading garden was designed utilizing reclaimed stone pavers from work previously completed at Althouse College a few years earlier. The reading garden is located at a redeveloped barrier-free entrance and is augmented with new plantings, low-level lighting and delightful red furniture which contrasts wonderfully with the greenery.

At the formal entry below the Memorial Tower of University College, the concrete steps and walkway have been removed and replaced with large natural stone pavers. Western’s crest has been sandblasted into the stone pavers, just in front of this important entry point. Where Kent Drive intersects with this entry sequence is an oversized forecourt, which allows for large gatherings and is set to become “the place” for class photographs and convocation memories. Two existing concrete light bunkers have been refurbished and focused onto the Memorial Tower creating a delightful setting in the evening hours. New tree plantings and vegetation have been selected and placed so that overtime they will blend with and not overwhelm University College.

The people space that has been created is a beautiful extension of University College while optimizing all of the key ingredients of Western’s open space strategy. The quality of the space is best experienced in person, anytime of day.

PUBLIC SPACES AND LANDSCAPES
ADAPTIVE REUSE OR REHABILITATION

Entries for this category include: designs for an existing building, or group of buildings, for a purpose other than which it was originally built or designed for, or the rehabilitation and restoration of an existing building to its former condition. Entrants should document and highlight how the project enhances the building, or group of buildings, and contributes to the overall character.

The submissions in this category should clearly state the existing conditions and demonstrate how the design creatively resolves and addresses multiple objectives and competing interests. The renovation must be visible on the exterior of the building or group of buildings.

Examples include:
- Major additions to older buildings
- Heritage facade restoration
- Adaptive reuse of industrial buildings
ADAPTIVE REUSE OR REHABILITATION: AWARD WINNER
FANSHAWE COLLEGE SCHOOL OF HOSPITALITY & CULINARY ARTS AND SCHOOL OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Diamond Schmitt Architects and Phil Agar Architect, Architects in Joint Venture in association with ERA Architects
Fanshawe College acquired the former Kingsmill Department Store Building in downtown London to anchor the second phase of the college’s downtown campus. Situated within the city-designated Downtown Heritage Conservation District, the building, which is now home to the Schools of Tourism, Hospitality and Culinary Arts and Information Technology, retains its street character on Dundas Street. The front three-and-four-storey facades of the existing building were retained and a six-storey infill structure was built behind the original facades creating additional floors above. The addition is discretely set back from the street to minimize their presence on the heritage designated street.

The 10,600sm (114,000sf) building transforms the historic department store into a vibrant urban campus to welcome 1,600 students, staff and faculty while retaining its street character fronting Dundas Street. Significant architectural elements and materials of the former structure have been incorporated, both inside and out. The limestone façade was refurbished and the adjacent brick façade was entirely removed to be cleaned and repaired and then rebuilt to the original design – brick by brick. All windows were replaced with bronze aluminum frames and insulated units to improve efficiency. Minor changes at street level included increasing transparency to connect the building’s interior with street activity while staying true to the original character of the existing facades. The $66.2 million campus is the largest single project by southwestern Ontario’s biggest community college.

The three-storey addition above the original building includes a glass façade enlivened by colourful metal and glass panels in Fanshaw’s colours and varying densities of glazing frit to signify the presence of the school but not to overpower the heritage facades below. The transparent volume is divided into two to acknowledge the two different facades below.

While the setback of the addition preserves the heritage frontage of the historic structure true to the context of its neighbourhood it also creates three terraces on the fourth floor for student and faculty use which include a trellis wall for plants to climb and green roof areas.

Animating the street at grade is a fully functioning 80-seat teaching restaurant partially run by students which is open to the public. The ground floor also features a two-storey biofilter living wall, amphitheatre seating, a large lobby that can host events adjacent to the restaurant, a display case for IT students to showcase work and an open corridor that links the Dundas and Carling Street entrances.

The building site is 55-metres long and narrow, so in order to bring in daylight and enhance the transparency the north and south facades above the existing are primarily made of glass, a three storey light well is located on the west façade and a staircase in the centre of the building with a skylight above descends to the second-floor main event space. Another stairwell continues from the main event space connecting to the main lobby’s triple storey atrium and the adjacent living wall.

The academic program provides five culinary labs, one mixology lab, a raked-seating demonstration lecture theatre, a teaching restaurant, four classrooms and 11 computer labs. It also provides five open lounge areas and four open study areas for students, two student lounge rooms and a number of meetings rooms for student and faculty collaboration. While not pursuing LEED certification, the building employs many sustainability initiatives including increased energy efficiency, water conservation and the use of recycled materials.

The former Kingsmill’s department store dates to the late 19th-century and was a fixture of city life in London. The stone facade and metal canopy on Dundas Street have been preserved while the adjacent red brick annex was taken down, restored and replaced and a new black awning (to replace the original), matches the black granite which was restored at street level. Other original features incorporated in the design include reclaimed wood joists, a tin ceiling and locally made yellow brick. The pneumatic tube messaging system which was restored and made functional again and the original store safe are both on display.
PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENTS

Entries for this category include: elements that can be defined as a stand-alone object, or landscape element which contributes significantly to the quality of the public realm. It should provide a memorable image, reinforce the human scale and enhance the character of the surrounding area.

Examples include:
- Benches
- Gateways
- Light fixtures
- Walkways
- Fences
- Work of art
PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENTS: HONOURABLE MENTION
FOLLOWING IN HIS FOOTSTEPS
LeuWebb Projects in association with Robert Cramm Workshop
ABSTRACT

Overview

What would Terry Fox want? In many of the interviews recorded during his journey, he deferred attention from his own heroism to speak about the potential courage we all hold — our collective ability to achieve greatness. Left unspoken was the superhuman example he set, the bravery and perseverance celebrated and commemorated with Following in his Footsteps, an immersive new landscape artwork along the Terry Fox Parkway in Greenway Park, London.

Designed to inspire a unique experience for each visitor, each element of the pathway acts as a visual reference to the Terry Fox story, thought-provoking not only during the annual Terry Fox Run, but throughout the year. This work of art is designed to be experienced at the human scale and includes:

- Two visually striking signposts mapping the cities and distances of the Marathon of Hope (in their original Imperial units as referenced by Terry in his diary);
- Boulders from east and west of London, representing Terry’s cross-Canada route;
- A patterned ground surface evocative of Terry’s iconic running gait and including shoe prints to intensify the visual memory of his presence at the site; and
- Living elements: strategically blooming plantings native to regions across Canada.

The two signposts in patriotic red and white identify the Terry Fox Parkway for visitors. Using a unique landscaping pattern of paving stone and concrete, the arrangement is at once evocative of Terry’s rhythmic hop-hop-step that has become synonymous with the Marathon of Hope. These elements provide memorable images for visitors and combine to enhance the character of this area of the park.

Following in his Footsteps transforms through the seasons and alongside the steady flow of the nearby Thames River. As a result of the vegetation components of the artwork — hearty plantings native to different regions across Canada — a visitor’s experience will take on different aspects of Terry’s journey depending on the time of year.

The beginning of his journey is marked by the early spring-blooming Wild Lupine, a native of Newfoundland, visually referencing the marathon’s inauguration on April 12, 1980 in St. John’s. In the heat of summer, we’re reminded of Terry’s historic visit to London, as the Lance Leaf Coreopsis and Butterfly Weed erupt in colour, commemorating his July 17, 1980 stop in the city.

Whether during the annual Run in September, when the joyousness of the crowds that greeted Terry is felt as the participating runners gather and carry on his mission, or on a quiet, cool morning in the spring, when the path takes on a contemplative tone and reminds us of Terry’s solitude as he moved through long stretches of the quiet Canadian landscape, Following in his Footsteps combines the renewing and restorative hope of a garden with the evocative power of art to help us feel for a moment what it may have been like to walk in his footsteps.
PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD
BOLER MOUNTAIN CHALET
architects Tillmann Ruth Robinson inc.
ABSTRACT

Overview

For over 70 years, Boler Mountain has been a much-loved presence in the London community. A special focus on inclusivity, health and wellness has helped shape a unique winter recreation experience for all ages and abilities. Now, with the completion of a major renovation and addition to the 40-year old chalet, Boler has expanded the Mountain site onto an animated invitation to multi-sport activity across all four seasons adding activities such as yoga, mountain biking and fitness trails.

Our work with Boler began with establishing a respectful approach to the sensitive site. Inspiration emerging from the contours of the site, the local landscape and the sweeping views to the forest and hills drove our goal to embrace strong connections between the site and project design. Initial massing of the new chalet was limited to two stories, less than the height of the existing tree canopy. The final configuration of the addition also minimized the impact on tree removal.

With a footprint established, opportunities for accessible and inspiring outlooks were identified; a generous terrace at grade, and an upper viewing deck – an invitation to lunch and an outlook to the hills beyond. A sweeping front porch welcomes all visitors approaching the main entrance. The walkway, like the terrace and outdoor eating area, carefully reconciles the interface between building and the landscape.

Interior spaces are configured to maximize views to nature, and welcome natural light. Traditional materials such as stone and wood speak to the history of this place as well as embody a modern ski lodge atmosphere. The inclusive design seamlessly integrates new with re-purposed existing spaces to create a new sense of permanence. Key program components that encourage gathering, such as the large fireplace and outdoor patios are located where chance encounters are sure to take place.

The project also included a number of critical stakeholders such as tenants using the kitchen and dining components. Important to the financial success of the project is the additional revenue generated by increasing Boler’s capacity for hospitality services for weddings, conferences and other events. A large modern kitchen and licensed banquet hall accommodate large groups of up to 200. Smaller groups are comfortable in flexible multi-purpose rooms. Good design has been good for Boler’s business. The high demand for this contemporary yet warm setting at the base of the hills speaks for the quality and uniqueness the Boler site.

Urban Design Intents

- To create a vibrant and dynamic building that reflects the vision of Boler Mountain and symbolizes its commitment to being a premier recreational destination in southern Ontario.
- A project that not only respects the site, but celebrates nature through sensitive design interventions, connectivity and sustainability.
- Design welcoming, comfortable spaces that encourages activity and engagement for people of all ages and abilities.
- A contemporary, forward-looking building that embodies the rich history and spirit of Boler Mountain while accommodating the needs of future generations.