

HVRA – Brunswick-College Parkette Design Competition

Coordinator's summary notes

Richard Longley

27 submissions from eight countries (Canada-13, Italy-7, US-2, UK-1, Argentina-1, Germany-1, the Netherlands-1, Portugal-1.)

Priorities:

Simplicity = easy and cheap to build, easy to clean and maintain, no or minimal hiding places.

Beautiful and striking: a 21C parkette that is worthy of its location and its time, that attracts a larger number and a greater variety of users than it does at present.

Intimate and open: a careful compromise between an intimate space, which is not a hiding space and a space that is open to the point of bleakness.

Open for business: the west end/ground floor of Kensington Health Centre is made accessible to as many as three non-medical (café, retail or other) uses.

A clear walk, N-S through and beside the park with a good view of St Stephen's church in the S

Wheelchair accessible: ramps, from the S (College St) and the N (Kensington Gardens.) Slope needs to be gentle and, if necessary, fitted with handrails.

Seating: beautiful, comfortable but for sitting, not sleeping on.

Underground Parking Lot Vents: covered with sculptured or sloped grates that cannot be slept upon.

Planting: perennial, drought-resistant, hardy, not liable to create hiding places or generate or trap litter.

Sculptures or other decorative elements (sculptures rocks, water features, solar trees etc.) likely commissioned and financed separately from the parkette, easy to maintain, resistant to vandalism and graffiti, not liable to trap blowing litter.

Brunswick College Parkette Complements Margaret Fairley Park:

BCP, rebuilt, is a hard-scaped (but comfortable) park primarily for adult use. It complements green Margaret Fairley Park with its children's playground in a way that the two parkettes "bookend" Brunswick Avenue, College to Ulster.

1 ALL THE WORLD IS A STAGE

Dimitri Papatheodorou

Toronto ON Canada

The Parkette is designed to be an inclusive place, and to accommodate the needs of a diverse and immersed public.

The impediment of the planters has been removed, and steps have been inserted to give public access to the conversion of the ground floor at the west end of Kensington Health Centre; we suggest at a minimum a cafe style establishment be located here, to allow for spill over into the parkette. The lower terrace area now becomes a delightful cafe. Awnings/umbrellas may be added to create a cozy feeling. An elevated platform is placed at the north end of the parkette, which can be used as a stage for variety of performances/events. The platform frames the parkette and buffers it from the vehicular ramp to the north.

A spacious court to the south of the stage can be used for spectators during performances, or perhaps as a gathering place for kids to play, adults to meet, or young people to socialize. This is the largest area of the parkette, and it may be rendered either as a lawn, pea-gravel, or hard surfacing, depending on maintenance requirements, and budget.

Located toward the south end of the parkette is an overhang or Sun-Shade. This space functions as a socializing place, complete with patio furniture (to be determined) allowing for seating and gathering. The optional Sun-Shade device is framed on the east by the enclosed ventilation grill. By enclosing the vent around its sides, and creating a structure that supports the Sun- Shade, we can afford the community a new wall space for a bulletin board.

Finally, the trees on the site need to be addressed from a technical point of view. The viability of the existing species, the location of the trees, in addition to the size and health of the trees, need to be studied in more detail to determine retention and/or replacement.

The “fragmented” canopy above the stage while creating some shade in summer will provide little protection against rain – which might allow it to overcome City Parks’ objections to canopies in general as encouragers of vagrancy. Otherwise it does raise questions re installation and eventual maintenance costs.

The bulletin board is popular with many and it should serve as a distributor of local news and a coordinator of local activities but it might be source of litter unless it is well cared for. More important: it provides a hiding place in an alley that is much narrower in reality than shown in the illustration. The lightweight, unattached furniture is too flimsy and too easy to steal or throw around for public use – unless it is brought in or chained every evening. It may need to be replaced with furniture that is more solid and heavier if not anchored in place. (It will also need to be comfortable for sitting but not sleeping on.)

Presence of large rocks as decorative and play features is a plus (for being resistant to vandalism and not catchers of garbage as well as beautiful.

Underground KHC parking vents – it is not clear in this design what will be done to remove, maintain or protect them.

An attractive design which begs the opening up of the west side of KHC (not shown in the submission) to non-medical café and retail uses which will attract a greater number and diversity of users than the parkette does at present.

Comments of judge Mitch Kosny (who rates this submission as #4):

ALL THE WORLD AS A STAGE did a good job by introducing the Bulletin Board, and I really liked how it offered the cover/sun shade. Having said that, their basic premise that this Parkette would be a place for concerts and therefore they'd build it around a stage...well...I find that a bit of a stretch. I just don't think this Parkette is going to end up being a stage setting for concerts.

2 THE BRICKS

Brian O'Brian, OMAS³

Toronto ON **Canada**

A striking but maybe not a practical design. The "Aztec pyramid" flights of steps appear to be intended to replace the existing sidewalk but it is unlikely that will happen. They might, however, be enjoyed by children and young people (including skateboarders, if the edge of the ramp will allow skateboarding – an activity that is deplored by the City almost as much as graffiti.) Skateboarding might be prevented by a handrail along the ramp, as well as beside the steps themselves where a rail will be needed to make them safe.

Creating a grass boulevard beside the steps cannot work since this boulevard is bound to be used as a default sidewalk and it will consequently be soon turned into a strip of dirt or mud. There is no way that even the most intense (and costly) maintenance can overcome that problem so, if a boulevard effect is wanted, replace the grass with flagstones of a texture and colour that will contrast with the surrounding concrete.

Light columns (as suggested in other designs, especially **Urban Constellation**) were very well received by visitors – provided they are sufficiently resistant to vandalism.

3 BRING BACK THE BOULEVARDS!

Jeremy Quastel, Ingrid McKhool

Brunswick Ave, Toronto ON Canada

This submission seeks to restore the boulevards on the first block of Brunswick Avenue north of College to their originally built condition.

Currently the boulevards narrow in the south half of the street and disappear completely as the street approaches College. These ill-designed incursions into the boulevard were made to accommodate emergency vehicles entering and exiting the no longer existent Doctors' Hospital. They have led to numerous problems at the south end of the street, including:

- *numerous impediments to safe pedestrian and traffic flow*
- *a cumbersome pedestrian route on the north side*
- *awkward sidewalks too narrow for strollers and wheelchairs, and dangerous in the winter on the west side*
- *misuse, littering and disrespect of public space in the 'parkette'*

We believe that these problems result to a large extent from a very poor general design that will not be remedied by a superficial makeover of the 'parkette'.

Our Solution:

Our plan is simple, elegant and inexpensive. We would restore the south end of Brunswick Avenue to its originally built design, which means that we would re-establish the grassy boulevards straight down from the north end to the south end of the block (Ulster to College).

In particular this would mean:

1. *From the north end of north Kensington Gardens building on Brunswick (45 Brunswick) to the south end of the south Kensington Gardens building on Brunswick (25 Brunswick), restore the boulevards to their original width (approximately one additional meter on each side).*
2. *Restore the boulevard on the west side of the street at the southern end, where it had been removed to accommodate the curve for former Doctors' Hospital emergency vehicles.*
3. *The roadway would be straightened and have the same width for the entire block as it now does north of 45 Brunswick.*
4. *This solution results in removing the 'parkette' features to accommodate the restored road, boulevard and sidewalk, including three unhealthy new trees on the west part of the 'parkette' where the new curb would go, and moving several lamp posts.*

The only submission by a local resident, one who believes, as does judge Mitch Kosny, that a parkette may never work on this site. Because of that, rightly or wrongly, this is the only submission to ignore the competition brief which is to make the parkette site more, not less welcoming than it is at present and to a greater number and diversity of people ("local residents – including those of Kensington Gardens as well as people who work or own businesses in the neighbourhood".) **Bring Back the Boulevards** opposes that remit by abolishing the parkette altogether. (The design includes no benches or any other park amenity.)

Bring Back the Boulevards will likely cost less to build and maintain than any other submitted design. This is an important attraction but it can only happen if its boulevards are not made of grass. Even if they are meticulously maintained in this heavily trafficked area (a process that is tremendously costly in terms of re-seeding, watering and mowing) grass boulevards will be very quickly transformed into rutted strips of mud or hard dirt. This will be the case, especially, on the west side, where trucks are frequently unloaded into the deli on that corner. For this reason, **Bring Back the Boulevards** can only work if its boulevards are made, not of grass – unless, perhaps, that grass is protected by a curb - but of something else, embedded boulders, perhaps, or flagstones that will contrast in colour and texture with the surrounding concrete – simple modifications that might make this design feasible. Otherwise: **Bring Back the Boulevards** is vague about the most troublesome part of the existing parkette – that which belongs to Kensington Health Centre. This scheme proposes it be simply fenced in with metal railings. What might be done otherwise to the existing "bunker wall" to reduce its squalor is not addressed. Nor is there any attempt to open up the west side of the KHC building to non-medical retail or café uses, as recommended in the competition briefing and included in other submissions.

Comments of judge Mitch Kosny (who rates this submission as #1):

My WINNER is **BRING BACK THE BOULEVARDS**. I thought it was simple and cost efficient. I also appreciated that this submission was in keeping with the Harbord Village Heritage Conservation District ideas. My biggest reason, however, is that I'm not convinced we need to 'force fit' this area to function/work successfully as a parkette. Everyone seems to be trying to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear: again...as I wrote above...the good news is that we now have a Parkette...the bad news is that it doesn't work so we'd better force it to work. I'm not convinced of that, and for that reason I think that we should accept it's inadequacies, and the BRING BACK THE BOULEVARDS offers the 'most for the most' in terms of giving something to the entire community.

I'm guessing that this might not sit all that well with some in that...damn it all...we have a park so let's

make it work because you never give up park space. I simply think that discretion is the better part of valour here, and let's look at it for what it is...and with that in mind, I very easily reached my conclusion that **BRING BACK THE BOULEVARDS** works.

4 THE BRUNSWICK BEND

Ya'el Santopinto,

Cleo Buster

Toronto ON **Canada**

*Upon entering **Brunswick Bend**, visitors are presented with a continuous arcing bench which frames the park in one sweeping gesture. The bench splits to bring visitors through a symbolic gateway on the north end. Meanwhile, the bench turns its face to the bustling life of college Street, acting as an urban amphitheatre. by opening the park to face the street, it becomes a more transparent and safe environment by day and night.*

*cast in place concrete benches are topped with wood, creating inviting seating while requiring little maintenance and eliminating trash collecting undersides. The benches are strategically punctuated by raised concrete tables in which LED lamps are embedded. These tables discourage sleeping, while providing surfaces for picnics or chess. **Brunswick Bend** introduces 50% more planting (in boulevards protected from trampling by curbs) made up of robust year-round native species, adding texture and colour even in the winter.*

A simple, open, uncluttered design that is well described by its submitters.

Underground parking vents are sloped, to render them unsuitable for sleeping on (and blocking with cardboard, newspaper etc.

The existing, planted, double bunker wall on KHC property is retained but lowered to bench height.

Retailers who are offered space in the west end of KHC (not shown opened for business in this submission) might be attracted to **Brunswick Bend**

Caveats: wood on concrete benches might be susceptible to rotting

Misgivings remain re resistance to vandalism of vertical lighting tubes, which are recommended in this and other submissions.

Native wild flower plantings proposed may require too much weeding to be practical. Drought resistant perennial grasses might be more suitable

Comments of judge Mitch Kosny (who rates this submission as #2):

For pure simplicity, and also for providing passive, year-round use of space I thought that **THE BRUNSWICK BEND** did a good job and for those reasons I ended up ranking this as my SECOND CHOICE.

5 CAMPO DEI RICORDI – PARK OF LIVING MEMORY

Alessandro Guidi

Fano PU **Italy**

A simple (maybe too simple, insofar as it is completely open) design that is uncluttered other than by its banded pavement of contrasting materials and colours which might or might not be suited to the Toronto climate and the foot traffic which crosses this corner.

The concrete benches may or may not be too narrow to sleep on but they have no dividers which would make sleeping impossible. They are also backless, which means they are uncomfortable for sitting on.

They have under the bench lighting, which attracted many visitors, although it is hard to imagine this will provide much in the way of useful lighting. And they have uninterrupted edges which makes them ideal for skateboarding – a positive for some, a negative for others.

CAMPO DEI RICORDI is dedicated to Toronto-based artist Giampietro Filippetti and, at the centre of a small central fountain or pool, it features a work by Toronto sculptor, Jeremy Guy.

6 CANOPY PARK

Drew Adams Mladen Pejic

University of Toronto Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design

The proposal is for a simple, elegant gesture which reinforces the natural axis of the park, terminating on the historic, St Stephen's-In-The-Fields Anglican Church, while creating a distinction between an upper path and a sunken sitting area.

This simple parkspace creates a respite from the bustling city. The undulating canopy form provides colonnade-like characteristics and a sheltered sitting area. Perennial plantings have been identified for their low-maintenance and drought resistance as well as calming, floral qualities. The softness of these native wildflowers contrasts the hard edges of the canopy and planting walls. The addition of Trembling Aspens provides an ambient white noise, akin to that of a water feature, with leaves that rustle in the softness of the breeze.

This revitalized parkspace aims to announce and give identity to a vibrant and, at times, overshadowed neighbourhood while overcoming the particularly challenging site conditions and providing a realizable vision for the space.

Extremely popular – maybe the most popular – with visitors to the display who love its green roof canopy and its underground “silva cells” which guarantee a water supply to its vegetation in times of drought. The greenness of **Canopy Park** is a huge draw for local residents who love all things green but it does pose problems:

The green roof, planted with drought-resistant sedums may pose water and dirt-shedding problems and it will need at least some maintenance – which Parks may not be able to provide (or encourage, by others, on a canopy built on city property.)

The abundant native wild flower plantings featured in the design are also impractical, in this intensely urban setting, since they will require frequent weeding and re-planting and they are liable to shed seed, which may not be welcome elsewhere. Maybe better to plant with perennial, drought-resistant grasses. Canopy Park is also favoured, orally, by some at Kensington Gardens, who urge a shaded environment for its clients. BUT not by all at KG, who point out that few of its clients use even the gardens that are located within KG property.

Canopies are not favoured by City Parks because of potential maintenance and snow-shedding problems and because they encourage sleeping over by vagrants. For these reasons, Parks is unlikely to allow a canopy over its property (as featured in **Canopy Park**) however it cannot prevent a canopy being erected over Kensington Health Centre property – where it might be attached to the KHC building.

The wooden benches under the canopy are also problematic in that they have no dividers to prevent their being slept upon and they have unbroken edges which would encourage skateboarding.

The engraved “Harbord Village Parkette” in large letters on the low concrete wall which encloses the flower bed beside the canopy was a hit with some visitors. Any chosen name could be used if this idea is adopted

7 THE CIRCLE OF LEAF

Marco Avanzo

Sant Ilario d'Enza RE Italy

The proposal is for a simple, elegant gesture which reinforces the natural axis of the park, terminating on the historic, St Stephen's-In-The-Fields Anglican Church, while creating a distinction between an upper path and a sunken sitting area.

This simple parkspace creates a respite from the bustling city. The undulating canopy form provides colonnade-like characteristics and a sheltered sitting area. Perennial plantings have been identified for their low-maintenance and drought resistance as well as calming, floral qualities. The softness of these native wildflowers contrasts the hard edges of the canopy and planting walls. The addition of Trembling Aspens provides an ambient white noise, akin to that of a water feature, with leaves that rustle in the softness of breeze.

This revitalized parkspace aims to announce and give identity to a vibrant and, at times, overshadowed neighbourhood while overcoming the particularly challenging site conditions and providing a realizable vision for the space.

A simple design with a startling red and white checkered floor pattern.

Little re-engineering required, apart from lowering and re-planting of the KHC bunker wall but not converting it to bench seating.

Furniture shown is lightweight, unanchored patio furniture that is not practical for this location.

Conversion of lowered bunker wall to benches that will be comfortable for sitting but not seating and placement of substantial impossible or hard to move furniture in the park space might be advisable.

The eight existing trees on City property are removed and replaced with a single large tree at the centre of the circle.

No conversion to retail of the west side of KHC is shown although that would be feasible in combination with this design.

8 FLOW: PEOPLE, LIGHT & AIR

Elizabeth Keary and Matthew Soule

University of Pennsylvania School of Design

Philadelphia, PA USA

Our design seeks to create more reasons to linger in the park. We opened up the space in front of the building to allow better visual and physical access to facilitate ground floor retail opportunities by removing the trees and cutting through the raised planter. Nooks of tables and chairs were added along the street to attract patrons from surrounding food establishments. A center planted strip was added within the walkway make the space feel more intimate while still emphasizing movement through the space. A hood was designed for the vent grate that maintains air flow while transforming a purely functional object into a more attractive amenity that provides integrated seating and greenery.

A simple, open design which lowers the KHC bunker wall to bench height and reduces it – to good effect - by considerably widening its central staircase.

As well as lightweight patio furniture – unsuitable for this location unless it is brought in at night – the design features “Toronto-approved benches” in the park space.

Vegetation is reduced to perennial grasses in the remnants of the bunker wall, a hedge to define the boundary of the parkette along the edge of Brunswick Avenue, “perennial and annual plantings” along the north edge and a chestnut oak shade trees in the park space in place of the mish-mash of eight trees which occupy the park space at the moment.

The covering of the raised vent at the south end of the bunker wall with a sloping “green roof” struck impressed many visitors. If problems with vegetation falling through the grid arise, this cover would still look impressive even if stripped of vegetation. An ingenious solution to a difficult problem.

9 THE FLOWING GARDEN

Cristian Simionescu

Toronto ON **Canada**

The Configuration

The parkette is organized around the “bases” and the “pavilion” to create a fluid quality, contemporary playfull configuration around the existing elements (except benches and the out of scale signage) by defining spaces of different shapes and sizes in between the bases.

The Bases

The bases are multifunctional elements that have benches of different shapes on their edges. The bases could be green areas, kids play areas, podium for a sculptural element, water feature, information points.

The Pavilion

It has enclosed and covered sitting areas, hides the ventilations, includes commercial space connected to the building, accomodates the level change. It is a contemporary interpretation of the housing skyline.

The Materials

The scheme is built in wood and painted. The ground is painted to integrate with the composition.

Flexibility

Every element can be adjusted: size, height, bases area, colour, pavilion area, number of elements.

A somewhat cluttered design with a number of low-lying pie-shaped beds with trees at their centres and ringed with benches. Movement through this parkette would be difficult.

There is a canopy attached to KHC – where it would receive no objection from City Parks and where it might provide shelter for any patio that is built there, in place of the bunker wall – which appears to be gone.

10 FOR YOUR LIFE

Sheila Saffe

arquitectura paisajismo

Ciudad de Mendoza, **Argentina**

The design of the PARK FOR YOUR LIFE, is a contemporary design. Urban trees is maintained park, with replacement of three trees located in the bunker, on 3rd-trees and 2 nd magnitude scale, ash and magnolia a Fresno, and Magnolia deciduous, evergreen with a rich aroma spring.

The design premise was to keep the spatial flow, yet placing more equipment (seats)spaces that allow the relationship with the other passer, but also lighting and security at a time. Facilities thus stands to benefit from the shade of the tree and the relationship visual xeric shrubs and plants placed in beds of orange.

The materialization was used deck floors and cementitious floors. The beds both the park and the school, choose drought-tolerant species of low maintenance, less water-resistant cold climates, dry and arid.

The space to exhibit the sculpture, designed by Joel Saffe Berardo, this materialized in concrete and steel or stainless steel Cut me. The objective of the sculpture is power transmitting the meaning of children. Why is the child center of a rainbow surge representing the joy and love.

A simple design which retains the existing eight trees in the park space while it lowers the bunker wall to bench height and plants it with drought-resistant grasses.

The outer edge of the lowered bunker wall supports a table-like wooden bench/table which extends beyond a new, inner pair of trees (a magnolia and an ash) and encloses them completely. (The use of wood in this structure may be problematic, likewise its unbroken edge which will attract skateboarders.) The inner four existing trees are surrounded by low walls while the outer four are sunk in shallow square pits in the pavement (which will likely attract garbage.)

There is a wooden walkway running S-N to the outside of the inner row of park space trees which, being made of wood, might not be suitable for this location.

Benches in the park space are of an unattractive, utilitarian design in black iron identical to those currently installed in the parkette. They have no armrests so they can be slept as well as sat upon.

Lighting shown consists of low light columns which will not be adequate for safety.

A school (or daycare) is suggested as non-medical use for the west end of the KHC building which is interesting although there are no facilities for children in the parkette design, in a location which is not suited to such facilities or the activities they encourage.

A sculpture, of a child in the centre of a rainbow, by the submitter's brother, Jose Saffe Berardo is a decorative feature of this design.

11 FOUR LEAF CLOVERS

Samuel Quagliotto

Latina, Italy

The redevelopment of Brunswick College Parkette was prepared as a total magnification of a picture that represent a natural area, where the pixels that compose the photo shows only natural colors. Surfaces with grass, wood and water surfaces represent the pixels that form the Parkette. The plan of the Parkette has been thought with a Cartesian stiffness which contrast with the soft curve of the benches, also used to create the shape of the two shelters and street lamps. The Parkette is a good small area of contact with Nature and can be use as a meeting place where everyone in the city can relax or do outdoor activities.

A cluttered design with a pink aluminum canopy at its south end. (It covers the three existing payphones, which should, probably, be removed.) And another shelter at the north end.

"Four Leaf Clovers" are benches of that shape which allow uncongenial sitting – back to back!

The existing double bunker wall is removed and replaced with a grassy slope up from the lower level adjacent to KHC to the upper level of the park space. Grass planted here will receive very little light – maybe not enough to grow.

A children's slide at the south end of this slope, another slide down a grassy mound in the park space, a nearby swing set, a fountain/waterfall and a large, wooden maple leaf sculpture add to the decorative and play features of this ambitious design.

12 THE GAMES ROOM

Zoen Lau

Oldham UK

The aim of the design is to create a lively outdoor games room by enclosing the parkette with new seating/play interventions to encourage community interaction.

Spatial relationship between the cafe/retail area and the parkette is improved through lowering bunker wall and introduction of new low maintenance evergreen seasonal planting.

The concept is to create a functional and lively parkette with new artificial grass play/gaming seating block units.

The Sports and games theme is represented through the use of artificial grass in football green, golf

green and clay red to give a strong sense of place.

The design and form encourages play, gaming, socializing and watching, giving the parkette a new life created by people.

The modular seating blocks are made from sustainable gabion fill core with artificial grass skin which is adaptable.

A cluttered design which lowers the bunker wall to bench height and uses it for that purpose and divides the park space into boxes – some with trees - that double as benches. Relaxation and moving through the parkette are made difficult if these spaces are used as designed, since the park space between the tree and bench boxes is meant to be so busy. It includes a “games and playing area”, a “games court” (with a basketball net), a “lounge area” a “drinking and refreshing area” and a “standing and perching – ie sitting - area”.

Retail in the west end of KHC includes a Starbucks.

13 GREEN WEAVER

Steve Socha

University of Toronto Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design

Toronto ON **Canada**

Brunswick-College Parkette has the potential to serve its community and complement its surroundings in a way not realized at present. Improved seating and a central focus will vastly improve the usability, joy, and sense of place one should experience in the park. The new design utilizes simple and affordable benches that weave in and out of existing trees, crossing with new tree planters of native species, creating a peaceful place of meeting and relaxation.

A new cafe to the east of the park would enliven the corner, while allowing the park to double as a patio. A new employment centre would address the issue of homelessness, while speaking to the park's past.

The central feature is a solar tree, comprised of photovoltaic panels on a steel tree frame. It would collect energy to light the park at night, while reminding us of the urgent need for sustainable energies. A simple elegant design that was very popular with visitors to the display.

The bunker wall is lowered to bench height and used as such. (Benches shown will need to be divided to prevent sleeping on and the edges of those that are straight will need to be fitted with skateboard stops – if required by Parks and KHC.)

The existing trees are set in shallow, curbed pits in the pavement that are fringed with curved, backless benches which may not be very comfortable for sitting on. (As well as backs, they need to be divided and fitted with skateboard stops.)

A solar tree provides power for lighting (which may not be adequate in winter or if lighting needs to be delivered at its present intensity.)

14 I CUORI DI BRUNSWICK – THE HEART OF BRUNSWICK

Umberto Andolfato, Serena Ruffaldi

L'AB – Labarchscape Landscape Architecture & Building

Milan, **Italy**

L'idée du projet est née de la volonté de créer un jardin de poche où vous pouvez trouver.

Là où il ya beaucoup d'éléments sur lequel s'asseoir, travailler, parler, se détendre, apprendre à se connaître.

Ces articles sont fabriqués dans le coeur parce que le coeur est l'organe qui nous donne la vie, tomber en

amour est un symbole de paix et est universellement reconnaissable.

Le cœur est partout, est assis à une table, les cœurs sont éparpillées sur le sol comme des feuilles et des signes de route.

Matériaux

Les matériaux sont essentiellement 3:

- Céramique - Verre - métal.

Avec les sièges sont recouverts de céramique dans le cœur de mosaïques, les structures des sièges sont réalisés en béton, en forme d'un cœur de réunions avec diverses formes. Dans le ciment, revêtement céramique il n'y a pas que des réunions, mais également vaisseaux du cœur qui servent à contenir les plantes et dans un cas devient une petite fontaine et tables et chaises près du cœur.

Le verre est utilisé pour des cœurs qui sont sur le terrain et que la transparence sera utilisée la nuit pour éclairer quelques pistes qui guideront les piétons de traverser ou de rester en place.

Le métal, de préférence en laiton, pourront servir à mettre le cœur sur le sol et certains tableaux / coeur. Comment vous demande, nous considérons la replantation de l'espace entre les niveaux supérieur et inférieur de la paroi abaissé bunker double avec résistantes à la sécheresse, facile à maintenir végétation pérenne qui est moins susceptible d'ordures pège que ce qui est planté à l'heure actuelle.

An extremely simple design which replants but maintains the existing structure of the parkette (including its shoulder-high bunker wall.)

What happens to the elevated grate inside the wall at the S end is unclear – it appears to be simply planted over.

The “hearts” in this design are low-level, heart-shaped benches, which look to be better suited to squatting than sitting. They do not look comfortable and will not be accessible to older people or people who cannot stand up easily.

15 INGRAINED - BRUNSWICK-COLLEGE PARKETTE

Battersby Howatt Architects

David Battersby, Heather Howat, Fang Liu, Cindy Lee, Ben Tiffin, Tomas Machnik

Vancouver BC **Canada**

In an effort to re-envision the Brunswick- College Parkette, we propose a scheme that accommodates active and passive engagement and promotes experience. Conventionally, park spaces are composed of soft landscaping which includes vegetation and topography, and hard landscaping which includes infrastructure such as drainage, lighting, seating, retaining structures, architectural features and walking surfaces. In the tradition of park spaces which offer city dwellers respite from urban life, the proposed scheme is structured around three essential landscape features - forest, field and hill. These elements are distributed within a framework of steel ribs which divide the site at regular intervals from east to west. These strips are irregularly in-filled from north to south with hard and soft landscaping which respond to pre-existing movements around and through the site. An abstract hill is created by the contouring of the ribs which otherwise define the predominately flat surface of the park.

A simple design made complicated. It features a pavement which features a random checkerboard of paved and grassed rectangles.

Rather than trying to eliminate the problems caused by the KHC bunker wall, by enlarging it, opening it and lowering it, as other designs do, the dangerous and insanitary trench between the bunker wall is eliminated here by removing the wall altogether and filling in the trench to the level of the existing large window sills. (Which means that opening up the west end of KHC to make it accessible – not attempted in this design – may not be possible.)

Elaborate plantings of mostly drought-resistant plants are a spectacular feature of this design. Problematic, though, is its planting of a number of red fox katsura trees in weathering steel cylinders. Unless they are watered automatically from below these trees will require regular maintenance and – apart from that – the crowded mass of cylinders shown will provide a substantial and hard to clean garbage trap.

Short, backless benches will be uncomfortable for sitting as well as sleeping on and they are made of wood – as is some of the flooring around them – which might not be resistant for long enough to weathering.

16 INTERSECTIONS: COLLEGE, BRUNSWICK, ECOLOGY

Clarence Lacy, Catherine Dean, Todd Douglas

University of Toronto Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design

Toronto ON **Canada**

Our design for the Brunswick-College Parkette envisions a more inviting, comfortable and accessible space, as well as an attractive gateway to the Annex neighbourhood from College Street.

Our strategy is to increase the parkette's permeable and vegetated surfaces and to create areas for relaxation and socializing. The additional vegetation starts with the fern wall, which will provide cooling in the summer and help to mitigate the urban heat island effect. The fern wall connects to the terraced surfaces, which descend from the North East corner of the parkette and are planted with native species such as Dogwood, a variety of ferns, Lily-of-the-Valley, wild strawberries and red fescue, which serves as a walkable surface between the terrace-edge seating. Flowering Perennials toward College Street provide variety and colour, as well as habitat for butterflies, bees and other pollinators.

A simple design which eliminates the bunker wall and fills in the trench between it and KHC altogether – thereby probably eliminating any prospect of making the building accessible on its west side.

Another elaborate garden feature, a green wall, is planted on the west side. While this was well received by green-inclined visitors, it does seem to pose problems of maintenance, irrigation and potential water damage.

The park space features an elaborate, multi-angled aircraft carrier flight-deck pattern of concrete, boardwalk and various plantings in its pavement, the lack of a clear N-S orientation in which might be confusing and irritating to people walking through.

Seating is said to be provided at the “terrace edge” (in the piled up block structure at the NE corner of the parkette, adjacent to KHC?) but otherwise benches appear to be non-existent.

17 KENSINGTON COMMON

Sander Freedman

Sander Design Landscape Architecture

Toronto ON **Canada**

Although the southern neighbourhoods of the village have as many community Buildings, houses of worship and schools, the provision of green space for the community to meet outside is lower than in the northerly counterparts. In particular the South Central neighbourhood is poorly served for public social space. As such a balance need to be struck between uplifting green space and planting and hard-standing for small community events.

Pedestrian connections onto site are predominantly made from along the North side of College Street. The space provides a gateway into the neighbourhood via Brunswick Avenue. So the south end of the site is most open and welcoming, an opportunity exists for a piece of welded steel sculpture, or a modified surface to be constructed upon the largest of the grates. The theme of which is carried on north through the passage alongside the healthcare centre.

The site is overlooked by St Stephen in the Fields Church, The Brunswick Clinic, second and third storey rooms across Brunswick Avenue and an unoccupied three storey building across College Street. The clinic and the church are important community assets and as such draw people into the immediate area. Space to congregate out of doors in small or larger groups is required.

This design lowers the bunker wall to bench height and re-plants it with shrubs and other low-level greenery.

Pavement is a checkerboard of different materials, dotted with numerous trees that are unprotected by curbs. It is also sloped, eastwards, to direct rain water through the plant beds to be collected in a drum which forms the core of a circular stage at the top of the steps from the west end of KHC which is a landmark of this design.

Other landmarks are the sculptures which stretch N-S along the outer edge of the trench behind the wall - which may have been widened to allow this installation as well as patio furniture which is put out by the non-medical businesses that have set up in the now accessible west end of KHC.

Large display boards, which might serve as a neighbourhood art gallery, are lined up on the outside of the lowered bunker wall. This is an attractive idea but it does pose problems: reducing light to the plantings in the bunker wall, providing hiding places, creating possible targets for vandalism.

Benches (with tables) are interesting: wood panels at bench and table height, sandwiched between panels of rigid steel matting. (I wonder if these are more uncomfortable than they need to be, to prevent sleeping, and how vandal-resistant they might be. Other, more comfortable looking, bench-table designs are shown in the panel "Metal Grates and Site Furnishing". Re the former, a variety of interesting designs are shown, all of which might be considered, along with the sloped grate covers proposed in #4, **The Brunswick Bend** and #8, **Flow**

Plantings also look vulnerable as well as demanding re maintenance- to trampling and trapping garbage.

18 KENSINGTON SQUARE

Florian Müller

Berlin, Germany

The competition area is not an urban space at the moment. The scrubs and trees planted in the 80's transformed into a jungle. The strong separation between Kensington Health Center and the Brunswick-College Parkette by a massive concrete planter box intensified the not carming charactor of this place in the cultural heart of the city.

So the architectural concept has to be:

STABILITY - UTILITY - AMENITY

To gain this concept, the existing structure has to be deconstruc- ted in most parts.

Three major elements will do- mintate the square in the future: limestone, grass and water. All elements are natural elements. Rusted steel fins will be used to seperate the elements and to create a difference in the water level.

To connect the Kensington Health Center better to the Par- kette, muliple stairs and ramps will be added in generous di- mensions and styles.

Another major design issue is to remove the "garbage-trapping iron benches" and replace them by free standing design ben- ches with wooden decking on the square. Residents as well as tourist will enjoy a break here. Another advantage of the free standing design is the impossi- bility to use the benches any lon- ger for sleeping.

But not just the benches will host comfort. By removing the concrete planter box future ca- fés, shops or social institutions have the possibility to use out- side seating areas, while not in- terfering with the public use of the square.

The greenery concept itself is simple and easy to maintain in the future. Instead of planting a lot of trees

and scrubs again, one striking maple will dominate the square. The grass inside its boxes can be cut easily.

The expressive and efficient design allows the promotion of the parkette with its prime location to the neighbourhood and the city.

An apparently austere simple but actually complex design which eliminates the bunker wall and connects the park space and KHC with staggered rows of steps and a ramp for people with disabilities. The pavement has an E-W grid pattern of strips of concrete which alternate with strips of grass – which will likely be walked upon by people moving through the parkette (hundreds in a typical day.)

There is just one tree at the centre and two cascading rivers (which might pose a safety hazard) to the tree's north and south.

Backless benches – broad enough to be slept upon – are scattered throughout the park space.

19 LAETITIA URBIS – THE HAPPY CITY

Guido Ragucci

Bari, Italy

The project intends to emphasize the prominent location of the Brunswick-College Parkette, creating a meeting place for all the community. The idea of the project is a small podium surrounded by small benches (cube light) to create an attractive place for day and night. The podium wants to connect visually the park with the other buildings (station, church, etc.). The benches and lighting installations transform the park in a pleasant and safe place.

The “piazza” is organized with gradual terraces that promote the connection between the square, the road and the Kensington Health Centre (its ground floor will be a large bar). Evergreen vegetation has been chosen as the most suitable and also easy to maintain vegetation. Finally the ventilation grates have been transformed into a sort of modern sculpture, thus being a great attraction for the park.

An elaborate, almost fantastical design that will be difficult and costly to build.

Practically, with four tightly manicured shrubs at each corner, it is devoid of natural shade, it lacks benches for sitting and it is replete with hiding places.

A wonderful, surreal stage set but a design that is probably not suited to the rebuilding of a parkette in this location.

20 MAGIC CARPET

John Lee

Shift Operations

Toronto ON Canada

The MAGIC CARPET is a simple intervention: ambiguous enough to be open to interpretation, yet striking, providing a rundown parkette with the feature attraction it lacked.

The proposal is twofold. First, the formulaic trees and benches are replaced with the magic carpet, an undulating field atop a concrete plinth. Rising several feet above the sidewalk level, it challenges visitors to discover the unique vantage point at its apex; simultaneously, it is the stage on which they perform for passers-by.

Second, the concrete bunker walls to the east are lowered and integrated into the overall scheme. The awkward L-shaped planter becomes a ramp connecting the sunken portion to street level, anticipating future businesses opening onto this space.

Ultimately, the park appeals to our imaginations. It could be many things: mountain, picnic ground, garden, playground, meeting-place. It is the magic carpet on which we discover new stories.

With its roller-coaster central mound this might work as a children's adventure playground but probably not as a parkette, on City property, in this location.

Significantly, perhaps, two people are shown in the graphic, fallen on their backs.

There is also another character who is diligently watering a tree in a pot – a person whose services may not always be available in reality.

21 PORTUGAL INFLUENCES BRUNSWICK

Milene Guerreiro Vitorino Costa

Universidade Lusitana de Lisboa **Portugal**

This essentially simple but luxurious-looking design eliminates the bunker wall and widens the trench between KHC and the higher park space. This allows abundant space for a broad terraced and grassed patio adjacent to a now accessible west side of KHC. (Grass may not be appropriate for this heavily trafficked area but an extension of the elaborate terrazzo pavement would serve very well in place of it. There is an array of chess tables with chairs (that may need to be more robust) in this depression beside KHC and some lovely black and white striped benches (that might need armrests if they are not to be slept as well as sat on.)

There is room also here for shrubs to the west of those benches and a coffee bar at the south end. (There is no opening up of access for non-medical retail at the west end of KHC in this model but there seems to be no reason why this should not happen.)

The only provisos here – apart from likely high cost – is the fence at along the western edge of the depression that looks like it might provide a nocturnal hiding spot, unless it is transparent and the site is well lit. Also, there is no accommodation shown for the existing underground garage ventilation grates – which cannot be made to vanish – as they appear to have in this model. And the steps at the north end of the depression should be exchanged for a ramp, to provide wheelchair accessibility.

The upper park space is narrower in this design than in others, owing to the widening of the next to KHC trench which means there is enough room at the higher level for a N-S row of just four trees, each with a nearby bench plus a gently meandering N-S footpath.

The trees beside that path are set in a boulevard which might work although it will still require some regular re-seeding and more frequent watering and mowing.

22 RED TREE PARKETTE

Pieter Theuws

Utrecht **The Netherlands**

STRATEGY

1. 'clear' the space.

The usable surface in this small public space needs to be enlarged, to facilitate all the different potential users. A monofunctional space will be replaced by a space that can facilitate:

- playing*
- bird and plant habitat • picnic • sunbathing • small events*
- ice skating (kids) • bike parking • etc. Most of the street furniture and trees can be reused. By putting them in a 'object-zone' lots of space is saved.*

2. reconsider relation with surroundings

The parkette will be oriented inwards, creating a pleasant place to stay, without the disturbance of traffic or parked cars; a green mini-oase in the city. People that travel by will go around the space instead of through it. Although the park will remain accessible from all sides, it will be turning it's back on Brunswick avenue and the entrance of the parking garage on the North side, to ensure pleasant place to stay, without the disturbance of traffic or parked cars. Lowering the open space will increase the

intimate character of the space and provide seating on the stairs. The park will open up to College street, creating easy access for pedestrians (from and to the University Campus and the new Planet traveller ecohotel), focusing on the sunny south-side of the parkette, enabling views to the St. Stephen-In-The-Fields Church and firestation tower.

3. flexible use through time

The space can be used by different people at different times and in different seasons. A grass lawn and 'eco-box' ensure a green parkette throughout the year. The 'object-zone' creates a robust framework in which different functions of the space are possible in the future, without diminishing the quality of the space.

"Based on existing qualities of this small public space, this design stresses the beauty of nature in the city. The beautiful red tree will become the focal point of a space that will become a place to stay instead of a widened sidewalk that is obstructed by too many objects. The parkette turns it's back on the noisy streets to create a safe and pleasant environment. Opening up the façade of the Kensington Health Centre will increase inside-outside relations, activity and therefore safety and usability of the parkette. It will become a diverse environment that changes through time.

The South Side of the park has a gradually sloped surface, making the parkette easily accessible. The transition between paving and grass is diffuse, representing the integration of city (paving) and nature (grass)."

An extremely simple design which eliminates the bunker wall and adjoining trench altogether so the windows on the west side of KHC now touch the ground – with maybe less chance of their being opened up to make the building accessible for non-medical business on its west side.

A "Health Bar" is recommended with a patio at the edge of the park, the rest of which is grassed with a single red tree in the middle. This grassed area is slightly depressed – to a depth of two steps, which provides seating along the west and north sides of the park "amphitheatre" (annoying for people in wheelchairs who choose to access the parkette from the north, KG, end unless there is a ramp there; otherwise they must approach from the south which is level with the street.)

The parkette is bordered on the west, Brunswick Ave, side at its upper level with a row of six trees which curve around to the north and around the parkette's "amphitheatre seating which is provided by its steps. The raised vent to the south is concealed in an "eco box" which is covered with a green wall and an array of nest boxes for birds.

Removal of clutter is the chief aim of this design (although it does retain the three payphones which will likely go and the KHC sign) and it achieves this without being too exposed and bleak by the subtle sinking of its central area.

Apart from its trees and extensive but easily accessible grassy area, this design features no planting – which makes it one of the least complex and maintenance-needing of our submissions.

23 SLOW MOTION

Roberto del Mondo

Cervignanon del Friuli Italy

The project involves the reallocation of space by creating flower beds along the edges contained in a perimeter of Corten steel. The board along Brunswick Avenue is surrounded by a bench that follows the perimeter of the flower beds, with concrete base and top coating autoclaved wooden staves.

Docks will be placed in the base of the lamp to allow light grazing. The beds will contain a maple tree.

The pavement is constructed in concrete with diagonal paths made of square tiles which lead, at their crossing to a metal sculpture, that moves with the wind.

A starkly simple plan with five trees enclosed in boxes made from triangular plates of corten steel. They are aligned, three to the west, two to the east on either side of an elegant diamond-pattern grid of tiled strips set in concrete.

The trench beside KHC remains behind a reconfigured wall - which means it continues to provide hiding places.

The sculpture at the apex of the now angled steps up from KHC moves with the wind, which means it might be fragile.

Lighting is an ingenious combination of under bench 'grazing' and light columns.

24 SUNKEN GARDEN

Nancy Wong

Toronto ON **Canada**

A simple, curving amphitheatre with four trees, which sweeps in a series of four descending steps (which also serve as benches) around from the north to converge on the west wall of KHC, where the existing wall and trench have been completely eliminated. This amphitheatre is coloured green in the model, implying it is made of grass. This is impractical, in this context; the parkette needs to be paved. There is a narrow wheelchair ramp at the SE corner, between KHC and the raised, now boxed-in, ventilator grate. This box provides an undesirable hiding spot. (As well as this ramp – or one in another, more open location off College St – there should be one to the north to provide easy access from KG. However, apart from its steps there are no benches, so this model will not be comfortable for older people.

25 THREE STEPS TO ONE NEW PARKETTE

Oriana Orabona

Napoli, **Italy**

The existing Parkette follows two main directions: to the Health Centre ground floor and to Saint Stephens' Church. This project holds the existing directions, but has a different shape in section. I designed three big "steps", with its own function: walking for the highest one, next to the street side; then, a step to stay, with chess tables; the last one is closed to the Health Centre and it would accommodate the Health Centre Outdoor Café. The big steps are connected by stairs and ramps. There are some little green areas, which correspond to seats on the lower step; they are also provided by steel and wooden backs. In addition to streetlights, some lights have been placed next to the ground. There is a spire bike rack, too,... so people could park their bikes next to the telephones no more!

A simple design, which eliminates the bunker wall but not the trench between it and KHC (which is not shown as being made accessible for business on its west side.) Walkways run N-S to the west and through the centre of the parkette which is divided and bounded by a number of trapezoidal tree and grass beds the edges of which serve as benches. There are also arrays of chess tables and coffee tables to the west and east of the central bed. And a bicycle rack to the south of the raised vent grate.

26 TRILLIUM CORNER

Jonathan & Tiffany vann Sprecher

Minneapolis MN **USA**

Our design proposal suggests a simple, elegant, and cost-effective solution to the problems posed by the current Brunswick-College Parkette. A graceful progression of cubic landscape elements defines the edge of the park as well as entrances and circulation. Further, these elements provide a dynamic, multivalent opportunity for sitting, playing and interacting.

The block scheme creates multiple spaces within one area – the blocks' varied height lets people sit near one another without sitting next to one another, allowing for privacy in public. However, the block space is flexible enough that large groups can also enjoy it, and interpersonal interaction is natural. The design calls for an imaginative array of blocks, generating an amalgam of concrete blocks and blocks with a sod substrate on a frame, in which grass actually grows right on them. Additionally, the Health Center vents are protected by bronze trillium sculptures, taking their inspiration from Ontario's official flower.

The grass-covered blocks which define and bound this design and provide seating look fun but are likely to be costly if they are durable (and it seems likely that their grass cannot last long). They also seem to cut

off the parkette, to excess, from the surrounding streetscape.

The interior of the parkette is entirely grassed which cannot survive heavy traffic. The vents are protected from sleepers by metal trillium sculptures, which look like they may not be resistant to theft or vandalism.

27 URBAN CONSTELLATION

Andrew Chau, Welland Sin, Alana Young

Toronto ON **Canada**

DESIGN STRATEGY

Our parkette design is organized around the existing grid of trees. From these locations three constellations of light collide, intersect and disperse across the site to create a variety of social zones. By day the parkette is an urban forest perched along College Street at Brunswick Avenue. At night the translucent light rods emit a blue-green glow, where light filled spaces and native vegetation frame informal spaces to linger and congregate. Visually intriguing as the hues change to produce a range of light patterns, the evenly distributed light provides valuable nighttime security and expands the hours of use.

In addition to the lighting system, new benches, vegetation and textured paving provide visual interest and barrier free accessibility throughout the site. Along College Street the spaces are larger and more open, while spaces around the clustered light rods are smaller and more intimate. At the eastern edge of the parkette, we have reduced the size of the concrete planters in order to improve site lines, minimize places for garbage to collect and to re-design the lower level as an outdoor patio for a café. This encourages foot traffic to move through the main parkette, away from the building face.

VISION

Light is our sculptural element -- creating the sensation of walking amidst a cloud of fireflies or being immersed in the Aurora Borealis. While the existing design is empty and foreboding at night, our design transforms a neglected urban space into a dynamic social node. It is a place where neighbours meet for coffee, informal markets emerge and children wander and play amidst the field of light rods. It is a space re-imagined to experience nature that cannot be found elsewhere in the City.

One of the most popular submissions among visitors to the display. They were particularly enchanted by the vertical light columns but concerned that they might not be resistant to vandalism. (The submitters insist that standards similar to those shown are available for this kind of outdoor use.)

Otherwise, a simple design which lowers the bunker wall to bench height and simplifies it to eliminate potential hiding places. The eight existing trees remain in place, with benches beside them. Vegetation is well contained and protected, in raised beds in the bunker wall, around the raised vent at the south end and in rings around some of the trees. Paving provides clear N-S runs through the park and to the west of it.

The west end of KHC is open for café and retail with coffee tables lined along the now shallow trench between KHC and the bunker wall.