

LEADING WITH LANDSCAPES | LE PAYSAGE D'ABORD

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L'architecture de paysage mène de plus en plus le développement, plutôt que d'en être tributaire, et les architectes de paysage dirigent de plus en plus souvent des projets complexes avec une équipe complète de consultants.

À DTAH, nous avons toujours considéré que le design d'environnement requiert une perspective d'art urbain plus vaste qui ne peut venir que de l'intégration de l'architecture de paysage, de l'architecture et de l'urbanisme.

Notre Plan directeur de la cité parlementaire (Honneur national, 1989) en est un exemple. Roger du Toit, Bob Allsopp et Peter Smith ont collaboré à ce projet pour DTAH. Leur concept était de célébrer le paysage et les bâtiments emblématiques, qui constituent la partie visible, tandis que l'on développe sous terre les liens fonctionnels et les espaces supplémentaires.

Le Concours de design du secteur riverain de Toronto (Mérite national, 2007) a confirmé notre approche pluridisciplinaire. Entrepris en collaboration avec West 8, architectes paysagistes des Pays-Bas, le projet permettra de définir le caractère central du secteur riverain pour les décennies à venir. Au cours de la dernière année, nous avons mis en place une composante du projet (Wavedeck Spadina) et travaillé à en développer plusieurs autres.

While working in a multi-discipline environment has always been the reality of landscape architecture, recent projects demonstrate that landscape design is increasingly leading development (rather than only responding to it), and that LAs are increasingly taking the lead in complex projects with comprehensive consultant teams.

At DTAH, we have always held that good environmental design requires the broad urban design perspective that can only derive from an integrated landscape/architecture/planning perspective. Since the early 1980s, the firm has been led by partners with multiple memberships in all three fields, who actively seek to apply an inter-disciplinary approach to all city-building projects. We also believe that urban landscapes – streets, plazas, parks and gardens – are the glue that holds it all together, that make cities work.

Our Parliamentary Precinct Long Range Plan (National Honour, 1989) is an early example that we still feel good about. At issue in this project is the tension between an ever-growing government's need to expand and modernize, and the parallel need to protect and enhance the landscapes and buildings that have become symbols of national importance. Roger du Toit, Bob Allsopp and Peter Smith collaborated on this project for DTAH and

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1 • 2 PARLIAMENTARY PRECINCT AREA, OTTAWA, NATIONAL HONOUR 1989 3 INNOVATIVE DESIGN COMPETITION – TORONTO WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION, NATIONAL MERIT 2007 4 QUAY TO THE CITY / TORONTO CENTRAL WATERFRONT, NATIONAL MERIT 2007 5, 6 THE NOW-COMPLETED SPADINA WAVEDECK, TORONTO WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION | 1 • 2 CITÉ PARLIAMENTAIRE, HONNEUR NATIONAL 1989 3 CONCOURS DE DESIGN INNOVATEUR – REVITALISATION DU SECTEUR RIVERAIN DE TORONTO, MÉRITE NATIONAL 2007 4 QUAY TO THE CITY / SECTEUR RIVERAIN DE TORONTO, MÉRITE NATIONAL 2007 5+6 LA NOUVELLE PLATEFORME DE LA RUE SPADINA- REVITALISATION DU SECTEUR RIVERAIN DE TORONTO



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took the view that there is an "ideal" arrangement of buildings and landscapes that will both maximize symbolic expression and accommodate functional requirements. Their concept was that the landscape setting and the iconic buildings together constitute the visible symbols that should be celebrated, while evolving space needs and functional linkages should be developed underground and out of sight. The Long Range Plan, updated in 2006, has stood the test of time and remains a key National Capital planning directive.

The Toronto Central Waterfront Innovative Design Competition (National Merit Award, 2007) confirmed our inter-disciplinary approach and brought us into contact with international landscape architecture. Undertaken in joint venture with West 8, landscape architects from the Netherlands, the project will set the character of the Central Waterfront for decades to come, and it is happening long in advance of private developments.

The design motifs and materials being developed for the project represent another step forward for us, and are certainly a long way from what we were doing back in the National Capital Confederation Boulevard days. While basic materials don't change that much (granite, wood, concrete and steel), how they are assembled today is being driven by a new

excitement about form and texture, and about how landscape design can stimulate people to view their world in fresh, new ways.

In the last year, we have implemented one component of the project (Spadina Wavedeck) and are working to develop several more. Landscape architects are leading this work and carry responsibility for managing large consultant teams that include structural, electrical and civil engineers, as well as experts in stormwater management, fisheries, hydrology, sustainability and cost control. John Hillier and Adam Nicklin of DTAH are leading the team, and are learning evermore sophisticated management and communications techniques to keep it all on track.

The strong sense of history and continuity at DTAH is coupled with an equally strong sense of curiosity, adventure and exploration. While the continuity does come from partners and senior staff, much of the excitement comes from a young and talented staff who share, with us, an unwavering commitment to excellence.



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