

Amir S. Ali

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Peel Region

The following answers were provided by the candidate in response to [a letter sent by the Toronto Society of Architects on September 20, 2022](#) outlining three questions related to issues of the built environment. Answers have been copied and pasted into this page for clarity and ease of access, but all answers are verbatim and no changes or edits have been made.

Q1: Housing is a fundamental human right, and yet an increasing number of residents across the Greater Toronto Area are struggling to pay rent or find an affordable place to live. What policies and actions do you believe need to be implemented to address this crisis?

A: At the municipal level we can only accelerate permit issuance or, put our own competitive housing units which we can't. The Federal government is the one who couldn't control builders who raise the prices enormously. Investors bought it at a higher price therefore the rents are higher. Now the big problem is coming. The home prices will drop and the mortgage rates would triple, meaning, the carrying cost would be tripled for a lesser value home, it's disastrous.

Q2: The design, construction and operation of our built environment accounts for nearly 40% of energy related carbon emissions, contributing to the ongoing climate crisis affecting us today. What do you believe needs to be prioritised to reduce carbon emissions within the built environment?

A: A new type of design must be adapted (other countries are doing it) using solar energy to operate the buildings. Buildings also contain the shopping area at the road level, Kindergarten and Daycare on the mezzanine level, offices condos on the 2nd and 3rd floors and the rest of the building should be residential condos. Self contained buildings need fewer transportation.

Q3: In towns and cities, so much of life happens in the shared public spaces—in our parks, libraries and streets. How can we ensure these civic spaces achieve design excellence in their initial conception and construction, and that they are properly maintained so they may continue to serve future generations?

A: My personal wish is that every park must have a library and a coffee shop where elderly people gather and

enjoy. Having said that Common spaces gives a feeling of togetherness. However, Mississauga downtown core is poorly designed. I did a plan with my own money to create a walkway system like PATH in Toronto that could connect 82 buildings to Square One and Cooksville Go, but no one looked at the plan. On the other hand we are putting LRT on a street that connects 4 highways, QEW, 403, 401 and 407. LRT would take 3 lanes and Hurontario would reflect a parking lot. Common spaces should be maintained by everyone not only the governments.