

Design Charrette: Reimagining Ontario Place

Summary Report

TSA

TORONTO
SOCIETY OF
ARCHITECTS



PHOTOGRAPHY BY

A message from the TSA Executive

On March 30, 2019 the Toronto Society of Architects held a full day public design charrette on the future of Ontario Place. This charrette was done in fulfillment of our mandate to promote civic engagement on issues of design and architecture and in response to the Ontario government's announcement of a new Expression of Interest seeking development concepts for Ontario Place. The following report summarizes the ideas and discussions generated during this exercise.

While the explorations and proposals contained in this document showcase the almost endless possibilities for the site, they also highlight some fundamental shared visions for the future of this architectural and cultural landmark, namely:

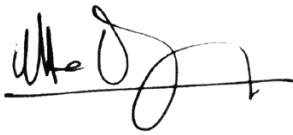
- the existing built form, both architectural and landscape, are important and irreplaceable cultural assets which can and should be built upon;
- Ontario Place's unique location on the shores of Lake Ontario should be the driving force behind any future development - utilizing this unique site to its maximum potential;
- public access to the lake and the shore should be prioritized and parkland preserved and expanded;
- the sustainability of Ontario Place lies beyond the islands, and involve a holistic understanding of the surrounding context including the mainland and neighbouring Exhibition Place;

- prioritizing programming is key in reactivating the site; and
- the future of Ontario Place needs to be a shared, multi-party vision involving both private and public organizations.

Perhaps the most important lesson we learnt during the charrette is how engaged and invested both the professional design community and the general public are about the future of this unique site. Ontario Place is a cultural asset that belongs to all Ontarians and public consultation and engagement need to play a leading role in setting the direction for its future and ensuring it is representative and reflective of our province's diversity, ideals and dreams.

We hope this design charrette and subsequent report act as a starting point for this discussion and make ourselves available to work with the Province, City and the public to ensure the future of Ontario Place is a shared one.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Denegri', written over a horizontal line.

Maria Denegri, OAA, FRAIC
Chair, Toronto Society of Architects

Reimagining Ontario Place | Design Charrette

The TSA Public Design Charrette regarding the vision for Ontario Place took place on March 30, 2019 at the Toronto Central YMCA in Toronto, Ontario.

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About this Charrette and Ontario Place

Opened in 1971, Ontario Place was an innovative and unprecedented project seeking to revitalize Toronto's waterfront by creating a large urban park on a previously neglected segment of the shoreline. This multi award-winning project consists of 90 acres of man-made islands and lagoons, with the centerpiece of the complex being the five exhibition pavilions suspended high above the water and the world's first permanent IMAX theatre – the Cinesphere.

Over the years, the original design of Ontario Place has been altered considerably with the demolition of some of its features and the introduction of new additions. In 2012, the provincial government announced that public sections of the park would be closed and redeveloped. In 2014, the Government of Ontario's Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Sport declared Ontario Place to be a "cultural heritage landscape of provincial significance," with the pods and Cinesphere identified as iconic design attributes.

The first phase of the revitalization was completed in June 2017 with the opening of the 7.5 acre Trillium Park and 1.3 kilometre William G. Davis Trail. The Cinesphere also officially reopened in 2017 after being fully renovated and restored.

On January 18, 2019, the Ontario Government announced its intention to release a new Expression of Interest for development concepts for the Ontario Place site. **This charrette is in response to this new Expression of Interest and hopes to inform and help shape the proposals for the future of Ontario Place.**

Goals

The goal of this charrette was to explore visions for Ontario Place's future - a future that builds upon the site's remarkable architectural, landscape and cultural legacy and ensures its vitality for generations to come.

Constraints

Throughout the charrette participants were asked to consider the parameters that are currently posted on the Government of Ontario's website for Ontario Place and which will be included in the Expression of Interest for development concepts for the Ontario Place site being prepared by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport and Infrastructure Ontario.

These parameters are listed below:

- The areas available for development include the Ontario Place islands, mainland, pods, and the Cinesphere.
- Proposals may be for a portion of the site or for the entire site. The government intends to maintain 7.5 acres of park land. Submissions that propose the use of any part of Trillium Park will be required to develop new park land of an equivalent size at the site.
- Residential uses for the site will not be considered.

In addition to the parameters set by the Government of Ontario, participants were also encouraged to consider the core principles included in the **City of Toronto's Central Waterfront Secondary Plan and Making Waves- Central Waterfront Plan Part II (2003)** - namely:

- Removing barriers/making connections
- Building a network of spectacular waterfront parks and public spaces
- Promoting a clean and green environment
- Creating dynamic and diverse new communities

Participants were also encouraged to consider the original design intent and features of Ontario Place. A short presentation by Zeidler Partnership Architects on the history and design of Ontario Place was carried out as part of the introductory session. The Government of Ontario's Statement of Cultural Heritage Value indicates key heritage and design attributes.

Participants were, of course, welcomed to explore visions that go beyond these parameters - whether by expanding the site being considered or the type of program being introduced.

Summary of the Day

The charrette started with a brief series of introductions and presentations. Participants were introduced to the overall objectives of the charrette by TSA Chair Maria Denegri. She was followed by two presentations to provide additional information on the original design intent and features of Ontario Place, as well as an overall look at some of the constraints for the site.

The presentations were done by:

Maria Denegri, TSA Chair
Jurgen Henze, Partner, Zeidler Partnership Architects
Lynda Macdonald, Director, Community Planning, Toronto and East York District,
City of Toronto

After the presentations participants were divided into 12 teams, each bringing together a mix of built environment professionals such as architects, engineers and landscape architects as well as people outside the industry. Teams had 4 hours to discuss, create and synthesize their ideas into a brief presentation.

The charrette ended with group presentations by all 12 teams summarizing their day's work and findings. The group presentations were open to anyone who wished to attend. Groups were presented four at a time and comments by a jury were provided in between the presentations.

The members of the jury were:

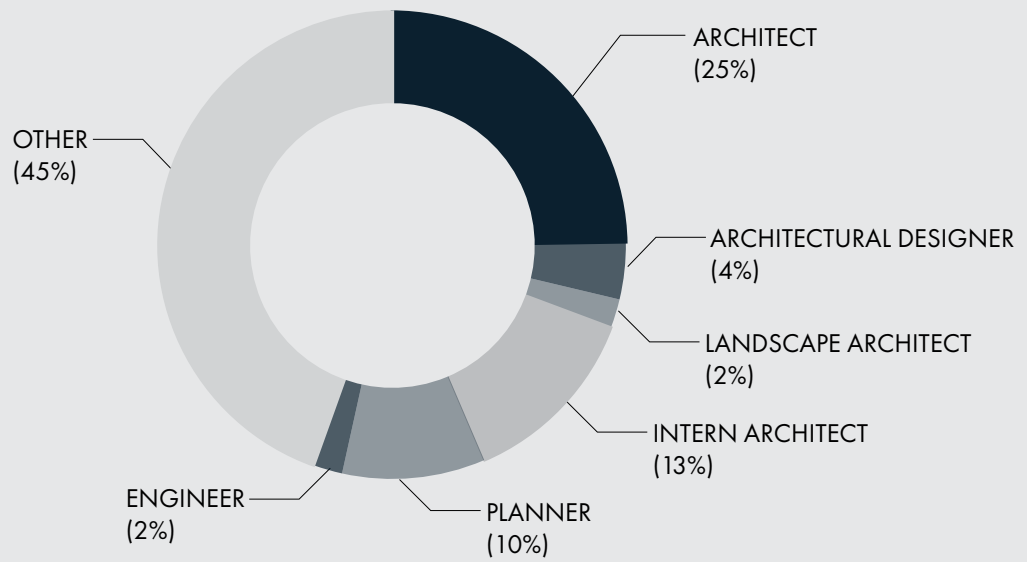
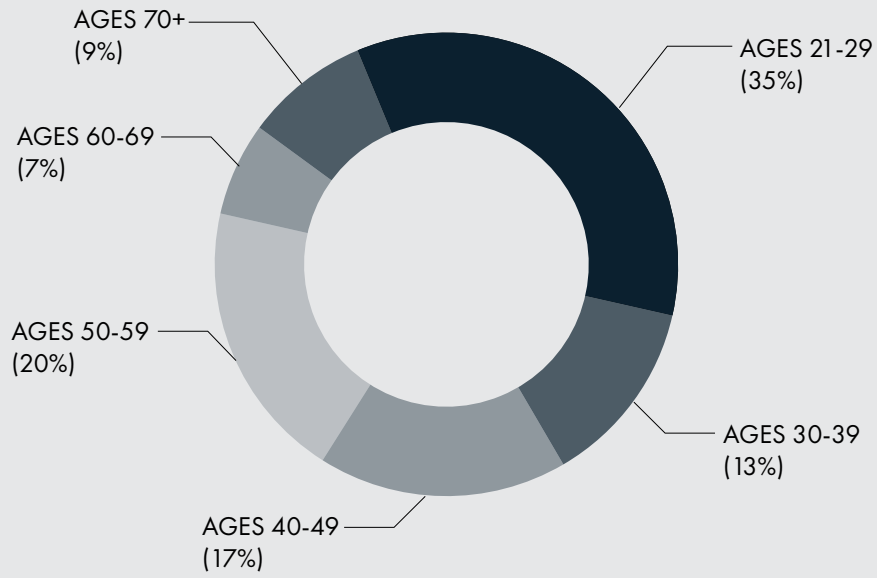
Alex Bozikovic
Alissa North
Antonio Gomez-Palacio
David Sisam
Michael McClelland

Participants

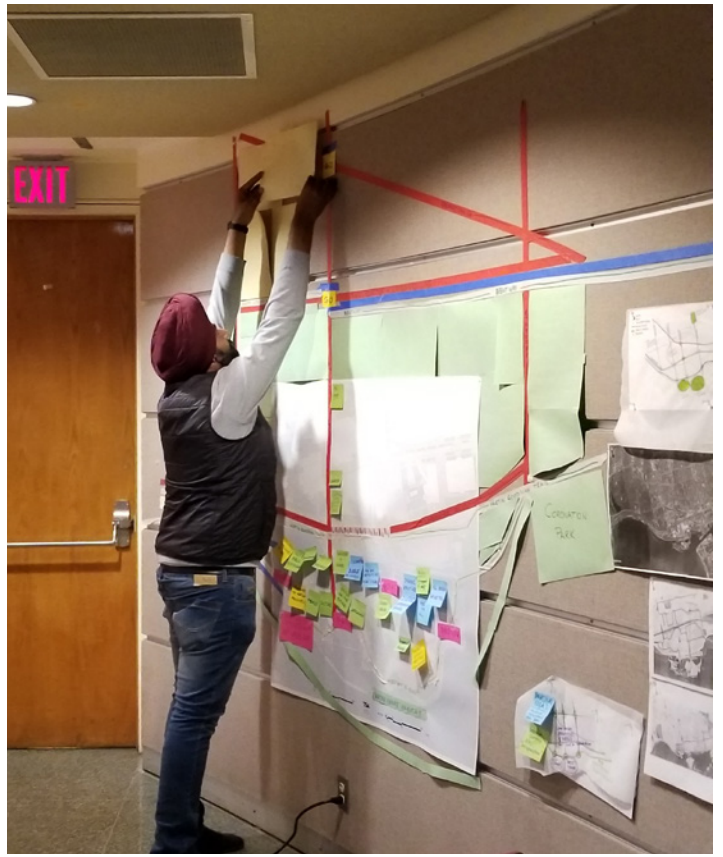
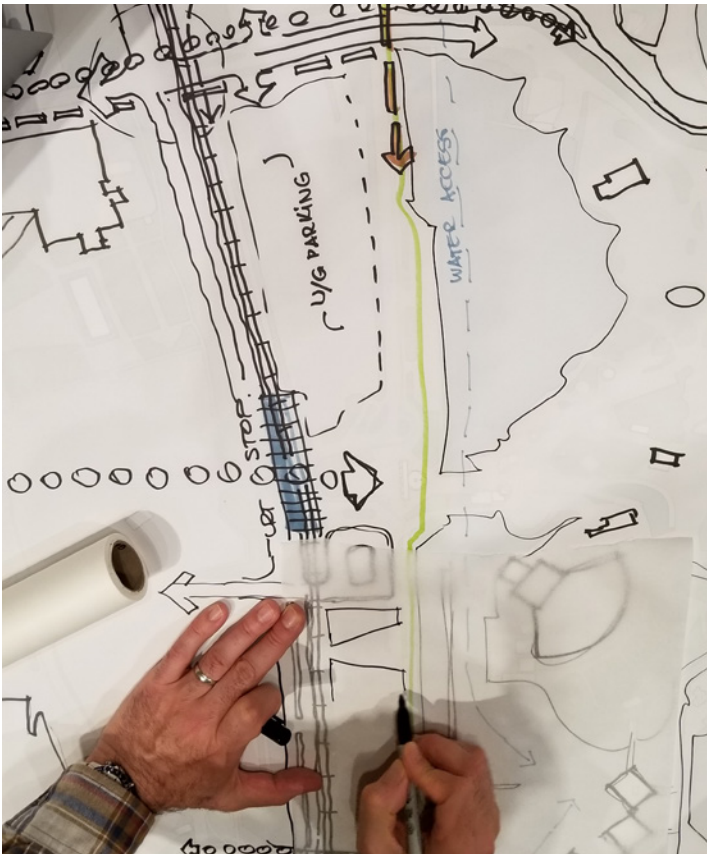
Participants at this design charrette represented a mix of industry experts and members of the general public sharing a commitment to the future of Ontario Place. A wide range of age groups was also present, with the largest age group represented being those between 21 and 29 years old.

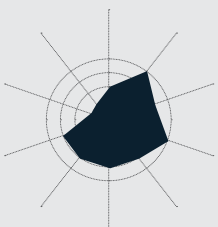
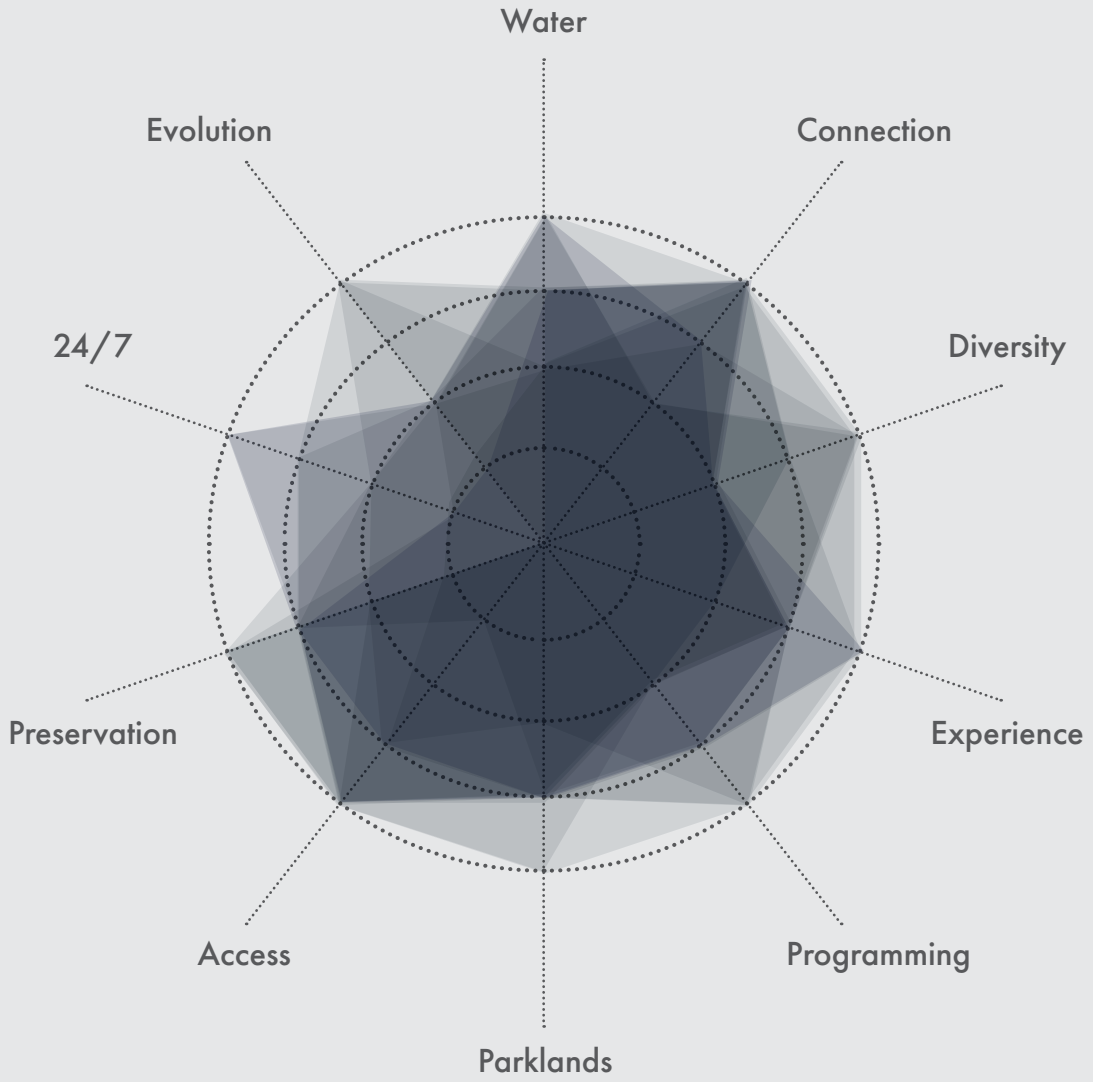
In total, 75 individuals partook in the entirety of the charrette, not counting volunteers who assisted the groups throughout the day. In addition to charrette participants, presentations of the final results were attended by a larger audience.

A summary of some key demographics of those who participated in the charrette are diagrammed on the opposite page.

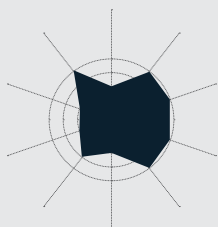




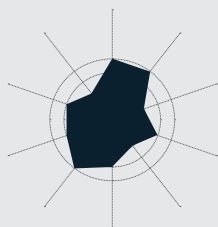




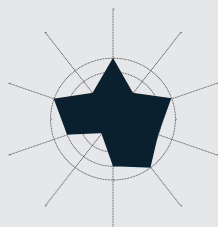
Team 1



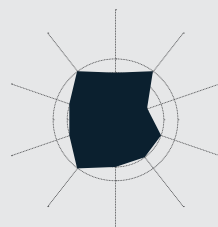
Team 2



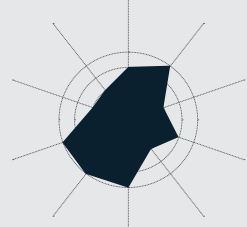
Team 3



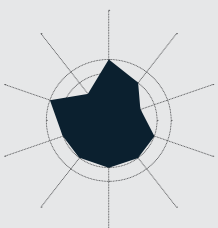
Team 4



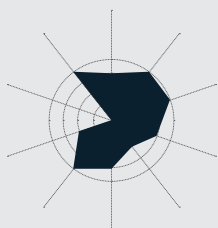
Team 5



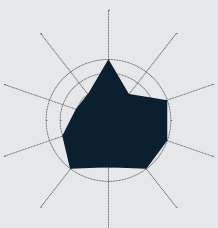
Team 6



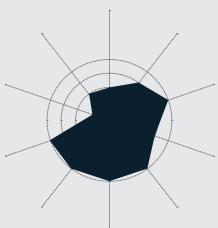
Team 7



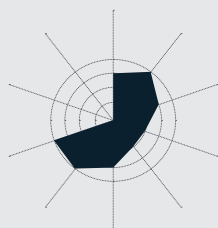
Team 8



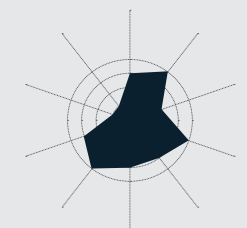
Team 9



Team 10



Team 11



Team 12

Themes and Insights

The teams launched into the design charrette to reimagine Ontario Place with research, brainstorming, ideation and a lot of sketching! Having identified current challenges with regards to the site, they subsequently developed an array of concepts that respond to the needs of Ontarians today and into the future.

Though the concepts differ in the details, it is evident that many common themes and insights emerged through this public voice. These include: water, connection, diversity, experience, programming, parklands, access, preservation, 24/7 (use), and evolution.

The diagrams on the opposite page illustrate the diverse levels of emphasis with which each team addressed these common themes, as well as the overlap in themes. Their unique compositions drive the teams' diverse approaches to envisioning Ontario Place of the future.

Key Themes

Water
Connection
Diversity
Experience
Programming

Parklands
Access
Preservation
24/7 Use
Evolution



Water

Water is a theme that was voiced by the public in various forms throughout the charrette. It was referenced as the site’s unique selling proposition; the raison d’être for future development; and the impetus for family-friendly fun upon which Ontario Place was established. It was also suggested that all ideas for future development should be linked to water, otherwise they can be anywhere in the city. Water was also proposed as a solution to increase site access and mitigate perceived barriers by offering a new transit option that traverses the shoreline of Toronto.



Connection

Connection was a central theme and aspiration for Ontario Place throughout the public visioning session. This ranged from connecting Toronto, Ontario, and the Lake; past, present and future; surrounding neighbourhoods (Liberty Village and Exhibition Place to the North, Beaches, Port Lands and Union Station to the East, Humber Bay to the West, and Toronto Islands to the South); people with nature (the ability to enter the water to swim and play); and forging connections amongst the public through activities such as a community garden, pop-up events, and a DIY community collaboration kit.



Diversity

Diversity is a recurring thread that weaves itself amongst the different visions for Ontario Place. The concept is expressed in many forms: diversity of the citizens of Toronto and the public accessing the site; diversity of activities and programming required to attract sufficient traffic for a viable and successful site; diversity in modes of

transportation to ensure access to the site; and the diversity of providers necessary to offer the range of programming envisioned for the site.



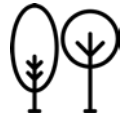
Experience

Ontario Place was repeatedly framed as more than a destination; but rather, as a holistic experience. A place where one can return time and time again to spend an hour, a day, or simply pass through. A place to see, learn, and make. A place that evokes strong memories. A place where the public is a co-creator in forging their experience onsite. As such, in addition to planning what one can ‘do’, it is necessary to envision the entire journey of Ontario Place, including the surrounding circumstances of the visit, and how to enrich the navigation to, from and within the site, in order to create memorable and recurring experiences.



Programming

The beauty of a public design charrette lies in revealing the voice of the public. At an event hosted by the Toronto Society of Architects, one may assume that architectural grandeur is top of mind. Instead, programming was the common theme that resonated throughout the day. Ideas revolved around ‘hyper-activating’ the site with public parklands and ephemeral activities; waterside retail, food and beverage offerings; educational partnerships to spur innovation; institutional anchors; and commercial and residential applications to activate the site 24/7 in all four seasons. ‘Program the (existing) site and people will come’ was echoed throughout the charrette.



Parklands

The significance of preserving parklands as an element of Ontario Place was voiced through various applications: the preservation of parks for family friendly public use; a nature haven within the city; habitat preservation for animals; ecology research and education; conservation activities; and an evergreen forest that echoes the landscape of Ontario. The creation of new elevated parks and green bridges to connect with adjacent communities and forge a network of activity spaces onsite was also proposed.



Access

Access to Ontario Place was a recurring theme throughout the charrette. This was expressed in terms of access to transit and mobility both to and around the site (how do we eliminate this perceived barrier); access in terms of affordability (maintaining public access to Ontario Place for everyone, with the opportunity to generate revenue from select events and activities); access in terms of inclusion (regardless of age, culture, physical abilities, monetary means, etc.); access to nature (the ability to reach and enjoy land and water); and access in terms of the ability to connect to surrounding neighbourhoods.



Preservation

The launching point for many discussions throughout the charrette centered around what is currently onsite; what must remain; and what needs to change. Preservation of existing architectural structures, aboriginal roots, Trillium Park, an inclusive mission, and safeguarding water and parklands, was unanimous throughout the

event. What differed is the way the public envisions their reinterpretation of Ontario Place as the site moves into the future.



24/7

24/7 use has been proposed as a critical success factor in developing a site that is safe and not left in disarray or isolation parts of the day or year. The public has offered an array of options to accomplish this, including residential uses such as student housing in conjunction with nearby universities or onsite educational partnerships, or artist live/work studios, both of which activate the site and create an invested community without private ownership. Alternatively, given the proliferation of globalization and flexible workforces that buck traditional 9-to-5 workdays, inviting alternative industries that, for example, fabricate overnight, has been proposed.



Evolution

Conceived in 1967, the context and community surrounding Ontario Place have changed drastically in the last fifty years. Local demographics have changed, and so too have the community's needs. The public has deemed that Ontario Place is a place for transformation and reflection; a place that ought to represent Ontarians today, but also a place for experimentation and evolution, a testing ground for innovation with which we can navigate and launch Ontarians into the future.

TEAM SUMMARIES

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Ontario Place is a place for the public to create their own stories of Ontario Place, at Ontario Place.



TEAM 1

This project focuses on the revitalization of Ontario Place through Preservation, Diversity, and the creation of Experiences.

Maintaining the existing physical infrastructure of the site, Team 1's vision for Ontario Place enhances access and engagement, and acts as a catalyst for the exchange of stories.

Key Design Principles

- Activities that ebb and flow to suit the city's four seasons
- Activities that range in scale
- Activities that foster the exchange of stories and catalyze connections

Ideas to Execute this Vision

A **Walking Bus** that improves site access in a playful manner, offering a storytelling guide that invites the public – local citizens and tourists alike – on a journey both to and around the site, transforming a utilitarian trip from A to B into a journey of discovery that mimics the historic vision for Ontario Place.

A **DIY Collaboration Kit** that leverages technology such as beacons and sensors to enable the public to self-organize and create collective experiences such as a pop-up fishing hut event, a shipping container market, etc.

Jury's Remarks

This project is about inclusion, about people meeting, and about programming to connect people to each other and to the city. It is about animating the environment.

“

It's all about the journey from start to finish, and how you move through different parts of the site.

TEAM 2

'New generation; new traffic for Ontario Place', exclaims Team 2. Ontario Place has become isolated from the city, and the time has come to resurrect the connection between the Province, the City, and the Site to bring it back to life.

Transforming the routes around Ontario Place from a passage, to guided discovery, the links may include connections to Liberty Village through Exhibition Place; connections to Union Station and across the Waterfront; extending the Queen's Quay transit loop; and extending all bridges in the area to connect to Ontario Place.

Key Design Principles

- Green bridges to collect foot traffic as people navigate from different areas of the city
- A multitude of feature spots to break up the journey, enrich experiences, and entice citizens to spend more time between locations
- Augment the journey with today's technology

Ideas to Execute this Vision

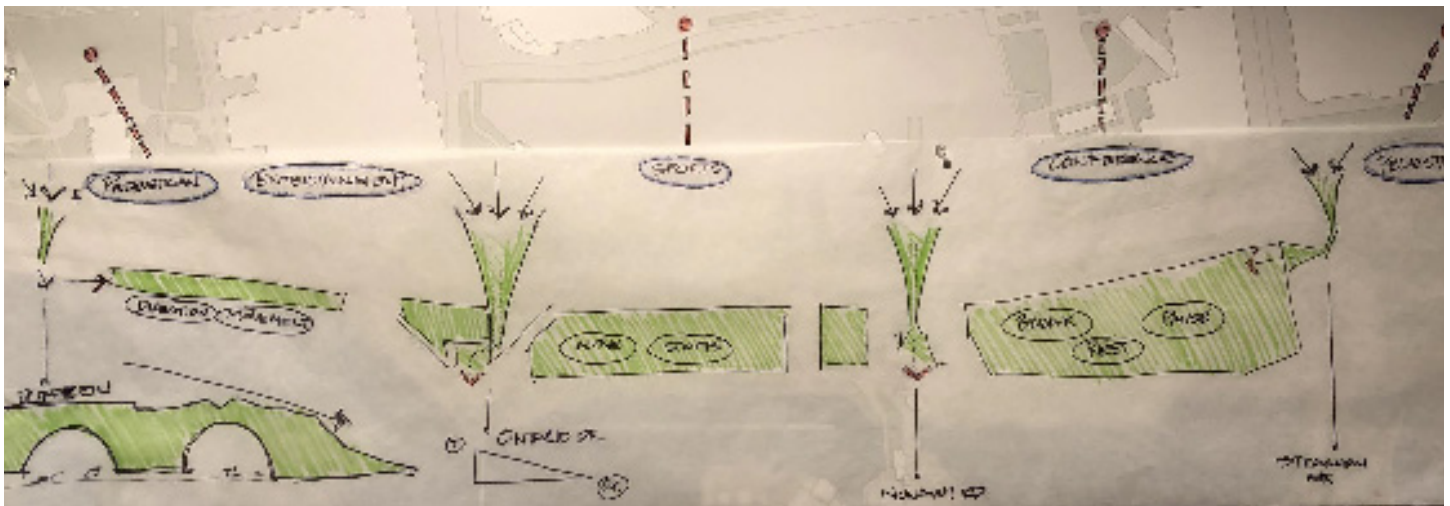
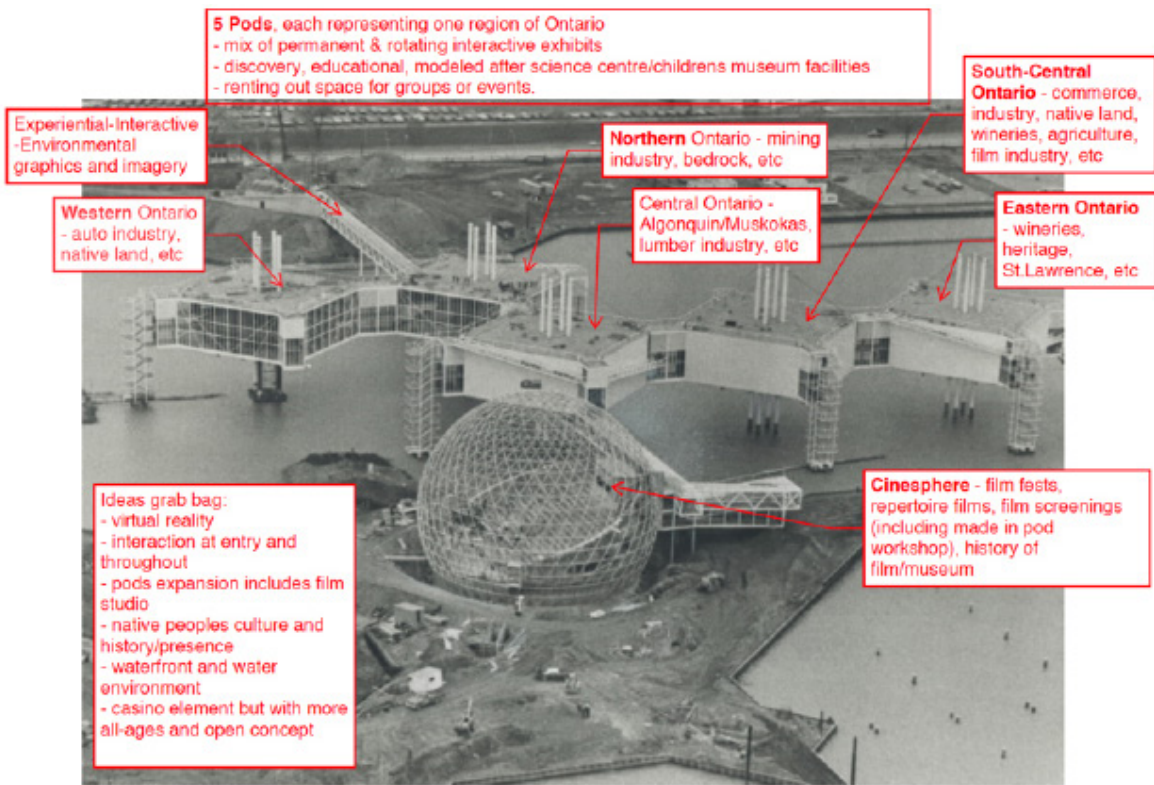
5 Pods that Represent the Regions of Ontario with a mix of permanent and rotating interactive exhibits (e.g. Eastern St. Lawrence Heritage, Northern Bedrock, Southern Wineries, Central Lumber Industry, etc.)

An **Augmented Reality Journey** through the site; past, present and future

Experiential Areas for Discovery and Education with Historic Presence and Native People's Culture, with the option to rent space for groups or events

Jury's Remarks

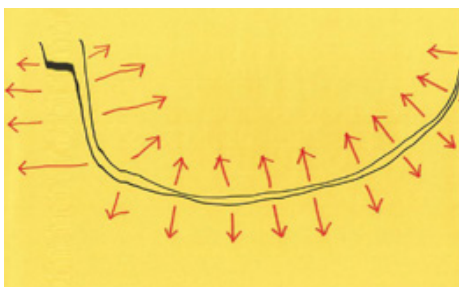
Team 2 had the very accurate intuition of the 'double whammy' of Lakeshore and the Gardiner as a barrier to Ontario Place, and the insight to connect them in a manner that creates safe places for exploring. The concept of designing a park for a virtual experience is leading edge; can Ontario Place be the first park to interface with the digital world?



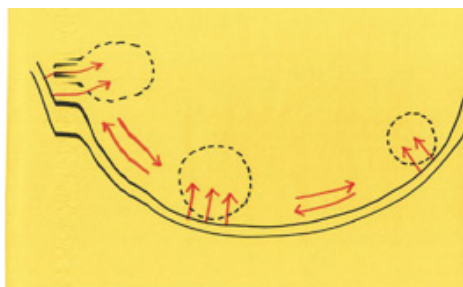
Past

Present

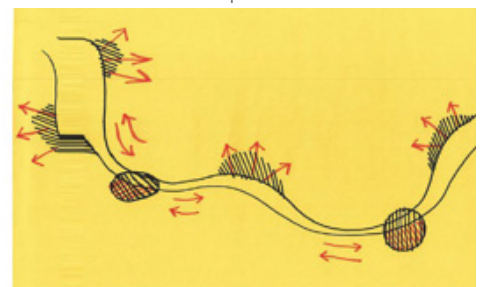
Proposal



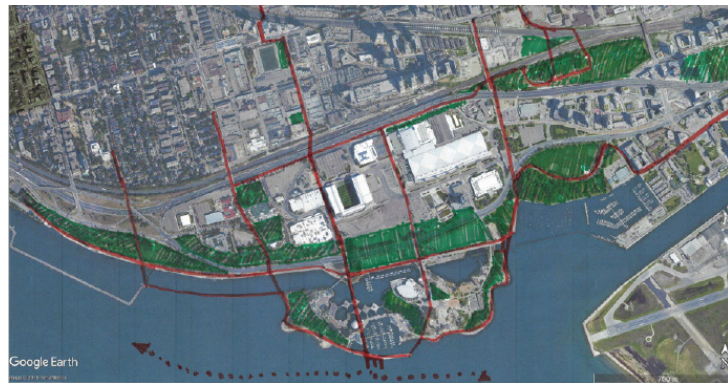
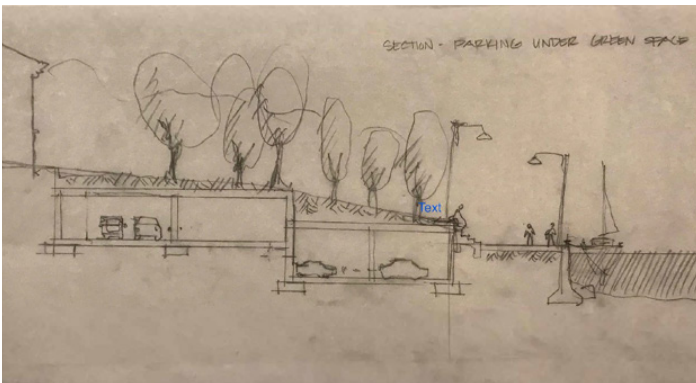
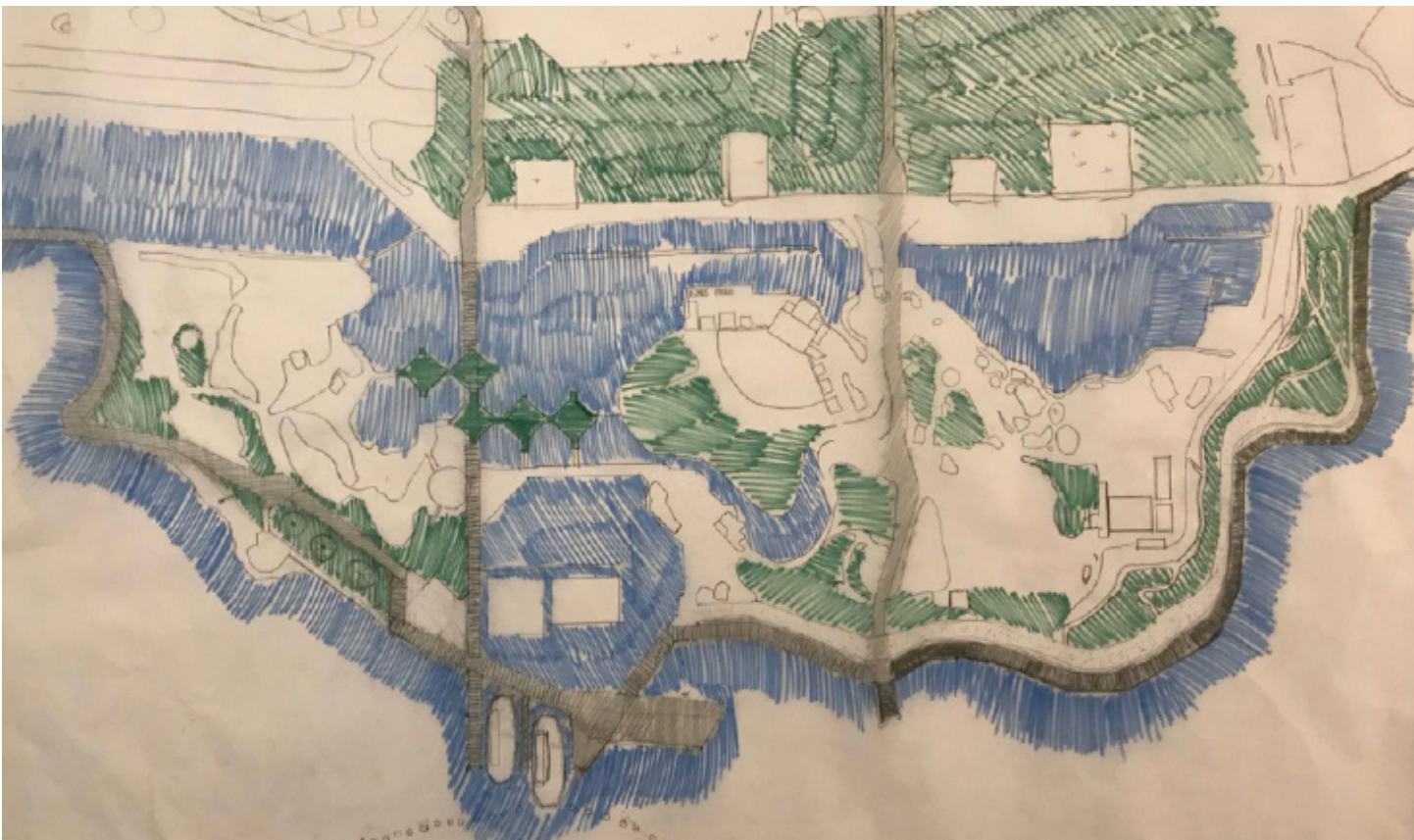
Explore



Passage



Guided



“

I don't think there's a Torontonians who is not passionate about Ontario Place; but also frustrated, because they can't access it.

TEAM 3

Torontonians are passionate about Ontario Place, and it is critical to create connectivity to link the fabric of the city with the waterfront.

Team 3 tackles this challenge by creating a cohesive network of parks with a large boardwalk and cycle paths that allow the public to approach the water's edge, in addition to a ferry route to connect the eastern and western edges of the city.

Key Design Principles

- Transform underutilized space (e.g. the land between Ontario Place and Exhibition Place) from a barrier into a route / journey
- Bury parking below grade to free up space for nature and activity
- Create a place for people to enjoy and explore
- Design for the public to visit in all four seasons
- Develop a wide enough offering for people to spend the entire day at the site
- Connect via land and water with routes for all seasons

Ideas to Execute this Vision

Water Ferry Route to add an access point and connect waterfront destinations in the city

3-Tier Boardwalk that offers green space and a place to walk, cycle and skate (in the winter) with submerged parking to generate revenue

Floating Market Space that transforms the yacht club from an exclusive to inclusive aquatic venue

World Water Museum in the pods

Greenhouse Space on top of the flat Pods for the public to rent plots to grow crops, as well as growing demonstration space

Jury's Remarks

The water connection is very interesting and attractive. Putting the ferry 'out on the street' offers potential for both entertainment and commuter traffic. The idea of creating access and safe spaces for families and children (e.g. the 3-tier boardwalk) is a theme that continues to emerge.

“

This is not a design exercise;
what is there is great –
how do we fill it?

TEAM 4

The existing site is a wonderful backbone. Current challenges are associated with how to connect to and within the site, and how to activate it to attract a diverse public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Let's rethink how to bring people of all ages to Ontario Place at all times.

Team 4 proposes that in order to garner the number of visitors required to make the site viable year-round, it must offer a multitude of reasons to visit through a healthy melange of Live / Work / Learn / Play / Eat. This, it surmises, can only be staged and delivered over time by multiple players.

Key Design Principles

- Design for 24/7 use through a mix of Live-Work-Learn-Play-Eat to keep the site lively
- All ideas must be linked to water and the waterfront to be relevant and unique to the site
- Open the door for multiple organizations to collaborate and co-exist rather than focus on a single solution

Ideas to Execute this Vision

Play – Waterpark and swimming beaches in the summer, skating in the winter, indoor public space

Learn – Leverage pods for collaboration with educational institutions (e.g. Humber campus to the West) and cultural exhibitions such as a Museum of Toronto, Museum of Indigenous Heritage, etc.

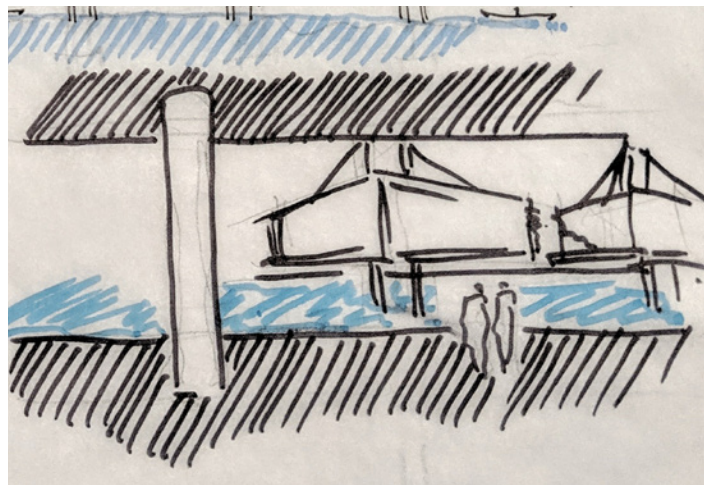
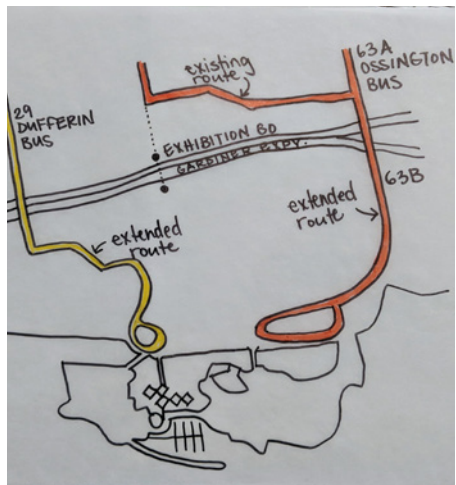
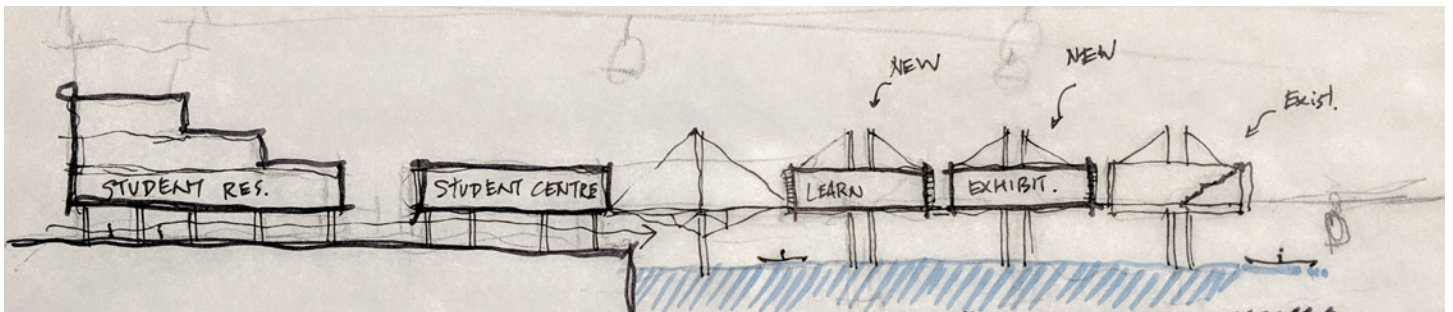
Work – Issue an RFP to fill select pods (e.g. private companies can lease office space, which will bring people to the site regularly)

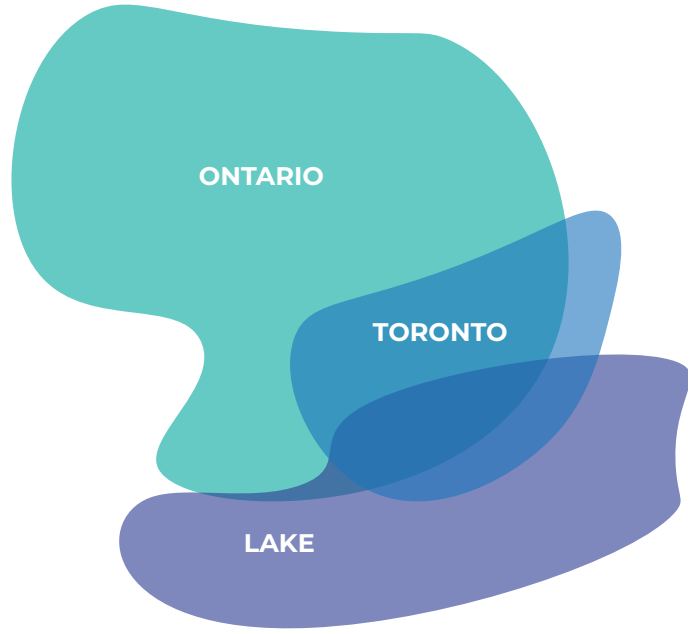
Live – Live/work artist studios and student residences built on parking lots offer 24/7 use without ownership and complement learning

Eat / Shop – Attract those on-site and off to help generate traffic to make the site viable year-round

Jury's Remarks

The team brings great insight around identifying programming rather than design as the key issue; making good of 'what's there'; designing for children; addressing seasonal problems; and understanding that it may take more than one organization to enact change. You need to bring live/work to the site to activate it - it is difficult to attract people to parkland alone in the winter!





“
Ontario Place is a landscape for constant reinvention so that we can have an active space for making our future Ontario!

TEAM 5

Ontario Place is a mediating space between the Province, the City, and the Lake. Positioned at the threshold of Lake Ontario, Team 5 deploys the analogy of Ontario Place as Toronto’s ‘Lake-Front-Yard’; a place to welcome the public, and a place to make, learn and explore.

Key tenets include first and foremost connectivity – uniting city, province and lake – offering multiple modes of access to our front porch. Sitting on the front steps of Toronto, education, discovery, and attention to the ecology of being on the water are critical to look towards the future, create an active space for making and experimenting, and position Ontario Place as a landscape for constant reinvention.

Key Design Principles

- Connect City, Province and Lake
- Celebrate the ecology of being on the water
- Be inclusive: invite and welcome everyone
- Incorporate play, making and discovery
- Build upon the Toronto Islands and enrich the journey to mitigate barriers to entry

Ideas to Execute this Vision

Augment Transportation with frequent tram / streetcar, water access / lake connectivity, and an ‘encouraging’ walking route through Exhibition Place and along the water’s edge

Add Residential / Mixed-Use Components including Artist Studios / Creative Residency and Student Residences, allowing people to ebb and flow onsite throughout the year

Floating Gardens to experiment with the ecology of the site and take an active role in ‘making’ the future of Ontario Place

Harvest Local Crops

Explore Education and Recreation as a symbiosis of art and science through a journey of discovery, such as purification and flood prevention activities where you can witness the health of the lake beneath the pods

Create a **Necklace of Connected Spaces** for discovery by building on the water

Jury’s Remarks

The idea of the ‘front yard’ and what follows has a lot of value. This is a concept of collective imagination, with a strong demonstration of how we should live. Water as a lively character with personality, as a space for discovery rather than a void, is a powerful idea. It also incorporates a provincial perspective, regarding connecting the lake across the province.

“

We ought to reuse what is there and remodel it, rather than shave it down.

TEAM 6

Connections, connections, connections; the barriers in getting to Ontario Place must be eradicated. Team 6 envisions maximizing green space and utilizing it to bridge diverse access points to “encircle the park with heart”.

Using the existing site as a launch pad, this will require adjustments and additions to the current transit routes, pedestrian-friendly and accessible infrastructure, as well as the definition of activity zones throughout the site that leak out into the city.

Key Design Principles

- Maximize green space and give ‘heart’
- Weave the park together with the city through a series of activity spots
- Move parking underground and replace it with landscape and monuments

Ideas to Execute this Vision

New Access Points to break through the barrier of Lakeshore Boulevard and re-weave the urban fabric: move bus route 29 a bit south; connect North/South with bridges and extend the park onto mainland (to

the GO Station); connect East/West with parking, streetcars and shuttle buses that connect to transit; extend the Martin Goodman trail

Landscape Buffer to bike, trail, swim, fish, etc.

Water and Early Education Centre e.g. science center, water education, Makerspace, STEM Lab,

Cinesphere and Pods / Restaurants to increase access and foot traffic

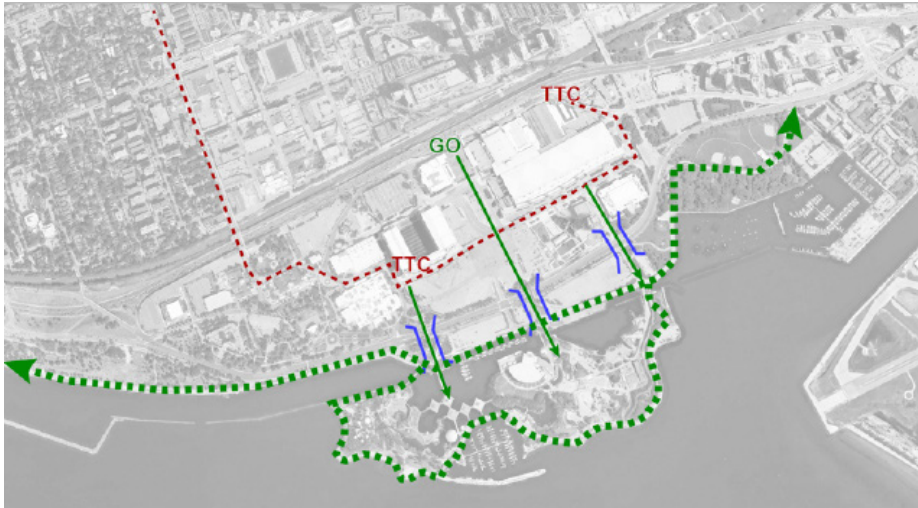
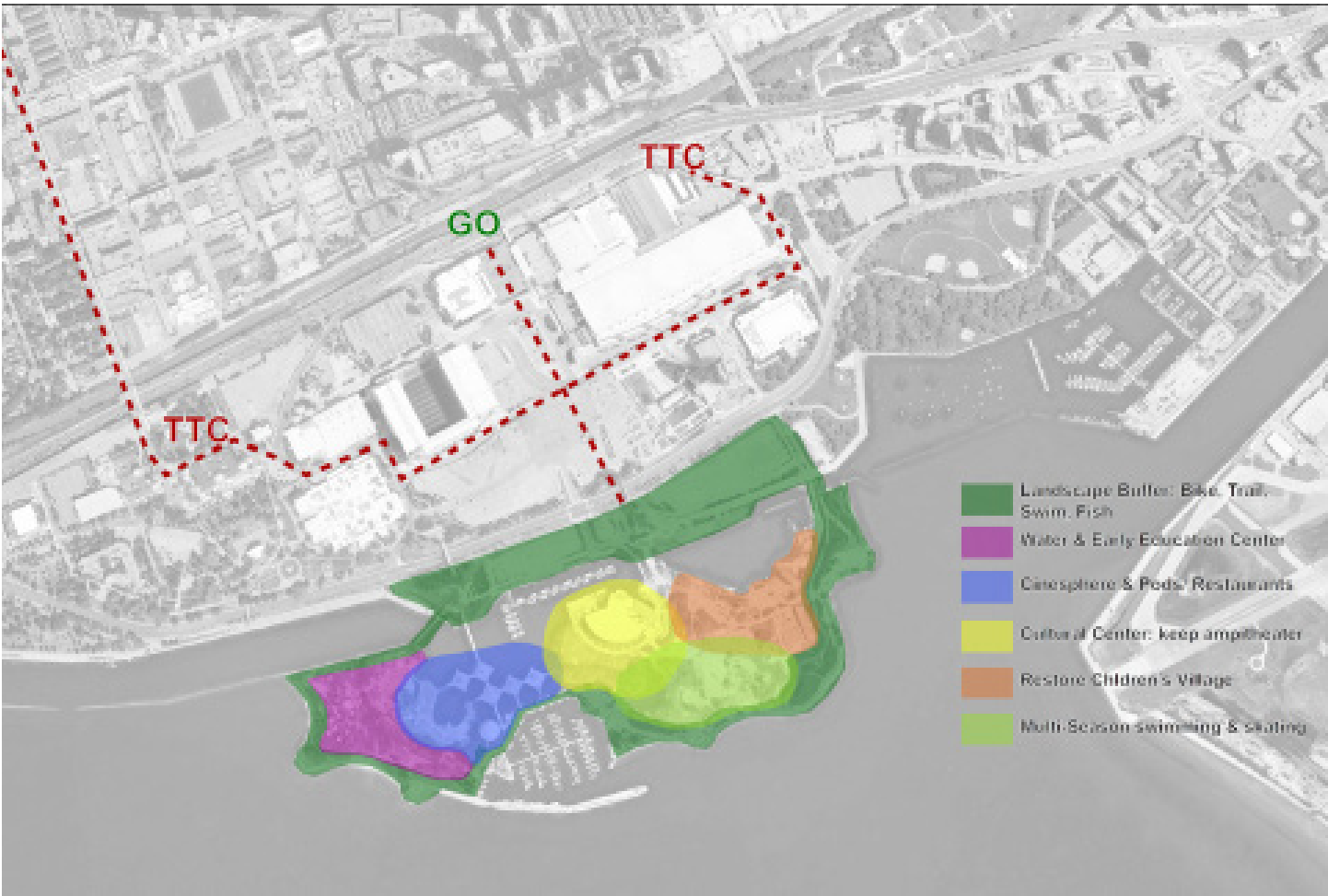
Cultural Centre to showcase the history of the waterfront, an Ontario Museum, etc.

Restore the Children’s Village for family-friendly fun, winterizing it for field trips, etc., year-round

Multi-Season Swimming and Skating to generate traffic and collectively incur tourist revenue

Jury’s Remarks

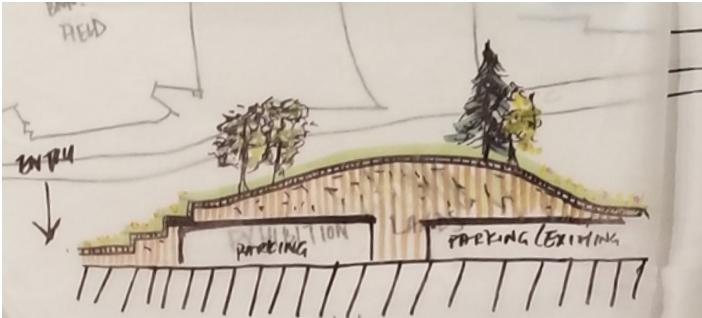
The concept of barriers is critical when speaking about Ontario Place. Here we have tackled access and transit. What if we continued to explore Ontario Place for all; what other barriers would we encounter? Would it be culture? Affordability? What else? It is interesting to consider that by simply linking the site, revitalization will start to happen. The City will be the real driver in order to make some of these changes a reality.





Elevated Parks Over Parking Lots

East Island as Shoreline Retailers



“ Ontario Place can be re-envisioned as a complete community and a destination accessible by all.

TEAM 7

Launching into a discussion around what we must safeguard and where there is room for redevelopment, preserving the pods, Cinesphere, Trillium Park, and the premise of waterfront experiences became central to a partial site redevelopment that transforms Ontario Place into an easily accessed 'complete community' and destination.

This will be accomplished by dividing the site into three (3) zones that provide public space (including retail and parkland), civic / institutional use, and live-work space, augmented by bridges and linkages that reconnect the island that has been orphaned from the City of Toronto.

Key Design Principles

- Create a Complete Community that connects with the city
- Anchor land and water
- Design around waterfront experiences & 24/7 use

Ideas to Execute this Vision

Elevated Public Park to connect with the City

Retail, Food Hall & Urban Farm as public spaces that suit diverse interests

Museum, Gallery & Observatory / Planetarium for the public to experience and discover

High Tech Park with live/work space, coworking, research, technology and prototyping that leverage alternative industries (e.g. that fabricate overnight) to generate 24/7 activity

Jury's Remarks

Ontario Place is not finished, and there are many ways to accomplish that. Team 7 looks to our heritage, yet deems that interventions should be of our time and look toward the future.

“

An inclusive meeting place for all citizens of the province.

TEAM 8

Team 8 seeks to bridge the gap between what was and what can be, creating a new, inclusive, nature-focused meeting place for all citizens of the Province.

The critical success factors in deploying such a site lie in interconnectivity; creating a site that welcomes diversity in all forms; that reconciles past, present and future; and that links man and nature.

Key Design Principles

- Design for multi-generational activities to suit varying demographics
- Honour the indigenous heritage and foster positive relationships between local indigenous communities, Ontarians and the government
- Create spaces for interaction that mitigate the nature/human divide
- Build a network of parks and public spaces

Ideas to Execute this Vision

Indigenous Art & Culture Centre that highlights and pays tribute to indigenous land use

Lakeshore / Ontario Place Transit Hub that links

Exhibition Place station, the 509 streetcar, bus stops, bike docking stations, and ride-share drop-off zones

Water-Based Transit for recreational and commuter use

William Davis Trail Extension around the perimeter of Ontario Place, connecting to retail / cultural zones, and converting into a skate trail in the winter

Accessible Public Beach

Local Flora to nurture Ontario's plant species and create migratory zones for native birds

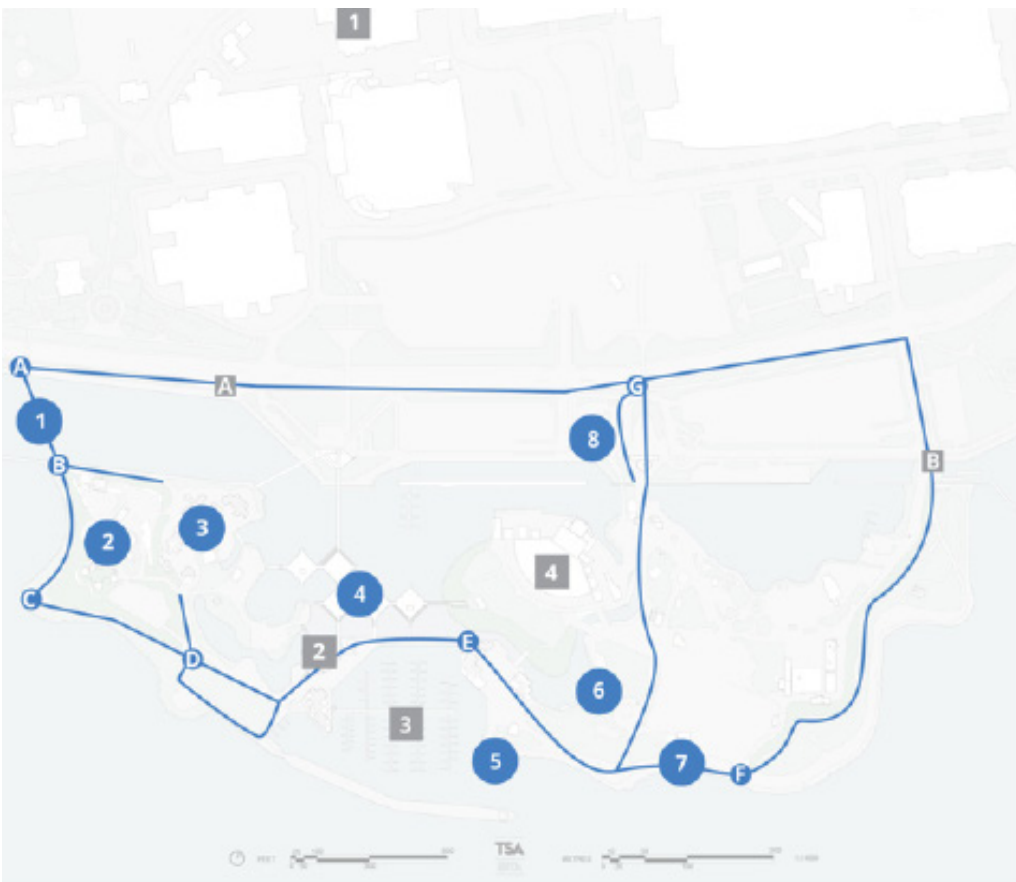
Future City Zone & Experience Museum for children and teenagers to look towards the future and highlight future city building, modern technology, and an educational hub

Jury's Remarks

Reconciliation is a strong concept; it is time to have this conversation and dissolve the human / nature divide. Toronto has changed, yet we must recognize our past. Aboriginal recognition is important. When Ontario Place was conceived, it was ahead of its time. Now, it is time to look at a future that is no longer ours; we must look ahead to our current future.

ONTARIO PLACE 2025

A New Meeting Place for Torontonians



EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE

- 1 Exhibition GO Station
- 2 Onesphere
- 3 Prince Marina
- 4 Molson Amphitheatre
- A B Bikeshare Lockups

PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE

- 1 Pedestrian and Bike Bridge
- 2 Public Beach
- 3 Indigenous Cultural Centre
- 4 Experience Museum for Children
- 5 Canoe and Kayak Leans
- 6 Beer Garden
- 7 Skating Loop in Winter
- 8 Ontario Place Transit Hub
- A B C D E F G Bikeshare Lockups and Pedestrian Lockouts
- Walking and Bike Path





1. consortium of profit + nonprofit organizations should run Ont. Place with gov oversight
2. each of those organizations will be given their own area
3. areas to consist of:
 - arts
 - entertainment + food
 - eco
 - amusement
 - hi-tech
 - educational
 - medical
 - parks
4. consortium partners on next page
5. architecture will be varied but cohesive



“

Let's take the outrageousness to bring people down to the water's edge.

TEAM 9

The existing experience of Ontario Place is disjointed and filled with physiological complexity. How might we leverage this outrageousness to create a playful identity for the site, bringing people to the water's edge with delight?

From a pragmatic perspective, this first requires improved access to bring people from all sides of the city. Infill spaces can be used to reduce the density gap on either side of the highway and activated in conjunction with Exhibition Place, which is currently used for autonomous events. Successful activation will lie in the coordination of diverse programming through a consortium of relevant partners.

Key Design Principles

- Ephemeral design that is seasonal, contextual, and relevant
- Family-friendly programming and artist spaces
- Preserve and draw inspiration from outrageous and courageous existing structures / architectural legacy
- Consortium of private and not-for-profit partners to run diverse programming with government oversight

Ideas to Execute this Vision

Partnerships may include educational institutions, corporate technology giants, the adjacent Navy, Canada's Wonderland, Artscape, Evergreen, etc.

Diverse Programming to cover arts, entertainment, food and beverage, amusement, environment, high-tech, education, medical, well-being, nature and parks

Jury's Remarks

This concept accurately pinpoints that there's a process involved with lots of consultation and partners, rather than a master planning exercise. Here, there is something for everyone, and building on the insanity is a novel concept we can use more of!

TEAM 10

Located at the intersection of communities where hundreds of thousands of people have recently come to live, we need to release the potential of Ontario Place through a number of connecting moves that preserve existing infrastructure, activate the park, and enlarge the surrounding frame.

It is time to do away with the existing disconnect and dead ends, and instead activate the land with unbelievable variety that reflects the city's inhabitants today, culminating in a 370-acre Ontario Waterfront Park connecting from Tommy Thompson in the East to Ontario Place in the west.

Key Design Principles

- Inclusion of Ontario's diversity and indigenous heritage
- Connection and accessibility for all ages; between heritage and future; and to the city's mobility and green network
- Dynamic, agile and modular to suit diverse seasons, species, uses and permanencies

Ideas to Execute this Vision

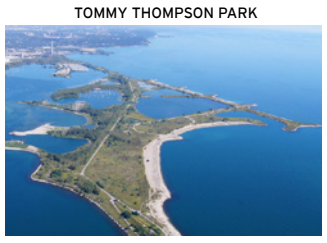
Connected Transit Network

Educational and Ecology Initiatives such as ash trees and endangered species preservation, a year-round nature trail, and Eco-Island Experimental Farm

Culture and Entertainment for an inclusive public

Jury's Remarks

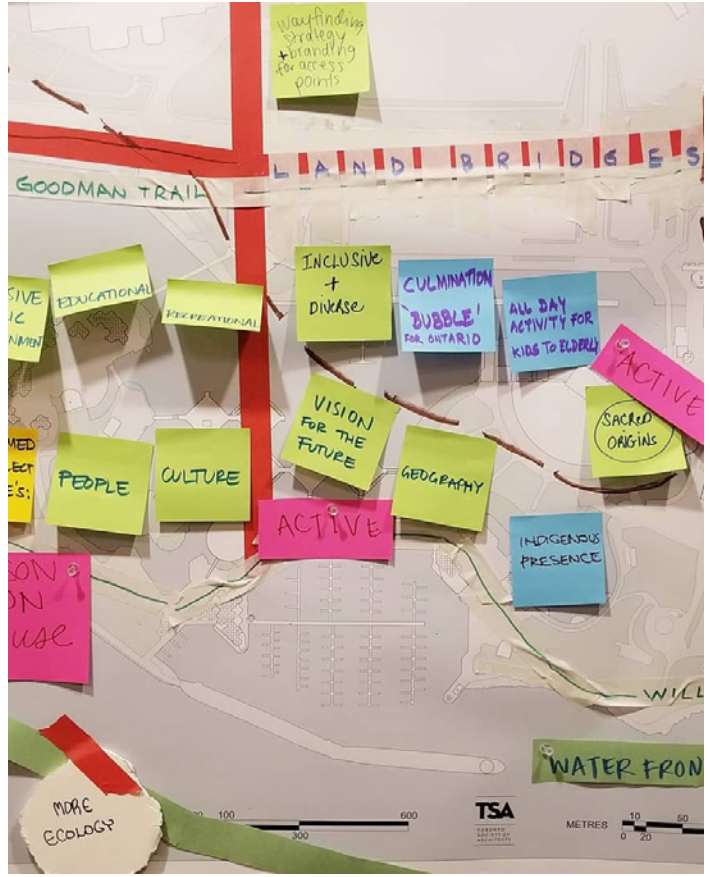
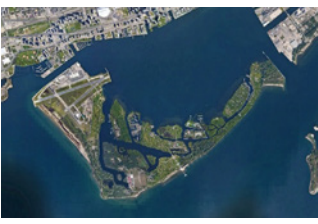
Team 10 jumps to the heart of the matter and uncalcifies the hard edge of the city. In creating a plan to enhance access first and foremost, the concept recognizes the importance of stepping back and looking at what matters to the entire city and serving its unique diversity.



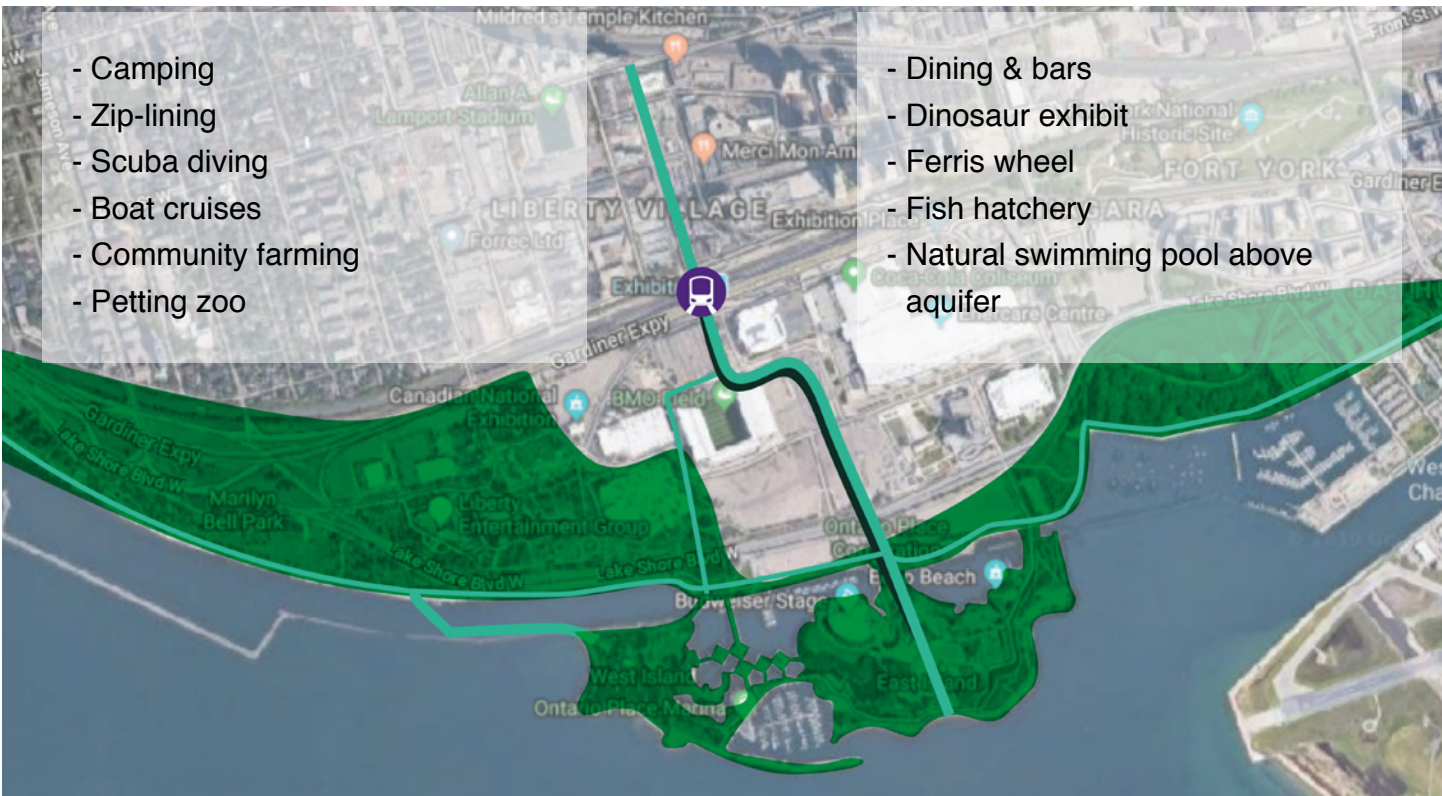
[WEST

TORONTO ISLAND

EAST]



“ We don’t need to find one silver bullet; there is room for many activities to take place.



“

The beauty of the diversity is that there's an opportunity for a sort of permanency in it.

TEAM 11

Public access to the islands and the waterfront is the priority. The team seeks to facilitate mobility by skewering through Liberty Village, Exhibition Place and Ontario Place, and erecting an elevated main street over Exhibition Place to unify them.

The team is determined to preserve the architectural integrity of the site, foster the natural habitat, and support family and social engagement. As a multi-purpose place for learning, innovation, and entertainment, it is important that public access to the site remains free of charge, while revenue is generated via event ticketing and select programming.

Key Design Principles

- Future development must be relegated to land and not interfere with the water to preserve the integrity of the unique site
- New structures ought to refer to the architecture of the existing pavilions and cinesphere
- Create a transit bypass loop to guarantee access and longevity

Ideas to Execute this Vision

Outdoor Activities and a natural swimming pool

Technology and Innovation Hub supported by a University Campus

Collective Activities for diverse people to come together, such as community farming

Exhibition Space and Art Gallery

Ontario Science Centre Extension to promote learning

Natural Environment that protects and connects all species and inhabitants

Jury's Remarks

Establishing a single elevated walkway to connect communities is a powerful concept. The considerations around how much to develop and how are critical. The emphasis on outside activities and a natural swimming pool defends the publicness of the park; a park that is undoubtedly linked to its position in the city.

“

Let's give it purpose.
Let's create memories.
Let's tell the story of Ontario
today, and how it connects
to our past.

TEAM 12

“Retelling the Ontario Story”, Team 12 launched their challenge with a memory map that identified the areas of Ontario Place that elicit the most memories.

Their discussions awakened themes around the role of Ontario Place in the city, access to transportation to get to and around the site, and the idea of creating purpose. They focus on three areas: the water, the environment (opportunity for development), and the architecture, which evokes a strong visual identity for the site.

Key Design Principles

- Create access and connectivity at all levels; land, water, and the journey between them
- Give purpose to a place that didn't have purpose before
- Communicate the Ontario Story
- Provide access to nature
- Animate the streets
- Evoke the serenity of the water
- Add layers of activity to create emotion and lasting memories

Ideas to Execute this Vision

Water Taxis to create a new access point

Iconic Swan Paddleboat to bring back a relic that evokes memories and offers entertainment; adding a **water filtration system** creates a layer of sustainability and enables the public to purify the water as they enjoy the ride

Linear Parks to connect to upper neighbourhoods

Evergreen Trees to mimic the landscape of Ontario

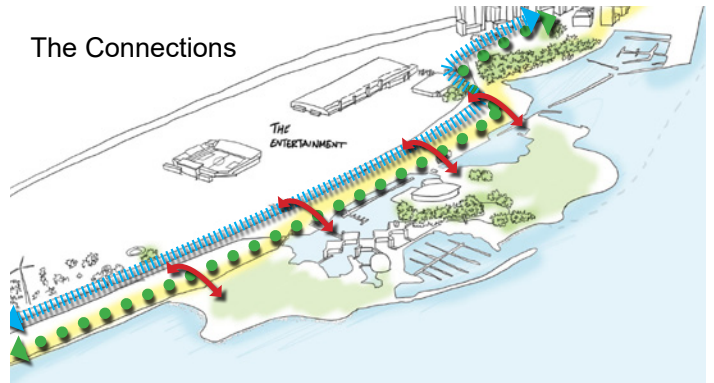
Research and Learning Centre as an educational institution related to the ecology of the site to drive innovation (Ontario of the Future) and yield a workforce that animates the streets

Jury's Remarks

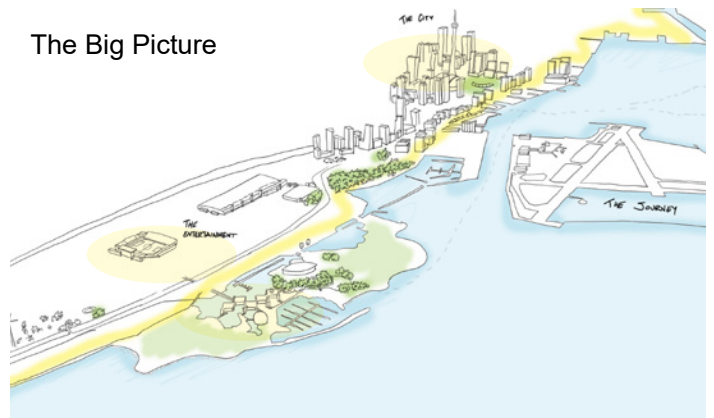
When people mention Ontario Place, they automatically start to share memories; a memory map and weaving it into a park where the public can create and exchange memories together is strong. It is important to consider what the site means to the public. The focus on water and research, bridging past, present and future, also resonates. The swan paddle boats introduce the idea of 'fun' into environmental and revitalization initiatives.



The Connections



The Big Picture



THE PEOPLE

Thank you!

The Toronto Society of Architects would like to express its gratitude to everyone who made this design charrette and subsequent report possible, and to all those who made it out to this day of participatory design. Thank you for caring about our city and for taking an active role in shaping its future.

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About the Toronto Society of Architects

Established in 1887, the Toronto Society of Architects (TSA) is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization dedicated to the promotion, celebration and advancement of architecture and design in Toronto and the surrounding region. Our membership is comprised of architects, professionals from sister disciplines, and every day Torontonians interested in architecture and urban issues.

The TSA plays an advocacy role in the city, ensuring that architecture and design are key considerations in public discussions and in processes that have an impact on our built environment. We do this through a wide range of initiatives and programs, including forums, lectures, tours and special events and initiatives. Our advocacy work is complemented by initiatives meant to improve the skills of our members and make the architectural profession more accessible and welcoming.

The TSA is a Local Society of the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA), which is the licensing and regulatory body that governs the practice of architecture in Ontario.

www.torontosocietyofarchitects.ca

Credits

Images

by Participants

Architectural Drawings and Photography

Zeidler Partnership Architects
Denegri Bessai Studio
Toronto Society of Architects

Icons

From the Noun Project: Water by faisalovers; Nature by Made by Made; Twenty four hours by Matt Wasser; Diversity by Adrien Coquet; Human Evolution by Gan Khoo Lay; Revolution by Vectors Point; Connection by Mark Aventura; Key by Travis Avery; Games by Andy Miranda; Experience by priyanka; Conservation by faisalovers.

