

A watercolor illustration of a park scene. In the foreground, there are various plants and flowers in shades of green, yellow, and red. A path leads through a dense forest of trees with green foliage. In the background, a large, domed building is visible through the trees. The sky is a light blue wash. The overall style is artistic and sketchy.

# Guild Park Virtual Tour

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**TSA**

TORONTO  
SOCIETY OF  
ARCHITECTS

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# **TSA**

**Did you enjoy last year's  
Virtual Tours?**

**We'll put on your walking  
shoes and grab your  
phone because we've  
got more tours lined up  
for you!**

# **TSA**

**This time we're heading  
east to Scarborough as  
we explore a place  
where art, architecture  
and nature meet at the  
water's edge...**





**Guild Park and Gardens**

 **Barbara Eguchi**

*Barbara Eguchi*





Friends of Guild Park and Gardens 📷

**Sitting atop the Scarborough Bluffs, this estate was known as the Bickford House until 1932 when Rosa and Spencer Clark transformed it into the Guild of All Arts, an artist colony and country inn**

Library and Archives Canada/National Film Board of Canada fonds/e010955799 📷





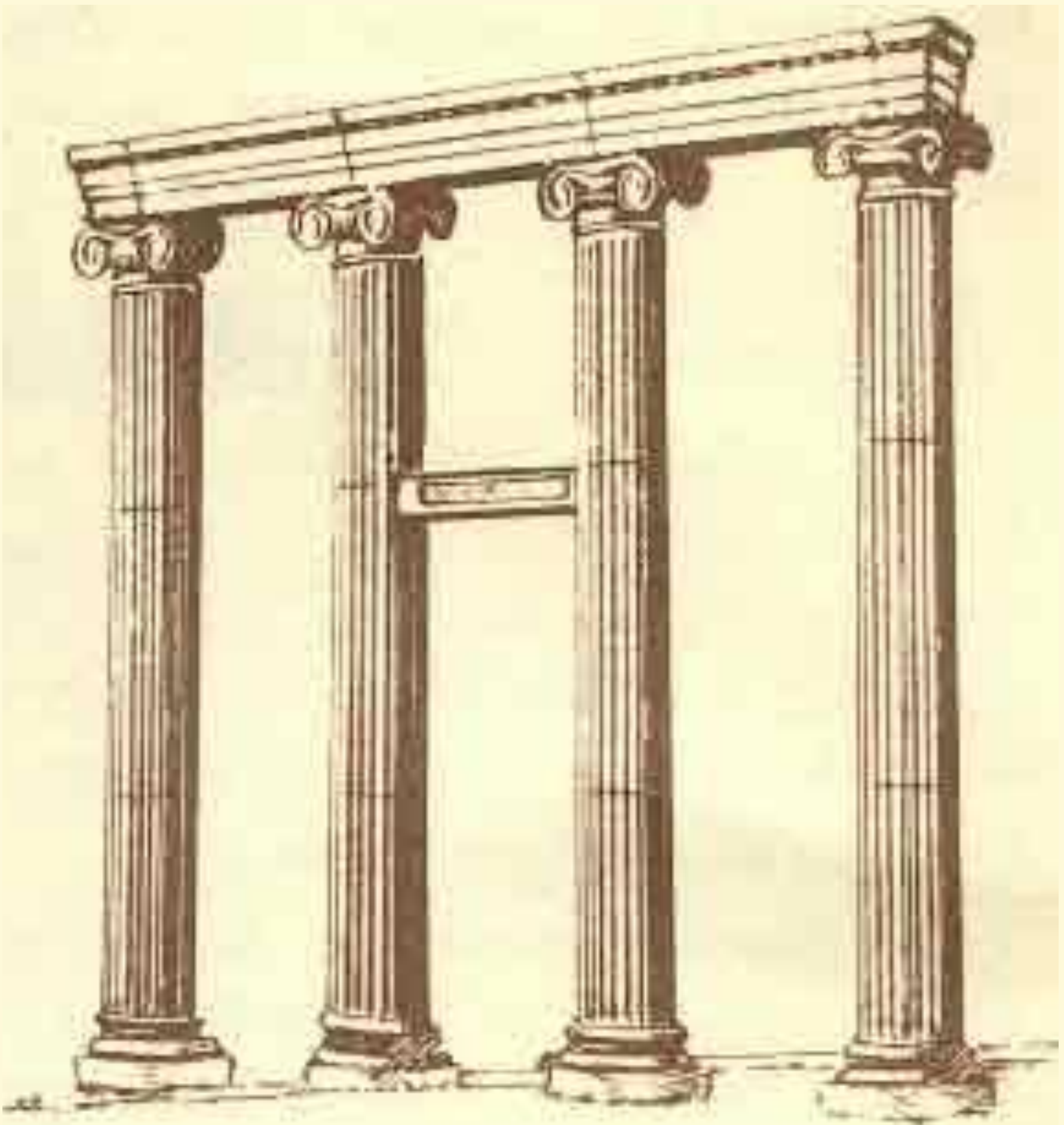
**During its first years as a centre for the arts, many buildings were constructed around the property to house artists and their studios**


**Starting in the 1950s, architectural elements from demolished buildings were collected and erected in the gardens as follies**





**What is a folly? Follies date back to 18th century European landscaping and are structures designed primarily for decorative purposes often referencing antiquity**



 [www.guildpark.ca](http://www.guildpark.ca), courtesy Friends of Guild Park and Gardens. Art by the late Hugh Walker, former executive assistant to Spencer Clark and reproduced from "The Spencer Clark Collection of Historic Architecture" (1982).





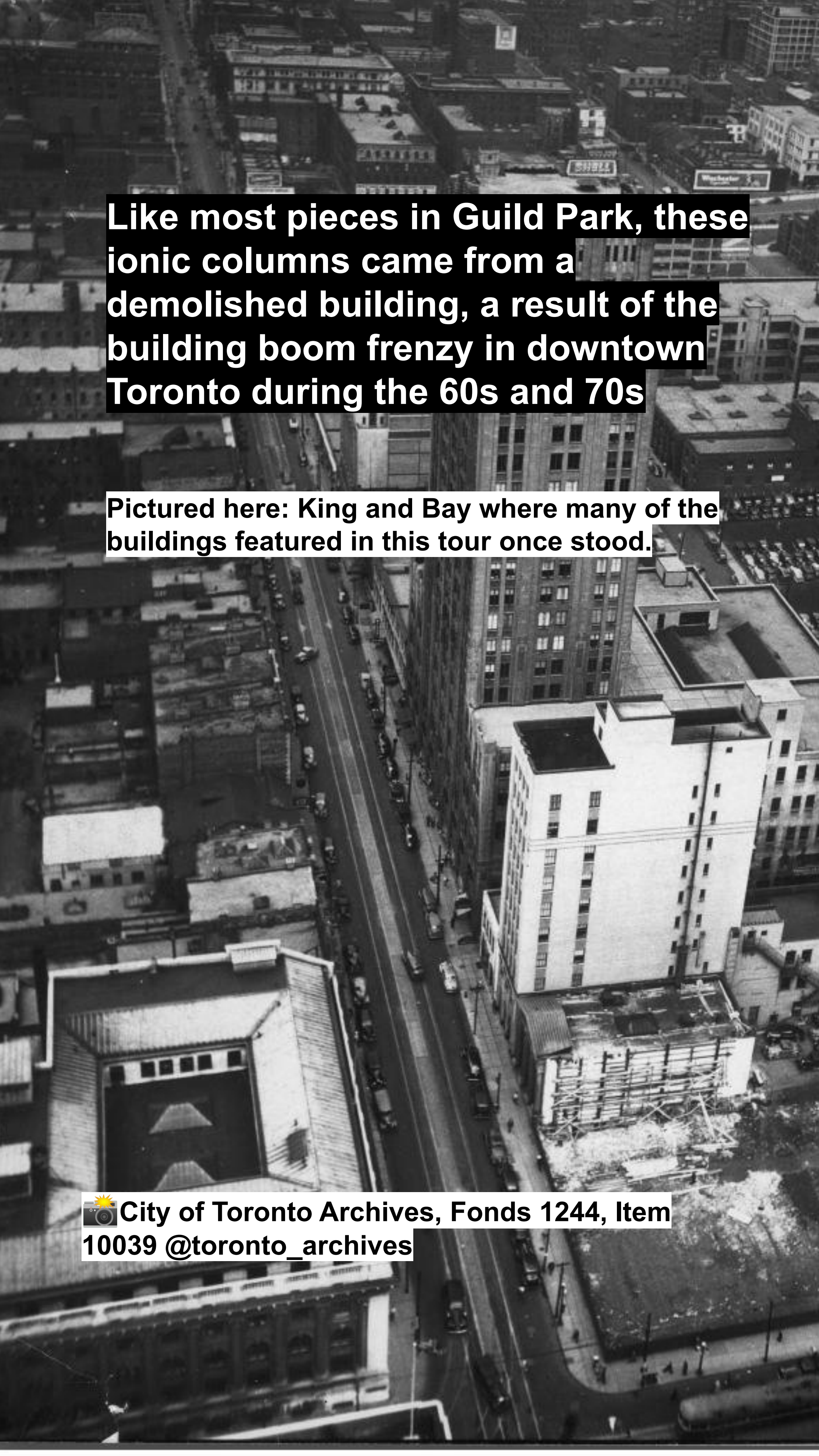
**Today's tour will explore some of these architectural elements, as well as some of the buildings and landscapes that make Guild Park so unique...**



**Starting with the Banker's Bond Building — or at least what remains of it — on the front lawn of Guild Park**








**Like most pieces in Guild Park, these ionic columns came from a demolished building, a result of the building boom frenzy in downtown Toronto during the 60s and 70s**

**Pictured here: King and Bay where many of the buildings featured in this tour once stood.**

 **City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 1244, Item 10039 @toronto\_archives**





**These columns were part of the front facade of the Bankers Bond building that sat near King and Bay**

**Notice the Lintel on the right side? When it arrived at the park it was moved to the middle to frame the walkway.**

 **John Alexander Mackenzie, 1920**

 **City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 1257, Series 1057, Item 20 @toronto\_archives**



**Today it marks the entrance to Guild Park and is surrounded by other recovered fragments of the city's history.**

**It sits right in front of our next stop — and the heart of the Guild of All Arts — Bickford House**





**The estate was designed in the period revival style with arts & crafts detailing and was completed in 1914**





**After much success as the centre of Guild Inn, the building fell into disuse and disrepair...**



 **Friends of Guild Park and Gardens**





**Thankfully the building has now been lovingly restored by Philip Goldsmith and new life has been given to it as an events centre, including two modern additions by Peter Pascaris and Giancarlo Garofalo**

**Giancarlo Garofalo Architect Inc., Queen's Quay Architects International (Q2), and Philip Goldsmith Architect (Heritage Consultant)  
@gg\_architect\_inc**



**And while Bickford House might be the most famous building on the grounds, there are also numerous other structures built to house artists and their work... including our next stop: The Sculptor's Cabin**





**The Sculptor's Cabin was built in 1940 by Aage Madsen, a danish wood sculptor, and has since housed a number of artists and sculptors**



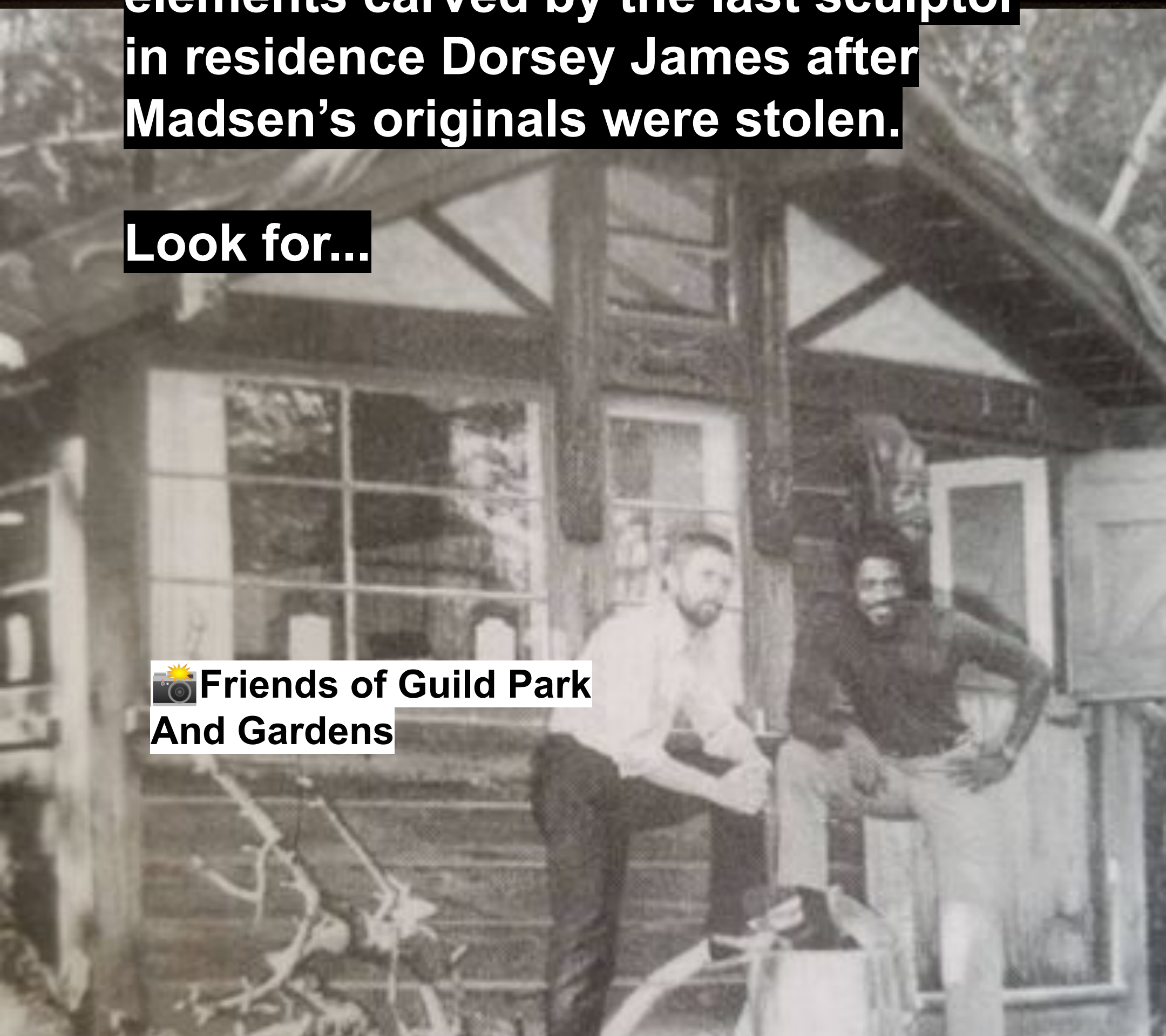




**Reflecting the Norse origins of its designer, the cabin also features a number of Norse inspired sculptural elements carved by the last sculptor in residence Dorsey James after Madsen's originals were stolen.**

**Look for...**

 **Friends of Guild Park  
And Gardens**





**A gable inspired by Fafnir the dragon...**






**And the heads of Sigurd, the legendary hero, and his father Regn**







**Unfortunately the cabin was closed for over 30 years but it has recently been reopened as the home of Friends of Guild Park, a community organization that cares for the park...**

 **The Friends of Guild Park and Gardens**





**Nature break!**

**Before heading to the next architectural stop on this tour we recommend taking a detour down the bluffs!**





**Watch your step! The bluffs are steep and in constant erosion.**

**Please ensure you are only using marked trails**

 **TORONTO**

**CAUTION:**


Steep portions  
of trail are prone  
to washout  
after rain.



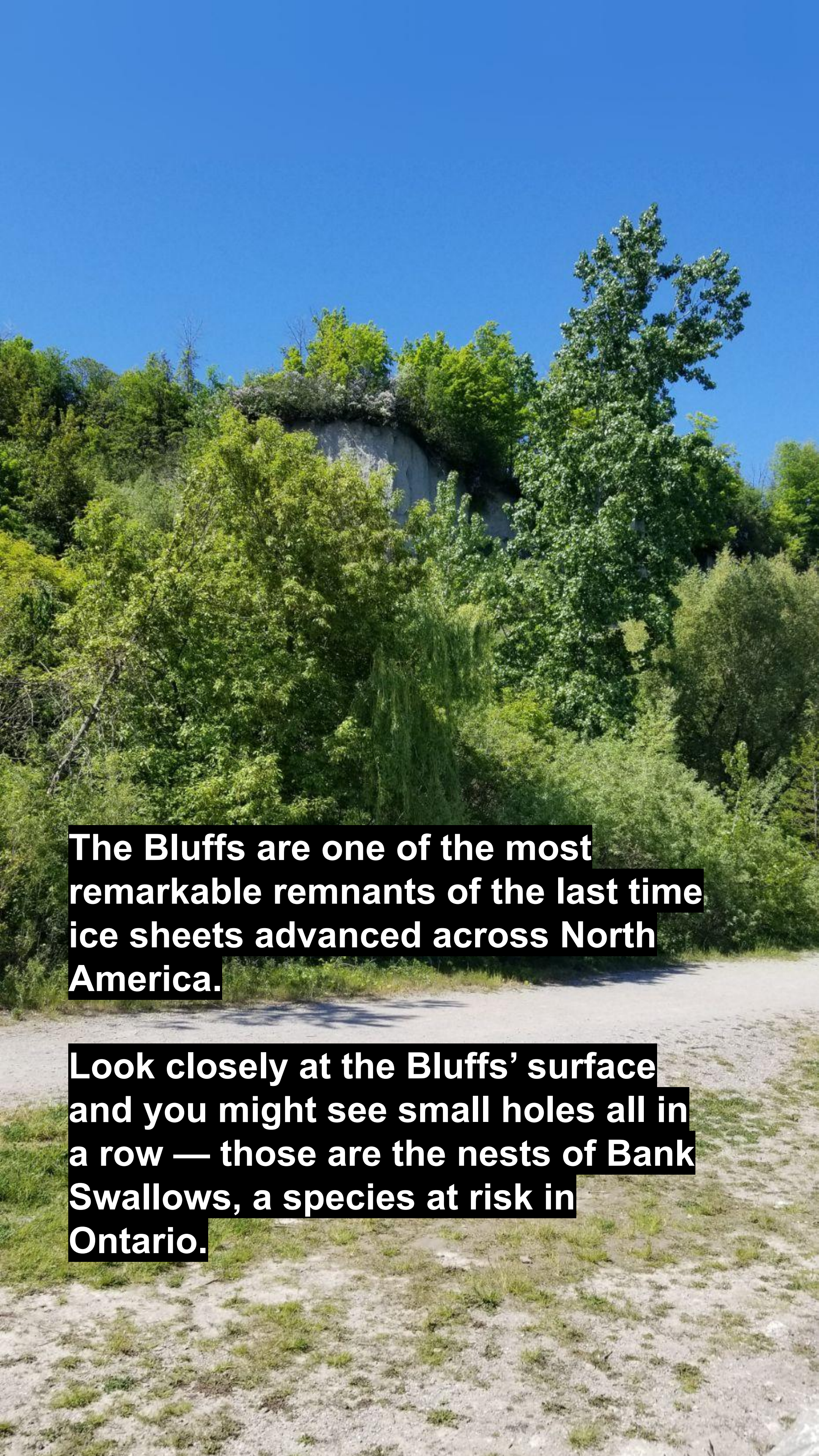
**DANGER**

**DUE TO: Shoreline Erosion  
and High Water Levels**

**NO PUBLIC ACCESS**

 Toronto and Region  
**Conservation  
Authority**





**The Bluffs are one of the most remarkable remnants of the last time ice sheets advanced across North America.**

**Look closely at the Bluffs' surface and you might see small holes all in a row — those are the nests of Bank Swallows, a species at risk in Ontario.**



**The trail will take you right to the lake's edge...**

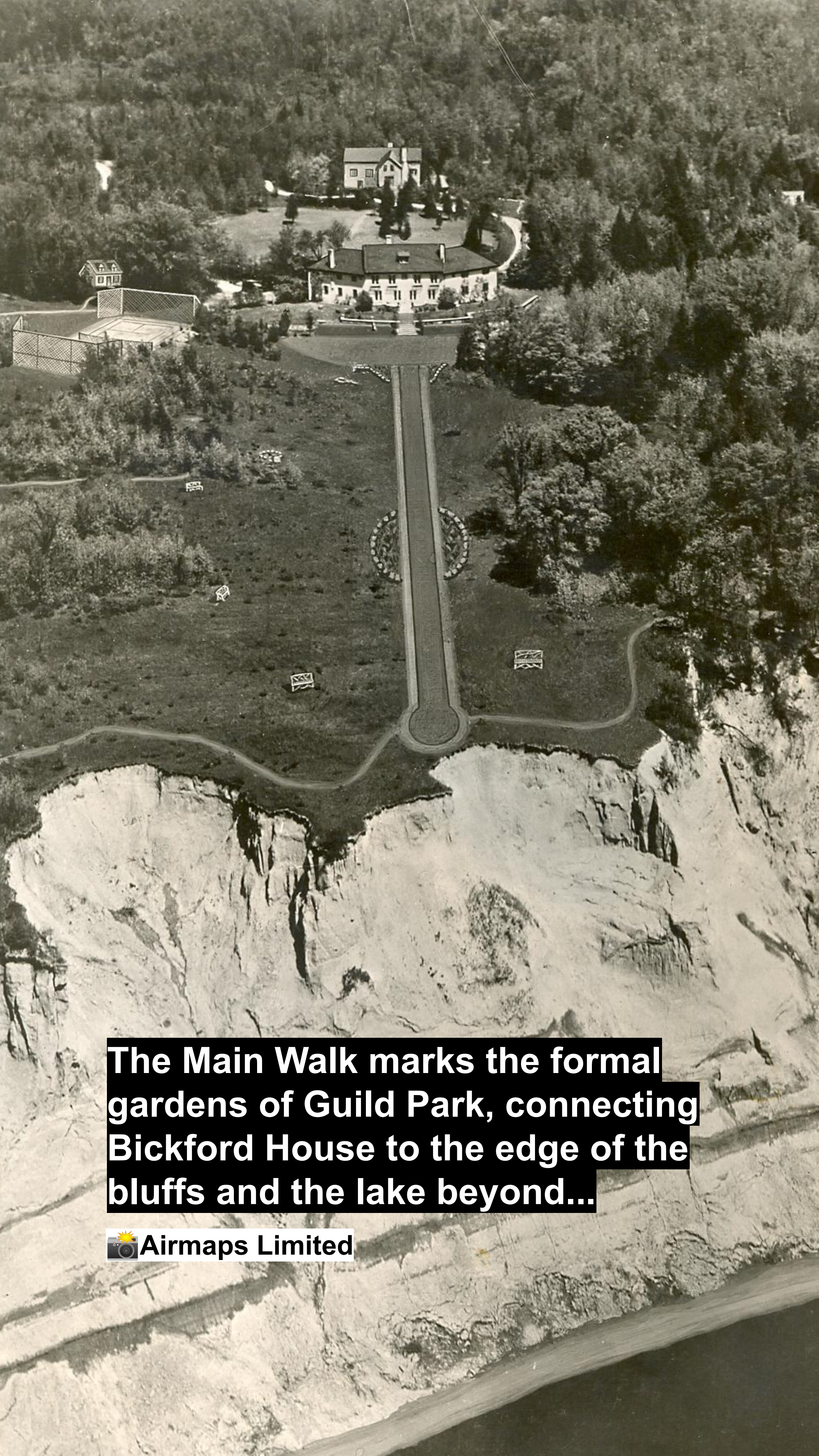




**Ok! back up to Guild Park and our next stop... The Main Walk or promenade!**







**The Main Walk marks the formal gardens of Guild Park, connecting Bickford House to the edge of the bluffs and the lake beyond...**



**It is a very lively space and around it is a huge collection of architectural fragments and sculptures from the Guild's history...**





The image shows a close-up of the ornamental parapets of the Toronto Star Building. The parapets are made of light-colored stone and feature intricate, symmetrical Art Deco-style carvings. The designs include stylized, fan-like motifs with curved lines and circular accents, set against a background of lush green trees. A black text box is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

**Close to the house, just off to your left is the Toronto Star Building's ornamental parapets...**






These used to be at  
the very top of the  
former Toronto Star  
Building near King  
and Bay — a  
beautiful art deco  
high rise...

(Which happened to be the inspiration for the  
Daily Planet, Superman's newspaper building)

Chapman and Oxley, 1929

 City of Toronto Archives, fonds 1257, series  
1057, item 2037 @toronto\_archives



**Parapet: a low protective wall on the end of a roof, bridge or balcony**





**Just down the walk, to your right, is one of the Guild's most treasured pieces: The Greek Theatre...**

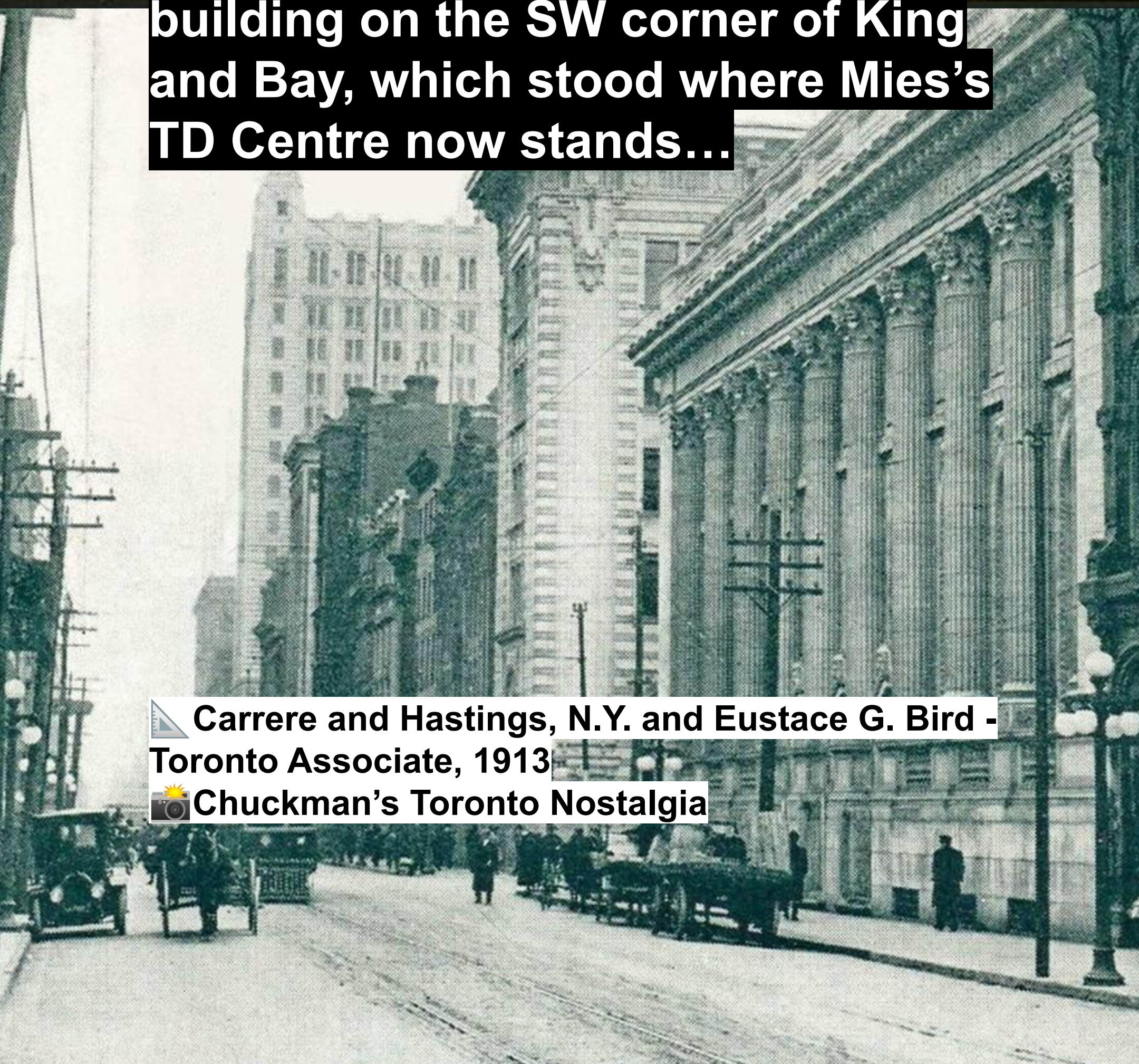






 Courtesy of Toronto Public Library

**The Greek Theatre is made out of pieces of the former Bank of Toronto building on the SW corner of King and Bay, which stood where Mies's TD Centre now stands...**



 Carrere and Hastings, N.Y. and Eustace G. Bird - Toronto Associate, 1913

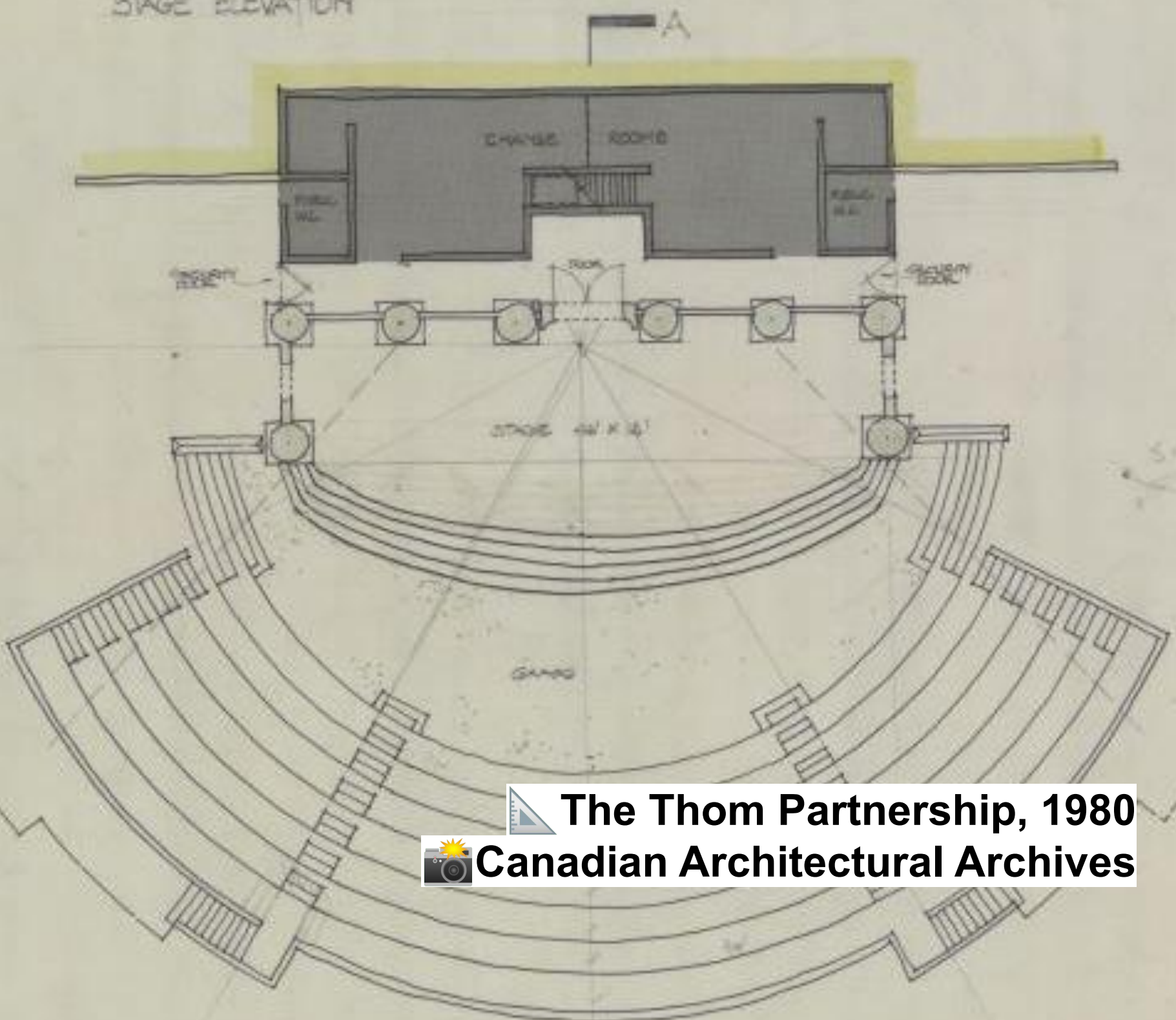
 Chuckman's Toronto Nostalgia



**But this isn't just a reconstruction, the elements were rearranged, shortened and adapted into a new structure designed by Canadian icon Ron Thom...**



STAGE ELEVATION



PLAN

 The Thom Partnership, 1980

 Canadian Architectural Archives



**But this theatre is not just a folly, it is an actual working stage with productions throughout the year and the perfect place for your next photoshoot**











**These beautiful panels were part of the former Bank of Montreal which stood at the NW corner of King and Bay, site of today's First Canadian Place**

 **Chapman, Oxley and Facey, Marani and Morris, and K.R. Blatherwick, 1948**

 **Archives of Ontario**





**These bas-relief sculptures personify the Canadian Provinces and Territories with their associated resources in the 1920s...**

**Walter Alward, sculptor of the Canadian National Vimy Memorial, was consulted for the concept and coordinated with six artists to ensure all figures looked outward onto the street.**

 **City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 2032, Series 841, File 62, Item 36 @toronto\_archives**



**Like Alberta and its mighty cattle  
(notice the lack of oil) by Jacobine  
Jones...**





**...and Northwest Territories with its radiation-emanating uranium (a new resource at the time) by Emanuel Hahn...**







**...and of course, Ontario, with its sash of culture, industry, science and commerce by France Loring**



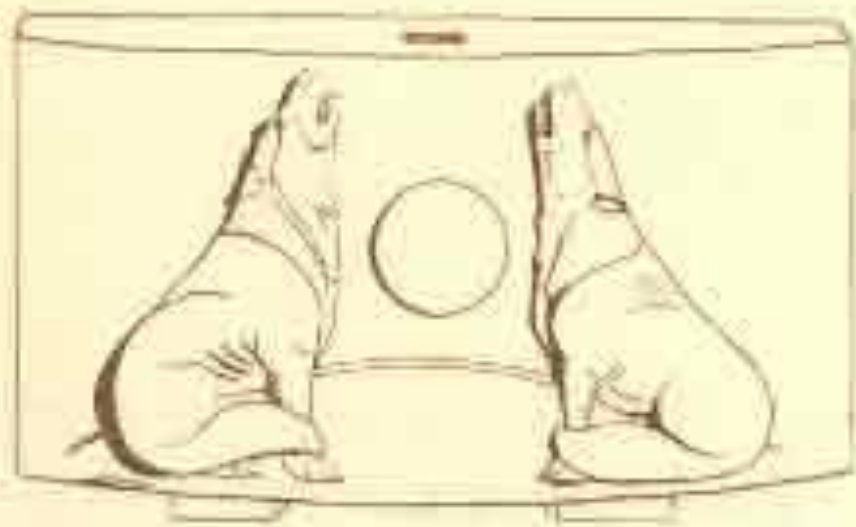
**Bas-relief: a sculptural technique where the figure is carved so that it projects slightly from a flat background**



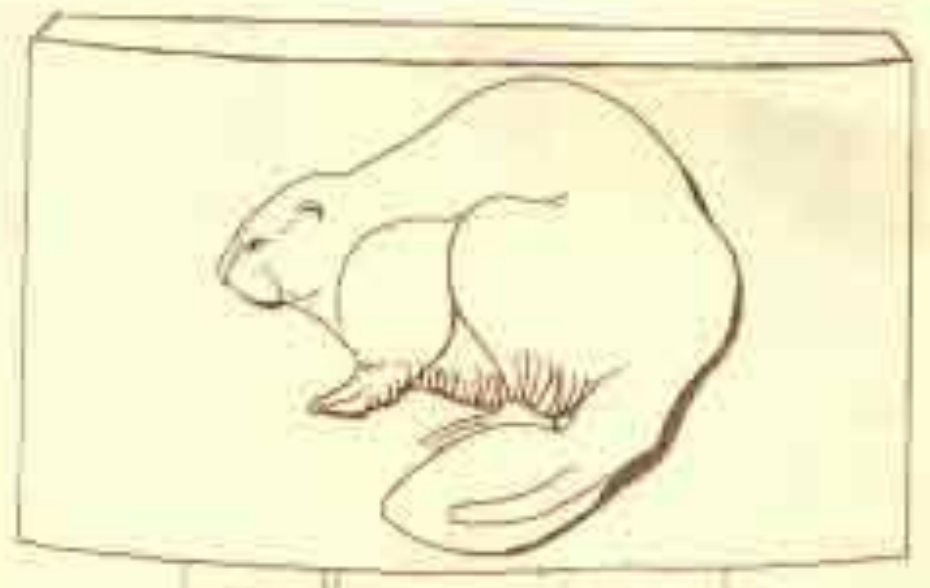
5G Polar Bear



Walrus 5F



5E Wolves



Beaver 5C

**Jacobine Jones, designer of the B.C and Alberta panels, also designed 6 bas-relief animal panels for the same building that are also at Guild Park**



Of course, it's not only architectural pieces that you can find in these gardens, there are also wonderful sculptures donated by the artists in residence such as....



**The Mobius Curve by Michael Clay**





**The Bear, by E. B. Cox and  
Michael Clay...**





**...and Musidora, the oldest piece on site that was sculpted in 1875 by Marshall Wood and depicts a Greek maiden**





**Ok, we've seen a lot of building fragments and sculptures so time for another nature break!**







**Head west to the trails that go within  
the Carolinian Forest of Guild  
Park....**




A photograph of a stone wall with a decorative water spout and a classical column fragment in the background. The wall is constructed from large, rectangular stone blocks. A decorative water spout is mounted on the wall, featuring a curved, shell-like design. In the background, a classical column fragment is visible, surrounded by lush green trees and a clear blue sky. The foreground is a grassy area with some large, rounded stones.

**On your way you'll pass the Monument Walk, a new area of the park with even more fragments arranged by Eguchi Associates Landscape Architects**

**Conceptual Design and Design Development by Eguchi Associates Landscape Architects/ bREAL inc Construction drawings and site reviews with James Bailey Architect**



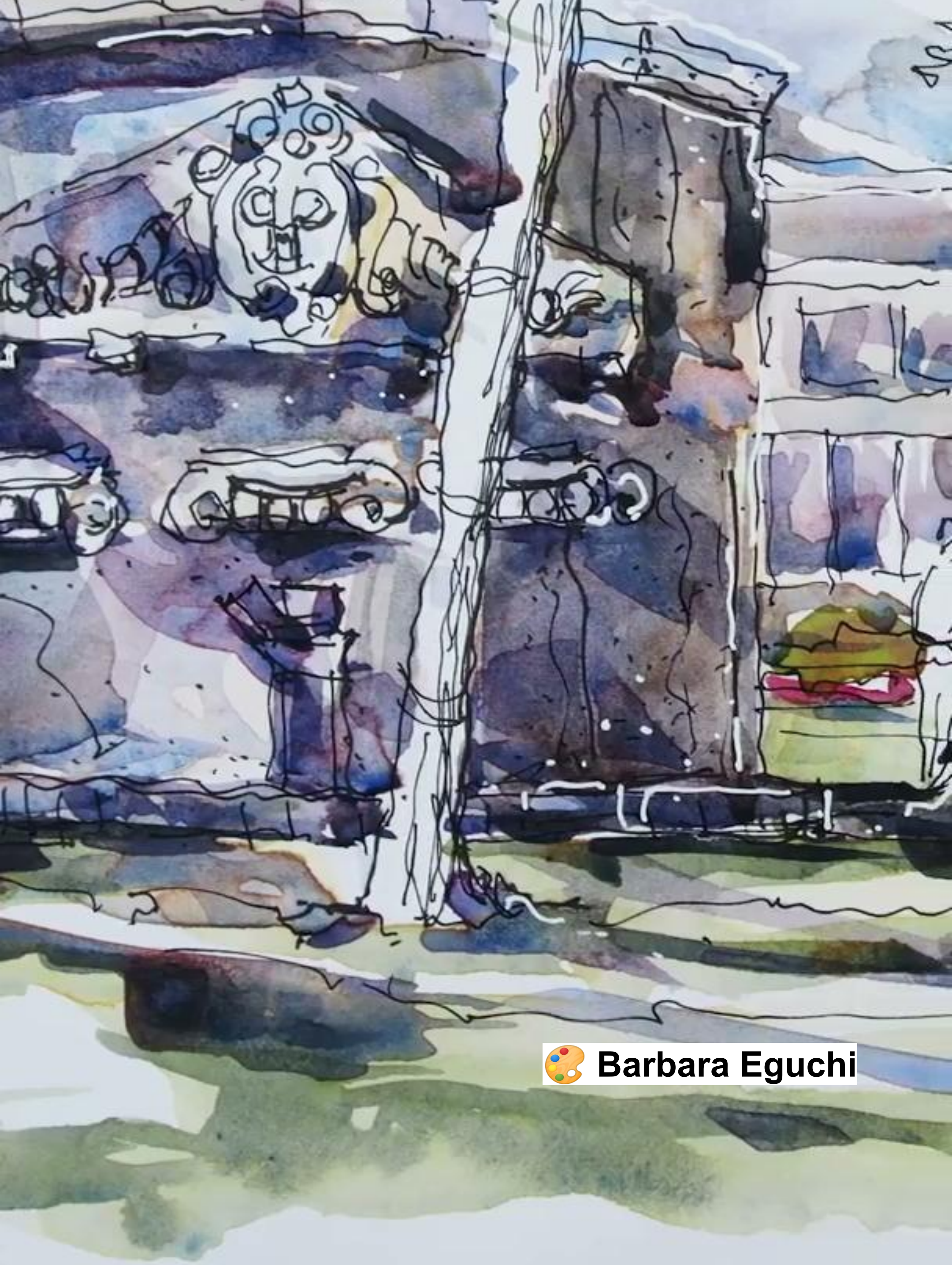


**On The Monument Walk, artifacts have been dispersed into the forest to create quiet destinations for reflection...**

 **Barbara Eguchi**



**...and draw meaningful relationships between the artifacts, architecture and the natural landscape**



 **Barbara Eguchi**



A photograph of a small, rustic log cabin with a gabled roof and a brick chimney. The cabin is surrounded by lush greenery and a large, mature tree with some autumn-colored leaves. In the foreground, there is a paved area and a concrete pillar with a plaque.

**You'll also see The Log Cabin, one of the oldest buildings in Scarborough dating from the 1850s**

**P.S. If you read the plaque, there is a mistake: the cabin was built by James Humphreys, NOT Augustus Jones, Lord Simcoe, or William Ousterhout.**



**Among the trees you'll also find an elevated boardwalk — a great way to explore the forest and keep your feet dry**



**Follow the boardwalk to the east to  
the last stop of today's' tour...**





**Clark Centre for the Arts, the most recent addition (still under construction) to Guild Park**



**Taylor Hazell Architects, PMA  
Landscape Architects Ltd.  
@taylorhazellarch @pmaalarch**



**The new art centre by Taylor Hazell Architects and PMA Landscape Architects Ltd. incorporates the original Building 191 built by the Clarks in 1963 for Spencer Clark's office and storage space**



**Friends of Guild Park and Gardens**





**The new building will include studio spaces to bring back artists in residents to the Guild, corridor galleries for displaying work, green roofs, and bird friendly glass**



**and part of this build includes the restoration of some of the original art pieces like these panels...**







**These panels came from the Globe and Mail Building built in 1938 and were designed by Fred Winkler and carved by Sebastiano Aiello**

 **Mathers and Haldenby, 1938**

 **Royal Architectural Institute of Canada  
Journal, Vol.15, No.8, pg. 176**



**Look closely at the panel and you'll see some West Coast totem poles — these panels belong to an era where Canadian architects were looking for a unique “canadian identity” for buildings and often incorporated West Coast Indigenous architectural elements and local fauna**






**Guild Park is always changing. In 2014 ERA Architects Inc. and The Planning Partnership prepared a comprehensive plan for the conservation of this treasured destination**

**Pictured here: New pieces arriving at the park to be installed**





A scenic view of a lake framed by green trees and a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

**And that's a wrap for  
our virtual #TSA tour of  
Guild Park!**

**Now it's your  
turn to go out  
and explore!**

**Thanks for joining us!**



**Thank you to all the  
contributors who  
made this tour  
possible!**

**John Mason  
Friends of Guild Park and Gardens**

**Guildwood Village Community  
Association**

**Real and Barbara Eguchi  
Eguchi Landscape Architects and  
Associates**

**ERA Architects Inc.**

**Taylor Hazell Architects**

**Toronto Public Library**

**City of Toronto Archives**



# **TSA**

**...and remember, when exploring bring some water, wear some sun screen and make sure to practice physical distancing!**



**TSA**

**...and don't forget to  
share your explorations  
with us!**



**Tour developed by the  
Toronto Society of Architects,  
2021**

**Originally formatted as an  
Instagram Stories tour**

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