



Ontario Association of Architects Announces its Selections for SHIFT 2019 Infrastructure/Architecture Challenge

Selected projects demonstrate how architectural thinking can promote social equity, reduce isolation or embody social justice

TORONTO, March 21, 2019 – The Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) is pleased to announce the selected projects for the first-ever SHIFT 2019 Infrastructure/Architecture Challenge. Meant to spur thinking and conversation about the intersection between architecture and societal issues, the SHIFT Challenge called upon Ontario architects to demonstrate how architectural thinking can promote social equity, reduce isolation or embody social justice.

Held every second year, SHIFT will alternate with the OAA's Design Excellence Awards, which focus on recognizing outstanding work in the industry.

"The SHIFT Challenge reflects the importance of the built environment in people's lives," says Kathleen Kurtin, OAA President. "Introducing this program as a complement to our usual design awards is an important demonstration of our abilities as a profession to confront challenging problems that extend beyond individual projects into the broader built environment."

For the inaugural year, OAA selected a theme that affects every Ontarian: infrastructure. Submissions focused on how architects could use their skills—design thinking, problem solving and knowledge of the built form—to propose new ways to understand, create or support physical or social infrastructure that links our communities.

Submissions ranged from intimate local projects that could be replicated in communities across the province, to massive transformations altering how various components of the built environment interact with each other. Judges evaluated projects on a number of criteria, including innovation, social responsibility, inspiration, inclusivity and holistic approach.

"One of the pleasant surprises in exploring all of these submissions together is that what you see emerge is a holistic approach to infrastructure," says Kurtin. "Any one of these projects, if implemented, would help address an issue of immense importance and, at the same time, complement and reinforce each of the other submissions."

The OAA's jury ultimately selected seven projects that stood out as best meeting the evaluation criteria, as well as four honourable mentions. More information about the SHIFT Challenge submissions will roll out as part of the 2019 OAA Annual Conference, which takes place in Quebec City from May 22 to 24.

For more information on the SHIFT Challenge, please visit shiftchallenge.ca.

SHIFT 2019 Infrastructure/Architecture Challenge

Selected Projects

- **GO Bike** Naama Blonder and Misha Bereznyak (Smart Density)
- **Immigrant Landscapes: Architecture in the Age of Migration**
Sophie Mackey
- **Multi-Tach: Addressing Housing Infrastructure**
Jaegap Chung, Sue Jean Chung, Derek McCallum, Sudipto Sengupta, Hesam Rostami, Hamid Imami, Robin McKenna, Matthew McKenna and David Kotewicz (Studio JCI Inc.)
Nam Hoang (Makeshift Collective)



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- **Rail to Trail: Imagining a Future London**
Ryan Ollson, Magdaleen Bahour, Richard Hammond, Shannon Hawke, Tyler Hearn, Jerry Kim and Siobhan Latimer (Cornerstone Architecture Incorporated)
- **Re-Engaging the Defunct and Historic Welland Canals**
David Donnelly
Martin Bressani (McGill University)
- **Story Pod: Grassroots Transformation of Civic Space**
Kelly Buffey, Robert Kastelic and Aaron Finbow (Atelier Kastelic Buffey Inc.)
Scott Munro, Bill Mctavish and Ted Kurello (Hollis Wealth)
Mark Agnoletto (Town of Newmarket)
- **Urban Energy Shift**
Zachary Colbert (Zachary Colbert Architects and Carleton University Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism)
Antonio Gioventu (Condominium Homeowners Association of British Columbia)
Shelby Hagerman, James Nguyen, Jasmine Sykes and Connor Tamborro (Carleton University)

Honourable Mentions

- **Central Parkway Study**
Martin Tite, John Cook, Alex Leung, and Sean Fright (GRC Architects Inc.)
- **The Counterpublic of Union Station**
Aidan Mitchelmore
- **Revitalizing Suburbia: Build Integrated Communities**
Connie Lei
- **Stuff Cloud: A Smart Infrastructure for Buying, Selling, Sharing, Swapping and Remaking Things in Cities**
J. Alejandro López

About the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA)

The Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) is a self-regulating organization governed by the *Architects Act*, which is a statute of the Government of Ontario. The OAA's mission is to represent, regulate, support and promote the profession of architecture in the interest of all Ontarians and to lead the design and delivery of built form in the Province of Ontario.

For more information, interviews and high-resolution images:

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