

Introduction

The seventeen awarded designs represent a balanced cross section of a large and diverse field of projects. The Jury was deeply impressed by the enthusiastic industry response to this first New City Design Awards, and particularly by the range and depth of the award submissions. In every category, from residential through commercial to institutional, there were projects presented which played around the boundaries of current architecture and urban design thinking and illustrated that the City of Surrey has been successful in encouraging a very high quality of work from its owner, developer, and designer communities, certainly no easy task. Even those projects which evoked safer, less current stylistic choices did so in many cases with high quality materials, competent detailing, and lush landscape schemes. In fact, the attention to landscaping was laudable throughout the submissions, with several instances where the landscape designs were, through their integration with the architecture and topographic sensitivity, by far the strongest aspect of the schemes. There were concerns that some categories contained such a large number of entries and broad range of building types that it was challenging for the jury to ensure that the best examples from the various project scales were recognized. In the commercial category, for example, the range from small context sensitive, local commercial through distribution warehouses, regional commercial mixed use to large, downtown scale office complex was daunting and suggested that the category definitions might be further refined in future.

As well, there was hope among the jurors that in the future there will be more evidence of a truly serious commitment to sustainable design. It was noted that among the more recently completed submissions there were more projects that integrated a significant level of sustainability. The jury encourages the City to adopt policy that will take advantage of the wealth of opportunities to include initiatives which would counteract the effects of necessary automobile dependency in this sprawling, semi-rural community in transition. It was also hoped that, in future submissions, the same laudable level of attention paid to exploring new retail, mixed use, and residential designs would be paid to incorporating sustainable design strategies.

CATEGORY 1 - SMALL SCALE RESIDENTIAL



Private Residence 23.2, for a Young Family, South Surrey, designed by Omer Arbel Office, AWARD OF EXCELLENCE. Angled cast concrete walls extend into the landscape, with a main structure of recycled large timber beams, hovering over fold-away walls of glass, further integrating domestic and outdoor space. Attention to detail spans all scales; custom wedge-like motorized gate (echoed in interior doors), white-painted timber sculptural markers, bubble-patterned concrete-grass paving, hanging glass lights; cast-in custom electrical outlets, etc. The jury was impressed with this playful design for a young family, and noted it excels as architectural art in all scales.



Nature's Walk, Newton for Mosaic Homes, 150 Street and 60 Avenue, designed by Formwerks Architectural and DMG Landscape Architects, AWARD OF EXCELLENCE. Interwoven with a range and variety of planting between units, making for unusually rich links with its green infrastructure. Site planning amplifies the character of existing topography, shaping diverse streetscapes, which are enhanced by well detailed entries, and some masterfully concealed garage entrances. The jury was delighted by a site planning approach that preserved major coniferous trees.



Vinterra, Morgan Heights, 16155 24 Avenue, for Pacific Rim Property Development, designed by GBL Architects and Forma Design Landscape Architects, AWARD OF MERIT. The jury appreciated its assertive and finely composed modernist idiom, unusual for this scale and format of housing, complimented by rich and varied planting.

CATEGORY 2 - MEDIUM SCALE RESIDENTIAL



Salus, Newton, 6628 120 Street, for Adera Developments, designed by Integra Architecture and Forma Design Landscape Architects, AWARD OF EXCELLENCE. With the lushly landscaped central courtyard containing a pond and residents' recreation facilities, this is a demonstration of the amenity that comes with residential density. The double-loaded garage lanes are punctuated by wooden brackets and backdoor stoop planting. The jury cites Salus as a model for other projects for its ground level front door entries opening directly onto surrounding main city streets.



Quattro, City Centre, 10768 Whalley Boulevard, for Tien Sher Group, designed by Cotter Architects and Van der Zalm Associates Landscape Architects, AWARD OF MERIT. The jury noted Quattro's ambitious site plan, which includes ample and inter-connected landscaped amenity space. They commend this demonstration of affordability and positive neighbourhood transformation.

CATEGORY 3 - LARGE SCALE RESIDENTIAL



Morgan Crossing, Morgan Heights, 15879 24 Avenue, by Larco Developments, designed by MCM Partnership, Creekside Architects, and DMG Landscape Architects, AWARD OF EXCELLENCE. Housing and street-based retail was a welcome surprise in a big box environment dominated by hydro lines. Suburban housing above shops is unprecedented at this scale in Western Canada. The roof of the retail podium is effectively used as residential open and amenity space, accentuated by strong visual breaks between the palette of materials for retail and housing.

CATEGORY 4 - COMMERCIAL

Central City Office Tower and Retail Area, City Centre, 10153 King George Boulevard, for ICBC, designed by Bing Thom Architects, AWARD OF EXCELLENCE.

The jury was deeply impressed by the sculptural forms of Surrey Central City's signature office tower and outward-thrusting plaza-defining roofs, which combine to punctuate the skyline. This plus the combination of uses and successful social spaces inside have earned this private-public collaboration a place of honour as the symbol on the City's current civic logo. This colossal construction has almost single-handedly changed thinking about an all-new downtown for Surrey in what was once known as the Whalley neighbourhood.



Colebrook Business Centre, East Panorama Ridge, 152 Street and 54A Avenue, for Morguard Investments, designed by ABBARCH Architecture and Maryuma Associates Landscape Architects, AWARD OF MERIT. Compared with other strip commercial distribution centers, this building design has a clear, contemporary and distinctive image-brand. Its ambitions are realized through a range of innovative architectural details, all achieved within a budget range appropriate for this niche of leased commercial space.

CATEGORY 5 - GOVERNMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL

Surrey City Centre Library, City Centre, 10350 University Drive, for the City of Surrey, designed by Bing Thom Architects and Phillips Farevaag Smallerberg Landscape Architects, AWARD OF EXCELLENCE. This central library redefines the city, a rare building that deserves the title "iconic," and one that is already much-loved by the city's diverse residents. The use of cast concrete and canted glass produce a bold sculptural form outside, which will define the civic centre for generations. The library's luminous atrium exploits natural light while minimizing energy use. The jury was deeply impressed by its consistent design language inside and out, fluid without becoming emphatic, and recalling, in the best sense, the New York Guggenheim Museum by Frank Lloyd Wright.



Batting Cage, South Surrey, 14600 20 Avenue, for South Surrey-White Rock Baseball Association, designed by Paul Rust Architect, AWARD OF MERIT. Simple and economic solution for an all-weather practice pavilion, notable for its play of dynamic roof forms and geometries.



RCMP Surrey Annex, current City Hall campus, 14355 57 Avenue, designed by Chris Bozyk Architects and Phillips Farevaag Smallerberg Landscape Architects, AWARD OF MERIT. This new building brings unity to the existing City Hall campus by connecting both old and new with aluminum solar shades and wooden screens—here, design is used to handsomely dignify a public safety facility.



Surrey School Board District Education Centre, City Centre, 14033 92 Avenue, for School District #36 (Surrey), designed by Bunting Coady Architects and Viewpoint Landscape Architects, AWARD OF MERIT. The jury noted the boldly sculpted massing and use of colour here—a dynamic prow captures Surrey’s optimism. The atrium inside is open and light-filled, supporting diverse activities for School Board staff and the students and parents they serve.

CATEGORY 6 - LANDSCAPE, PUBLIC SPACE & INFRASTRUCTURE



Holland Park, City Centre, 100 Avenue and King George Boulevard, for the City of Surrey, designed by Van der Zalm Associates Landscape Architects, AWARD OF EXCELLENCE. This major urban park successfully blends formal civic elements at its entrances with a more natural treatment at its forest edges. The jury noted the welcome variety here: the plant material palette is textural, multi-season, and polychrome; variously configured spaces lend themselves to intimate conversations, play spaces, or large civic gatherings and concerts.



Tynehead Pedestrian Bridge, Guildford, Highway 1 and 168 Street, for the City of Surrey, designed by Perkins and Will Architects, Associated Engineering, and space2place design Landscape Architects, AWARD OF MERIT. This elegant bridge, with a well integrated bridgehead landscape expression, reflects Surrey’s strong commitment to trail infrastructure. The jury was impressed with the team’s artful approach to the design solution.

CATEGORY 7 - RENOVATION AND ADAPTIVE RE-USE



Kensington Prairie Community Centre, North Grandview Heights, 16824 32 Avenue, for the City of Surrey, designed by Taylor Kurtz Architecture + Design, AWARD OF EXCELLENCE. Careful and considered restoration of a modest community landmark. The jury was impressed with its contemporary yet appropriate interior finishes, and the typological recall between the old and the new porches outside, all brought together with a luminous and historically accurate colour palette.

CATEGORY 8 - INTERIORS



Central City Atrium and Retail Galleria, City Centre, 10153 King George Boulevard, for ICBC/SFU, designed by Bing Thom Architects and Fast + Epp Engineers, AWARD OF EXCELLENCE. The huge scale at the entrance, then the volume, animation and innovative detail inside create one of Canada’s most justly famed recent buildings. Trusses, space frame, and structural columns crafted from BC wood, pioneer new technologies and create visual interest. The vertical intersection of existing shopping mall with new SFU office and classroom floors are an unprecedented hybrid, innovative socially, technically and aesthetically. (The jury includes engineers Fast + Epp in this interiors citation for their wood engineering, but note that it does not include the interior improvements for SFU).



Tong Louie YMCA, South Newton, 14988 57 Avenue, designed by DIALOG (Hotson Bakker Boniface Haden Architects) and Phillips Farevaag Smallemberg Landscape Architects, AWARD OF MERIT. Strength of purpose is apparent to the jury immediately upon entry: smells, sounds, sights and activity celebrate this recreation centre's vitality.

Thanks and Conclusion

The jurors would like to extend their thanks to all those who participated in the New City Design Awards program, and their congratulations to all of the owners, developers, builders, and design professionals who have produced this impressive collection of projects. Congratulations are in order, as well, to the City of Surrey, both for the work that it has done to encourage this quality and for taking the initiative to celebrate it through this expertly conceived and managed awards program.

Signed:

Margot Long

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