

— CITY OF HAMILTON —
2025 URBAN DESIGN
AND ARCHITECTURE AWARDS

JURY REPORT



Hamilton

INTRODUCTION

The City of Hamilton organizes the biennial Urban Design and Architecture Awards (UDAA) to recognize and celebrate design excellence across the city. A high-quality built environment contributes to both economic and social well-being, enhances the city's image, and fosters a strong sense of civic pride. Thoughtfully designed spaces are essential to building vibrant, sustainable communities that offer a high quality of life.

The UDAA's highlight the importance of sustainability in the built environment, particularly considering the City's declared climate change emergency. As a result, the jury places greater emphasis on projects that address sustainability and social contribution such as affordable housing alongside design excellence.

In 2025, the city received 37 submissions from architects, urban designers, planners and landscape architects, engineers, consultants, and owners. Each entry was reviewed by a volunteer jury composed of design professionals. Projects were evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Energy efficiency, sustainability, adaptability, or resiliency
- Contribution to the public realm
- Success of massing, orientation, scale, materiality, and contextual integration
- Quality of execution
- Innovation and uniqueness
- Comprehensiveness
- Creative solutions
- Clarity
- Community Involvement

The awards were publicly announced at the ceremony on Thursday, November 6, 2025, with recognition given to project design teams and owners.

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URBAN ELEMENTS

A stand-alone object, public art installation, landscape element or small-scale building component which contributes to the public realm. Submissions may include, but are not limited to: tactical urbanism, street furnishings, canopies, signage, porches, patios, or colonnades, gateways, light fixtures, walkways, stairways, barrier-free access, fences and works of art.

3

PRIVATE BUILDINGS

A building or composition of buildings, that achieve(s) urban design excellence and is precedent setting for a project of its type through its relationship to the natural environment and the public realm with consideration to pedestrian amenity, massing, detailing, as well as landscaping. Submissions should document and highlight how the project contributes to successful city-building through its contextual relationship, design quality and measures of sustainable design. New build, adaptive re-use, and heritage restoration projects are all eligible.

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PUBLIC BUILDINGS

A building or a composition of buildings, with a primary function to serve the public and/or is largely accessible to the public. Submissions should demonstrate urban design and architectural excellence through a relationship to the natural environment and the public realm with consideration to pedestrian amenity, massing, detailing, as well as landscaping. In this category, all building scales are eligible, as well as new build, adaptive re-use, and heritage restoration. Submissions may include, but are not limited to: education, health care, recreation, cultural, community and civic buildings.

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OPEN SPACES, PUBLIC SPACES & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Open spaces, public spaces and green infrastructure projects that contribute to the public realm and the natural environment through careful attention and consideration to context, community, sustainability, flexibility and adaptability over time.

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VISIONS & MASTER PLANS

Visions, studies and master plans that have the potential to significantly impact the future of Hamilton. Submissions may include but are not limited to: theoretical and visionary projects, secondary plans, master plans, streetscape plans and neighbourhood designs that are currently in progress.

14

CIVIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Urban design or architecture related initiatives, services, or projects that have had significant civic, social, and/or public realm impacts.

16

STUDENT PROJECTS

High quality theoretical or studio projects that specifically relate to Hamilton. Students that attend universities offering degrees in architecture, landscape architecture and urban planning are welcome to submit an entry.

17

CHIEF PLANNER AWARD

Award that recognizes an outstanding contribution to the City of Hamilton and incorporates the highest standards of sustainable design.

JURY



TED WATSON

OAA, AIBC, AAA, NSAA, FRAIC, INTERNATIONAL ASSOC., AIA, SCUP, LEED AP

Partner at MJMA

Ted is Partner and an architecture and urban design lead within the MJMA Architecture & Design interdisciplinary studio, setting design standards and the firm's direction. For 25 years, he has crafted researched and expressive campus and public-realm buildings that are ecological and social agents of change and community-building. Ted believes environmental and social resilience to be interdependent and has led many of MJMA's most innovative projects incorporating emerging means of accessibility, inclusivity, and sustainability. His master planning work focuses on synthesizing built-form with landscape and urban design to enhance infrastructure connectivity with emphasis on creating a unique sense of place.

Ted declared a conflict of interest and was recused from deliberating on selecting McMaster University Student Activity Building for an award.



OLGA PUSHKAR

OAA, FRAIC, BSS, OBEC

Principal at KPMB

Olga is a licensed professional architect (OAA, FRAIC) and a Building Science Specialist (BSS). Her skills in project management, combined with her extensive knowledge of materials and systems for constructability and durability, have been integral to the realization of holistic, sustainable architecture with a strong social impact, such as the Branksome Hall Athletics and Wellness Center. She was the Project Architect for Grand Jeté for Canada's National Ballet School and is currently working on various community projects and a cultural monument. Olga is passionate about creating innovative, accessible, inclusive and sustainable public spaces and believes in the power of architecture to bring people and communities together.

Olga declared a conflict of interest and was recused from deliberating on selecting McMaster University Student Activity Building for an award.



LESIA MOKRYCKE

MLA, MFA, BFA

Principal at Tropos Art + Design + Landscape

Lesia Mokrycke is the founder of Tropos, a multidisciplinary landscape studio based in Hamilton. She is recognized as a contemporary voice for art and landscape architecture in Canada and is known for her creative, conceptual, and contemplative approach to shaping distinctive landscapes.

Lesia leads urban design, restoration, and environmental art processes to develop projects that address issues of climate adaptation. Her work focuses on water, rethinking relationship with atmospheric cycles and their relation to sensory experience, environmental infrastructure and the degradation of urban forests. She brings a wealth of knowledge from fifteen years of experience as a public artist to each landscape architectural project she undertakes. Lesia is an Instructor at the University of Waterloo in Cambridge, where she teaches landscape architecture courses in the architecture department.

Lesia declared a conflict of interest and was recused from deliberating on selecting Hamilton Passive House Modular Housing, Hamilton Urban Core Community Centre, Magnolia Hall, 55 Queenston Apartments and 1620 Main Street East for awards.



ADAM NICKLIN

OALA

Principal at Public Work

Adam Nicklin is a principal and co-founder of PUBLIC WORK, a Toronto based design studio whose work focuses on the intelligent evolution of contemporary cities. He is a landscape architect, planner and urban designer with more than 25 years of experience in the UK, USA, and Canada.

Over his career Adam has successfully led numerous large, multi-disciplinary teams in the execution of complex urban renewal and landscape projects. Adam's experience includes community design, public realm and parks design, major transportation and marine infrastructure projects. Adam brings a strong focus and understanding of the synergies between civil engineering, major infrastructural works and landscape architecture in order to advance the design of the public realm.



DENNIS LAGO

Principal at Urban Strategies

Dennis Lago, principal at Urban Strategies Inc., is an Urban Designer with over 25 years of experience spanning Canada, the U.S., the U.K., and Singapore. His award-winning work is recognized for creating visionary yet practical solutions to the complex challenges facing cities. He strives to create meaningful and impactful places through multi-disciplinary collaboration and commitment to community.



MARK GUSLITS

Faculty at the U of T School of Architecture

After practicing as an architect and affordable housing consultant in Canada and the UK, Mark now works primarily as an urban revitalization/affordable housing development consultant and member of the Faculty at the U of T School of Architecture. He has been partner with a large Toronto residential development company focusing on affordable housing; Special Advisor on Housing to the City of Toronto; and senior project lead with HOK Architects. Between Jan of 2005 and June 2009, Mark was the first Chief Development Officer for the newly created Toronto Community Housing Corporation and in this capacity initiated and oversaw the planning, design and development work that would become the new Regent Park.



RYAN LIU

Student at University of Waterloo School of Architecture

Ryan is a bachelor's student at the University of Waterloo School of Architecture in Cambridge, where he currently resides. His design work often draws from his experienced background in visual arts, digital illustration, and fabrication to create projects which are holistic and responsive as much as they are visually engaging. He has been recognized for his outstanding studio design work and was awarded First in Class in his previous year of studies for his overall academic performance. As a student, Ryan is passionate about studying the social realm of architecture and is interested in learning more on how buildings can be designed to provide human-scaled experiences. He possesses a strong appreciation for the design of pedestrian streetscapes and the role that public spaces have on improving the built environment.

JURY STATEMENT

The jury for the 2025 Hamilton Urban Design and Architecture Awards evaluated 37 submissions from across the city. Many entries focused on enhancing Hamilton's urban form and public spaces, with a strong emphasis on sustainability and affordable housing. The 'How to Make a Greener City Symposium' held by the City's Urban Design Team on March 18, 2025, highlighted growing Hamilton's Urban Forest and started the dialogue for the Urban Design and Architecture Awards for this year with a discussion about the role of urban trees and landscaping in urban design. This discussion became an important consideration for the jury, as projects were encouraged to submit for awards with more mature and robust tree planting and landscaping.

Projects were assessed based on their design, materials, sustainability efforts, overall impact, and how they contributed to improving the health and well-being of Hamilton residents. This year, the evaluation criteria continued a greater focus on sustainability and the project's ability to meet pressing social needs within the city, such as affordable housing.

The submissions covered a wide range of ideas, and the projects that were highly regarded were those that effectively contributed to public space, social impact, and environmental sustainability. Winners of the Award of Excellence or Merit in each category were selected based on these critical factors along with the merits of the design. The jury emphasized the importance of shifting design priorities to address climate change and social issues like the housing crisis, rather than focusing solely on visual or aesthetic appeal.

The jury praised a growing trend in the City of Hamilton toward creating deeply affordable missing middle housing that incorporates cutting-edge sustainable design. Several affordable housing projects stood out for meeting high-performance sustainability standards, including Net Zero and Passive House. Overall, the submissions demonstrated a strong commitment to sustainable design, design excellence, and thoughtful placemaking while addressing the housing affordability crisis in Ontario.

The jury urges Hamilton's design community to push boundaries by developing bold, forward-thinking solutions that address today's pressing environmental and social issues. As a city transforming from its industrial roots into a hub of culture, innovation, and sustainability, these projects demonstrate that Hamilton provides fertile ground for designers to reimagine public spaces, support inclusive growth, and champion climate resilience.

The jury made the following observations in each of the award's categories:

Urban Elements – There was a strong sense of placemaking and craftsmanship in the submissions recognized this year. They create spaces that stand out in their surroundings and act as visual and cultural markers within the city. The jury highlighted the use of high-quality materials and the thoughtful exploration of form and detail that elevated the design and experience of each project.

ENT

Private Buildings – Residential – This year's residential submissions covered a broad spectrum, from smaller detached homes to large scale condominiums. The winning projects impressed the jury with their strong sense of craft, dignity, and innovation in addressing urban housing needs. These homes reflected a careful attention to space making that challenges conventional design and supports a renewed perspective on residential living in the city.

Private Buildings – Commercial/Industrial – Commercial and industrial projects recognized this year stood out for their commitment to heritage and urban renewal. The jury commended the successful submissions for this transformative restoration work, which breathed new life into abandoned spaces while sensitively reintegrating them into the surrounding streetscape and community fabric.

Private Buildings – Mixed Use – Mixed-use submissions this year offered thoughtful contributions to urban life by blending residential, commercial, and public uses. The projects that stood out were those that wove seamlessly into their neighbourhood's context, combining a deep respect for existing textures and scales with refined craftsmanship and design sensibility.

Public Buildings – Public buildings play a crucial role in shaping user experience and fostering community engagement. This year, the jury recognized that many entries created welcoming, comfortable spaces with a strong focus on natural lighting and integrating views. High quality user experience, sustainability, and social contribution were key elements that distinguished the top projects. The jury noted a rising standard in the design and execution of public buildings across the city.

Open Spaces, Public Spaces, Green Infrastructure – This year's entries showcased a wide range of impactful public realm projects that enhanced Hamilton's urban fabric. The most successful projects demonstrated strong contributions to the city's health, vibrancy and resilience through thoughtful design and infrastructure.

Visions and Master Plans – Vision is important in defining the future direction of the city. This year the projects shared a common goal in creating a greater connection among community and the existing context of our city. The defining factor in this category was the strive towards ecological restoration and support.

Civic Achievement – This year's civic achievements stand out for their smart repurposing and community involvement/advocacy, both of which played critical roles in the refurbishment. One of the defining triumphs in this category was the adaptive reuse of an existing building to revitalize and repurpose it. The best projects were distinguished by the ability to adapt existing structures in the neighbourhood, as well as the creative design approach to space refurbishment.

Student Projects – We were thoroughly impressed with this year's submission in this category. The Jury was pleased with the amount of research that was put into the project, and the delicate approach which was taken with the design – acknowledgment of the pre-existing space, garnering the value from the existing, rather than starting from scratch.

CITY OF HAMILTON
2025 URBAN DESIGN
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URBAN DESIGN AWARDS



WOODGATE

South-East side of King William Street & James, Hamilton, ON

Standing more than 8 metres in height, WoodGate is a functional public art sculpture in the heart of the downtown entertainment and dining district. It was selected through public consultation and adjudication. The combination of wood and metal elements are a reflection of the warmth and strength of Hamilton's industrial roots. Designed by Dina Sarhane of DS Studio Inc. in collaboration with Tom Silvans of Omtre and Mani Mani of Fishtnk Design Factory, the project merges public art and civic infrastructure by providing both an art-piece as landmark, and the gate-arm to close King William Street for pedestrian-only events.

JURY COMMENTS

Jury members were impressed by the injection of material warmth into the busy downtown community, particularly in the evening when the integrated lighting expresses the curvilinear wood arms and illuminates as a beacon. The jury also appreciated the dual-functionality of WoodGate and saw the success of the gate function as a strong community building element when used for pedestrian-only events on King William Street.



JURY COMMENTS

The jury noted the strength of the art panels in creating a space at the end of James Street, serving as a wayfinding element and fostering community engagement through Indigenous public art that offers both aesthetic value and reflects traditional teachings. A jury member noted the community benefit surpassed the financial input. Another jury member appreciated the care and quality of the individual glass beads since each one was hand-blown and fit securely into place to withstand the elements at the waterfront public square. One jury member noted an opportunity for the plaza's landscaping, as well as the materials and execution of the supporting structures, to be more in harmony with the art panels and their message.

ALL OUR RELATIONS

West Harbour James Street Plaza, Hamilton, ON

Five art panels stand tall in a new public square where James Street North meets Hamilton Harbour, the western corner of Lake Ontario. Glass spheres illuminated by the sun are arranged to represent images from traditional Indigenous teachings and the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address. The multi-disciplinary design team was led by (Cree/Metis) artist Angela DeMontigny with Cobalt Connects, Paull Rodrigue Glass, Lafontaine Iron Werks and EXP Engineering.

City of Hamilton
Angela DeMontigny
EXP

CoBALT Connects
Paull Rodrigue Glass
Lafontaine Iron Werks



HAMILTON PASSIVE HOUSE MODULAR HOUSING

257 King William Street, Hamilton, ON

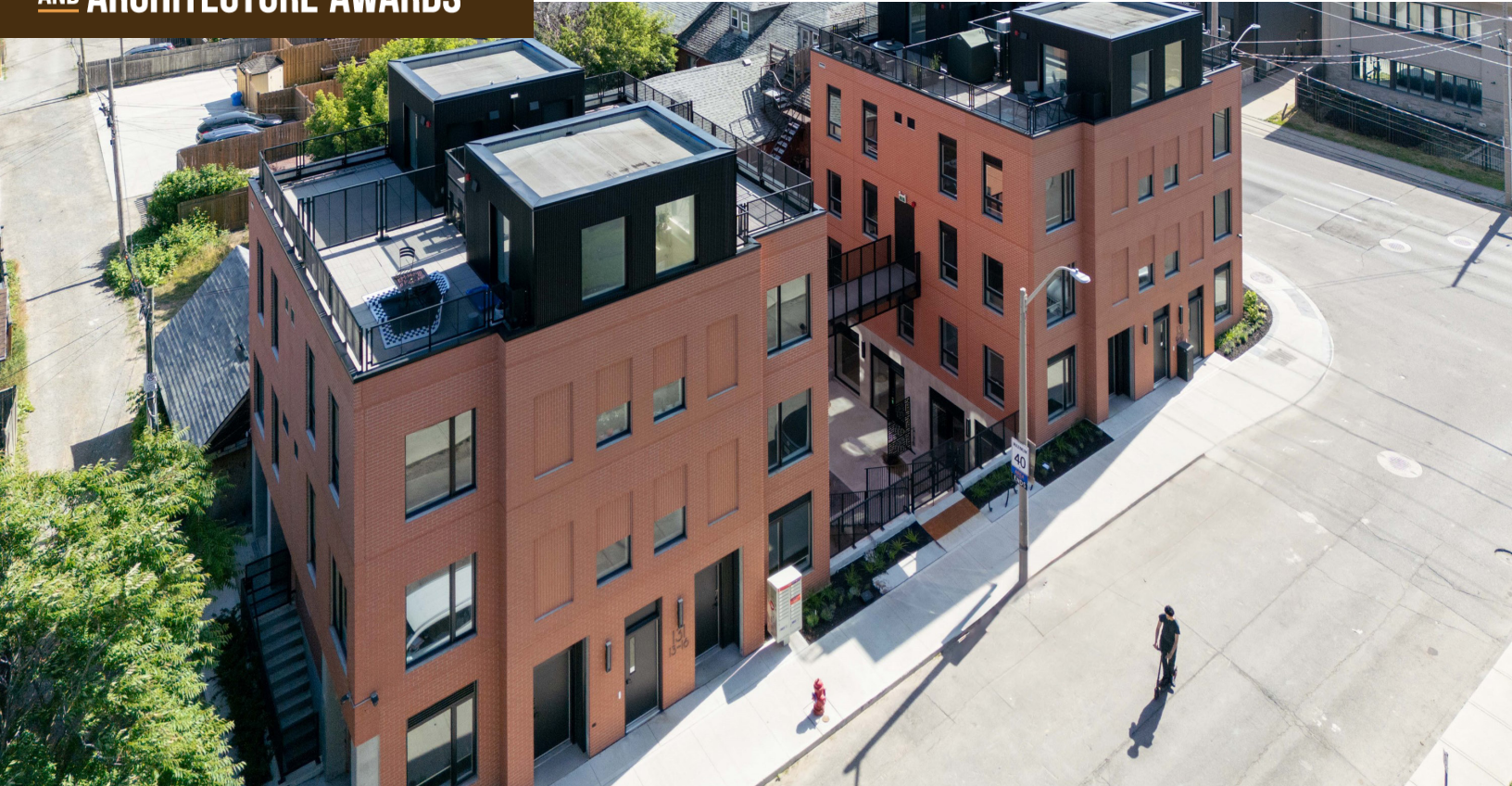
Built using modular construction and certified as a Passive House Building, 257 King William Street deftly integrates sustainable design features into the building envelope while crafting a truly welcoming yard for residents. The project includes a high-performance building envelope and photovoltaic panels garnering high marks for sustainable design.

CityHousing Hamilton
Montgomery Sisam Architects
Toms + McNally Design
Landwise
OMC Landscape Architecture
Ainley
DesignWorks
Solera

NRB Modular Solutions - ATCO Structures
Peel Passive House
Peto McMallum
SLR
Vortex Fire
National Elevator Consulting
CFMS - West Consulting Inc.

JURY COMMENTS

Jury members praised the detailed exterior and the use of board and batten at ground level paired with standing seam metal panels above. They appreciated how the building stepped back from the street to create generous landscaping and resident space, enhanced by large seating and planting beds near the entrance. The jury was impressed by the large windows, which contrast with the smaller openings typical in Passive House buildings. Most notably, they valued the rear yard amenity space, describing it as a pleasant retreat with thoughtfully designed seating and preserved boundary trees often lost in construction.



JURY COMMENTS

The jury had high regard for the project's sensitivity to its context and fit within the community. They mentioned that it is refreshing to see a modestly-scaled development being finished with high quality detailing. The jury appreciated the length the design team went to provide quality outdoor spaces for the residents in such a compact footprint. The jury saw the sunken courtyard as the jewel of the project, not only for its charm and landscape greenery, but as the primary entrance for the lower units. The courtyard not only provides copious amounts of natural light, it creates a dignified, high-quality apartment entrance experience that is so much more than afforded by a standard basement apartment.

THE BRIDGE

131 Wellington Street North, Hamilton, ON

A pair of modestly-scaled and otherwise unassuming 4-storey apartment buildings sit nestled around a sunken courtyard in the Beasley neighbourhood, linked by a functional bridge in an example of innovative solution of a infill development on a compact site. Commissioned by Woven Quarter Properties, RAW architecture designed the pair of buildings with a prefabricated construction system and employed the creative arrangement of units to maximize access to light and outdoor living-spaces.

Woven Quarter Properties
RAW Design
Arcadis
Jablonsky, Ast and Partners

Adesso Design Inc.
S. Llewellyn & Associates Ltd.
Reinbold Engineering Group
Mighton Engineering



KING JOHN BUILDINGS

62-64 King Street East, Hamilton, ON

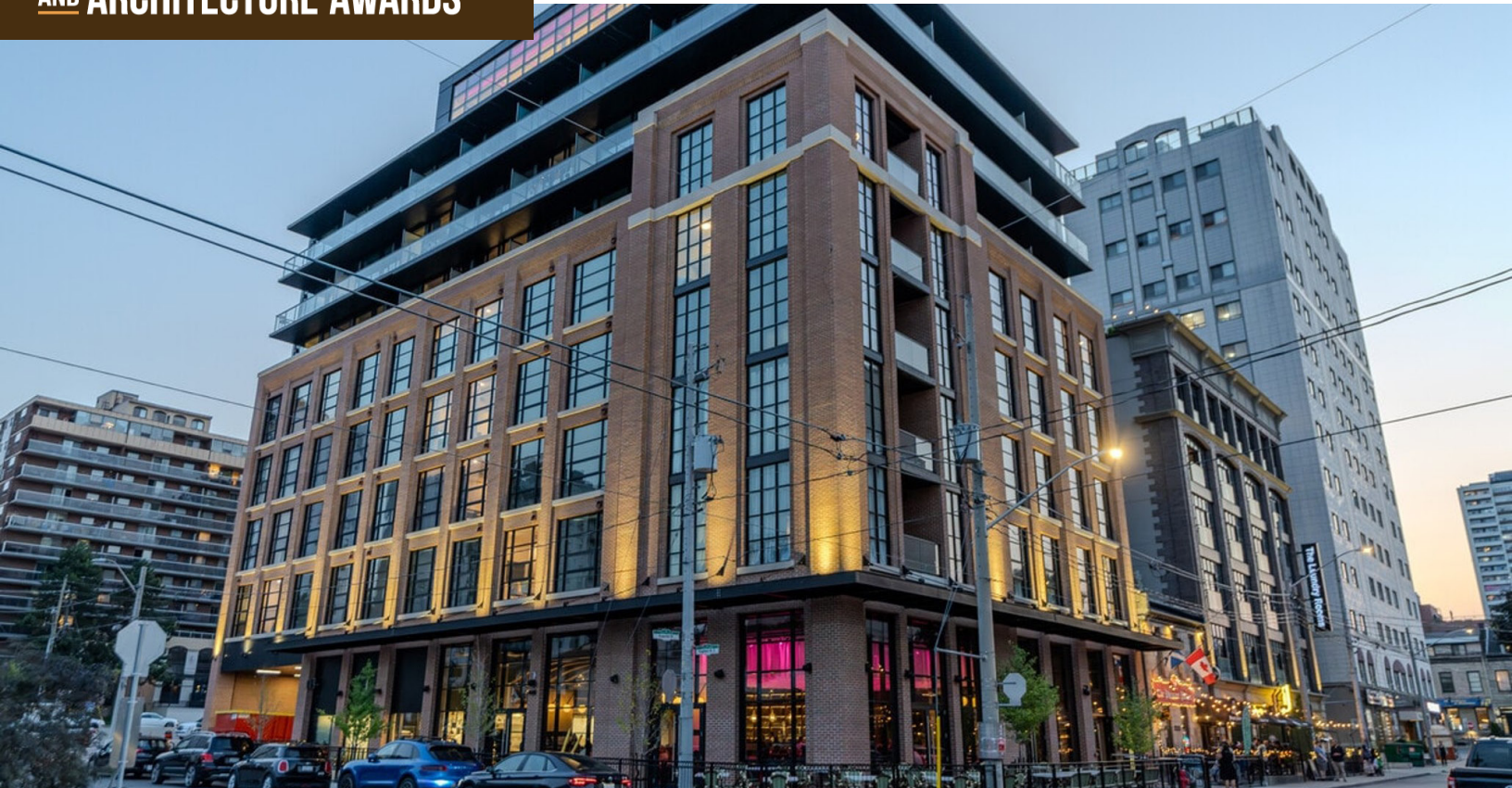
A timely renovation has brought new life to two long-vacant heritage buildings on the Gore Park block in downtown Hamilton. The owners trusted Toms + McNally Design with the task of orchestrating new office and commercial spaces with all the requisite building upgrades that might be required in a 19th-Century building. Using WELL Building principles and prioritizing natural light, fresh air and the inclusion of plants, the central atrium brings natural light to the new spaces of the building. The first floor is filled with colour and plant life to bring charm and warmth to all the users of the building.

JURY COMMENTS

The jury was unanimous in recognizing and promoting the value of renovating and repairing older buildings in the city's core, and the richness and texture that is created. Some jury members were impressed with the bright and airy atrium space and how colour and plants were used to inject life into the building. One jury member noted the success of the central atrium in activating what would otherwise be a dark centre core with a building depth exceeding 150 feet. The jury felt that the project should be recognized as a worthy renovation in a complex setting, and one that brings a modicum of renewal to Hamilton's downtown on the Gore Park.

King John Buildings
Toms + McNally Design
Mantecon Partners

Harbour Hills Construction
Management



JURY COMMENTS

The jury was impressed by the fit on the site and the space for activity at street level. Some jury members noted the light and airy feel for the residential units on the upper levels that sit back from the building base's edge, and wrap-around balconies offering great views of the city and escarpment. Jury members were also pleased by the cohesive fit along the street and how the finer architectural details were able to reflect those in the existing buildings on the street in a larger-scale application. The Chelsea is an example of a mixed-use building that successfully arranges the public elements to contribute to the community. The success of this development is evident in the vibrant street life.

THE CHELSEA

24 Augusta Street, Hamilton, ON

Inspired by Hamilton's industrial roots and set in the vibrant Corktown neighbourhood, The Chelsea skillfully combines 70 rental units of sizes ranging from 1 to 3 bedrooms with a flexible open-plan commercial space at grade which is home to a restaurant with generous patio spaces on two streets. Designed by Lintack Architects and built by Core Urban Inc., The Chelsea stands at 9-storeys, completed with a mixture of modern and traditional design cues, combining robust brick-detailing with expansive windows offering both aesthetic quality and functional natural lighting.

Core Urban Inc.
Lintack Architects Inc.
Webb Planning Consultants Inc.
Adesso Design Inc.

Mantecon Partners
Habilis Engineering Inc.
EXP
Fortino Bros Inc.



1 JARVIS

1 Jarvis Street, Hamilton, ON

Located in downtown Hamilton within the International Village Business Improvement Area, 1 Jarvis is an example of an infill development that has made good on the attempt to fit within its context. The design tools employed by Studio JCI pull materials, store fronts, roof lines and massing details from the community and combine to achieve an optimal result. At 15 storeys, the building features a strong podium that creates a vibrant and functional streetscape along two streets, with residential units facing Jarvis Street and a large commercial space with an expansive patio fronting Ferguson Avenue.

JURY COMMENTS

Jury members welcomed the authentic use of brick on the podium and appreciated the lightness of the upper levels which step back from the building base. Other Jury members noted the composition and scale of the building's massing elements and material detailing were highly effective in bringing life and sense of human scale to the project. There was appreciation for the decision to set-back the building from the street edge to provide space for landscaping and for life to occur at street level – without being “on the street”.

Emblem Developments
Studio JCI
A. J. Clarke & Associates Ltd.
Adesso Design Inc.

Salas O'Brien
Reinbold Engineering Group
Nemetz (S/A) & Associates
MTE Consultants

Private Buildings: Mixed Use
HONOURABLE MENTION



JURY COMMENTS

The jury were impressed by the ambition shown in the project redefining such a large property with heritage context and executing tall towers in close-quarters with respectable integration to the area. The jury noted that the desire to recreate the charm and textures that are so perceptible along King William Street was evident, and despite the modern assemblage appearing indifferent or thin in places. The contribution to urban life from this complete development should nonetheless be felt by King William Street and all of downtown Hamilton.

THE KING WILLIAM RENTALS

8 & 22 Hughson Street North, Hamilton, ON

Featuring two 30-storey towers that rise above a 4-storey podium, The King William Urban Rentals project encompasses nearly half of an entire city block, embodying ambition and a great deal of enthusiasm and confidence in the urban-living model that is rapidly rising throughout downtown Hamilton.

King William Residence Inc.
LIUNA Local 837
Graziani & Corazza Architects
UrbanSolutions

MSLA
S. Llewellyn & Associates Ltd.
The Hi-Rise Group
Entuitive



MCMASTER UNIVERSITY STUDENT ACTIVITY BUILDING (HUB) & PULSE FITNESS CENTRE

1280 Main Street W, Hamilton, ON

Combining student life with wellness services and athletics and recreational spaces, the McMaster Student HUB and Pulse Fitness Centre has quickly become a popular destination on campus and a beacon anchoring the student experience in one convenient and connected space. Through extensive user engagement, MJMA Architecture & Design have combined student wellness spaces such as nap rooms, café, grocer, student kitchen and food bank – all arranged with care to create physical and visual connection between users to encourage participation and interactions on campus.

McMaster University
MJMA Architecture & Design
Blackwell

Smith + Andersen
Footprint

JURY COMMENTS

The jury was pleased to see that the building was well-used by students. The jury also appreciated the interior layout that provides a space for many different uses, yet retains a good sense of connection throughout the building, highlighted with the bright and welcoming atrium and pleasant entrance hall. One Juror remarked how comfortable the space felt upon entering – and how they could easily have spent an hour in the space if time permitted. Jury members were in agreement that the detailing and arrangement of the interior spaces, and their connection to the street, were the strength of the project and a definite benefit to student life at McMaster University.



JURY COMMENTS

The jury praised the bright and welcoming double-height atrium space and the inclusion of the 2nd-storey exterior courtyard space which produce a very high-quality user-experience. Jury members also remarked of the high-quality materials and level of finish exhibited by the health centre. However, the jury had reservations regarding the lack of activation of the street corner, and the provisional perimeter fencing, as it appeared to affect the open and welcoming atmosphere of the building's design, and inquired whether a more discreet and integrated security solution had been considered.

HAMILTON URBAN CORE COMMUNITY CENTRE

430 Cannon Street East, Hamilton, ON

The mandate of the new Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre is to provide client-focused equitable care for marginalized and racialized communities in Hamilton's downtown area. The building design, with the open 2-storey atrium and strong visual connection throughout the building celebrates dignity and belonging for both community members and staff. Architects Tillman Ruth Robinson used brick and wooden features to sensitively fit the elegant building within the residential neighbourhood.

Hamilton Urban Core Community
Health Centre
architects Tillmann Ruth Robinson
Landwise

OMC Landscape Architecture
MTE Consultants
VanderWesten & Rutherford
Associates

Public Buildings
HONOURABLE MENTION

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HAMILTON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

1072 Main Street East, Hamilton ON

Building upon the opportunities provided in the original 1875 farmhouse, the expansive renovation provided accessibility, light and new exhibition and program spaces including a new outdoor covered deck area that brings the museum experience outside and connects with nature in a treed alcove in Gage Park. Bright colours and strong geometrical shapes were employed to bring the requisite energy for the child-focused spaces – encouraging self-directed play and hands-on learning. A glazed link with tapered columns provides a light touch and breathing space between the original brick façade and the new program spaces.

JURY COMMENTS

The jury found the building bright, fun and playful, noting the use of material, colour and scale throughout both the interior and exterior. The inclusion of an outdoor space was enjoyed by the panel, and there was appreciation for the level of materiality and detailing employed in the building. The jury was left with a desire for greater connection to the park itself -noting the lack of gate with the perimeter fence and the strong axial gardens not addressed in the building's design or siting. The jury noted an opportunity for a design response that more thoughtfully considered the heritage park context, including more intuitive connectivity and improved siting and detailing of the building and its immediate landscape, in relation to the strong axial gardens.

City of Hamilton
Hamilton Children's Museum
Workshop Architecture Inc.

About & Associates Inc.
S. Llewellyn & Associates Ltd.
EXP



JURY COMMENTS

The jury was enamored with the project overall, and jury members felt that the site layout of the park buildings was well-integrated to landscape and produced a very comfortable space between the field house and playing fields. Jury members noted the care and attention to detailing of landscape and sustainable design features extended into the parking area, exhibited with landscaped swales that blended into the landscaping surrounding the hard-court and open play areas. The playful use of colour and shapes seen in the play structures and landscape benches was also reflected in the artful lighting structure in the community square next to the field houses. The jury was in full agreement of the benefit and joy brought to the community by the introduction of Jennie Florence Parker Sports Complex.

JENNIE FLORENCE PARKER SPORTS COMPLEX

105 N Service Road, Hamilton, ON

Located within Hamilton's Confederation Park, the Jennie Florence Parker Sports Complex enhances and celebrates the existing waterfront landscape while promoting active recreational opportunities as well as moments for quiet meditation and respite in a natural setting. The design team led by DTAH architects and landscape architects incorporates a Field House, Maintenance Garage and renovations to the existing Gatehouse. A nature-themed playground inspires exploration and stewardship with a deft-touch landscape design which seamlessly connects the new play and sport spaces with the existing rich-natural setting of the expansive park.

City of Hamilton
DTAH
DTAH Architects Limited
Sabourin Kimble & Associates
Moses Structural Engineers
MJS Consultants Inc.

Dyche Engineering Inc.
Smart Watering Systems
Sports Turf International
A.W. Hooker
Earthscape

Visions and Master Plans
HONOURABLE MENTION

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RETHINKING CHEDOKE CREEK

Hamilton, ON

Rethinking Chedoke Creek examines and reimagines the namesake waterway in an effort to educate the community and learn about options available to reconnect with Hamilton's watershed. The project focuses on three public spaces along the path of Chedoke Creek: where the creek originates on the escarpment, through a municipal golf course, and lastly along the watercourse that empties into Cootes Paradise. Initiated by the Bay Area Restoration Council and in collaboration with Civicplan and Toms + McNally Design, the team illustrates different ways in which the creek could be transformed and improved.

JURY COMMENTS

The jury was in agreement in recognizing the wisdom and potential gains from daylighting and restoring urban creeks, and wanted to put their support behind future efforts which could build upon some of the contemporary examples of urban creek restoration that is catching traction in some leading municipalities across North America and beyond. The jury encourages future studies to consider more ecological and immersive design expressions, and a wider variety of study locations that would see the most potential benefit for Hamiltonians.

Bay Area Restoration Council
Toms + McNally Design
Civicplan



JURY COMMENTS

The jury saw the project as a successful conversion to housing, and one that provided both high-quality living spaces and a commitment to a high performance building envelope. The jury appreciated the amount of Indigenous art incorporated into both the interior and exterior. They liked the floral art panels transforming windows to beacons to welcome residents and offer integrated public art into the building envelope. The panel felt the particular care of detailing and construction of the interior components was notable and was sure to provide dignified homes and communal space for the residents.

SACAJAWEA'S NIH-DAWIN'NAA

16 Steven Street, Hamilton, ON

A layered transformation of a former industrial building aims to provide high-quality homes for Hamilton's Urban Indigenous community in partnership with Sacajawea Non-Profit Housing. Originally constructed in 1911 and seeing multiple owners over the years, including recently housing a performing arts company, the renovation was designed in partnership between Smoke Architecture and Invizij Architects.

Sacajawea Non-Profit Housing Inc.
Invizij Architects Inc.
Smoke Architecture Inc.
Naomi Smith
Landwise

Tim Welch Consulting Inc.
CK Engineering Inc.
Kalos Engineering Inc.
MTE Consultants



MAGNOLIA HALL

115 Hunter Street S, Hamilton, ON

An adaptive re-use of the former St Mark's Church, originally built in 1877 and now seeing restoration and renovation after sitting vacant for more than 20 years. Under the new name of Magnolia Hall, the enlarged and rehabilitated building has been re-purposed as an assembly space complete with all the modern services needed, and now accessible access for all with the AODA compliant main entrance, kitchen servery and barrier-free washrooms. Magnolia Hall is now ready to serve the community events and gatherings, ensuring the long and vibrant history of the building will continue to grow for another generation.

JURY COMMENTS

The jury was ardent in their support for projects that choose to restore and rehabilitate heritage buildings, and showed appreciation for the efforts made to work sensitively with the addition to give the original building space to shine. Jury members recognized the warmth of the main hall with the wood detailing and rich colours in the stained-glass windows. A jury member noted that the community-led advocacy in which the renovated Magnolia Hall is the end result is commendable, and the project is an example of what is possible when we restore heritage buildings and find new purpose with adaptive re-use.

City of Hamilton
ATA Architects Inc.
OMC Landscape Architecture
Mantecon Partners

Limen Group Construction Ltd.
Renokrew
EGD Glass Studio



JURY COMMENTS

The jury was pleased with the holistic research approach employing tabula plena which acknowledges that the existing space is full, and garnering the value from the existing, rather than starting from scratch. The community surrounding the Jammery was integral to the project and the programming. The jury was appreciative of the local subject matter and the amount of local and regional context that was brought into the final design solution. Lastly the jury congratulates this project for the recognition and promotion of the Stoney Creek fruit belt.

THE JAMMERY: PLANTING ROOTS (ROUTES) FOR A LOCAL COMMUNITY

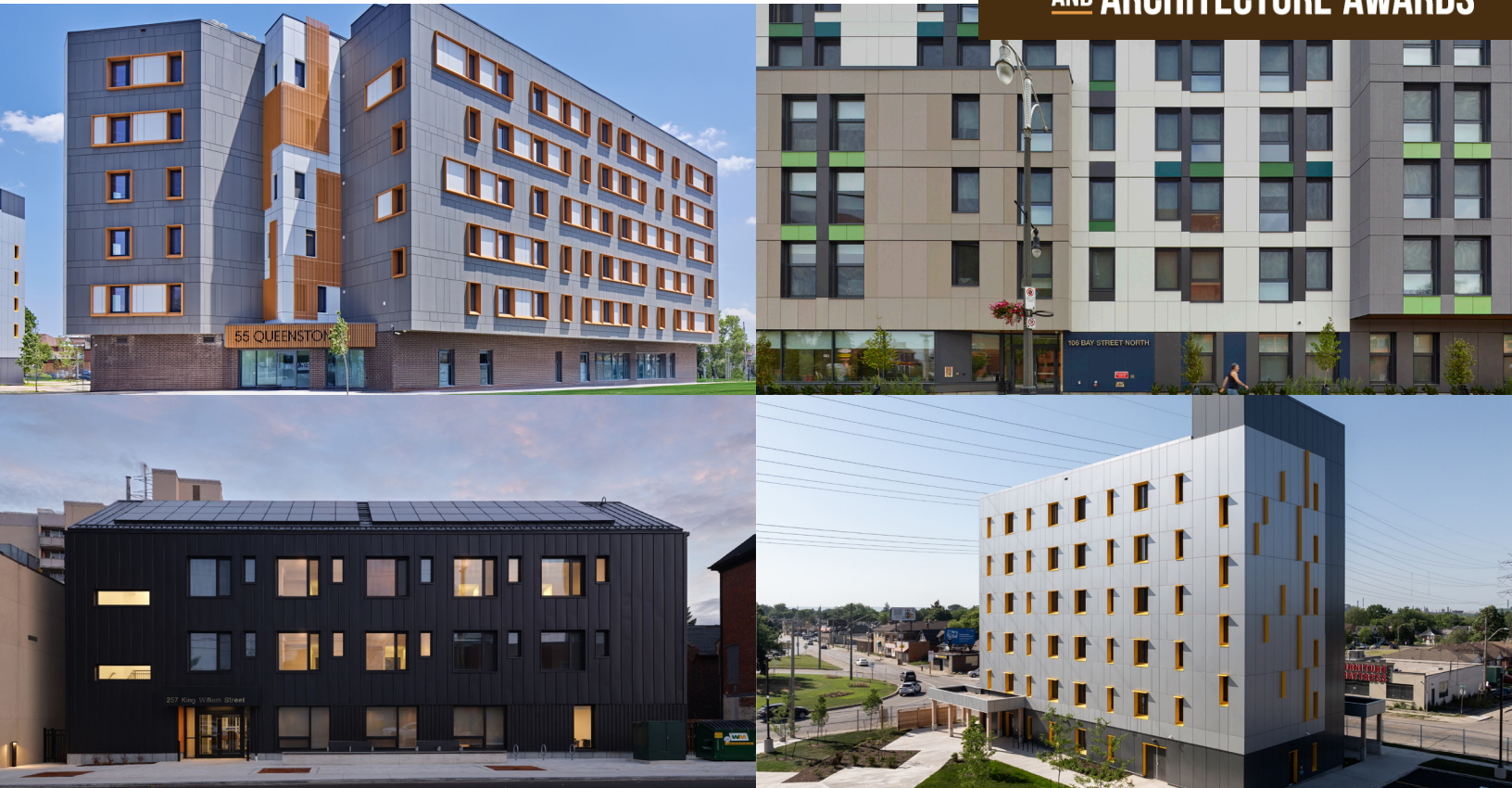
944 Hwy 8, Hamilton, ON

The project reimagines a large-scale jam production factory and focuses on the publicly accessible agriculture and production experience, illuminating the possibilities that increased transparency could bring to the concepts of localism and farm-to-table production. Environmental and economic sustainability are considered through adaptive re-use of the existing facility and the introduction of new program spaces include a farmer's market, community kitchen and facility tours.

Julia Krulicki
Austin Hendy

CHIEF PLANNER AWARD

CITY OF HAMILTON
**2025 URBAN DESIGN
AND ARCHITECTURE AWARDS**



The City of Hamilton's 2025 Chief Planner Award celebrates a remarkable achievement: four exemplary affordable housing projects completed across the city, each showcasing high levels of sustainable design, including Passive House standards. These developments, designed by different architects and located throughout the lower city, address the critical shortage of missing middle housing, a challenging typology to implement in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. Together, they contribute 161 affordable units amid an ongoing housing affordability crisis. Beyond affordability, these projects advance climate and sustainability goals with Passive House and Net Zero features, responding to the climate emergency. Their thoughtful architectural design and positive impact on the public realm strengthen their neighbourhoods. This award recognizes Hamilton's commitment to creating affordable, sustainable communities that support both residents and the environment.

AWARD WINNERS

1. 55 Queenston Road
2. 106 Bay Street North
3. Hamilton Passive House Modular Housing, 257 King William Street
4. 1620 Main Street East

CHIEF PLANNER AWARD



CHIEF PLANNER COMMENTS

This 40-unit development in Hamilton offers 100% deeply affordable rent-geared-to-income housing, addressing the city's critical need for affordable housing. With 11 fully barrier-free units, nearly double the standard requirement, the project improves inclusivity and accessibility for residents with diverse needs. Daylight-filled corridors enhance the living environment, promoting well-being and reducing electricity usage. Its rooftop solar PV system and Passive House International pre-certification as a Low Energy Building demonstrate a strong commitment to sustainability, reducing energy costs and environmental impact. Together, these features support Hamilton's goals for affordable, inclusive, and environmentally responsible housing, benefiting both residents and the broader community.

55 QUEENSTON APARTMENTS

55 Queenston Road, Hamilton, ON

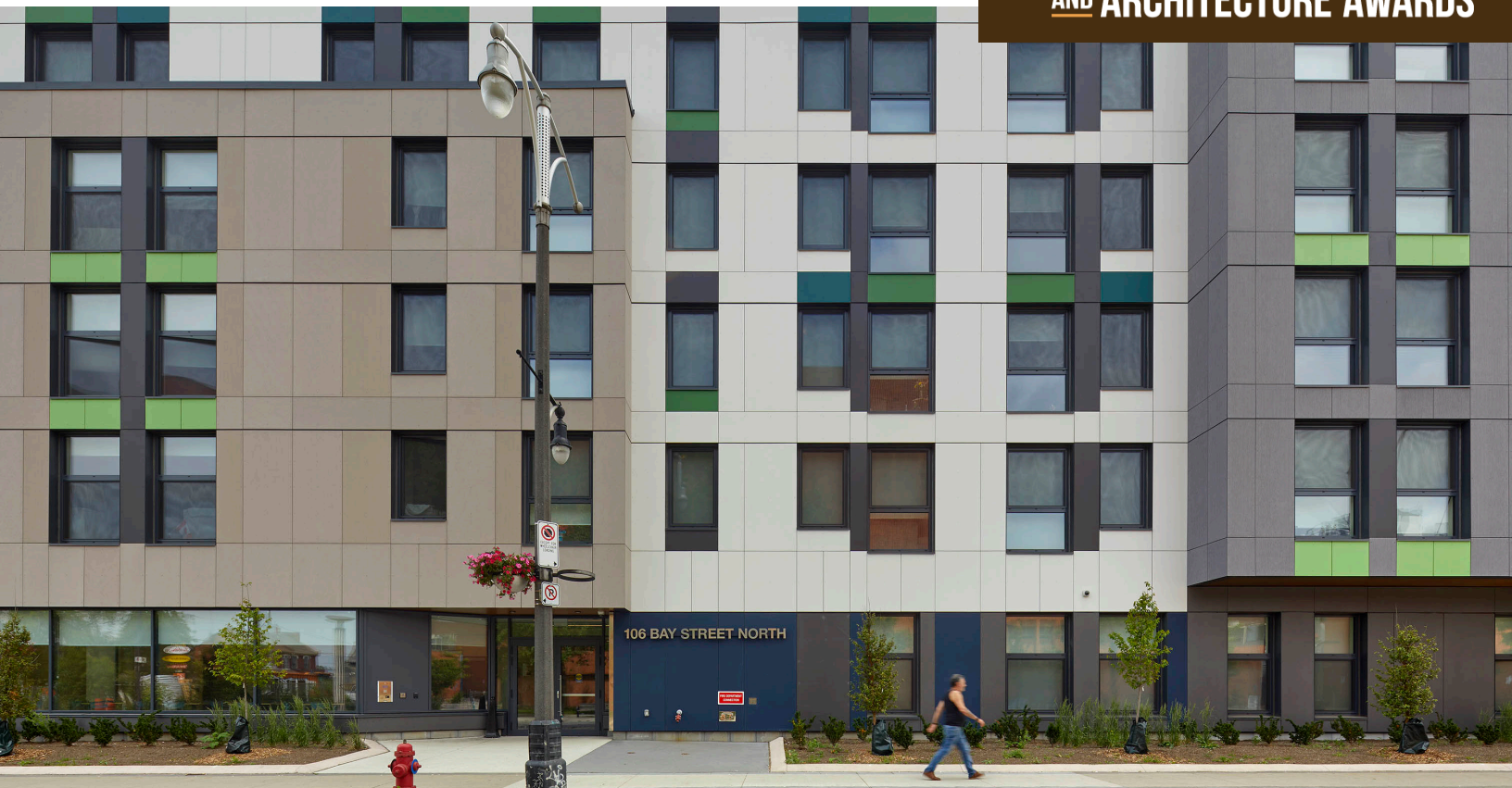
Located on the former City Motor Hotel site, CityHousing Hamilton's 55 Queenston Road Apartments is a six-storey building designed with setbacks to accommodate the Queenston Traffic Circle and planned LRT infrastructure. The ground-level commercial space will house a YWCA childcare centre with a secure play area opening onto a shared courtyard. This courtyard serves as a quiet, family-friendly space between building phases. The building's angular form provides three-bedroom corner units with natural light. Three custom murals reflect Hamilton's transit history, featuring the incline railway, the Studebaker era, and the upcoming LRT.

CityHousing Hamilton
Invizij Architects Inc.
Toms + McNally Design
OMC Landscape Architecture
Zon Engineering Inc.

S. Llewellyn & Associates Ltd.
Kalos Engineering Inc.
CK Engineering Inc.
Schilthuis Construction Inc.

CHIEF PLANNER AWARD

CITY OF HAMILTON
**2025 URBAN DESIGN
AND ARCHITECTURE AWARDS**



CITYHOUSING HAMILTON

106 Bay Street North, Hamilton, ON

The CityHousing Hamilton project at 106 Bay Street North is a six-storey, safe, and affordable building designed to support diverse communities. Built on a former City-owned parking lot, the development features no underground parking, with vehicle access restricted to Cannon Street, keeping the Bay Street frontage entirely pedestrian-friendly. A pedestrian plaza connects Bay Street to a landscaped garden at the rear, doubling as bicycle parking and providing a buffer between the building and nearby historic three-storey townhomes. The ground floor includes a community space that encourages social interaction, serving both residents and the wider neighbourhood through social services and events.

CityHousing Hamilton
Kearns Mancini Architects
Bousfields
Adesso Design Inc.
Read Jones Christoffersen
Nemetz (S/A) & Associates

Reinbold Engineering Group
S. Llewellyn & Associates Ltd.
WSP
Schilthuis Construction Inc.
Peel Passive House

CHIEF PLANNER COMMENTS

This 55-unit development at 106 Bay Street North represents a significant milestone for the City of Hamilton in advancing affordable and sustainable housing. By providing 82% deeply affordable and 18% moderately affordable units, the project directly addresses the city's urgent need for affordable housing options. Its commitment to Passive House Standards, including superior insulation, airtight construction, and energy-efficient ventilation, demonstrates leadership in reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. The inclusion of rooftop photovoltaic panels further supports the city's climate goals. Together, these achievements showcase Hamilton's dedication to creating resilient, healthy communities while promoting environmental sustainability and social equity.

CHIEF PLANNER AWARD



CHIEF PLANNER COMMENTS

This project significantly increases Hamilton's affordable housing supply by providing 24 studio-style units, all deeply affordable and rent-geared-to-income housing. It offers safe and stable homes specifically for Black, Indigenous, and other racialized individuals facing systemic housing barriers. By transforming a former parking lot into much-needed affordable housing, the development maximizes land use efficiently. Modular design accelerated the construction timeline while maintaining superior quality. The building's Passive House Certification, featuring an airtight envelope and an all-electric heating and cooling system powered by rooftop photovoltaic panels, showcases a strong commitment to sustainability and innovation. The project also included a well-designed outdoor amenity at the rear.

HAMILTON PASSIVE HOUSE MODULAR HOUSING

257 King William Street, Hamilton, ON

The Hamilton Passive House Modular Housing project, located at 257 King William Street in downtown Hamilton, offers safe and affordable rental living options through a thoughtfully designed compact three-storey building that complements its surrounding context. The building integrates with nearby structures by matching setbacks, height, and rooflines, creating an appropriately scaled infill with gentle density that blends well into the neighbourhood. Constructed using modular methods, the development features amenity space at ground level with residential units above. An enclosed backyard provides a secure outdoor area enhanced with barbecues, seating, and a community garden surrounded by low-maintenance landscaping. As a Certified Passive House, it incorporates sustainable design elements like a high-performance envelope and photovoltaic panels.

CityHousing Hamilton
Montgomery Sisam Architects
Toms + McNally Design
Landwise
OMC Landscape Architecture
Ainley
DesignWorks
Solera

NRB Modular Solutions - ATCO Structures
Peel Passive House
Peto McMallum
SLR
Vortex Fire
National Elevator Consulting
CFMS - West Consulting Inc.

CHIEF PLANNER AWARD

CITY OF HAMILTON
**2025 URBAN DESIGN
AND ARCHITECTURE AWARDS**



1620 MAIN STREET EAST

1620 Main Street East, Hamilton, ON

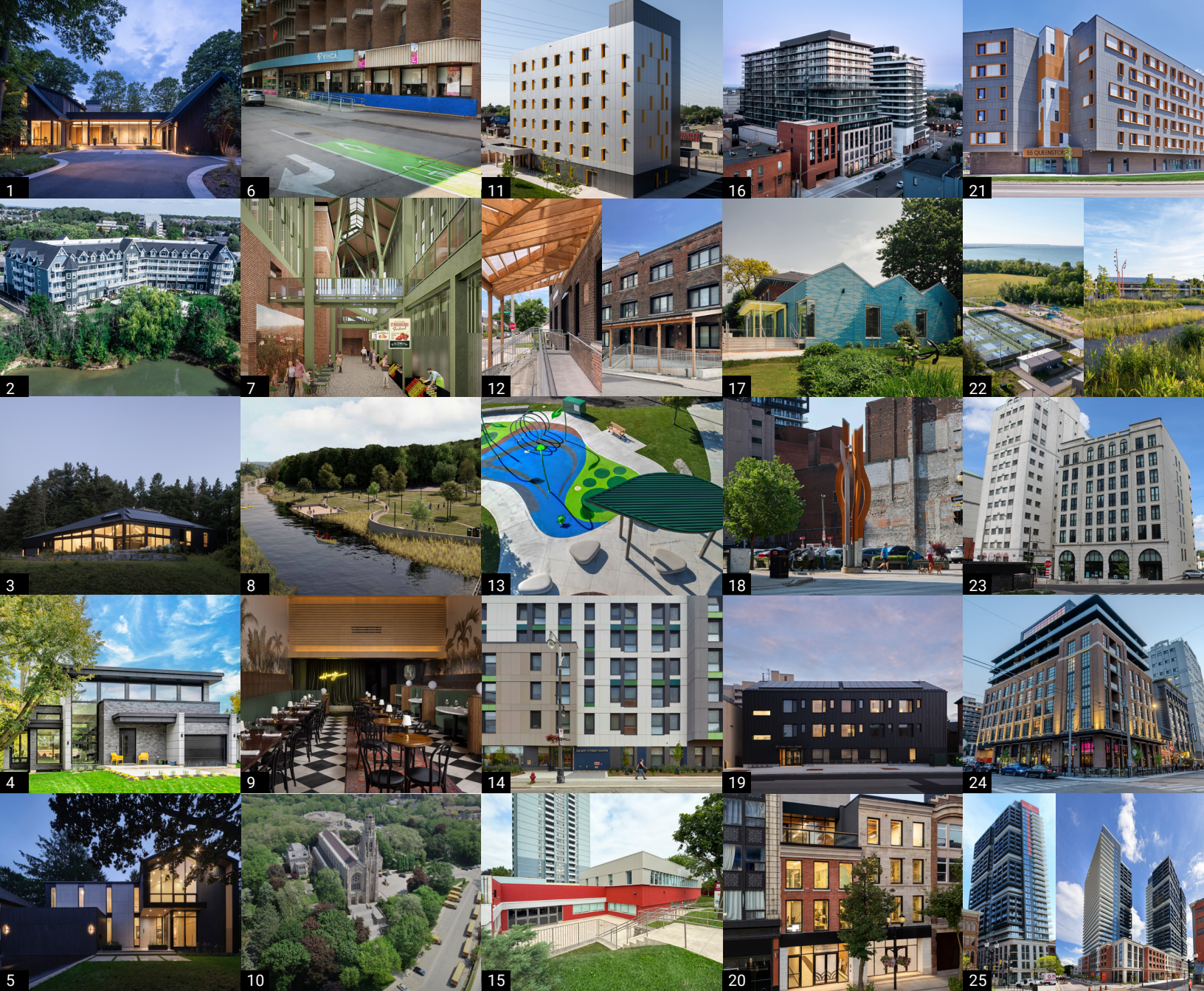
Located at 1620 Main Street East on a compact, transit-connected urban site, this six-storey mass timber building is adjacent to the 55 Queenston Road site. It provides housing that supports vulnerable residents in a well-connected neighbourhood. The structure is built primarily from sustainably harvested cross-laminated timber, including stairwells and elevator shafts, which greatly reduces greenhouse gas emissions compared to concrete construction. The building's simple, modern form aligns with the residential scale of the area while reflecting civic investment. This approach combines sustainable materials with practical design to meet the needs of the community.

CityHousing Hamilton
mcCallumSather
Landwise
OMC Landscape Architecture
RDH Building Science Inc.
DEI Consulting

MTE Consultants
Element5
Melloul-Blamey Construction
Vortex Fire
HGC

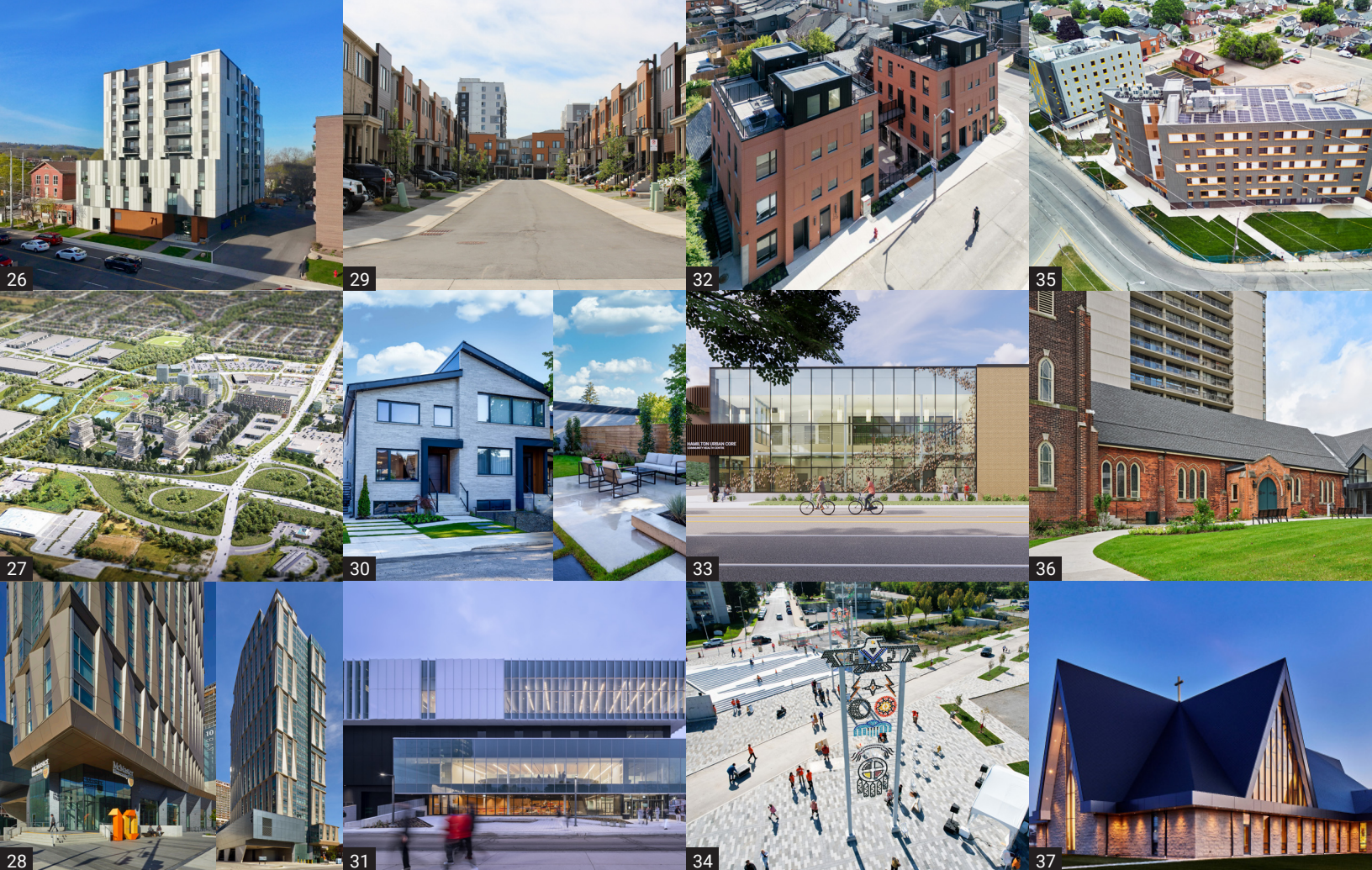
CHIEF PLANNER COMMENTS

This 42-unit affordable housing development marks a significant step for the City of Hamilton by increasing access to supportive housing with 52% deeply affordable rent-geared-to-income housing unit and 48% moderately affordable 'half-market' rents. As CityHousing Hamilton's first mass timber project, it highlights the city's commitment to innovative, sustainable construction. Certified under Passive House International standards, the building is among the most energy-efficient in Hamilton, offering low operating costs and nearly zero greenhouse gas emissions throughout its lifespan. The use of prefabricated components accelerated the construction timeline, enabling the city to deliver affordable housing more quickly to meet urgent community needs.



THANK YOU

The City of Hamilton would like to sincerely thank all the owners, professionals, and individuals that submitted projects for the 2025 Urban Design and Architecture Awards Program.



LIST OF SUBMISSIONS:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Dundas Valley House | 19 Hamilton Passive House Modular Housing |
| 2 Upper Mill Pond | 20 King John Buildings |
| 3 Dundas Valley Project | 21 55 Queenston Apartments |
| 4 Echo House | 22 Jennie Florence Parker Sports Complex |
| 5 Vista House | 23 The Greystone |
| 6 YWCA Hamilton Streetscape Safety Initiative | 24 The Chelsea |
| 7 The Jammery Planting Roots (Routes) for a Local Community | 25 The King William Urban Rentals |
| 8 Rethinking Chedoke Creek | 26 Imperium |
| 9 Henry's on James | 27 iConnect |
| 10 Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King | 28 10 Bay Residence, McMaster University |
| 11 1620 Main St. E. | 29 Roxborough Park Towns |
| 12 Nih Dawin'Naa | 30 Kirkendall Semis |
| 13 Woodlands Park Spray Pad | 31 McMaster University Student Activity Building (HUB) and Pulse Fitness Centre, |
| 14 CityHousing Hamilton | 32 131 Wellington St. N (The Bridge) |
| 15 Victoria Park Community Homes Office Addition + Renovation | 33 Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Center |
| 16 1 Jarvis | 34 All Our Relations |
| 17 Hamilton Children's Museum | 35 Queenston Traffic Circle - Zoning Study & Site Development |
| 18 WoodGate | 36 Magnolia Hall (Formally St. Mark's Church) |
| | 37 St. Catherine of Siena Church |

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT
hamilton.ca/urbandesignawards