

# ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM

## COURSE PLAN - JULY 2022

**Course delivery:**

Four (4) outdoor walking tours (sessions), including select building tours and one (1) office visit.

**Course length/duration:**

Each walking tour will happen on separate days in early to mid July. Each walking tour is 2 hours long. The studio visit will be no longer than 1 hour long and will be part of one of the walking tours. Sessions to begin at the end of the afternoon classes.

**Course description:**

This course will introduce participants to the architecture and public spaces of Toronto -- Canada's largest city. Through outdoor walking tours and interior building tours (where permissible due to COVID) we will focus on contemporary buildings, including skyscrapers, and urban spaces.

We'll discuss challenges and opportunities inherent in such dense and urban developments, including how public spaces are made successful and how buildings relate to the public realm. Participants will see how Toronto's architects are building to fit a Canadian climate, finding new purposes for old buildings and how they can be integrated into new construction.

**Assignment:**

A choice of 4 assignments are suggested for this course. Only one of these assignments require to be completed individually.

**Instructor:**

Emad Ghattas

**Contact information:**

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**Prerequisites:**

Minimum Intermediate English

Prepared by :

Emad Ghattas, M.Arch, MRAIC, OAA, CAHP

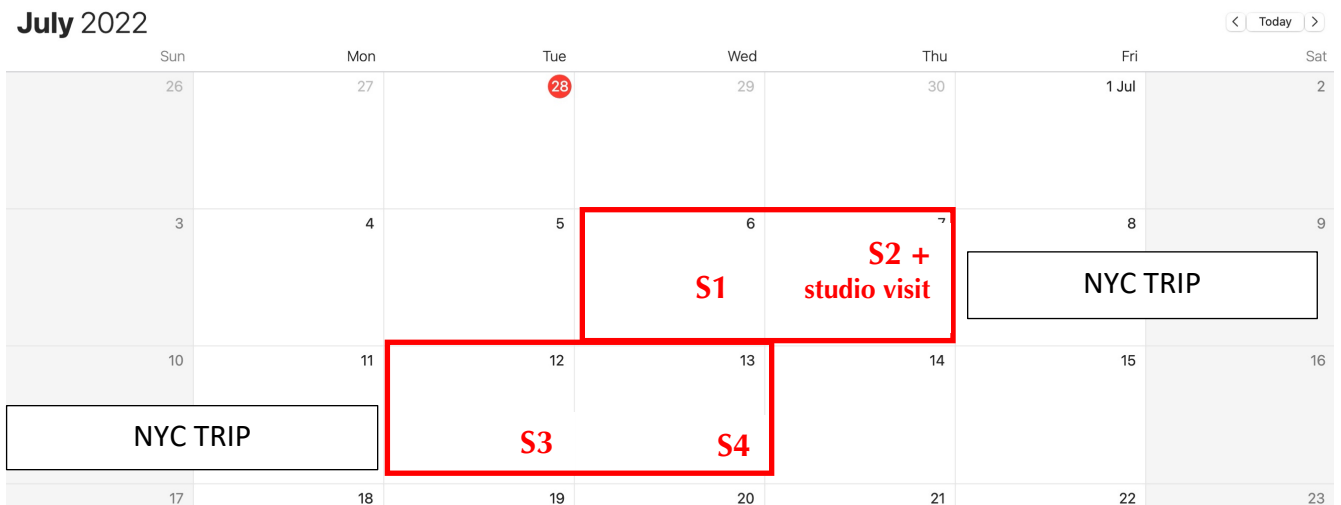
Prepared for:

Magno Barros, Skope Educational Travel

# SESSION OVERVIEW



Preliminary sessions in July 2022 (proposed order in calendar)



**Session 1 (S1):** *instructor will meet students at 155 Dundas Street West and walk to the meeting point.*

Title: Towers & Financial District

Key buildings: City Hall, TD Centre, Commerce Court, Bank of Nova Scotia, RBC, Brookfield Place

**Session 2 (S2):** *instructor will meet students at 155 Dundas Street West and walk to the meeting point.*

Title: Entertainment / Redeveloped District

Key buildings: 4 Seasons Centre, TIFF Bell Lightbox, Theatre Park, Princess of Whales and Royal Alexandra, Roy Thomson Hall, Canadian Broadcasting Centre

\* This session will be combined with an office visit given the proximity to many architectural offices. We will visit the studio of Diamond Schmitt Architects (DSA). As this session includes a studio visit, it should be expected to last 3 hours.

**Session 3 (S3):** *instructor will meet students at the first meeting point of the walking tour.*

Title: Toronto Metropolitan University – TMU (formerly Ryerson) and around

Key buildings: Student Life Centre, TMU, Heaslip House, School of Image Arts, TMU Campus, Yonge Street retention facades, Barbara Ann Scott Square

**Session 4 (S4):**

Title: UofT and Cultural campus *instructor will meet students at the first meeting point of the walking tour.*

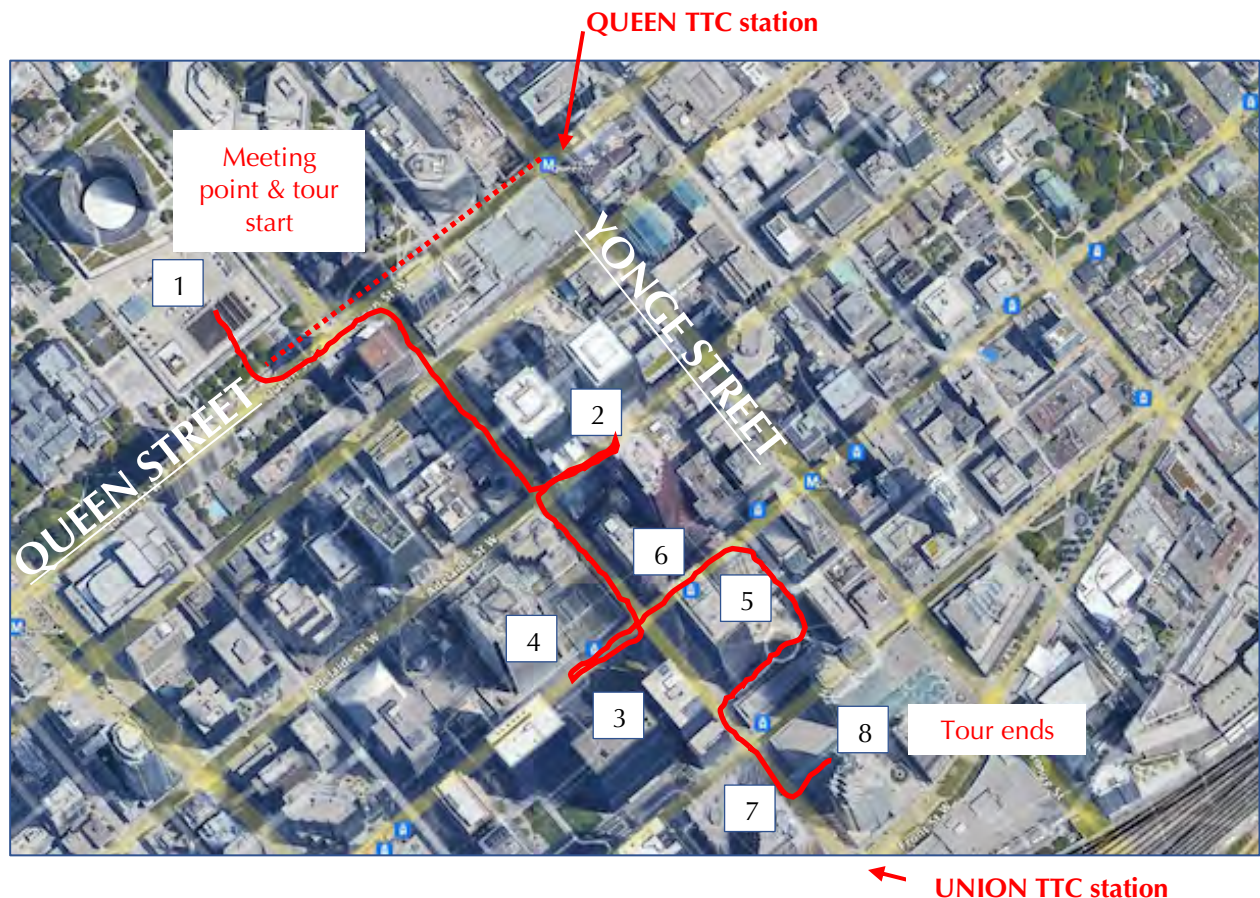
Key buildings: Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) + Telus Centre/ Koerner Hall/ atrium, Goldring Centre, St George Street, Rotman School of Management, Max Gluskin House, Woodsworth College, Robarts Library + extension.

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## Session 1 (S1): Towers & Financial District

<p>Themes explored:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Skyscraper definition</li> <li>2. Evolution of skyscrapers</li> <li>3. Banks as the main uses that lead to skyscraper designs</li> <li>4. Tall buildings in conjunction with public spaces</li> <li>5. Construction materials</li> </ol>	<p>Goals of this session:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understand evolution of skyscrapers</li> <li>1. Review what makes tall buildings interesting (not just height)</li> <li>2. Explore various issues / challenges in designing tall buildings throughout time</li> <li>3. Understand structural design in tall buildings (central core, steel and concrete/ efficiency of floor plates)</li> <li>4. Understand office design in tall buildings (flexible floor plates, corner offices, etc.)</li> </ol>
<p>Buildings / stops</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Toronto City Hall (international competition won by a foreign architect)</li> <li>2. Bay/ Adelaide Centre (West and East and North under construction)</li> <li>3. TD Centre (Excellent example of modernism)</li> <li>4. 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Place (tallest in Canada)</li> <li>5. Commerce Court (CIBC) example of integration of heritage building</li> <li>6. Scotia Plaza (other example of integration of heritage building)</li> <li>7. RBC Plaza (use of gold in windows for control of solar heat gain)</li> <li>8. Brookfield Place (beautiful public space and development of City block)</li> </ol>	

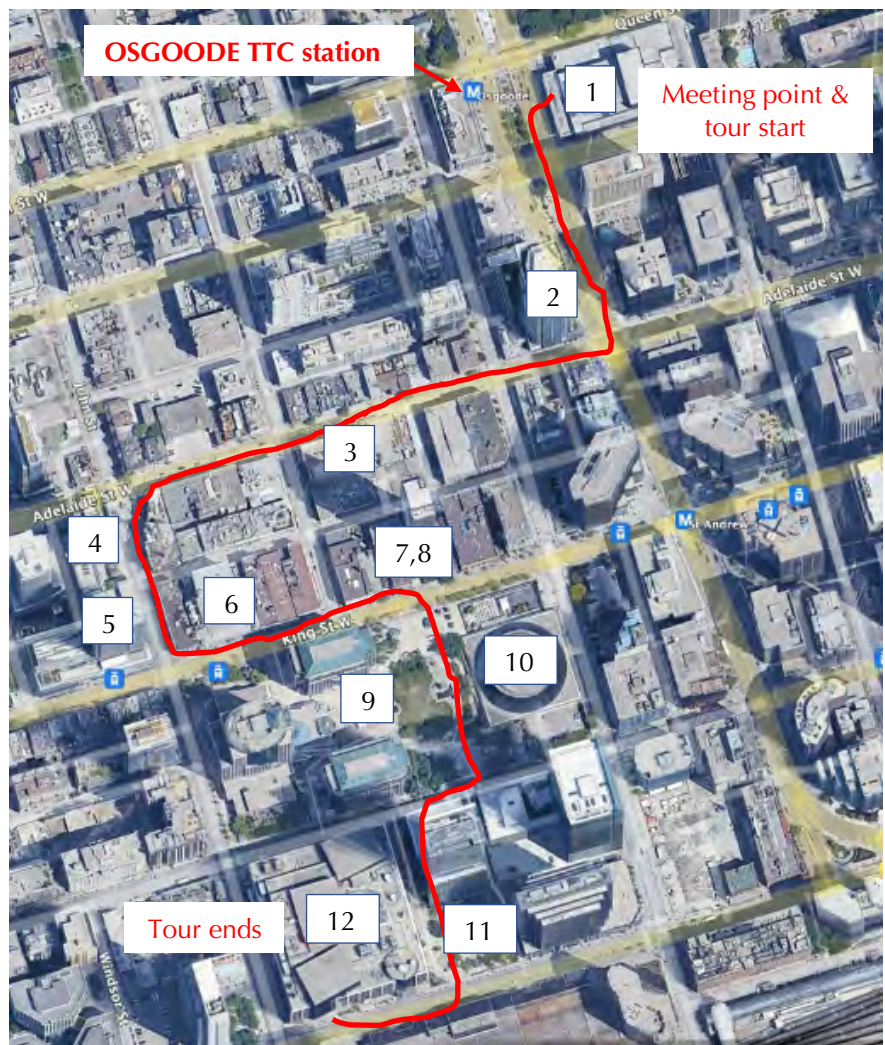


## Session 2 (S2): Entertainment / Redeveloped District

Themes explored:	Goals of this session:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public spaces in urban setting</li> <li>2. Mixes of uses in buildings</li> <li>3. Development of under-utilized spaces (1990s)</li> <li>4. Entertainment uses</li> <li>5. Construction materials</li> <li>6. Structural retention of building facades</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understand how a former manufacturing district has been developed as a multi-use area (including entertainment, commercial, and residential uses)</li> <li>2. Understand how early 20th-century factories have been repurposed</li> <li>3. Understand challenges faced in a dense, multi-use area (primarily noise, traffic, transit)</li> <li>4. Understand sustainable features in buildings</li> </ol>

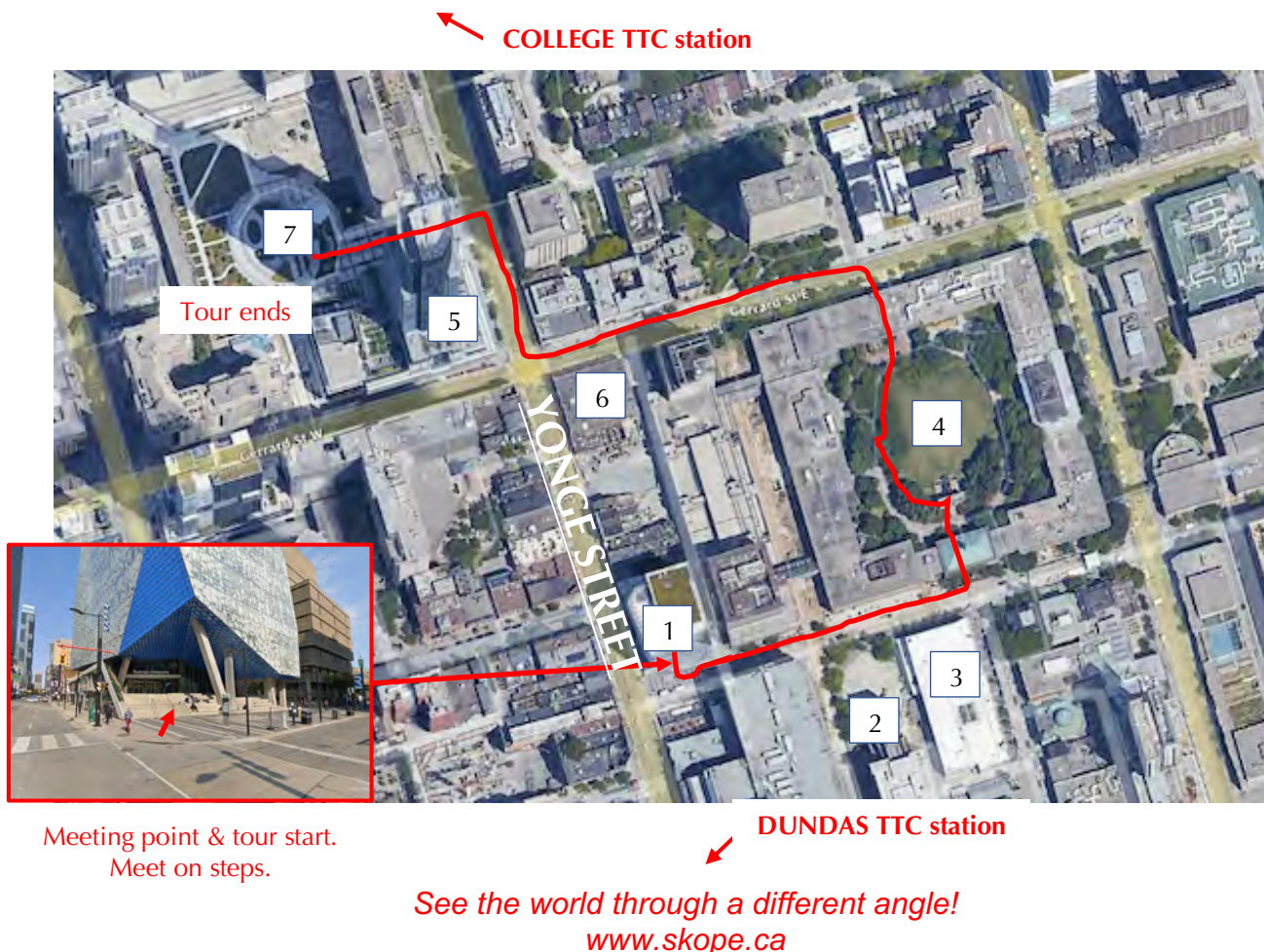
### Buildings / stops

1. 4 Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts
2. Shangri-La Hotel
3. 19 Duncan (under construction)
4. The Pinnacle on Adelaide / POPS / Historic house on John St.
  - Studio visit at DSAI – 384 Adelaide St.W.
5. TIFF Bell Lightbox
6. Princess of Wales Theater
7. Royal Alexandra
8. Theatre Park
9. Metro Square
10. Roy Thomson Hall
11. Simcoe Park
12. Canadian Broadcast Centre



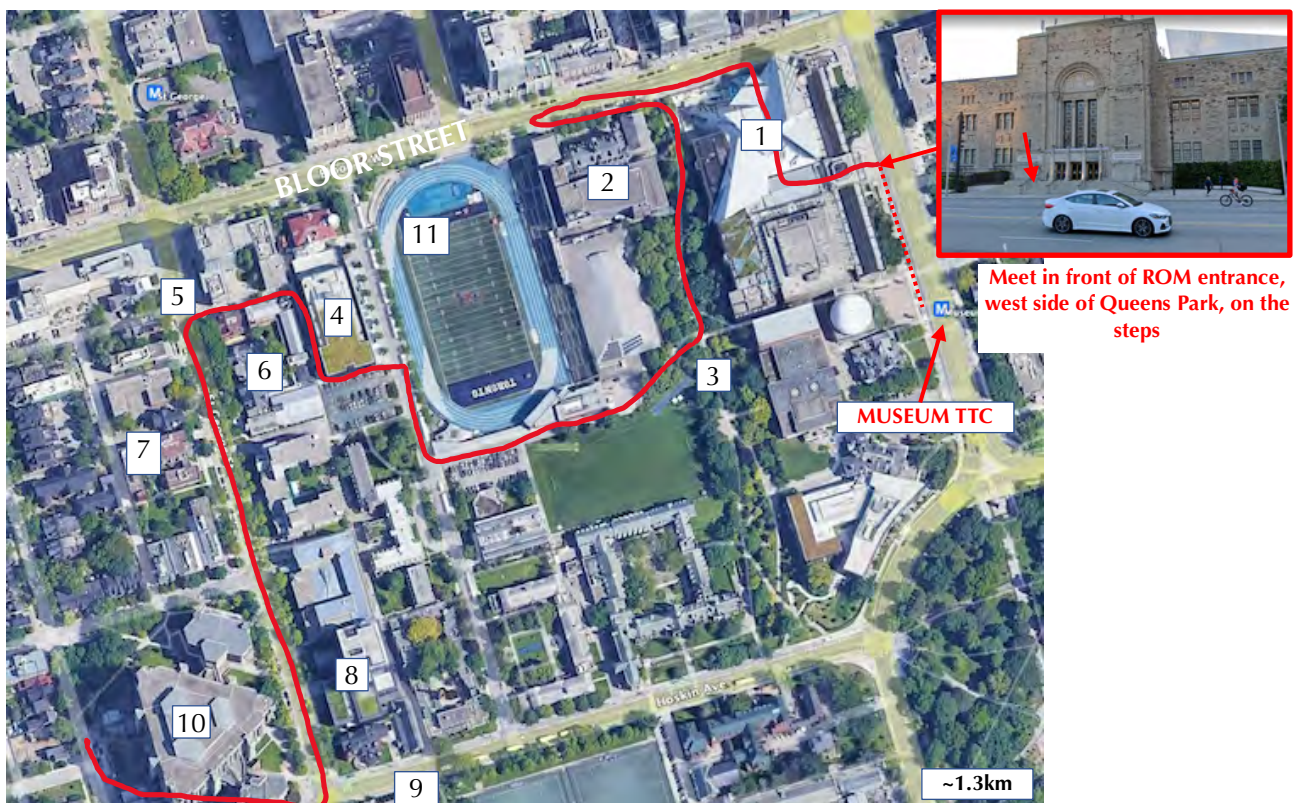
## Session 3 (S3): TMU and around

Themes explored:	Goals of this session:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public spaces in urban setting</li> <li>2. Campus design in urban setting</li> <li>3. Construction materials</li> <li>4. Structural retention of building facades</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understand combination of building design integrated into urban fabric</li> <li>2. Understand how university needs are met in 21<sup>st</sup> century</li> <li>3. Explore campus design into urban grid (adjacent to Yonge Street (busy) and around Gould Street (more quiet))</li> <li>4. Review example of façade integration</li> <li>5. Understand structural challenges of retaining building facades and impact on sidewalk spaces</li> <li>6. Understand sustainable features in buildings</li> </ol>
<p>Buildings / stops</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Student Life Centre, TMU (public space along Yonge and Gould)</li> <li>2. Heaslip House (public space fronting Gould)</li> <li>3. School of Image Arts (good programming of spaces for Image Arts students)</li> <li>4. TMU Community Park / Education façade (urban campus design)</li> <li>5. Aura condominiums (one of the tallest residential towers)</li> <li>6. YSL Condos site + retained facades along Yonge and Gerrard</li> <li>7. Barbara Ann Scott Park – public art and play areas</li> </ol>	



## Session 4 (S4): UofT and Cultural campus

Themes explored:	Goals of this session:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public spaces in campus setting</li> <li>2. Building infills</li> <li>3. Integration of old buildings (residential scale) with new buildings</li> <li>4. Culture vs academics</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explore public spaces on campus</li> <li>2. Understand how university needs are met in 21<sup>st</sup> century</li> <li>3. Review opportunities and challenges of integration of old and new</li> <li>4. Understand how cultural venues can shape building designs</li> </ol>
Buildings / stops	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Royal Ontario Museum (deconstructivist architecture by Liebskin)</li> <li>2. Royal Conservatory of Music + Telus Centre for Performing Arts</li> <li>3. Philosopher's Walk (old creek revitalized as a park-like walk)</li> <li>4. Goldring Centre (contemporary sports facility)</li> <li>5. St George Street (important axis of the University campus)</li> <li>6. Woodsworth College (example of contemporary intervention and infill)</li> <li>7. Max Gluskin House (integration of old with new + use of Corten steel)</li> <li>8. Rotman School of Management (integration of old with new)</li> <li>9. Whitney Hall (1950s design to imitate Neo-Georgian style)</li> <li>10. Robarts Library and new extension (Brutalist architecture and modern addition)</li> <li>11. St. George's Hall (historic building)</li> </ol>	



## ASSIGNMENT 1

### TORONTO'S CHANGING BUILT FORM

This self-guided tour takes you through a small part of downtown Toronto where the buildings illustrate the city's changes since its founding 220 years ago. Toronto began as the Town of York in 1793, and this area was reserved for military use. It was thought that Canada – a British colony then – would be attacked by the United States (which had recently broken away from Britain). After the War of 1812 between Britain and the U.S., Toronto no longer needed to be a military garrison and the lands were sold to private individuals to build on.

During the middle and late 1800s, this area became a quiet residential neighbourhood with a mixture of large and small houses. In the early 1900s, the area became dominated by small factories and warehouses. Toronto had become a manufacturing centre and this area was close to transportation provided by railways and the harbour. This lasted until the 1980s when globalization drove manufacturing outside of Canada. The former factories were repurposed as offices, residential condominiums, and restaurants. New residential buildings were added, including townhouses and midrise condos.

### TASK

Guided by the map on the next page, explore this area west of the central downtown and observe the types of old and new buildings. Watch for the following (see instructions on how to get there & letters on the map):

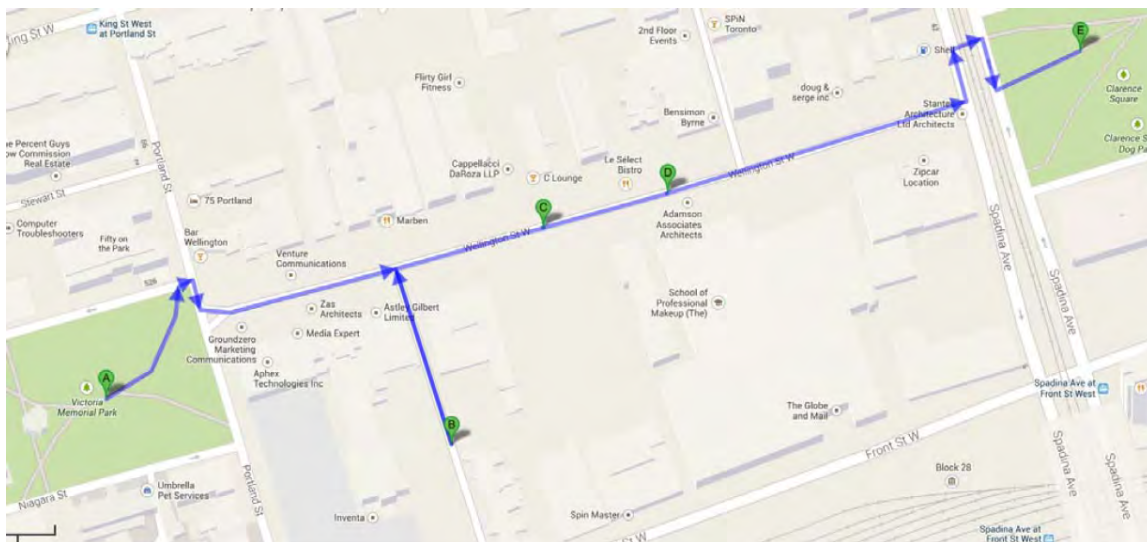
- A. Victoria Memorial Square & residential buildings: former military cemetery, now a public park surrounded by residential buildings (Twenty, 1998 condo building on west side with balconies overlooking the Square; Fifty on the Park, 2005 rental apartment building on north side of Square; and Portland Park Village, early 2000s townhouses & condo building south of Square)
- B. Draper Street: a short street of houses built in the 1880s; protected as a Heritage Conservation District since 1998
- C. Repurposed warehouses:
  - a. 1907 & 1918 former scrap metal dealers at 488 Wellington
  - b. 1915 sewing patterns factory at 468-470 Wellington
  - c. 1917 medicines company at 462 Wellington
  - d. 1915 men's underwear company at 436-438 Wellington
- D. 424 Wellington: 1888 house; street was lined with large houses like this before the 1900s; a residential condo tower is proposed on this site (the heritage house would be the base)
- E. Clarence Square: public park with 1880 townhouses on the north side and factories repurposed as offices on the south

## QUESTIONS

- What makes this a desirable neighbourhood?
- What made the old factories and warehouses suitable for offices and residential units?
- Do you agree that the private houses on Draper Street should be protected from demolition or drastic changes? Why or why not?

## GETTING THERE:

Take the subway to St. Andrew station (on the University line); at street level take the King streetcar west to Portland and walk south to Wellington Street.





## ASSIGNMENT 2

### TORONTO'S GREEN SPACES

Although it's the fourth largest city in North America and has a busy, vibrant downtown core, Toronto is known for its many green spaces. Even in the financial district, surrounded by the tallest buildings in Canada, one can find an oasis. Most of the spaces are on land belonging to the city (such as the Sculpture Garden), while others are on private property (such as the TD Centre "pasture").

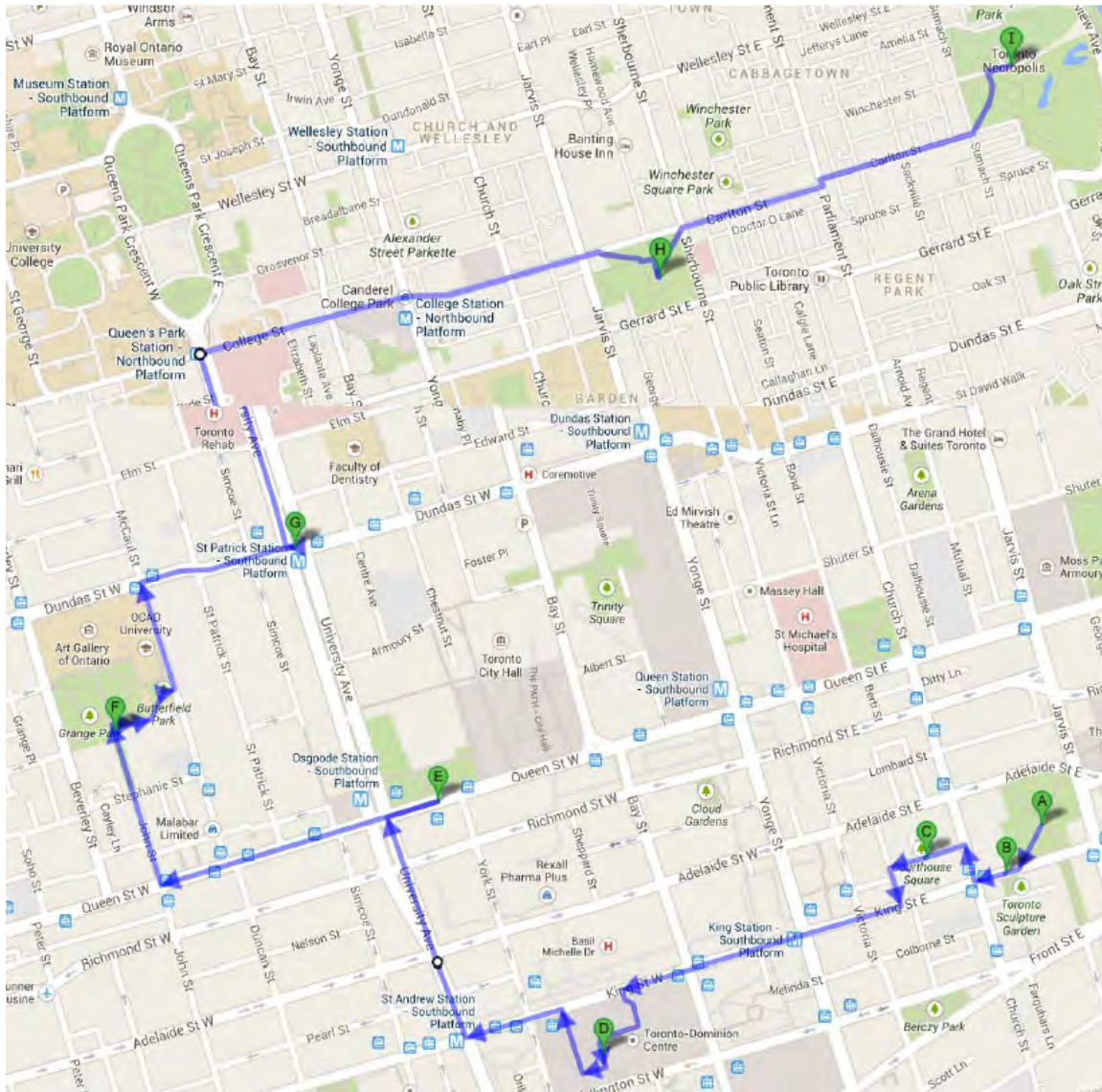
### TASK

Explore the downtown to observe and photograph green spaces. I've suggested a route on the attached map that will take you to a number of sites (see map):

- A. St James Park (next to St James Cathedral), was designed as a 19th-century park & garden
- B. Sculpture Garden (across King Street from St. James Cathedral); a plaque on the left side of the entrance tells the story of this space featuring changing contemporary sculptures
- C. Courthouse Square (behind a courthouse built in 1851-53 that is now a restaurant); this is where prisoners were hanged during the 1800s; the bronze law books represent the court
- D. "The Pasture" (just west of the tallest tower, behind the west tower); these bronze cows were fashioned by Canadian sculptor Joe Fafard in 1985 and give a quiet feeling to this space
- E. Osgoode Hall grounds (Northeast corner of Queen Street East & University Avenue); walk through the iron gate; you can also go inside the beautiful building
- F. Grange Park (behind the AGO and beside OCAD University); once the front yard of the red brick 1818 house
- G. Walk to St. Patrick subway station (G on map) on Dundas & take the subway north to Queen's Park station. Transfer to the Carlton streetcar going east and get off at Jarvis Street.
- H. Allen Gardens (southeast from Carlton & Jarvis); land donated by George Allan in 1858; you can go inside the greenhouses. Walk east along Carlton Street to the next stop:
- I. Riverdale Farm, Riverdale Park West, & Necropolis Cemetery (end of Carlton Street); a working farm with animals, one of Toronto's largest parks, and a historic 19th-century cemetery

## QUESTIONS

- What makes a great green space downtown?
- How do the green spaces connect to or relate to surrounding architecture?
- Does the proximity of residents affect a green space? How?
- How much use were the spaces getting? What types of people were using them?



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## ASSIGNMENT 3

### REGENT PARK

What is now Regent Park was originally many city blocks with houses built in the 1800s. By the 1930s the houses were in terrible condition and it was decided to replace them with apartment buildings and some townhouses. In the 1940s and early 1950s, the houses were demolished and the streets were closed to form large "super blocks" of public housing for over 2,000 households on 28 hectares of land.

By the 21st century, this form of public housing was seen as a failure. Cutting the poor off from the rest of the neighbourhood (and city) created an area where criminals could be undetected. After consultations with the members of the community, a revitalization was begun in the early 2000s. Gradually, the old buildings are being replaced with new high rise apartment buildings and townhouses.

These changes mean that Regent Park is no longer just an area for the poor, where no one else would want to go.

### TASK

Through this assignment, you'll explore Regent Park using the map below. You'll start with the portion from the 1940s that is yet to be demolished. As you walk south, you'll see the new residential buildings and services. Take photographs to compare the various parts of Regent Park.

Look for the following sites:

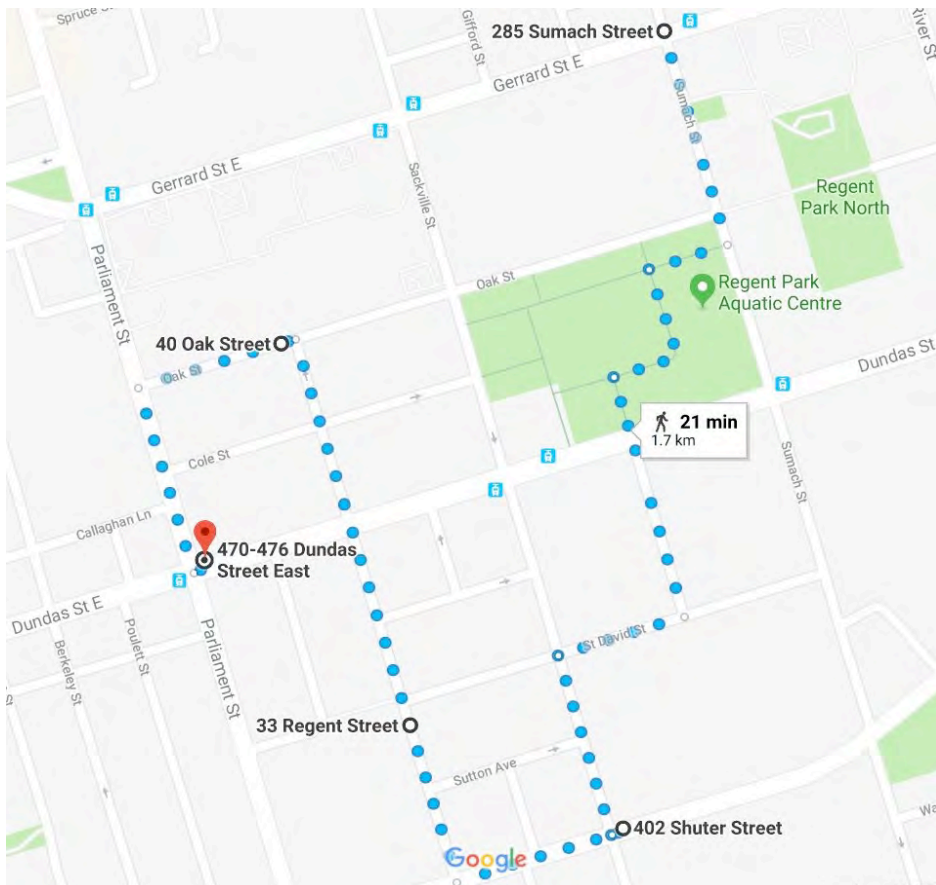
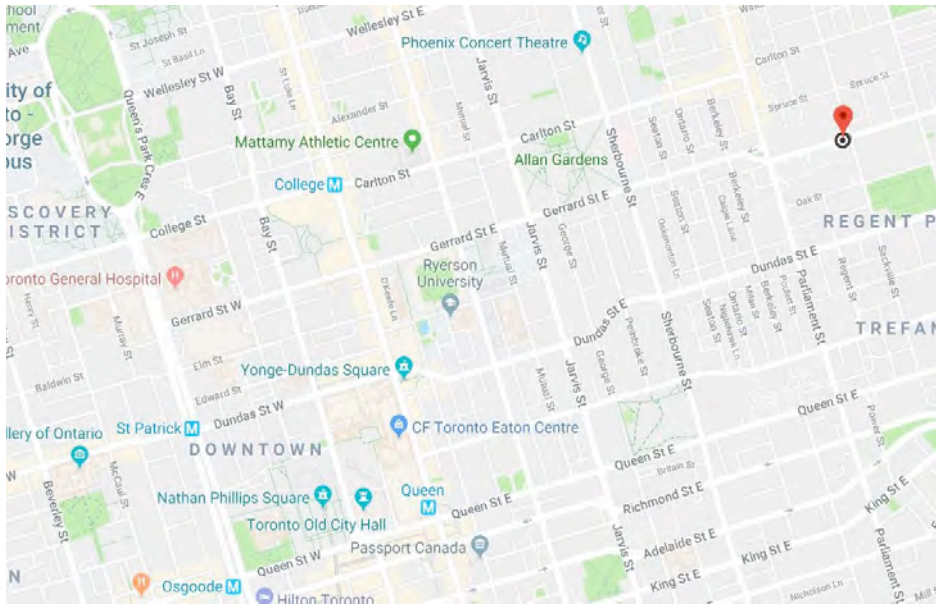
1. RP AQUATIC CENTRE 2011-12 MacLennan Jaunkalns Miller Architects (MJMA)
2. DANIELS SPECTRUM (Regent Park Arts & Cultural Centre) 2012 Diamond Schmitt
3. REGENT [PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE, 402 Shuter St. 2016 CS&P
4. DUNDAS/SACKVILLE APTS, 246 & 252 Sackville St
5. CRC (Christian Resource Centre) 40 Oak St. 2012
6. ONE PARK WEST, 260 Sackville 2013
7. ONE PARK WEST TOWNHOMES, along Cole & Oak Sts. 2011 Graziani Corazza

### QUESTIONS

- What are 3 changes you see between the built form in the north (original) part of Regent Park and the built form in the redeveloped part of Regent Park?
- What are two challenges in the new Regent Park?

### GETTING THERE:

From downtown, take the College Street / Carlton Street streetcar east. The streetcar goes onto Gerrard Street East; get off at Gerrard & Sumach. Walk the route on the map below. It begins in the original part of Regent Park and proceeds into the redeveloped portion.



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## ASSIGNMENT 4

### TORONTO'S WATERFRONT

The waterfront was originally developed as a public promenade and park in the very early 1800s, soon after the town was founded. A few commercial wharves were established because supplies for the town arrived by ship. Once the railways came in the mid-1800s, the shoreline became dominated by factories, warehouses, and shipping facilities. Toronto became a major manufacturing centre and the waterfront was used to receive and send raw materials and finished products. Toronto also served as a gateway to the United States and other parts of Canada. Several factors led to the demise of industry along the waterfront:

- A. After the 1940s, trucking replaced ships and railways to become the main way to move goods. Industries then needed access to highways.
- B. Factories and warehouses moved outside of the city to where land was cheaper for their buildings and parking lots. Most railway lines along the shoreline were dismantled (some remain for commuter trains).
- C. Beginning in the 1980s, globalization meant that goods could be made less expensively outside of Canada. Almost all factories in Toronto closed.

### TASK

Through this assignment, you'll explore the central waterfront between Dan Leckie Way in the west and Parliament Street in the east (a distance of 3.2 km). Photograph the many public and private elements of the waterfront's ongoing transformation into relevant public space for the 21st century.

You don't need to stay on the road: there are many places to walk nearer the water. Look for the following sites (listed west to east):

1. Music Garden
2. Spadina Quay Wetlands
3. HTO Park
4. wooden "wave decks"
5. Queen's Quay Terminal
6. Harbourfront Centre
7. Toronto Island Ferry Dock
8. Redpath Sugar
9. Sugar Beach
10. Waterfront Health Sciences Centre, George Brown College
11. Sherbourne Common

## QUESTIONS

- What evidence did you find of Toronto's industrial past?
- What are the most successful elements of the waterfront? Why?
- What challenges are there for making the whole waterfront public space?

## GETTING THERE:

On subway Line 1: Yonge-University-Spadina get off at Union Station and take the Harbourfront streetcar (it only goes west), get off at Dan Leckie Way and walk slightly east to the Music Garden OR on subway on Line 2: Bloor-Danforth get off at Bathurst subway station, take Bathurst streetcar south, get off at Fleet Street, walk south to Queen's Quay, then walk east.



## WHOLE WATERFRONT WALKING ROUTE



## Links and resources of interest to Architects

Local architectural dictionary:

<http://www.ontarioarchitecture.com/glossary.html>

LEED certification in Canada.

<https://www.cagbc.org/our-work/certification/leed/>

Information for non-Canadians wanting to work as architects (scroll down a bit to see IPLAN for architecture):

<https://www.jvstoronto.org/find-a-job/newcomer-employment-services/>

## Professional Associations & Organizations

Ontario Association of Architects:

(regulatory body for architects in the province of Ontario)

<http://www.oaa.on.ca/>

Royal Architects Institute of Canada:

(Canadian not-for-profit organization that promotes architectural advocacy and excellence)

<https://www.raic.org/>

Toronto Society of Architects:

(Toronto-based volunteer-led organization that promotes advocacy and good built environment. See "Resources" section)

<https://torontosocietyofarchitects.ca/past-lecture-library/>

## Universities and Institutions

Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, University of Toronto events:

<https://www.daniels.utoronto.ca/events>

Department of Architectural Science – Toronto Metropolitan University:

<https://www.torontomu.ca/architectural-science/>

Canadian Centre for Architecture / Montreal

<http://museesmontreal.org/en/museums/canadian-centre-for-architecture>

## Museums and Galleries

The following City-owned museums are located in the downtown core and are free for the public. Please visit their websites for news, events and hours of operation.

For a full list of City museums, see

<https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/history-art-culture/museums/>

### Spadina Museum

285 Spadina Road

Former residence of a prominent family, sitting atop a ravine overlooking the City. The property is beautifully restored and is an example of a former estate. Visit the website for hours of operations and special events

<https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/history-art-culture/museums/spadina-museum/>

### Mackenzie House

82 Bond Street

The former residence of a controversial mayor – this house is an excellent example of the Georgian style of architecture that was common in Toronto in the 19<sup>th</sup> century