



## **Architecture Program**

Toronto / Canada  
January 2020

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## Architecture program

### Course delivery:

Course content will be covered through walking tours, building tours, and assigned self-guided tours.

### Course description:

This course will introduce participants to the architecture of Toronto -- Canada's largest city. Through outdoor walking tours and interior building tours we will focus on contemporary buildings and urban spaces. Toronto has the tallest buildings in Canada: over 25 buildings have more than 50 storeys, and more tall structures are under construction. We'll discuss the challenges inherent in such dense development. Participants will see how Toronto's architects are building in a sustainable manner, and finding new purposes for old buildings such as factories. Three assignments will allow participants to further explore Toronto's built form and urban spaces outside of the scheduled tours.

### Instructor:

Marta O'Brien

### Contact information:

info@skope.ca  
marta.obrien@utoronto.ca

### Prerequisites:

Minimum Intermediate English



## Course schedule

*NOTE: The following dates and times will not change, but the order in which we cover the activities may change due to weather or venue schedules.*

### Week 1

Wednesday, January 8, 3:00 to 5:00  
Meeting place: SGIC, 150 Dundas Street West, 2nd Floor  
Activity: Tall Buildings walking tour  
Assignment due on Monday, January 13, 8pm

### Week 2

Wednesday, January 15, 3:00 to 5:00  
Meeting place: SGIC, 150 Dundas Street West, 2nd Floor  
Activity: Ryerson University Student Leaning Centre building tour  
Assignment due on Monday, January 20, 8pm

### Week 3

Wednesday, January 22, 3:15pm  
Meeting place: 310 Spadina Ave., suite 100B  
Activity: Visit to an architects' office

Thursday, January 23, 3:00 to 5:00  
Meeting place: SGIC, 150 Dundas Street West, 2nd Floor  
Activity: Entertainment District walking tour  
Assignment due on Monday, January 27, 8pm

### Week 4

Wednesday, January 29, 3:00 to 5:00  
Meeting place: SGIC, 150 Dundas Street West, 2nd Floor  
Activity: TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning building tour  
Assignment 4 is optional

## Program Outline

### Week 1

#### Themes

- Types of tall buildings (offices, residential)
- Issues & controversies associated with tall buildings
- Suitability of building materials for Toronto's climate and urban conditions

#### Walking Tour

Selection of Toronto's tallest buildings

#### Goals

To learn about and have some understanding of the following:

1. how tall buildings have been used in Toronto
2. challenges tall buildings pose in the city
3. how various building materials have performed

#### Assignment 1

How architecture has adapted to Toronto's changing roles

A self-guided tour taking you through a small part of downtown Toronto where the buildings illustrate the city's changes since its founding 225 years ago.

### Week 2

#### Themes

- How a contemporary post-secondary student centre meets student needs and responds to the environment
- Issues addressed by the building's design
- Use of building's envelope and the organization of interior spaces

#### Building visit & walking tour

Tour inside a contemporary student learning centre and visit a few other innovative campus buildings.

#### Goals

To learn about and have some understanding of the following:

1. how a new university building is meeting 21st century needs of undergraduate and graduate students
2. how this buildings creates an effective street presence on Toronto's most important street
3. how another university building has been designed to be sustainable

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## Assignment 2

How green space has been designed into Canada's largest city.  
A self-guided tour to visit eight of the many green spaces in downtown Toronto.

### Week 3

Entertainment District walking tour

#### Themes

- Mix of contemporary and heritage buildings in former manufacturing district
- Heritage preservation legislation and practices in Toronto
- Issues & controversies as parts of an entertainment district become residential

#### Walking Tour

Selection of Toronto's contemporary and repurposed buildings

#### Goals

To learn about and have some understanding of the following:

1. how a former manufacturing district has been developed as an multi-use area (including entertainment, commercial, and residential uses)
2. how early 20th-century factories have been repurposed
3. challenges faced in a dense, multi-use area (primarily noise, traffic, transit)
4. assignment: how the waterfront has been transformed from industrial use into public parkland and residential use

## Assignment 3

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.

### Week 4

#### Theme

Academic & performance space building tour.

#### Goals

To learn about and have some understanding of the following:

1. how a specific building's architects have addressed its site and use
2. contrasting approaches to contemporary additions to heritage buildings

## Assignment 4

Explore the central waterfront and photograph the many public and private elements of the waterfront's ongoing revitalization into a relevant space for the 21st century.

**Office visit (extra activity)**

We will visit local architectural firm's studio for a presentation about their projects and practice.

January 22th - Details for our visit to an architects' office:

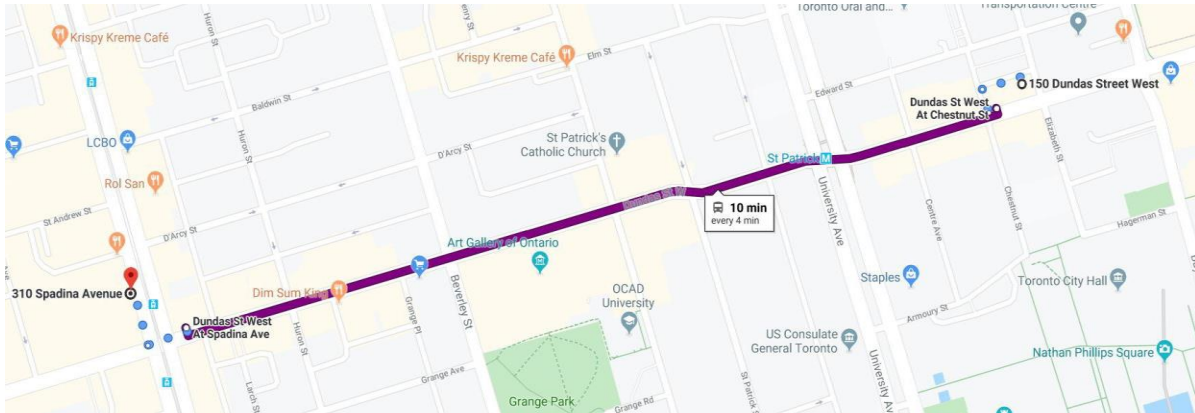
FIRM: LGA Architectural Partners WEBSITE: <http://lga-ap.com/>

DATE: Wednesday January 22, 2020

TIME: 3:15 pm

LOCATION: 310 Spadina Ave., suite 100B, just north of Dundas St. West (see map below) GETTING THERE: take the Dundas streetcar west from the school or walk the 1.2 km

Please study the firm's website and be ready to ask questions and exchange information about architectural practices here versus where you are from.



This is the building, on the west side of Spadina



### **Grading scale and policies**

No tests will be applied. Participants are expected to complete their assignments on time and to participate in at least 3 of the sessions in order to receive the certificate of completion.

### **Certificates**

Students who successfully complete the program and participate in a minimum of 75% of classes will be given a certificate at the end of the program.

### **Caveat**

We reserve the right to make last minute changes to the program above. Participant who miss classes are responsible for contacting SKOPE to find out about those changes.

### **Student resources**

Participants can book clinic time at SGIC to get help preparing their assignments.

## 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

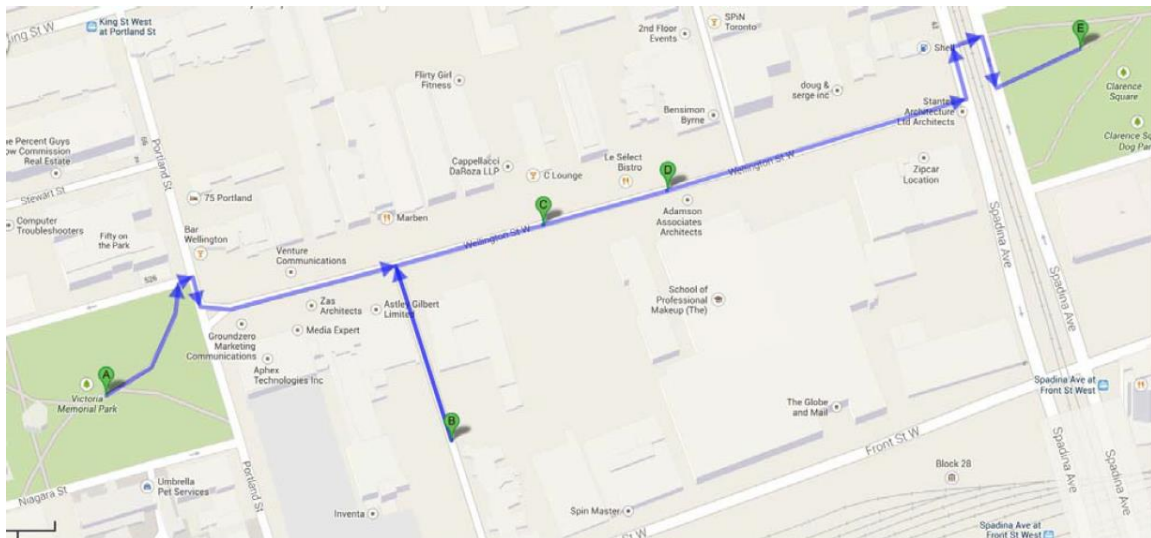


## QUESTIONS

- 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").

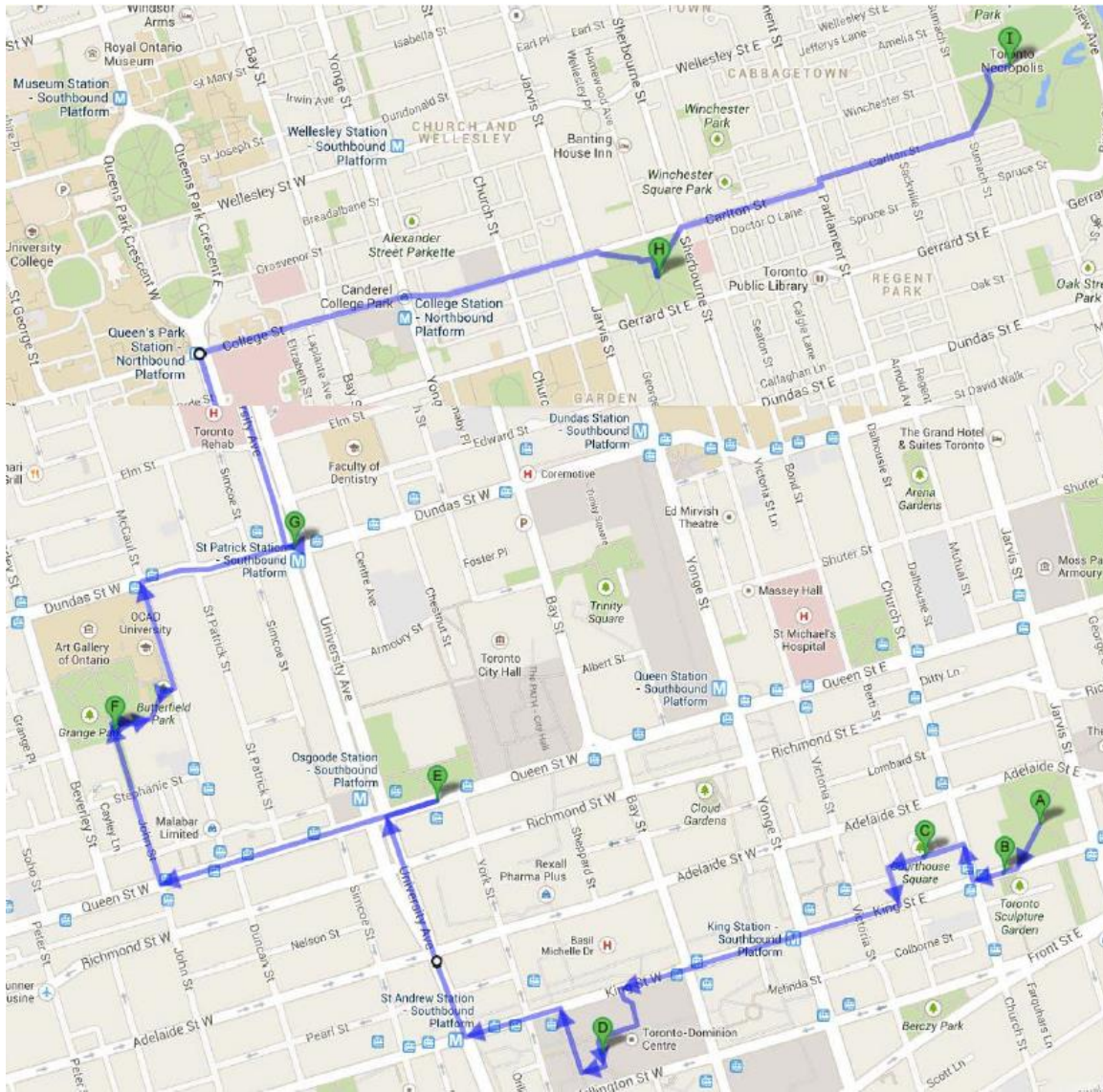
### TASK

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 public building's central entrance
- F. Grange Park (behind the AGO and beside OCAD University); once the front yard of the red brick 1818 house; revitalized in 2017 with many more elements
- G. *direction only*: 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 (*include examples from the spaces you visited*)

- 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?



### 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 apartments 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

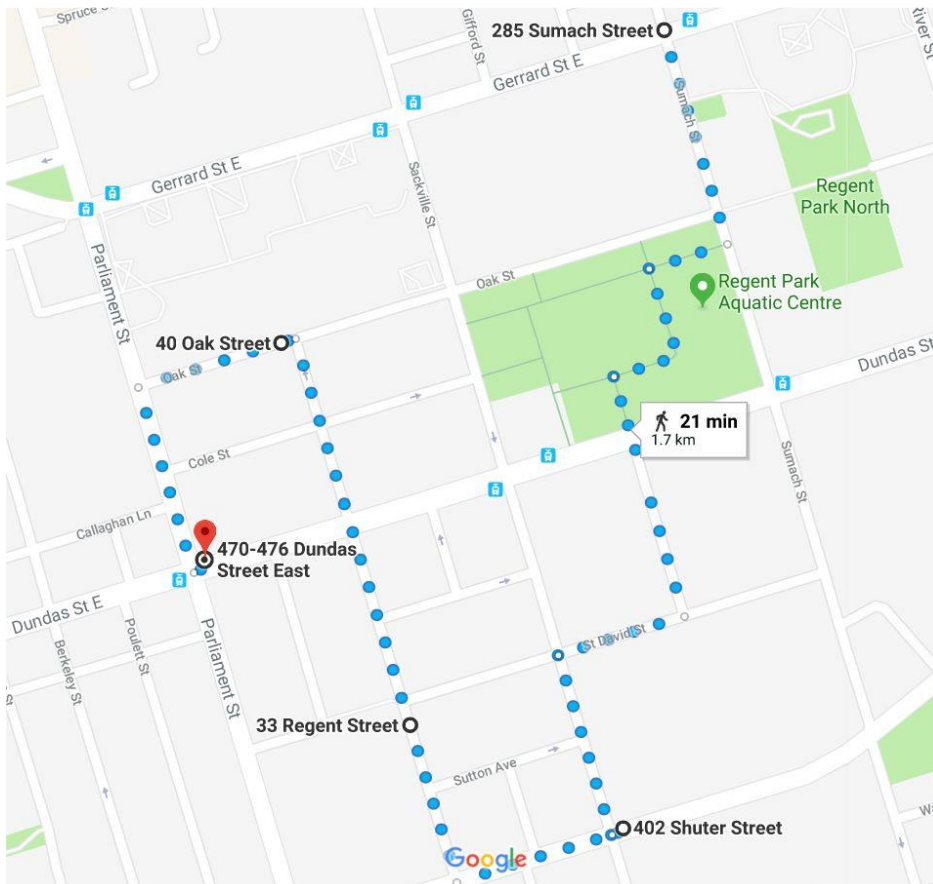
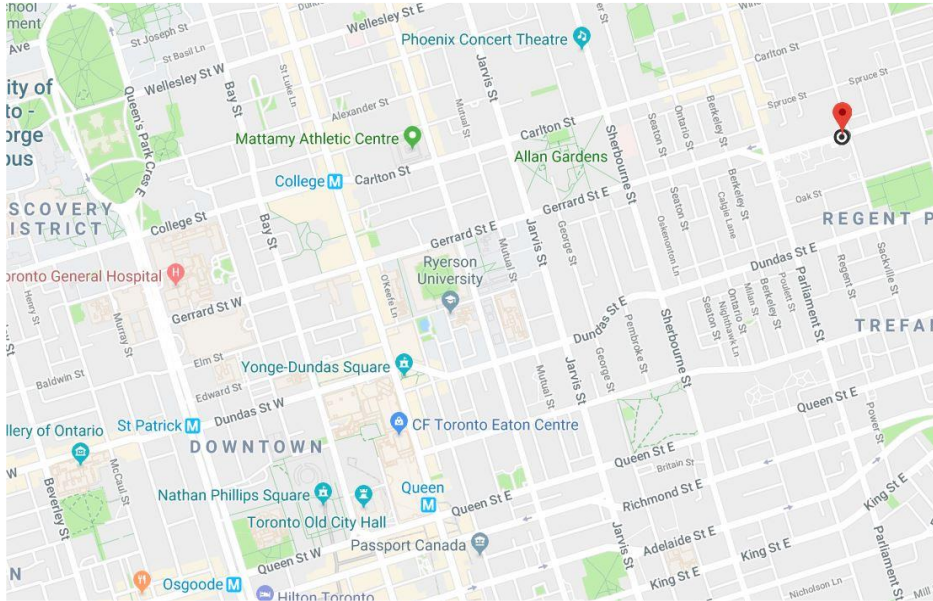
#### QUESTIONS

- 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.



## 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

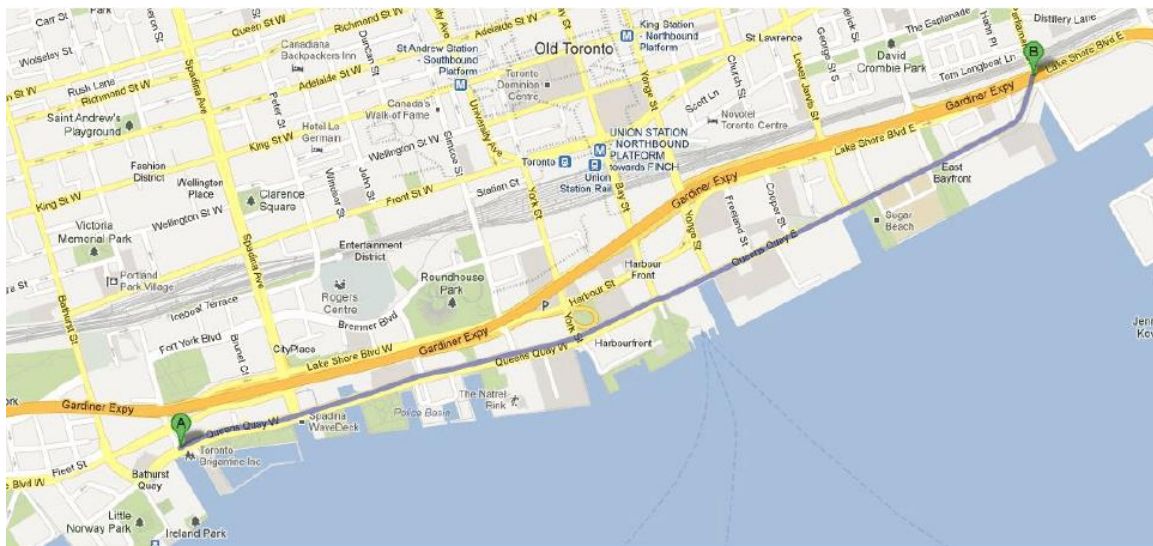
- What evidence did you find of Toronto's industrial past?
- What are the most successful elements of the waterfront? Why?
- What challenges are there for making the whole waterfront public space?

## 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/CAGBC/LEED/Why\\_LEED/CAGBC/Programs/LEED/LEED.aspx?hkey=5d7f0f3e-0dc3-4ede-b768-021835c8ff92](https://www.cagbc.org/CAGBC/LEED/Why_LEED/CAGBC/Programs/LEED/LEED.aspx?hkey=5d7f0f3e-0dc3-4ede-b768-021835c8ff92)

Information for non-Canadians wanting to work as architects (scroll down to Immigrant Professionals Leveraging Architectural Knowledge for New Opportunities (IPLAN))

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

More about IPLAN:

<http://newcanadians.tv/iplan-a-joint-program-by-jvs-and-chang-school-to-support-internationally-trained-architects/>

Ontario Association of Architects:

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

Royal Architectural Institute of Canada:

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

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

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

Department of Architectural Science Ryerson University:

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

Canadian Centre for Architecture / Montreal

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

Design TO (January 17-26, 2020)

<https://designto.org/>