

# Design jury honours whimsy and skill

## Exceptional urban projects get their due with awards

BY MARIA COOK, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN  
OCTOBER 6, 2009

The City of Ottawa presented awards of excellence in urban design on Monday evening to a Queensway-facing office building, a single-family house in Centretown and a condo complex in New Edinburgh.

Ottawa's first Children's Garden, created by community volunteers in Old Ottawa East, received a special prize from the jury, which said "the garden is imaginative and uses delight and whimsy in defining a community space."

There were 32 submissions for the 2009 Urban Design Awards. Three independent judges recognized 10 projects in four categories: urban infill; public places and civic spaces; urban elements; and student projects.

The winning projects "contribute to a great streetscape, contribute to our ecological health and in some cases they improve our mental health," Peter Hume, chairman of the city's planning committee, said during the awards ceremony at Arts Court.

Chamberlain Offices at 76 Chamberlain Ave., by architect James Colizza, was among the three recipients of an award of excellence.

Located between the Queensway and Central Park in the Glebe, "this project is a skilful solution to a challenging site that is shaped by somewhat harsh, toxic urban conditions," the jury said.

A new house at 57 Lewis St. is the first building on the north side of Lewis Street, where there are only backyards and parking. "This project creates a new type of street façade and is a paradigm shift for this portion of Lewis Street," the jury wrote.

The 2,100-square-foot house was designed by Jacques Hamel, whose proposed three-storey condo building at 112 Queen Elizabeth Dr. is opposed by neighbours.

Mackay House, a five-storey condominium building at 295 MacKay St. in New Edinburgh, designed by architect Barry Hobin, received high praise. "The project is skilfully proportioned and scaled, and develops a clear sense of rhythm," the jury said. "If I lived in this neighbourhood, I would be happy the Mackay House was built."

Winners of six awards of merit include:

- Strathcona on the Parc, by architect Barry Padolsky, an infill project on Laurier Avenue East in Sandy Hill that features the restoration of the two heritage houses and a 17,000-square-metre addition for eight condos.

- Located at the junction of Alta Vista Drive, Riverside Drive and Industrial Avenue, the Cancer Survivors Park features a circular walkway and public art. "The design and execution of the Park involves great skill and care in detail; a lot of experience went in to designing this park," said the jury.

The awards honour exceptional projects built between Sept. 1, 2007, and Sept. 1, 2009. This is the third in the biannual awards program.

The jurors were Ian Chodikoff, editor of Canadian Architect magazine, award-winning Toronto architect Peter Clewes and Linda Anne Irvine, a landscape architect and manager of parks and open space development for the Town of Markham.

- - -

#### 2009 Ottawa Urban Design Award Winners

- Award of Excellence, urban infill (low-rise): Chamberlain Offices, 76 Chamberlain Ave.

Project by: James A. Colizza Architect

- Award of Excellence, Urban Infill (single-family house): 57 Lewis St., a three-storey condo

Project team: Hamel Design, Genivar Consulting Group Ltd., Conti Corp.

- Award of Merit, urban infill (low-rise): Strathcona on the Parc, 417, 419, 421 Laurier Ave. East

Restoration of two heritage houses with addition of new condo units

Project team: Barry Padolsky Associates Architects, M & E Engineering, McIntosh Perry Consulting Engineering; Halsall Associates; Douglas Associates Landscape Architects Ltd.; Paul Daoust Construction Canada

- Award of Merit, urban infill (low-rise): Montmartre on the Market, 224-230 Dalhousie St., 114-126 Guigues Ave., a mixed-use building

Project Team: Douglas Hardie Architect Inc., James Lennox & Associates, Novatech Engineering Consultants, M & E Engineering, Integral DX Engineering

- Award of Excellence, urban infill (mid- to high-rise): Mackay House, 295 Mackay St., condos

Project team: Barry J. Hobin & Associates Architects; ZW Group, Goodeve Manhire, David McManus Engineering Ltd.; Genivar Consulting Group Ltd., Uniform Urban Developments

- Award of Merit, public places and civic spaces: Sandy Hill Flood Control and Park Rehabilitation, 250 Somerset St. East

Project team: Stantec Consulting; Action Sandy Hill, Doran Contractors, City of Ottawa

- Award of Merit, urban elements: Cancer Survivors Park, Industrial Avenue and Alta Vista Drive

Project team: Corush Sunderland Wright; Chuck Merovitz, Committee Chair, Cancer Survivors Park; R.A. Bloch Cancer Foundation; Site Preparation Ltd.; Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation

- Special Jury Prize: Children's Garden of Old Ottawa East, 321 Main St.

Project team: Students and staff at Lady Evelyn Alternative School, Sustainable Living Ottawa East, Children's Garden Advisory Group, Parks and Recreation staff, City of Ottawa; Sandy Hill Community Health Centre; Student Experience Office of Carleton University; Main Farmers' Market; Corporate Council on Volunteering; Community Foundation of Ottawa; Walmart-Evergreen Green Grants; Construction Lines; Trim to Perfection

- Award of Merit, student projects: Cascade Public Drinking Fountain

Project by: Michael Tomlin, student, Carleton University, School of Industrial Design

- Award of Merit, student projects: Urban Nature, 560 Rideau St.

Project by: Nicholas Pangallo, student, Carleton University, Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism

- - -

For more on the Urban Design Awards, read Maria Cook's blog at [ottawacitizen.com/Designing Ottawa](http://ottawacitizen.com/DesigningOttawa)