



**INSTITUTE WITHOUT
BOUNDARIES**

Main Streets of Markham Charrette Summary

Making Roads into Communities
February 24 - 29, 2012

Main Streets of Markham Charrette Summary

Making Roads into Communities

February 24 - 29, 2012

INSTITUTE WITHOUT
BOUNDARIES

Charrette Information

Contact

design@georgebrown.ca

Prepared By

Institute Without Boundaries
George Brown College
230 Richmond Street East, Toronto ON
M5A 1P4 Canada
Google map

www.institutewithoutboundaries.ca



This document is hotlinked, so you can connect with more info and larger photos online.

10 Teams
110 Students
5 Days
40 Advisors
10 Solutions



What is a Charrette?

A charrette is a collaborative process that brings together students, stakeholders and professionals to develop innovative solutions for complex issues. Over a few short days of brainstorming, discussion and expert consultation, teams create a broad range of ideas around the central theme.

The Main Streets of Markham

Main streets are at the very core of communities. Great main streets bring together people to live, work and play; they build community spirit, support economic development and embody the identity of the neighbourhoods that surround them. Strong main streets make strong communities.

For five days, ten interdisciplinary teams of students took on the challenge of proposing a new kind of main street design for five different locations in Markham, Ontario.

The charrette began with an inspiring lecture from international visitor Nik Baerton, principal & founder of Pantopicon in Belgium. His talk on design research gave the over one hundred students very practical tools and techniques that they were then able to apply the next day during their field research in Markham.

Field Research

On Saturday morning teams boarded yellow school buses to travel from the School of Design to five different intersections in Markham: McCowan & Hwy 7, Main Street Unionville, Old Kennedy Road, Hwy 7 & Ninth Line, Main Street Markham. Each group spent their morning documenting the sites by photographing the streetscapes and interviewing local businesspeople and residents. In the afternoon the groups met with stakeholders from Markham including members of the municipal government, a local city councillor and more residents of the community.

This process created an understanding of both the physical environment and the social and economic factors that would shape their design proposals.



INSTITUTE WITHOUT
BOUNDARIES



Main Streets of Markham Charrette Summary

Making Roads into Communities

February 24 - 29, 2012

INSTITUTE WITHOUT
BOUNDARIES

Design

For the next three days each group worked intensively to brainstorm, develop and refine innovative new designs that would balance these factors while enabling this progressive municipality to enhance and improve the public spaces of the main streets of Markham.

Student teams were supported by a dedicated group of faculty and professional advisors drawn from various George Brown College programs, International Academic Partners and the local design community who mentored and guided the students through the process of evaluating and designing effective solutions for each main street site.

Charrette Results

Teams presented their final design solutions to a panel of international and local faculty and professionals. In just five days of research, designing and consulting groups were able to create strong design concepts for each of the sites that demonstrated innovative new models for main streets.

The designs that were produced during this charrette will be presented to municipal officials and staff of Markham, including members of the planning and economic development departments, and may become part of future plans for Markham as it continues to transform itself for the future.



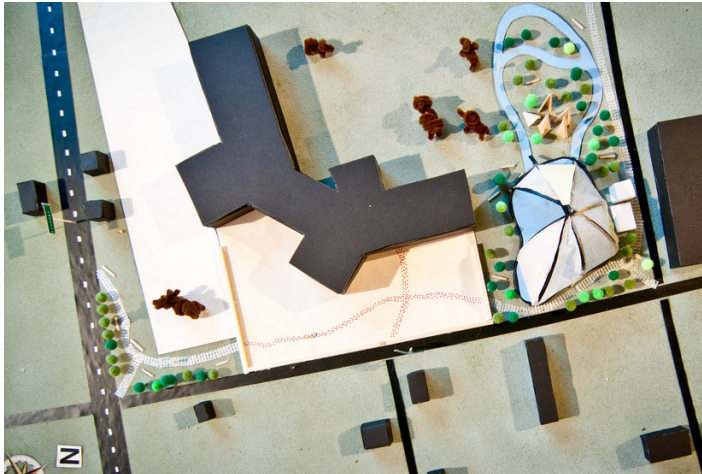
Main Streets of Markham Charrette Summary

Making Roads into Communities

February 24 - 29, 2012

INSTITUTE WITHOUT
BOUNDARIES

Charrette Results: The Designs



McCowan & HWY 7 (Yellow Team)

Team leader: Asma Khanani Caporaletti

Team Members: Cindy Ly, Jessa Sy, Justin C., Mathilde Schettini, Matthew Mak, Maria Grazia Francia, Michael Ferri, Philip Cudiamat, Robin Olsson and Victoria Dell'Anno

Project Brief: To connect the Town of Markham as a distinct, diverse community through a shared experience that represents collective identity. Through repurposing existing, under-used easements and parking spaces into culturally vibrant public spaces connected by equally vibrant streetscape design that inspires connectivity and social interaction.

[Click here to download the full project presentation.](#)



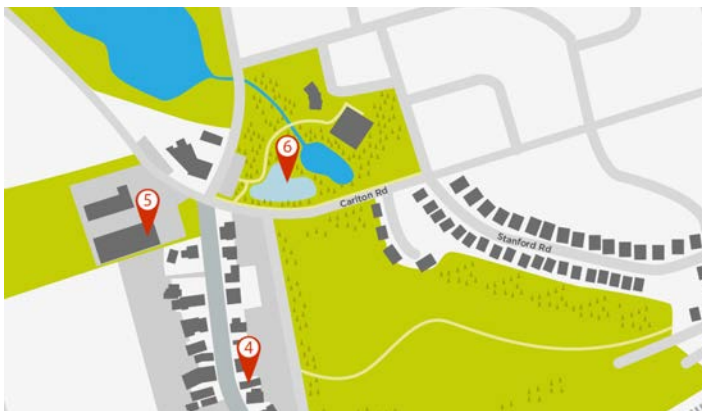
McCowan & HWY 7 (Green Team)

Team leader: Fatemeh Samaeitehrani

Team Members: Andrew Jordan, Andrew Paul, Diane Villeneuve, Giulia Luppino, Jordan Feldberg, Linea Bering, Maud Benhammou, Reshman Hussien, Rosanna Iyadi and Tommy Stevens

Project Brief: The concept is to sustainably connect the urban Markville Mall with the existing natural habitat of the Rouge River and Centennial Park, in order to secure and promote community interaction with the surrounding nature.

[Click here to download the full project presentation.](#)



Main Street Unionville (Green Team)

Team leader: Liz Huntly

Team Members: Cian O'Hare, John Ha, Jurga Salidiene, Mandarine Gervaise, Matthew Mak, Mike Campbell, Nathan De Sousa, Nuria Gonzalez, Roberta Giovannini, Sergei Plehhanov and Steven Tiao

Project Brief: The purpose of the solution is to connect urban and natural landscapes, to connect established and emerging communities and connect historic and modern architectural identities.

[Click here to download the full project presentation.](#)

Main Streets of Markham Charrette Summary

Making Roads into Communities

February 24 - 29, 2012

INSTITUTE WITHOUT
BOUNDARIES

Charrette Results: The Designs



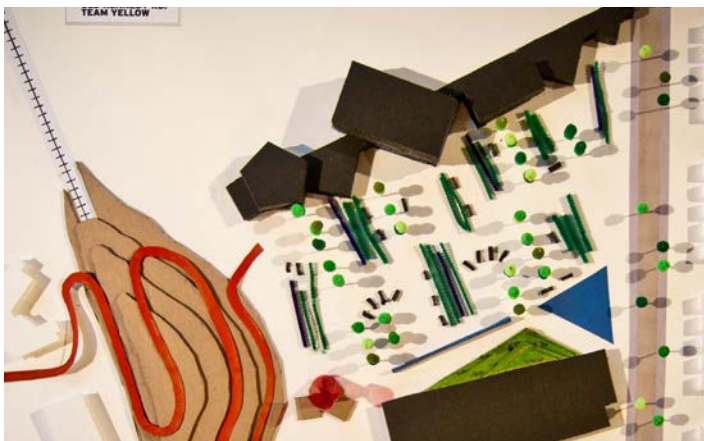
Main Street Unionville (Yellow Team)

Team leader: Raymundo Pavan

Team Members: Achraf Hentatit, Allison Rogers, Chloé Pérignon, Fiorella Amadei, Karl Kriedemann, Macey Jin, Monika Bene, Nathan Proctor, Richard Zeng, Qiannan (Cathy) Zhao, and Winnie Chan

Project Brief: Revitalization of Unionville Main Street by creating and increasing the use of spaces and stores that sell necessities required for day to day living. This will be achieved by creating a more diverse community with residents of mixed income levels. Introducing lower income housing residents of these homes will support local markets and shops giving the street greater communal value.

[Click here to download the full project presentation.](#)



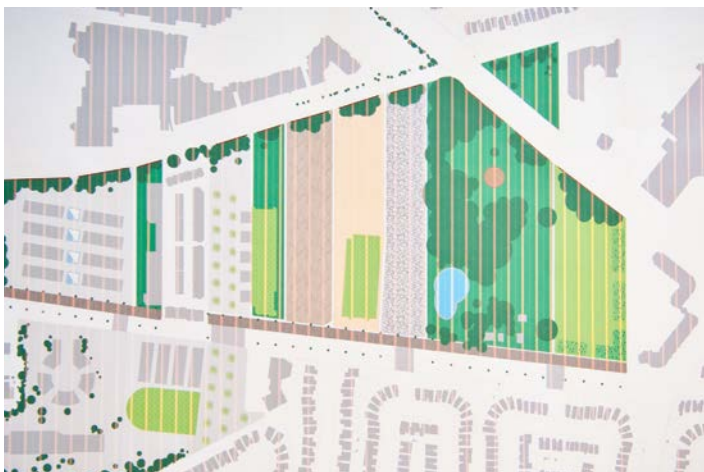
Old Kennedy Road (Yellow Team)

Team leader: Irina Rendon

Team Members: Adrian di Domenico, Anna Federica Adamo, Ayad Besamh, Brendan Keen, Emilie Bouchon, Erika Baltusyte, Justin Shin, Kathy Masoumi rad and Natalia Semenovs

Project Brief: The purpose of this solution is to connect to the surrounding areas, improve pedestrian infrastructure and connect to residential neighbourhoods nearby. The solution will enable new businesses and office spaces, new bike paths and 2 new ways to connect to GO Transit service.

[Click here to download the full project presentation.](#)



Old Kennedy Road (Green Team)

Team leader: Matt Koop-Pearce

Team Members: Hiu Chan, Jordan McCallum, Kimberlyn Lee Lei, Kristian Pal, Micheline Ferguson, Marianne Métairie, Matteo Casaburi, Natalie Pozzan, Stuart McPherson and Troels Kobberø

Project Brief: The project envisions a sustainable main street that reflects community diversity in the built form, creates spaces for connection and exchange, invites discovery and learning. It is a living laboratory of urban transformation that is community driven and self-sustaining and a geography of place starting not from retail, but from real human connection.

[Click here to download the full project presentation.](#)

Main Streets of Markham Charrette Summary

Making Roads into Communities

February 24 - 29, 2012

INSTITUTE WITHOUT
BOUNDARIES

Charrette Results: The Designs



Main Street Markham (Yellow Team)

Team leader: Nikki Hsiao Chi Shih

Team Members: Adelina Restea, Allison Rogers, Christine Graystone, Dyan Buerano, Ekaterina Granovsky, Heather Mackay-Lams, Keit Kollo, Patrizio Canestrini, Pierre Olivier Planty and Shahin Rahim

Project Objectives: Objective include, building a green connecting path that joins various parks and existing trails around the Main Street, repurposing the abandoned building into an Ecology Center, “greening” spaces, Integrating Bio-Gas, Solar panels, water collectors and Pavegen technology into the street, expanding sidewalks for pedestrians and building bicycle paths.

[Click here to download the full project presentation.](#)



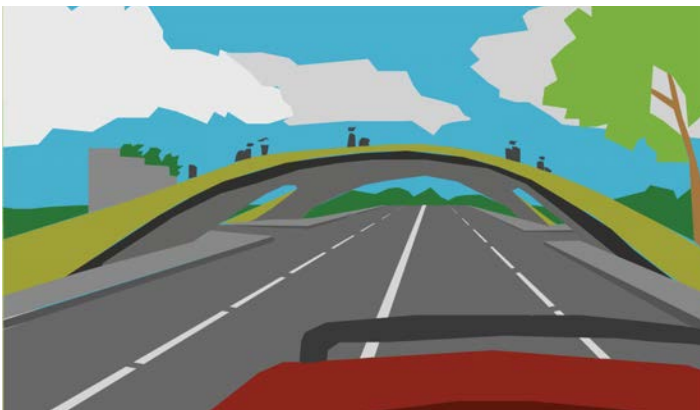
Main Street Markham (Green Team)

Team leader: Shehneela Farheen

Team Members: Evan Milward, Isabelle Mattern, Jerry Petersen, Jonabelle Torralba, Karl Kriedemann, Lydia Macintosh, Massimo Melillo, Matthew Raffa, Marcel Wilson, Maurizio Calabrese, and Soffi Ernst

Project Brief: The objectives are to provide infrastructure that encourages development of diverse community, create a definite identity for the area, increase overall safety and accessibility through a universal design and make the street into a living active area that connects the two hubs.

[Click here to download the full project presentation.](#)



Highway 7 & Ninth Line (Yellow Team)

Team leader: Dana Seguin, Stephen Fiset

Team Members: Amel Mahfouf, Samuel Christian, Giullia Spinell, Henrik Jeanty Andersen, Matthew Lloyd Rashida Francis, Bradley Rastrullo, Talin M Balian and Julian Semenovs

Project Brief: The objective of the solution is to bring People together, well-suited to multiple forms of transport, safety, prioritized pedestrian access, good work/play balance and embodying the identity of the surrounding neighbourhoods.

[Click here to download the full project presentation.](#)

Main Streets of Markham Charrette Summary

Making Roads into Communities

February 24 - 29, 2012

INSTITUTE WITHOUT
BOUNDARIES

Charrette Results: The Designs



Highway 7 & Ninth Line (Green Team)

Team leader: Leslie Endes

Daniel Garnier, Keli Chiu, Adèle Hurbault, Pia Lyck Festeren, Simona Pollara, Teresa Maria Barreiros Garcia, Walter Batori, James Newsome, Tiziana Nicolao and Mervat GorgisCamila Campos

Project Objective: The building houses the genesis of a system that collects, links and transmits information generated by engaged citizens. The mall is primarily a thoroughfare for vehicular traffic yet its edges have been transformed into a linear park system that allows for diverse and surprising interactions both real and virtual.

[Click here to download the full project presentation.](#)

Main Streets of Markham Charrette Summary

Making Roads into Communities

February 24 - 29, 2012

INSTITUTE WITHOUT
BOUNDARIES

Credits & Special Thanks

More than 110 students worked together in 10 interdisciplinary teams of 9-11 students each, led by students from the Institute without Boundaries. These students were supported by many faculty and professionals, without whom the high quality of design results wouldn't be possible. The IwB extends special thanks to these advisors and most importantly, to the people of Markham for their support of this project.

International Guests

Barry Sheehan | Dublin Institute of Technology
Bastien Hermand L'ECV (L'Ecole de Communication Visuelle)
Cristina Rungström | KEA (Copenhagen School of Design and Technology)
Henrique Pessoa Pereira Alves | Politecnico di Milano
Marco Grassi | Politecnico di Milano
Nik Baerten | Pantopicon
Virgina Tassinari | Media en Design Academie, KHLiM

Special Guests

Anne Sado | President, George Brown College
Maureen Loweth | Dean, Business, Arts & Design
Helene Vukovich | Assistant Dean, Business, Arts & Design

Lecturers

Bruce Cudmore | EDA Collaborative
Luigi Ferrara | IwB at George Brown College
Kathryn Firth | Olympic Park Legacy Company
Nik Baerten | Pantopicon
Virgina Tassinari | Media en Design Academie & KHLiM

Markham Stakeholders

Firoz Shroff | Social Entrepreneurship Consortium Inc.
Diane Koblansky | Markham Village BIA & Tangerine Gecko Art Gallery
Elena Koidis | Former Markham Resident
Gail Koidis | Markham resident
Howard Shore | City Councillor Ward 2, Town of Markham
Jenny Park | Markham resident
Katie Epp | Markham Museum, Town of Markham
Linda Irvine | Manager Parks & Public Space Design, Town of Markham
Rob Giusti | Former Markham resident
Sandra Tam | Economic Development Office, Town of Markham
Shirley Marsh | Sustainability Department, Town of Markham
Stephen Chait | Director, Economic Development, Town of Markham
Woojoo Lee | Markham resident

Panel

Arlene Etchen | CMHC
Barry Sheehan | Dublin Institute of Technology
Cristina Rungström | KEA
Luigi Ferrara | Institute without Boundaries
Marco Grassi | Politecnico di Milano
Marlene Slopak | Architectural Technology at George Brown College
Monica Contreras | OCADU & Institute without Boundaries
Nik Baerten | Pantopicon

Advisors

Adam Clare | GBC Wero Creative
Arlene Etchen | CMHC
Angelica Ramos | IwB Alumni
Angelika Seeschaaf Veres | OCADU
Apostolo Zeno | IwB & IwB Alumni
Barry Sheehan | Dublin Institute of Technology
Chris Pandolfi | Department of Unusual Certainties
Cristina Rungström | KEA
Daniel Karpinski | Daniel Karpinski Architects & IwB
Dave Wolfenden | Green Grocer Organics & IwB
Denise Pinto | HOK
Graeme Kondruss | IwB & IwB Alumni
Dr. Helmut Klassen | University of Toronto
Henrique Pessoa Pereira Alves | Politecnico di Milano
Jamie Black | Bruce Mau Design & IwB Alumni
Jordan Axani | Ipsos Reid & IwB Alumni
Juan Camacho | Morphosis & Institute without Boundaries
Julia Padvoiskis | Creative Urban Projects (CUP)
K.C. Au | K.C. Au Architect Inc.
Lauren Wickware | Lauren Wickware Design & IwB
Leo Desorcy | City of Toronto
Marco Grassi | Politecnico di Milano
Maria Gabriela Sanches | Carleton University
Mark Gusliks | HOK
Marlene Slopak | Architectural Technology at George Brown College
Mazyar Mortazavi | TasDesignBuild
Mike Gioffre | GBC Graphic Design
Mike Nitsopolous | Cinderbloc
Miles Keller | MKDA & IwB
Nick Crampton | IwB Alumni
Nik Baerten | Pantopicon
Paul DeFreitas | IwB
Perin Ruttonsha | Applied Arts Consultant
Richard Brault | Ninutik & Institute without Boundaries
Roberto Chiotti | Larkin Architect
Rob Giusti | IwB & IwB Alumni
Sara Udow | LAND/SLIDE Possible Futures Project
Susan Speigel | Susan Speigel Architects
Teresa Miller | IwB Alumni
Virgina Tassinari | Media en Design Academie, KHLiM
Xavier Masse | Wolfson Bell & IwB

IwB Charrette Team

Michelle Hotchin | Program Coordinator
Evelyne Au-Navioz | Special Projects Coordinator
Simon Drexler | Special Projects Associate
Natasha Basacchi | Special Projects Associate
Teresa Miller | IwB Alumni
Graeme Kondruss | Special Projects Associate
Rob Gisuti | Special Projects Associate
Elise Hodson | Special Projects Coordinator
Lori Endes | Student Services Coordinator
Priscilla Li | Special Projects Coordinator