



# urban architecture

2023



urban  
design  
awards



# MANCHESTER SQUARE

## EDMONTON, ALBERTA

### Project Overview

Manchester Square was designed to bring a touch of European architecture and atmosphere to our beautiful city. With the tremendous support of the surrounding community, city, beautiful locally painted murals, and local tenants, we were able to make this vision come to life.

Each unit within this exquisitely designed complex boasts interconnected floor space, endowing it with unparalleled versatility. This seamless integration of space presents many possibilities for diverse applications, ensuring that the occupants' distinct needs and aspirations are aptly met.

### Project Context

Situated at the intersection of 120 Street and 107 Avenue, Manchester Square spans 57,000 square feet and is nestled just a few blocks from the vibrant 124th Street shopping district and Brewery District. This redevelopment project introduces a distinctive architectural aesthetic and ambiance to the area. With a delightful infusion of European elegance, this imaginatively crafted edifice, replete with unique attributes, is set to accommodate as many as 19 locally owned establishments.



Fountain View at Main Entrance



Facade with Nighttime Lights



West Side Floral Wall Mural





View Towards East Facade

## Project Description

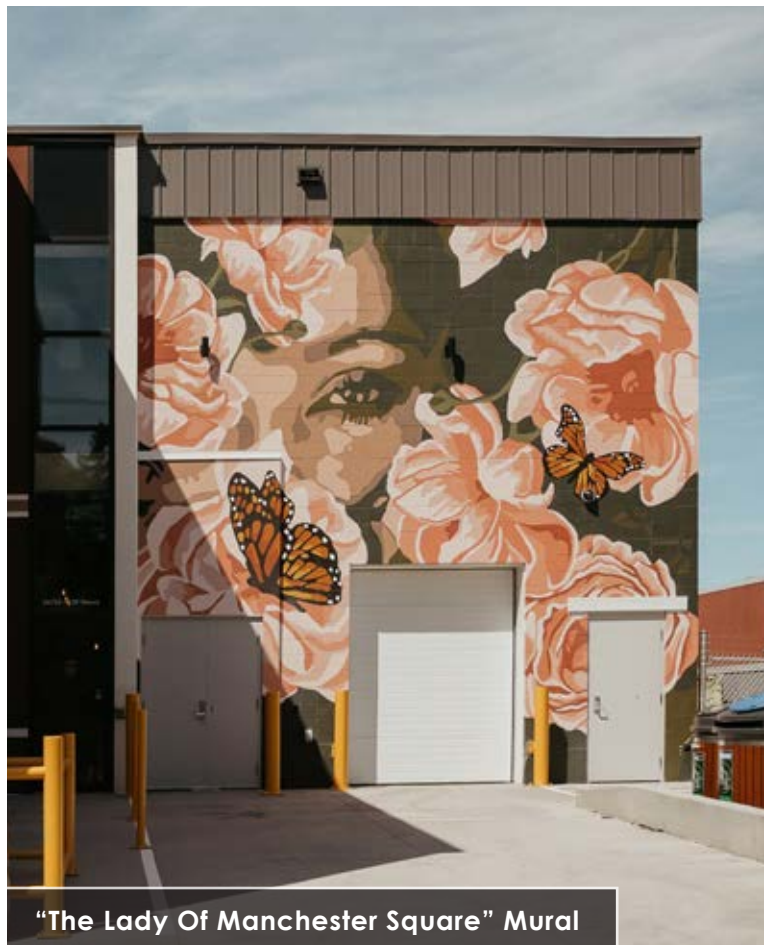
This project was developed to be innovative and creative and to allow a more out-of-the-box approach to architecture in building a destination location within the city of Edmonton. The complex creates a beautiful and grand entrance into the 124 Street area and provides many locally owned amenities to the surrounding community.

This project was intended to let your creativity run wild and let your imagination take you away with what can be possible. Creating the whole atmosphere of locally owned businesses with vast patio space, European music, festivals, and so much more has made Manchester Square the destination development it is today in not only Edmonton but Alberta as well. Having people from all over the province, country and world come by to check out the complex has genuinely made it fulfill its vision.

Having citizens in Edmonton from all over come by to take Instagram pictures, wedding proposals, graduation photos, dance videos or enjoy the complex in so many ways is what Manchester Square has strived to be. The complex was built to allow our creativity to run wild, support our fantastic local business here in our city, and create a popular destination in Edmonton for years to come. From local artists, trades, tenants, and developers, we truly believe in supporting local.



107th Avenue Facade



"The Lady Of Manchester Square" Mural



View of East Tower

## Public Realm

Enriching the locale is an outdoor fountain that exudes an inviting charm, serving as a centerpiece for the premises. A generous 20-foot promenade also invites leisurely strolls, allowing patrons to bask in the ambiance while enjoying complimentary Wi-Fi access. Concealed within the interior is an enchanting indoor alleyway adorned with artistic embellishments, evoking the sensation of traversing the charming streets of Europe. We are also proud to leverage Edmonton's largest pedestrian and cyclist trail network is situated directly beside Manchester Square, making it a prime location on the busiest corner in the area and a hub for those travelling by on their regular commute. To cater to the convenience of visitors, ample parking is available on a private lot, further augmenting the allure of Manchester Square as an irresistible destination for discerning clientele.



Patio Promenade Towards Fountain





Before, Michael Phair Park



After, Michael Phair Park

# Michael Phair Park

Urban centers are freckled with utilitarian spaces and forgotten parkettes bursting with unwritten opportunities for intentional community building. These in-between spaces are blank canvases with boundless potential to connect people across cultures and social bubbles through shared experiences centered around art, gathering, and play. Michael Phair Park in downtown Edmonton was the quintessential example of this. An urban fragment diamond in the rough.

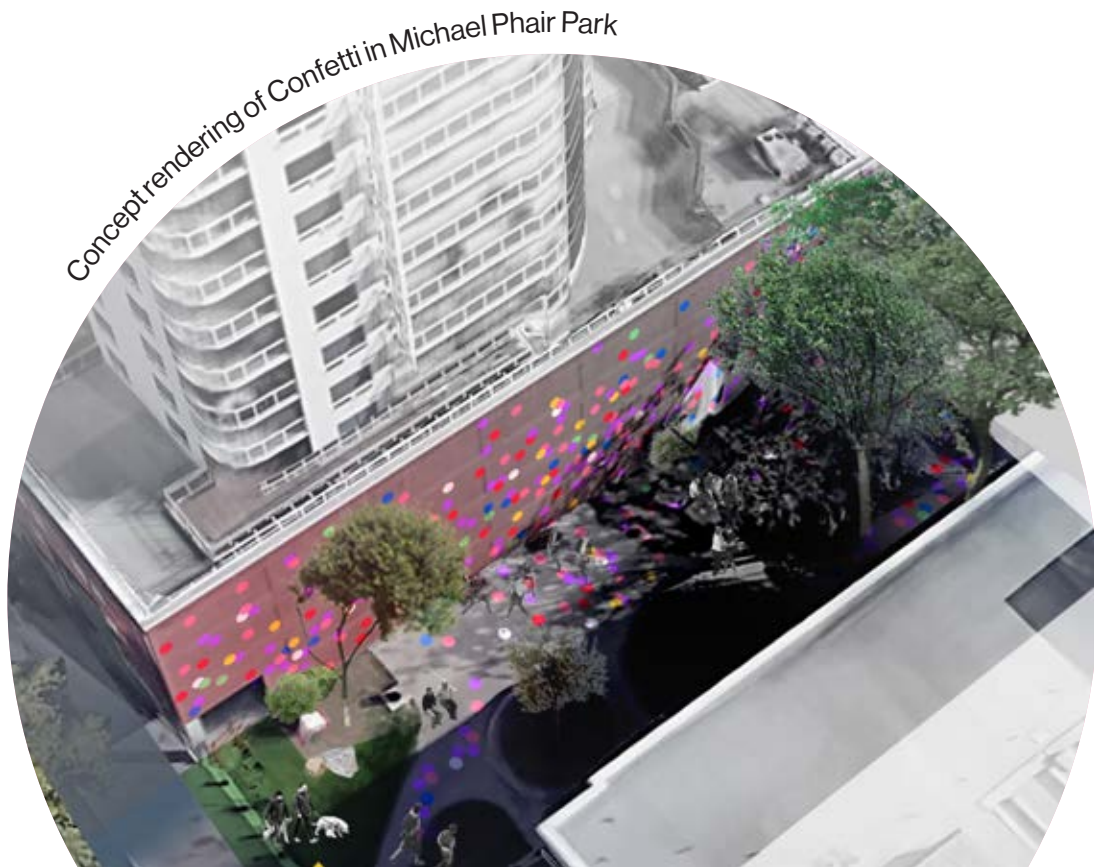
Named in 2016 after Alberta's first openly gay former City Councilor Michael Phair, the park celebrates Phair's distinguished career as a politician, an LGBTQ2Ai+ community advocate, and his many contributions to the City of Edmonton at large.

However, the original design of the park was not fully realized due to budget constraints, which resulted in the micro-park not fully achieving its potential.

In 2021 the parks renewal plan began when Phair, with full support from the Downtown Edmonton Community League and Urban Development Institute, engaged a local firm to conceptualize ways to improve the parkette. The group successfully applied for a City of Edmonton Downtown Vibrancy Strategy grant for three interventions in the park: painted murals on the adjacent building walls, a permanent stage, and overhead lighting to increase safety and extend operating hours.



Michael Phair giving opening speech at Confetti's community reveal



Concept rendering of Confetti in Michael Phair Park



# Confetti

Michael Phair Park's Confetti (the first intervention) is the physical realization of Michael Phair; vibrant, playful, provocative, celebratory, impactful, and welcoming. The key to Confetti's success is its simple but undeniable ability to capture those intentions as a design byproduct of Phair's profound positive legacy, passion for community, and the mark he continues to leave on the City of Edmonton.

Confetti is thousands of equally sized circles, in 16 vibrant colours, covering the building walls that frame the park and spread across the ground, acting as an iconic unifying component of the entire park area. Their placement is explosive, performative, and random. An exuberant proliferation of colour bursting out of the park. As the paint fades with time, new circles will be added to maintain the vibrancy of the piece and hopefully inspire other areas of the City to reflect Michael's wide ranging impact across Edmonton by adding a little colour.

## Big City Moves

What was once a forgettable shortcut is now a community hub for formal and informal gathering; Confetti Fridays, dog photoshoots, a lunch spot for weekend warriors. Confetti brought Michael Phair Park to life with an explosion of colour. The once anonymous urban parkette now defines an intentional place in the city's core in celebration and support of the LGBTQ2Ai+ community. An example of radical placemaking to keep the city full of energy.

Confetti early concept development



Confetti Friday in Michael Phair Park



Michael Phair Park with Confetti mural





# ALBERTA ENT MIXED-USE BUILDING

Situated on a corner site in the Oliver neighborhood west of Edmonton's downtown, this mixed-use building replaces the former single-storey structure that was set back from the street with surface parking between. The new building consists of ground floor retail spaces and enclosed parking, with a 10,000 sq. ft. Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Clinic occupying the second floor.

Views to the street are provided by continuous second floor windows, while the ground floor windows step back from the street to allow landscaping, shading, and break the plane of the facade.

Retail uses will occupy the ground floor and provide activation for the street within one of Edmonton's most dense communities.

Exterior materials are kept to a minimum featuring dark brick veneer and white metal siding, punctuated by a sloped wood soffit comprised of yellow cedar. A wood element extends vertically to define the entrance to the Clinic.



VIEW OF WOOD SOFFIT DETAILS



VIEW OF SOUTH ELEVATION ALONG 102 AVENUE



VIEW OF SOUTHWEST CORNER





VIEW OF PREVIOUS BUILDING ON SITE



VIEW TOWARDS SOUTHEAST CORNER OF BUILDING



VIEW ALONG 102 AVENUE



@81

8015 102 St NW,  
Edmonton, AB T6E 4A2

@81 is a mixed-use development that consists of 36 Residential Apartments and a renovation of 11,000 sqft of Commercial Space, designed with a strong focus on community engagement and an impactful design approach. The project addresses various requirements, including the Pedestrian Commercial Shopping Street Overlay and Strathcona Commercial Street Overlay, resulting in a well-integrated and captivating structure.

The Design Intent revolves around enhancing the main floor commercial platform to the North, fostering interactions between site users, passersby, and different modes of transportation. To achieve this, an elevated 'street' experience is created, allowing for unique connections and varied access points through stairs. The elevated streetscape boasts trees, plantings, and permanent benches integrated into planters, elevating the pedestrian experience.



Rendering - Top View

The building itself is thoughtfully connected to its surroundings. Balconies, recesses, and carefully considered commercial and residential access points strengthen this connection. The design seeks to attract businesses, pedestrians, and tenants while acknowledging the historical significance of the site and the surrounding community.

Drawing from history, the renovation of the commercial base pays homage to the 1940s era using durable materials like brick and stone. With a modern take of moulding and traditional details, the upper three residential floors maintain the charm of the existing streetscape with careful consideration of scale and opportunities of social interaction with the street below. Proportions and material selection, including stucco, stone, and brick, gracefully respond to the existing streetscape and neighborhood scale, aligned with City aspirations. Thoughtful splashes of bold colors are strategically introduced to draw the eye and animate the building, aiding in placemaking and enlivening the space year-round.

The building's orientation takes full advantage of its surroundings, deliberately framing picturesque views of the historic CP Railway Station to the West, adding a sense of history and significance to the development.

In summary, this completed development exemplifies an architecture that not only embraces the historical context but also enriches the public realm, drawing the community together while providing an exceptional residential experience. With its compatibility, thoughtful design, and engaging colors, the building stands as an inspiring addition to the vibrant cityscape.



Rendering - West View



## @81 MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT

ALIGNS WITH THE BIG CITY MOVES OF THE CITY PLAN:

- The ground floor commercial spaces create a conducive environment for livened economic activity and social interactions.
- The reconstruction of the first story reduces its environmental impact and promotes resource conservation.
- The integration of underground parking enhances connectivity and efficiency in the urban network, aligning with district planning principles.
- Pedestrian-friendly spaces, public amenities, create safe and vibrant public spaces.
- Green spaces and an outdoor rooftop terrace align with the city's approach to community recreation facility planning.



Photo - North-West View

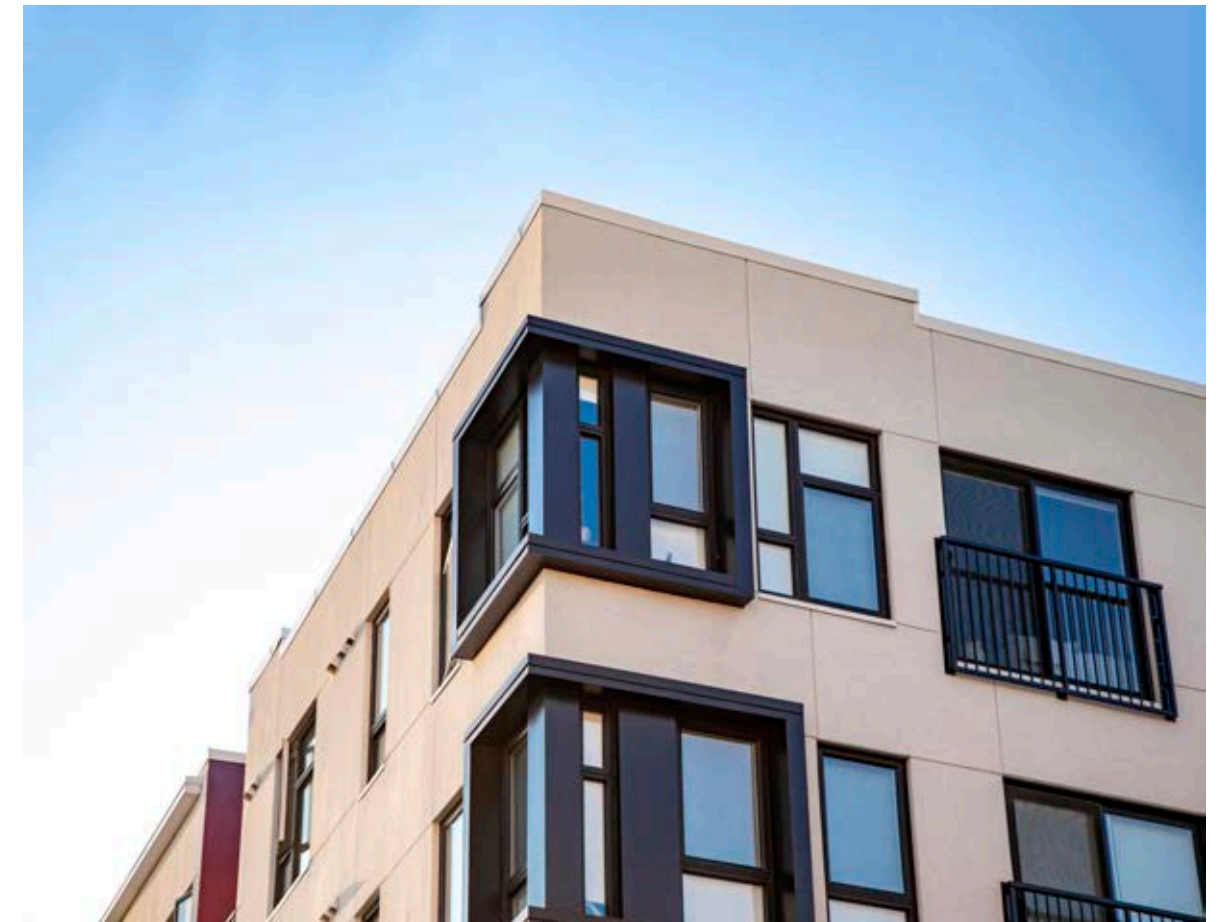


Photo - Facade Detail 1



Photo - Facade Detail 2



# EDMONTON POLICE SERVICE

## Northwest Campus

The core inspiration for the Northwest Campus project was the Edmonton Police Service's (EPS) decision to integrate, for the first time, previously dispersed functions in a single, community-focused facility. The intent of the design was both to provide EPS with the infrastructure it needs to deliver its mission and to physically express and advance the core values of EPS—integrity, accountability, respect, innovation, courage and community. The building's dynamic, organic form and spatially interconnected organization capitalize on an unprecedented opportunity to infrastructurally support EPS in building strong relationships among previously disparate internal functions, while creating a dynamic yet welcoming and secure interface with the wider community.

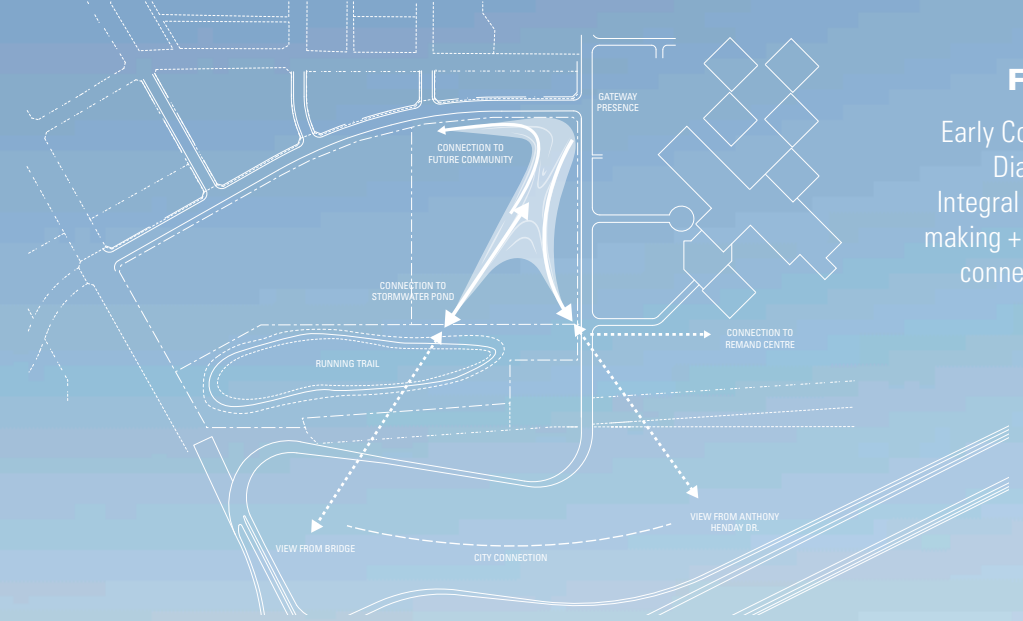


FIG 2

Early Concept Diagram: Integral space making + urban connections



FIG 1

A Prairie Form: The facility's low, stretched form evokes the subtle beauty of the surround landscape of central Alberta.

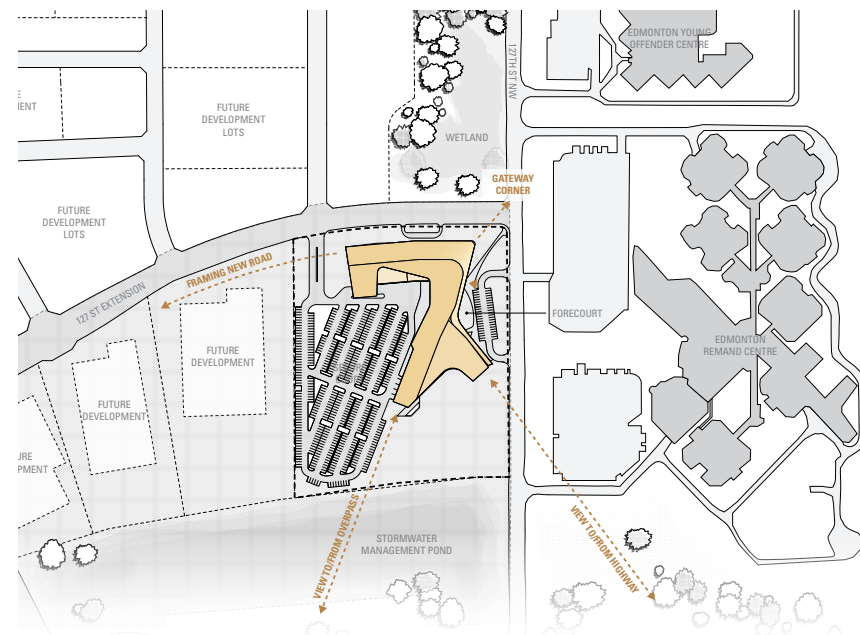


FIG 3

The building deliberately frames and forms urban connections while naturally framing both a welcoming public forecourt and large secure court.

The building is located on the northwest edge of Edmonton, Canada, adjacent a ring highway encircling the city. The facility was conceived as a civic focal point, physically expressing EPS's forward-thinking values by creating positive relationships within a new community and shaping connections beyond. The architecture creates a transparent and welcoming public front, a dynamic gateway into the city from the north, an animated streetface for new public roads, and a visible relationship to the adjacent highway and city beyond. In contrast to the typical North American siting of police buildings behind large parking lots, the building mass was shifted toward the street, creating an urban and accessible frontage while allowing the building to integrally frame a large secure court.

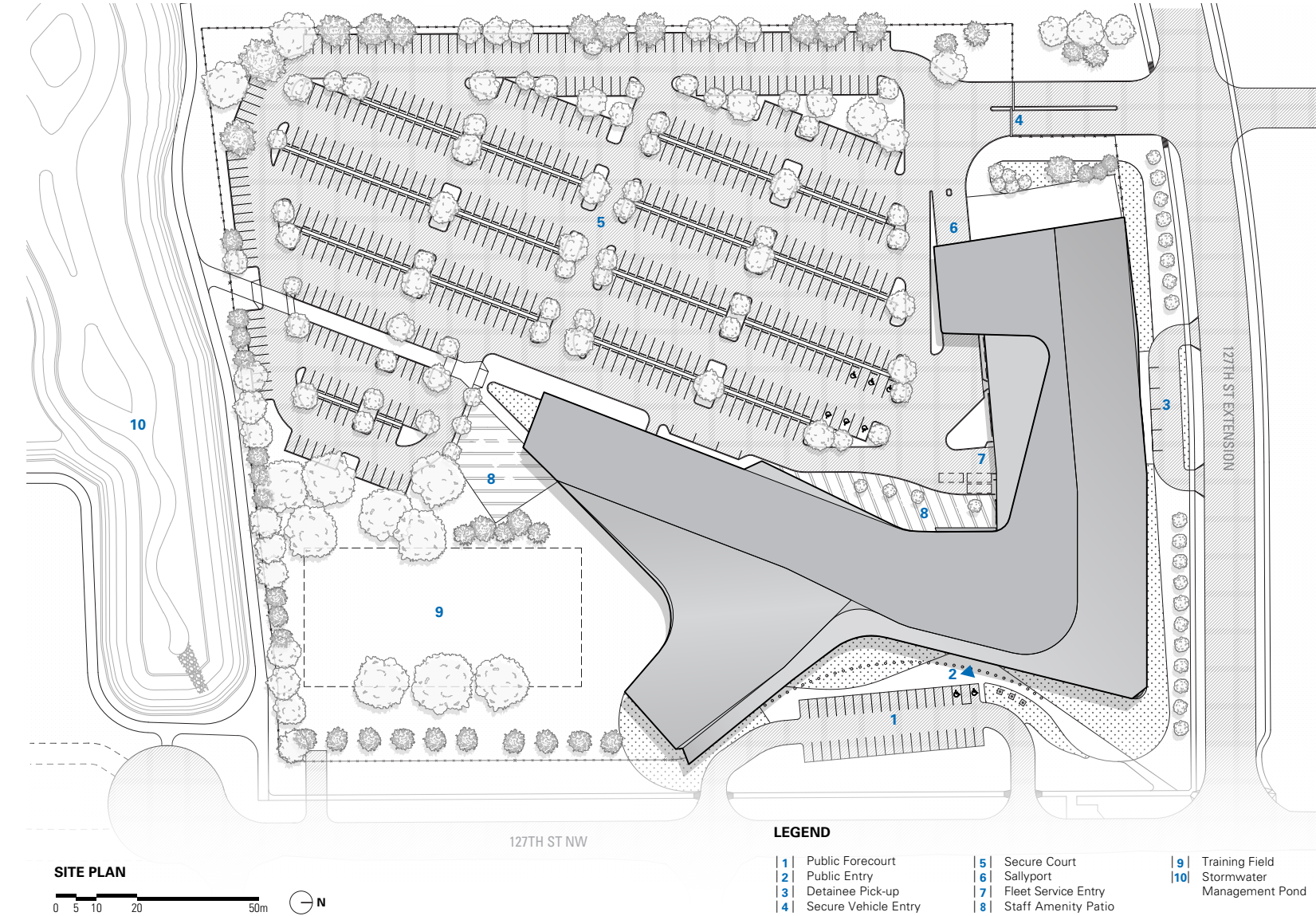
Both environmental and social sustainability were foundational drivers of the design. Geared toward energy efficiency in a cold climate, the building is detailed with a high-performance rainscreen assembly featuring continuous outboard insulation and a distinctive standing seam metal cladding on thermally broken clips. High-performance curtain wall and HVAC systems complement the envelope strategy. Maximizing the facility's beneficial impact on the wellbeing of both EPS' members and recruits as well as members of the community required careful and creative spacing planning to create bright and welcoming spaces while balancing rigorous security requirements.



FIG 4

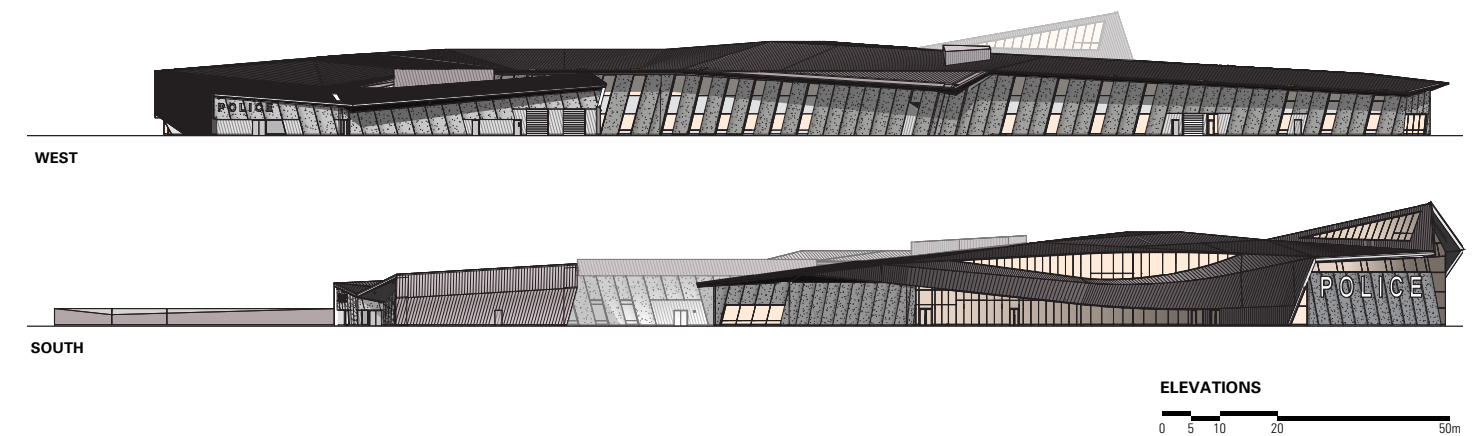
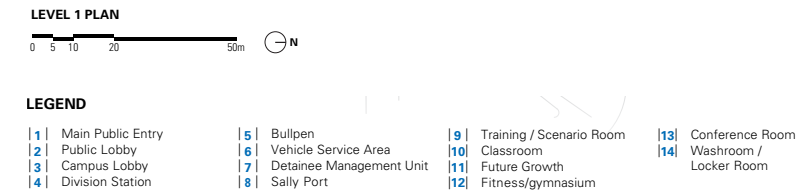
The dynamic building form reaches out toward the nearby ring road highway, a beacon signaling connection with the community and city beyond.





**FIG 6**  
Site Plan: In contrast to typical practice, the building mass was deliberately shifted toward the street, creating an urban and accessible frontage while allowing the building to integrally frame required secure outdoor areas.

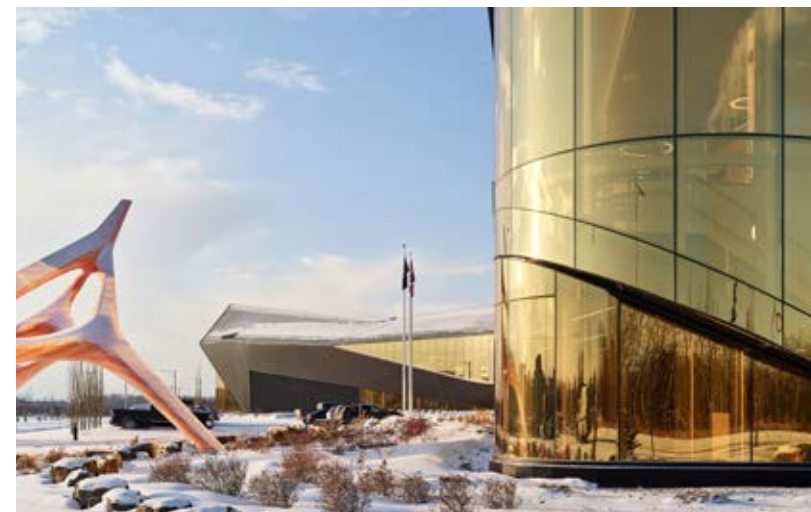
**FIG 5**  
Level 1 Plan: The main level integrates public access to the new division station alongside training, bullpen, records management, and temporary detention programs. Staff areas are knitted together with an open an intuitive double-height circulation spine.



**FIG 7**  
Elevations: On public frontages, standing seam roof transitions seamlessly to wall, emphasizing a unified form. Sloped and profiled grey-tinted precast panels are employed at facades addressing secure staff areas.



**FIG 8**  
A New Civic Anchor: The building form organically frames a public forecourt and marks both a gateway into the city from the north as well as a focal point for a planned new neighbourhood.



**FIG 9**  
A Gateway Moment: Glazing integrated with a feature convenience stair wraps the building's northeast corner, flowing into the facility's urban forecourt.



**FIG 10**  
A Deliberate Geometry: Curving, angular planes stretch apart and converge, organically opening at moments of transparency.



**FIG 11**  
View from Collaboration Area: The building's organic form and use of large windows shape bright and highly interconnected shared spaces that maximizes exterior views.



# Stanley A. Milner Library Renewal



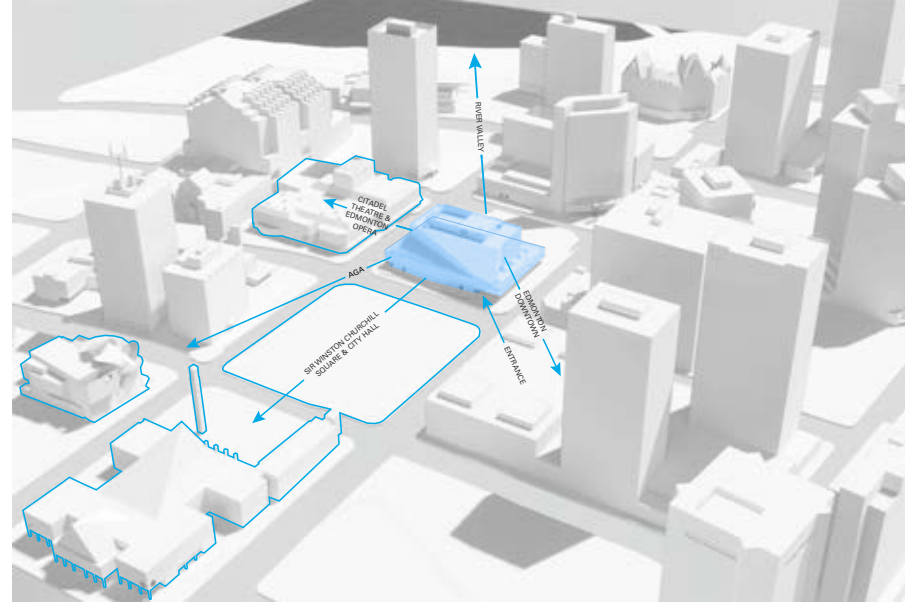
**FIG 1**

On Edmonton's Winston Churchill Square, the dynamic new Stanley A. Milner Library ignites the cultural civic square by stretching out and opening up toward nearby landmarks.

The Stanley A. Milner Library Renewal was conceived to reimagine and reshape the existing library as a physical expression of EPL's forward-thinking values and civic role—The Library of the Future. The building's skin and circulation orchestrate the experience of the library. The multi-storey atrium creates a variety of inspiring spaces, interconnects multiple program spaces and destinations, woven together by an intuitive and accessible circulation path. With 21st century library amenities including a third space, large galleria spaces, café, children's library, makerspace, teaching kitchen and an Indigenous gathering space (designed in collaboration with local Cree Elders) the renewed building supports the library's position as a social and creative hub.

Inspiration for the dynamic exterior began with the desire for the new "skin" of the building to be more than a cosmetic application. Introduced as a continuous wrap around the building, the new skin was offset and stretched off the original building making visual connections to adjacent landmarks. By stretching and opening out to the City, a meaningful relationship is created where the surrounding urban environment helps shape the life of the Library and vice versa. As part of the renewal, an accessible, civic plaza space was restored, a new public galleria connects Sir Winston Churchill Square and Centennial Square, and connections to the new LRT station inside and out.

Sustainability was an integral component of the design of the renewed library. For the creation of a highly durable, high-performance envelope a zinc metal was chosen to work with the form of the building and reflect the timelessness of the design.



**FIG 2**

The building's outward-looking form maximizes visual connections to adjacent buildings and public spaces.



**FIG 4**

Key moments of transparency, coloured skylights, glazing panels and EPL signage, combined with a new plaza with clear views into the library's programming, invite the public inside.



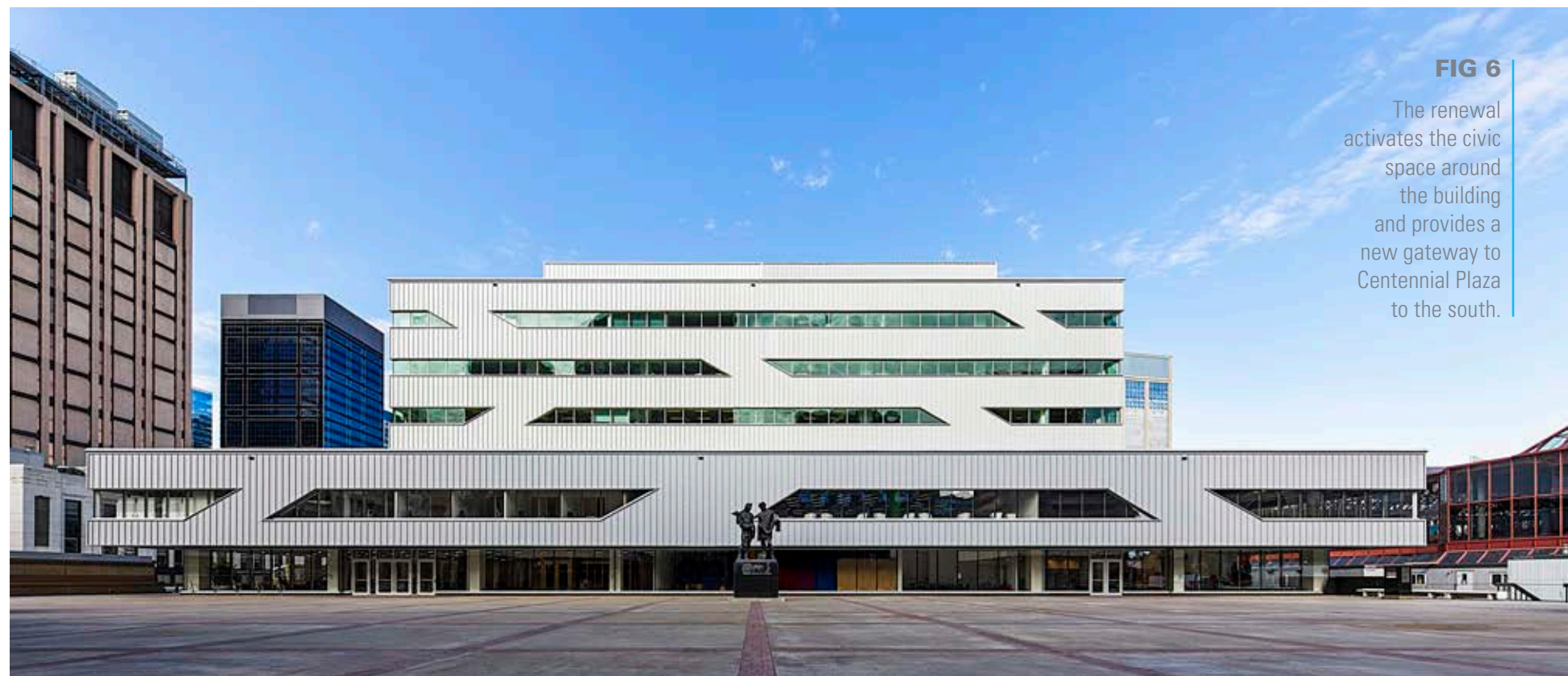
**FIG 3**

The renewed library is a welcoming portal between Sir Winston Churchill Square to the north and Centennial Square to the south in the heart of downtown Edmonton.



**FIG 5**

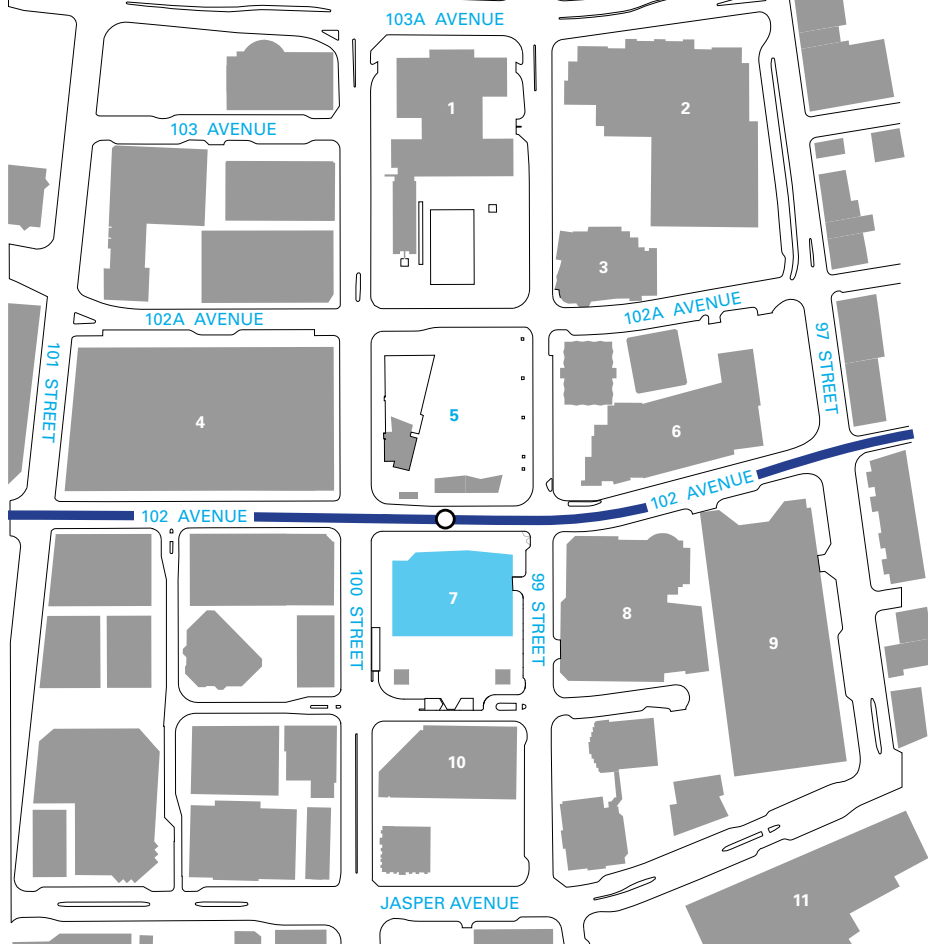
View of the exterior north entry plaza. On the ground floor, a colourful galleria seating area provides users with views of the bustling city and entices passersby to enter the building.



**FIG 6**

The renewal activates the civic space around the building and provides a new gateway to Centennial Plaza to the south.



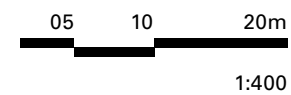


**Legend**

- | 1 | City Hall
  - | 2 | Law Courts
  - | 3 | Art Gallery of Alberta
  - | 4 | Edmonton City Centre
  - | 5 | Sir Winston Churchill Square
  - | 6 | Winspear Centre
  - | 7 | Stanley A. Milner Library Renewal
  - | 8 | Citadel Theatre
  - | 9 | Canada Place
  - | 10 | Westin Hotel
  - | 11 | Shaw Conference Centre
- Valley Line LRT
  - Churchill Station

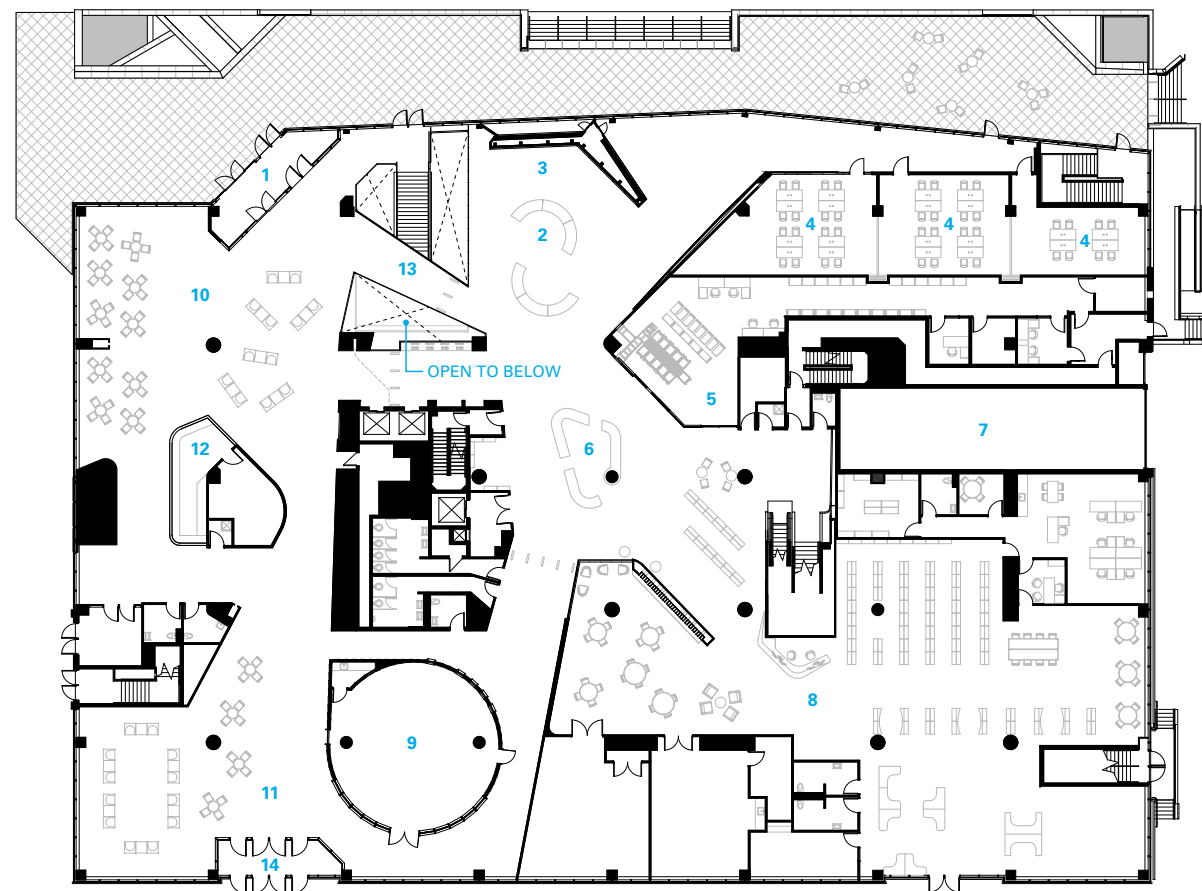


**CONTEXT PLAN**



**FIG 7**

Context Plan: Taking advantage of the building's prominent location in Edmonton's city centre, the renewed building actively supports the library's position as a key social and creative hub.

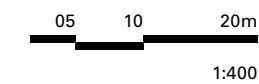


**Legend**

- | 1 | North Entrance
- | 2 | Multi-storey Atrium
- | 3 | Digital Wall
- | 4 | Programs Room
- | 5 | Sorting Room
- | 6 | Service Desk
- | 7 | Loading Dock
- | 8 | Children's Library
- | 9 | Indigenous Gathering Space
- | 10 | North Galleria
- | 11 | South Galleria
- | 12 | Future Café
- | 13 | Entrance Bridge
- | 14 | South Entrance



**GROUND FLOOR**



**FIG 8**

Ground Floor Plan: The reimagined interior spatial organization features a variety of dramatic and inspiring spaces that enhance visual interconnection. Visitors now enter into a bright and welcoming six-storey atrium defined by a sweeping new "reading ramp".



**FIG 9**

The building's southwest corner; the exterior is in dialogue with the city, inviting users inside.

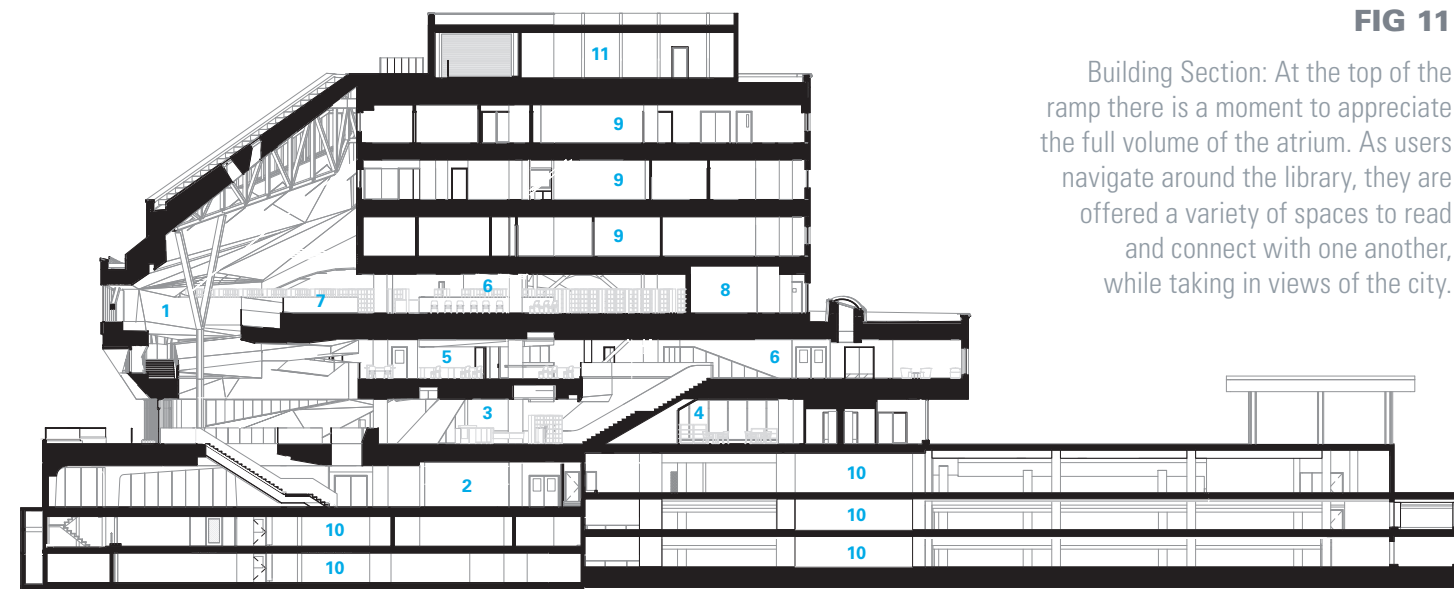
**FIG 10**

The new building envelope is composed of durable, high-performance zinc with generous expanses of glazing. Its dynamic form was conceived to relate directly to its urban context—literally stretching out and opening up toward nearby landmarks. The building's skin in turn shapes a network of intuitive circulation paths and inspiring new spaces.



**FIG 11**

Building Section: At the top of the ramp there is a moment to appreciate the full volume of the atrium. As users navigate around the library, they are offered a variety of spaces to read and connect with one another, while taking in views of the city.



**NORTH-SOUTH BUILDING SECTION**



**Legend**

- | 1 | Atrium
- | 2 | Theatre Lobby
- | 3 | Circulation Desk
- | 4 | Children's Library
- | 5 | Computers
- | 6 | Collection
- | 7 | Civic Room
- | 8 | Daycare
- | 9 | Offices
- | 10 | Parkade
- | 11 | Mechanical Room



# STADIUM STATION

## DESIGN NARRATIVE

As one of Edmonton's original five LRT stations, Stadium Station no longer met the community's evolving needs or the City's long-term development goals. Extensive physical barriers, inward-facing and enclosed public areas, and a below-grade concourse (which provided the only means to access the station) contributed to challenges in providing a consistently safe and accessible experience for patrons.

An ambitious redevelopment project to transform the station into a vibrant urban space was undertaken to address existing shortcomings and pave the way for future development of neighbouring areas into a fully integrated transit-oriented community. The redesigned station revolved around creating a dynamic station plaza, enabling seamless access to LRT platforms and an upgraded bus facility. New linkages spanning the LRT track facilitate connections between neighbouring communities to the river valley and civic amenities. The redeveloped station prioritized sustainable urban integration, universal design, safety and security, comfort, and maintainability.

The project involved the removal and replacement of the existing canopy, facilitating an additional platform and extensive public realm improvements. The station, built in 1978, was characterized by an over-scaled steel structure that hindered visual permeability to the platform.

Drawing inspiration from the original architecture, the new canopy incorporates visually striking structural steel gantries as a defining design element. This feature pays homage to the original station, effectively reducing clutter and improving sightlines by suspending station components, such as the roof elements, shelters, and overhead traction power, eliminating the need for columns in passenger areas.

In a nod to the iconic original design, yellow signature elements were incorporated into the station architecture to serve as visual beacons for patrons arriving from Commonwealth Stadium.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles were crucial for the project. The design emphasized improved visibility, ensuring open and unobstructed sightlines, and integrated the station with the adjacent public space. New ancillary facilities, such as a dedicated security monitoring station and upgraded washrooms, were included to enhance user experience and ensure a secure environment for all patrons.

## BIG CITY MOVES NARRATIVE

Integrating the station and supporting infrastructure with the public realm was a central objective. The new station and its plaza were intentionally designed to serve as a foundation for future development, serving as an armature to realize the Stadium Station Area Redevelopment Plan's objectives, built around a sustainable transit-oriented community. The project considered how a revitalized public realm could support a diverse array of uses, enhance connectivity and accessibility, and foster stronger links between communities.



### TOP

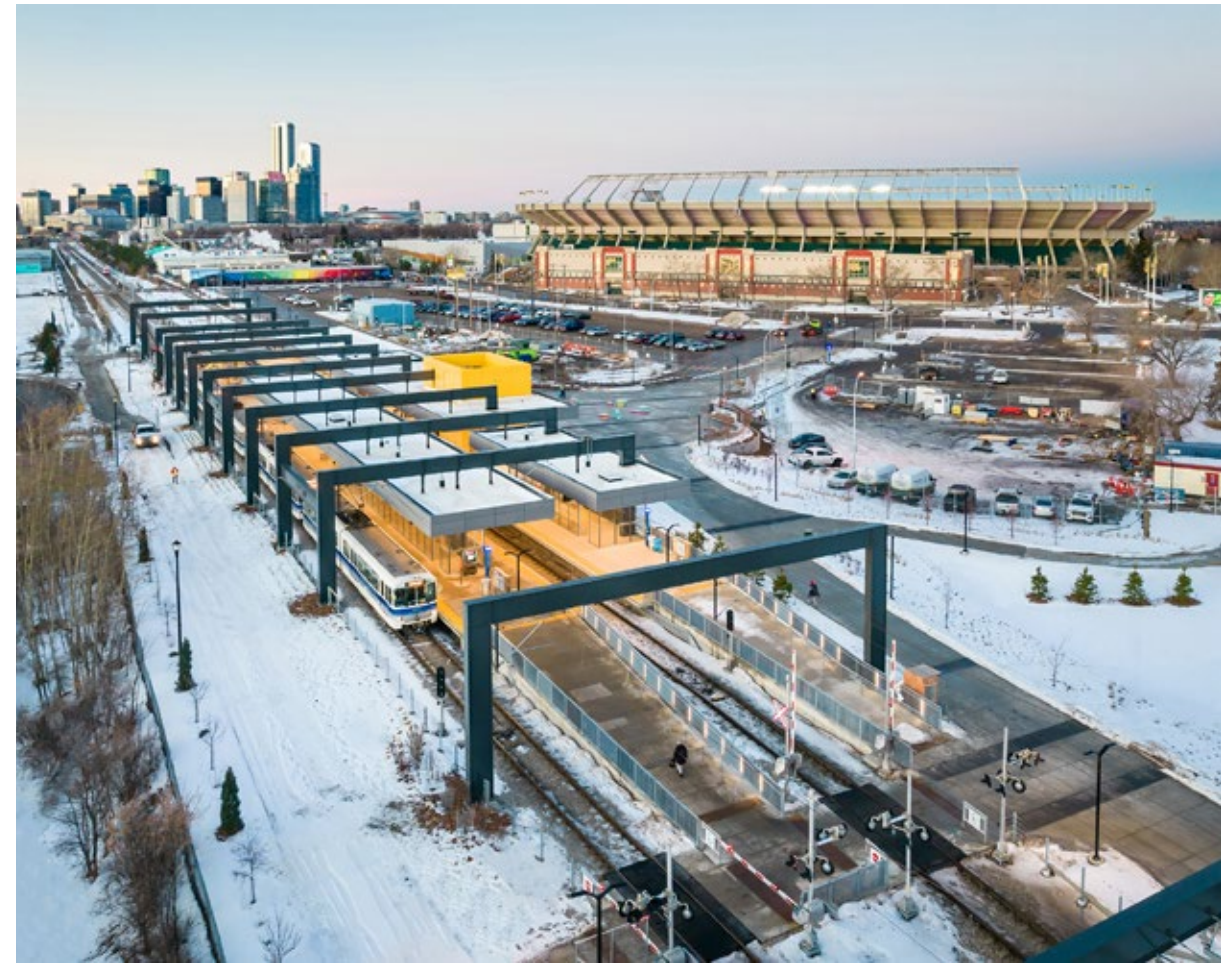
Aerial view of new Stadium LRT Station, featuring new fully accessible approaches and entries.

### BOTTOM

Canopy elements over the LRT platform are suspended from above, eliminating the need for columns in passenger areas.







**TOP LEFT**

Before and after view of the LRT platform.

**TOP RIGHT**

New LRT station, at-grade crossing and south entry, looking towards Commonwealth Stadium.

**BOTTOM LEFT**

Aerial overview of LRT station, transit centre, and new station plaza.

**BOTTOM RIGHT**

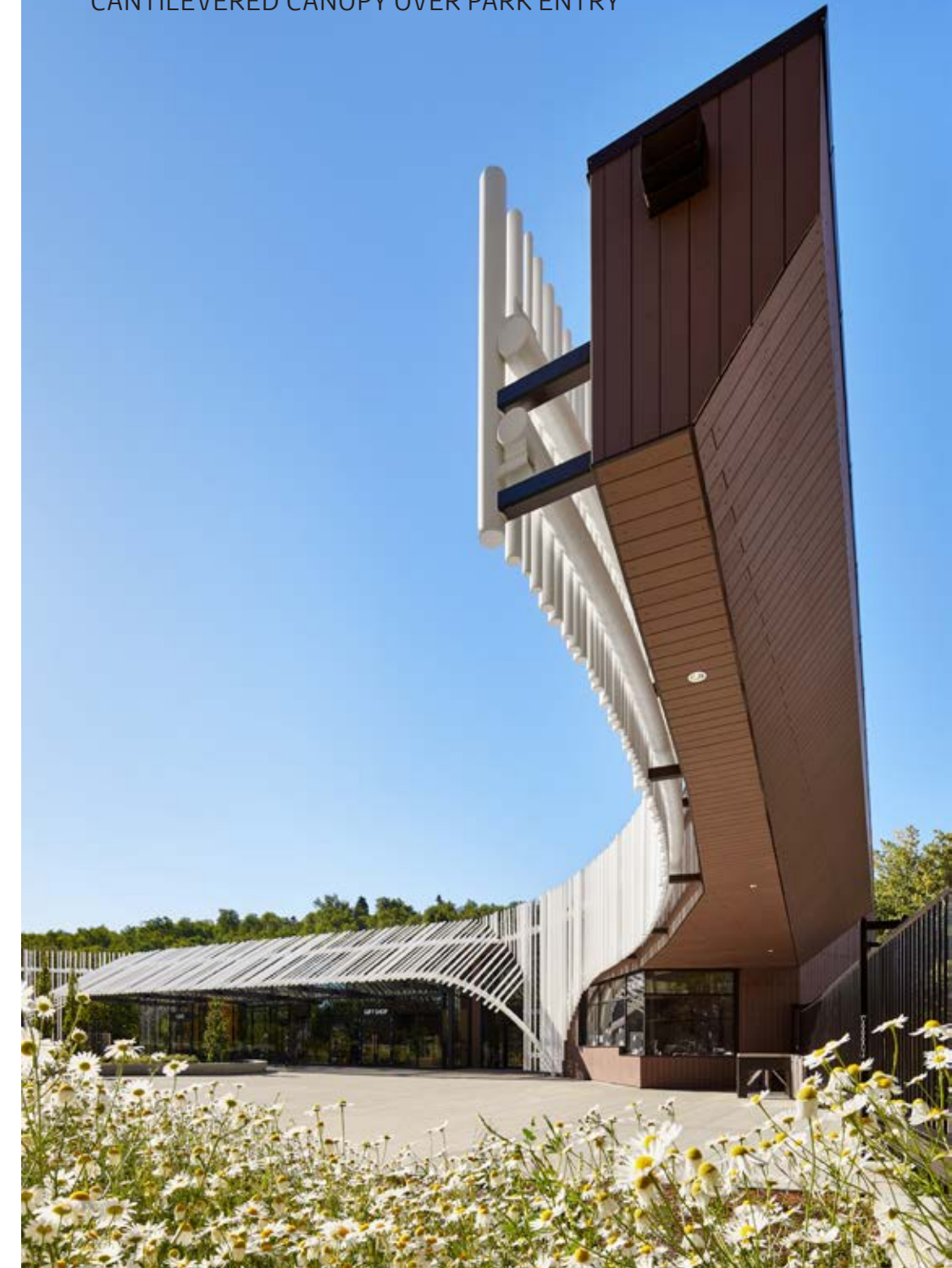
Overall site plan showing the extent of the station redevelopment and urban interfaces intended to support future transit-oriented development.



ENTRY PLAZA CONNECTION TO THE RIVER VALLEY MULTI-USE NETWORK



CANTILEVERED CANOPY OVER PARK ENTRY



## FORT EDMONTON PARK ENTRY

*urban architecture*

For 45 years, Fort Edmonton Park has been a leading living historical experience attraction that reconstructs the growth of the city from its pre-Contact origin and beyond. The 1846 Fort continues to be one of the most popular and impactful features of the Park experience. The objective of the project is to enhance the visitor experience from arrival, through the point of entry, and into the Park experience with a new Entry.

The design of the Entry is sympathetic to the vision of Fort Edmonton Park, without feeling artificial. As the boundary of the Park, the new entry acts as a threshold between past and present. In response to this unique position, the design for the new entry seeks to explicitly reference the powerful geometrical form of the original Fort, while radically re-conceptualizing it to recognize its context in the current day. As a departure-point, this project seeks to use the same striking geometry as a point of reference, while also breaking down this duality.

The concept is based on "opening" the Fort by "unfurling" it along

a path. Instead of defining a closed, defensive shape - an outpost of empire - the palisade wall follows a sinuous path similar to the adjacent river. The palisade wall stretches outwards to guide visitors through, while also letting the natural surroundings in. This expressive palisade emerges out of the landscape, leading visitors along a welcoming and embracing form. The building spaces emerge as a "thickening" of this curving wall, culminating in a gestural gate into the Park. The curling form embraces a concentrated circular courtyard. The concept ties together various program elements in a consistent visual language, while creating an engaging pedestrian experience.



PALISADE CANOPY FRAMING CAFE, GIFT SHOP & WASHROOMS



SINUOUS APPROACH & ENTRY PLAZA

INCLUSIVE PUBLIC WASHROOMS OFF OF RIVER VALLEY MULTI-USE PATH







Expanded interior entrance

## TELUS WORLD OF SCIENCE AURORA EXPANSION

The Aurora Expansion project is an ambitious renovation of the TELUS World of Science - Edmonton. The project injects TWoSE with renewed energy and illuminates the amazing world of science, engineering, technology, and art. The expansion is the final and most impactful stage of the multi-year, multi-phased Aurora Project. It includes:

- A reimagined access avenue, creating a pedestrian-first forecourt
- An experience-based interior entrance leading to an expanded lobby with a box office, founders' room, indigenous traditional room, café, and gift shop that are free and publicly accessible.
- New and expanded galleries.

The gallery expansions have five elements: The North Star Dome Theatre: becoming leader in data visualization; Portal to the Arctic: a gallery devoted to the vitally important science of polar regions; the North Wing Galleries: repurposing two existing galleries into workshops and labs; and refreshed Science Galleries: rejuvenating Discoveryland and Space Place within the original 1984 Cardinal Building.

A collaborative approach to design was leveraged to execute this complex project. Innovative approaches to detailing as well as interfacing between existing engineering systems and architectural finishes were critical. Limiting the intersection between old and new can make expansions much easier, but one of the goals of this project was to enlarge existing areas utilizing a consistent design language. The design team had to think creatively to work efficiently.

The architectural design enhances the existing building and Coronation Park. With a subtle transition in form, materiality, and patterning, the design creates a conversation between the old and new. The new addition that houses the expanded lobby and new Arctic Gallery introduces architectural features that draw from the existing building, and echo the focus of the new gallery on Canada's North.

The result is an outstanding facility that strengthens the client's mission to ignite curiosity, inspire discovery, celebrate science, and change lives.





Access avenue and forecourt with native plantings



Portal to the Arctic gallery



Discovery Land gallery



A pedestrian-first entrance experience



Expanded gift shop



Angular geometry references the original building



Grid-tied solar PV array



New galleries capture the imagination

**Big City Moves** The project considers thought about relationships with the environment through saving energy, water use, and healthy materials. A grid-tied solar PV array was installed. Water conservation was examined and storm-water is directed into wetland landscaping. The constructed wetland features incorporate native, drought-tolerant plant species; enhancing the relationship of the landscape to ecological networks. To further the educational narrative of sustainability, the project partnered with EPCOR to install a free-to-use Level 3 DC electric vehicle charger.



# EPCOR Garneau Substation

Category: Urban Architecture

*Nestling into the neighbourhood*

To better meet energy demands for the Garneau area, a new building was proposed, to house new indoor electrical equipment, a switchgear.

The Garneau neighbourhood is one of the oldest in Edmonton, with many historical buildings and mature trees; its substation is located only a couple of blocks away from the bustling Whyte Avenue area. To maintain the character of the community, the new substation was consequently designed to evoke a house, with a peaked roof and wooden vertical slats. The tree-shaded brick and wood substation merges harmoniously with its environment and the mature and vibrant neighbourhood of Garneau. Tall windows at the front of the building offer passerby a view into the facility's interior and its equipment and operations.

Construction-related disturbances were limited to the property, throughout the duration of the project, to maintain positive relationships with the neighbouring residents and minimize disruption to the area, which receives a lot of foot traffic.

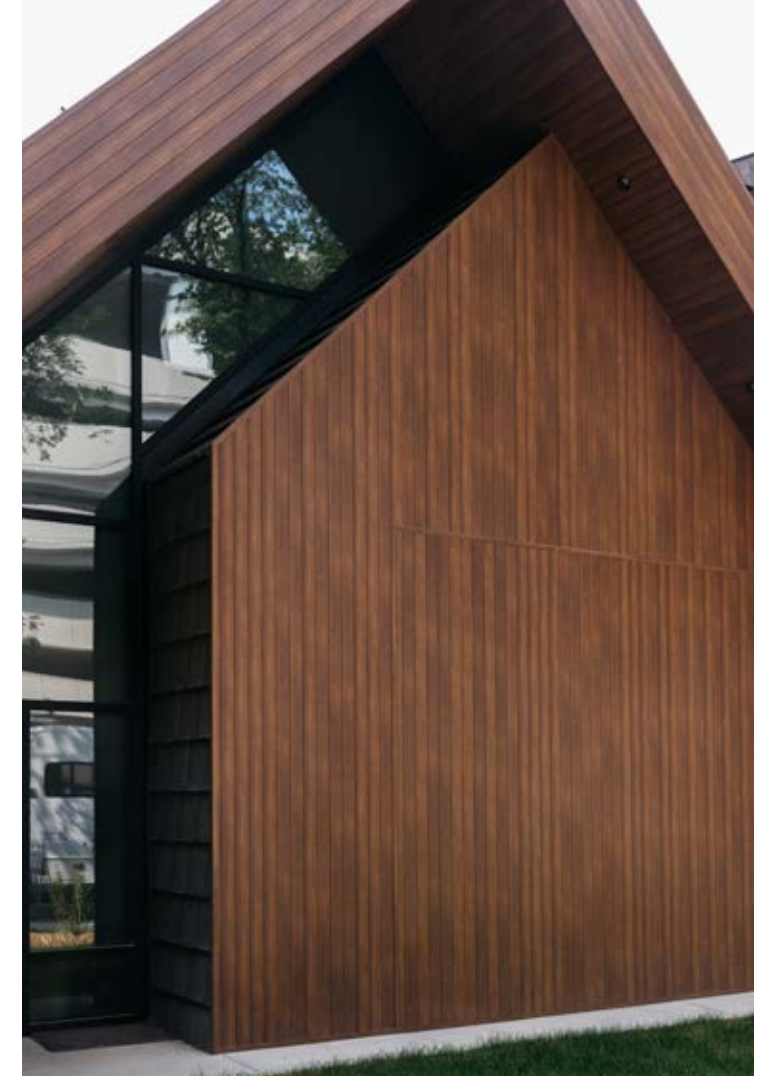
There were no power outages, and very few traffic disturbances during construction. The new substation is an excellent example of a project successfully executed and integrated with minimal disturbance to its environment and community.

EPCOR, and the project's design team are grateful to the Garneau community, who provided valuable feedback and input that helped guide the design and construction of the new substation!



The new substation facilitates the need for new indoor electrical equipment, a switchgear.

The scale and design of the substation blend into the residential fabric of the Garneau neighbourhood.



Neighbours were rarely disrupted through the construction phase.





Elegant and discrete, the substation is designed not to stand out.

Materials used on the substation convey warmth and visual appeal, despite belonging to a utility provider.





**Main Photo:** The building's active frontage along 124th Street, expresses an evolution of the theatre's commitment to the public realm.



**Photo:** This historic photo shows the original Roxy Theatre built in 1938. The frontage was occupied by a pharmacy and theatregoers entered through a side door.



**Photo:** This photo from 1988 shows the yellow Roxy sign as a beacon and landmark on 124th Street, highly visible from 107th Avenue. Activities within theatre offices are grade is concealed by posters.



**Painting:** Edmonton cartoonist Yardley-Jones illustrated the exceptional impact that a vibrant theatre can have on public space. Rescued from the ashes of the fire, this painting greatly influenced the design of the building and its interaction with the street.



# ROXY THEATRE



**Photo:** Overall view from 124th Street showing the new theatre within its context. The cantilevered overhang, aligned with adjacent awnings, is ready to welcome crowds to the street.

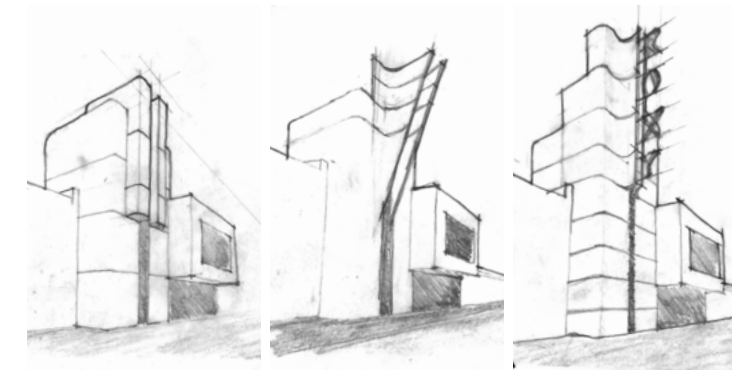
The original Roxy Theatre, lost to fire in 2015, was deeply embedded in Edmonton's theatre scene and an anchor of the 124th Street community. Memories recall lineups snaking down the block, an over-crowded lobby spilling onto the street and restaurants packed with audience members anticipating a show or glowing in its aftermath. The design of the new theatre celebrates these memories and reinforces the theatre's relationship to public space.

The rebuilt theatre occupies the same narrow site, presenting an urban design challenge to maximize the impact of limited street frontage while designing for inward-focused theatre spaces. Massing is tallest at the rear to accommodate the stage and catwalk,

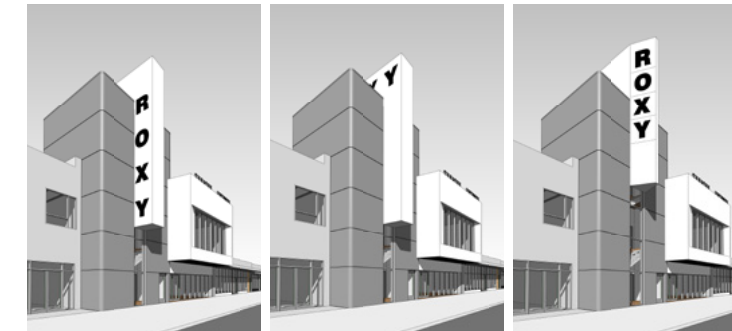
descending towards the street in a platonic wedge that concentrates the building's formal energy at the public interface. A generous overhang protects and enhances this pedestrian-oriented space, taking advantage of zoning allowances for overhead construction above city-owned sidewalks. White stucco cladding references the international-style of its predecessor, while anticipating future development of neighbouring properties. Visitors will notice some incomplete areas where negotiations are ongoing with the abutting property owner - a significant challenge of dense urban construction.

An operable glass wall at grade creates a flexible, permeable connection to the public sidewalk, supporting direct access to the lobby in temperate conditions and



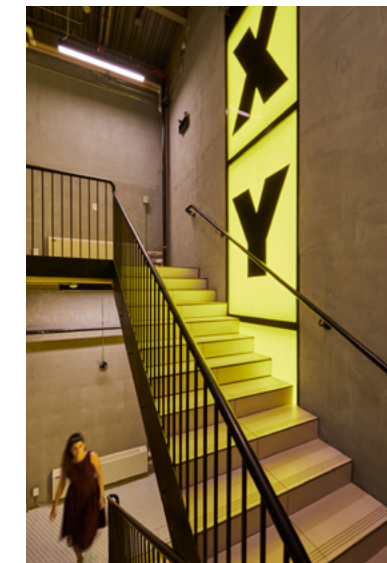
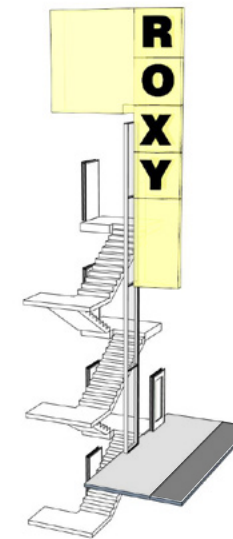


**Main Photo:** The height of the stair and elevator tower enhances the verticality of the sign, lifting it above the surrounding streetscape and reinstating the neighbourhood's favourite beacon.



**Sketches:** Hand sketching was used to explore art-deco forms for the sign and potential integration with the cladding.

**3D Model:** As its iconic importance emerged, the sign became its own distinct building element.



**3D Model & Photo:** Aligned with vertical glazing at grade, the sign invites people to climb the stairs and explore the theatre's inner workings. Activity on the stairs helps animate the facade.

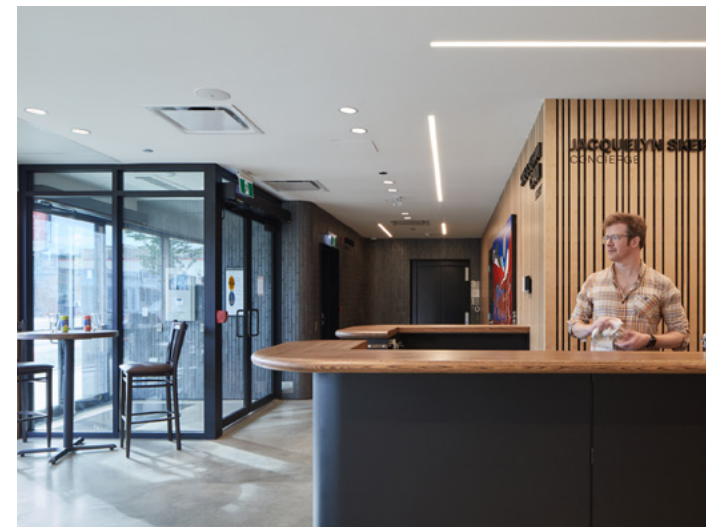
offering views to gallery walls inside. A subtle transition from sidewalk to polished concrete floor reinforces the lobby as an extension of the streetscape. The prized second-level frontage is occupied by the rehearsal hall; large windows create a public-facing proscenium where glimpses of upcoming performances are broadcast to the street. Specially selected window blinds double as rear projection screens that further animate the facade.

The iconic sign reaches skyward to the maximum allowable building height; its warm yellow glow visible from afar signals the return of a cultural hub. Bigger and bolder, it is resolutely dedicated to the memory of its predecessor; broken shards recovered from the debris allowed for an exact colour match.

In a city where the urban fabric changes quickly the enduring legacy of this sign is an invaluable tool to recast a part of Edmonton's story.

### BIG CITY MOVES

A *rebuildable city* is embraced by developing performance spaces and galleries that anticipate and promote the growth of Edmonton's arts scene. White stucco walls and a radius corner reference the heritage of the original Roxy's 1930s international aesthetic, while black-glazed brick is a metaphor for the fire that led to its demise. The design strives to *catalyze and converge* the city's creative arts with a fertile hub for local theatre.



**Photo:** The lobby is an extension of the street with maximum transparency, an operable glass wall and exterior brick that wraps through the interior.



**Photo:** The rehearsal hall overlooks 124th St and beyond to downtown. Ceiling mount projectors animate the building frontage using specialized blinds.



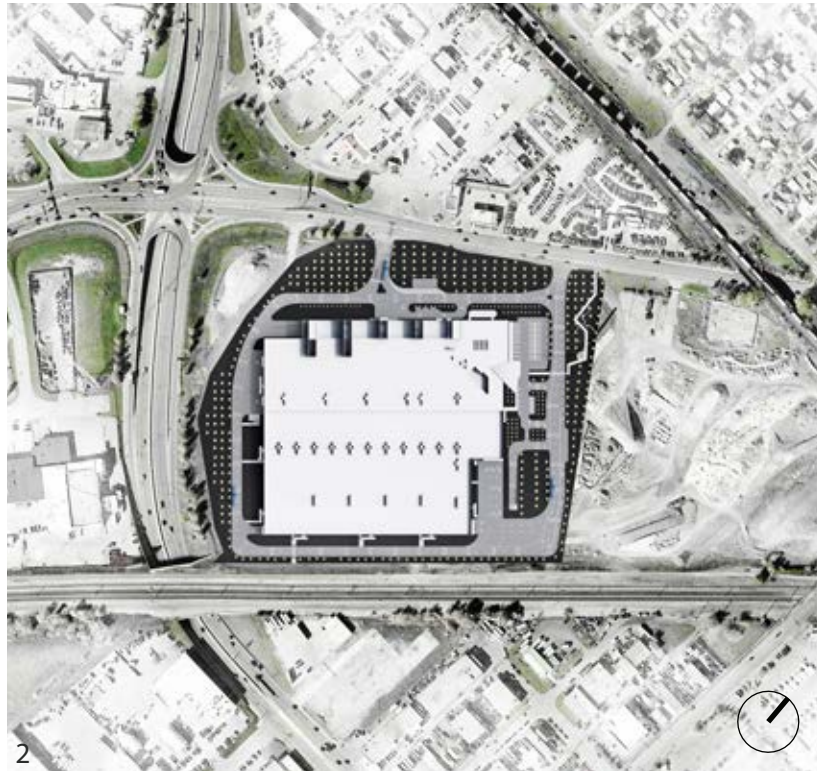


### Kathleen Andrews Transit Garage

The design of the Kathleen Andrews Transit Garage (KATG) embraces an opportunity to recall and reinterpret Edmonton's infrastructural past. Named after Edmonton's first female bus driver, the 50,000 m<sup>2</sup> KATG accommodates 320 workers including bus drivers, maintenance, administration and transit security staff. It houses 300 buses, including 28 charging stations for 30 electric buses, 35 maintenance bays with three undercarriage wash bays, four re-fuel bays and exterior wash bays.

The site is remarkable in a post-industrial sense, located at the intersection of multiple transportation networks, some tracing from its 20th century industrial legacy. The area housed stockyards, abattoirs and processing plants including a Canada Packers meat processing plant. The project maintains an imposing 50-metre tall brick smokestack as the sole remaining industrial artifact from this era, newly reimagined as a publicly-accessible heritage site.



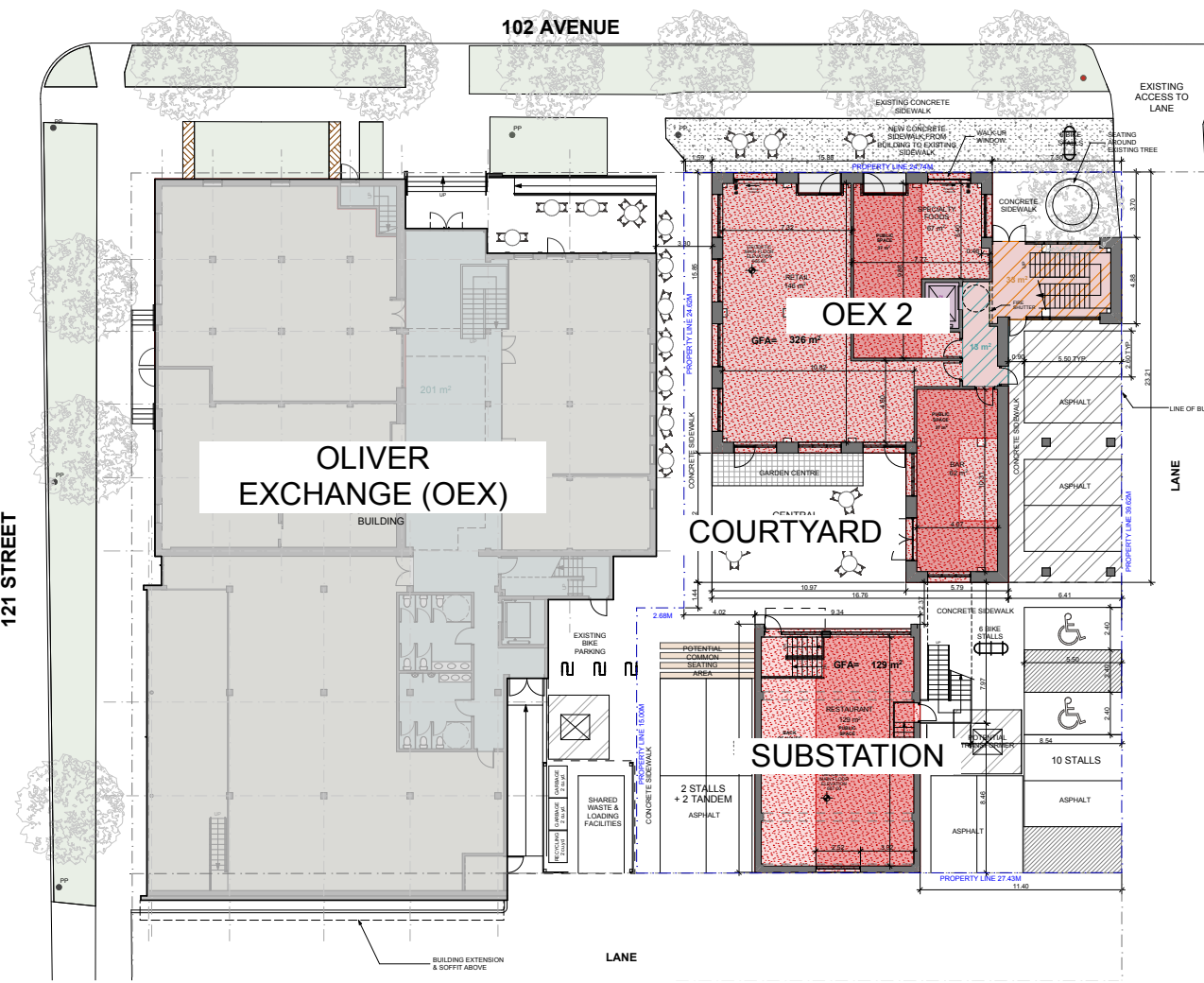


- 1 View from north/west
- 2 Site plan
- 3 View of public art & roof lanterns from north
- 4 Partial north facade with gabion screening walls
- 5 View from north/east to main entrance
- 6 View into maintenace garage

The KATG is a big building on a big site. The form is wrapped with a skin of corrugated stainless steel and glass, drawn across the expansive and simply articulated building, weaving together the disparate programmatic elements within. Large rooftop volumes house mechanical enclosures and lanterns and are clad in the same palette. These are also the site for 5 public art pieces by German artist Thorsten Goldberg, creating a landmark along the busy Fort Road artery feeding Edmonton's Downtown. The site design is put to work to transform and heal 23 acres of brownfield. The removal of 3 meters of compromised soil facilitated the provision of a full

parking level beneath the garage. The remaining site is ecologically greened with planted thresholds, berms, pathways and a dense tree planting grid, collectively achieving an improved microclimate and contributing to significant carbon capture across the site. Extensive swathes of the site are covered with recycled rubber, a continuous bioswale that filters surface water prior to discharge into the municipal system. This soft palette, juxtaposed with the more acute aesthetic of the building, invokes the industrial legacy of the site and of modern architecture without nostalgia for either.





**SITE PLAN**

**OEX2**, the expansion of the acclaimed Oliver Exchange, builds upon its predecessor's success as a vibrant community hub, distinguished by a previous Urban Design Award. The new structure, along with the renovation of the former Epcor substation, seeks to seamlessly integrate with the existing development while showcasing its own architectural identity, creating a diverse ensemble that appears to have evolved over time.

The rejuvenation of the former Epcor substation contributes additional space to the established Transcend coffee shop within the Oliver Exchange. This transformation includes a coffee roastery and an innovative rooftop patio-cum-greenhouse for cultivating herbs and more.

**OEX2's** design thoughtfully extends the urban dialogue initiated by the original Oliver Exchange along 102 Ave. Generously sized windows on the main and second levels enhance visual connectivity between interior and exterior realms. Direct tenant access from the sidewalk and spill-out zones along the facade accommodate street furnishings, inviting patrons to linger. The main entrance on 102 Ave. offers access to the event space on the second level, featuring a glazed stairwell, as well as a rooftop patio. The internal courtyard, nestled between structures, serves as a shared haven animated with outdoor displays and seating, encouraging interaction within the complex.

Multiple access points, including an alley between the original and new buildings and adjacent lanes, foster a porous connection with the community. The layout embraces openness and accessibility.

**OEX2** introduces an array of establishments to the existing roster, including an ice cream retailer, wine bar, apartment furnishings store, and event space. These join the eclectic blend of offerings that comprise the Oliver Exchange, encompassing a bakery, micro-brewery, coffee shop, retail food store, home decor boutique, salon, and event spaces.

In essence, **OEX2** is not just an expansion but an embodiment of community synergy, encapsulating the ethos of the Oliver Exchange while weaving its narrative into Edmonton's urban fabric.



**OEX2**

**AERIAL OF OLIVER EXCHANGE & OEX2/ SUBSTATION**



**OEX2 & OLIVER EXCHANGE ALONG 102 AVE. AT NIGHT**



**OLIVER EXCHANGE**



# OEX2



VIEW OF OEX2 ALONG 102 AVENUE



OUTDOOR SEATING ALONG 102 AVENUE



STAIR TO 2ND FLOOR



INTERNAL COURTYARD W/ SUBSTATION

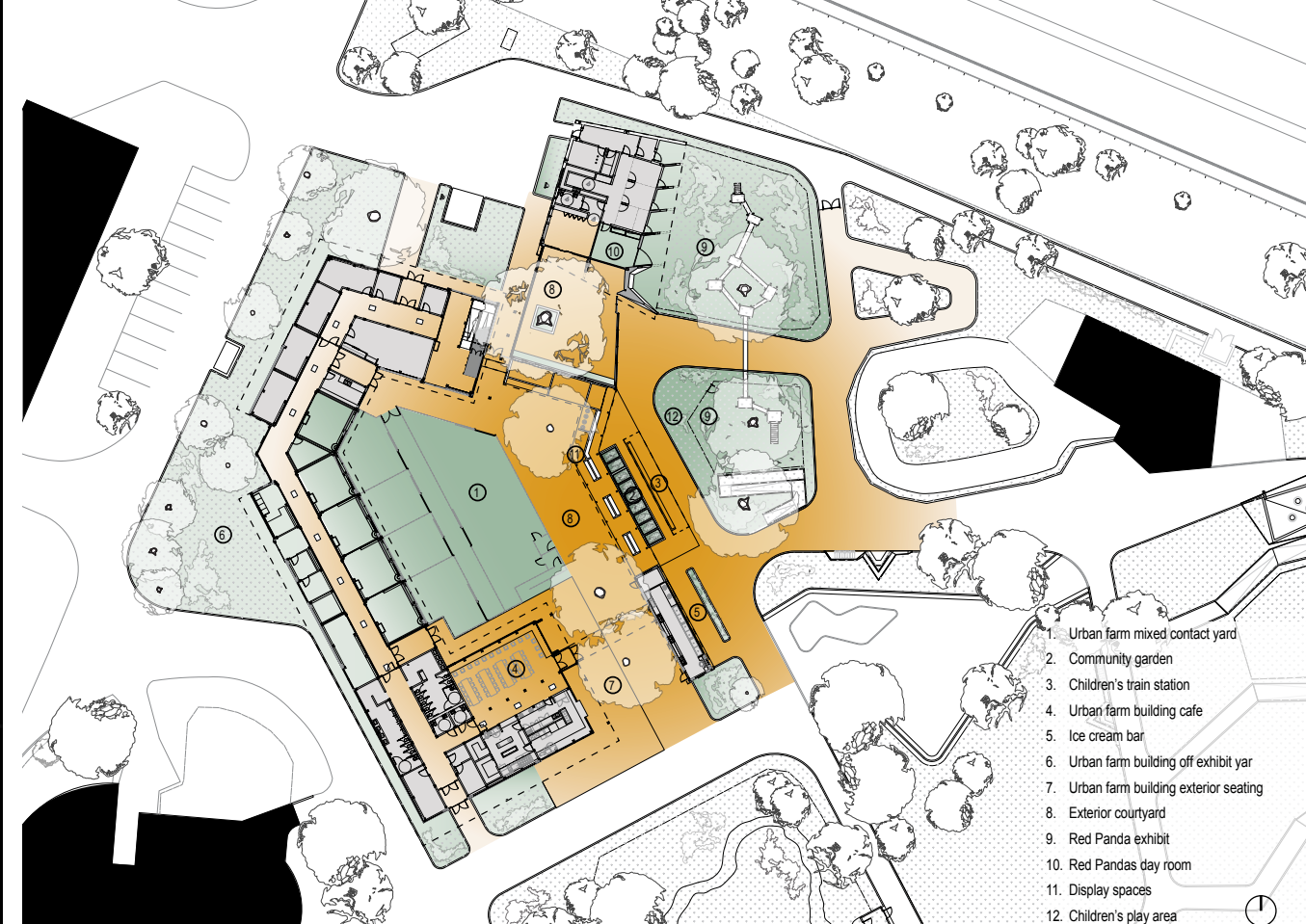
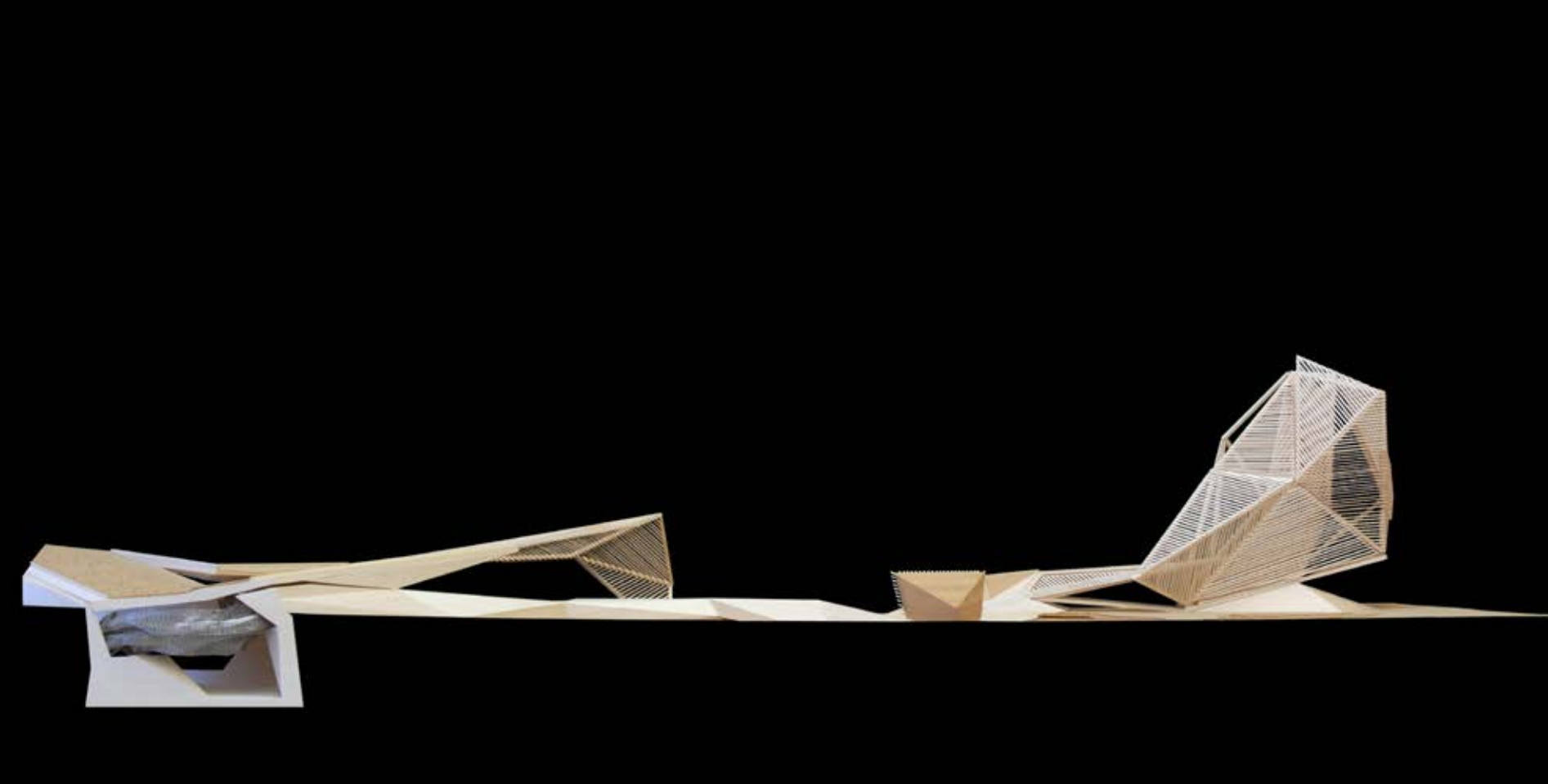


ALLEY VIEW TOWARDS 102 AVE.



INTERIOR WINDOWS





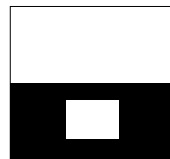
Concept Model (above)

Main Floor Plans (above)

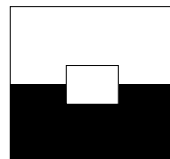
Red Panda Building, from SW (below)

# EDMONTON VALLEY ZOO - Nature's Wild Backyard, Phase 1

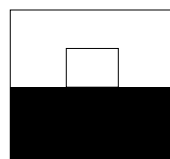
## CHILDREN'S GEOGRAPHY



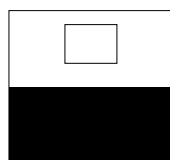
UNDER



BETWEEN

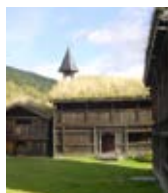


ON



ABOVE

## EXPERIENTIAL TOUCHSTONES



## SPATIAL ARCHETYPES



## CORE SPECIES



Prairie Dog  
*Procyon lotor*



Red Fox  
*Vulpes vulpes*



Burrowing Owl  
*Athene cunicularia*



Meerkat  
*Suricata suricatta*



Naked Mole Rat  
*Heterocephalus glaber*



Swift Fox  
*Vulpes velox*



Capybara  
*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*



Beaver  
*Castor Canadensis*



Agouti  
*Dasyprocta*



Elder Duck  
*Somateria mollissima*



Goat  
*Capra aegagrus hircus*



Cow  
*Bos taurus*



Pony  
*Equus caballus*



Turkey  
*Melagris gallopavo*



Rabbit  
*Oryctolagus cuniculus*



Wallaby  
*Petrogale lateralis*



Emu  
*Dromaius novaehollandiae*



Sheep  
*Ovis aries*



Pig  
*Sus domestica*



Chicken  
*Gallus domesticus*



Domestic Cat  
*Felis catus*



Fallow Deer  
*Dama dama*



Raccoon  
*Procyon lotor*



Red Panda  
*Ailurus fulgens*



Ring Tailed Lemur  
*Lemur catta*



Gibbon  
*Hylobatidae*



Golden Lion Tamarin  
*Leontopithecus rosalia*



Giant Anteater  
*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*



Red Lorikeet  
*Eos bornea*



Blue Gray Tanager  
*Thraupis episcopus*



Orinoco Goose  
*Neochen jubata*



Emerald Starling  
*Lamprolornis iris*

The Urban Farm and Red Panda buildings are part of an integrated landscape of places, both inside and outside, that collectively develop the conservation narrative in the Children's Precinct at the Edmonton Valley Zoo. With the goal of seamlessly connecting interpretive spaces together, the architecture was designed with a strong permeability between interior and exterior domains. For example, the visitor experience of the Urban Farm is ordered around an exterior courtyard and amenity 'spine' that connects animal contact spaces, the community garden, ice cream bar, children's train stop/shade space, displays connected to the interpretive message, and animal feed areas within which children can interact with the animals.

The Red Panda building features three public spaces, two that are exterior and one that is interior, that connect the visitor with different opportunities with which to witness the pandas existing in their everyday lives. For example, the panda's Day Room is visually and physically connected with their outdoor yard, and visitors can navigate freely between inside and outside spaces to witness the Red Pandas interacting within their natural habitat (including an overhead bridge for the pandas), an immersive experience forged through the weaving together of natural habitat and the visitor's realm.

Immersive landscapes are those in which animals and humans alike are enveloped by a common habitat. To help realize the intentions behind the idea of immersive landscapes, the design team developed a material and tectonic language that would reinforce the experiential qualities associated with natural habitats. The architecture of the Red Panda building, for example, is expressed as a set of cascading wood and concrete portals between inside and outside, that gathers light and the natural landscape as an occupiable threshold for the pandas. In the same manner, the architectural expression of the Urban Farm is a contemporary interpretation of the vernacular farm building, clad in the same wood as the Red Panda building, and complete with a green roof that is occupied by the resident goats. The two buildings share a material culture but it is leveraged towards different landscape-centric expressions reflective of the resident animals and their environments.







Children's train station and play area (below)

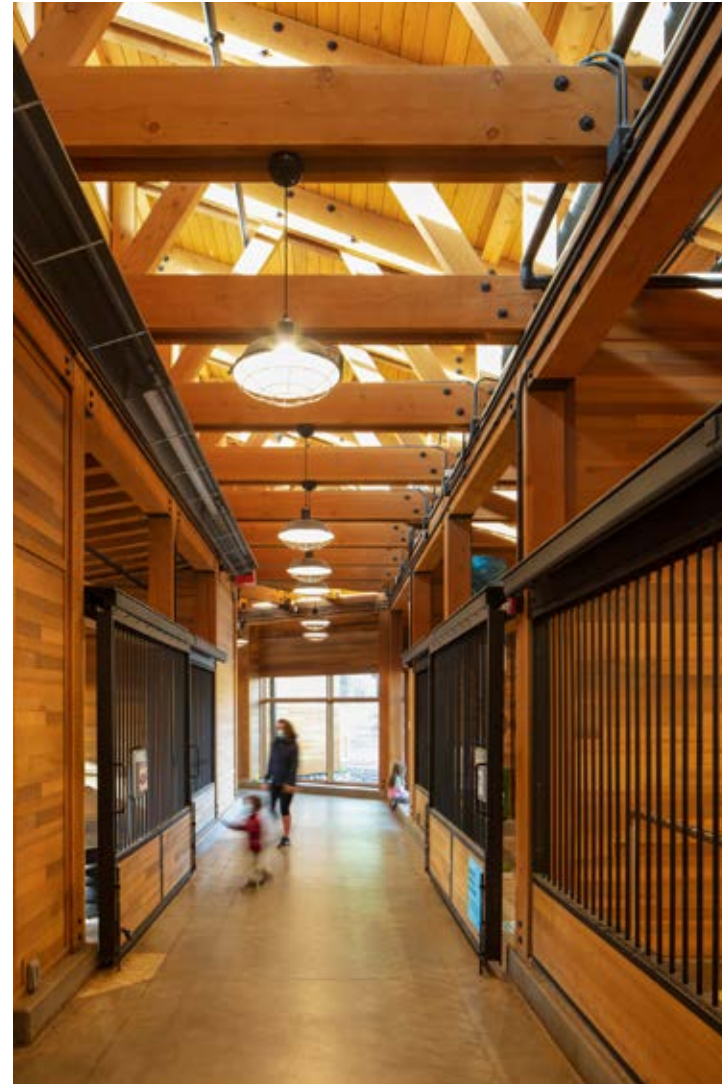
Farm Building, Interior (below)

Red Panda Building, from SW (below)

Farm Building, from south (above)



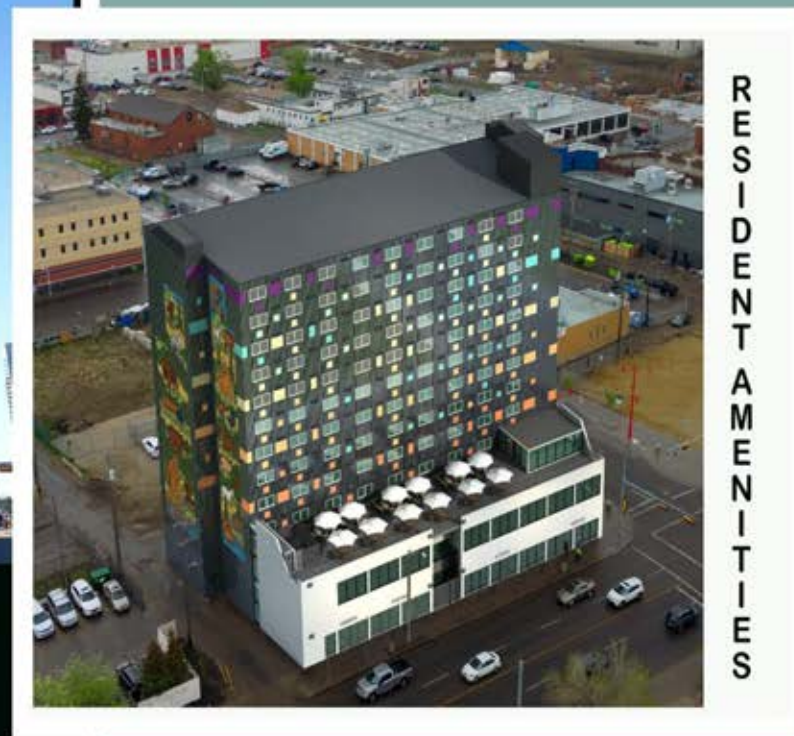
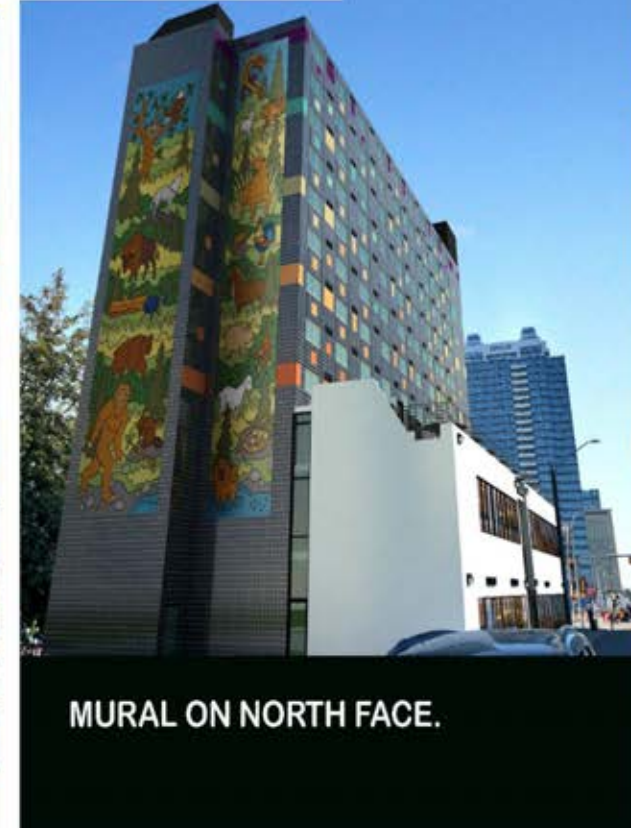
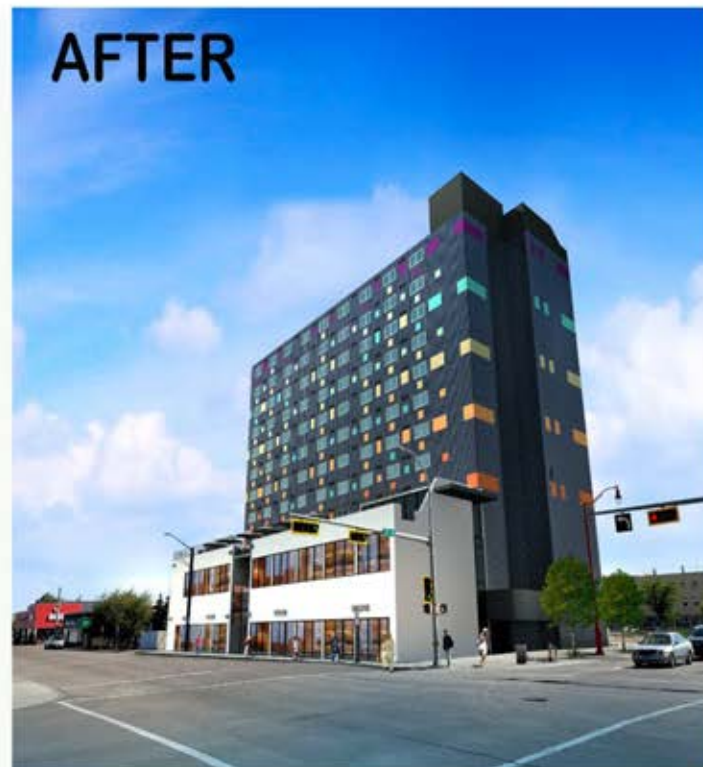
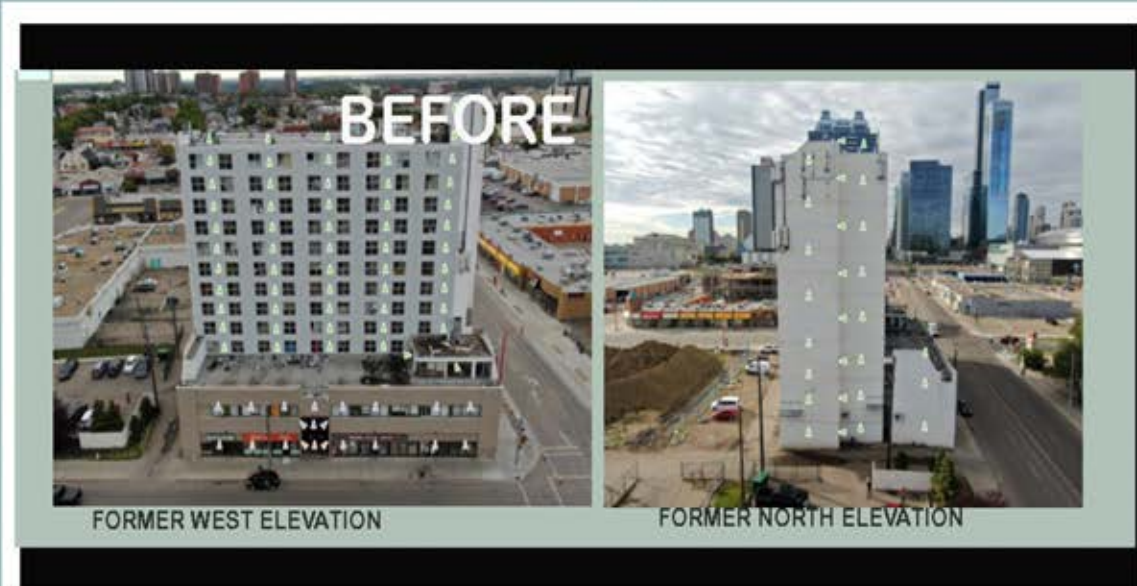
Urban Farm Building, from SE (below)





# CAPITAL TOWER RENOVATION

10028 106 AVE NW, EDMONTON



Capital Tower is a 12-storey building in the heart of downtown Edmonton, and the gateway to Chinatown. As a 49-year-old building and former hotel, it has been through many cycles of ownership, and consistently surrounded by community services organizations, such as Boyle Street and Hope Mission, to support low-income individuals who are escaping poverty and homelessness.

We are revitalizing this vacant residential and commercial building to create a high quality, affordable, and comfortable property that stands out as a warm and inviting location on the periphery of Edmonton's vibrant downtown. In recent years, we have seen improvements in entertainment, hospitality, and education in this area, and we're bringing that vibrancy closer to Capital Tower to enhance this up-and-coming neighbourhood. This building is only a 5-minute walk to Rogers Place, 3 blocks from the Royal Alberta Museum, a 15-minute walk from Grant MacEwan University, 2 blocks north of Epcor Tower – one of the newest AA office buildings in Edmonton - and 1 block north of the exciting new Station Lands development. Capital Tower will include several amenities for residents, such as a rooftop garden, library space, games and movie room, fitness centre, storage offices, and refurbished commercial space on the main floor. The building will support a revitalized community, delivering an enjoyable urban living experience for working professionals and students alike. With a focus on sustainability and reducing its environmental footprint, this project has the largest vertical array of solar panels proposed in North America. An 85-foot-tall solar panel mural has been designed and illustrated for the north face by a local Edmonton Indigenous artist, to pay homage to the unity, coexistence, and cultural similarities between First Nations and Chinese cultures from the Cree seven sacred grandfather teachings and the Chinese zodiac. Using a bright spectrum of rainbow-coloured panels, the mural will be a captivating landmark that engages with the public – both pedestrian and vehicular – creating a point of interest visible from both Chinatown and the Ice District. The rejuvenated Capital Tower is spearheading change for downtown Edmonton, creating a space that residents and tenants proudly call home.





East Facade

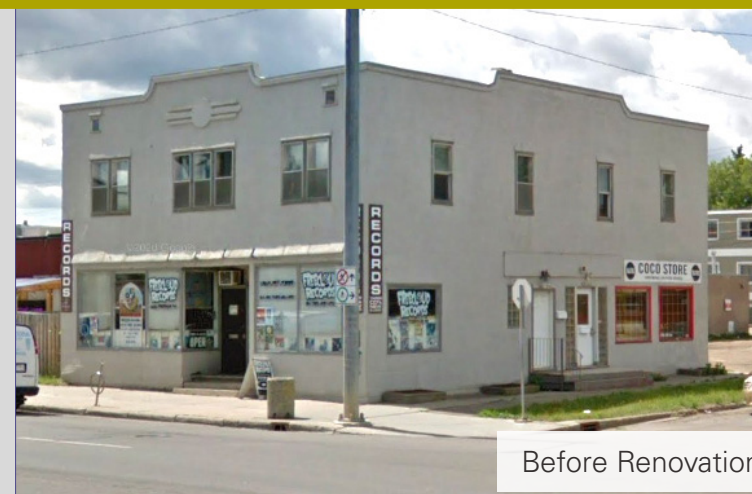
## FREECLOUD RECORDS

For over a century the Freecloud Records' Building has stood at the crest of Downtown Edmonton. It has seen history: from horse drawn wagons of grain pulling into town from the surrounding Ukrainian farm settlements, to the genesis of Edmonton's Ice District, a stage for world class entertainment and residence for the ultra elite. The building's 3-year transformation was the collision between raw, art deco style, and rich, modern art.

The design, inspired by The Vatican and Eastern-European architecture, features regal colouring of deep blue, pure white, and noble gold. Carefully integrated LED lighting strips are built into the gold banding that crowns the structure, giving it a prominent, golden glow at night. The building's North facade was designed to appear as heaven's gate and was accomplished through a touch of light.

In its earliest times, the building was an apartment complex for the City's newcomers. Today, each of the upper windows has its own golden sill light, glowing like a single candle. Each light is like a living prayer of hope from the building's old residents who were the generation that built the City into what it is today.

Freecloud Records have had their vinyl record shop at the building for the last 33 years, operating as a museum for the history of music. The building is a cathedral for people to come and enjoy the sound of the living past. To celebrate their legacy, a golden record made of brass was crafted and mounted at the top of the East facade, with sharp angel's wings shooting from its sides, and white light spilling from its back, fulfilling the building's biblical theme. Care was taken throughout the design process. Firstly, to maintain the lighting design to dark-sky standards, so the sky's stars can still be seen through the building's nighttime glow. And then with careful consideration of cost, the design could be implemented onto the building's century old structure without compromise. The finished building brings vibrancy and a calming harmony to the corner it continues to stand on, glowing as it watches the City and its people grow.



Before Renovation



Final Sketch



Day | Northeast View



Night | Northeast View

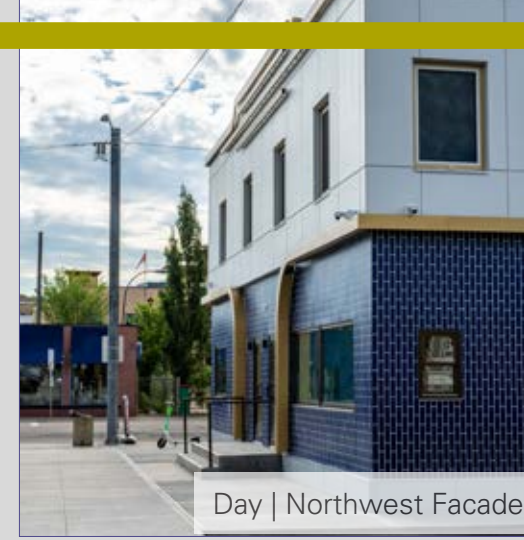




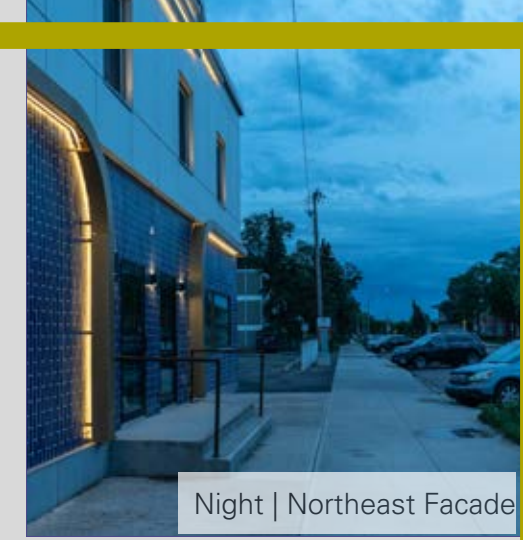
North Facade



Emblem



Day | Northwest Facade



Night | Northeast Facade



Day | Southeast View

## BIG CITY MOVES

Freecloud Records is a great example of how an outdated building can be revitalized to brighten a community and become a cherished landmark. The two storey renovation showcases our ability as designers to implement adaptive reuse and insert modern functionality and relevance to space. Now Freecloud Records is poised to welcome a new era of Edmontonians and visitors; it's refreshed and has space for three commercial tenants, instead of two.



North Close Up



Night | North View



# ALBERTA UNION OF PROVINCIAL EMPLOYEES (AUPE) HEADQUARTERS

The dynamic design of this unique building is a natural outcome of the clearly defined Guiding Principles from a forward-thinking organization with very high standards. As an example, Low Impact Development goals were key in restoring the lost natural landscape of the undeveloped and brownfield area, with bioswales populated through the re-implementation of wetland soil taken from an agricultural source very close to the site so that its biodiversity could flourish again.

The prudent and beautiful natural landscaping uses no irrigation, being comprised of thriving bioswales that have reintroduced native species to the now revitalized site. Landscaping provides shading to the lower levels of the building. Soft landscape areas exceed bylaw requirements, and bioswale installation reduces the asphalt footprint and associated heat island effect.

During the investigation of several outline concepts and throughout the project, Building Information Modeling (BIM) allowed the team to quickly and easily compare floor aspect ratios, exterior wall areas, orientation, solar heat gain, energy use, and more – each with a set of technical outputs producing data to inform and validate the aesthetic and functional characteristics of each concept.

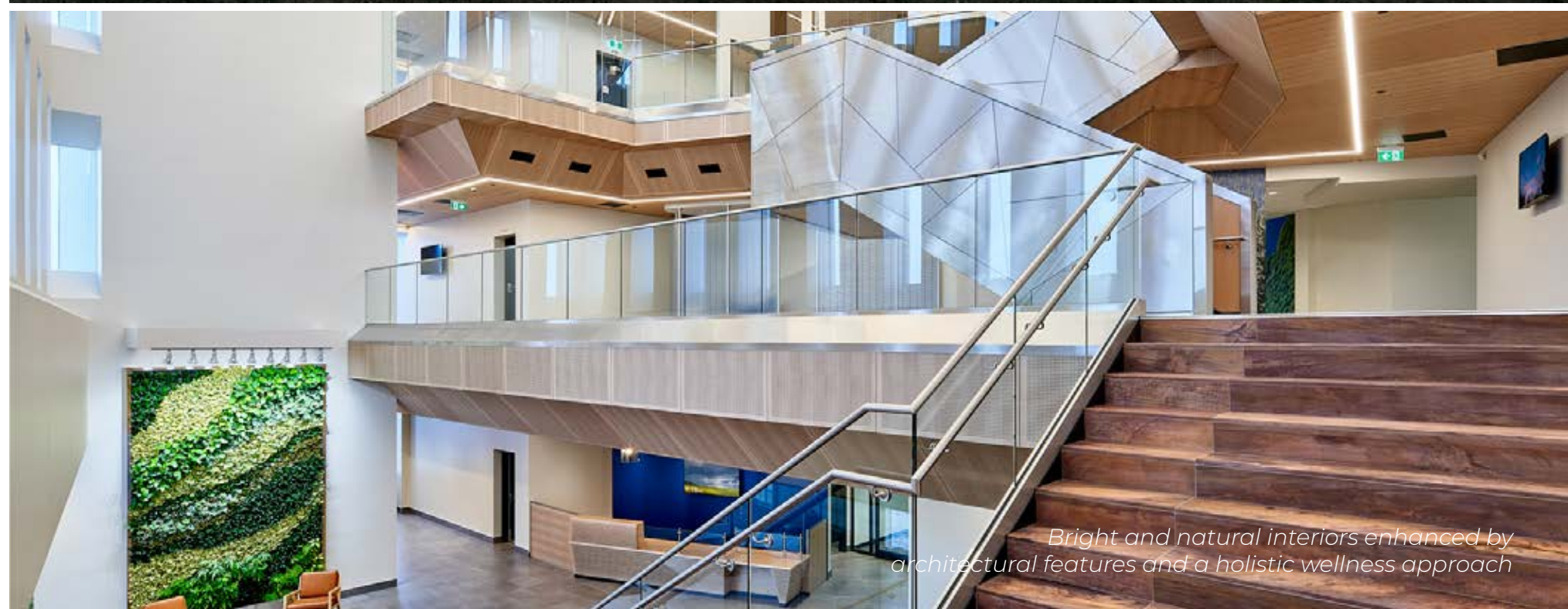
The client and project team evaluated and assessed access points and connections to the wider road network to provide an appropriate basis for the site development. Through research and analysis of 5 massing concepts, the building footprint was then downsized, resulting in gains for landscaping.

Daylight software influenced the building orientation and shape, with three main blocks that fan out from a central core. A component of the lighting design includes energy conservation and reduction of light pollution. Glazing was positioned to maximize solar heat gain and minimize winter heat loss. Key areas of glazing are sloped to reduce solar glare to the neighbours. Even sloped exterior walls help reduce cooling plant load due to the angle of incidence of the solar transmission.

As the building serves many visitors from outside of Edmonton, the location was desirable, including proximity to existing hotels. Bicycle use is encouraged through the provision of a covered bike rack, and Electric Vehicle use and charging are given priority parking locations.



*South elevation with bioswales used to restore natural landscape*



*Bright and natural interiors enhanced by architectural features and a holistic wellness approach*



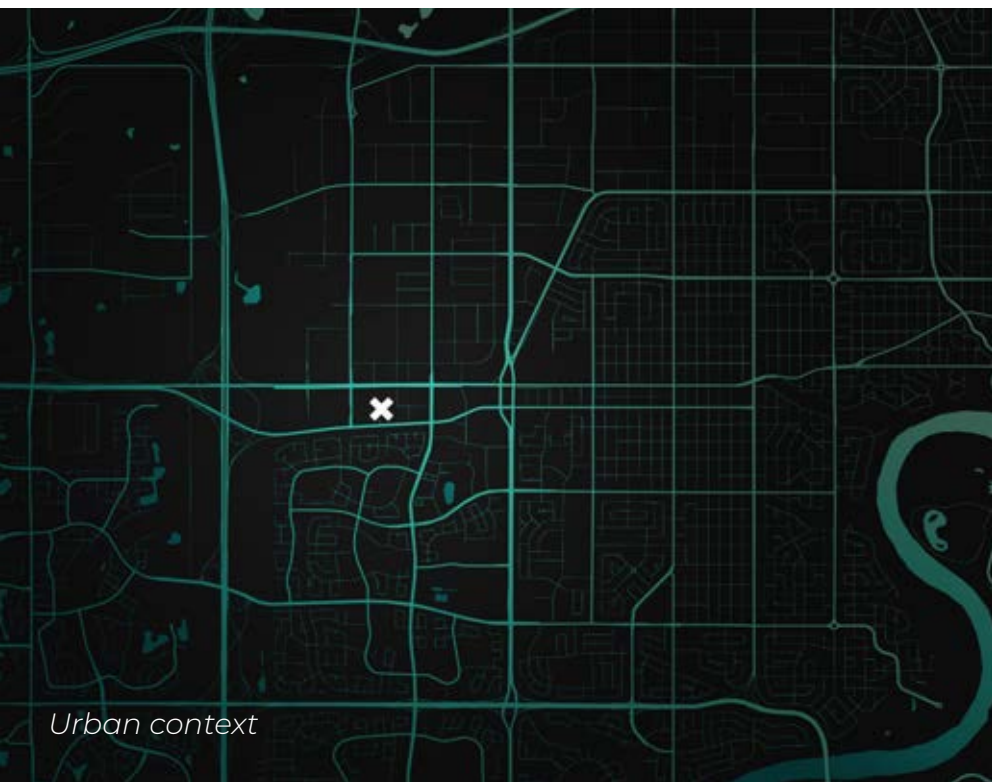


North elevation featuring a covered bicycle rack and inviting landscaping

Through this project, a brownfield site was transformed into the first New Construction Office Building in Edmonton to achieve LEED v4 Certification, and is on track to be the First New Construction Office Building in Canada incorporating LEED (any version) and WELL (any version), under NECB 2011. The high performing, socially and environmentally responsible building features accessible design, Indigenous art, and is (re)vitalizing the city's west end, a beacon of what is possible in Edmonton.



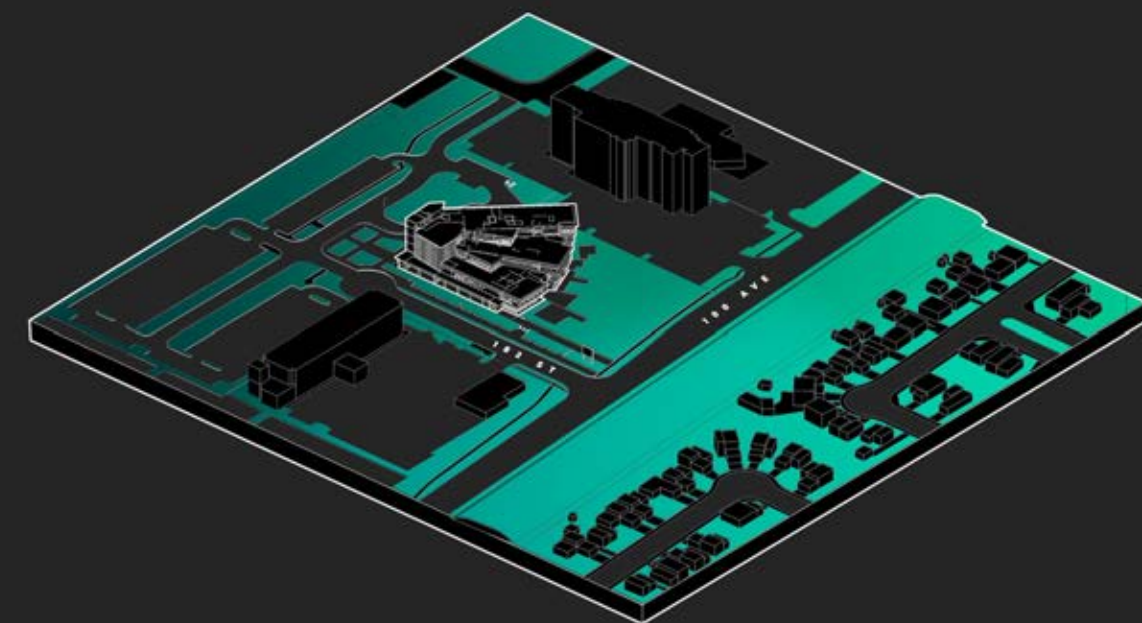
Aerial view of bioswales



Urban context



Guiding Principles



Site and adjacent properties





*New atrium nestled between and projecting from existing law court buildings*



## EDMONTON LAW COURTS GALLERIA REPLACEMENT

Located in the heart of downtown Edmonton on Sir Winston Churchill Square, this project involved the careful replacement of a galleria and public concourse that was added to the Edmonton Law Courts in 1984. The existing canopy was failing, with severe leaking throughout the structure requiring upwards of 200 buckets to catch water coming through during heavy downpours. A long term solution was designed, complimenting the original 1973 brutalist architecture.

The existing galleria was surrounded by and served the original 1973 building and the 1984 addition, and the solution had to deal with the differential movement between the two massive structures while maintaining water and air tightness. A large consideration was maintaining access to justice - in other words, ongoing construction within a fully operational provincial courthouse. The solution was a new structure built over the old, and the old carefully dismantled from within.

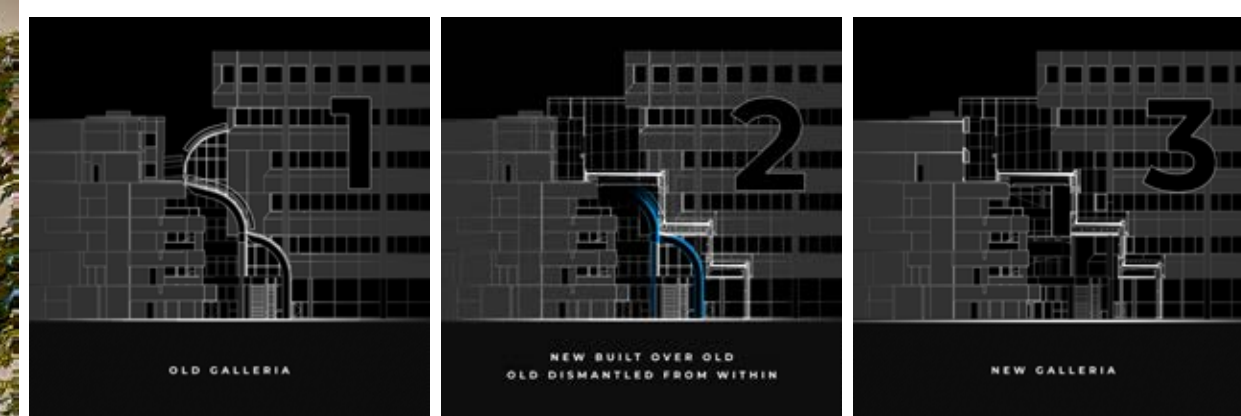
One major constraint was that the new design could not have overhead glass like the old, and instead needed to be clerestory in nature. The new glazing features a fritted pattern to allow for privacy commensurate with the function of the building, and the stepped shape provides interest, emphasized by the perforated metal panels that tie the strong horizontal lines of the (uneven) storey heights of the existing buildings together and double as sunshades. The green tint of the glass provides an approachable and calming hue to complement the stainless steel panels.

Views from the interior provide context, allowing visitors to see the massive structures nearby including the Art Gallery of Alberta and Edmonton City Hall. While most of the galleria is visible on the southwest side of the complex, the east entrance is also greatly rehabilitated, with additional protection and lighting offered by an integrated awning. At its highest, the galleria stretches up 5 storeys, running east and west, wedged between and under the concrete structures that make up the courts. This atrium fulfills a role of dichotomies well, that of being open and secure, transparent and private. It is a solid but flexible addition to the site, that is both serious and vibrant.



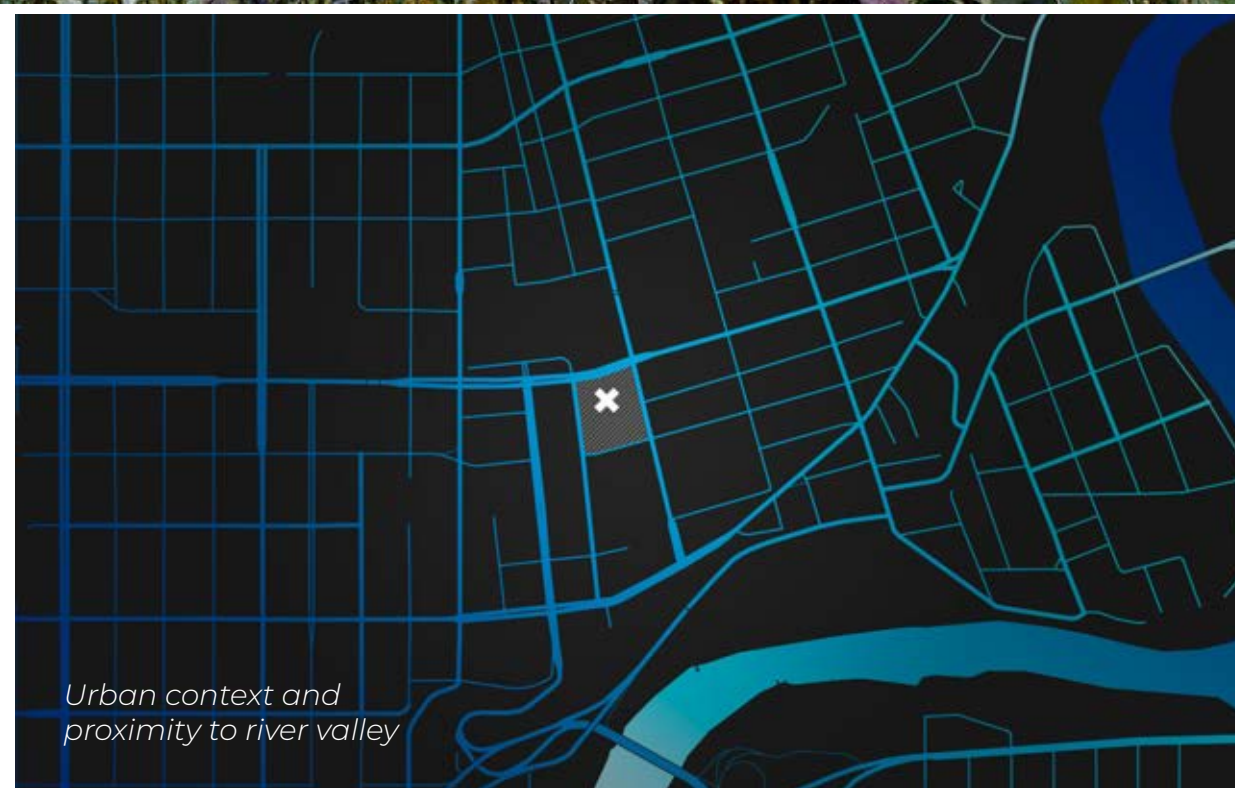


South Elevation from existing park below

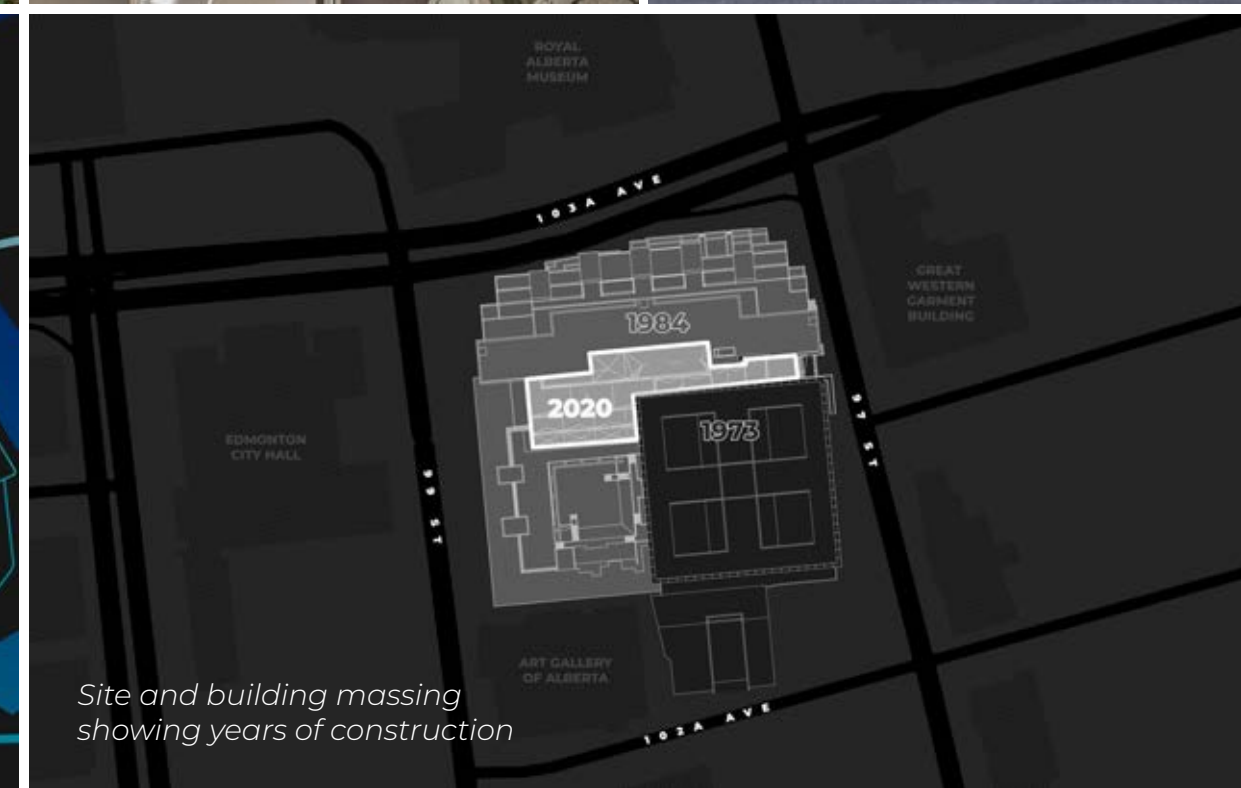


East Elevation

As this was a replacement of an existing atrium, priority was given to making it more energy efficient and functional, as well as enhancing accessibility. The overall design results in a distinctive aesthetic that assists in urban placemaking by sensitively integrating with the existing architecture and overall site, providing a welcoming and dignified feeling, literally emphasizing the importance of making the most of what we've got to form a better whole.



Urban context and proximity to river valley



Site and building massing showing years of construction



# Ociciwan Contemporary Art Collective

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

### LOCATION

10124-96 Street, EDMONTON, AB

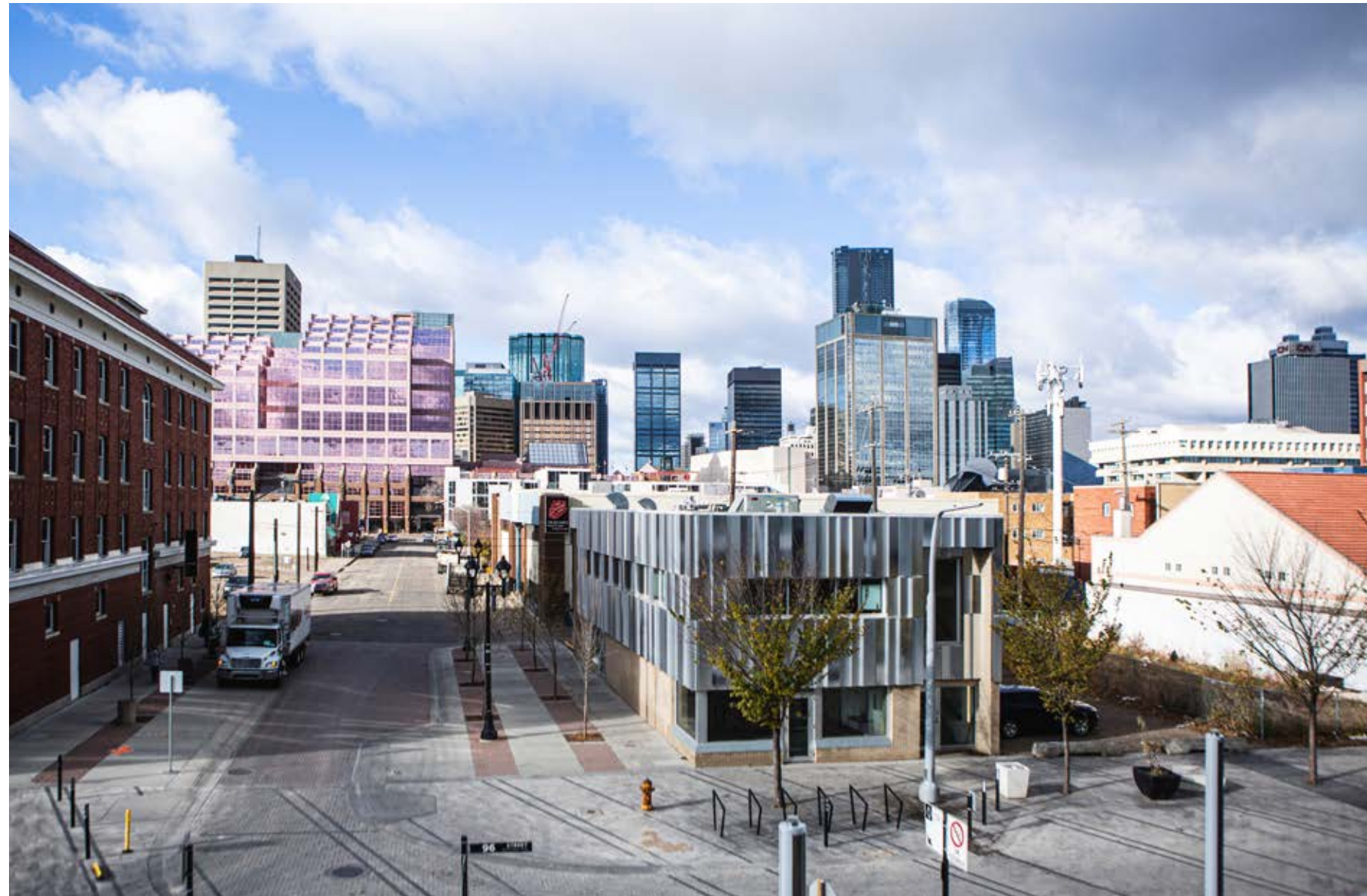
### COMPLETION

July 2020

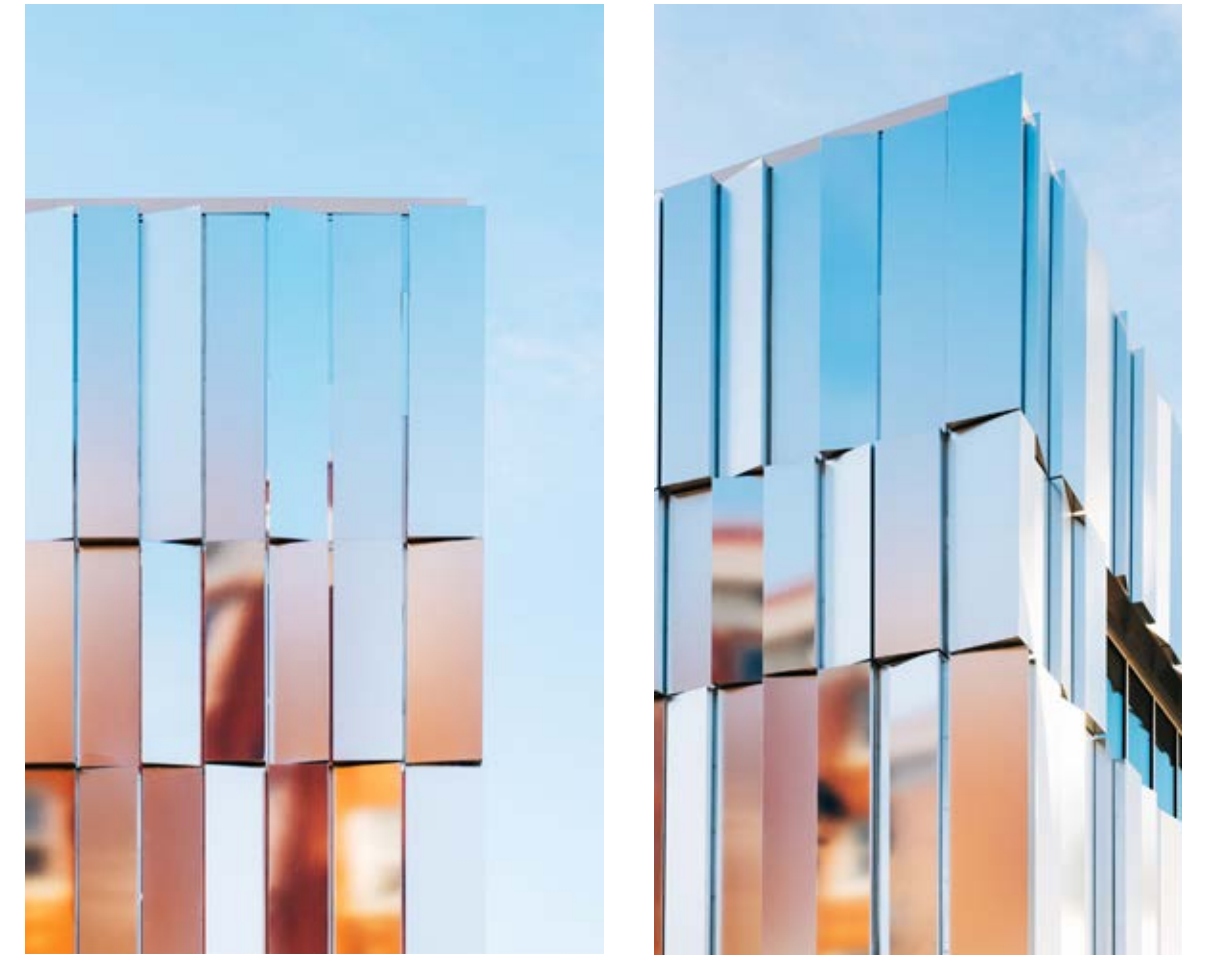
### CATEGORY

URBAN ARCHITECTURE

Revitalizing a vacant building, on a prominent corner of the Boyle Street neighbourhood, The Gallery provides a physical home for a local Indigenous Canadian modern artist collective. The new multifaceted mirrored façade is symbolic of the Collective's commitment to innovation and creativity; the ever-changing reflections are a commentary on how the building and the Art within can lead to shifting contemporary dialogues around indigenous traditions, breaking normative expectations.



Neighbourhood context



Facade panels reflecting the surrounding built context

The client's minimal capital investment saw immediate returns animating the street. The gallery has become a destination that brings visitors from beyond the city's boundaries. The Gallery's hours of operation will lend itself well to ensuring vibrancy beyond the typical 9 to 5 that can be seen in parts of downtown.

The site itself is in a historic part of downtown, with strong connections to the Indigenous community. The gallery is prominently located on the junction of a major downtown throughfare and a neighbourhood main street, demonstrating that a finer grain of revitalization is possible in the community. From an urbanistic perspective the focus of the project was on reactivating the building's edges by aligning the largest and most vibrant programs along its perimeter, projecting the art outwards while drawing pedestrians in.

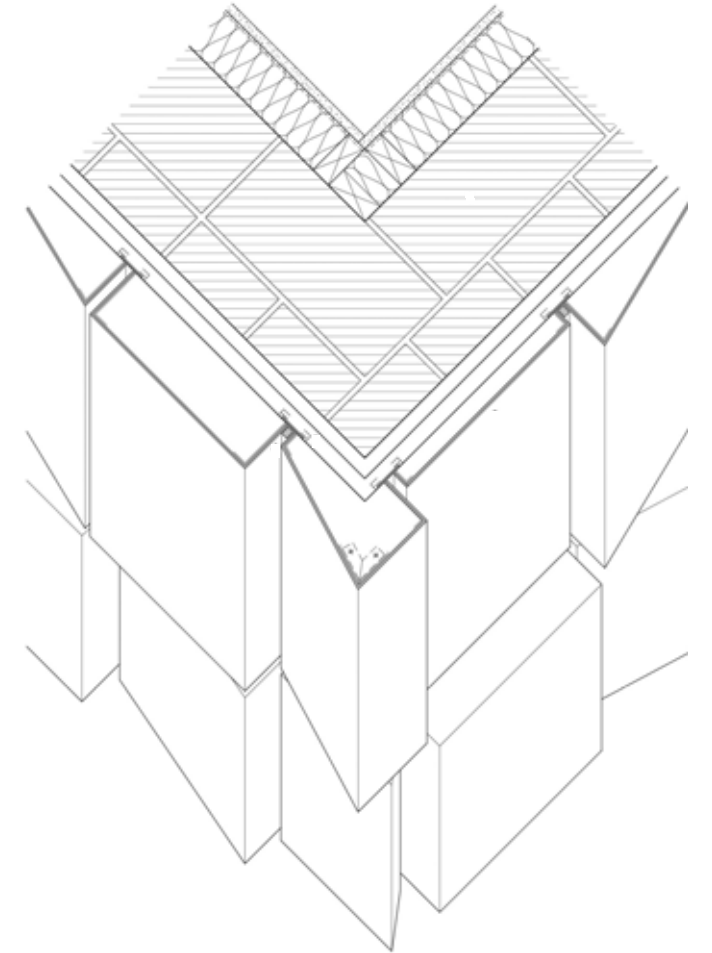




Entrance facade with illuminated panels and glazing

The project brief was to adapt a vacant City owned building for a not-for-profit arts group. While re-imagining the existing underutilized building, the project grew to embody identity, authenticity, community, and belonging. Key to this transformation was working with the Indigenous Arts Collective that occupy the rehabilitated space.

The façade engages with passersby, animating the streetscape during the day and night. Its reflective nature reframes snippets of the neighbourhood, the Gallery's historic and contemporary context.



Facade panel construction on existing masonry walls

Crime prevention through environmental design was a consideration throughout the process with key interventions calibrated to maximize visibility, and surveillance. Expanded glazing at grade improves the ambient glow emanating from the building at night. Existing exterior alcoves are illuminated with linear LED lights to eliminate dark entryways and remove blind spots both at street level and above. Linear LEDs have also been embedded into the reflective panel façade, creating a kinetic effect, appearing, and disappearing as one moves past the building at night.

The project has given the Art Collective their first physical space to call home, respecting the existing fabric of the neighbourhood while creating a new hub for collaboration. The project is both authentic and aspirational in its reimagining of the streetscape. The gallery is a sympathetic adaptation of the existing structure. Through its current purpose and outward appearance, it breaks new ground while respecting history and context.



Illuminated front facade elevation



# DESIGN NARRATIVE

Located at the junction of Calgary Trail and 34th Avenue, the Gateway Banking Centre is the Canadian Western Bank's flagship location in South Edmonton. To embody the CWB's promise of being *Obsessed with Your Success*, the design approach considers the physical building as an opportunity to translate a people-focused and forward-looking service philosophy into architectural ideals. These include a human-centered spatial-material language and design gestures that highlight movement and interaction as individuals interface with the building and one another. Notable features include the various screening devices that modulate the visual openness of the banking hall, generous interior and exterior glazing regimes, and the statement-making fins positioned along the northwest corner of the building's exterior.

Even those who don't take the opportunity to visit the public spaces within the banking centre can appreciate its innovative fins clad in iridescent blue and white panels that reveal glimpses of the building's second-floor patio. These elements give the building a dynamic presence that plays to its high-traffic site. A variable composition of masses and cladding

materials breaks down the building's scale and offers unique impressions when approached from each side. Augmented by thoughtfully integrated landscaping, colourful graphics, and nuanced exterior lighting, the building is designed to remain attractive and engaging no matter the time of day or season. In contrast to the large-scale and commercially-driven typologies that abound along in the area, the Gateway Banking Centre is a bespoke building that acknowledges and enhances its context.

## Image Captions

1. Experiential perspectives and fin apertures moving around the site
2. Aerial rendering
3. Northwest corner of building
4. Context photo across Calgary Trail
5. Location plan



# GATEWAY BANKING CENTRE

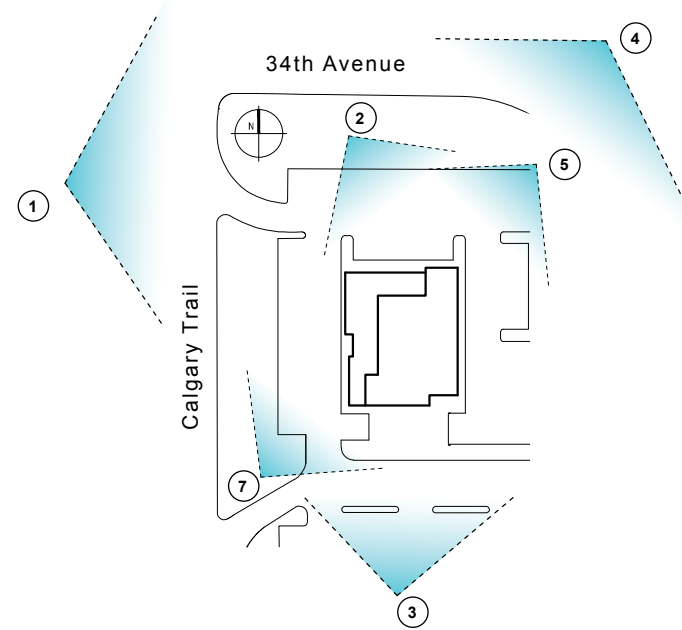
1033 - 34 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB



# URBANISM & CONTEXT

While not conventionally regarded a locale of high design, the Calgary Trail Commercial Corridor is a significant public realm in Edmonton, and an early conceptual and practical aim of the project was to promote human-scaled activity on the site. New sidewalks around the building, a landscaped picnic area, semi-public patio, and canopy above the ATM demonstrate a people-oriented development while upholding the importance of sightlines and safety given the volume of traffic in the immediate surrounds. In this way, the Gateway Banking Centre works at two scales; simultaneously highlighting the human experience in a vehicle-dominated precinct of the city while standing out in its high traffic context

The Gateway Banking Centre contributes to the City Plan's Big City Move to support a Rebuildable City through redevelopment that accrues density. With approximately fifty staff in the building each day, a financial institution presents a more intensive land-use that complements the established development patterns and character of the area. With recent upgrading efforts and substantial development pressure along Calgary Trail, the project illustrates how even a small building can support a larger public vision.



## Image Captions

1. Photomontage of urban context
2. North elevation at twilight
3. South elevation and picnic area at mid-day
4. Context photo from 34th Avenue
5. Winter rendering
6. Patio rendering with views to surrounding greenspace
7. Massing composition at southwest corner



# GATEWAY BANKING CENTRE

1033 - 34 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB



# CO\*LAB GALLERY

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

### LOCATION

9641 - 102A AVENUE, EDMONTON, AB

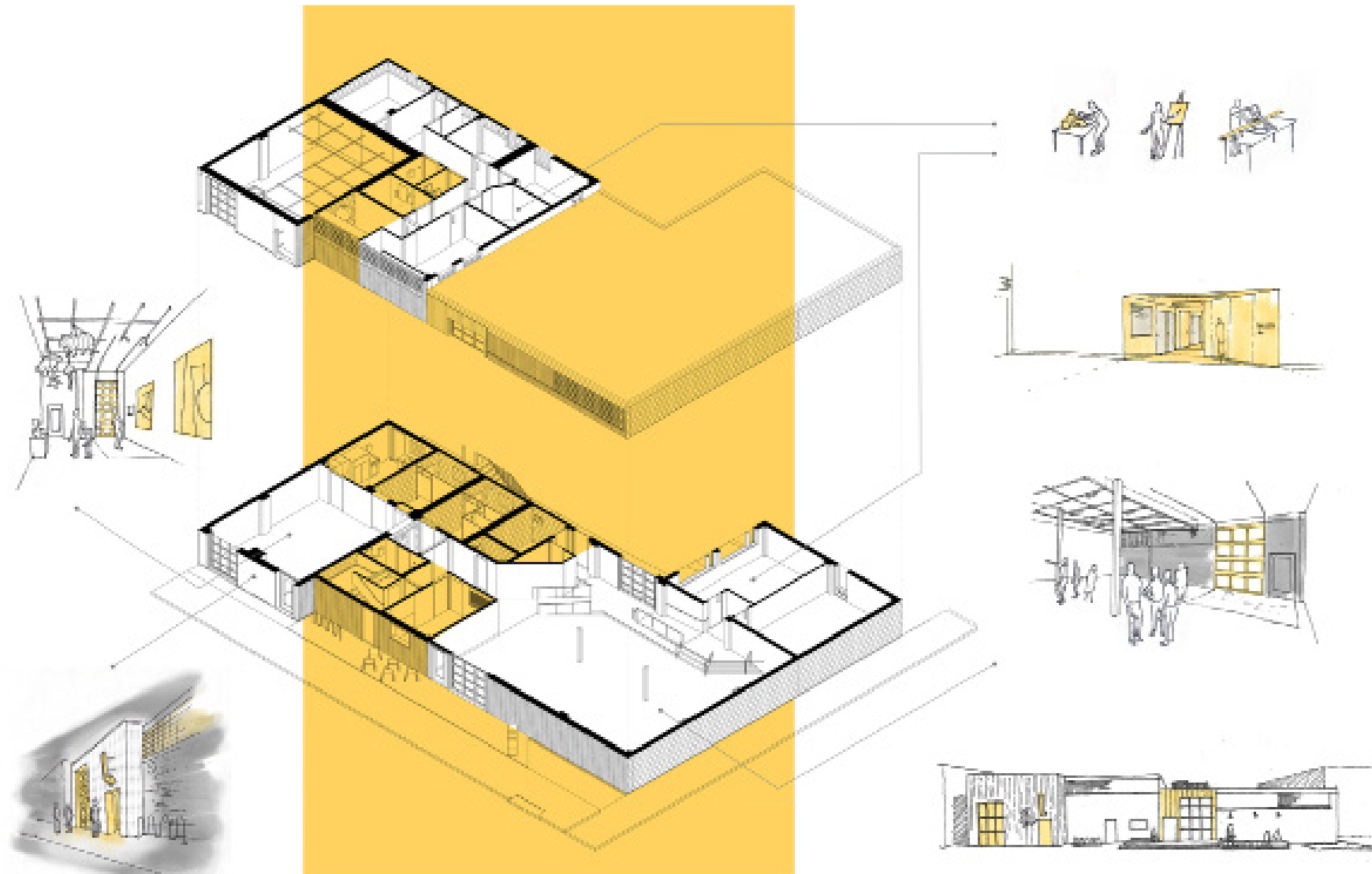
### COMPLETION

SEPTEMBER 2020

### CATEGORY

URBAN ARCHITECTURE

Located in a currently underserved neighbourhood, CO\*LAB adapts a modest existing building into a critical piece of infrastructure for the local arts community. Faced with a limited budget, the design team worked through challenging existing conditions to meet the ambitious programmatic needs of the tenant, a not-for-profit arts group. Spaces created include a gallery, black box theatre, workshops, studios, and a café. An additional goal, outlined by the owner, was for the project to engage the street and the community in an authentic manner that current and future residents of the area would embrace. A bold, graphic approach to colour and illumination create a strong yet genuine identity for the project. Inspired in part by the tenant's annual lantern festival, the building embodies an energy that radiates outward onto the street.



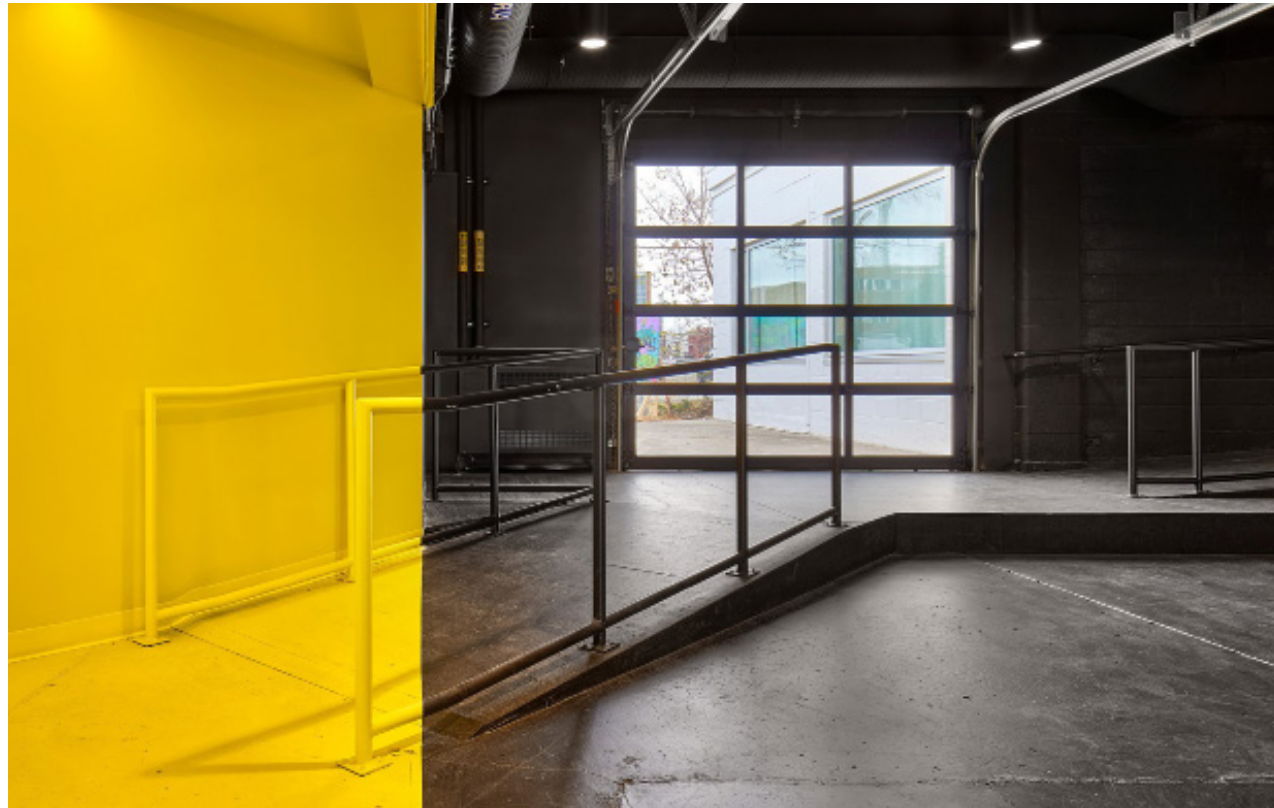
Preliminary sketches exploring interior programming and facade modifications



Fixed street furniture is placed to allow for event seating or queuing into the performance space

The Quarters neighbourhood is one of Edmonton's oldest and has a strong historic connection to both Indigenous and Chinese-Canadian communities. It was important to create something that respected the existing physical context, as well as the personality of the neighbourhood itself. Part of the façade was turned into a lantern, backlighting translucent polycarbonate panels. The bright yellow fixed seating has been specifically arranged to create a funnel effect around one of the sets of bright yellow garage doors. This furniture in its form, colour, placement relates a sense of play, and a rather informal relationship with passersby.





View through performance space to courtyard

The team decided to work with what we have, rather than demolishing and building anew. The building's nature and personality express the aspirations of the City's planners, creating positive change in the Quarters without pushing out current residents, and certainly without forgetting our collective past. The design achieves these objectives through perforating the façade and connecting the activities of CO\*LAB to the street and adjacent bike lane. An additional set of garage doors was inserted into the south elevation of the multi-purpose space, immediately across from the set facing the avenue, axially connecting the street to the rear courtyard. This connection further encourages community-centric performances, inviting a wide variety of possibilities for arranging events of many scales and audiences.

The light helps to create a distinct identity for the building, create a sense of community and care, and improves the streetscapes appreciation at night and in the winter. Not only does this provide added light and security, but it also creates a dynamism to the façade with the materiality taking on different qualities during the day. Bringing community spaces and the gallery to the street front, encourages activity, interaction with pedestrians, and natural surveillance.



Glowing polycarbonate facade with glazed garage door looking into gallery space



Front facade elevation with increased articulation via materiality, colour and street furniture