

Getting off the Ground

CanU 2006 - 2010

Canadian Urban Design from Coast to Coast

2006

“Urban Design from Coast to Coast” session at World Urban Forum/World Planners Congress/RAIC/CIP/CSLA Conference Vancouver, July 2006

Presenters: Larry Beasley, Brent Toderian, Robert Freedman, Aurele Cardinal, Andy Fillmore, Eric Turcotte, Dan Lemming, Rick Merrill, Alex Taranu, Yves Gosselin

Participants: David Gordon, Lewis Villegas

Following a meeting at the 2005 Calgary CIP Conference (including Larry Beasley, Brent Toderian, Alex Taranu et al) a group of enthusiastic urbanists secured a spot for a “Canadian Urban Design from Coast to Coast” at the joint RAIC/CSLA/CIP/World Planners Conference/World Urban Forum in Vancouver. This and the subsequent meeting organized by Larry Beasley and including the presenters as well as Joe Berridge, Nancy Shoiry, Nathalie Prud’home, David Gordon became the initiation of the CanU as it is today and the popular “Canadian Urbanism from Coast to Coast” presentations



Presentation at the World Urban Forum/World Town Planning Congress
Vancouver, July 2006



CANADIAN URBANISM

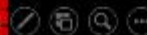


Conclusions

This presentation was made in June 2006 for the Vancouver World Planners Congress. This was the first collaborative presentation of urban design and planning by various practitioners from across Canada.

This presentation could only be a sampling of projects in order to fit within the time constraints of the conference schedule. Many other projects will be added in the future.

The collaboration by these participants and many others is the first step in the creation of a national organization for the promotion, education, and advocacy of high quality urban design. This new organization, Canadian Urbanism (CanU), will continue to add to this presentation as new members and projects are brought forward.



CANADIAN URBANISM



Canadian Urbanism group formed in Vancouver

CanU is a multi-disciplinary group of professionals interested in promoting and celebrating the best of Canadian Urbanism. The organisation is a broad, national body, with the intent on expanding the dialogue to the other professional organisations involved in urban design across the country.

The originators of CanU have worked together in various capacities since before 2000, however, in June 2006 during the World Planners Congress and the World Urban Forum in Vancouver, CanU presented an overview of Canadian Urbanism and the Group was formally born. The Super Saturday event was attended by members of the Canadian Institute of Planners, Royal Architectural Institute of Canada and Canadian Society of Landscape Architects.

This event, organized and chaired by Alex Taranu was composed from two distinct parts:

"Canadian Urbanism from Coast to Coast" was a presentation of current urban design practice illustrated with relevant examples spanning our country from St. John's and Halifax to Vancouver and Victoria. Prepared through a concentrated effort from a number of contributors, this presentation was realized through the generous efforts of the Planning Partnership firm of Toronto, coordinated by Dan Leeming, hosted by Rock Menill and included:

- Andy Fillmore, Urban Design Project Manager in Halifax presented examples from all over Atlantic Canada;
- Aurele Cardinal, architect and urbanist from Cardinal Hardy of Montreal presented examples from Montreal and Quebec City;
- A group from Ontario including Robert Freedman, Toronto's Director of Urban Design, Dan Leeming, partner with the Planning Partnership and Eric Turcotte, associate with Urban Strategies of Toronto presented examples from Toronto and its region as well as Ottawa;
- Brent Toderian, Manager, Centre City Planning + Design in Calgary presented urban design work from Calgary and the Prairies;
- Larry Beasley, Director of Planning in Vancouver presented urban design practice examples from British Columbia, including Vancouver and Victoria.

The presentation illustrated a wide variety of issues and challenges but also a very consistent interest in the creation of places of meaning and interest, of cities, neighbourhoods and public spaces that nurture and support the common goals across the nation of quality of life, sustainable development with a strong character, based on our own identity and traditions.

The presentation created the starting point for the current part of the meeting, underlining its main ideas:

Inaugural Canadian Urbanism (CanU) Working Session Meeting Report

Date: November 4, 2006

Location: Ottawa, Ontario, Courtyard Marriot Hotel

Founding Committee:

Alex Taranu
Aurele Cardinal
Ben Lee
Brent Toderian
Colleen Mercer Clarke
Dan Leeming
David Down
David Gordon
Dave Witty
Lewis Villegas
Rick Merrill
Robert Freedman
Ryan Mounsey
Yves Gosselin

Not In attendance:

Andy Fillmore
Blake Hudema
Carl Johannsen
Eric Turcotte
Ian Wight
Lance Berelowitz
Larry Beasley
Nancy Shoiry
Sonny Tomic

Acting Co-Chairs: David Gordon
Dan Leeming

Introduction:

As background, this group has come together from diverse professions and areas of practice through a shared passion for urban design. This passion transcends conventional roles as architects, planners, landscape architects, engineers, etc. and embraces all aspects of quality urban design, both historic and present. Through a shared vision, enthusiasm and commitment to promoting, building and preserving great urban places, this group has found one another. The intent of this meeting is to build upon the momentum of the Coast-to-Coast Canadian Urban Design presentation to the CNU in Providence, RI and World Urban Forum in Vancouver, and formalize a national organization.



Visioning/Brainstorming session, Holiday Inn, By-Ward Market, Ottawa

Participants: Brent Toderian, Robert Freedman, Aurele Cardinal, Rick Merrill, Dan Lemming, Alex Taranu, Yves Gosselin
David Gordon (moderator), Lewis Villegas, David Down, Andy Fillmore?

CanU – Action Paper Rough Draft – 1 Nov 2006

Why CanU?

- We need CanU to help Canadian urbanists solve Canadian urban issues.
- Why a coast to coast organization? Outdated laws and policies and collective urban amnesia make it extremely difficult or impossible to build the types of urban places that we admire. CanU - a group of interdisciplinary dedicated urbanists (designers, planners, builders, educators, civil servants and financiers) resolve to collectively resolve these issues.

Purpose Statement

Our purpose – our reason for coming together -- is to make our collective work (*which we need to define – but is something like:* "creating, sustaining and nurturing Canadian urbanism") easier and more productive by:

- eliminating obstacles
- creating standards
- educating and advocating for better urbanism

What are the Urban Issues and Obstacles?

1. SPRAWL – and its associated problems:

Environmental Degradation

- Climate Change
- Water Quality
- Air Quality

A Call to Action:

We stand for:

- Compact urban towns and cities as the centres of connected (holistic?) regional areas
- rethinking suburban development – from placeless sprawl to walkable communities
- conservation of the natural and agricultural environment
- heritage preservation
- sustainability – i.e., lasting communities – (carbon neutral, low energy, ???)

Principles:

- Loss of Prime Farmland
- Loss of Habitat

Health Issues

- Rising Rates of Obesity and Heart Disease
- Asthma (and other smog-related respiratory problems)
- Allergies

Placelessness/Loss of Community

- Homogenization of Place – every new development in Canada looks the same
- Buildings and communities not built with local climate in mind
- Mega-Chain Architecture
- Suburban standards applied everywhere
- Safety Issues

2. Transportation Issues

- Emphasis on cars and roads and highway infrastructure
- Poor Public Transportation
- Densities too low to support transit
- Dismantling of our railroads

3. Outmoded Engineering Standards

- Street widths
- Turning Radii
- Snow storage
- Fire Trucks
- Lighting

1.4 Canadian Urbanism

The CIP Conference Urban Design “Celebrating Canadian Urbanism” Stream - Presentations organized by Canadian Urbanism:

Monday, June 4th

UD05. Urban Design and Heritage: Preserving Character through Urban Design

UD11. Urbanizing Suburbia: New Forms of Planning and Design in the Regional City

UD18. Learning from the Past: Canadian Urbanism Traditions

Tuesday, June 5th

UD09. Urban Design from Coast to Coast

Wednesday, June 6th

UD017: Designing the Future: New Directions for Canada's Big 5 Cities

Other related presentations:

EV09. Sustainable Communities



Canadian Urbanism: organization

DRAFT

COUNCIL

Chair/Co-Chairs

Regional representatives

Professional organizations representatives

Members at large

BC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B. Todenan • L. Villegas 	AB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S. Tomish • M. Tita? • (Edmonton) 	SK/MB/ North <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D. Wilby • (TBD) 	ON <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R. Freedman • R. Merrill 	QUE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A. Cardinal • E. Turcotte? • N. Shoiry? 	NS/NB/NL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A. Fillmore • TBD 	RAIC/CIP/ CSLA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y. Gressin • (S. Greutzner, C. Mamer, Clarke) • B. Hudcma? • S. Eraser? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D. Leeming • A. Tarano • D. Gordon
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B. Lee • D. Down? • 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R. Mounsey • L. Villegas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N. Prudhomme? 			

Forum? Network?

VUDF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C. Johansen 	UDWG <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G. Charles • K. Hammond
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G. Venczel • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P. Bedford • J. Berndge

Canadian Urbanism organization draft.pdf



Oct 2007

The Case for Urban Design

Urban Design and City Building in the 21st Century



CANADIAN URBANISM

Canadian Urbanism: “Urban Design and City Building in the 21st Century” session at IDEX/RAIC Conference, Toronto:
Presenters: Rick Merrill, Scott Hein for Brent Toderian, Robert Freedman, Aurele Cardinal, Andy Fillmore, Dan Lemming, Alex Taranu, Antonio Gomez-Palacio, Yves Gosselin, organizer

Canadian Urbanism: Introduction



Brent Toderian, MCIP, RPP
Alexandru Taranu, MCIP, RPP

Robert Freedman, AICP, MCIP, RPP
Dan Leeming, MCIP, RPP

Harry Finnigan, MCIP, RPP
David Witty, MCIP, RPP



CIP Conference Winnipeg, 16 July 2008

Canadian Urbanism



“Celebrating Canadian Urbanism” stream at the CIP Conference (including “Urban Design from Coast to Coast” session)
(Brent Toderian, Robert Freedman, Dan Lemming, Alex Taranu, Rick Merrill, Andy Fillmore? David Witty, Mark Guslits, Sonny Tomich? Andy Fillmore? Ian Wight – organizer

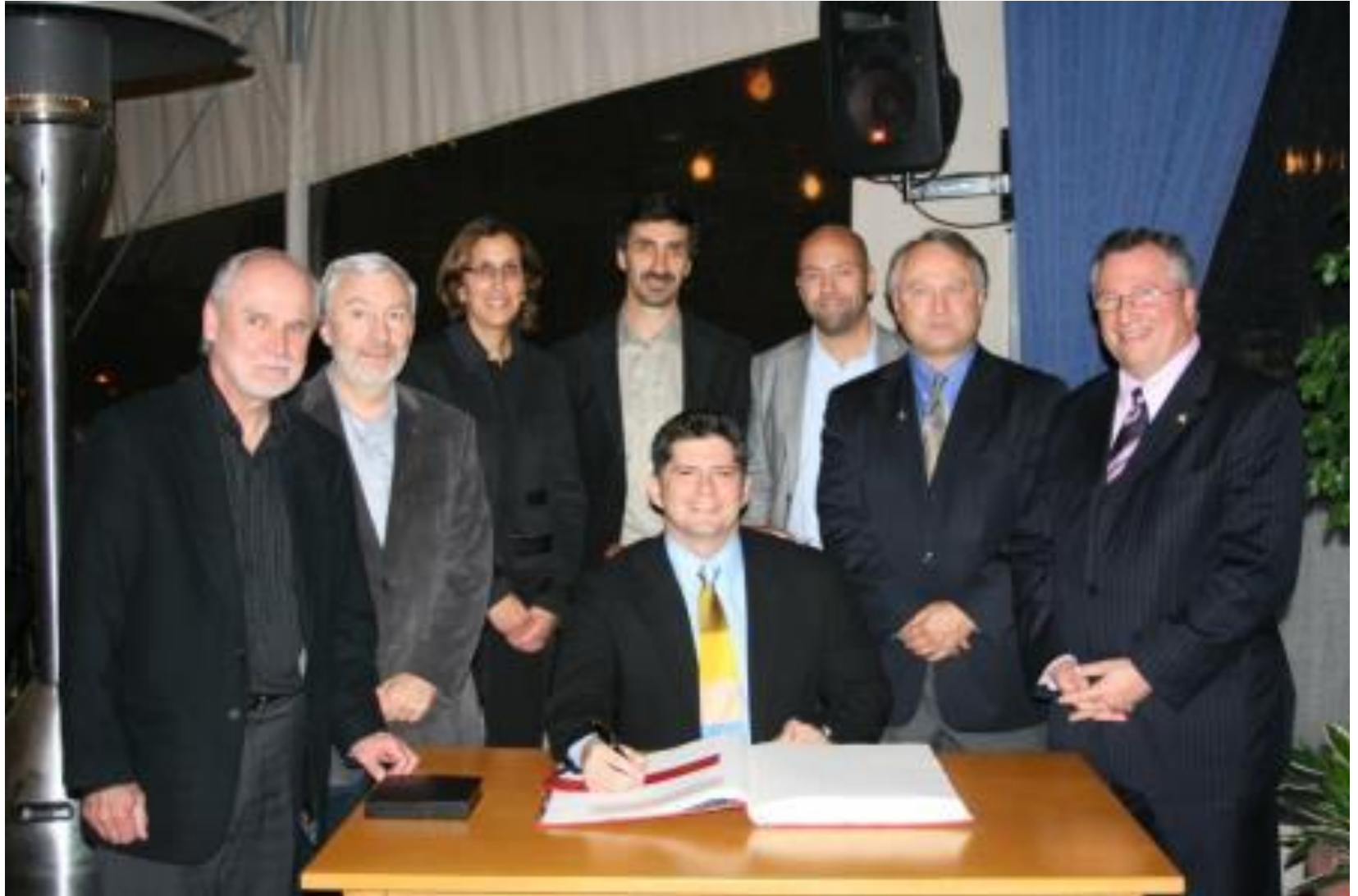
Meeting of CanU sympathisers *(including Jennifer Keesmat, Ronji Borroah, ?); incorporation work begins, initial loan from the “founders” (Dan’s list)*

CANADIAN URBANISM / URBANISME CANADIEN



OAA Conference? (including "Urban Design from Coast to Coast" session)
 (Brent Toderian, Robert Freedman, Dan Lemming, Alex Taranu, Rick Merrill, Andy Fillmore? Others?)

Oct 2010



Incorporation, election of the 1st “founding” Board of Directors, officers, by-law
CanU Summit 2, Montreal, October, CIP Conference UD Charrette and presentations
(Brent Toderian, Robert Freedman, Nancy Shoiry, Dan Lemming, Alex Taranu, David Gordon, Andy Fillmore? Others?)

Today's Builders

- Larry Beasley
- Nancy Shoiry
- Rick Merrill
- Brent Toderian

