

# Design jury honours whimsy and skill



Mackay House, a five-storey condominium building at 295 Mackay St. designed by architect Barry Hobin, won an award of excellence in the city's 2009 Urban Design Awards on Monday night. The jury said: 'The project is skilfully proportioned and scaled, and develops a clear sense of rhythm.' See more images of winning designs online at [ottawacitizen.com](http://ottawacitizen.com).

## Exceptional urban projects get their due with awards

BY MARIA COOK

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Winners of six awards of merit include:

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

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

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

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



For more on the Urban Design Awards, read **MARIA COOK's** blog at

[OTTAWACITIZEN.COM](http://OTTAWACITIZEN.COM)  
/DESIGNING OTTAWA

### 2009 Ottawa Urban Design Award Winners

■ **Award of Excellence, urban infill (low-rise):** Chamberlain Offices, 76 Chamberlain Ave.  
**Project by:** James A. Colizza Architect

Architects Ltd.; Paul Daoust Construction Canada

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

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

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

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

■ **Award of Merit, public**

**places and civic spaces:** Sandy Hill Flood Control and Park Rehabilitation, 250 Somerset St. East  
**Project team:** Stantec Consulting; Action Sandy Hill, Doran Contractors, City of Ottawa

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

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

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

**Project team:** Students and staff at Lady Evelyn Alternative School, Sustainable Living

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

■ **Award of Merit, student projects:** Cascade Public Drinking Fountain

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

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

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

### LANSDOWNE LIVE DEBATE

## Hintonburg session attracts full house

Non-competitive process, transit service top speakers' concerns

BY STEVE MAZEY

The future of Lansdowne Park drew another standing-room-only crowd Monday night when the City of Ottawa presented the fifth public information session on the Lansdowne Park re-development plan, this time at Tom Brown Arena in Hintonburg.

About 300 people packed a meeting room at the arena to hear city manager Kent Kirkpatrick, councillors and officials from the planned re-development answer questions from the public about the proposed \$250-million plan to renovate Lansdowne Park.

Of those who spoke in the first half-hour of the 90 minutes scheduled for questions, the concerns echoed those

mentioned at last week's sessions, including the non-competitive process that led to Lansdowne Live becoming the only option to redevelop the park and the lack of adequate transit service in the Glebe to serve such a development.

Kirkpatrick said the transportation strategy would be discussed at a city committee Thursday, but "we want everyone to understand that it is a strategy and much more work would need to be done."

He assured the crowd the views of those who were concerned about the proposal would be heard by council.

In addition to the forms attendees have filled out at the information sessions, Kirkpatrick said, there is an online

survey on the city's website at [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca). Also, Nanos Research is doing a formal public-opinion research survey this month and will forward the results to council.

Mayor Larry O'Brien has called for a two-day council meeting to deal exclusively with the proposal on Nov. 12-13, when public delegations will be able to speak.

The Lansdowne Live Project is a proposed partnership between the city and four businessmen to turn to area into a sports and entertainment centre that would incorporate greenspace and offices.

Those who spoke in the early part of the evening did not scream or the use bullhorns, as one frustrated resident did at the first session last week, before the question-and-answer session was included in the format.

Before the meeting, members of a group opposed to



JEAN LEVAC, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

Roger Greenberg, centre, one of the businessmen involved in Ottawa Sports and Entertainment Group, answers questions from J.P. Melville, left, as consultant Graham Bird listens in Monday night at a Lansdowne Live information session at Tom Brown Arena.

the plan, wearing green T-shirts that said "Ask me about sole sourcing," passed out leaflets and asked people to sign petitions.

They included Marjorie George, a retired teacher and a Glebe resident who said her group had attracted members from across the city.

"Take one more year," she

said. "Have an open competition and let's look at other ways to develop this land. I'd rather leave it empty until we come up with good ideas. Our councillors had better look deeply, and I think some of them, seeing the opposition, are thinking twice."

Ottawa employment consultant and football fan Oliver

Obagi described himself as a supporter of the project.

"I want something in this city that will bring some excitement," he said. "Our nation's capital deserves a plan like this. Let's make the move to bring this to Ottawa."

The consultations continue tonight at the Shenkman Arts Centre in Orleans.

## Plan: Businesspeople in favour, farmers' market against

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The city is considering entering a partnership with four Ottawa businessmen who comprise the Ottawa Sports and Entertainment Group: Greenberg, John Ruddy, William Shenkman and Jeff Hunt. The \$250-million project would see the football stadium and Civic Centre arena refurbished, stores, a theatre complex and offices built, restaurants added to the Aberdeen Pavilion and land near the Rideau Canal turned into greenspace. The city would put up roughly half the capital, while the business group would manage the site.

A CFL franchise, the Ottawa 67's hockey team and a pro soccer team would be part of



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the partnership. In the second phase of the project, residences and a hotel would be constructed along Bank Street and Holmwood Avenue.

Ottawa businessman Peter

Cleveland said the proposed deal was good for a number of reasons, including:

■ All 37 acres of Lansdowne Park would remain in public ownership;

■ the private partnership would bear the risk for losses; and the city would get property taxes on the new retail space regardless of how successful the buildings are.

Just as Westboro experienced boosted property values and business sales when large new businesses arrived, Cleveland said, so, too, would the Lansdowne project give the Glebe a boost.

He said critics were making a lot out of the profit the business partnership would make, but said they could never raise capital for the project if they couldn't make money.

Businessman Jim Wright said the four men in the partnership had their reputations at stake and wouldn't want a flawed development on their

records. "We need an outdoor stadium. We're the capital of Canada."

Erin Kelly, executive director of the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce, said people needed to think of what happened if Lansdowne continued its downward slide.

Greenberg said critics had thrown out incorrect information, such as the Glebe Business Improvement Area's description of the retail space as the size of a big regional mall of 600,000 square feet, when actual new store space would be closer to 200,000 square feet. Greenberg said that, while some say the area would be flooded with people and cars, most Lansdowne events would have crowds averaging 7,500.

"Change is paralyzing," Greenberg said. "There has been a lot of fear that has been put into people."

On Monday, the Ottawa Farmers' Market came out against the Lansdowne Live proposal as it stood, saying it would hurt the twice-weekly market's viability. The proposal would give the market a permanent indoor home in a moved Horticulture Building.

The farmers' market opposes any change that would involve a new non-city group being its landlord. The group also opposes the proposed moving of the Horticulture Building because of its heritage status. As well, the farmers' market says it would prefer to be in the Aberdeen Pavilion.