

# faculty of architecture landscape and design university of toronto

## **Towards 2030 / Planning for a Third Century of Excellence at the University of Toronto / Excellence in the Built Environment**

The Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design (al&d) is home to Canada's oldest school of architecture, situated within Canada's most significant teaching and research university. *Towards 2030* represents a pivotal opportunity to preserve and enhance excellence in every aspect of the University of Toronto that contributes to scholarship, innovation, and quality of educational experience. This focus on excellence necessarily includes the built environment and the University's three campuses. Thus the al&d community strongly recommends that *Towards 2030* include the following four initiatives:

**1. Maintain a leadership role enabling design excellence and long-term sustainability for the University of Toronto's buildings, landscapes, and urban spaces.**

Within Toronto and its surrounding area, the three University of Toronto campuses constitute significant civic assets. As the city and region move towards more sustainable forms of infrastructure and development, the University has an obligation to demonstrate leadership, commitment, and innovation in terms of the built environment. It should rise to the challenge of achieving "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." [*Our Common Future*. Report from the UN World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987.] Achieving high performance within the University's physical infrastructure is of critical importance, particularly given a large percentage of aging buildings, our cold climate, and challenges presented by a substantial backlog of deferred maintenance. Sustainability is no longer an option.

**2. Enrich and support student experience by investing in exemplary architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design.**

The University of Toronto aspires to preserve and enhance its status as a leading-edge teaching and research institution that will continue to shape the direction of Canada's knowledge-based economy. It competes with academic institutions on a global basis, seeking to attract promising students and the great minds of the world's creative class. The experience of the physical environment and supportive, inspiring places is a vital ingredient for the successful recruitment, retention, and advancement of students, faculty, and staff. Exemplary architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design must be seen as integral to the enrichment and support of student experience.

**3. Renew the commitment to respect and preserve significant heritage buildings and landscapes.**

Throughout its three campuses, the University has a wealth of heritage buildings and landscapes embodying centuries of history and human occupation. This is particularly true of the St. George campus which is a virtual museum of architecture that has evolved over some 160 years. The University is proud of its record in supporting historic designation and in preserving its various histories and the magnificent architectural and landscape structures that have evolved. Beyond providing cultural continuity, preservation of significant, useful buildings can be pragmatic in terms of sustainability. The University must continue to develop and implement appropriate strategies for the preservation, conservation, rehabilitation, and imaginative reuse of its significant heritage buildings and landscapes.

**4. Continue to support the key role of the University's Design Review Committee and continue to use knowledge and design expertise provided by the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design.**

For more than a decade, the University's advisory Design Review Committee has played a pivotal role in the generation of support, imaginative physical facilities for teaching, research, and social life on the University's three campuses. The University is justifiably proud of the numerous awards and recognitions that it has received nationally and internationally for design excellence. Through its representation on and participation in the Design Review Committee and in the selection of architects and landscape architects, the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design has contributed significantly to the achievement of leading-edge structures and architectural excellence. More recently the Faculty has contributed and is eager to continue its knowledge in the area of long-term sustainability. It remains important for the University to continue to include the Faculty's design expertise, seeking

collectively to achieve standards of excellence in the built environment that reflect the academic standards of the institution.