



Poster Credits: Max Perry



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## Representatives in Calgary 2023

Fiona Hamilton - Past President

Daniela Davila - President

Chris Johnson - Vice President

Larissa Korol - Secretary

Adhira Ravi - Treasurer

Kaamil Allah Baksh - University of Manitoba Representative

Camila Lima - Dalhousie University Representative

Dharshana Muhunthan - Toronto Metropolitan Representative

Kevin Kunnappilly - McGill University Representative

Noam Aufgang - Laurentian University Representative

Nitya Gupta - University of Calgary Representative



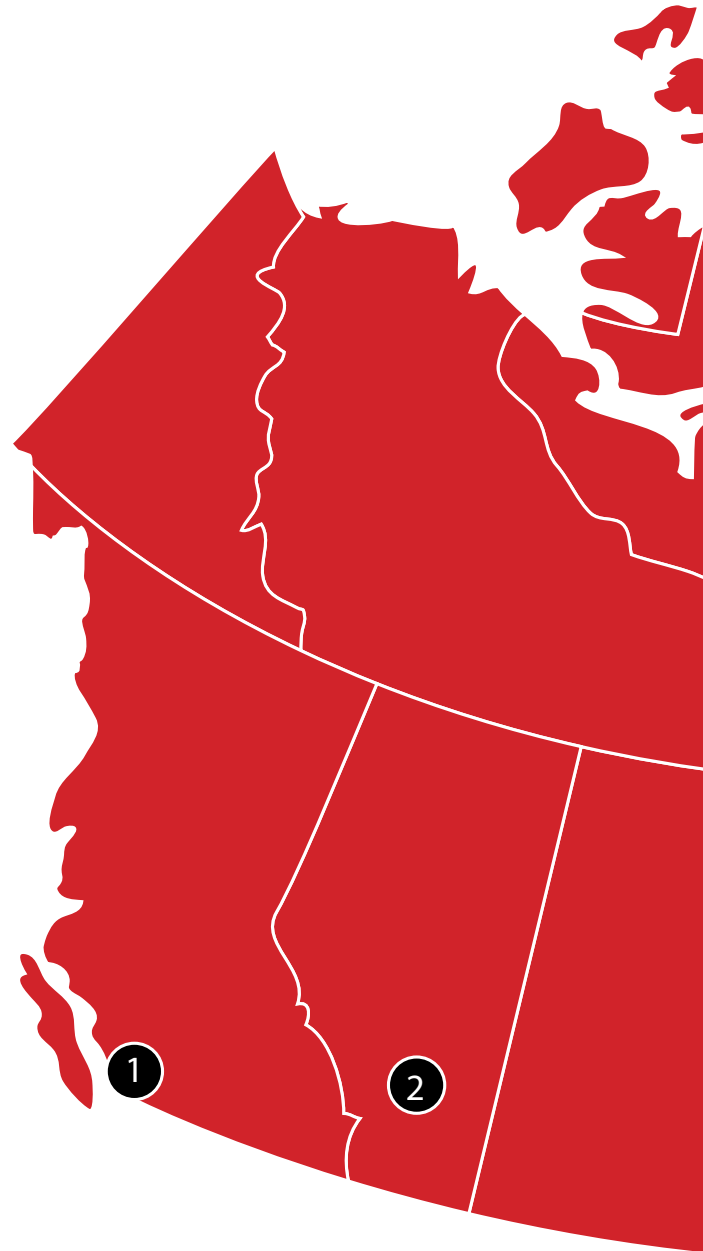
## List of Sponsors 2023

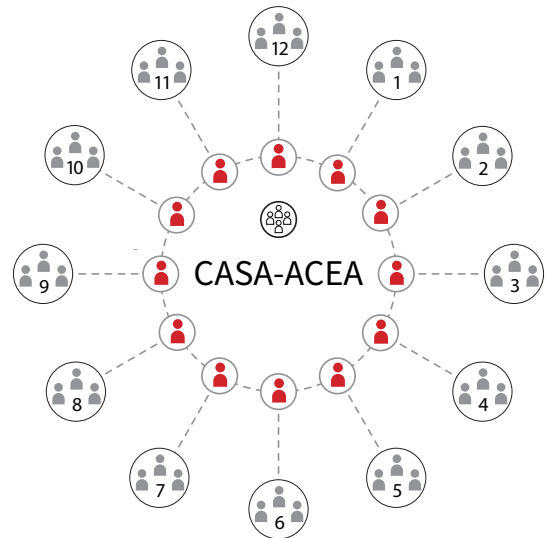
Moriyama & Teshima Architects  
Goguen Architecture Inc.  
FBM Architecture  
5468796 Architecture  
GEC Architecture  
Canadian Architect  
RAIC Foundation  
RAIC



## Schools of Architecture

- 1 University of British Columbia
- 2 University of Calgary
- 3 University of Manitoba
- 4 University of Waterloo
- 5 Toronto Metropolitan University
- 6 University of Toronto
- 7 Carleton University
- 8 McGill University
- 9 Université de Montréal
- 10 Université de Laval
- 11 Dalhousie University
- 12 Laurentian University







## Acknowledgements

On behalf of the Canadian Architecture Students Association - l'Association Canadienne des Étudiants en Architecture [CASA-ACÉA], we extend a warm thank you for the generous sponsorship offered to our association as well as the national student body for the Student Work Showcase held at the RAIC Conference from May 2nd - May 7th.

Thanks to the support of our sponsors, twelve representatives from CASA-ACÉA were able to attend an in-person conference for the first time since Fall 2019. This allowed great exposure for students, but also served as a stepping stone to mend the gap between students and practitioners, which has been identified as an important goal within our organization.

CASA-ACÉA is honored to have had the opportunity to present at the conference and host our Student Work Showcase where we showcased the work of 34 architecture students across Canada in a professional setting.

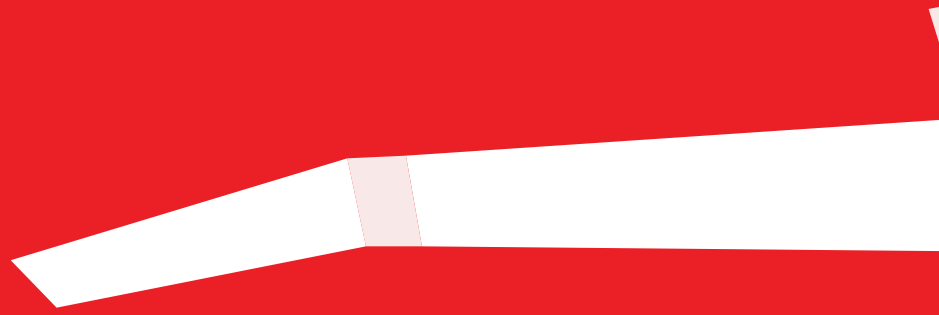
We are honoured to present this summary document as a means to invite more students and thank those who have been a part of our success over the years. A warm thank you to the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada for providing conference passes to our membership, and allowing for CASA-ACÉA to provide a unified voice for students.





In the spirit of respect, reciprocity and truth, we honour and acknowledge Moh'kinsstis, and the traditional Treaty 7 territory and oral practices of the Blackfoot confederacy: Siksika, Kainai, Piikani, as well as the Îyâxe Nakoda and Tsuut'ina nations. We acknowledge that this territory is home to the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3 within the historical Northwest Métis homeland. Finally, we acknowledge all Nations – Indigenous and non – who live, work and play on this land, and who honour and celebrate this territory.

This sacred gathering place provides us with an opportunity to engage in and demonstrate leadership on reconciliation. Thank you for your enthusiasm and commitment to join our team on the lands of Treaty 7 territory.



**INTRODU**



**UCTION**



## Introduction

We would like to thank the RAIC for helping us create a platform to build upon in the coming years. With grants, proposals, and conference sessions, CASA-ACÉA will continue to provide student leadership at conferences and in the schools of architecture to create socially aware students who will excel in the next steps of their journey.

On May 4th, 2023, President Daniela Davila presented a session, “Towards Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Architecture Education,” to begin to discuss the current issues surrounding race and gender discrepancies in architecture schools. The first surveys allowed CASA-ACÉA to connect with advocacy and student groups to further establish our resources and encourage a more robust and active membership across Canada.



Photo Credits: Fiona Hamilton



The 2023 RAIC Conference in Calgary marks the first in-person conference CASA-ACÉA has attended since the lockdown in 2020. Given that the 2020, 2021, and 2022 conferences were all held online, CASA-ACÉA was excited to meet in person in Calgary to meet some familiar faces and network with professionals all across Canada.

CASA-ACÉA met many vendors and speakers at the conference, who are excited to watch the next generation of students take their next step in their professional careers. During the organization's time in Calgary, CASA-ACÉA accomplished their first in-person AGM since the RAIC Conference in Toronto in 2019. As a result, CASA-ACÉA created long-lasting relationships with collateral organizations and increased student presence through sessions and the tradeshow.

CASA-ACÉA's efforts to bring students to the RAIC Conference continues to support, promote, and profile student work across Canada. Furthermore, it exposes students to the practice of architecture while receiving recognition for their school achievements.



Photo Credits: Fiona Hamilton



As an entity, CASA-ACÉA continues to work with external organizations and Universities to pursue new opportunities and increase awareness around students. Compared to virtual meetings, in-person events allow CASA members to collaborate and engage with others through personal and unique stories shared in their lived experiences as students. In addition, the impact of student volunteers in CASA-ACÉA has a tremendous effect on organizations and future collaborations.

CASA-ACÉA would also like to thank Jim Taggart from the RAIC Foundation for co-chairing a “A Foundation for the Future” session with Daniela Davila. The engaging presentation coordinated by the two has continued to provide a voice for the organization as a recipient of monetary value, and provided valuable insight towards the future of the organization. Through their contributions, CASA-ACÉA created a presentation that introduced conference attendees to the CASA leadership team, and current ongoing initiatives.

Through communications with the schools of architecture, our representatives received funding for travel and accommodations across the City and close to the conference





Photo Credits: Fiona Hamilton



for easy access. CASA thanks each school of architecture for allowing undergraduate and graduate students from across Canada to represent their school at the conference in a single location. Their contributions signal a desire to give students opportunities to network, and learn from the profession, and others at the conference.

Our representatives and directors would also like to thank those who met at the conference for the first time or for another interaction in a meeting, conference, or session. The conversations students have with professionals in the field are valuable to their development as students. It is increasingly evident that schools should prioritize student engagement at conferences and events to have meaningful connections with students, academics, and professionals with individual experiences.



Photo Credits: Fiona Hamilton



Photo Credits: Fiona Hamilton



CASA-ACÉA hosted an Annual General Meeting on May 4th to discuss the impact of students at the Conference and their overall experience heading into the next term.

Many students commented about their conversations with each other to learn and engage with fellow students who have similar yet unique perspectives. In-person meetings are more valuable in today's context compared to virtual ones. They create stronger connections between students who all express their desire to be a part of a larger community of people. They say their desire to connect with other students and professionals they never expected to meet and the relationships they foster due to their involvement. One example of this is the Tradeshow. The CASA-ACÉA tradeshow booth provided an opportunity for representatives to share their stories with one another and bond through a team-building exercise. As a result, representatives felt included in a team that fostered a community of student leaders who impact the world as they choose. The collaborative involvement of each student representative envisioned the booth as an extension of their teachings and passion for the industry.

Conferences are far inbetween for students. There is limited advertisement, and the cost to participate is a constant battle. Events provide a unique student experience that is unlike the typical studio setting. It gives students a platform to share their voice with others and learn about



Photo Credits: Fiona Hamilton



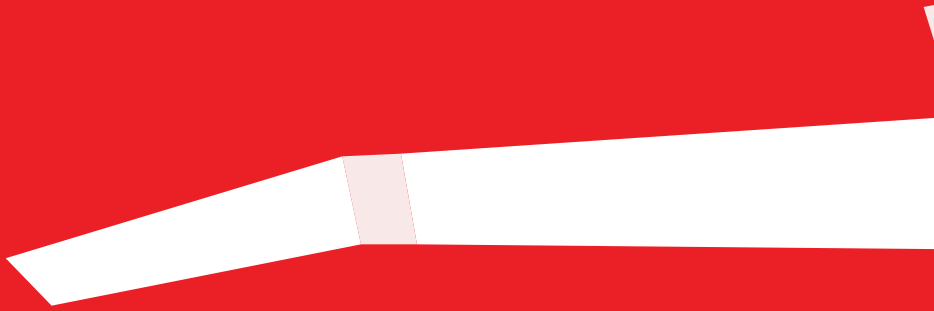
the profession through their interactions at the Tradeshow and sessions within the conference setting. Representatives attend sessions together, ask questions to speakers, and share their knowledge with others in similar yet different positions in the school of architecture.

Through this summary, the document discusses student experiences at the Conference from members at the schools of architecture. Their perspectives provide insight into student perceptions of conference programs and their impact on development. Finally, the document adds to the Conference's overall impact on the Student Work Showcase, student submissions, and the jury.

This document showcases how student engagement at conferences can positively impact the school curriculum by acting as an extension to the design studio and culture of architecture schools.



Photo Credits: Fiona Hamilton



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# Student Experiences at the RAIC Conference



## Student Experiences at the Conference

On behalf of the Canadian Architecture Students Association - l'Association Canadienne des Étudiants en Architecture [CASA-ACÉA], we extend a warm thank you for the generous sponsorship offered to our association as well as the national student body for the Student Work Showcase held at the RAIC Conference from May 2nd - May 7th.

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CASA-ACÉA is honored to have had the opportunity to present at the conference and host our Student Work Showcase where we showcased the work of 34 architecture students across Canada in a professional setting.

We are honoured to present this summary document as a means to invite more students and thank those who have been a part of our success over the years. A warm thank you to the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada for providing conference passes to our membership, and allowing for CASA-ACÉA to provide a unified voice for students.



Photo Credits: Daniela Davila



To construct the document, representatives answered at least three questions from the below prompts. These questions were primarily answered in a question and answer format to discuss their experiences at the RAIC Conference and virtual sessions.

**1. What Sessions did you attend at the In-Person RAIC Conference? Did you view any remote sessions after the conference?**

**2. What was your favourite session and why? Did you find yourself drawn to a particular type of session (example: tours and lectures)?**

**3. What are some of the key challenges you found to profile students at the event? What contributions has the RAIC Conference made to engage student members?**

**4. How would you describe your overall experience at the conference as a student and a representative of CASA-ACÉA? What parts of the conference excited you most, and what do you think could be improved for future years at conference?**

**5. How would you describe your experience at the Tradeshow? Have you heard of any new vendors that**



**caught your attention? What vendors have you heard about before?**

**6. What were your expectations heading into the RAIC Conference in Calgary in May? Did the conference exceed your expectations?**

**7. Do you feel that the conference positively impacted your ability to network with professionals in the field of architecture?**

**8. Do you have any other suggestions that can contribute to increasing student presence at the conference?**

**9. What can CASA-ACÉA do to increase student awareness and participation at the RAIC Conference and future events?**

Each representative shared a unique experience addressed in the document to add to the discussion surrounding conferences, and the impact it has on students at the schools of architecture.



## Camila Lima - Dalhousie Representative

### **Q. What Sessions did you attend at the In-Person RAIC Conference? Did you view any remote sessions after the conference?**

I attended several sessions in person:

- Washrooms for All
- Reimagining Accessibility
- A Shared Vision: EDI in Architecture
- A Bottom-Up Approach to a Healthier City
- Disabling Praxis - Towards Radical
- How an Indigenous-led process and Traditional Knowledge informed the design of Block 2 in Ottawa
- A Foundation for the Future.
- The MacKimmie Complex

I did not get a chance to watch any of the remote sessions yet, but I plan to do so soon. I think this is a fantastic opportunity to follow up post-conference and allows us, attendees, to re-visit the topics discussed. I am also looking forward to watching the sessions I was not able to attend in person such as “Architecture & Design as a Vehicle for Truth and Reconciliation” and “Post-Occupancy Evaluation: the Nuts and Bolts for Inclusion”.



Photo Credits: Camila Lima



**Q. What Sessions did you attend at the In-Person RAIC Conference? Did you view any remote sessions after the conference?**

My favourite sessions were “Reimagining Accessibility” and “Disabling Praxis - Towards Radical”. I was very pleased to see many events and lectures related to topics around accessibility of the built environment. To me, this is a very important part of both Architecture education and practice that is yet to be more explored, discussed, and improved. Through previous work experience, I have witnessed how bureaucratic Universal Design can seem to be for some stakeholders and the resistance that this causes in going above and beyond the minimum standards. In that sense, it was very refreshing to hear different perspectives during the conference that help debunk myths around accessibility in architecture.





**Q. What were your expectations heading into the RAIC Conference in Calgary in May? Did the conference exceed your expectations?**

As the first time attending a conference, I did not know exactly what to expect – especially as a student member of the RAIC. I was very surprised in a positive way and appreciated the opportunity to be at the conference and meet so many colleagues and professionals. One of the things that I liked the most was the fact that there were so many events, sessions, tours and the variety of ways you could engage with the conference contributed to the overall experience. I did not get a chance to attend any tours but I went on the Studio Crawl and this was one of the highlights in my opinion – not only for the networking aspect of it but also for getting a chance to explore the studio culture in Calgary and relate back to previous experience elsewhere. This reminded me of an event that happens in Toronto called Doors Open and I find it extremely successful as a way to make architecture firms more accessible to others.



**Q. Do you feel that the conference positively impacted your ability to network with professionals in the field of architecture?**

Absolutely! I had a chance to meet and connect with fellow students and professionals of many fields within architecture. Both the Tradeshow and the many events (opening and closing events, networking opportunities) were great ways to initiate conversations and contact people who, otherwise, we would not have a chance to meet. Also, I found that the speakers were very approachable at the end of the sessions and I was able to connect with some of them one-on-one and further discuss the topics covered by them and their expertise.

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## Noam Aufgang - Laurentian Representative

**Q. What Sessions did you attend at the In-Person RAIC Conference? Did you view any remote sessions after the conference?**

During my time at the 2023 RAIC Conference, I attended the sessions on suburban intensification, concrete's path to carbon neutrality, conserving heritage buildings and districts, the design of the MacKimmie complex, accessible washroom design, and net-zero recreation complexes in addition to an architectural tour of historic buildings in downtown Calgary.



Photo Credits: Noam Aufgang



**Q. What was your favourite session and why? Did you find yourself drawn to a particular type of session (example: tours and lectures)?**

My favourite session was the suburban intensification session. I am deeply passionate about sustainability in architectural and urban design and was drawn to sessions that tackled these issues and solutions for them within the built environment. As such, I chose the suburban intensification session as learning about ways to increase density and reduce land usage and urban sprawl interested me greatly. The case study, a condo complex densification project in suburban Toronto, succinctly expressed both effective strategies to densify existing suburban spaces in addition to the challenges faced by designers and planners in doing so. The fact that the case study was in the city where I'm from and was in an area I'm familiar with made the session more interesting, as it opened my eyes to what could be done to ameliorate the sprawl of the GTA. The session contained solutions and strategies both applicable to urban densification in general and specifically in regard to the opportunities and challenges of designing in Toronto.



**Q. How would you describe your overall experience at the conference as a student and a representative of CASA-ACÉA? What parts of the conference excited you most, and what do you think could be improved for future years at conference?**

While the educational impact of the conference was incredibly engaging and important to developing my knowledge and interests as an architecture student, the ability to engage with architects and affiliate professionals was really valuable as well. Learning about innovations in the field of architecture and its related industries at the tradeshow was a unique experience and being able to interact with architects and learn about the field was also incredibly interesting. While there wasn't a huge student presence at the conference, which is something that will hopefully be improved in the coming years by the RAIC with CASA's influence, meeting architecture students from across Canada, both part of and outside of CASA, at the conference was also really insightful. Getting more students involved with the conference, either as student representatives being flown to the conference or as volunteers or participants from within the city where the conference is being held would be incredibly beneficial going forward. Additionally, including students virtually in the conference would be comparatively feasible and immensely valuable - for example, allowing student members of the RAIC free/subsidized access to the virtual recordings of the seminar would be an incredibly beneficial educational experience for students of architecture across Canada.



## Adhira Ravi - Treasurer

### **Q. What Sessions did you attend at the In-Person RAIC Conference? Did you view any remote sessions after the conference?**

Sessions attended:

- Washrooms for All- a case study approach to gender neutral, accessible design
- Zeroing in on Net-Zero Recreation Complexes
- Downtown public art tour
- Conserving Heritage Buildings & Districts: a case of economic, social, and environmental resiliency
- RAIC Event: Towards Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (CASA Speakers)
- Using Design to Reduce Gender-based Violence Post Disaster Impacts
- Closing Event/The Parti
- The MacKimmie Complex - Higher Education Design Thinking Within a Resilient Net Zero Framework

Remote Sessions attended:

- Sensory Spaces
- Facilitating an indigenous led design process through collaboration
- Crown Indigenous Co design Spiritual Spaces





Photo Credits: Adhira Ravi



**Q. What was your favourite session and why? Did you find yourself drawn to a particular type of session (example: tours and lectures)?**

While I do not have a favourite session or a favourite type of session, I did strategically select the sessions to attend in person and rewatch/watch online.

The synergy of, “Washrooms for All- a case study approach to gender neutral, accessible design” and “Using Design to Reduce Gender-based Violence Post Disaster Impacts” and also certain topics covered in “Sensory spaces” benefitted in understanding the gender skewed and accessibility incompatible nature of today’s society, which is undergoing gradual change - and how architectural decisions make or break this change.

Similarly rewatching the “Facilitating an indigenous led design process through collaboration”, “Crown Indigenous Co design Spiritual Spaces” and “Zeroing in on Net-Zero Recreation Complexes” has helped build a stronger connection to the post construction impacts from the architectural industry. Many similarities were drawn amongst the three including construction impacts and ethics, and building intention.

I thought the tours were a great component to the conference - and also that they weren’t just architecture tours but also included art, history, urbanism and design. It



provided relevant, respective field related information about the city of Calgary and Canada, that may be new to many attendees.

**Q. What are some of the key challenges you found to profile students at the event? What contributions has the RAIC Conference made to engage student members?**

Of course, the RAIC's effort to initiate student engagement through sponsoring access passes; hosting the SWS at the tradeshow; building into the opportunity to present to the conference audience; has been an immense start to collectively help build a base for creating awareness of the incoming generation of professionals belonging to the same field.

Primarily this has helped to create a presence for the organisation (and as an extension the rest of the student mass and universities) amongst professionals and practitioners of the industry. SWS put student's names and work out in the practising world, beyond the bounds of a university... an educational institution.

Even within CASA, a spike of student to student engagement (eg. Amina Morsli, an RAIC Volunteer from University of Calgary, being elected into the CASA Board of Directors upon fresh entry), and student to professional engagement (eg. Darby Lee Young who conversed with the



team one-on-one about modern day accessibility issues and its awareness, and inviting students from other parallel streams into our organisation, amongst many more) has been observed.

Getting the members funded to get to Calgary to attend the conference was a challenge since CASA was not in a capacity to self fund all its members. It involved getting in touch with the members' respective universities for sponsorship for travel and accommodation.

At the conference, being the only group of students, we might not start off with lots of connections in the industry making it difficult to network with the already established. Striking up a conversation was thus facilitated by having the SWS be a starting point.

**Q. How would you describe your experience at the Tradeshow? Have you heard of any new vendors that caught your attention? What vendors have you heard about before?**

The preparation for the tradeshow was a great icebreaker for all CASA attendees who were meeting most of each other for the first time at the conference. Stories from each of the schools, individual academic perspectives, software and workflow tips and tricks were being shared.



The tradeshow itself was a bustling networking session where professionals from different backgrounds were coming in and going through the exhibit. Distributing the scan cards and CASA pins were highly successful. CASA members took turns to sit at our own area and network with the vendors and attendees. Lunchtime gathered many viewers - so more tables and sofas turned towards the panel are key.

New vendors that caught my attention include: Heavy parametrics, Precast concrete

Vendors heard about before: McGill press, Woodworks,

**Q. Do you feel that the conference positively impacted your ability to network with professionals in the field of architecture?**

Definitely! This was a wonderful networking event to help step into the professional scene. Key observation was that, while the conference was a great space to connect, it did require individual effort to strike up a conversation and network. Overall, the conference has opened up avenues such as work opportunities, building contacts, receiving mentorship and research openings.



Many student to student connections have also been successfully established across the RAIC staff and attendees. Many times, local architecture associations across Canada and achieving licensure were referenced that helped create a mind map of the road to licensure. Inversely, there were many individuals, non licensed designers and non architects, present who represented parallel outcomes just as inspiring

**Q. Do you have any other suggestions that can contribute to increasing student presence at the conference? What can CASA-ACÉA do to increase student awareness and participation at the RAIC Conference and future events?**

- Create awareness upfront in terms of opportunities that CASA can provide upon involvement with the organisation (similar to an incentive or a reward for participation within CASA; that was something I was not aware of at all entering CASA and hadn't considered the possibility of!)
- Depending on the scope perhaps the SWS winners can be sponsored by the RAIC and their respective schools to attend the conference alongside the CASA team.
- Maybe zoom presentations can be hosted leading up to the conference with the winners explaining their proposals, potentially this can be integrated into CASA presentations at the RAIC conference - celebrating student work across



architecture schools in canada at the shared platform of the RAIC

- Bringing in Affiliate membership is a huge step in the direction of increasing student awareness and participation



## Nitya Gupta - Calgary Representative

**Q. What was your favourite session and why? Did you find yourself drawn to a particular type of session (example: tours and lectures)?**

A. Amongst all the great sessions, I personally loved the session by Darby Lee Young, founder of the Level Playing Field, called 'Reimagining Accessibility in the Built Environment'. It was my first experience with learning and talking about accessibility which is most of the times taken for granted when you are a student. But the important details she explained like height of the mirror in washrooms, curb details, alternate methods of accessing a building, etc. were extremely helpful and in my opinion should be introduced early-on in the education. Overall, the session was quite engaging and enlightening. On the other hand, architecture tours organized everyday were equally fun and helpful. Each tour had a different theme including art, architectural, historical, nature walks, which attracted me to visit each one of them and gave me something to look forward to for next day.





Photo Credits: Nitya Gupta



**Q. Do you feel that the conference positively impacted your ability to network with professionals in the field of architecture?**

A. This conference allowed me to meet different professionals ranging from vendors, consultants, architects from small and large firms, engineers, specialists, etc. As a student, the connections I made and the conversations I had with these professionals made me aware of the latest trends in the market and gave me the exposure I needed before making important career decisions. I am more prepared than ever as I have the knowledge of what is needed to become a good candidate to get hired by the dream firms. The opportunity to hear the insights from these people on various projects and architectural topics was a great help.



**Q. How would you describe your overall experience at the conference as a student and a representative of CASA-ACÉA? What parts of the conference excited you most, and what do you think could be improved for future years at conference? Please describe in 250-500 words maximum.**

A. The overall experience at the conference was AMAZING...! As a student representative of CASA, I had the opportunity to be on both sides of the table. Presenting the Student Work showcase and the White paper at the conference were the proud moments while, mingling with the crowd and interacting with the professionals was very insightful, which is why I cannot wait for what RAIC Conference 2024 has to offer. The conference had many exciting events and sessions, but I personally enjoyed the architectural tours. Though I am already from Calgary but on the tours, I saw Calgary through a different lens. It made me aware of so many exciting facts which I didn't know about this city at all, and I was stunned to see all that Calgary had to offer in terms of architecture and history. Also, the little lucky draw game organized at the RAIC booth was exciting and winning one of the prizes was a cherry on the cake. As a student I learned a lot, made memories, had productive interactions, made new connections, etc. and I believe that these conferences are a good opportunity for students. I wish the student participation and involvement at these conferences can be improved to give the coming generation the necessary exposure before joining the work field.



## Daniela Davila - President

**Q. What are some of the key challenges you found to profile students at the event? What contributions has the RAIC Conference made to engage student members?**

A. I will begin by saying that the Student Work Showcase was a big success and attracted lots of attendees during the tradeshow. The fact that we were students helped CASA to stand out and allowed Reps and Directors to talk to mid to senior level professionals who had no idea who CASA was. The evening events were also a great opportunity for us to get to know architects and people in the industry, and in return we spoke to them about CASA's mission. However, other than trade show student volunteers, it seemed like we were the only students present at the conference. I believe that one of the reasons for low student numbers at the conference is related to the cost to attend the event. This not only includes the ticket price but also accommodation, flights and possible time off from work. Thankfully, CASA has put a system in place where Reps connect with their faculty to ask for sponsorship. The RAIC attempted something similar consisting of a "sponsor a student" option in the checkout page. This option was pricey due to the in-person component (as opposed to previous years, when this option was only a few hundred dollars as the event was fully online) and unfortunately there was no uptake this year. Moreover, another key challenge that I



Photo Credits: Daniela Davila



believe played into low student numbers at the event is the limited communication between the RAIC and architecture faculties across Canada. There seems to be a generational barrier between RAIC members & leadership and students, causing many students to miss these opportunities provided by the RAIC.

**Q. How would you describe your overall experience at the conference as a student and a representative of CASA-ACÉA? What parts of the conference excited you most, and what do you think could be improved for future years at conference?**

A. Personally, I truly enjoyed my experience at the conference and at the evening events. I felt valued and heard. I had a great opportunity to present twice at the conference. Once, on my own, about CASA's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion White Paper, and the second time I presented alongside a panel including Jim Taggart, Executive Director of the RAIC Foundation. Moreover, the conference allowed CASA Reps and Directors to meet in person for the first time since 2019, which made us closer and created a real sense of community. We were able to hold our Annual General Meeting, where we discussed important achievements and challenges as well as our aspirations as an organization.



The parts that excited me the most were my two presentations and the closing party. After the presentations, I got approached by well-rounded professionals and got to speak with them about the importance of student voice. They were happy to hear about CASA and our projects and were eager to help our cause. Additionally, getting to be part of the evening events, especially the closing party was another great opportunity to speak with faculty and architects practicing across Canada. I truly enjoyed meeting architects from Québec, since I completed my undergraduate program in Québec City.

One of the things I think could be improved is student presence. This could be achieved by having academia related booths at the tradeshow, benefiting both students and employers looking to hire new talent. Something CASA could better prepare for next time is promotional material. This year we had pins and business cards but adding something more to our booth, to make attendees stay, would be good.



**Q. Do you feel that the conference positively impacted your ability to network with professionals in the field of architecture?**

A. Yes, the conference definitely impacted my ability and confidence to approach professionals I had never spoken to before. Moreover, I got to meet people I had only emailed in the past, which allowed me to make a more meaningful connection with them. Networking skills are often forgotten or taken for granted but talking to people is not easy, especially when you are a student and they are a professional with years of experience. I believe the conference was beneficial to all CASA Reps and Directors in that aspect. The learning and welcoming environment pushed conversations to happen organically and as a younger attendee I felt supported as well as inspired.





**Q. What can CASA-ACÉA do to increase student awareness and participation at the RAIC Conference and future events?**

A. There are various things CASA-ACÉA could do throughout the year to prepare for the RAIC Conference and other events. These initiatives include getting all the Reps up to date about these events well in advance and establish clear roles and objectives. Two challenges related to that constant communication with all reps are: The fact that most are full-time students and therefore might not have the time to be present at all CASA meetings; and second, the fact that CASA has struggled to secure Reps from all 12 architecture schools at once. Having Reps from all 12 schools of architecture would help CASA have an indirect influence on all 12 faculties and naturally reach more students.

With the help of industry groups like the RAIC Foundation and firms like Dialog through active partnerships, CASA can be better equipped to organize and plan student events and activities. Therefore, it is crucial for CASA to remain connected to external associations. Moreover, grants are another resource that would support CASA in the implementation of more effective communication strategies with students. I believe that the key to increase student awareness and participation at the RAIC Conference and future events is communication, and that is what CASA should focus on through various initiatives.



## Chris Johnson - Vice President

**Q. What Sessions did you attend at the In-Person RAIC Conference? Did you view any remote sessions after the conference?**

A. I went to attend Optimizing in the Probable Future, Zeroing in on Net-Zero Recreation Complexes, Suburban Intensification, A Bottom-Up Approach to a Healthier City, Conserving Heritage Buildings & Districts, Towards Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, Transforming Canadian Landscapes, Architecture for a Regenerating Life, and A Foundation for the Future. I was initially supposed to attend Shifting Perspectives, but the RAIC cancelled the session since the speaker was unavailable. Since I could not view the session in person, I was fortunate enough to view it online and learn about what I missed from the session.



Photo Credits: Chris Johnson



**Q. What was your favourite session and why? Did you find yourself drawn to a particular type of session (example: tours and lectures)?**

A. My favourite session was Suburban Intensification. It discussed how architects and designers could begin understanding how high-rise and supertower buildings can be beacons for change. Kirkor Architects talked about their design approach to different sites and the challenges they faced. From community consultations to the City's issues with the project, Kirkor Architects + Planners described how a roadblock became an opportunity to educate and inform people on site-specific opportunities that will benefit the neighbourhood. I chatted with them about how architects can better serve the area by creating mixed-use communities and the student's role in the profession's future. It was an insightful discussion and made me more aware of their firm in my future endeavours. I was drawn to the lectures because they were areas I wanted to focus on and invest in my career. From intensification to heritage buildings, these sessions are essential to understanding many building typologies I can design as an architect.



**Q. What are some of the key challenges you found to profile students at the event? What contributions has the RAIC Conference made to engage student members?**

A. One key challenge in profiling students is the cost of student members. Understandably, the RAIC Conference makes money from the number of attendees and the fixed fee for members at sessions. Seeing the University of Calgary students at the conference as volunteers was great. Still, it would also be great to give back to those volunteers and other students by providing some opportunities. Whether it is something the RAIC works with the school for or the schools themselves initiating students at the conference depends on the direction to take. The Sponsor a Student Initiative, is a great start and makes students aware of the opportunity. This could also be something the RAIC puts towards the architecture schools to dedicate funding to bring students to the conference. This may need to be something in collaboration with ROAC, but getting a seat at the table should be a starting point. The University could bestow to students who lead within and outside the School of Architecture.

The RAIC Conference has provided a platform for students to profile their student work at the conference and the University of Calgary SAPL campus for The Parti. Architects wanted to provide for students by grabbing drinks or food, which was unexpected and encouraged. It shows how much



students feel welcomed. However, with guaranteed funding for students to attend the conference, attracting students to the RAIC Conference with All-Access Passes is easier. We found that a few schools could not provide for students in our organization to attend the conference as there was no money in their budget for travel and accommodation.

**Q. How would you describe your overall experience at the conference as a student and a representative of CASA-ACÉA? What parts of the conference excited you most, and what do you think could be improved for future years at conference?**

A. My experience at the conference was surreal because I got to visit a city I had never been to. Being exposed to Calgary has opened the door for future visits to the city, and how they progress over a period of time. The context of Calgary is unique to Toronto because there is less Urban Development. There are more empty parking lots with the potential for infill development, while Toronto continues to develop through some demolition and addition projects, among others.



**Q. How would you describe your experience at the Tradeshow? Have you heard of any new vendors that caught your attention? What vendors have you heard about before?**

A. My experience at the Tradeshow was enjoyable because you never know what to expect. Many vendors speak directly to the profession but less often with students. However, one vendor that caught my attention was the University of Calgary's Design Program for Professionals (DDES). It was an exciting program to learn more about and how the University is giving back to professionals in the community who want to pursue higher education. Not many schools do this, and it spoke to me. Another vendor I found interesting was UNIQ Dimensions. UNIQ Dimensions provides architectural drafting services that use lazer technology to measure buildings for As-Built Floor Plans, CAD/BIM Drawings and much more. The spokesperson was very professional and talked a lot about the product and how it is used in the profession today. It is a growing company that provides the latest technology for fast and accurate results.



**Q. What were your expectations heading into the RAIC Conference in Calgary in May? Did the conference exceed your expectations?**

A. My expectations at the conference were to network with professionals in the field of architecture and to learn new and innovative solutions for the industry. The RAIC Conference has always exceeded my expectations going into the in-person conference because there are always sessions that interest me or are an area of the profession I would like to explore further.

**Q. Do you feel that the conference positively impacted your ability to network with professionals in the field of architecture?**

A. The conference was an excellent opportunity to network with professionals across Canada, specifically in the province I want to get my license after completing my Master's Degree. I had the chance to ask sponsors, lecturers, and conferencegoers questions about their experiences and how they got their first starts after their education. We all started from one place in our careers, and hearing from speakers about their experience and learning about some of their contacts that I know is incredible to hear and be involved in. Many practitioners and academics had different experiences, while others had years after





their education before starting their path to licensure. My previous experience at the 2019 Conference in Toronto made me think more about how I wanted to interact with sessions and be a more decisive leader in my career as a licensed architect. Events run by Building Equality in Architecture and The Parti hosted by the University of Calgary make the experience more enjoyable for students to meet professionals one-on-one in a comfortable setting. My experiences at the conference impacted my ability to network with professionals keen to have the next generation of future architects step out into the profession.

I had the chance to talk with an Intern Architect at a firm in Calgary that took time off and gave valuable advice for finding a job out of school. She said to look at getting into a firm as early as possible and not to wait because time passes quickly. Others told me never to sell myself short. Chatting with architects, designers, contractors, and vendors told me more about where the profession is heading and what they hope to get from the next generation of students.

After each session, I would go and chat with each of the speakers at the lecture to chat about their projects, design philosophy, and where they found their careers took them. For some, their experiences encouraged them to open a firm, while others found research to be their direction in University. I also had the opportunity to talk to members of the RAIC to discuss future collaborations and how students can get more involved at the conference to network and gain future employment.



**Q. Do you have any other suggestions that can contribute to increasing student presence at the conference?**

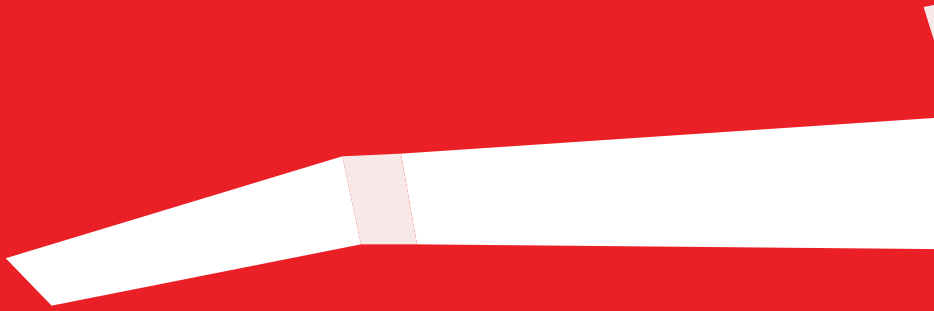
A. Increase sponsorship for architecture school students attending the RAIC Conference. Whether this is something CASA-ACÉA takes on alongside the RAIC, CACB, and ROAC or is a separate commodity, it would increase student presence that is still virtually nonexistent at a conference. Part of the issue comes from the cost of the conference itself for students to attend, as tuition costs outweigh students going to conferences. By working with each school of Architecture, we believe it can get more traction to increase member presence and create a place for students to feel welcomed and invited. The conference has an uphill battle to bring students to the conference. Part of the issue is the timing of the conference (which students can't change) and the price to go. If the schools had a set budget for the RAIC, and RAIC Foundation looked at providing opportunities for students to go to the conference, it would significantly increase the number of students attending the events.



**Q. What can CASA-ACÉA do to increase student awareness and participation at the RAIC Conference and future events?**

CASA-ACÉA should spread the word about the conference through in person interactions and a meet the organization event. I think it could be an excellent opportunity to give faces to names at the school level to show how we support students in their endeavours. By addressing conferences, CASA-ACÉA can create a larger following that will benefit from increased exposure to the RAIC (where many students do not understand the resources the RAIC provides).

As an organization actively getting representatives to the conference, CASA-ACÉA created a relationship with the schools of architecture and the RAIC to bridge the gap between the profession and academia. Increased efforts to mail students at the schools can help immensely. One additional note could be looking at what opportunities are available for students at conferences. In my second year, we had the chance to attend a WoodSolutions conference. However, I did not know how to interact with people in the profession because it was still new. Active discussion in the schools about how conferences promote students creates a larger and more educated membership that can help students land their first jobs in school, get a potential mentor, and learn about the nuances that the profession offers.



2



# Student Work Showcase



## Student Work Showcase

On behalf of the Canadian Architecture Students Association - l'Association Canadienne des Étudiants en Architecture [CASA-ACÉA], we extend a warm thank you for the generous sponsorship offered to our association as well as the national student body for the Student Work Showcase held at the RAIC Conference from May 2nd - May 7th.

Thanks to the support of our sponsors, twelve representatives from CASA-ACÉA were able to attend an in-person conference for the first time since Fall 2019. This allowed excellent student exposure and served as a stepping stone to mend the gap between students and practitioners, which has been identified as an important goal within our organization.

CASA-ACÉA is honoured to have had the opportunity to present at the conference and host our Student Work Showcase, where we showcased the work of 34 architecture students across Canada in a professional setting.

We are honoured to present this summary document to invite more students and thank those who have been a part of our success over the years. A warm thank you to the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada for providing a space for the Student Work Showcase at the tradeshow and final event, and conference passes to help us create a unified voice for students.



Photo Credits: Fiona Hamilton



Photo Credits: Daniela Davila



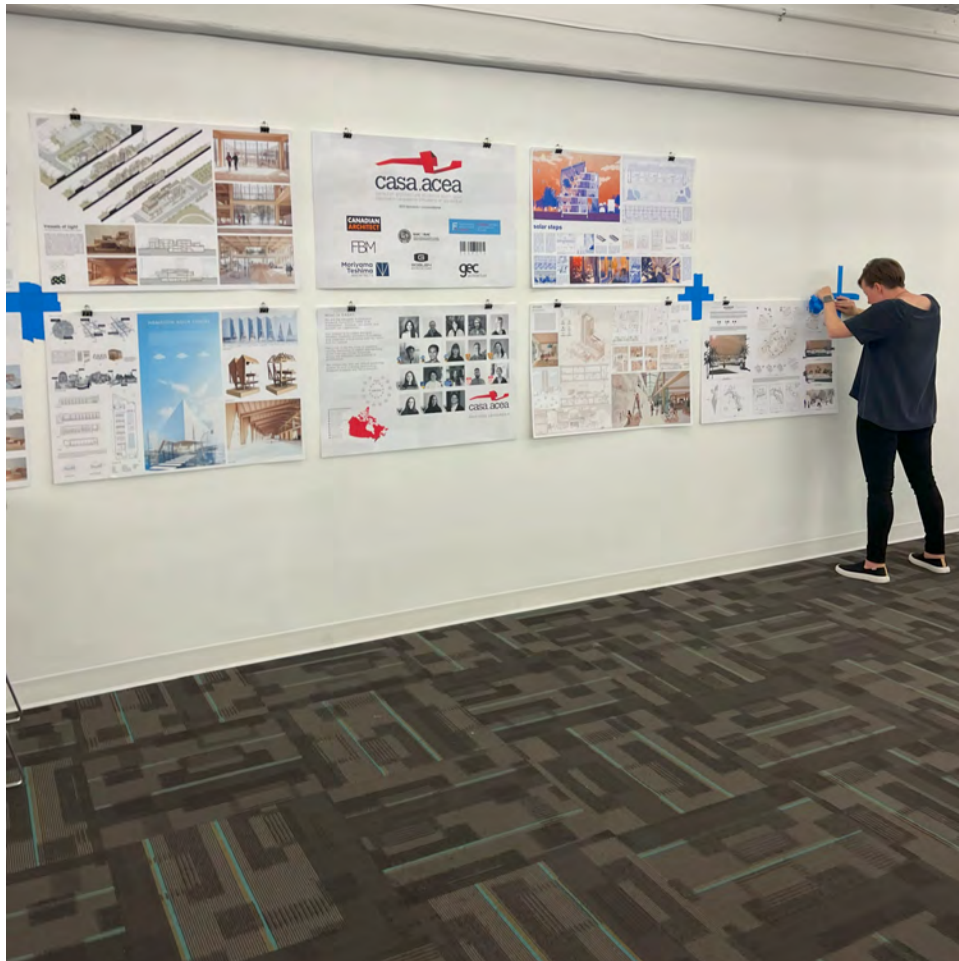


Photo Credits: Daniela Davila



In addition, we would like to thank our Student Work Showcase Chair, Max Perry, for creating a platform for student work alongside external organizations, such as Canadian Architect, to provide prizes for our winners. Thanks to Max and our Showcase committee, CASA-ACÉA provided 7 posters filled with student work from the twelve schools of architecture in three distinct categories: first and second years, third and fourth years, and Masters Students. These categories were sorted through by our jury to award three different and equally deserving projects.

We would also like to highlight our 2023 Student Work Showcase winners Adria Maynard, Nicole Cao, and Derek Shin. This year, their winning entries received subscriptions to Canadian Architect and were showcased alongside our runner-ups in the three categories.

To our jury members, Lisa Landrum, Catherine Venart, Marc Boutin, and Ariane Ouellet-Pelletie. We thank you for your contributions to a successful showcase featuring student work. Having academics evaluate students' work is critical to a greater understanding of architecture and our ever-growing profession. We thank you for setting time aside in your busy schedules to score and judge the Student Work Showcase submissions.



Max Perry  
Student Work Showcase Chair (2021-23)



Ariane Ouellet- Pelletier  
University of Laval



Lisa Landrum  
Toronto Metropolitan University



Catherine Venart  
Dalhousie University

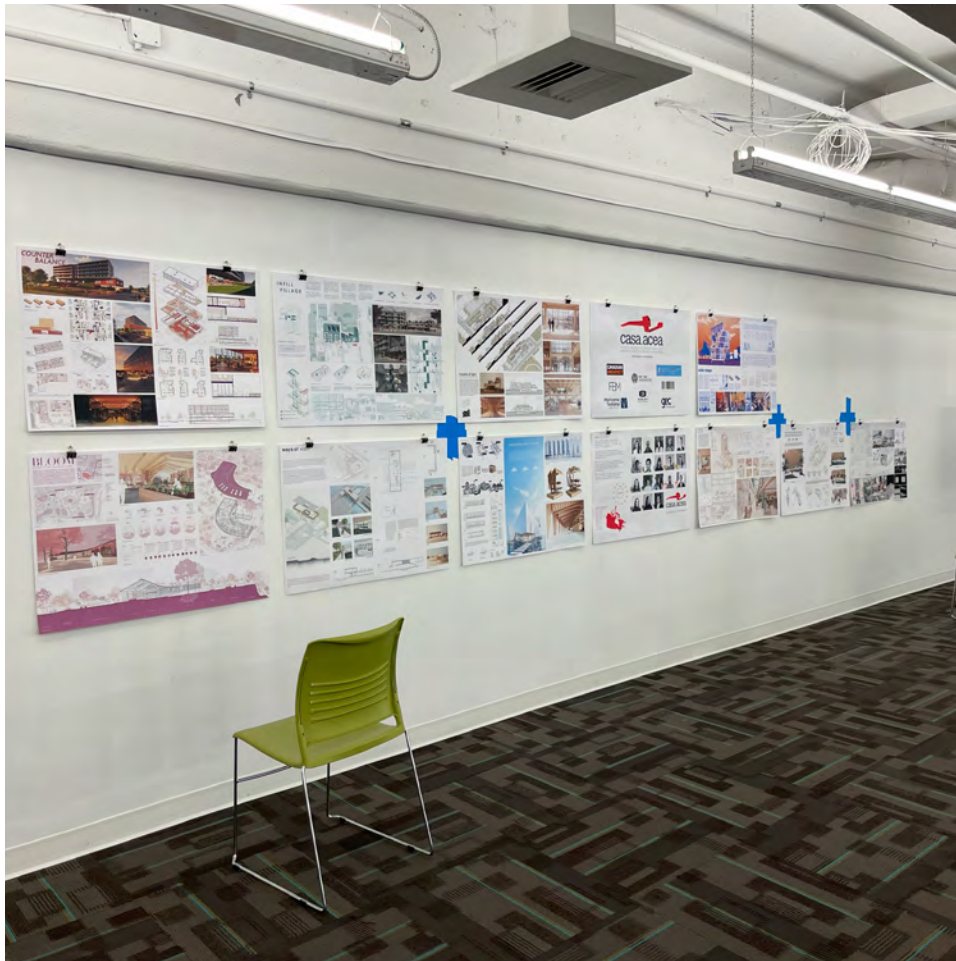


Marc Boutin  
University of Calgary



Finally, we would like to thank all of our showcase participants this year who have submitted their work. The jury was thrilled to see students in design present their work at the RAIC Conference. Every year, CASA-ACÉA profiles student work at the RAIC Conference to represent a growing student body across Canada. Their work is a testament to their University's design curriculum, and the student's individual abilities throughout their degree.

In addition to the in-person conference, CASA-ACÉA placed each submission on the website to show our gratitude for their participation. Your submissions have been well received by those at the conference and virtually across Canada.



RAIC Student Work Showcase at The Parti (University of Calgary)  
Photo Credits: Daniela Davila

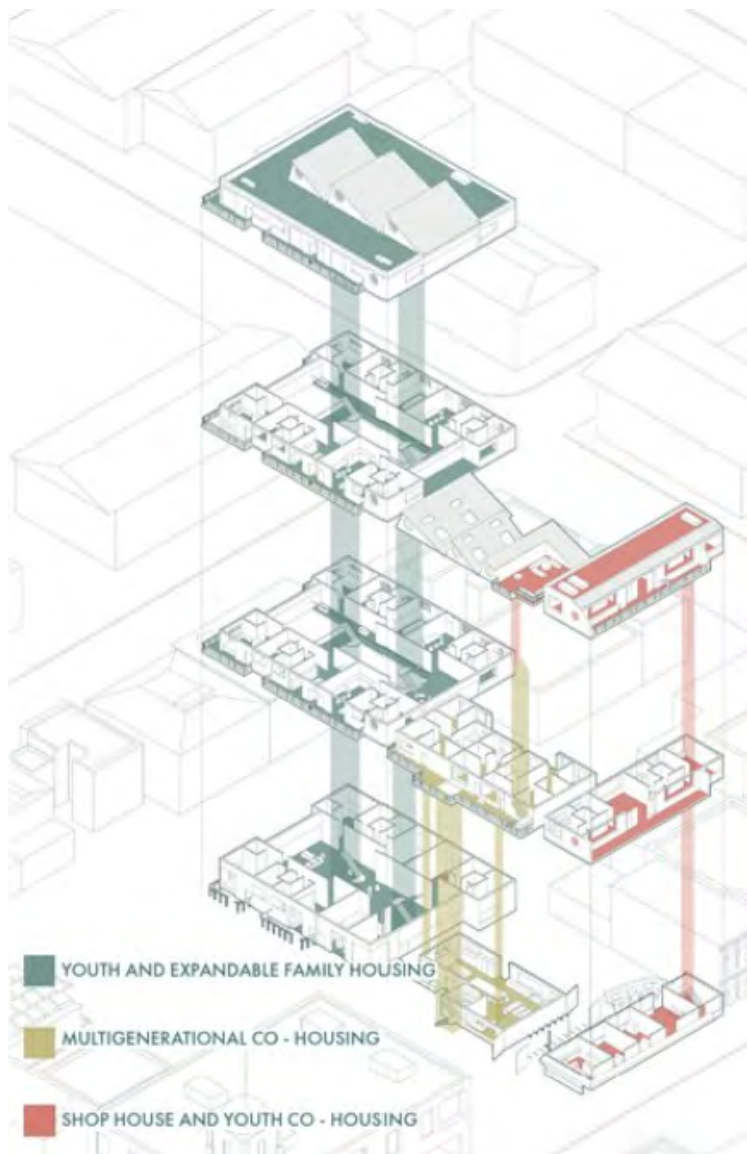


Winner Submission: Horizon House  
Adria Maynard: Dalhousie University

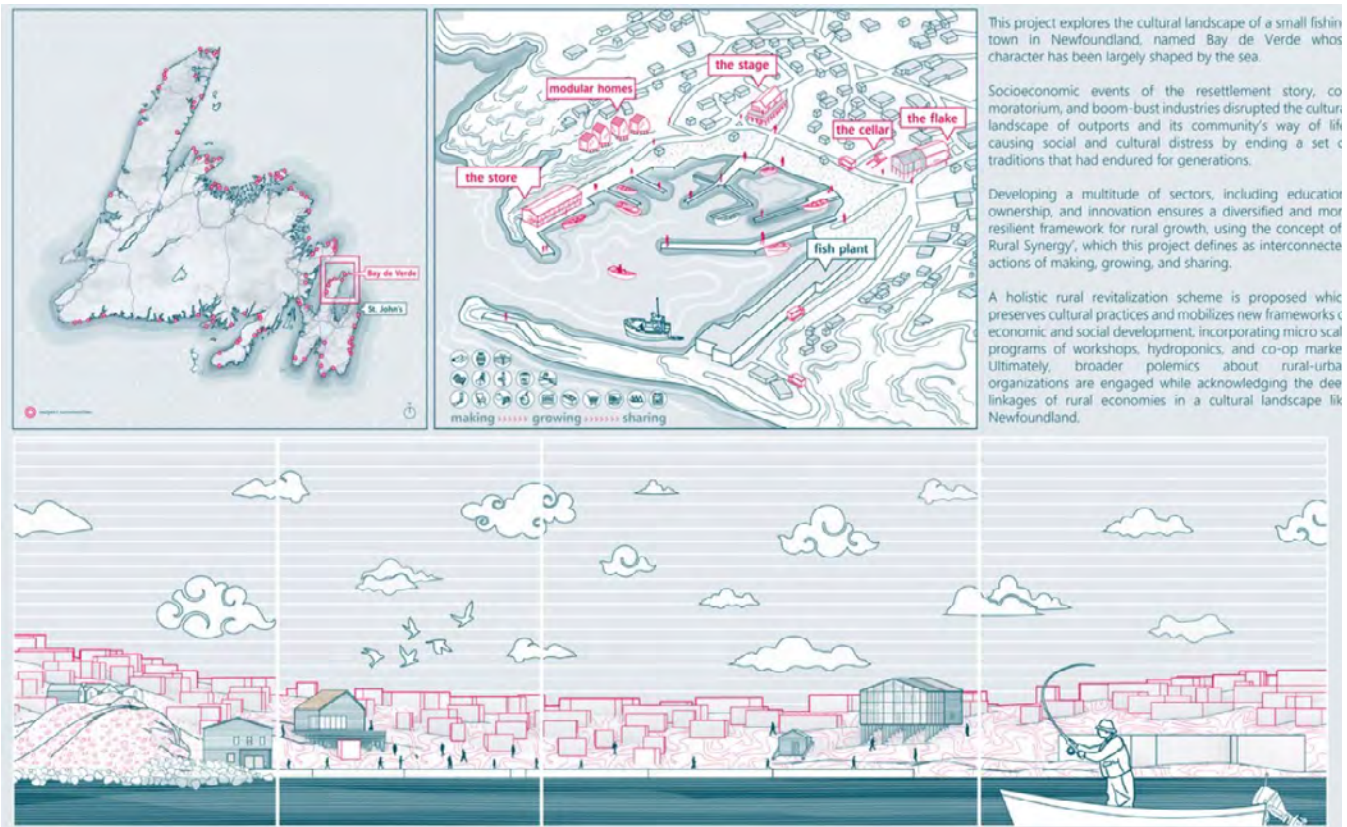




Winner Submission: Solar Steps  
Nicole Cao: University of Waterloo



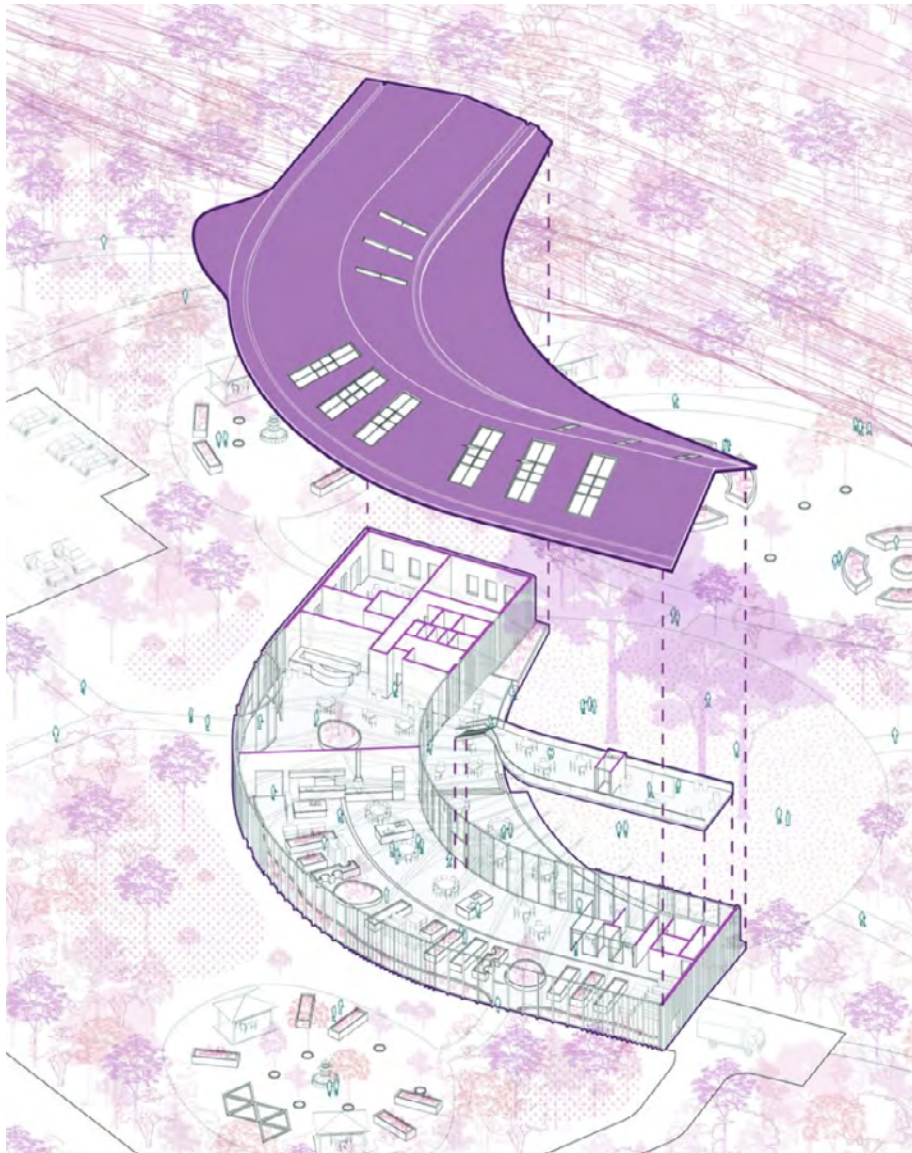
Winner Submission: Infill Village  
Derek Shin: University of Waterloo



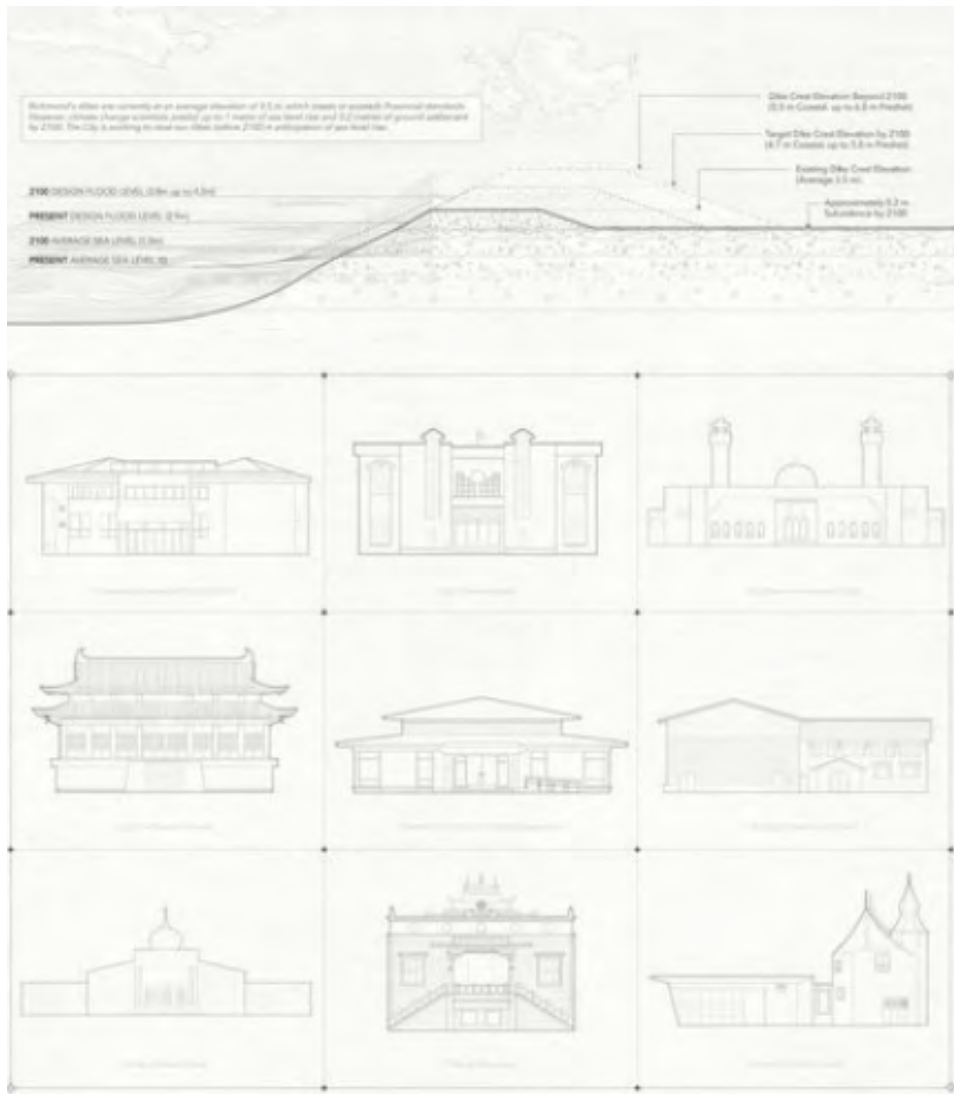
Finalist Submission: Rural Synergy  
 Rojina Yamin: Dalhousie University



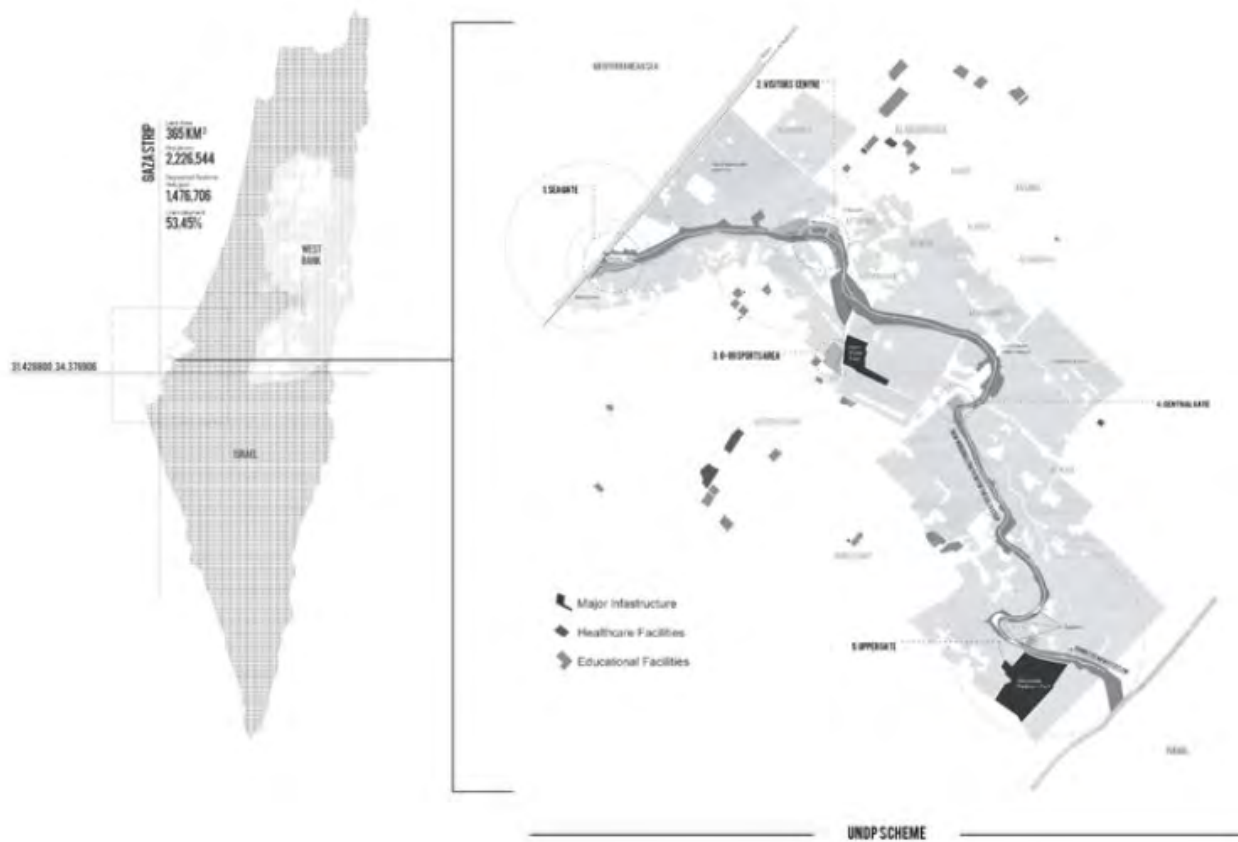
Finalist Submission: Ways of Water  
Elizabeth Krnjec : Dalhousie University



Finalist Submission: Bloom  
Michael Salib : University of Waterloo



Finalist Submission: Ways of Water  
 Elizabeth Krnjec : Dalhousie University

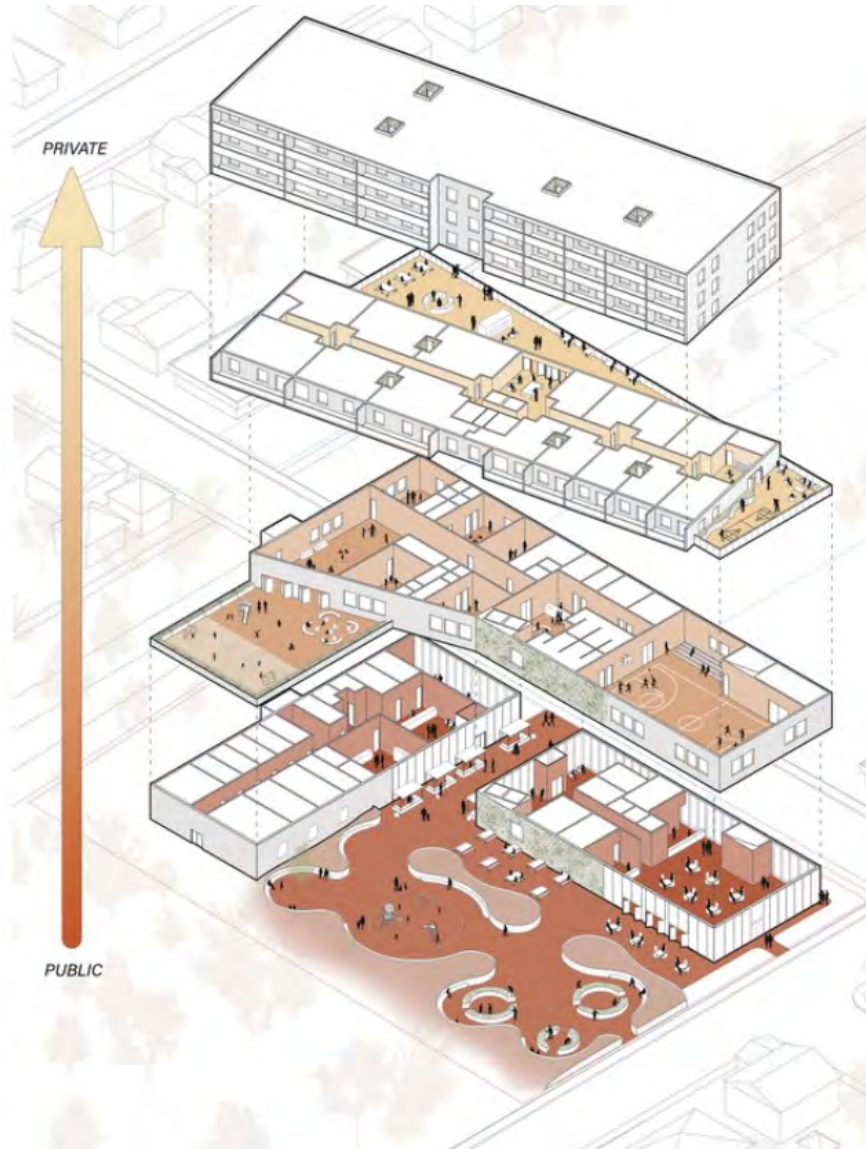


Finalist Submission: Building Hope The Forgotten People of Gaza  
Sarah Fahmy : Carleton University



Finalist Submission: Hamilton Aqua Centre  
Joechellen Faye Bonifacio: Toronto Metropolitan University

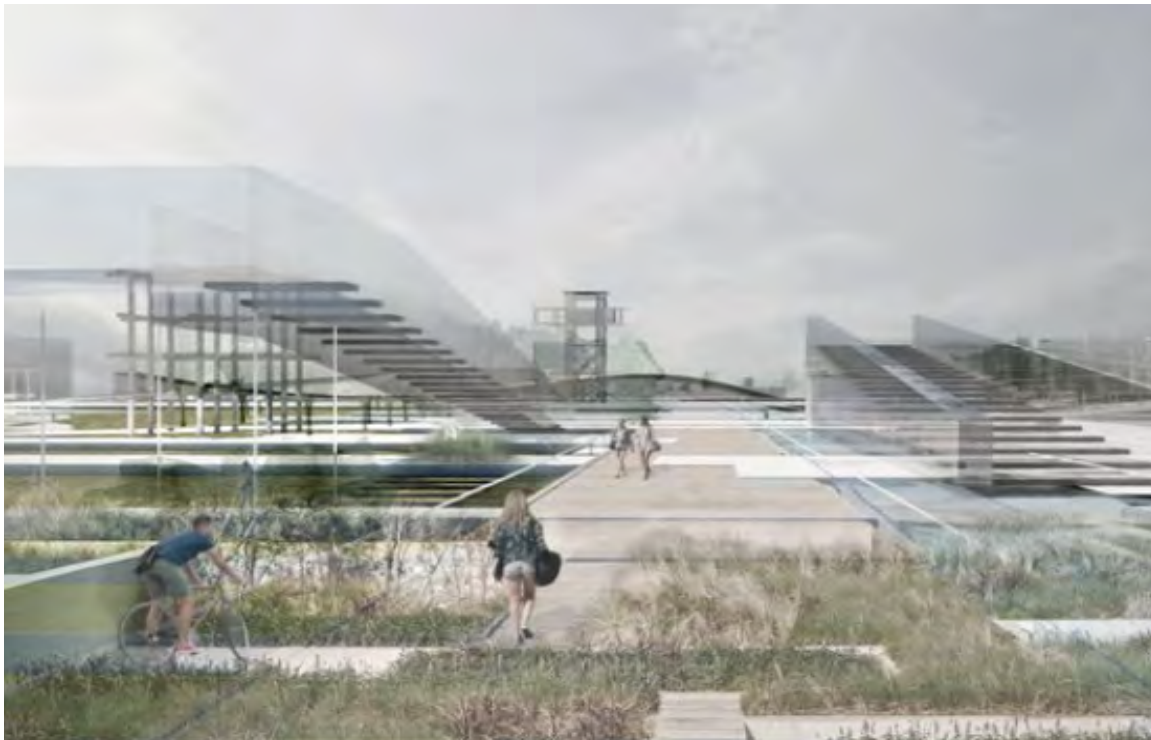




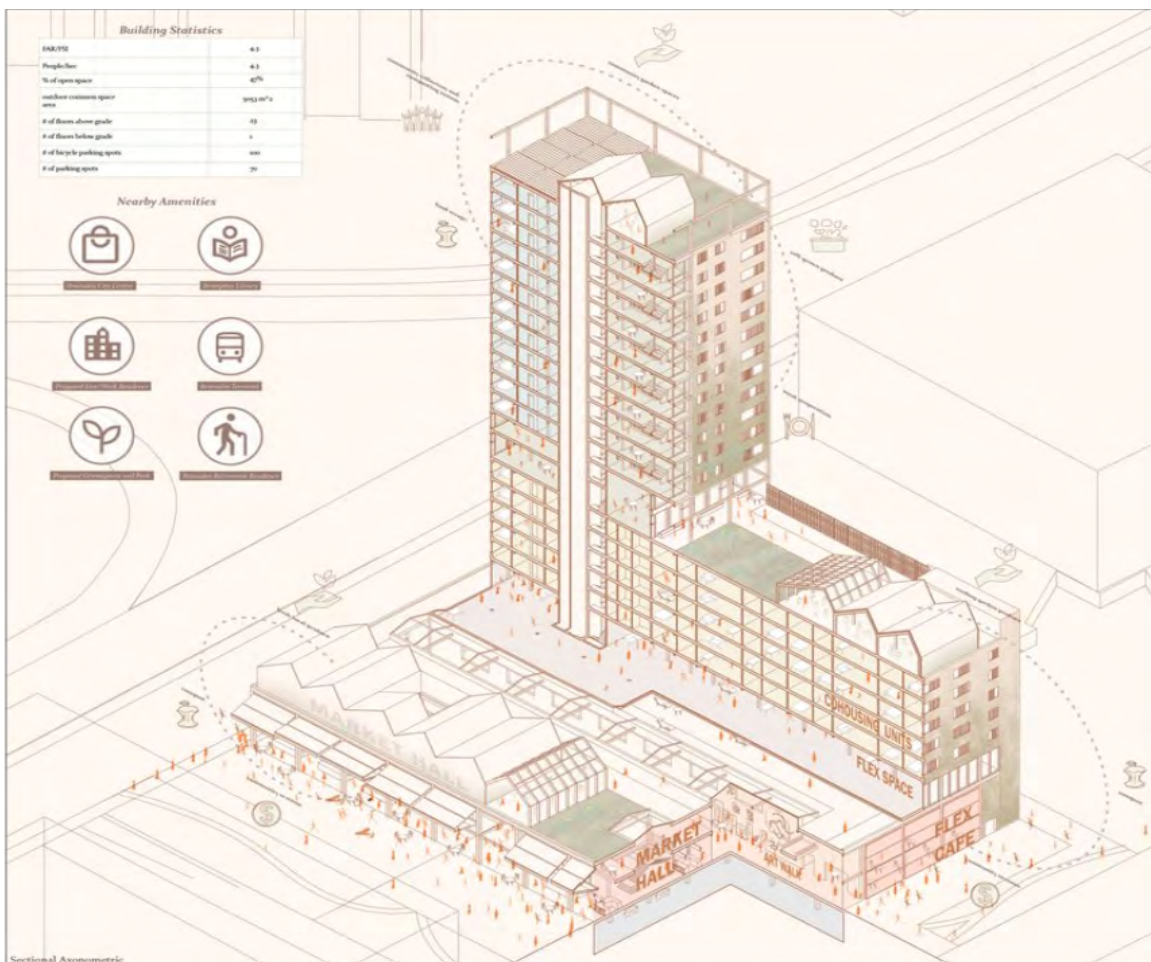
Finalist Submission: Counter Balance  
Lana Dang & Brooke Kelleher: University of Waterloo



Finalist Submission: Vessels of Light  
Hao Ning Zhao : Toronto Metropolitan University



Finalist Submission: Construction New Narratives to Reveal  
Diverse Identities in Richmond, BC  
Rita Wang : Dalhousie University



Finalist Submission: NOURISH: The Collective Mosaic  
 Emilio Gonzalez & Mara Acosta : University of Waterloo

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association canadienne d'étudiants en architecture





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## Conclusion

From the Directors and Representatives of CASA-ACÉA, we would like to thank everyone for contributing to making the past year a success; each committee, volunteer, and organization helped the non-profit extend its reach to many members in the profession, and those who are not directly related, but similar in stature.

After the conference, the representatives had the opportunity to discuss its impact on their student experience. Many deemed that the event was a valuable experience they would not have experienced if the option was not given. Conferences expose students to the wonders of the profession and help them learn about industry leaders they met for the first time or knew about in their experiences. As a testament to the representatives, this summary provides a glimpse into how students can be positively impacted by conferences with the opportunity to network, collaborate, and promote student excellence inside and outside of the school.





Photo Credits: Fiona Hamilton



CASA-ACÉA continues to provide a platform for students through extensive support from our representatives, sponsors, and schools. We strive to increase student presence at the conference while creating new and innovative resources that students can use for their future careers. Through networking, team-building, and open communication, representatives in CASA-ACÉA create a unified voice for students across Canada. However, there is still a barrier to bring students from each school of architecture, and a greater number of students who are interested in participating. In conclusion, this conference summary lives as a testament to membership contribution that encourages others to leverage in-person meetings and conferences to establish relationships with other students, and professionals. These experiences can be brought back to the schools to provide valuable feedback on the current academic curriculum and encourage them to create more opportunity for students to network. As a result, students are exposed to the profession early and learn about current trends and potential avenues to explore in their future studies and/or career.



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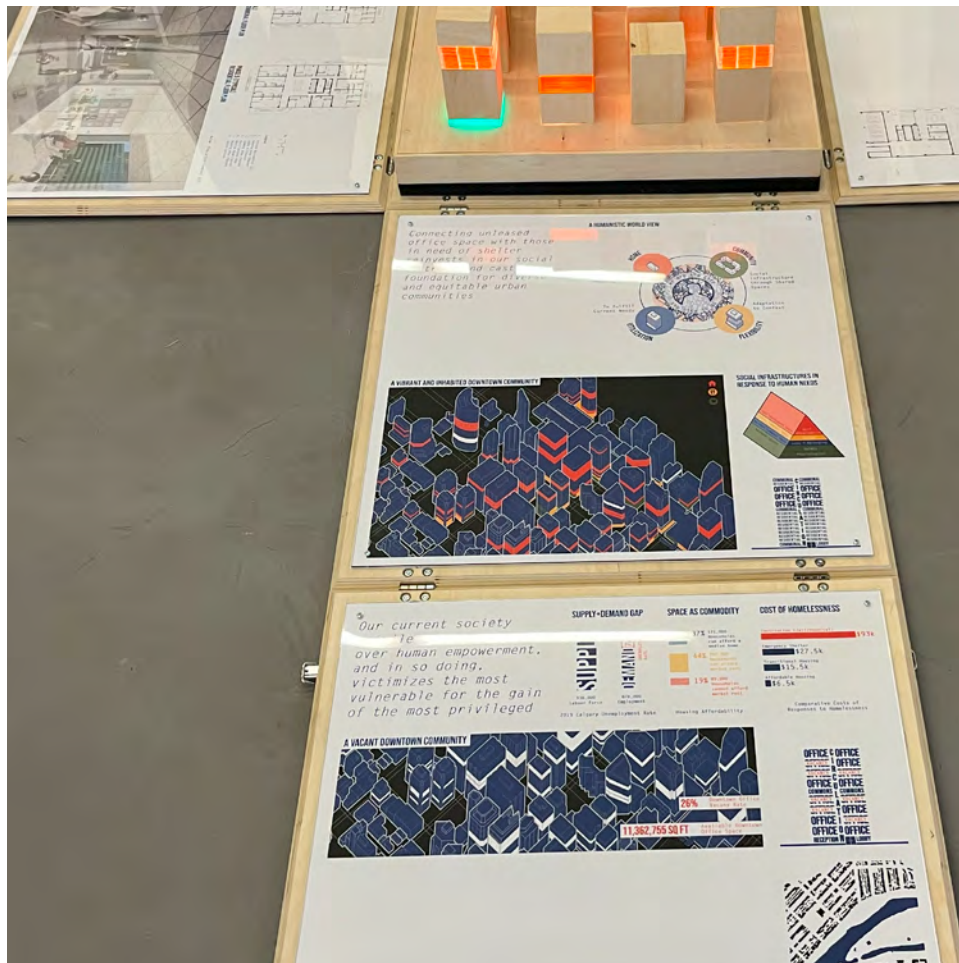


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Photo Credits: Fiona Hamilton



Photo Credits: Chris Johnson



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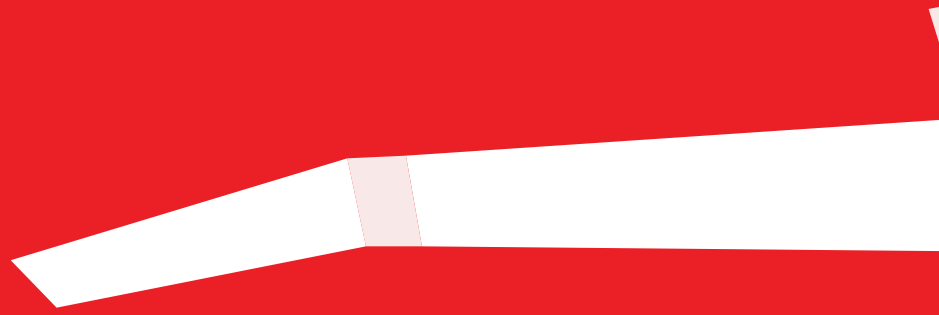


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