Open Call

The Invisible Hub

A Community Hub in Vancouver

Awards

ARCHACE

The Invisible Hub

Design a community hub where art, nature, and community unite

This hub provides a place where community can better flourish and residents' lives are enriched in multiple and profound ways. The hub connects people to people and people to nature.
This building is to be hidden behind its landscape in a form recognizing the influence of nature over architecture. The edges between architecture and nature may become invisible and intertwine.
This biophilic architecture orient with no apparent concern for "wall" or "ceiling" or "floor" as this project is merged within its site levels and its surrounding greenery, dissolving the usual distinctions of figure/field, and built/natural.

This project seeks to renew the social and environmental ecologies of the city and its people.

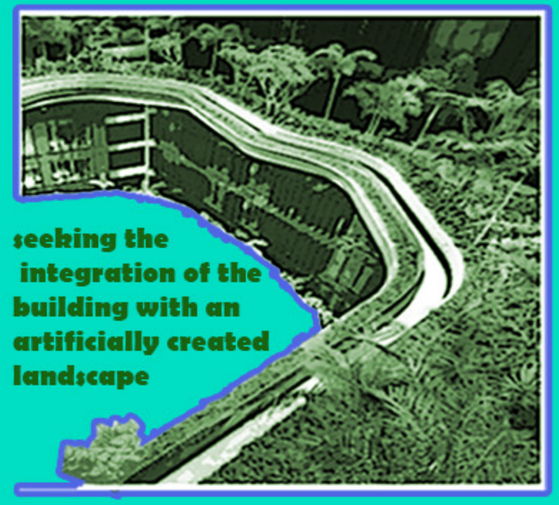
Design

GOALS

Bringing People together (social integration)

Connecting People with nature (feel one with nature)

Integrating Archtecture with nature (Biophilic Design)



Providing vibrant outdoor spaces (social spaces)

It's a gathering place where art, nature, and community unite

Integrating site with street levels (accessible and welcoming)

Goals' Description

1. Seeking built-natural integration:

This architecture/nature duality is explored apart from traditional construction methods by using different design approaches such as designing green platforms/or floors to integrate within the outdoor greenery; and/or by utilizing living surfaces and natural materials. That may mean the building is modest, and quietly blending with nature.

2. Stimulating shared interests for urban social integration

The students (from the educational buildings on the east side) and the families (from the residential buildings on the south side), find self expression through the art display which will help to eliminate the social gap and raise awareness in the role of art.

3. Connecting urban spaces and pathways for spatial integration:

This hub incorporates the existing surrounding urban spaces and pathways with the proposed ones, making this project an open invitation for families, walkers, and students to come and connect.

The project is easily to be accessed from different directions and levels

4. Providing vibrant outdoor spaces for mingling

The hub outdoor spaces are as important and vibrant as the indoor spaces.

They act as the outdoor gathering point during break times, keeping in mind the universities lack outdoor spaces.

5. Integrating the hub levels seamlessly with the streets' levels.

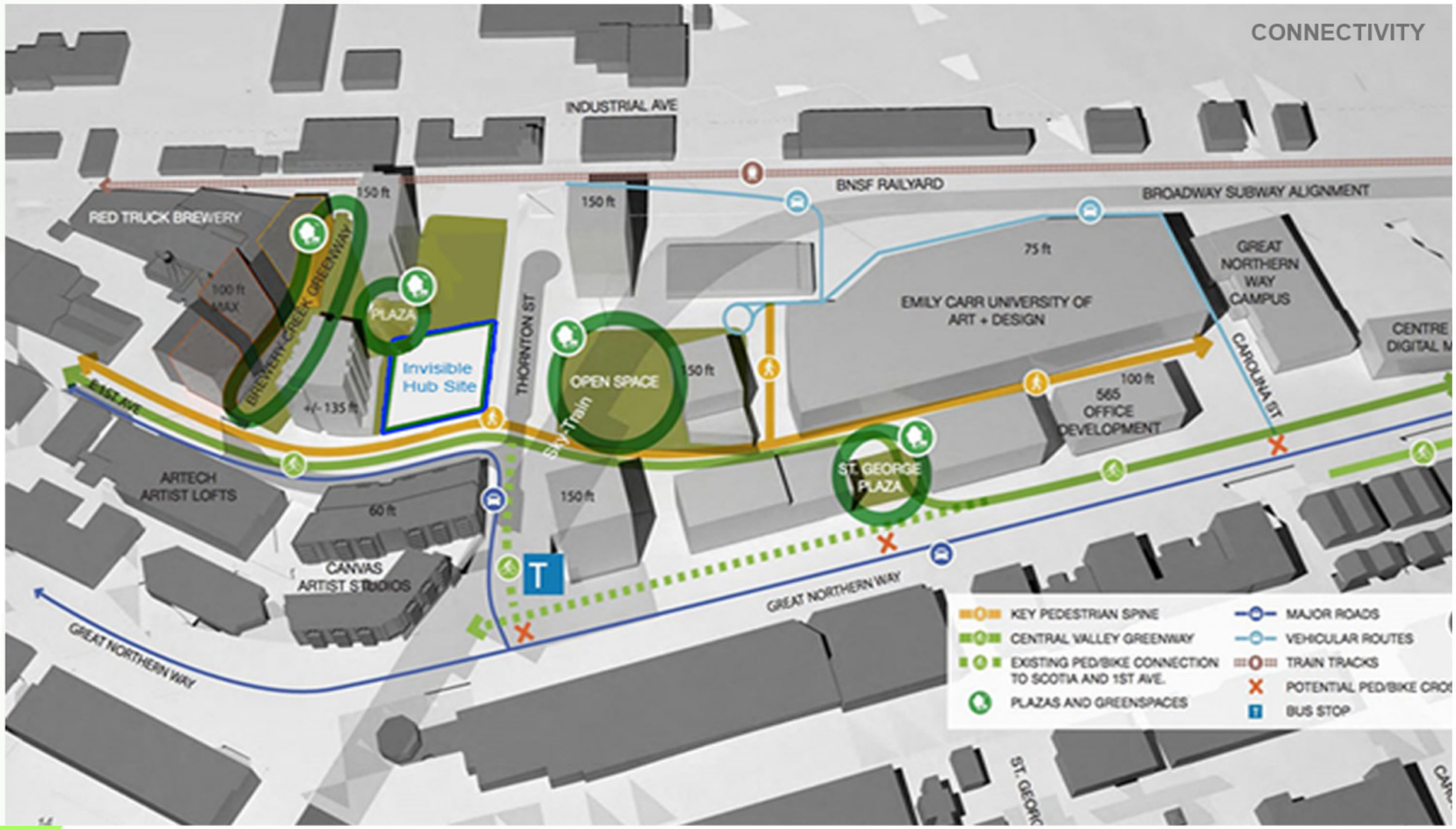
Dealing with a sunken site surrounded by split levels on its edges would be turned into a design opportunity and excitement.

Design


BETA5 Chocolates
Busters Towing
Red Truck
Beer Company
The Hive
Bouldering Gym
Hub Site
Thornton St
Emily Carr
University of
Art + Design
Thornton St
E 2nd Ave
Great Northern Way
St. Francis Xavier School
Google

Context

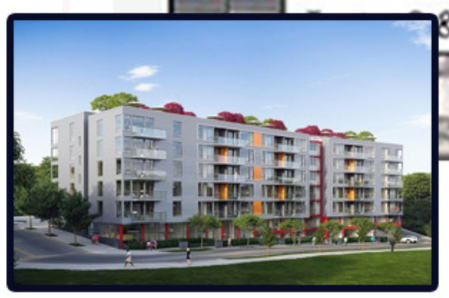
CONNECTIVITY OF PATHS AND SPACES



Context

GEVERNMENT INTENSIONS TO CONNECT SPACES AND PATHS

FUTURE AREA DEVELOPMENT PLAN



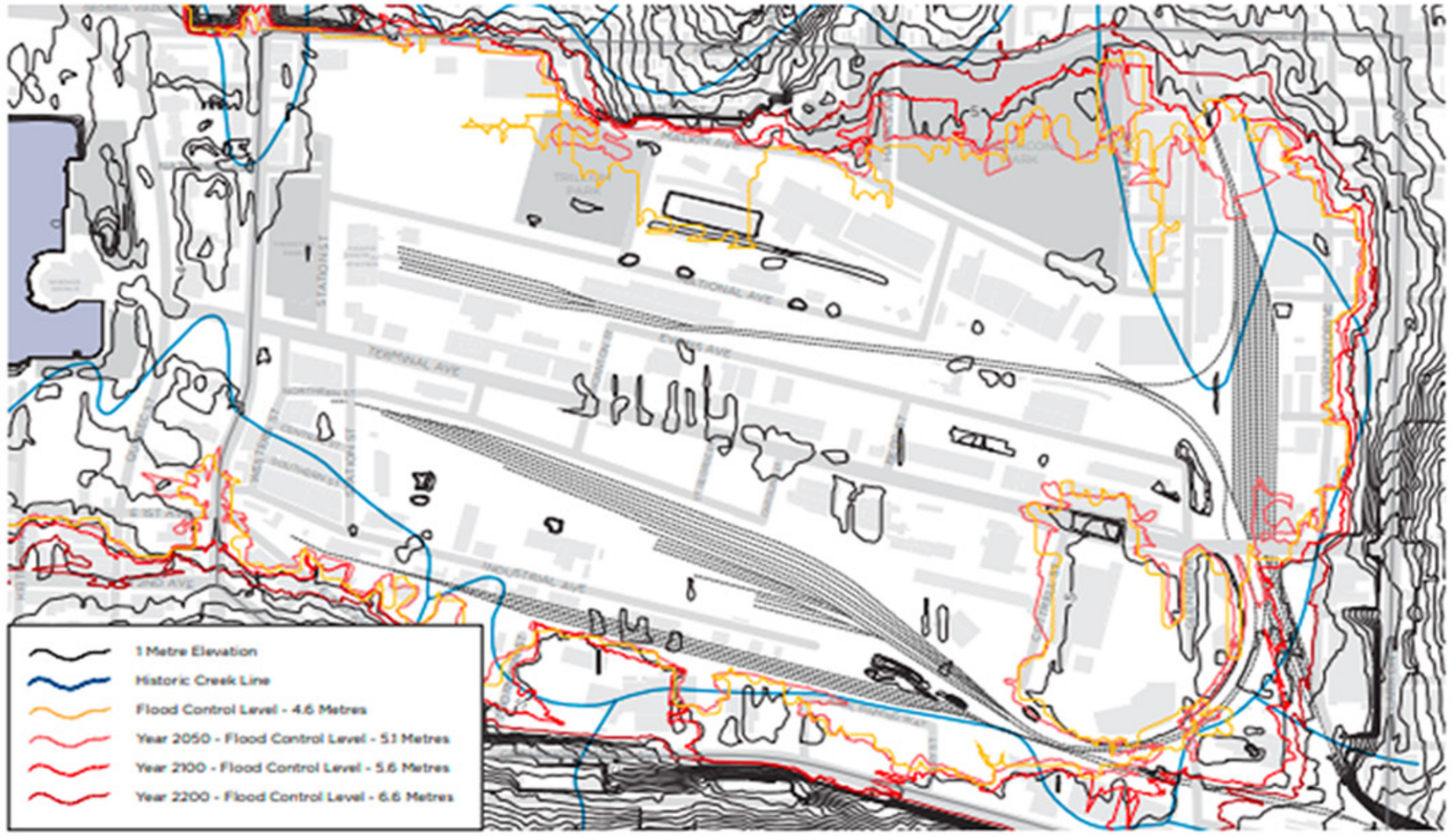
Context

ENVIRONMENT & NATURE

Introduction About the History of Area and Its Environment

While it has been nearly 100 years since the False Creek Flats were filled in, its history as a tidal flat and terminus for a number of local streams continues to register on the landscape. It's an area susceptible to ponding of rainwater during heavy rainstorms. Current climate science indicates that Vancouver is likely to see drier, hotter summers, more intense weather events involving wind, rain and snow, and the gradual rise of sea levels. Global climate changes create a number of challenges to be addressed through the planning for the future of this area. Without intervention, sea-level rise could inundate the False Creek Flats area at high tide by 2050 and beyond.

While the gradual shifts in sea-level rise is something that we can plan for and address over a number of years, an earthquake could happen at any moment. The False Creek Flats, as an area built almost entirely on filled soil, is vulnerable to the risks of liquefaction caused by a major seismic event. Addressing these challenges will be a key consideration for planning the Flats and the future of its infrastructure.



SPACE REQUIREMENTS

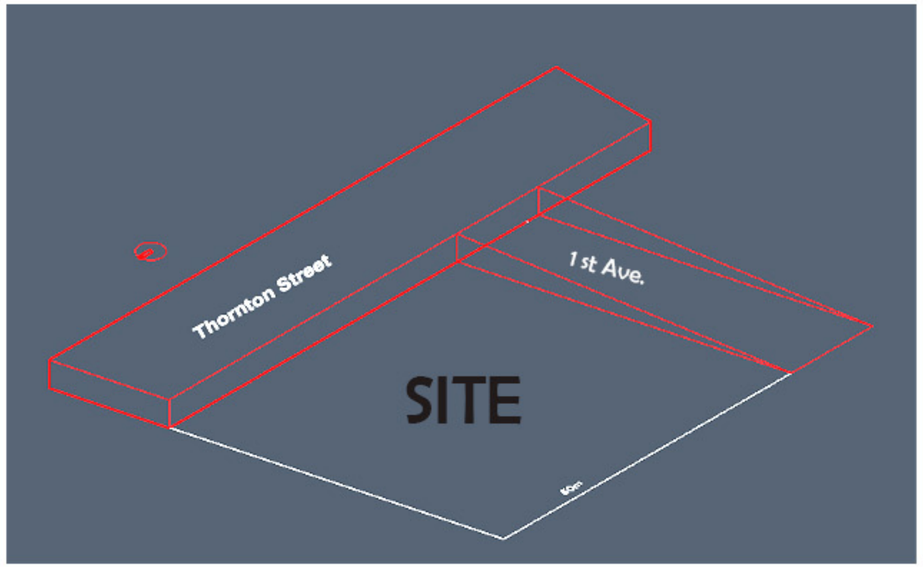
Over 25,000 sqm housed in 2 buildings (with 5 zones as shown above)
to reflect both the unique and shared needs of the community.
Walkability and public transit are encouraged in the area.
No need for car parking since there is some car parking nearby.

Outdoor Social space/spaces and green roofs are encouraged.
Note: up to 15% variation from the above needed space area is accepted

Design

Levels and Grades

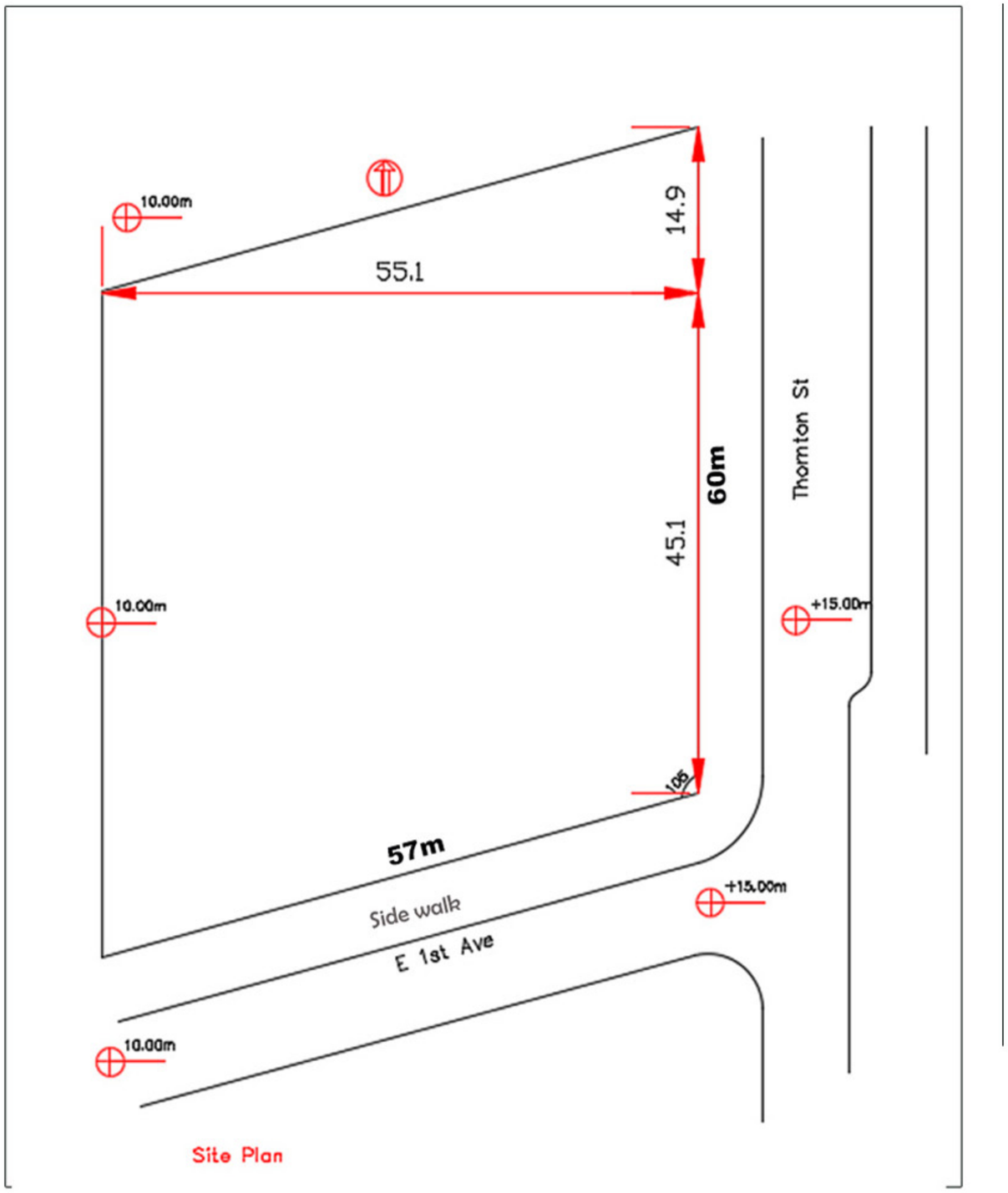
This site is located between 2 different west east levels. The site is 5 meters lower than Thornton Street making it a sunken site from the west, while 1 st Ave. is slopped gradually to be flat with the site at the east side.

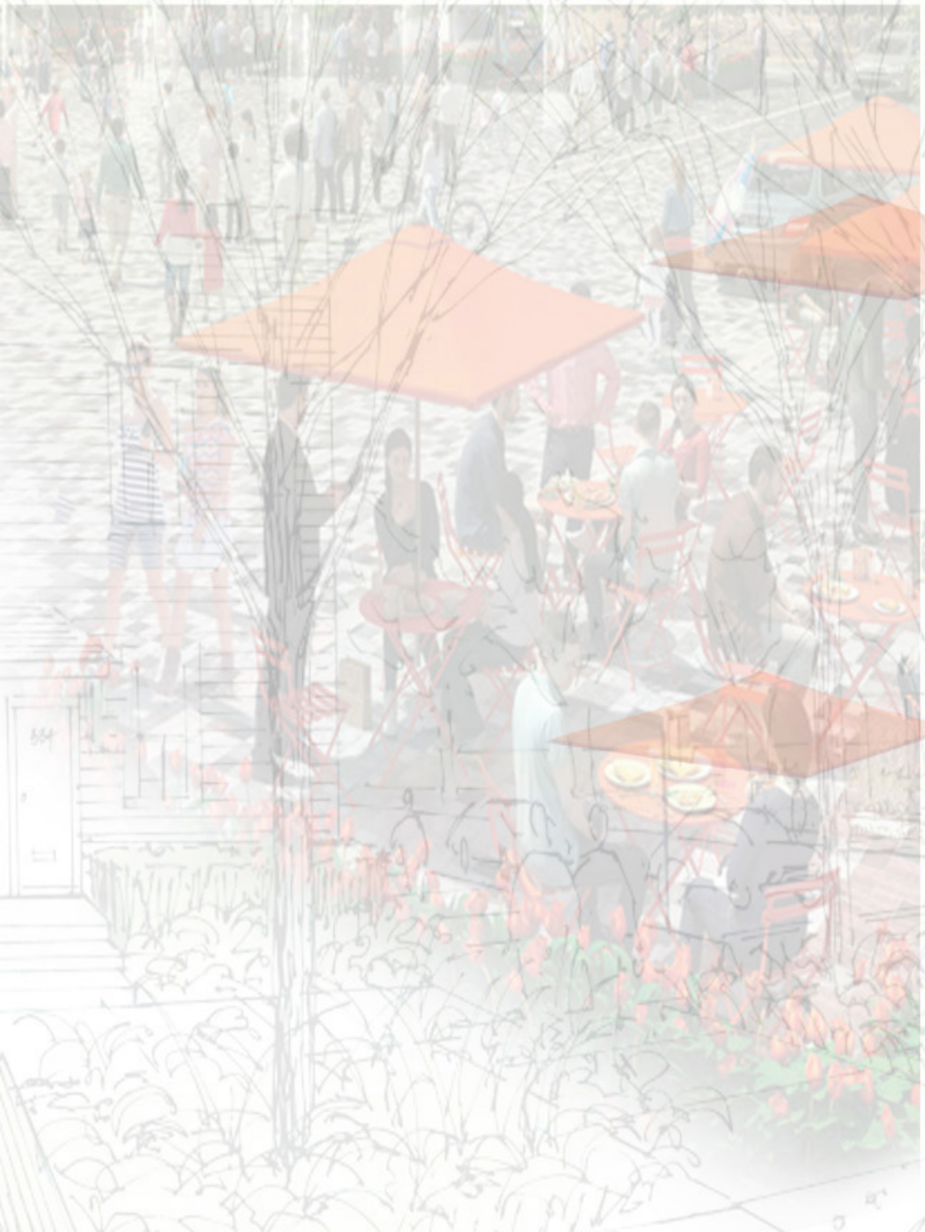


East-South Isometric

Photo of the site looking from east direction to west

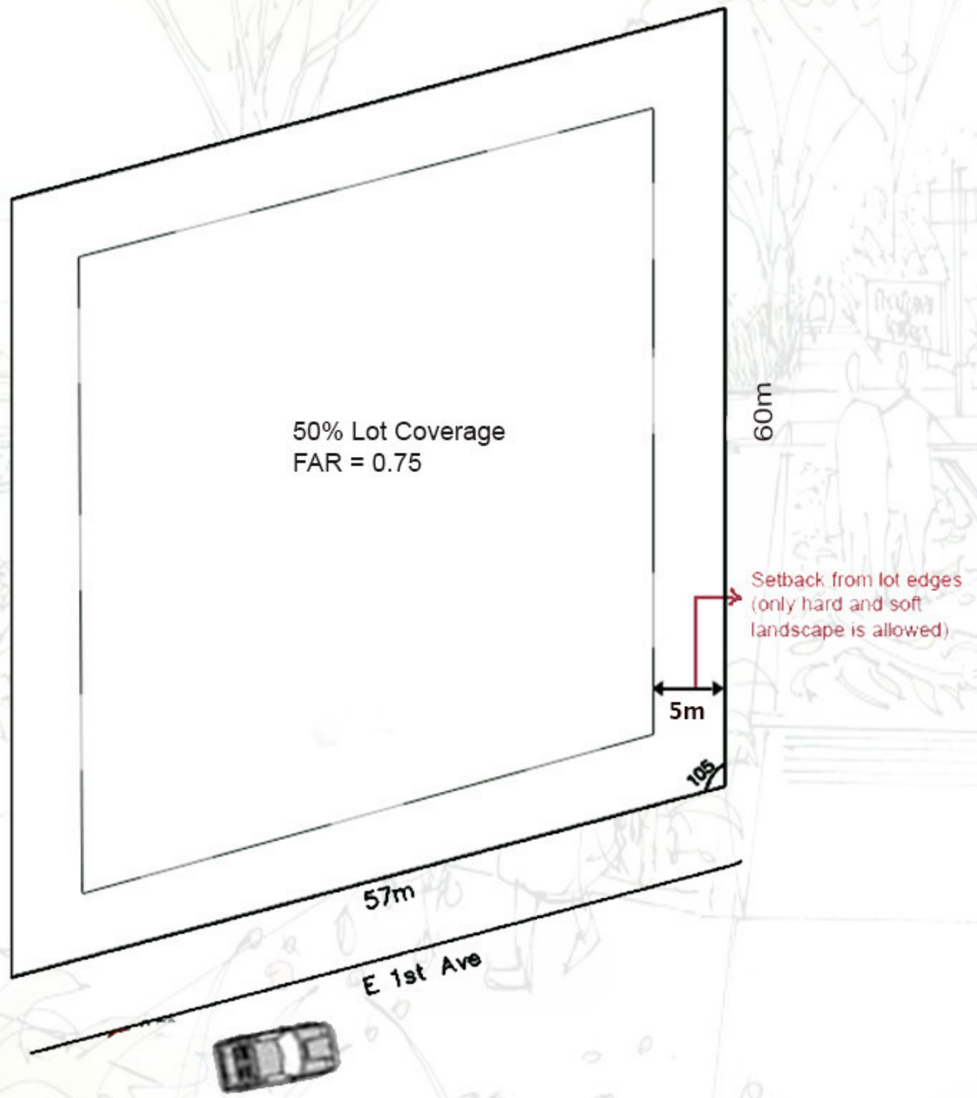
Site Levels & Dimensions





Lot Coverage & Setback Rules

The site area is 3420 sqm
The required Floor Aea Ratio (FAR) = 0.75 (means the area of all floors should not exceed 75% of the lot area)
Maximum 50% of the lot to be built, 1710 sqm should be left unbuilt
Covered outdoor spaces are not considered part of the FAR
The rest is an open area
5 m setback from all lot edges. You can fillit with earth but no indoor spaces
Maximum 3 floors (14m) above the current lot level, which is 10 meters above sea level



Building Rules

Registration and Submission

This competition is geared towards graduates and professionals. However, students are encouraged.

Participation Fee:
□ Registration Fee: $40 (Canadian Dollars).
□ Students Fee: $10 (Canadian Dollars) as they receive $30 voucher upon registration.
Students must have student ID
You must be currently a student taking a program at a university or college.
Maximum team number is 5 and all should be students if want to receive the voucher.

Submissions:
Three A1 sheets including plans and 3Ds. PDF file to be uploaded with maximum 15 MB
Include a paragraph decribing your concept. Use the registration number to name your file.

Registration deadline: April 15th, 2022
Submission Deadline: June 30th,2022

Winners' Announcement July 10th

Prizes:
First place winner: $250
First 5 winners: will be featured in the magazine and given certificates

Contact info@arcace.ca if you have any questions.

Competition Rules