

Creative Construct: Building for Culture and Creativity

Note-taking guide for session rapporteurs

METADATA

Session title: Sustaining Design for Cultural Diversity

Presenter: Gordon Stratford, Senior Vice President, Design Director, HOK Architects, Toronto

Day: Wedn. April 30

Time: 10:30 a.m.

NOTES

1. Short overview/summary of presentation

As Canadian cities pursue iconic cultural facilities at their centres, are they overlooking the realities of culturally diverse populations settling in the suburbs? Where are the opportunities for these individuals to express their own cultures or to share those of their neighbours? A panel of young architects and planners discuss designing environments that encourage cultural sharing among people of diverse ethnic backgrounds.

2. Key points and significant themes of presentation

Panel discussed the pros and cons of the following topics:

- A holistic **four-pillar** model to help build culture and creativity
- Sustaining concept that “ **small / local** “ is more agile and robust than “large / centralized “
- We need to sharpen our senses, keenly observe and design sensibility for these community changes
- Can we learn from the **small, slow and crazy**
- Design strategies can create sustaining **four seasons** success... simple and basic works best
- Design for **public/private** realm success... adaptable but always just right for the occasion
- Design for culture and creativity in the **invisible word?** (Technologies)

3. Notable examples and links to websites

- PS1 Contemporary Art Center (New-York)
- Book Store, El Ateno (Buenos Aires)
- Vehicle Art Kiosk (Toronto)
- L'institut du Monde Arable (Paris)
- Musée du Quai Branly (Paris)
- Carassauga – Festival of Cultures (Mississauga)
- Paseo de la Reforma (Mexico)
- Plaza of Museum, Caracas
- St. Mary's Church (Toronto)
- Temple Bar (Dublin)
- Dufferin Grove Park (Toronto)

International Symposium 2008

Creative Construct: Building for Culture and Creativity

April 28 - May 1, 2008

Fairmont Château Laurier, Ottawa, Canada

www.symposium2008.ca

- Millennium Park (Chicago)
- Place des Arts (Montréal)

4. Interesting questions and/or comments from the audience

- a. Where is your engagement with digital spaces? How to use digital in development of architecture?
- b. How to deal with the social issues associated to open spaces? Drugs, homelessness, etc.
- c. What do you think is your role in building livable, affordable spaces?

Note taker: Suzie Lanteigne