



## George F. Dark

FCSLA, FASLA, OALA Hon RAIC

A Partner of Urban Strategies for 33 years until 2020, George continues to collaborate and provide advice to lead the strategic design direction of large scale urban regeneration projects for some of the largest urban projects in Canada.

George is an urban designer, landscape architect and member of both the College of Fellows of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects and the Council of Fellows of the American Society of Landscape Architects. George has over 40 years of professional experience and, since joining the firm in 1987, has led a broad variety of assignments including new community plans, institutional master plans, urban regeneration strategies, campus master plans, open space master plans, and public policy and documents. George's work focuses on the quality of urban environments, and he regularly coordinates large groups of diverse professionals excelling at guiding projects through complex design, approval, and consultation processes.

George assists public and private organizations with institutional strengthening, design management and both civic and national urban design process. Over the past 10 years George's has developed a focus on the strategic design direction of large-scale urban regeneration projects putting him at the centre of design decisions for some of the largest urban projects in Canada.

George is very active in the charitable and not for profit sectors having served as Board Chair of the Evergreen Foundation of Canada for over 12 years while creating Brickworks, leading to his appointment as Chairman Emeritus of the organization. He is currently Chairman of the Centre for Social Innovation in Toronto and was appointed by the Province of Ontario for two terms, as a Trustee of the McMichael Canadian Collection Gallery. George is a part member of the Academic Advisory Council of the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts.

George has directed numerous master plan projects for communities in Toronto, Ottawa, Orillia, Hamilton, Calgary, Edmonton, Oakville, Markham, Vancouver, Charlottetown, Winnipeg and Windsor, Ontario as well as in Providence, Rhode Island, St Paul Minnesota and Sarasota County, Florida. George directed the award-winning University of Toronto Open Space Master Plan. He led the Downtown Ottawa Urban Design Strategy 20/20 and three subsequent district plans based on the strategy; the Escarpment Area District Plan, the MidCentretown District Plan and the Scott Street Community Design Plan. These, along with his Downtown Hamilton Design Strategy, include frameworks for community improvement, targets for site- specific and precinct-wide strategic actions to evaluate future developments.

He completed the Bridgepoint Health Neighbourhood Redevelopment Plan and the Master Plan for the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, large institutional sites in the center of Toronto, to be redeveloped as complete neighbourhoods while re-integrating their current uses into the existing urban communities.

Currently George is working on several large mixed-use redevelopments in downtown Toronto, including East Harbour Master Plan (Unilever site), The Well at Front and Spadina, The Galleria Mall redevelopment, Bathurst + Bloor Honest Ed's redevelopment, and the redevelopment of the Golden Mile Shopping Centre on the new Eglinton LRT line.

George has led a variety of reurbanization and masterplans including : the Cornell University's Comprehensive Campus Master Plan, the Public Space Framework for Toronto's Central Waterfront, a Comprehensive Master Plan for the University of Ottawa, master plans for the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus and a new Regional Centre in

Richmond Hill, the Central Corridor Development Strategy for a new LRT in St. Paul, Minnesota, including 11 station area plans along the line. Additional transit related work includes LRT station area plans in Calgary, and the Community Building Strategy for the \$818B Waterloo Region LRT line. George has directed station area plans for PWGSC in Ottawa at Tremblay Road and Lees station areas.

George is renowned for his unique style and skill at facilitation and the ability to forge consensus among various stakeholders and professional disciplines both in the professional sphere and at the board level . As an example, George led the preparation of the civic vision for Youngstown, Ohio, as part of the first new Comprehensive Plan since 1976 which has been extensively written about as the first “Shrinking City” in the United States.

#### **BOARDS & COMMITTEES**

Member, Toronto Design Review Panel, 2017 -  
Trustee, McMichael Gallery, 2017 - 2023  
Chairman of the Board, Centre for Social Innovation Toronto, 2019 – present  
Board Chair of the Social Innovation Institute Foundation at CSI Toronto, 2017 -2019  
Advisor to Prime Ministers’ Row, Ottawa, 2016  
Founding Chair, Willowbank Advisory Council, 2016  
Board of Directors, Willowbank School of Restoration Arts - 2014, 2015  
Chairman Emeritus, Evergreen Foundation of Canada  
Past Chair, Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation  
Chair of Board of Directors, Evergreen Foundation of Canada  
Honour Roll, Toronto Region Conservation Authority  
Past Member, City of Ottawa Design Review Panel  
Chair, Lansdowne Park Advisory Panel, Ottawa.

#### **URBAN DESIGN JURIES**

The City of Toronto Inaugural Urban Design Awards Program - The 25th City of Toronto Urban Design Awards 2015 -  
The Town of Oakville (3). - City of Mississauga - City of Vaughan - 2004 Concordia University Public Realm and Urban Design Plan Montreal - 2009 Premier of Saskatchewan Design Awards

#### **DESIGN COMPETITION JURIES**

2017 National Capital Commission Nepean Point Competition - 2009 Lansdowne Urban Park Competition - 2009 Fort York Centre Design Competition - 2006 Ashbridges Bay Sewage Treatment Plant Public Art - 2006 McMaster University Campus Core Design Competition - 2005 Markham Center Design Competition - 2004 Toronto’s HtO Park

#### **DESIGN PEER REVIEW PANELS**

2009 Lansdowne Park Site Redevelopment Ottawa - 2005/2006 City of Ottawa – 2017- 22 City of Toronto - Centre Block Renovation Parliament Hill Ottawa 2021 -present

#### **GUEST LECTURES & DESIGN REVIEWS**

Ottawa Real Estate Forum  
Design Week in Saskatchewan  
City of Calgary: TOD – The Urban Condition  
City of Winnipeg – Chamber of Commerce  
University of Toronto – Urban Design / Landscape Architecture

University of Guelph – Landscape Architecture  
University of British Columbia- Landscape Architecture

University of Toronto – Rotman School of Business  
Goderich BIA  
Canadian Urban Institute

Charlottetown Waterfront Symposium  
Ottawa Chamber of Commerce  
City of Moncton – North Moncton  
Hamilton Society of Architects  
Task Force to Bring Back the Don River  
Ottawa Mayors Downtown Task Force  
Regional Council of Waterloo  
The City of Youngstown Ohio  
ASLA Conference – Salt Lake City

#### **SELECTED PROJECT EXPERIENCE**

East Harbour Masterplan Toronto  
Commerce Court Tower 3 Toronto  
Scrivener Square Toronto

Carlise Bay Economic Opportunity Strategy Bridgetown Barbados  
Mobility Hub at Bloor and Dundas Toronto  
Barbados Physical Development Plan Update  
Galleria Mall Redevelopment, Toronto  
University of Toronto Scarborough Secondary Plan  
The Well Redevelopment (Globe and Mail lands), Toronto Le Breton Flats Redevelopment, Ottawa

University of Ottawa Master Plan 2025, Ottawa  
Scott Street Community Design Plan, Ottawa  
Central Corridor Development Strategy, Waterloo Region  
Orillia Downtown and Waterfront Plan  
SW Corridor LRT Development Plan, Minneapolis  
Preston/Carling Directions Study, Ottawa  
Garrison Point Community Plan, Toronto  
Lansdowne Park Regeneration Peer Review + Park Competition, Ottawa  
Charlottetown Waterfront Plan, PEI  
Mid-Centretown District Area Plan, Ottawa  
Toronto East General Hospital Master Plan  
Richmond Hill Regional Centre & Mobility Hub Master Plan  
McMillan Farm Plan, Vaughan, Ontario  
Calgary LRT Station Area Plans  
St. George Street, Moncton, NB

Saint Paul Minnesota Central Corridor Station Area Planning  
Saint Paul Minnesota Central Corridor LRT Development Strategy Cornell University, Ithaca NY Comprehensive Campus  
Master Plan Escarpment District Area Plan, Ottawa  
Bridgepoint Health Community Plan  
Stratford PEI Vision for Core  
Moncton, NB North Area Growth Strategy  
Toronto Waterfront Parks and Public Spaces Framework University of Ottawa Master Plan Update  
Ottawa Downtown Design Strategy  
Downtown Vision, Youngstown, Ohio  
Sarasota County Villages and Open Space Design Standards Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Master Plan, Toronto  
Rosemount Management Plan, University of Minnesota Manhattan Square Park, Rochester, New York  
Downtown Design Strategy, Hamilton, Ontario  
Promenade District Plan, Providence, R.I.  
University of Toronto Open Space Master Plan  
Scotland District National Park, Barbados  
Barbados National System of Parks, Barbados  
Charlottetown Official Plan Review  
Cornell Community Open Space Master Plan and Architecture and Urban Design Guidelines, Markham, Ontario  
East Riverside Community Plan, Windsor, Ontario  
IBM/Minto Community Plan, Markham, Ontario  
Montgomery Village Community, Orangeville, Ontario Reurbanisation Guidelines for Metropolitan Toronto

Oak Park Community (Uptown Core), Oakville  
Skydome Precinct Plan, Toronto  
Baffin Region Tourism Development Plan

#### **SELECTED AWARDS**

2020 Canadian Institute of Planners Award for Planning Excellence in Urban Design, Mirvish Village

2019 Canadian Society of Landscape Architects, Governor General's Medal in Landscape Architecture

2012 Canadian Institute of Planners Awards of Excellence Award in International Development, Barbados Physical Development Plan Amendment

2016 Governor General's Medal in Architecture, Bridgepoint Health Master Plan

2016 Ontario Professional Planners Institute Award, Urban/Community Design, University of Ottawa Campus Master Plan

2016 Canadian Institute of Planners Award for Planning Excellence in Urban Design, University of Ottawa Design Guidelines and Precinct Plans

2016 Canadian Society of Landscape Architects National Award of Excellence for Planning & Analysis, University of Ottawa Campus Master Plan

2016 National Urban Design Award of Merit (RAIC, CIP and CSLA), Urban Design Plans, University of Ottawa Campus

2015 Ottawa Urban Design Award of Merit for Visions and Master Plans University of Ottawa Campus Master Plan

2014 Canadian Urban Institute Brownie Award, Excellence in Project Development, Bridgepoint Health Master Plan

2014 Canadian Institute of Planners Award for Excellence in City & Regional Planning Waterloo Region Central Transit Corridor

2014 Royal Architectural Institute of Canada National Urban Design Awards Certificate of Merit, Waterloo Region Central Transit Corridor

2014 Canadian Society of Landscape Architects Regional Honour Award Downtown Tomorrow: Linking Orillia's Core to the Water

2013 Ontario Professional Planners Institute Award for Planning Excellence, University of Guelph Campus Master Plan

2013 Canadian Institute of Planners Planning Excellence Merit Award, Orillia Downtown Tomorrow

2011 Atlantic Planners Institute Awards of Excellence for Physical Plan and Design Charlottetown Eastern Gateway Waterfront Master Plan

2010 Ontario Association of Landscape Architects Pinnacle Award for Landscape and Architectural Excellence

2010 Canadian Society of Landscape Architects National Award of Excellence in Planning & Analysis, Ottawa Escarpment District Area Plan

2009 American Planning Association, NYU Chapter, Award for Comprehensive Planning, Cornell University Comprehensive Campus Master Plan

2009 Ontario Professional Planners Institute/Heart and Stroke Foundation Healthy Communities Award Ottawa Escarpment District Area Plan

2009 Ontario Professional Planners Institute Award of Excellence, Ottawa Escarpment District Area Plan

2009 Canadian Institute of Planners Award for Planning Excellence in Neighbourhood Planning, Honourable Mention, Bridgepoint Health Master Plan

2009 Canadian Institute of Planners Award for Planning Excellence in Urban Design, Cornell University Comprehensive Campus Master Plan

2009 Canadian Society of Landscape Architects Regional Honour Award Cornell University Comprehensive Campus Master Plan

2008 Design Exchange Award of Excellence in Urban Design Cornell University Comprehensive Campus Master Plan

2008 Canadian Institute of Planners Award of Excellence for Neighbourhood Planning City of St. Paul Central Corridor Development Strategy

2007 American Planning Association, Minnesota Chapter, Honor Award, City of St. Paul Central Corridor Development Strategy

2007 Ontario Professional Planners Institute Award of Excellence, King Edward Precinct, University of Ottawa

2007 American Planning Association Public Outreach Award, Youngstown Ohio Vision

2005 Canadian Society of Landscape Architects National Award of Excellence Downtown Ottawa Urban Design Strategy 2020

2004 American Society of Landscape Architects Award of Excellence for Planning & Analysis, Downtown Ottawa Urban Design Strategy 2020

2003 Congress for New Urbanism - Charter Award, Sarasota 2050

2001 Canadian Society of Landscape Architects National and Regional Merit Awards

2001 City of Toronto Architecture and Urban Design Award of Excellence University of Toronto Open Space Master Plan

2001 City of Toronto Architecture and Urban Design Award The Pape Mortimer Neighbourhood

2001 Ontario Professional Planners Institute Excellence in Planning Award, Vision for the Redevelopment of the Queen Street Site, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

1999 American Society of Landscape Architects Planning Honor Award, The Barbados National Park Plan, Barbados

1999 Canadian Institute of Planners International Grand Prize for Excellence, Environmental Management and Land Use Planning for Sustainable Development, Barbados

1998 Ontario Professional Planners Institute, Central District, Outstanding Planning Award, Oakville Uptown Core, Oakville, Ontario

1995 Credit Valley Conservation Authority Merit Award, Montgomery Village, Orangeville, Ontario

