

MARKET LANDS DESIGN COMPETITION
SAUCIER+PERROTTE ARCHITECTES
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RWDI
CMCK PUBLIC ART

CITY, CULTURE, HERITAGE, NATURE, LANDSCAPE, PROGRAM and COMMUNITY – these are the design elements that inspired the work of our team. The result is an architecture unique to the City of Winnipeg that fosters inclusivity, community, collaboration and creativity, inspiring by means of poetics and functionality.

Our proposal seeks to awaken the dormant geometry of the site and bring to life the Market Lands and its surroundings. We draw a direct line from the Old Market to create a continuity of experience. This “urban bowtie” is both physical and conceptual in nature as it opens and connects the site to the adjacent urban framework. A spherical object acts an urban marker, a reflection of both its origins and the city’s future. The diagonal nature of the bowtie produces moments of intensity and engagement at the four corners of the site and breaks down the scale of the block to create a richly layered and adaptable place that invites and enlivens the Exchange District.

The design is driven by the desire to free the ground plane, thereby creating a gradient of experience across the whole site, in all seasons, during all times of the day. In doing so, we create a confluence of culture, food and life, a cultivated plane to nourish and nurture the residential stem that grows from this cultural medium. This cultural double sens is the force that activates and gives life to the project.

Within the open ground plane, the market, cultural and residential programs are free to mingle and interact. The diagonal structural grid system provides operational flexibility for a year-round diversity of functions and activities, both indoor and outdoor. The programmatic forces within this organizational strategy culminate at a winter garden, the symbolic point at which interior and exterior spaces come together.

Our sustainability ethos is that this project must operate with a reduced environmental footprint but must also create highly productive spaces that people want to inhabit. To achieve this, we utilize the form of the building and site to work in harmony with nature. Green roofs, integrated solar panels and high-efficiency smart building systems are not components but rather are part of our overall philosophy: we work to integrate high-quality design with sustainability and architectural excellence.

Ultimately, our proposal is about creating a sense of belonging, making both a destination and an authentic living experience that are open and connected. Our innovative approach to the ground plane and the intersection of program transforms the site into a dynamic, multi-faceted urban experience for residents and visitors alike.