

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

LANDSCAPE RATIONALE

The landscape design for Ryerson United Church mixed use development draws its inspiration from the surrounding neighbourhood landscape, the form as well as the massing and ceremony of the church.

The overall site spans one and a half city blocks from Vine to mid block beyond Yew. This combined with an architectural expression that ranges from a heavy stone, stain glass window heritage church to market housing and seniors housing has created an opportunity for the landscape to act as a foil to gently knit the project together. This is important, as there are shared functions between buildings, i.e. parking for the church is in the parkade located in the residential building to the east.

The landscape has used ground plane paving, furnishings and planting at lobby entries and in spaces facing the street to ensure continuity along the street edge. These landscape elements provide clear direction to residents and church patrons with regard to circulation direction and connections to and from the church and adjacent buildings.

An important element to the ceremony of attending church is the weekly opportunity to reconnect with fellow parishioners as well as meeting and/or gathering for special events. The front entry to the church often serves as an ad hoc location for this weekly meet and greet. As part of the redevelopment of the church site an opportunity was created to design a large gathering space with strong connections to the church entrance and equally strong connections to the public sidewalk and neighbourhood beyond. The front porch to the church extends along the entire West 45th façade. This front porch incorporates a long narrow table and seating that would be appropriate for meetings or gatherings during the summer months. This extends the use of the front porch well beyond Sunday, providing places for the parishioners, church groups and the public gather and meet.

The idea of the front porch and more importantly the furnishings, material, patterns and colour of paving carry across Yew Street to the front entry of the residential building identifying a small plaza space, access to the building and the associated underground parking. The physical and visual connection of the plaza to the church provides clear direction and connection of these two buildings.

The market residential housing courtyard provides passive recreation amenity space, ground floor unit patios and visual amenity to the adjacent low-rise building. Unit entries off West 45th and the lane breakdown the street edge into a more residential scale and ensure 'eyes on the street'. Urban agriculture and a small toddler adventure play area are found on Level 8. The west facing exposure maximizes sunlight and provides views over the beautiful church facade and the neighbourhood.

The senior's residential building fronts Vine Street. The ground level urban agriculture adjacent to the city sidewalk provides opportunity for residents to engage with the neighbourhood.

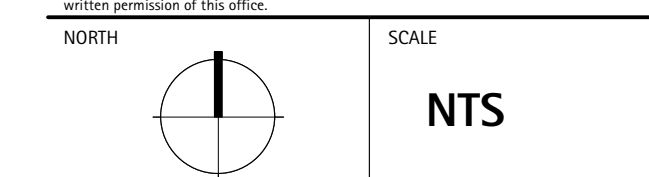
Sustainable components of the landscape include a high efficient drip irrigation system reducing the potable water use to 50%. The growing medium depth in the courtyard areas ranges from 300mm to 900mm contributing to storm water management by detaining flow during peak storm events. In addition to this we have incorporated non-invasive plant species that typically require less water and robust, locally available hard landscape components.

REVISIONS AND ISSUES	
NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	2016-12-15 ISSUED FOR REZONING

PROJECT
Ryerson United Church
Mixed-Use Development

DRAWING TITLE
Design Rationale and
Precedent Images

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DRAWING

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