

WEEKLY POLL

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Feb. 7, 2008

Waterfront Toronto moves ahead with \$4-million plan for Sugar Beach

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staff writer

A \$4 million construction project will overhaul a one-acre site just south of Lower Jarvis Street into a new Toronto public space called Sugar Beach.

Claude Cormier Architectes Paysagistes Inc. was recently announced as the winners of the Jarvis Slip Public Space Design Competition held by Waterfront Toronto.

The design competition was held to produce an innovative design and bring a new perspective to the Lower Jarvis Street site.

Cormier's team members include David Leinster of the Planning Partnership and Beth Kapusta, both of Toronto, as well as lighting designer Leni Schwendinger of New York.

"If we want to reinforce Toronto's waterfront, it helps to have a symbols such as a series of beachfront parkettes," said John Campbell, Waterfront Toronto chief executive officer and president.

The design will result in a public plaza, a promenade and a sand beach along the dock wall. The conceptual reference for Sugar Beach is the industrial heritage of the Redpath Sugar Refinery, just west of the site. Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2009 and conclude by 2010.

The jury said Sugar Beach addressed the competition's key objective of providing a signature urban public space to anchor the new East Bayfront community.

The design includes three dozen "candy-coated" umbrellas that will dot the tilted plane of beach next to the Jarvis Slip.

Giant slabs of bedrock will emerge from the sand and the waterfront promenade to add vantage points for waterfront activities. The promenade itself will extend to the edge of the nearby Corus building.

Local materials to be used in the Sugar Beach design include Canadian granite for the boulders and hard paving

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as well as native trees and sand. Most of the site is currently occupied by a parking lot, which will need to be removed. A detailed list of the materials required to build Sugar Beach's foundation is one of the project's next steps.

"Right now we also do not know how much site remediation we have to do," said Campbell.

Sugar Beach is the second urban beach proposed for Toronto's downtown waterfront, following HTO Park, billed as the city's first "urban beach."

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