

Sidewalk Labs Isometric Concept



To Planning and Housing Committee, Waterfront Committee and Urban Design Review Panel

This is a submission on the Sidewalk Labs proposal relating to Urban Design. Please distribute to members.

The Waterfront Committee and Steve Diamond in particular have done an excellent job in framing Toronto's interests.

I have reviewed the isometric sketch below and in the attached.

As well as concerns reflected by the Waterfront Committee there are urban design issues.

While the proposal is conceptual, Sidewalk could have made the design more appealing and promoted its built form as an asset.

The east side is very well done and looks exciting. The informal group of buildings on the water's edge engenders a human scale so often missing in large projects.

The "pile" of brick template for the tall buildings are also intriguing. I would suggest that the tallest building should be even taller to become the icon building for the development.

The west side is dull with straight streets relatively unimaginative buildings and a repetitiveness lacking in serial vision. Serial vision avoids long views and adds interest by revealing and then hiding key architectural features as in mediaeval towns by using narrower streets opening into squares. The concept is just as relevant to new development. The "pile of bricks" design should also be used in this section to join the east and west sides together visually. No thought has been put into architectural finish on the tops of buildings unless it is intended these should have a boring retro 20th century look!

I recognise these buildings will have much more time spent on them and even be subjects of international competition.

However let's start out right. The lack of attention to urban design at the outset is worrying.

David Godley

401 Lake Promenade

Toronto M8W 1C3

416.255.0492

