



# **Canadian Architecture Students Association (CASA) – Student Work Showcase Submissions**

Faculty of Architecture and Planning





Each year CASA asks for submissions of work from architecture students across Canada. These student works are displayed and shared as part of a Nation Student Work Showcase, and this year four of the 12 projects featured were designed by Dalhousie architecture students.

**Adria Maynard**

(BEDS, M.Arch)

Winner, Masters

**Rojina Yamin**

(BEDS, M.Arch)

Finalist, Masters

**Rita Wang**

(BEDS, M.Arch, NSAA Intern)

Finalist, Masters

**Lizzie Krnjevic**

(BEDS/BEng, M.Arch Candidate)

Finalist, Undergraduate



# Adria Maynard – Masters Winner

Adria's proposed design reimagines the Gore Block - a complex of heritage buildings in downtown Hamilton, Ontario. Her design for the space turns the complex into a 2S-LGBTQ+ community hub that combines affordable supportive housing for vulnerable youth and seniors with a community resource centre and event space.

Her work draws from her own experience as a young queer person in Hamilton, where she felt lost in a world that seemed to have no place for people like her. "At a time when violence against the visibility and wellbeing of queer, trans, and two-spirit people is a daily occurrence, it's essential to uplift and celebrate visions of 2S-LGBTQ+ joy, belonging, and resistance," says Maynard.

This project allowed her to use her craft as a medium to imagine a spatial story of queer placemaking and collective care and provide consistent visibility, resources, and belonging for the cities' 2S-LGBTQ+ communities. "I'm grateful to have my work recognized by CASA and to have this kind of project shared on a national platform," she says. "It's an honour to use my craft as a designer to explore my experience as a queer person and make a difference by researching ways that queerness and space can shape each other."





# HORIZON HOUSE

Location - Gore Park @ Hamilton, Ontario  
Program - LGBTQ+2S+ Community Hub

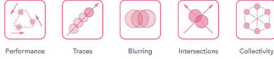
LGBTQ+2S+ people have long used queer spaces to orient themselves in the world and create a sense of belonging in a community. Years of systemic oppression have formed inequities within and outside LGBTQ+2S+ communities that have created barriers to establishing safe, visible, and consistent spatial footholds within urban fabrics. This has resulted in an ongoing cycle of disorientation and placelessness that restricts spatial agency for queer people, which deepens existing disparities and ultimately disrupts the continuity, creation, and circulation of narratives, relationships, and resources between queer people.

This thesis project draws from my own experience growing up as a young queer person in Hamilton, Ontario, where I felt lost in a world that seemed to have no place for someone like me. Although I felt isolated in my queerness, there were actually rich layers of queer cultural and spatial life subtly embedded within the city around me. However, despite a long history of LGBTQ+2S+ people coming together to create community spaces and venues in Hamilton, queer people in the city have never consistently had a place of their own. This thesis argues that an architectural intervention is necessary in Hamilton in the form of a community anchor that provides consistent visibility, resources, and belonging for the city's LGBTQ+2S+ people. The proposed design for this anchor reimagines the Gore block, a block of heritage buildings in downtown Hamilton, as a queer affordable hub that combines affordable supportive housing for vulnerable youth and seniors, a community centre, and event space to support community interaction and intersection, orient queer people who may feel out of place, and support community members who need resources and supports. The project highlights how public architecture and queer space can help queer people resist placelessness and orient themselves in the world, and ultimately imagine new futures in which they can thrive as a part of a community.

### Thesis Questions

How can the architecture of queer space can help queer people resist placelessness and orient themselves in the world, and ultimately imagine new futures in which they can thrive as a part of a community and exercise spatial agency?

### Design Principles



### Estimated 2S/LGBTQ+ population

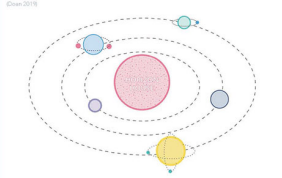


### Sense of Belonging

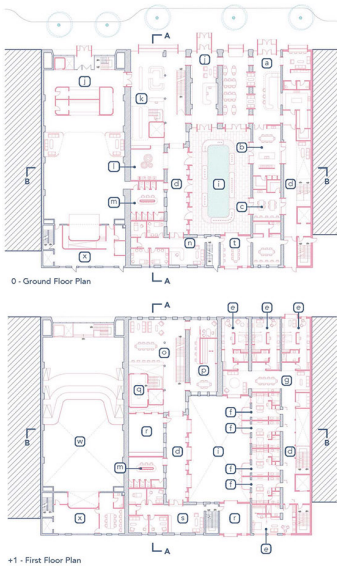
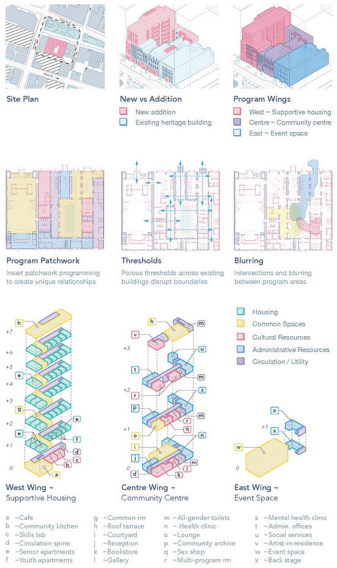
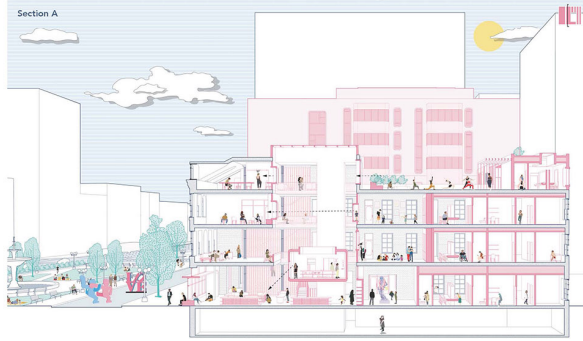
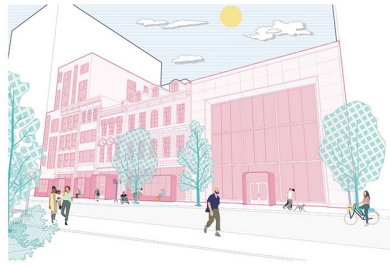
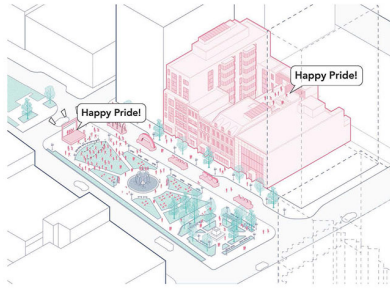


### Community Hub as Anchor / 'Sun'

A 'queer solar system', in which a centering force, or Anchor, acts as a 'sun' that lights, powers, and orients the queer social infrastructure system in the city as it grows, changes, and grows new community spaces (planets).



Referenced  
Dore, Petra L. 2019. "Global Analogies or Planetary Systems?" *City and Community* 16, no. 1: 35-36.  
Mills, Suzanne, Michelle Glick, Quinn Grogan, and Brian O'Brien. 2019. "Mapping the World: Topical and LGBTQ+ Experiences in Hamilton." *McMaster University* in The AIDS Memorial



Adria Maynard



# Rita Wang – Masters Finalist

Rita's submission focuses on diverse communities and social activities in Richmond, British Columbia. Wang used mapping and tracing as lenses to reveal Richmond's diverse layers and living experiences to uncover the landscape, urban form, individual identity, and collective identity layers embedded in the city.

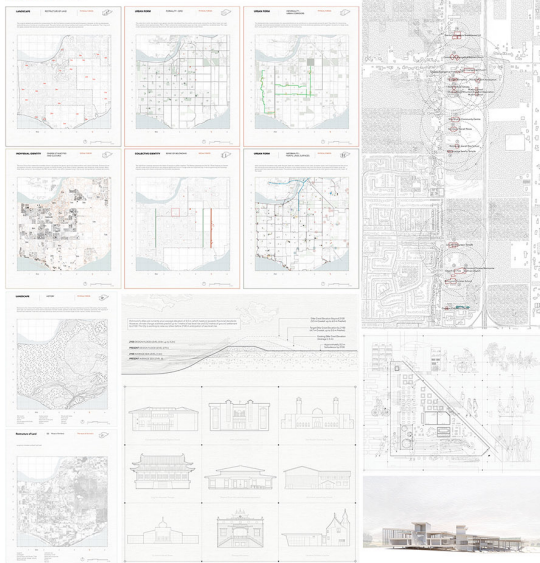
"Having my submission chosen as a finalist is an affirmation of my work and encourages these types of research-design projects," says Wang. Her design uses landscape and architecture as mediators to reconnect the dispersed landscape and identity in Richmond and construct new narratives to respond to the current identity and spirit of the people and the land.

"Multiple forces exist in modern cities," explains Rita. "These forces make cities decentralized and scattered, causing social-political disconnection such as rural-urban separation and a shift in people's identities."

Her work constructs a new narrative that imposes the essence of the old, brings back the nature of the land, and acknowledges the diverse and inclusive collectives. "I'm very grateful to be chosen as a finalist," says Rita. "It's an honor to have my work recognized along with all the other great works featured."



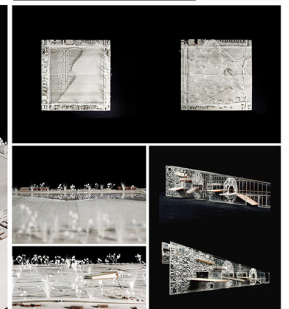
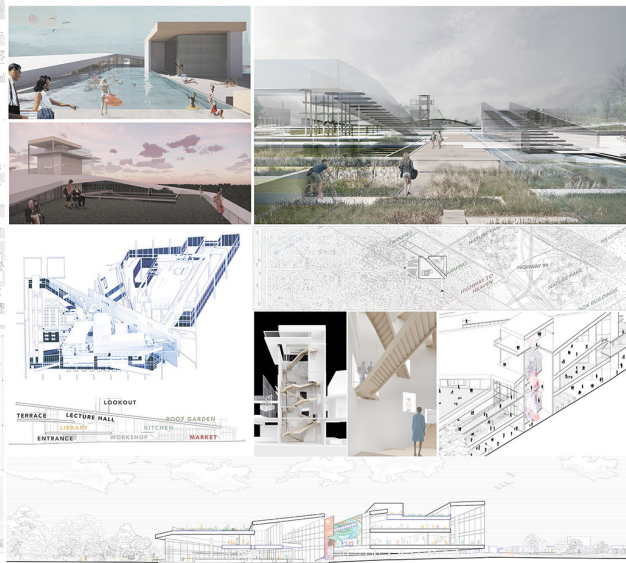
**Constructing New Narratives to Reveal Diverse Identities in Richmond, BC**  
With the rapid expansion of urban areas today, different physical and social forces meet, collaborate and challenge each other on the land we call home. In Richmond, British Columbia, Canada, where multi-ideologies and diverse ethnicities live, work, play and grow together, different layers of physical and social landscape encapsulate the dispersion of people and land, shifting identity through time. Using mapping and making as lenses to reveal the city's diverse layers and living experiences, this thesis aims to discover the landscape, urban form, individual identity, and collective identity layers embedded in the city's formality and provide architectural interventions



to respond to the disconnection between them. The design proposal implements landscape in architecture as a mediator to reconnect the dispersed landscape and identity in Richmond and construct new narratives to respond to the current identity and spirit of the people and the land. Multiple forces exist and collaborate in modern cities. These forces make cities deconstructed and

problems such as rural-urban separation and a shift in people's identities. The land's topography and morphology control cities in a structural, formation, bottom-up, and power-led way. In comparison, social forces like identity and collective form the city in a bottom-up, experiential method. They are soft and interventional. Located in a city where multiple forces are visible and reciprocal, diverse forces complicate the city when the connections between each layer

this thesis develop a method to activate the city. It constructs a new narrative that imposes the essence of the old, brings back the nature of the land, and acknowledges the diverse and inclusive collectives. By applying interventional structures, the design cultivates an urban landscape and architecture to enhance the collective memory, creating placeness in urban and rural areas. It also acts as a lens to extend the definition of community.



Rita Wang



# Rojina Yamin – Masters Finalist

**Rojina's** submission explores the cultural landscape of Bay de Varde, a small fishing village in Newfoundland, where she reimagines the rural sea town as the future of sustainable living. Her project introduces Rural Synergy, defined as interconnected actions of making, growing, and sharing, as a set of architectural, urban, economic, and cultural principles that build upon the strengths and assets of rural communities. Her proposed design encourages self-sufficiency by using existing resources and community skills to develop new products to tackle food insecurity and well-being.

"Socioeconomic events of the resettlement story, cod moratorium, and boom-bust industries in Newfoundland have disrupted the cultural landscape of outports and the way of life in those communities," explains Yamin. "This has caused social and cultural distress by ending a set of traditions that have endured for generations." Her proposed holistic rural revitalization scheme preserves cultural practices and mobilizes new frameworks of economic and social development, which incorporate microscale programs of workshops, hydroponics, and co-op markets.

"Architecture is about creating a sense of place and belongingness," she says. "This acknowledgment supports and reflects my passion for creating meaningful spaces that speak to the identity of the place and its people - I am truly honoured to be recognized."





**RURAL SYNERGY: RECONNECTING BAY DE VERDE'S CULTURAL LANDSCAPE**  
ROJINA YAMIN

This project explores the cultural landscape of a small fishing town in Newfoundland, named Bay de Verbe whose character has been largely shaped by the sea.

Socioeconomic events of the resettlement story, cod moratorium, and boom-bust industries disrupted the cultural landscape of outposts and its community's way of life, causing social and cultural distress. By ending a set of traditions that had endured for generations.

Developing a multitude of sectors, including education, ownership, and innovation ensures a diversified and more resilient framework for rural growth, using the concept of Rural Synergy, which this project defines as interconnected actions of making, growing, and sharing.

A holistic rural revitalization scheme is proposed which preserves cultural practices and mobilizes new frameworks of economic and social development, incorporating micro-scale programs of workshops, hydroponics, and on-gro market. Ultimately, broader potencies about rural-urban organizations are engaged while acknowledging the deep imprints of rural economies in a cultural landscape like Newfoundland.

**The Store**  
RURAL SYNERGY

**The Store**  
RURAL SYNERGY

**The Shop**  
RURAL SYNERGY

**The Shop**  
RURAL SYNERGY



**The Fish**  
RURAL SYNERGY

**The Fish**  
RURAL SYNERGY

**Community Center**  
RURAL SYNERGY

**Community Center**  
RURAL SYNERGY

Rojina Yamin





# Lizzie Krnjevic – Undergraduate Finalist

**Lizzie's** Ways of Water Complex submission intends to reconnect the Wanderers Grounds, a sporting complex in Halifax, Nova Scotia, with city life by creating new landscape paths on Bell Road and Sackville Street. Her design consists of a community kitchen, gathering spaces, and lawn bowling areas arranged in a peaceful procession that mimics the natural flow of the landscape.

"I designed this multi-functional complex around the concepts of 'garden' and 'cultivation'," says Krnjevic. "My goal was to evoke an ethereal feeling which I accomplished through the use of solid forms that rest upon each other - the voids created by these forms allow light to play throughout the space and dance on the water beneath." Throughout the design process, Krnjevic used transparency to analyze the varying opacities of organic structures, including climbing vines obstructing light through trellises, trees with solid cores and delicate branches, and hydroponic floating gardens. These forms, with their opaque, translucent, and fully transparent components inspired her design process.

This project sparked Krnjevic's interest in community design and systems integration and has opened pathways for her to explore sustainable design solutions and advocate for social responsibility within her work. "This acknowledgment validates my creative vision, technical skills, and passion for creating spaces that harmonize functionality and aesthetics," she says.

"To be selected as a finalist is an incredible honour."



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