

# Shtot Magazine

by Studio Shtot

issue #3

September, 2024





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Issue # 3  
Fall, 2024

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# How was our summer?

The Studio Shtot staff share what we've been up to lately.

## Victoria Zhang

Creator - Seattle (Sammamish), Washington

Soon, they'll be taller than me.



### What is this?

Flower fields and blueberry farms.

### Where is this?

Washington, of course.

### Categories:

Local, Culture



Do you pick the berries or do the berries pick you?

Because of media, Seattle often gets characterized as a gloomy and constantly rainy city. However, a Seattle summer (or more broadly, a Washington summer) is a time of hazy and lazy temperatures - perfect for activities that are the epitome of summer. Flower picking, lavender fields, blueberry farms and lake days - I'd say it doesn't get more summery than that

## Raphael Gutteridge

Designer - Toronto, ON



Dinnertime!

### What is this?

Dinner at the Grand Central Oyster Bar

### Where is this?

New York City

### Categories:

North America, Culture, Style

The Oyster Bar is an icon of New York, situated in another of its icons - Grand Central Terminal. For over one hundred years diners have enjoyed fine dining and seafood while waiting for trains or working in Midtown Manhattan. Its status has captured the minds of travelers and businessmen alike as they hurry about their lives.

# Alex Forsyth

Musician - Toronto, ON

Staired up

Nin gunas fotos para ti

Splish Splash

## What is this?

Night swimming

## Where is this?

Toronto

## Categories:

Local, Art, Culture

Hot swety nights, when you  
need a remedy, what else is  
a girl to do? If your heart tells  
you to swim, you must swim.  
Pez que no nada, se vuelve  
pescado.

# Katherine Desourdie

Artist - Brantford, ON

A moment of solitude

A calm distance

## What is this?

Kayaking at sunset

## Where is this?

Callander Bay, Ontario

## Categories:

North America, Culture

When all you hear day in and day  
out is sirens and screaming and all  
you see is traffic and large crowds,  
escaping to a body of water where  
the only noise is the dripping of  
water from your paddle and the only  
sights are the tip of your kayak and  
the setting sun stretched out before  
you, you become another version of  
yourself; a piece of you that cannot  
be vulnerable in the city is revealed  
here. It is a special moment to  
connect with this deeper self and a  
gentle reminder to live at a slower  
pace than that of the city.



# Henry Lewis

Currently: Traveler - Natick, MA



Castello di Breno has overlooked the city of Breno since the year 1000 AD.



Of the cities I visited in Italy, Breno was the most pleasant surprise. This is the view from the castle above



The day we arrived coincided with a celebration in the town center for the Assumption of Mary. The entire city packed into one square and a local band played cover songs that everyone sang along to while the children danced and blew bubbles.



Breno lights up at night, turning the ancient alleyways lively and sparkling.



There's some regions of the world where you simply can't go wrong. Every little town, especially the ones you haven't heard of before, has something special to offer. Northern Italy, between the Dolomites and Lake Como is one of those regions. My family picked Breno at random as a stopping point between two tourist hubs and couldn't be more happy with the result.

## What is this?

Traveling through Italy with my family

## Where is this?

Breno (city slogan: we love Breno)

## Categories:

Another Continent, Culture

ARE YOU READY FOR SUMMER TO BE OVER?



# An Optimistic Entry Written by a Reformed Pessimist

Katherine J. Desourdie

As an artist, my biggest challenge is creating art.

Most creative ideas have a shelf life. Sometimes the pressure to create something that lives up to the perfect expectations in my own head is so overwhelming that I fail to even take the first step. This means that sometimes I fail before trying to succeed.

I found myself in a creative slump this summer. Anita, a friend and valued member of our team, suggested I start transferring my thoughts onto



pillow in winter'. The rain had stopped being an inconvenience and had instead become the foundation of a refreshing solitary moment on the side streets of Kensington Market.

I decided to relish this new-found optimism and jump into a creative project before giving myself a moment to reconsider. I walked south from my studio to the thrift store where I grabbed the first item that caught my eye. It was an old mounted telephone with large number buttons that I



There is this expression that goes something like, 'burn the good candle' or 'drink the expensive wine'. I believe this rings true when speaking of art and its development, or lack thereof. I find that I constantly restrain myself from attempting the 'good ideas' first due to fear or the hope that I can gain greater skills to make it better later. I have worked in many ways, some unknowingly, to improve my outlook on the human experience and open my mind to a boundless creative world. Starting small is still starting.



onto paper. What started as pages of meaningless observations soon developed into conceptual ideas and simple notations of pleasant sensations that I wanted to remember. Maybe my inner monologue was becoming more profound, or maybe my perspective was shifting slightly with each passing day, and I was growing optimistic. Eventually, my mind had fully shifted from thinking, 'It's so hot and now it's started to rain on me. I should have stayed inside', to writing 'The kiss of rain on my neck as cool as a



found amusing and intriguing. Once back in my studio space, I began to take apart the old telephone and put it back together as a hollow shell. Old life births anew, and this telephone carcass needed life.

The goal for that quick and creative exercise is the same for this entry: to use my hands before my head; to create with feeling instead of thinking; to have something in front of me that isn't just an empty desk surface.



Completing a project that could be improved upon is still completing a project. The passion for creation is energy that imprints on my home, my work, and the streets I walk along. This energy is carried with me in every step I take and shines through in each conversation I have; it is what brings hope to my city and colour to my life.


As an artist, my greatest achievement is creating art.





For this project, I intended on following the first idea that popped in my head. This implies I would have multiple ideas, numerous visions of how I could reimagine this old telephone beyond its intended use. Visualizing the components of this object and creating a new purpose beyond making phone calls, thereby giving it a second life, is something to be celebrated. Regardless of the idea's quality, whether 'good' or 'bad,' the effort to create a second life will always be worthy of recognition.





# Observations

**Anita Lasek**  
@anisiu

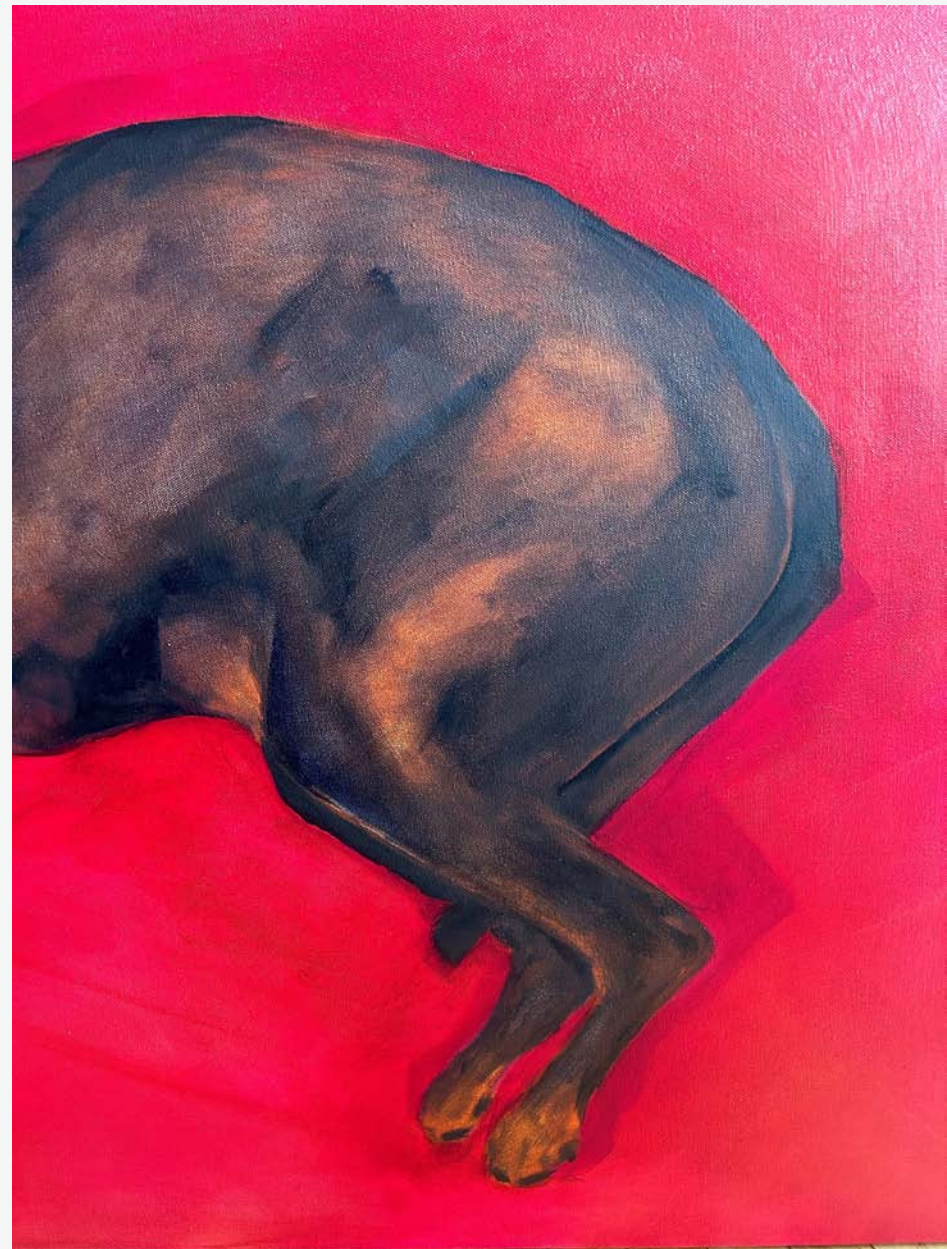
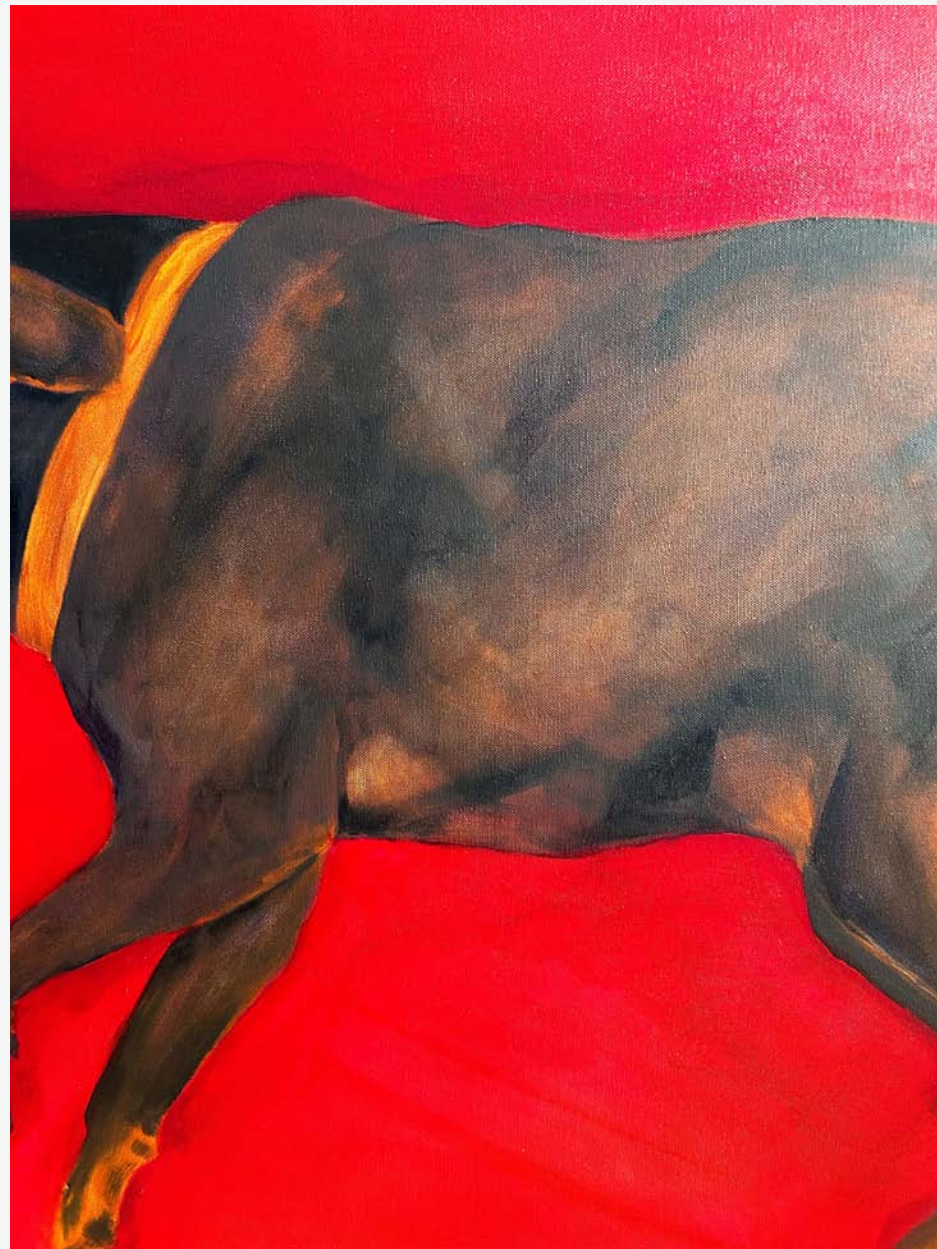
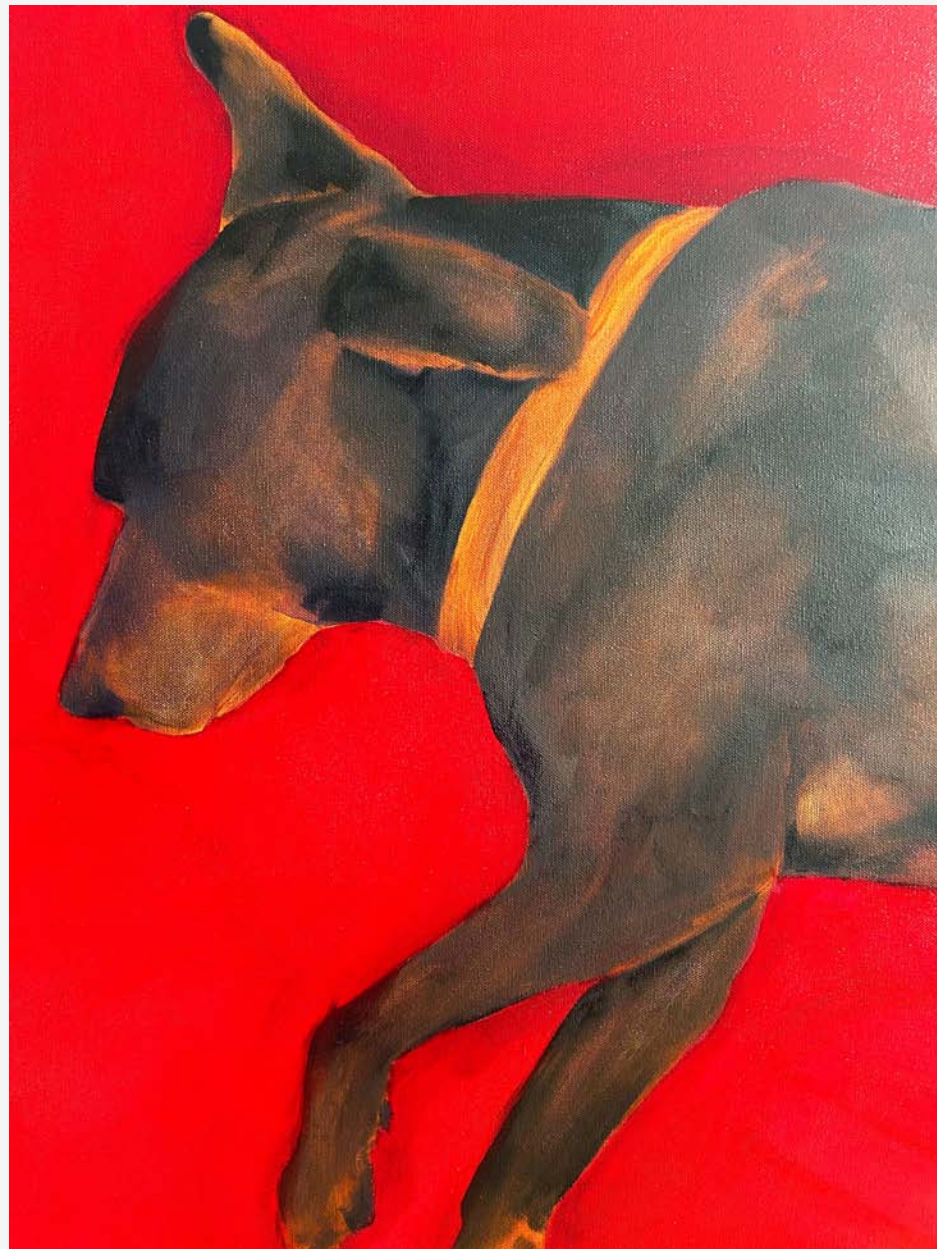
The monotonous tone of the city has begun to pick away at me, pushing me searching for more. My apartment is painted white, my clothes are black, and the sky comes in shades of light or dark gray. The city has become a place to me where interiors, outfits, and landscapes have become all too predictable. There was once a time in my life when I begged my parents to paint my room white. I decorated my room with charcoal drawings in white frames, my colourful bedding was removed and changed to white. Growing up, I took away my colourful, turquoise room and turned it into the boring, exhausted state I find myself running from today.

My continuous love of observational study and drawing from life allowed me to experience the delight in subtle nuanced colour found in the shadows and reflections of my subjects. The more time I spent drawing and looking, the more variety of colour was revealed to me in seemingly monotonous objects. Taking more time to look at an object meant understanding it more and appreciating it. Kind of like the time when I baked bread with my third grade class in elementary school, an experience that shifted the way I appreciate bread. Appreciating and understanding anything takes sacrificed time. Revealed to me were the colours one could only see if they dedicated enough of their time to it. This process became entrancing and addictive.

Like a form of rebellion against the banal, I fought back by exaggerating the intensity of the colours appearing in my work. During my thesis year, I used phthalo turquoise and Prussian blue paints straight from the tube. My works became these dark blue canvases from afar. Much like the experience of observational study, the paintings revealed themselves more as you spent more time with them.

Moving forward to my current body of work under progress, the appeal of saturated colours with hidden details still resonates with me. In my studio, I've been a fan of quinacridone magenta, it's a transparent pigment that allows me to layer beautifully, creating interesting effects for shadows within my compositions. I enjoy being able to use colour fearlessly. I really can't stand monotony anymore.





*Black Dog (detail pictures), work in process, oil on canvas, 2024*





*Looking*  
8 x 8", acrylic on  
wooden panel  
2023



*Mourning Dove*  
6 x 6", oil on canvas  
2023



*Warm*  
18 x 24", oil on canvas  
2022





Oil painting studies from observation.  
Yellow objects in my home.  
Oil on scrap canvas paper  
2021





Current studio project  
Louis and Frankie  
(working title)  
24 x 36" oil on canvas  
2024

I feel more like myself than I have in a while.

# DillyDally

STUDIO  
SHOT



# Summer

# 09.01.24

It's been a long time since I spent a summer in Seattle. Even longer since I had a summer all to myself. A summer completely rid of school, work, job hunting, extra cirruculars, and rigidity. A whole summer all to myself. My mom worried that I might get bored. But in all honesty, I am perfectly content to pass time doing nothing in particular. I think it's one of the biggest joys and privileges in my life at the present moment. My dilly dally summer has been documented in my camera, journal, and this little red notebook I keep with me everywhere. Enjoy.



This is my Little Notebook —  
to be filled with recipes and patterns  
and nonsensical doodles and words

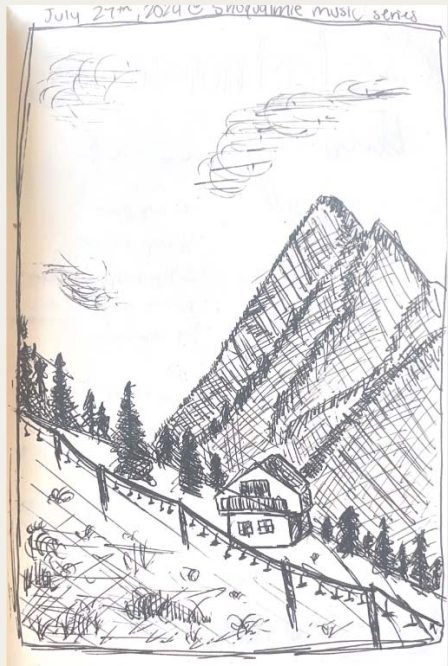
THIS LITTLE NOTEBOOK BELONGS TO:  
Victoria 7 425-908-5187 ♡ MAMAM!



Trader Joe's says  
it's **Peach Pie**  
Season!  
♥ peaches are in season  
from June-August

ingredients for a peach pie:  
• pie crust (flour, butter, water)  
• peaches  
• some sugar, salt, and spices  
• cornstarch and lemon juice if you wanna  
be fancy (basil or mint to top for peak fanciness!)  
Bake at 400° for an hour!

★ **alternative recipe**  
→ make it into a gallette!  
only requires one layer  
of crust! No pie tin  
needed!



**My 22nd Birthday Cake**  
this year, like the last few years, I want to  
spend my birthday making myself a cake.  
heart shape? yes.

light colors-ish  
flowers  
"yay!"  
+ mint?  
3 tiers? tiers?  
lemon strawberry  
chocolate  
cake  
flavor  
icing  
flavor

- 1) Cake: chocolate (dark), strawberry
- 2) Filling: strawberries (thinly sliced),  
lemon-zest + strawberry butter (cream)
- 3) Icing: strawberry + lemon-zest buttercream
- 4) Toppings: mint? lemon-zest?

**Halter V-NECK TOP** — or maybe it's  
a dress...?  
crochet

Top section:  
2 panels  
→ join here  
last area  
requires 2 sections  
A work in  
ROW of panel  
NOT in the  
round.  
→ can be one piece  
OR taper for a tie?  
Bottom  
→ potential to make into  
a connected dress OR two  
piece set.

If 2 piece: make it a wrap skirt — can  
be low or high-waisted

If dress: consider a drop waist skirt?  
→ different silhouette:  
same but portion  
longer for so  
drop waist  
mini skirt  
A knit may  
be more fitting  
for the dress?  
OR do intense  
rio for brightness

do you think  
the sun gets  
isn't the sun not but  
a star?

Nobody ever compares the sun  
to anything because nothing  
compares. Would you compare  
the moon to the sun? Would you  
compare Earth, Venus, or Mars?  
Or the stars? I think we think  
ourselves all stars and we tend  
to compare ourselves to other stars but now  
I'm thinking I'm an  
entire sun. We are  
all suns in our own  
solar systems. And  
aren't the sun not but  
a star?

I'm the sun.  
And she is too.  
And you are too.  
I ought to start  
thinking about  
it this way.

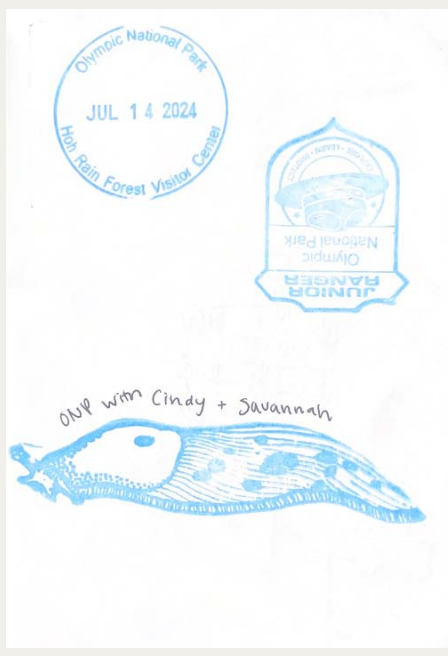
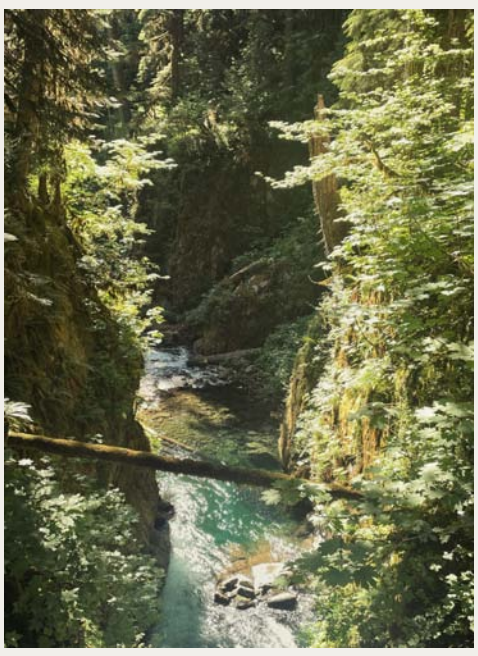


**Joyful Sugar Cookies!** inspiration from Lauren Dozier

Ingredients:  
• Sugar — 1 cup  
• Butter — 1.5 sticks  
• 2 eggs  
• 2.5 cups flour  
• baking powder — 1/2 tsp  
• salt  
• vanilla  
• color!

Steps:  
1) sugar + butter  
room temp  
2) add egg, vanilla  
3) add flour, powder, salt  
4) divide and compare  
color  
5) chill  
6) assemble, bake @ 400  
→ 6 mins... ish?

**Design Ideas:**  
4x4 checkered  
3 colors  
4x 4x  
4x 8x  
3x3 also works  
Fancy-shmancy  
quilt pattern:  
→ 4x4 base or 3x3  
3x3  
4x 4x  
3-4 colors:  
4x 5x  
2x OR 2x  
2x 2x  
4 colors:  
8x 2x  
4x 2x



August 6th, 2024  
Today I had my first fig of the season. There aren't that many on the trees this year but  
my goodness are they sweet. Our neighbor has been away for the entire summer and a  
few branches of their plum tree have overgrown into our yard. Yesterday, mama noticed  
that the tree was ripe with fruits. So we sneakily took a few that had stretched across to  
our side of the fence. It felt like such a joyful secret between us. What a sweet harvest.



An aerial photograph of a city grid, likely Toronto, with a white boundary line and a dotted line. The text "The project that could have changed everything about Toronto." is overlaid on the left side.

The project that could have changed  
everything about Toronto.

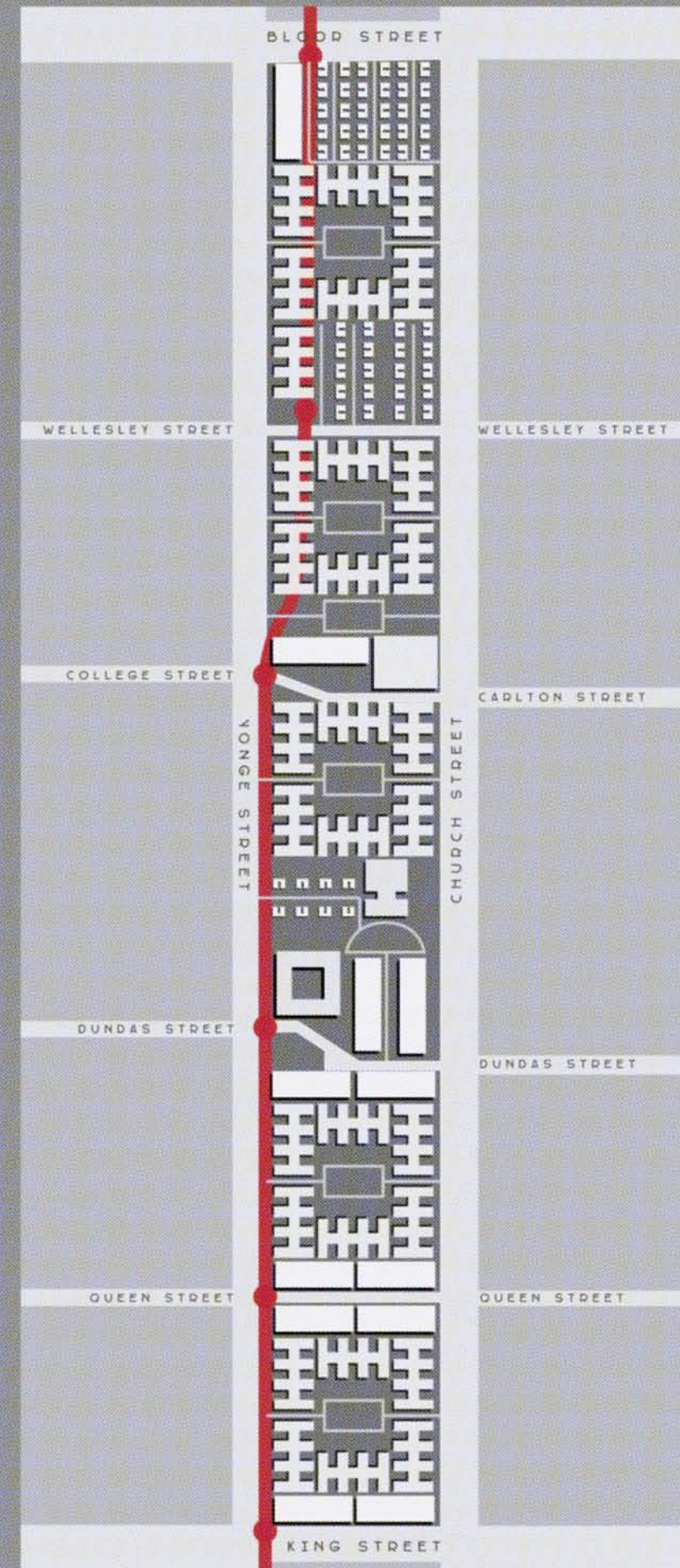
Raphael Gutteridge

Site "A" Boundary

# THE STORY OF SITE A



# PLAN FOR THE RENEWAL OF DOWNTOWN



In the spring of 1954, "opportunity" was the word of choice at the newly created Metro Council. The Government of Metropolitan Toronto, referred to by locals as "Metro", had just observed the opening of Canada's first subway line, running from the city's downtown core to the beginning of its suburbs. Along its route in downtown, overcrowded and rundown neighborhoods were reaching a breaking point of slum conditions. Six years before, prior to the creation of Metro, construction on the downtown neighborhood of Regent's Park was started in an attempt to solve the problem. Now, with the subway in operation and major freeway plans in delivery, Toronto could plan to create urban renewal projects on a truly magnificent scale.

Inspired by the start of subway construction and the 1949 passage of the Taft-Ellender-Wagner Act in the United States (which galvanized modernist urban renewal programs in that country) the Old City of Toronto established the Major Urban Works Design Office. Now brought under the auspices of Metro, the Office presented a major opportunity for the city to redesign more than just handfuls of blocks at once.

At the time the Office was transferred to Metro, it had already finished one plan for downtown urban renewal. Its collection of superblocs and mid-rise apartment buildings are reminiscent of Regent's Park, except on a larger scale. While this 1949 plan appears to have been fully conceptualized, the only surviving visualization is an area plan of the site (figure 1). The area is bounded by Bloor and King Streets to the north and south, and Yonge and Church Streets to the east and west. Sites like Maple Leaf Gardens and the predecessor to Toronto Metropolitan University would have been preserved, while dozens of blocks would have been bulldozed to make room for modern apartments and offices. Ultimately, this plan was cancelled due to the influence of the suburban

municipalities, who wanted their own projects.

Throughout the next decade, the design office produced no actual designs, instead conducting a number of site surveys for megaprojects across Metro. Committees at Queen's Park and Metro Hall became mired in acrimonious debates over which parts of the city would receive investment. After 1949, the next closest that the Office got to a fully designed project was in 1969, when five sites were selected for development (figure 2). Five megaprojects would be constructed alongside a dense network of superhighways and high speed rapid transit lines. These sites were at Exhibition Place, a portion of the east side of downtown that had been part of the 1949 plan, Downsview Park airport, Scarborough's Golden Mile, and an area that now includes Kipling Station on line 2.

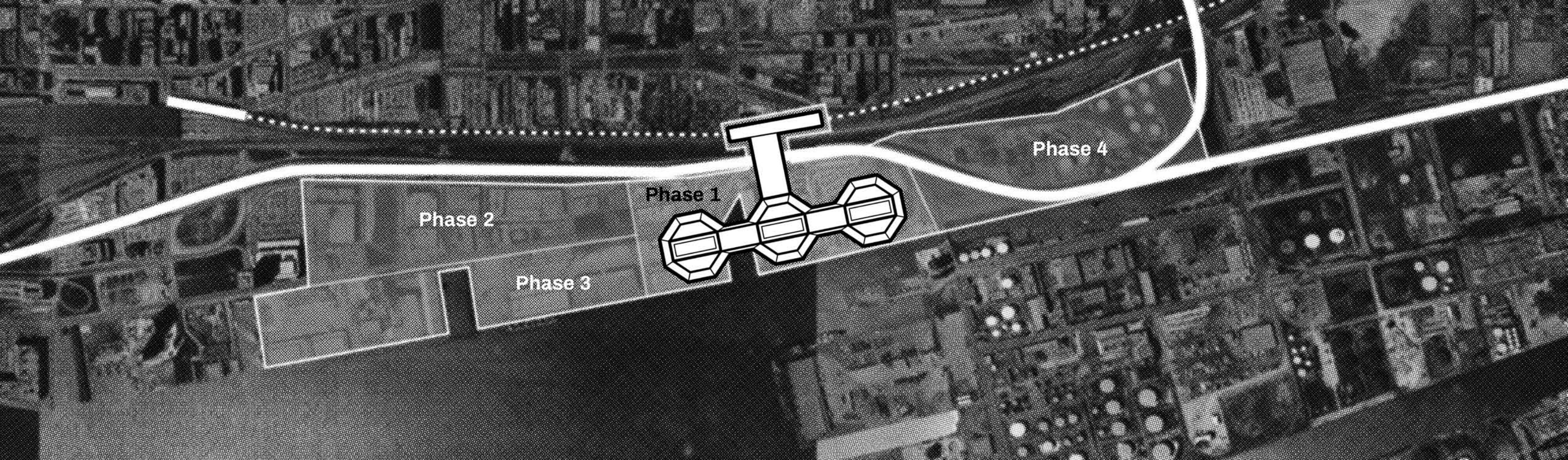
Though the sites had been selected, there was no clear plan of what to put on them. During the extensive debates, politicians at the City, Metro, and Provincial levels floated increasingly optimistic ideas. Downsview Airport, at various times, was suggested to become a relief airport for Malton (now Pearson) or a community of fly-in condo towers that would have blended in with The Jetsons. Local politicians often attempted to commandeer resources for major projects in their own districts, relegating other sites to more basic plans.

Previously unnoticed by a broad swath of the public, unfavorable attention put the Office in the spotlight in the late Sixties. After the two major Canadian railways proposed a megaproject for the railway lands downtown, the public wondered why Metro had been unable to come up with any comparable plans. Quickly, the bitter site selection process was made public, embarrassing the government for its dysfunction. Only a few years before, the city had been roiled by the choice between Queen and









Bloor Streets for the second subway line. With a second, similar controversy now public, and a fight brewing over the Spadina Expressway, Metro decided to bury the embarrassment and completely overhauled the Office. In 1970, its budget was slashed, leadership replaced, and ordered back to the drawing board.

While it was a source of shame for Metro, the railway lands development proved a strong interest in focusing once again on downtown urban renewal. Served by the Gardiner and Don Valley Expressways, the industrial lands along the waterfront were considered ideal sites for "activation". A series of master plans developed by Metro and the Province spurned a renewed interest in the goals of the Office. Old staff was largely replaced by young, idealistic architects who had been energized by progressive movements like opposition to the war in Vietnam, and they were enthusiastic to complete the Office's now twenty-year-old goals.

After the 1971 cancellation of the Spadina Expressway by Premier Bill Davis, Queen's Park put out a plan for transit in Metro called "GO-URBAN" which would bring maglev trains to most corners of the city, with one route following the rail corridor into Union Station from the east. With private corporations developing the west side of downtown, the Office was given an area on the east side to plan. It was located at the mouth of the Don River in industrial lands along the waterfront and split into pieces by the Gardiner and DVP Expressways.

The Major Urban Works Design Office, now working with a site that was free from controversy, set to work on an intricate plan to build a series of massive apartment towers along the waterfront, connected by super-podiums that would house shopping, civic, and business facilities. It would be fully integrated to the planned rapid transit line, which was to run along the northern edge of the site.

In order to break down the site into more manageable parcels, the Office planned to subdivide it into three phases (figure 3). Sites "A" and "B" would contain the planned residential and office megastructures, while Site "C" would house a massive industrial park, providing accessible employment to the residents of the megastructure. Reports produced by the office describe this project as being the first step towards Toronto becoming a "utopian" city.

In 1973, the Office completed its initial plans. They were submitted to the Metro and Provincial governments for review, however, they were immediately shelved. With the Provincial Government not beginning construction on their transit plan until later in the decade, it was decided to hold off on construction of the megaproject until it could be served by rapid transit. After the cancellation of GO-URBAN in 1974, and a worsening economic situation, it was decided to scale down the Office's project

on the waterfront to exclusively Site "A" and delay construction for several more years.

Throughout 1975, the Major Urban Works Design Office advocated for the remaining components of their project at meetings with Metro and Provincial officials, who grew increasingly skeptical of its need. Their utopian ideals failed to land as unemployment and stagflation worsened, stalling development in Toronto's urban centre. The scope of the project was scaled back further, with Site "A" being divided into phases, and the Office being asked to only design for the first phase of development. This first phase, if it were to ever be built, would only be started after the completion of the proposed rapid transit line, which had no plans for completion at the time.

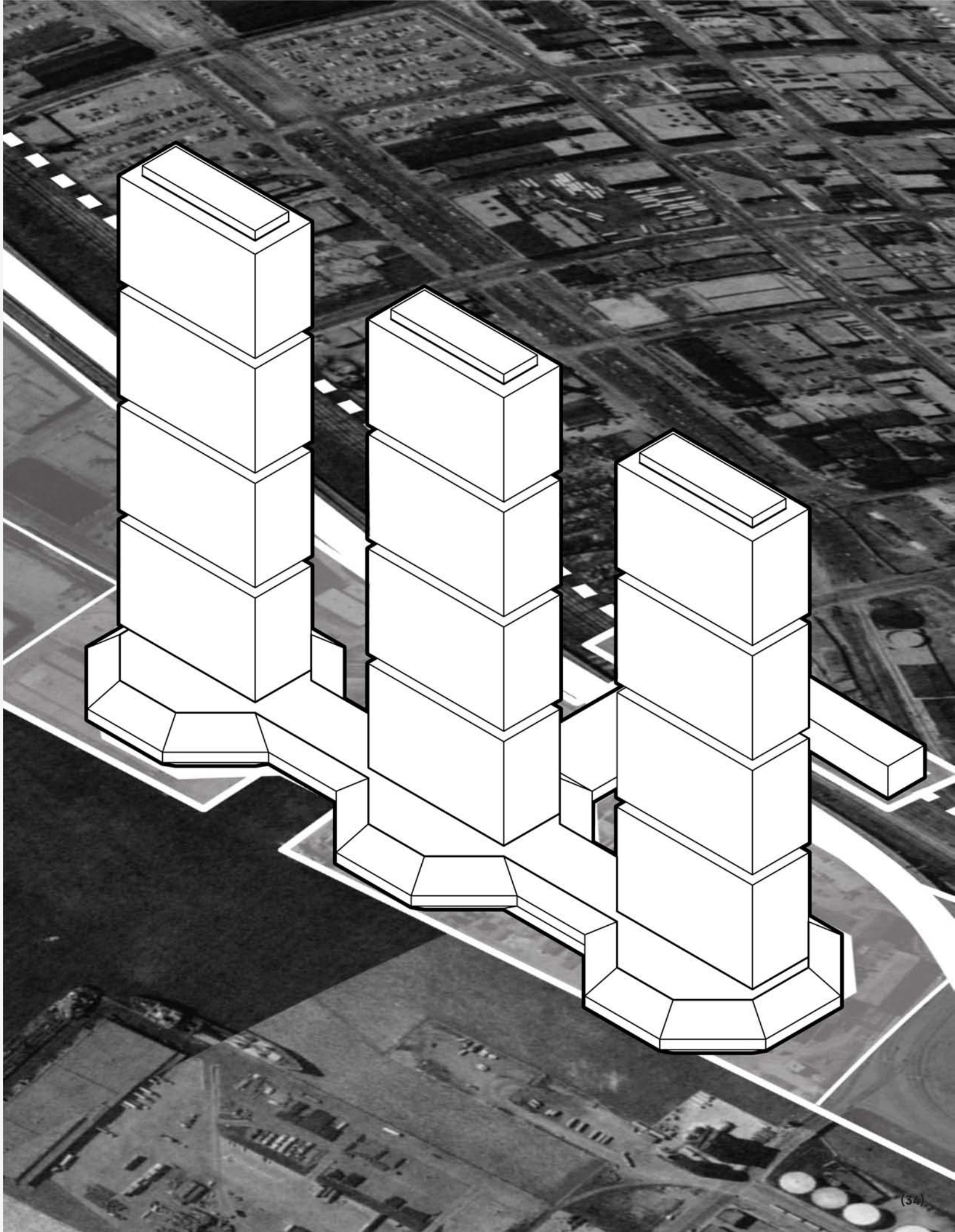
The architects in the Office completed a rough draft of a design for the first phase of development later that fall (figure 4, figure 5). Three towers would rise from interconnected octagonal



podiums, the middle podium being connected by sky bridge to the planned transit line. Maintaining their utopian vision for the future, these podiums would include a range of programming, including accessible employment and recreation centres for multiple socio-economic classes. If the remaining phases of the project were built, this first structure would serve as a branching off point for new additions to the megastructure of the podium.

Ultimately, in the face of worsening economic conditions, political manoeuvring, and shifting transit priorities, the Major Urban Works Design Office's project was officially cancelled and the office shut down. Most of the Office's work and records were destroyed in the 1980s to make room in Metro storage facilities leaving their existence a nearly forgotten part of Toronto history.

The history of the Major Urban Works Design Office, often considered a failure by those who are aware of it, is a series of unfulfilled dreams for the future of Toronto. Throughout the two and a half decades of its existence it maintained a utopian spirit in its visions. People of all kinds were to live in modern apartments, use public transit, and exist in social harmony. Though the precise vision of "utopia" would shift, its energy persisted until the last day the Office existed. Toronto is a city that sometimes feels quite dystopian and that the people responsible for its planning are resigned to that state. However, the memory of the Major Urban Works Design Office serves as inspiration to continue working to make Toronto a better place.





# Studio Shtot

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