

NOVÆ RES URBIS TORONTO

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A TESTAMENT**

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■ COUNCIL ON TALL BUILDINGS AND URBAN HABITAT ESTABLISHES FIRST CANADIAN OFFICE AT TMU

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS

Matt Durnan

The world's leading non-profit organization for research and best design practices on vertical growth in cities, specifically when it comes to tall buildings, has established a new office in Toronto that will serve as a valuable resource not only for architecture students, but for practicing architects and city planners as well.

On July 15, the **Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat** (CTBUH) established its first Canadian office at **Toronto Metropolitan University's** (TMU) department of architectural science. The Chicago-based organization, which also has international offices in Shanghai, China and in Venice, Italy, said the move to set up a permanent home in Toronto was almost a no-brainer, given the rate at which tall buildings are being developed in the city.

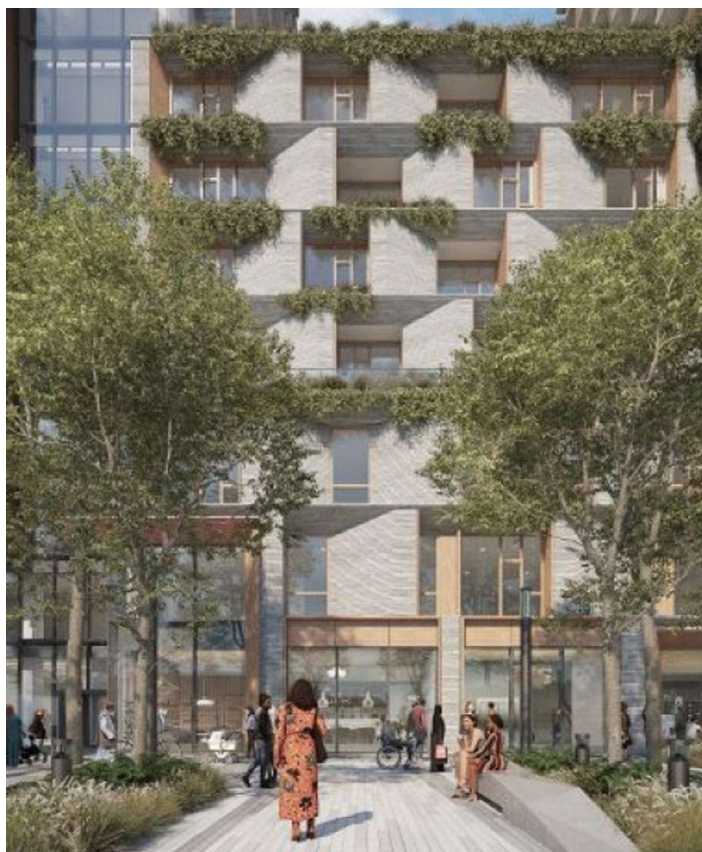
"What brought us to Toronto was the huge volume of construction that is going on—

not just in the city, but across the country right now," CTBUH associate director **Isaac Work**

told *NRU*.

"This kind of growth in tall buildings, this explosion that we've seen over the last 15 or so years here is unprecedented. We saw an opportunity for us to be more plugged in with the community of designers here, and we also wanted to partner with a university that was local to the area. So, we've partnered with TMU and have set up an

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Rendering showing a view of Infrastructure Ontario's proposed Lawrence East Transit-Oriented Community for 3091 Lawrence Avenue East in Toronto. The project is among 118 international projects (including seven projects from Toronto) that will be recognized at the Council of Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat's 2025 international conference in Toronto in October. The Lawrence East project will be recognized with a Future Project 2025 Award of Excellence.

PLANNER: ARCADIS
ARCHITECT: WESTON WILLIAMSON + PARTNERS
SOURCE: COUNCIL ON TALL BUILDINGS AND URBAN HABITAT

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS

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office at their department of architectural science so that we can co-fund and co-conduct research projects that they're working on, with a focus on tall building technologies and contexts."

The CTBUH has been in existence since 1969, when it was founded as an industry association for people who were working on tall buildings in any capacity—mainly engineers and architects in the early days.

The organization was originally based out of **Lehigh University** in Pennsylvania, before moving to Chicago in the early 2000s.

"Over the years, the council was hosting international events, but they were quite small in focus and mainly focused on structural and civil engineers and architectural designers," said Work.

"We moved to Chicago in 2006, and that's when things really started to take off. We started bringing more professions into the fold—more academics, more

urban planners, owners and developers of buildings, and through that association of professionals, we were able to convene topical committees and advisory groups and technical assemblies to then produce data, studies, research reports, publications, and that sort of thing."

The council has chapters across the globe, including here in Toronto, but the move to establish a permanent office here in Canada is indicative of the level of high-rise development that Toronto and other Canadian cities are seeing. Indeed, the CTBUH has had its eye on Toronto for some time, having a high degree of interest in contributing to the local conversations around how the city takes shape.

"Before formalizing the relationship, their Toronto chapter had hosted a few events at our school that our students were welcome to attend. This new step helps both formalize and strengthen that relationship," Toronto

Metropolitan University Department of Architectural Science Associate Professor and Associate Chair **Carlo Parente** told *NRU*.

Parente was also involved with the Toronto chapter of the Council, and notes that the formalizing of the relationship between the organization and TMU represents a tremendous opportunity for students to benefit from the research that the CTBUH is doing, and will be an invaluable resource to future architects.

"We're right in the heart of the city and we're the fastest-growing city in North America in terms of both population growth and tall buildings," Parente said.

"As an architectural science program engaged with architecture, project management, and building science, the Council is addressing issues we should also be engaging with at the city level. I think we stand to benefit not only from the research they're already doing, but also from actively

contributing to that work."

Toronto Metropolitan University department of architectural science professor and chair **Lisa Landrum** echoed Parente's comments, touting the value of having CTBUH as a permanent fixture within the university.

"Having them here is a huge asset for our department and the institution, more broadly. It puts our students and researchers directly in touch with what is really the preeminent organization conducting research on tall buildings, globally," Landrum told *NRU*.

"This puts TMU in the midst of those conversations—and visionary conversations to make growth sustainable and for everyone. Toronto is the fastest-growing city, in the tall building context, in North America, and we're projected to be outpacing China in a few years."

While the Council will be making its home at TMU offering tremendous value as a

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- Carlo Parente



The Town of Orangeville
invites applications for the full-time position of
Planner, Development and Community Improvement

The Town of Orangeville is seeking a Development and Community Improvement Planner. Reporting to the Manager of Planning, this position processes a range of planning and development applications, contributes to planning policy and regulatory reviews, and co-ordinates the Town's Community Improvement Plan (CIP) programs. The successful candidate will have:

- A University Degree in Planning, Public Administration, or related discipline.
- A minimum three (3) years of experience related to planning application submissions and/or approvals, preferably in a municipal environment.
- Previous experience with community improvement programs or similar economic development initiatives.
- Membership with the Ontario Professional Planners Institute and Canadian Institute of Planners (MCIP) and Registered Professional Planner (RPP) designation would be an asset.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit their resumes in confidence, addressed to Human Resources, no later than 4 p.m. on **Friday, August 1, 2025**.

For more information, view the full posting at: <https://www.orangeville.ca/en/town-hall/job-opportunities.aspx>

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS

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resource for TMU architectural science students, CTBUH will also be a great resource for the **City of Toronto's** planning and building design departments.

City of Toronto urban design program manager **James Parakh** is a participating member of the Council's Toronto chapter and has taken part in numerous events hosted by the CTBUH, which has included lectures and tours of buildings and construction sites.

"The CTBUH holds Toronto in high regard for our approach to tall building urbanism, and it's one of the reasons why they're coming to Toronto," Parakh told *NRU*.

"More importantly, the theme for this year's [upcoming] international conference [in Toronto] is 'Tall Buildings from the Ground Up: Tall Buildings and City Building'. Some people tend to think of tall buildings as an icon, but we as a staff are always interested in how tall buildings relate to the street,

how they work with each other to create and frame great streets, and how they contribute to the quality of life in our city."

Toronto has already been doing some great work when it comes to planning and designing tall buildings and how they interact with the streetscape. The CTBUH conference on October 6 to 9 will offer a significant opportunity for Toronto to showcase itself while informing and learning from conference attendees from other large and fast-growing cities and their own urban design principles.

"Our focus at this year's conference is that ground plane and what is the pedestrian experience when we build these massive 50 and 60-storey buildings. How does that change the landscape at the ground level? And what are we doing as designers and planners to mitigate some of the common criticisms of tall buildings in cities in that they can be isolating or take

away from the pedestrian experience?" Work said.

"I think Toronto is a good focus for that and a good host city for this because of things like the PATH system and being able to animate spaces underneath some of the larger complexes in downtown Toronto. The city also has a robust and successful POPS [privately-owned publicly-accessible space] program with over 100 POPS around the city. That's another great tool to explore for these up-and-coming metropolises that will be represented at the conference in Toronto. So, the theme this year is taking it down a level, not focusing on the vanity of the upper echelons of height, but: how

does it begin? And what is the foundation?" 🌱

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- Isaac Work

High-density midrise boutique condominium for mixed use at 270 Sheppard Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario



BDO Canada Limited, in its capacity as Court-appointed Receiver, is inviting offers for the purchase of the project and lands located at the above address.

PROPERTY ATTRIBUTES:

- Close proximity to the Sheppard-Yonge subway station, retail services and Highway 401
- Site area of approx. 0.965 acres
- ZBA approved zoning to permit the construction of a 9-story mid-rise with up to 179 units
- GFA of 160,361 sq. ft., including approximately 151,741 sq. ft. for residential and the balance for commercial

The property is offered for sale under a court-approved sale process to be implemented by the Receiver.

DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF OFFERS IS 5PM EST ON AUGUST 26, 2025.

For additional information visit <https://www.bdo.ca/services/financial-advisory-services/business-restructuring-turnaround-services/current-engagements/p-h-development>

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