

The green roofs and the rainwater toilet flushing are just another paradigm shift we have to go through to get to sustainability. We equate it to the situation 20 years ago, when we would put wild grasses on boulevards, and the public would call the parks department to ask why they weren't taking care of the boulevards and mowing them. Attitudes change, but it takes time. Hopefully the paradigm shift will happen here too.

Peter Kreuk, Principal, Durante Kreuk Landscape Architects

This development shows us there is an alternative to densifying the city that doesn't involve slim tall buildings and streets that are always 66 feet wide. More important is livability. I think the people of Vancouver need to see and experience a neighbourhood with narrow streets, more like Europe. This project will help us visualize spaces that we could densify in Kits, in Kerrisdale. Tower and podium is a model for downtown. This is an urban design model for other areas of the city.

James Cheng, Principal, James KM Cheng Architects



We need to look at buildings as parts of a larger system. Interconnectedness, collective efficiency and performance-based design are all values already present in nature. This [Net Zero] building should be considered as a small step towards better built environments for people, and a more responsible link to natural systems. More than a stepping-stone to something, this project can be considered as a serious revision of how buildings are currently being designed versus how buildings used to be designed before we went off track and started depending on cheap fuel and sophisticated technology. The new paradigm is re-understanding that design is still at the core of great buildings.

Esteban Undurraga, former Partner, Recollective Consulting



It was a bit daunting at first. We would go to these meetings, and people had different perspectives, sometimes a bit at odds. For some City staff who had been so focused on sustainability, it was a real eye-opener for them to think about the various aspects of marketing. And from our team's perspective, it was really interesting listening to the passion of these folks. At the end, everyone was open-minded, everyone listened, everyone embraced everyone else's ideas and a lot of people learned from each other. And now when we talk, everyone speaks a common language. That's a legacy of this project.

Shahram Malek, Principal, Millennium Development Corporation

What it did is challenge us as a group and as individuals to come up with better ideas to enhance performance, with longevity in mind, and as close to zero maintenance as you can possibly provide. We were trying to live creatively in what can be done. If we're not being creative, we're not going to meet the challenges we face.

Doug Dalzell, General Manager, Keith Panel Systems



We all inspired each other. There was no one champion. Everyone fed off each other. The workmanship on the project is phenomenal; people took so much pride in absolutely everything.

Margot Long, Principal, PWL Partnership Landscape Architects

This project definitely raised the capacity of the industry locally. With the size of this project, there were many contractors and sub-trades involved, so it gave them the ability to learn from one another, and the application of these technologies became more familiar. Education on how to do these things was definitely part of the project.

Dave Fookes, Engineer, Morrison Hershfield