



“Heritage conservation is about learning from history, but it has to do with sustainability and culture too. Culture has to have roots and branches. If you cut off the roots the branches die. No one is saying, ‘Let’s freeze time and give us back the 1900s.’ In the real-life city we say, ‘Give us the 21st century – but give it to us with the knowledge that the 21st grew out of the 20th, which grew out of the 19th.’ We believe in keeping the best of the past and integrating it with the best of the present and future.”

Hal Kalman, Commonwealth Historic Resource Management, Ltd.

**The Shipyard**

SEFC is characterized by three distinct historic areas that retain an industrial identity. The City Workyard, the Shipyard and the Railyard inform the design of three distinct neighbourhoods within the SEFC community.

Millennium Water, the 2010 Olympic Village, sits in the shipyard district – context that can be seen in detailing throughout the site. The waterfront and public plaza bear particular evidence of this heritage, which provides unique definition to the contemporary community through forms, materials and structures that evoke memories of the past.

The Shipyard Plaza recalls a huge lofting floor, with sweeping lines on the pavement outlining various sections of a ship’s hull. Elsewhere throughout the village, inset lines in paving surfaces will mark the locations of the False Creek shoreline as it shifted over time.

**The Shipyard Plaza**

Where once the hulls of great ships were shaped, a lively urban gathering space now comes to life. The plaza and commercial centre were designed by Chris Phillips of Phillips Farevaag Smallemberg (PFS) and Norm Hotson of Hotson Bakker Boniface Haden.

“Their idea was to work with the processes of shipbuilding,” says Mike Derksen of PFS. “They chose lofting, and reinterpreted it in the built form using the patterns that were produced.”

Lofting is the process of laying out a full-size working drawing of a ship to begin shaping its parts. The Shipyard Plaza is effectively a huge lofting floor, with sweeping lines on the pavement outlining various sections of a ship’s hull. Some lines

rise three-dimensionally as the site grade changes, providing a built-in seating area. Light standards on the plaza take the form of the varying ribs of a ship.

“They inserted just the right level of poetic references,” says Tilo Driessen of the Vancouver Park Board (the plaza is considered park space). “It is beautifully designed.”

At the plaza’s south end, the Salt Building will re-open as a brew pub and restaurant. Areas of wooden decking will remind pedestrians of the piers that once punctuated the shoreline. The faint smell of the ocean will continue unchanged – reminding not only of seafaring ships, but the natural estuary that existed long before.

A vibrant commercial focus along Manitoba Street from First Avenue to False Creek is to act as a “heart” for the community, anchored by the Salt Building... and a community square. SEFC Official Development Plan

Illustrative plan of the public plaza. The curves rise naturally as the landscape grade changes, creating seating areas. The plaza features granite pavers and is permeable, allowing absorption of stormwater. A children’s water play area is located at the plaza’s north end.

