

Building landscape refers to the natural environment that complements and forms part of buildings such as planter boxes, green roofs and patio plantings (as opposed to parkland). The design concept for building landscapes at the Millennium Water Olympic Village is to create spaces where people want to be. "Often with green spaces on large podiums, they are great places to look down upon from other buildings but people don't actually hang out on them much," says Jennifer Stamp of Durante Kreuk, the landscape architecture firm hired by Millennium. Stamp aimed instead for spaces that would contribute to social sustainability. "We wanted to provide a place for people to meet and know their neighbours, aiding in creating community; having urban agriculture was part of that," explains Stamp. Making these green areas more accessible meant connecting inside and outside spaces.

Amenity rooms were built that spill out onto landscaped courtyards. At Parcel 10, the third-storey courtyard is connected to the ground floor by a waterfall, bringing the courtyard garden down to Ontario Street.

The landscape architect's job is to understand both the developer's and the City's goals for semi-public and semi-private open space, pulling all the ideas together, and making it functional and highly aesthetic. "The process can be interesting, challenging and fun," says Peter Kreuk, co-founder of Durante Kreuk. Examples of design parameters in the job were ensuring that plants would look good in drought conditions, and aiming for various LEED credits that require the use of native and adaptive plant species.



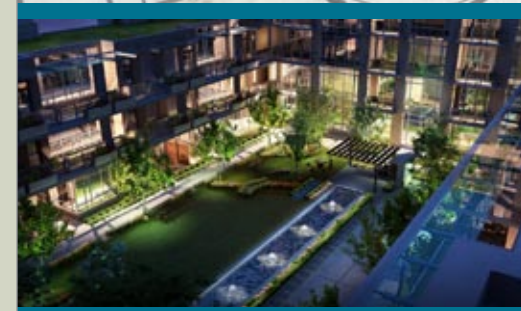
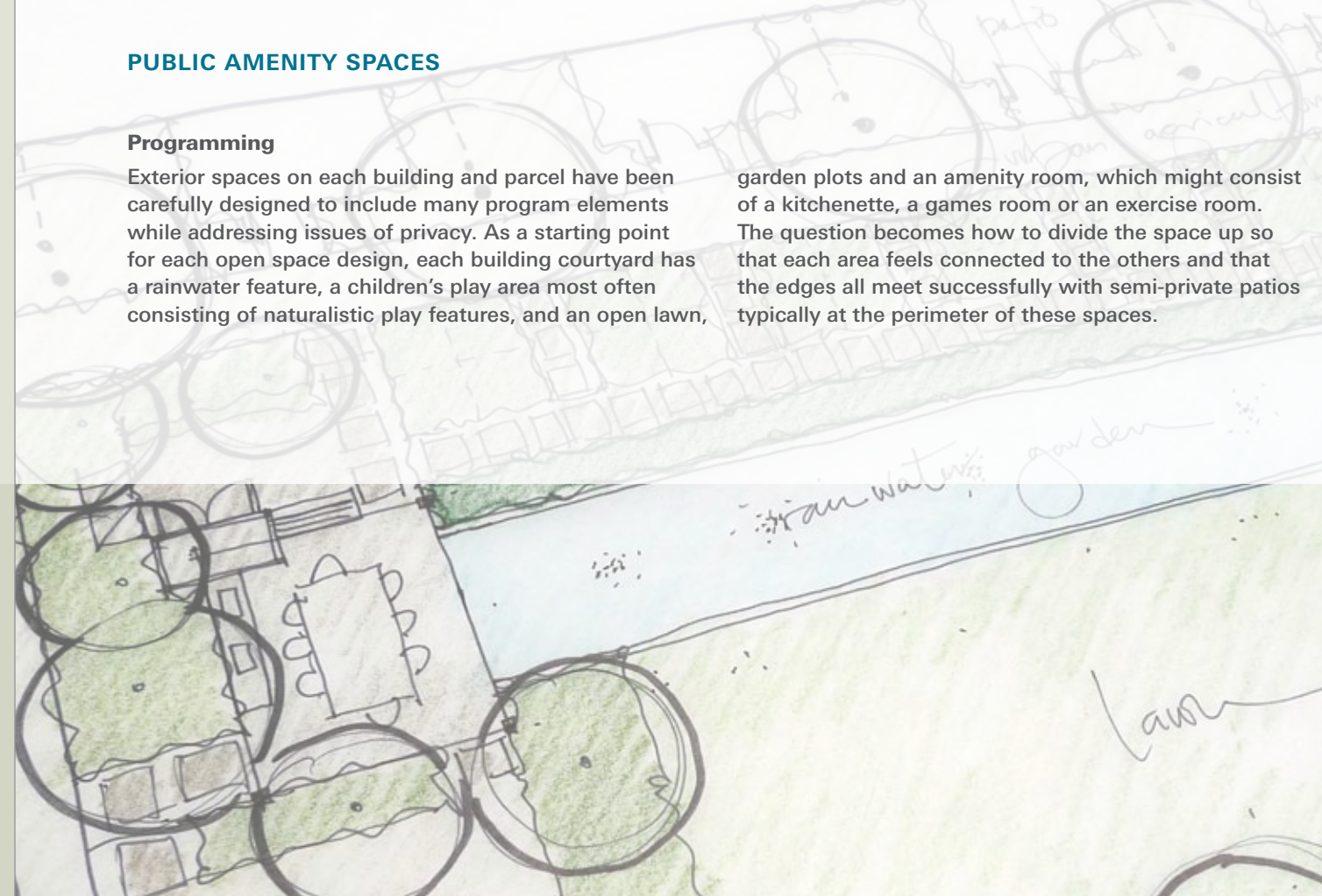
An illustrative plan of the Olympic Village by landscape architects Durante Kreuk highlights the intensity of vegetation on the rooftops throughout the site. Combining intensive and extensive green roofing, fifty percent of the overall area is vegetated.

# Providing a place to meet and know your neighbours

**Programming**

Exterior spaces on each building and parcel have been carefully designed to include many program elements while addressing issues of privacy. As a starting point for each open space design, each building courtyard has a rainwater feature, a children's play area most often consisting of naturalistic play features, and an open lawn,

garden plots and an amenity room, which might consist of a kitchenette, a games room or an exercise room. The question becomes how to divide the space up so that each area feels connected to the others and that the edges all meet successfully with semi-private patios typically at the perimeter of these spaces.



**From a simple sketch to a complex reality:**  
 Background: This early sketch from landscape architects Durante Kreuk maps out potential spaces in the inner courtyard of Parcel 10.  
 Inset, left: This photo-realistic rendering presents the designer's vision for the inner courtyard once completed.  
 Right: Construction workers install the central water feature. The courtyard includes a waterfall, which connects the garden down to Ontario Street.

**PROFILE**

**Durante Kreuk**

Durante Kreuk, an award-winning landscape architecture firm with over 30 years of experience in design and development of private and public realms, took on the challenge of fulfilling the ODP's requirement for "greening" fifty percent of the rooftops of Olympic Village.

"Stormwater management and green roofs have been standard practice for 30 years," says co-founder Peter Kreuk. "What's new is that we are now looking at how buildings and their infrastructure can work in synchronicity with landscape systems. For the Olympic Village, our goal was to recirculate and use rainwater to support landscape irrigation, toilet flushing and rainwater gardens, and we did it."

Durante Kreuk believes in an integrated team approach to solving design problems; they push boundaries by exploring how to make previously unoccupied, often ugly spaces into places of curiosity, beauty and community building.

Kreuk says, "We believe sustainable development can be incorporated into designs that are highly aesthetic and meet the environmental and social aspirations of the community."