

# TORONTO INTERNATIONAL CHARRETTE: ATTRACTING THE REGION TO TORONTO'S WATERFRONT

FEBRUARY 22 – 27, 2017

Each year the Institute without Boundaries (IwB) runs international charrettes that bring together students from international design institutions, as well as international and local professionals. Together, they address the major project of that year, developing solutions that are incorporated into project recommendations for the IwB's project partner.

Currently we are in the fourth year of a five-year study titled Regional Ecologies, with a focus in this 2016–2017 year on "Symbiotic Regions".

## REGIONAL ECOLOGIES YEAR 4: SYMBIOTIC REGIONS

Year 4 of the Regional Ecologies Project will focus on Symbiotic Regions by examining how regional systems support the needs and experiences of people whose lives unfold across municipal boundaries. Students will explore different kinds of symbiosis that are occurring within the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH) Region in Ontario as a case study. In order to better understand symbiosis in the region, IwB has partnered with Waterfront Toronto to create projects that will attract the region to Toronto's waterfront. Students will examine new and emerging types of symbiosis and develop projects for Toronto's waterfront that will become catalysts for regional development in the GGH.

Many people who live in the GGH work in Toronto, but live in one of the region's many growing cities. On a daily basis, they are challenged with organising their lives under varying regional and municipal systems that are often competing, inefficient and generally unconnected. The GGH is one of North America's fastest growing regions. It is home to 9 million people, meaning that one quarter of all of Canada's population lives there. It attracts one in three new immigrants to Canada. By 2041, it is forecasted to have a population of 13.5 million [1].

## ATTRACTING THE REGION TO TORONTO'S WATERFRONT: PROJECT AIMs

In 2016-2017, the project challenge is to demonstrate how Toronto's waterfront can become a regional catalyst for economic development and create resilient social and physical infrastructure. Some of the project key questions include:

- How do symbiotic waterfront regions function around the world, and how are people living in them?
- What does it mean to "live regionally" in the GGH, and how can Toronto's waterfront help to better facilitate this?
- What resources will be needed to ensure symbiotic and sustainable growth in the region and how can Toronto's waterfront be at the centre of this?
- How can design play a role in creating seamless experiences and more effective systems and services for residents of the region on Toronto's waterfront?

Together with students, educators, government, businesses, and community groups, the IwB will develop design proposals that have the potential to stimulate positive development for region as a whole and its residents.



Students during the Toronto International charrette, 2016



## PROPOSED SCHEDULE

### Wednesday February 22

#### OPTIONAL

Site visits and research

### Thursday February 23

Charrette Kickoff

### Friday February 24

Charrette working day

Advisor Sessions

### Saturday February 25

Charrette working day

Advisor Sessions

### Sunday February 26

Charrette working day

### Monday February 27

Final Presentations

[1] The Greater Golden Horseshoe Region An international economic, agricultural and cultural hub, Ontario, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=10852>,

## CHARRETTE DESCRIPTION

The IwB is working with Waterfront Toronto and other local stakeholders to understand how Toronto's waterfront act as a catalyst and enabler for the development of the overall region. The aim of the charrette is to design strategies and solutions that help foster regional symbiosis across the GGH. The charrette will develop a series of projects for climate change adaptation, inclusive communities, and regional collaboration and governance.

## CHARRETTE THEMES

The IwB and Waterfront Toronto have chosen the following themes to be explored in the charrette:

**Social Symbiosis** – How do we create inclusive communities across the region.

**Environment Symbiosis** – How will we adapt our environment to address climate change.

**Economic Symbiosis** – How will people create new opportunities for regional economic development.

**Technological Symbiosis** – How will the region use digital transformation to enhance peoples' daily lives.

**Governance Symbiosis** – How will the region create cooperative mechanisms that better serve and connect residents in regional governance.



Follow our website at <http://institutewithoutboundaries.ca> as we release the site and details of the specific projects we will be working on for the Toronto International Charrette.

## CHARRETTE DETAILS

During this charrette students will work together to propose unique design solutions relating to the Symbiotic Region project in partnership with key stakeholders and staff of Waterfront Toronto.

- Over 150 interdisciplinary participants in 12 teams
- Over 30 expert advisors
- Guest lectures
- Research, design events and site visits
- Presentations, discussion and feedback

## CHARRETTE OUTCOMES

The students will have the opportunity to learn new skills and have the following opportunities during the charrette:

- working on timely social topics and creating innovative solutions
- learning how designers can lead social change through systems thinking
- gaining skills working in an interdisciplinary team including engineers, urban planners, landscape architects, communication designers, interaction designers, interior designers, etc.
- working in a collaborative manner with students of many different design disciplines
- establishing relationships for future projects

## CHARRETTE DELIVERABLES

All teams will visualize and communicate their projects through the following deliverables:

- A mid-charrette presentation that describes the team's research, context, vision and the key components of their project proposal
- A short video summarizing the project
- A final publication about the project that includes the following:
  - *Outlines of the project vision, objectives, and key strategies*
  - *Project details introducing relevant materials of proposed architectural interventions, environment designs, products and services*
  - *Personas and User scenarios that illustrate how the design is used*
  - *A system diagram that illustrates how the projects components work with each other*
  - *A timeline that illustrates how the project will be implemented over time, including the costing for each phase*
  - *Measures of success that describe how the project will improve Waterfront Toronto's service to the region.*



Students working during Toronto Charrette 2015



Site visit during Detroit Charrette 2015

For more information about the charrette

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT IwB VISIT

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