

Love by Design

Facilitated by Andrew Stuck with assistance from Suzanne Barrett.
Toronto Walk21 Tuesday 2 October, 2007

Vivacious, hopelessly romantic, attractive, stylish, independent, passionate city into walking, life, art, culture, food, romance, good times and laughter, leading to LTR seeks adventurous, intelligent, discerning, thoughtful, and interesting participants with a GSOH to explore and share romantic experiences. *Serious* or *grumpy* need not reply.

Share your worldly knowledge of love and romance to help us draw up criteria for defining a place or city as romantic. Together we will devise an index of romance that anyone can apply to any town or city, so they too can create a place that generates passion.

Objectives:

[Worthy ones]

- Determine what makes a place/city romantic
- Seek out examples of good design interventions that promote comfort, happiness and romance
- Prompt ideas and generate discussion about good design practice and quality place making
- Consider how to create walking links between romantic places
- Strengthen key generic skills including breakthrough thinking, communicating, collaboration, team building and inclusive visioning

[Vital ones]

- Fall in love
- Create life-long partnerships
- Have fun and feel good
- Elope

Participants' choices

Before we set off on the walk we asked you to tell us your choice of romantic places / cities.

<i>Town where I live</i>	<i>My favourite romantic place / city</i>
Kingston, ONT	Quebec City
Kingston, ONT	Trevis Fountain, Rome
Toronto	Prussia Cove, Cornwall, UK
Victoria	Jerusalem
Victoria	Jungle in Costa Rica
Portland	Ansel Adams Wilderness
Toronto	Novatel, North York
Portland	NW Portland, OR
Thorold	Kissing Rock, Thorold
Vancouver	Bowen island, BC
Halifax	Hurtles beach

Love by Design

Facilitated by Andrew Stuck with assistance from Suzanne Barrett.
Toronto Walk21 Tuesday 2 October, 2007

Process - Mix and Match

- ice breaker as part of an introductory process for participants

To get to know each other and to get you into a 'role' of 'seeking romance' we asked the group to sort themselves out by various criteria:

- month of year participant was born
- distance from home to conference
- size of feet
- 75 minute led walk with 18 participants along a route towards Queen's Quay on the waterfront, during which you were paired up to discuss with each other ideas about what are key elements that should be designed into a place to make it romantic. We suggested you use your five senses to focus your minds. At various points along the route, we asked you to feed back your ideas.

Elements of romantic places identified by participants:

Sight/Visual elements

- Hidden spaces (protected from the elements)
- Mood lighting (different colours)
- People (enjoyment / relax)
- Texture
- Old & New contrasts
- Colours: vegetation & buildings
- Leaves on the ground
- Surprise
- Blooming flowers
- Fountain
- Curvy design
- Paths / vistas
- Changing levels
- Seating
- Scale / enclosure

Smell - sorted by colour of jotting notepads

- Perfumes
- Some colognes
- Wood smoke
- Coffee / cafes
- Marijuana
- Flowers (please)
- Bakeries (please)
- Campfire
- Savoury edibles
- Strawberries
- Fresh Air
- Apple blossom

Love by Design

Facilitated by Andrew Stuck with assistance from Suzanne Barrett.
Toronto Walk21 Tuesday 2 October, 2007

Sound – making music together (steam whistle came late!)

- Music (not cheesy)
- Crickets in grass
- Guitars
- Birds
- Wind chimes
- (Little) harbour planes
- Children
- Trains
- Steam whistle
- Water fountain

Detractors: traffic / planes – too much accumulated noise

We provided novelty musical instruments and asked you to choose a partner with whom to make 'sweet music'! However, we ended up with a full orchestra.

Touch – participants sorted by length of arm – as a romantic you will walk within an arm's length, others might wish to keep at an arm's length!

Texture:

- Cobble stones
- Humid grass
- Bark
- Long grass
- Ground cover
- Water (in which to immerse a hand or toe)
- Bare rock
- Rubber
- Silk
- (Smooth) railings
- Pea gravel
- Sand

Comfort:

- Bearskin on bare skin

Taste

- Italian bruschetta
- Canadian beer

Influenced (perhaps) as the final stop was at Il Forninio restaurant at Queen's Quay.

Love by Design

Facilitated by Andrew Stuck with assistance from Suzanne Barrett.
Toronto Walk21 Tuesday 2 October, 2007

What next?:

- ranking of urban spaces and the elements that make them romantic;
- an index of romance that can be applied to other urban spaces;
- a walking and access audit;
- niche marketing opportunity for promoting better design;
- strengthened team building, ideas generation and inclusive visioning skills of participants;
- Strive to make Toronto's streets, spaces and neighbourhoods more romantic
- Plan interventions in your local neighbourhood to generate passion
- Closer working across design, engineering, planning, tourism and transport functions

Facilitators

Andrew Stuck, Urban Design & Behaviour Change Rethinking Cities Ltd., London, UK
Susan Barrett, Barrett Consulting, Toronto, Canada

Glossary

"Walkshop" - a mobile workshop and site visit.