

CITY FAMILIARIS

A STUDY IN DOMESTICATING INFRASTRUCTURES

by

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A thesis

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Master of Architecture

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AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I hereby declare that I am the sole author of this thesis. This is a true copy of the thesis, including any required final revisions, as accepted by my examiners.

I understand that my thesis may be made electronically available to the public.

ABSTRACT

Hyper dense communities are becoming a norm in Canadian metropolitan areas. City-Place within Toronto is considered by many the result of a good intentioned, but poorly planned version of this community. The model for its development is known as Vancouverism. The goal of this type is to create a livable, yet highly dense community. This is achieved through a criterion that guides the form and function of the buildings designed. The basic typology used is the podium-tower. The podium's program/form promotes proper proportion and function at the street level, while the tower handles the required density. The resulting community suffers from formulaic designs that will meet the requirements created, but lacks the flexibility needed to enable usages outside of its prescribed spectrum of activities. The problem is that the standard resident of these communities based on their age and status, as young professionals, are prone to bring with them a being that does not fit within this prescribed spectrum, the dog.

Dogs are abundant in these neighbourhoods and their presence clarifies the issue of inadequate accommodation. The communities lack the programmatic requirements necessary to care appropriately for these four legged residents. As a result, dogs will impede upon the territories and rights of others within the community. Areas that were never designed to handle the injurious impact of dog usages have been degraded, and the residents blame the perceived cause, the dog. In reality, the cause is poor planning and design. Therefore, the resulting backlashes against the dogs often fall flat or exacerbate the problem further. The current use of signage and restriction that vilify the dog's very presence does not work because of this. It is the fault of built environment's inability to allow for the dog, not the dog itself. This failure makes dog owners feel targeted, and other residents are left even more angry as their efforts of control are ignored.

This problem is then compounded by the lack of appropriate consideration with the public spaces provided. They are either manicured to serve only very superficial functions of beautification or they are simply ignored and under-planned. The superficial ones are destroyed or misused as previously discussed, while the ignored, are just that, ignored. Unnecessary pressure from dogs are placed on spaces that cannot handle it while other territories still remain underused.

The intent of this thesis is to lift away some of the deep seated rigidity in these communities in order to make them more open and accommodating to the perceived outsider that actually lives among them. CityPlace will be the testing ground. The proposed design will integrate into the existing fabric, spreading out dog usages throughout the neighbourhood in order to lessen the intensity that creates conflict. This will help in healing the rifts created by poor accommodation and help to reunite the residents of the neighbourhood. Dog owners will no longer feel threatened, other residents will not feel obstructed and dogs will be given what they require for happy, healthy lives.

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This thesis would not have been possible without the influence of the many dogs throughout my life. I would like to acknowledge their contributions to this thesis.

Tovee
Kira

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Breton
Charlie
Jake
Tara

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INTRODUCTION

CITY FAMILIARIS : A STUDY IN DOMESTICATING
INFRASTRUCTURES

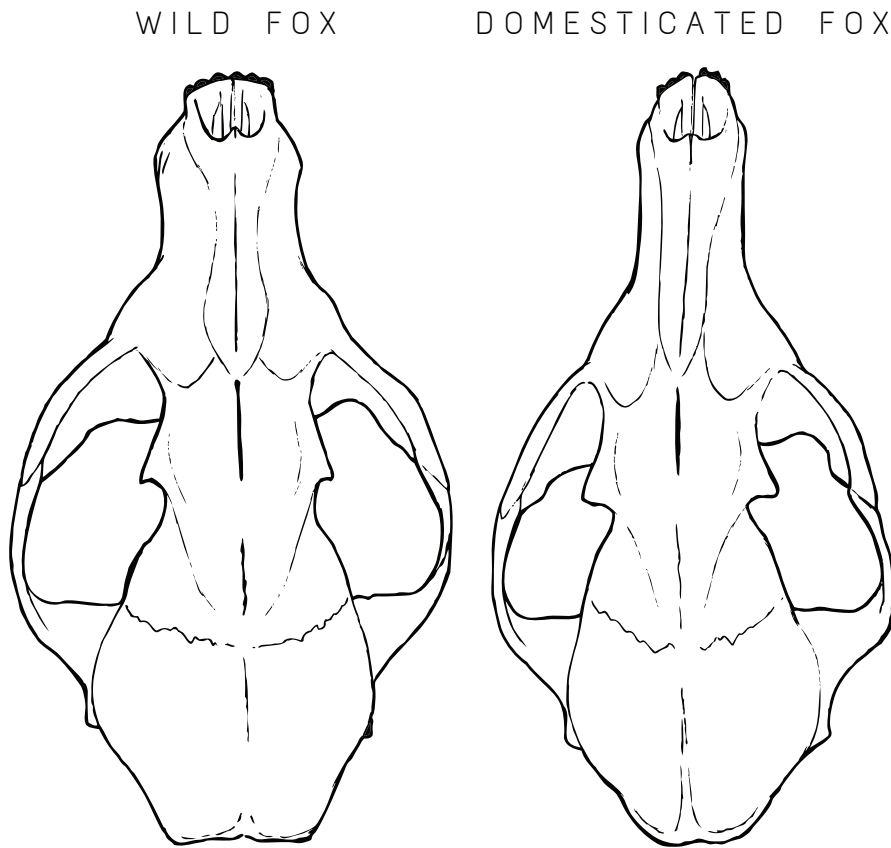


Fig. 001 - Difference of skull size due to domestication

The process of domestication allows an animal to live with us. As defined on dictionary.com the word means: "to tame (an animal), especially by generations of breeding, to live in close association with human beings as a pet or work animal and usually creating a dependency so that the animal loses its ability to live in the wild." ¹

Domestication has allowed humans to live in close proximity with animals, but specific sections of modern cities have failed to account for these animals presence. The intent of this thesis is to allow for this accommodation. This will create a city that learns from domestication in order to provide for the same close association and dependency between it and all the residents that inhabit it. The portion of the city being discussed is the new, dense, condominium communities. These sections have a very high population of dogs, but their presence was not accounted for, as a result tensions have arisen in the communities. This strain damages and divides the communities affected and in addressing it, these problems will be alleviated. By addressing this problem the well-being of all residents, including the dogs will be increased.

To accomplish this we should first understand the process of domestication and its associated affects on the subjects involved. During 1959 in Novosibirsk, Siberia, Dr Dmitri Belyaev began an ongoing experiment into the domestication of silver foxes or *Vulpes Vulpes*. ² He began with 30 male foxes and 100 vixens. ³ The tamest were bred and the others were eliminated. Those chosen were tested through a very simple means, a hand was placed in their enclosures and if they allowed the human to touch them they were bred. If, instead they bit or cowered they were not. No other human contact was made with the animals. With this method about 5% of the population was further bred. After about ten year's results began to appear and the foxes were not only changed socially, but physically.²

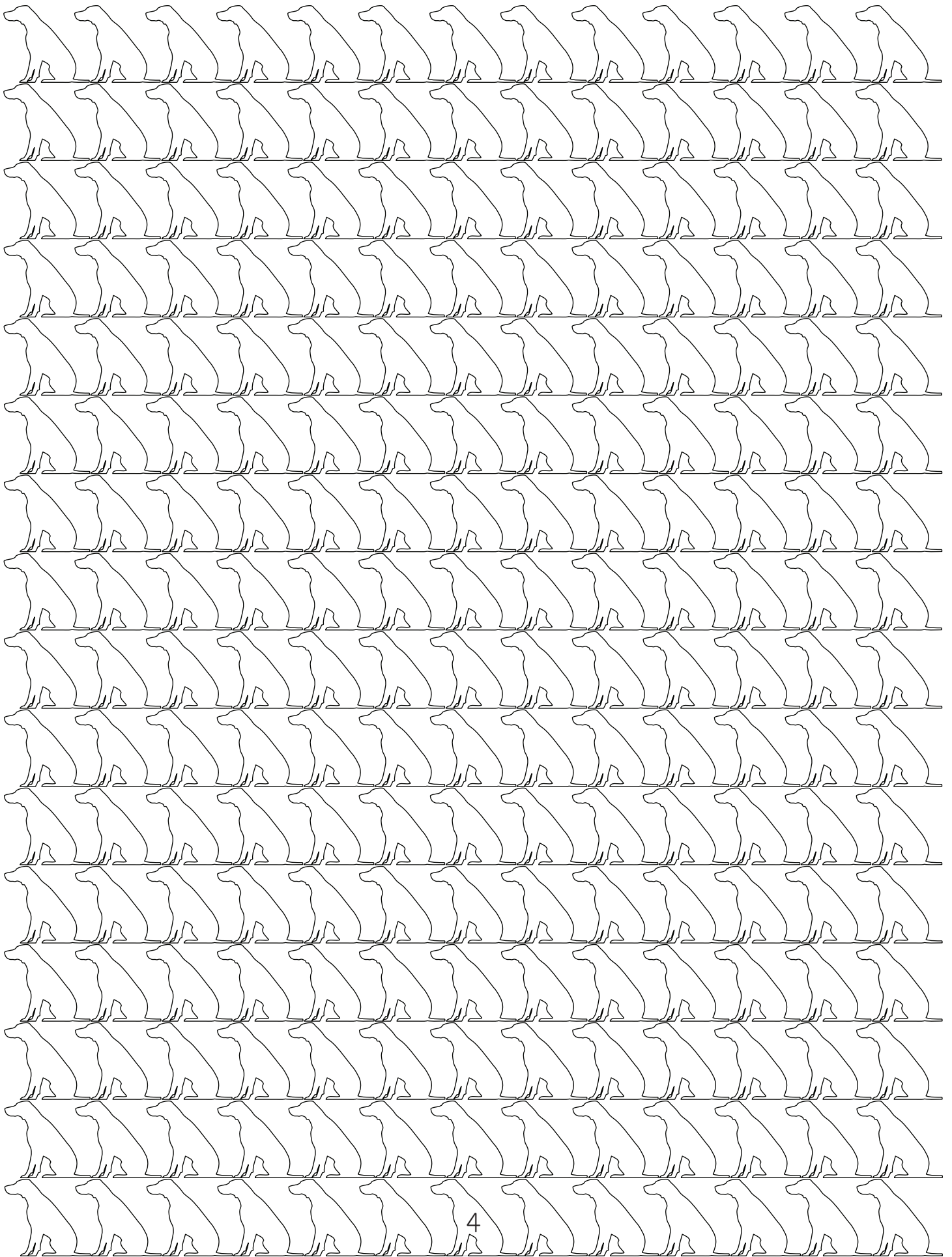
The surprising factor was the physical changes. The foxes began to look more dog like. Their coats lost their camouflaging ability and became splotchy, they developed floppy ears, their tails became curly and their legs shortened. Their skulls narrowed, their teeth became

smaller and their snouts shorter, all unlike their wild counterparts. Even their brain chemistry was altered. This all began in ten short years and has continued for the last 40. The domesticated fox shares many characteristics with a common dog. ³

Therefore the process of making an animal domesticated demands many associated changes to accomplish the goal. We have engineered these foxes and dogs to live with us, but they are not human. Their needs and wants may overlap with our own, but they are not the same. These animalistic differences are magnified in condominium communities because they already have inherent failing in the face of our overlapping wants/needs. When the subject, the dog, is placed in these environments their needs are often not met, especially considering their overwhelming presence. This adds stress to an already stressed environment. In an effort to be inclusive to our closest non-human relation whose inclusion can help in resolving conflicts within the community, why don't we learn from domestication?

Current solutions for the dog are superficial. They include regulation, signs and restrictions to try and force a peaceful coexistence amongst the residents and dogs. They have the goal "get along", in mind with none of the required physical changes. Foxes, and much longer ago, wolves, required structural, yet subtle modifications to become our companions. The city needs to do the same. If it is to "get along" with the increasing number of dogs and people that inhabit it, there needs to be physical/structural changes.

part 1: LIMINAL
SUBJECT



ORIGINS



Fig. 002 - Canis Lupus



Fig. 003 - Canis Lupus Arabs



Fig. 004 - Canis Lupus Chanco

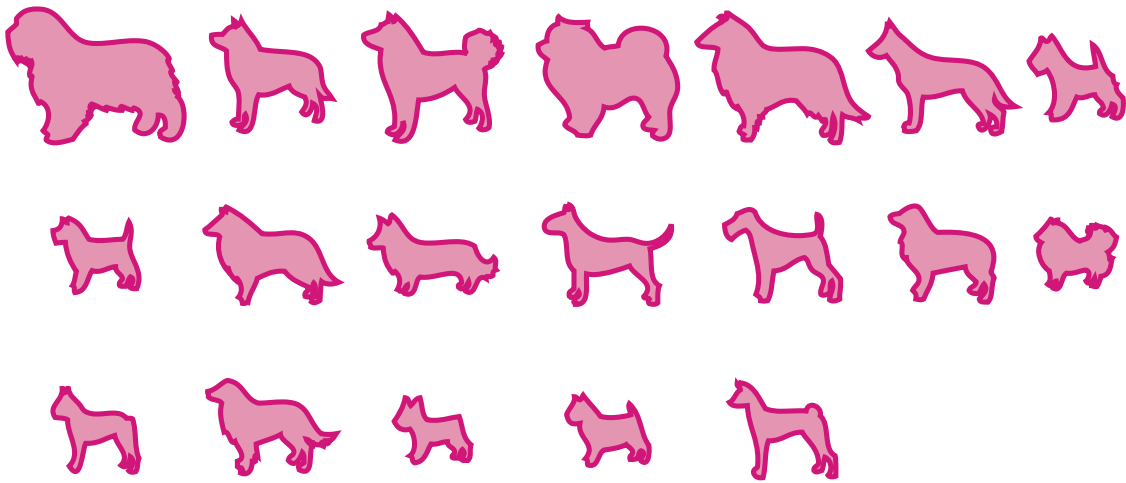


Fig. 005 - Canis Lupus Pallipes

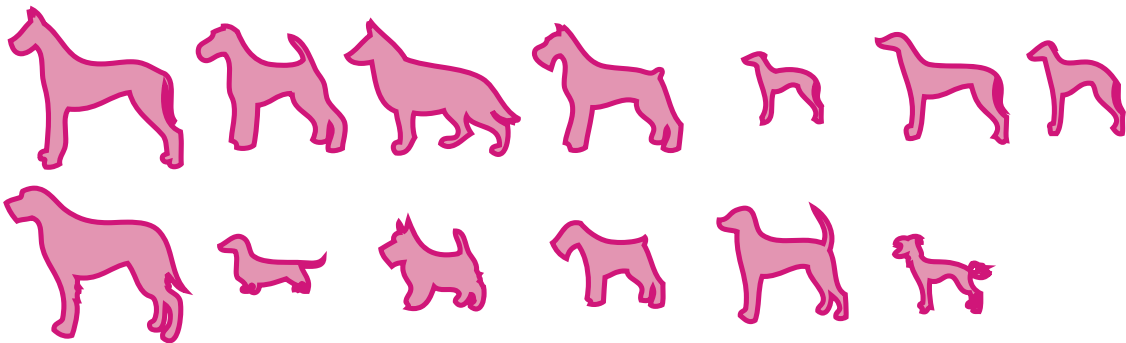
Dogs are considered to be the first of the domesticated species, because they were a necessary component in further domestication. Without their help other species could not have been controlled and would have remained wild. ¹ Although difficult to discern due to generations of cross breeding, it is believed that modern dogs can be divided into four major groups which are created from four separate sub species of wolves. These include the Canis Lupus which lead into the "The Northern Group", the Canis Lupus Arabs which became the "The Greyhound Group", the Canis Lupus Chanco which became the "The Mastiff Group" and finally the Canis Lupus Pallipes which became "The Dingo Group". ² These groups then come together to form the subspecies of canid known as Canis Lupus Familiaris or dogs. ²

The defining factor that separate dogs from their wild ancestors is this domestication. This can be clearly understood through the word familiaris: a servant/domestic, a friend or familiar acquaintance. ³ It is their relationship with us that defines their subspecies of canid, but we were not the sole contributor to their creation. One theory states that some wolves self-selected to become protodomesticators before we began to take notice. As humankind first began to settle down into permanent villages a lot of waste was produced and it began to attract wildlife, including wolves. The wolves that were brazen and fearless enough to walk into the settlement to get this waste became the descendants of the modern dog. Human beings began to tolerate these visitors and took some of their pups as pets or used them as food in leaner times. Either way a calmer wolf began to take form at the edge of human civilization. Soon began the process of intentional breeding and elimination of undesirables to create an even tamer animal. Later, specific characteristics became desirable and were bred for. This began the long process of fragmentation

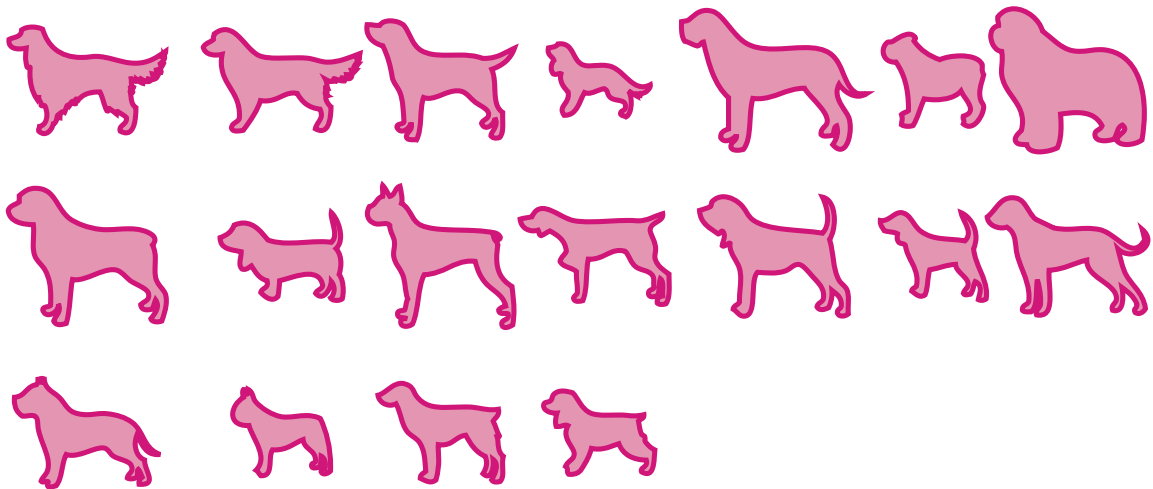
CANIS ⁶⁶ LUPUS ⁷⁷ FAMILIARIS



THE NORTHERN GROUP (CANIS LUPUS)



THE GREYHOUND GROUP (CANIS LUPUS ARABS)



THE MASTIFF GROUP (CANIS LUPUS CHANCO)



THE DINGO GROUP (CANIS LUPUS PALLIPES)

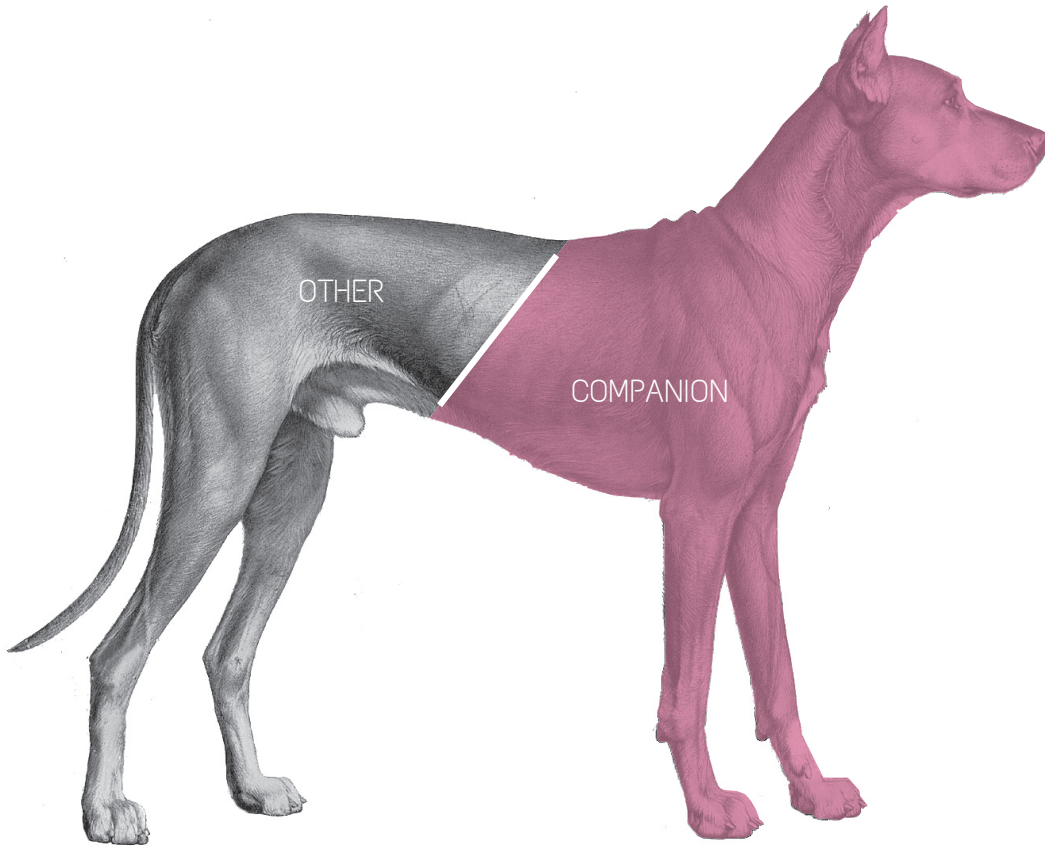
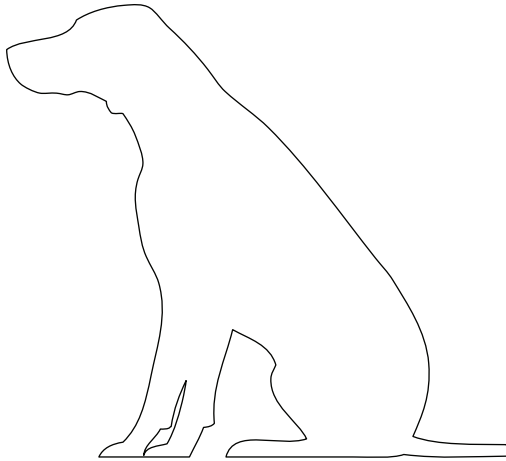


Fig. 006 - Liminal Subject



into diverse breeds. Human guided domestication is believed to have started approximately 10 -14 thousand years ago, but DNA evidence shows the protodomesticators had a slight genetic shift from the wild wolf over 145 thousand years ago. ⁴

The question then becomes why the wolf? At first glance they do not seem like a good candidate for domestication. They are after all a predator, a predator that can attack, but it is this very reason that they were the perfect subject. The wolf is a highly social, behaviourally flexible animal that has to adapt to changing statuses in the packs they hunt with. This requires them to be attentive to other members of their grouping. These skills are easily transferable to non-wolfish beings such as ourselves. Therefore these characteristics allowed us to domesticate them and allowed them to become our friend or familiar. ⁵ It is this very same wolfishness that shines a light onto the problem at hand. The dog is a liminal being, they inhabit our world and not-our world. They stand at the threshold of our civilized society and the wild world. The origin of the dog was not even our creation as we previously believed, we simply facilitated it. Dogs occupy a very strange place in our society they are our workers, our companions and our family, but they are not us. It is because of this that they can clearly define through their differences, and yet inherit similarities problems relating to our sometimes overly rigid and superficial cities. Their animalistic differences highlight some of the problems that are associated with our built environment.

● Advent of dog soaps and food moved dogs into the home

- CRUELTY
- PROPERTY
- RESTRICTIONS

This timeline illustrates key points in the rise of the dog in our society in parallel with the increasing restrictions placed on them. This shows their true liminality.

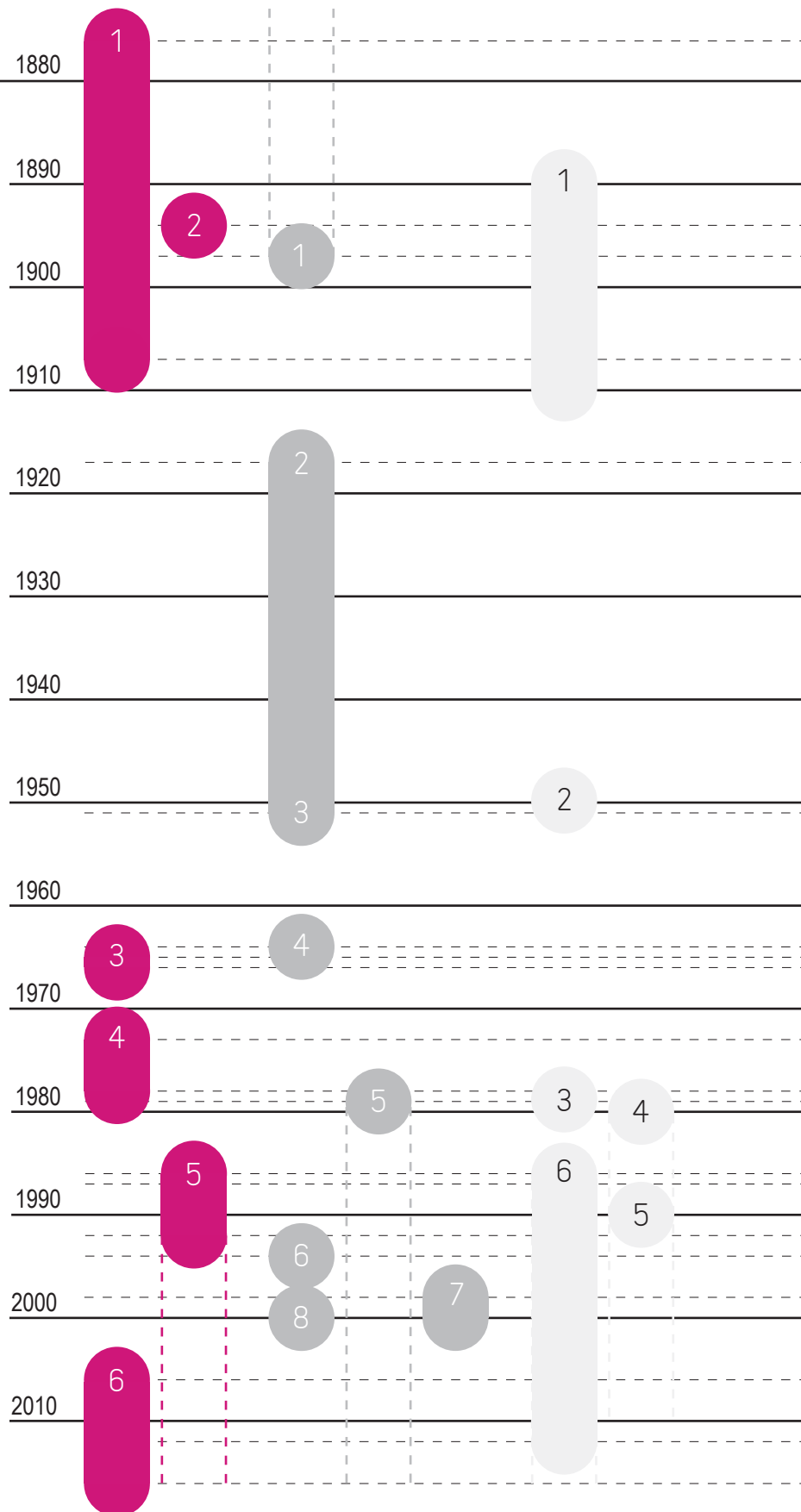


Fig. 007 - Timeline

DOG'S STATUS: CRUELTY

1 BROWN DOG RIOTS

In 1876, The Cruelty to Animals Act was passed by the fledging Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, (RSPCA) which was the first animal welfare group. The act was related to vivisection, the cutting open of live animals for medical education. The act required that animals were anesthetized, only to go under the knife once and required the licensure of practitioners. Two Swedish women attended a vivisection of a brown dog and tried the practitioner William Bayliss for breaching the protocol. They failed, but the event was highly publicized. It sparked a riot that consumed London in 1907. The public which included the suffragettes and working class, were acting against the doctors.⁶

2 EUTHANASIA REFORM

In New York during 1894, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals the (ASPCA) took control of the New York pounds and euthanasia. The ASPCA was built on the 1866 Declaration of the Rights of Animals that stated that even with ownership, cruelty was not acceptable. When they took control they reformed the inhumane euthanasia of drowning, clubbing and strangling. Also dogcatchers that previously stole peoples' pets in order to make money off their return were no more.⁷

3 LABORATORY SUBJECTS

In 1965, the dogcatcher had returned as what became known as the bunchers. The bunchers collected dogs for medical research. One such collected dog was Pepper who became headline news when she was stolen from her family and brought to a medical research facility where she died. The ASPCA was too tied up in local shelter work to do anything about this laboratory harvesting. This caused the splinter organization the National Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) to form. This national organization pounced on Pepper and other graphic stories of emaciated, caged dogs bred for medical research. These stories caused congress to be flooded with more complaint letters then they had seen for the Vietnam and civil rights issues combined. From this the HSUS got the Laboratory Welfare Act passed which restricted bunchers and required humane animal treatment in labs.⁸

4 SPAY AND NEUTER

In 1973, the National League of Cities ranked pet overpopulation to be one of the most serious problems faced by modern metropolises. Since the HSUS was national they were able to formulate a plan to combat this problem and they came up with spaying and neutering. By the late 1970's the practice became common place. It dropped the amount of US animals killed in shelters from its peak of over 20 million to 3 just million today. This innovation helped in freeing their time and allowed for further innovation in animal welfare.⁹

5 VIOLENT CONNECTION

By 1986, the HSUS had compiled a large amount of data about the connection of violent acts against animals and those against humans. Almost every single serial killer began with animals, including people like Ted Bundy and Jeffrey Dahmer. The HSUS created a campaign from this information that became highly publicized. By 1992 felony anti-cruelty laws were on the rise. The number of states that had them rose from 4 in 1986 to 49 today. The penalties became very harsh including up to 10 years in prison and \$125 000 in possible fines; these were especially harsh for dogs and cats.¹⁰

6 WHO GETS RESCUED?

In 2005 Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, it destroyed many people, homes and animals. Rescue and evacuation was difficult for everyone, but some people refused or prolonged their egress because pets were not allowed. This put lives in danger that shouldn't have been and resulted in leaving behind 250 000 pets, 150 000 of which died with the 1800 human casualties. From this horrendous event the Pet Evacuation Bill became law in 2006. It required pet evacuation to be part of emergency preparedness and procedures. This Bill had unanimous support in a divided house. Support like this had not been seen since the Patriot Act in 2001 following 9/11.¹¹ This came to Canada during the Fort McMurray fire in 2016. Companies like Canadian North Airlines stepped up and allowed dogs and cats to be evacuated with their owners in the airplane cabins.¹²

PROPERTY

1 PROPERTY OR NOTHING?

In 1897 a pregnant dog, Countess Lona was struck and killed by a train in New Orleans. The owner tried to sue the railway company for negligence and failed because the dog was not considered property of the owner. This precedent came from a text written in 1760 by William Blackstone, it was a compilation of concise and current common law in England; it was heavily used in the US. The text, *Commentaries on the Law of England* stated that because dogs did not have intrinsic value as food or for other husbandry uses and because they were only kept for comfort meant their value was “only on the caprice of the owner”¹³

2 PROPERTY GRADUATION

In California, during 1917 a Pomeranian named Encliffe-Masterpiece was attacked and killed by another dog. The same thing occurred, the owner of Encliffe tried to sue the other owner. Blackstone’s precedent was brought up once again, but this time the defense did not work. The court stated “As Blackstone puts it dogs... have no intrinsic value. But that day has passed, and dog’s now have a well-established status before the law. From the building of the pyramids to the present day, from the frozen poles to the Torrid Zone, where ever man has wondered there has been his dog.”¹⁴ Dogs were now considered property. Several other states declared it as well, the Pomeranian’s owner was awarded 500 dollars, or approximately the cost of a Model T.¹⁵

3 VALUABLE PROPERTY

In 1951 Arkansas was the first state to make dog theft a felony crime. More and more states soon began to create stricter and stricter penalties. This was helped by the rash of pet thefts for laboratory use.¹⁶

4 LOVED PROPERTY

During 1964, in Florida a small dachshund named Heidi was killed by a garbage man. The man was not only sued for the economic value of the dog, but for the first time the owner was awarded compensation for mental suffering of \$3000. The dog was only worth \$75.¹⁷

5 DOGS WITH LAWYERS

In 1979, a women named Joyce Tischler started the organization, Attorneys for Animal Rights that later became the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF). This organization’s primary goal was the legal representation of animals but they refocused on pets as they felt it was the easiest way to get in. After some rocky starts the ALDF has flourished. They created a new type of law, “Animal Law” that is now being taught in universities, the organization has over 100 000 members across the US and an annual budget of 6 million dollars.¹⁸

6 OWNER / GUARDIAN

Upon the death of his beloved Manco in 1994 Veterinarian Elliot Kats wrote a piece that was published in a newsletter for the organization In Defense of Animals. This text questioned the idea of dogs as property and begun the “Guardian Campaign”. It lobbied to change the wording of the municipal codes so that the word guardian replaced owner in order to change people’s way of thinking, and, eventually it worked. San Francisco was first and several other cities followed. As of 2014, 19 other American cities have changed over.¹⁹

7 DOG OR CHILD?

1998 was the start of the most extreme pet custody battle ever. Legal fees totalled \$146 000 and it took 2 years to resolve. The fight was between divorced couple Stanley and Linda Perkins for Gigi the dog. Linda claimed to be Gigi’s mother and even brought a birthday card that said “love Gigi” as evidence, Stanley claimed Linda was an unfit mother and could not supply the emotional support Gigi needed. Linda also had a cat named Muffins who did not get along with Gigi. Temporary custody was given to Stanley and Linda was allowed visitation rights. To solve the issue long term, the court hired an animal behavioral specialist that investigated Gigi’s needs and wants. For the first time the owner was not the most important thing, it was the dog himself. Linda was given custody and Stanley had visits, but that did not work as Gigi could not handle it, and became stressed. Linda was given full custody when her lawyer used tactics that would normally be reserved for a child’s custody.²⁰

8 LOVE IS OFFICIAL

The dog attack on T-Bo the Shih Tzu that nearly killed him made his owner draft the T-Bo Act which passed with overwhelming support in 2000. Previous to this, compensation for mental suffering based on the loss of a dog was not official, cases like Heidi's were considered one-off's. The Tennessee act required a minimum of \$5000 paid for non-economic reparations for the loss of a dog. It was picked up by both Illinois and Connecticut and is proposed by 14 more states, some with caps of \$100 000. ²¹

RESTRICTIONS

1 WANDERLUST RESTRICTED

Leashing laws were municipally instated over a range of time. Their first occurrence happened in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. These laws did not require the leashing of supervised or licensed dogs, but specifically looked at the free roaming dogs. They were designed in part to stop the minor annoyances these dogs caused such as defecation on peoples lawns, or knocking over garbage cans. Their most important function was to quell peoples' fear of rabies. ²²

2 THE LEASHED DOG

By the mid twentieth century many cities had begun to have leash laws for supervised and licensed dogs, although they were not heavily enforced. ²²

3 CONTROLLED FREEDOM

In 1979 one of the very first off-leash dog parks was created in Berkeley, California, the Ohlone Dog Park. The park was initiated by a fledgling organization that was campaigning for a dog park within the region. This local organization became Bark Magazine which has become iconic for "dog people." This park was followed by many more dog parks across North America. The Ohlone Dog Park is considered one of the best in the United States. It is now run and maintained by the Ohlone Dog Park Association. ²³

4 ENFORCED CONTROL

By the 1980's and 1990's leash laws were becoming heavily enforced. As a result, more dog parks and more conflicts surrounding dog parks were being created. ²²

5 TIMED FREEDOM

In 1990, New York was the first city to create a specific type of Dog Park that exists within various regular parks. It is a timed dog park that exists between 9 pm and 9 am. This expands the options for dogs while still staying sensitive to the main usages of the park. This helped to better accommodate dogs into urban life. ²⁴

6 RESPONSIBILITIES

Dog breed discrimination is cyclical as certain breeds are singled out due to the influences of a specific time. It started with Bloodhounds, then Newfoundlanders, Great Danes, German Shepherds, Dobermans, Rottweilers and even Collies. No dog has received worse press then the Pitbull. It begun in the 80's. In 1986 there were over 350 articles on Pitbull attacks across the US and by 1987 that number had doubled. These stories raised the Pitbull to mythological levels of maliciousness. Scientific studies that were in part sourced from the media backed up this standpoint. The result of this was widespread banning of them, meaning the dogs were destined for the shelter and then inevitably euthanasia. This breed at one time was prized and publicized for its heroism and loyalty.

Kno is typical of these stories. Kno attacked a five year old boy who was staying over at a friend's house in 2012. Kno had misjudged the boys roughhousing. He was previously a guard dog trained to catch wild hogs. The boy required life-saving surgery and was left with partial paralysis in his face. Following the attack Kno was brought to "jail" in the local shelter, he has a lawyer and he has to stand in court for his crimes. Our reality of dogs as children, as persons has pushed us to this sensationalized state. They need to be liable for crimes just as we do. ²⁵

WHY THE DOG?

Fig. 008 - Why was the dog chosen?



CHANGING SOCIAL CONTEXT

As has been demonstrated the dog has now reached a status previously unseen by any other non-human animal. They are now one of the most protected, loved and accepted animals in western society. Although, what has caused this status, and what makes some retaliate against them for it? The answer relates to our changing concepts of community.

This question is influenced by our own changes throughout time. As the amount of people rose there was a shift from rural to metropolitan populations. Meaning that the space needed for homes and the proximity that they required allowed for less public areas that had more numerous and contested uses placed on them. There has also been a steady decline in almost all community activities since the 1970's in North American culture. The rates of involvement in the workplace, religious, political and secular community institutions all declined. This trend has affected informal meetings as well. The entertainment of guests in a home, interactions between neighbours and personally knowing them have declined. As Robert Putnam states in his book *Bowling Alone: A study in the decline of American Community* "We spend less time in conversation over meals, we exchange visits less often, we engage less often in leisure activities that encourage social interaction....We know our neighbours less well, and see old friends less often."²⁶

Putnam's study goes into the many contributing factor that may have caused this more individualized and contested world. These include work, sprawl, and generational changes such as the advent of television, which can be more recently replaced with the internet. These and many others act as substitutes for more social and physical forms of interaction. They create instant gratification of our desires, isolating people from others and as a result distancing us from other's needs.

These virtual interactions - be it online shopping, or banking etc., although more efficient strip away chance encounters with people you may otherwise not meet.

Recreationally, our activities have altered as well. More social activities such as cards, bowling etc. have declined in the wake of more individual and small group recreation that often include large outdoor spaces. These include an increase in activities such as hiking, jogging and biking. All these individual activities over large open spaces then exacerbate the competition for space.²⁷

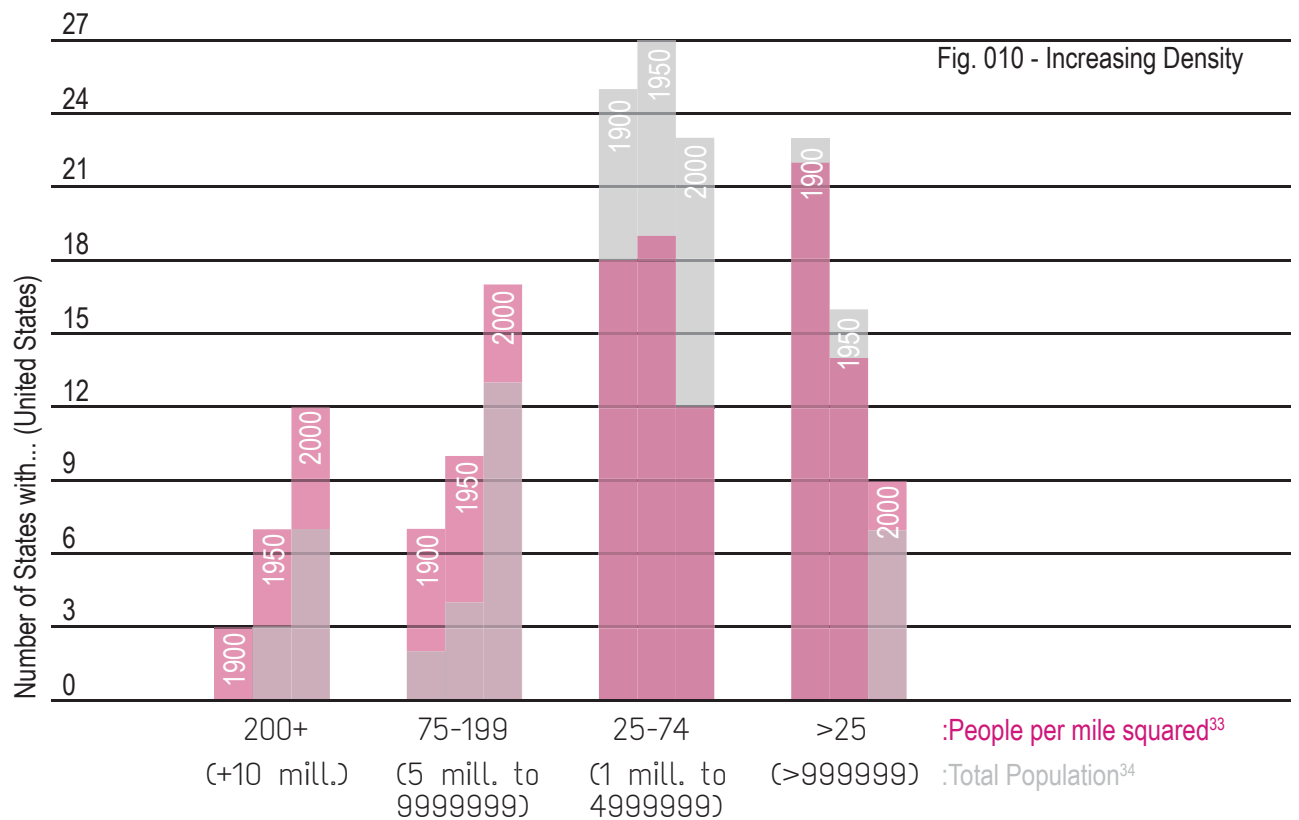
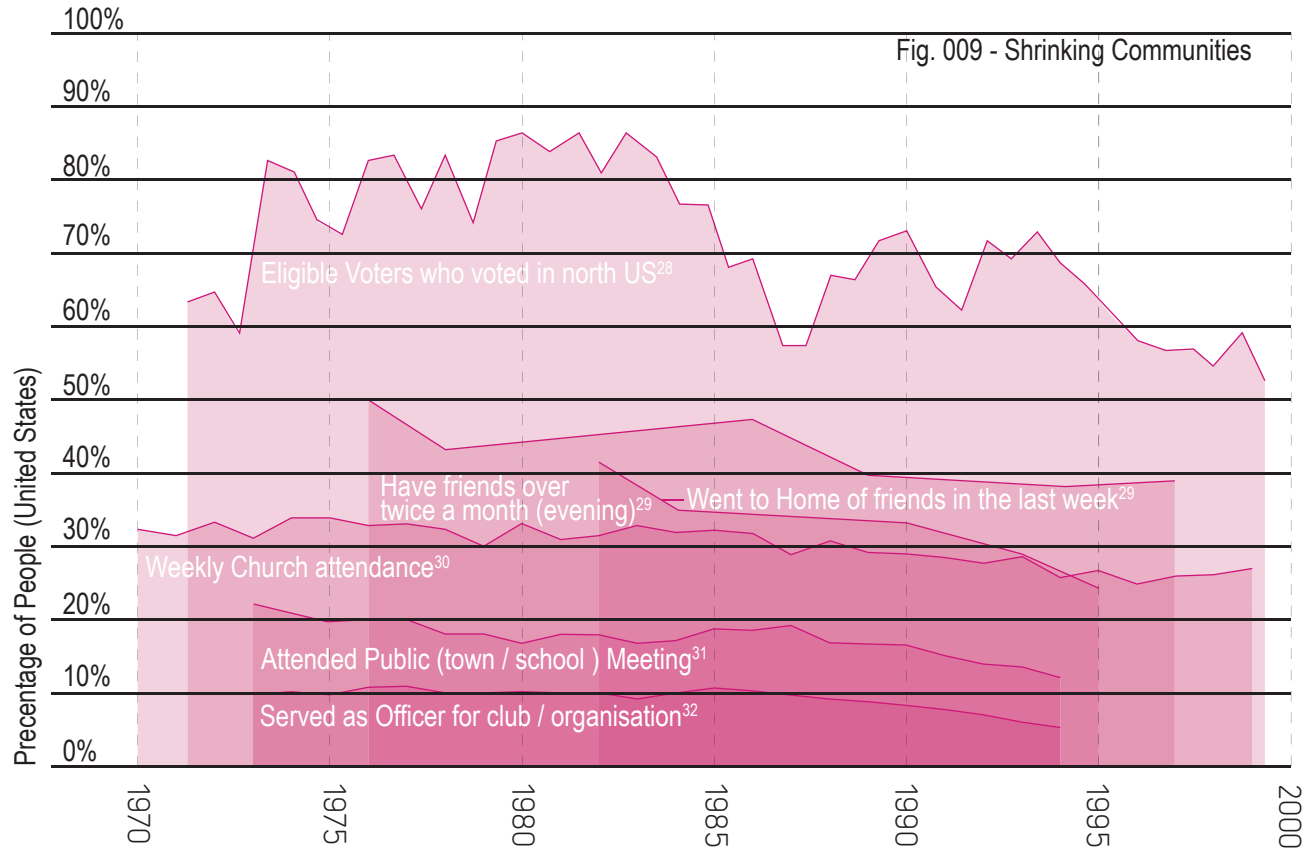


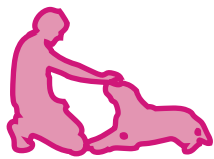
Fig. 011 - How we bond with the dog



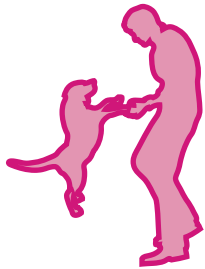
THE BOND

In reaction to this changing social context, the benefits of the dog cannot be understated. The dog is an animal that easily bonds with humans and the people that reciprocate their affection are rewarded immensely. This capability makes them very desirable as society loses some of its previous community ties. Their ability to bond with us is rooted in three simple and shared communicative methods.

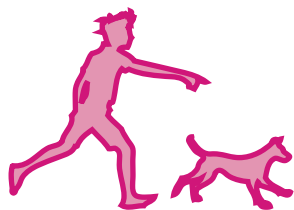
Their sensitivity and need for physical contact in communication mirrors our own. The young of both species need to be cuddled and held; it is this driving force that enabled them to be fed and cared for. This is why both species crave contact and the softness of a dog's fur increases this craving in humans.³⁵ The following quote from the novel *The Humans* by Matt Haig helps to define this phenomenon, "After a while with a dog on your lap, you realize there is a necessity to stroke it...I stroked the dog, and as I did so I realized it was actually a pleasant feeling, the warmth and the rhythm of it."³⁶



The second communicative method dogs exhibit is their ability to recognize a person and react enthusiastically in a greeting. This recognition and acknowledgement of your presence is important in the formation of any relationship. As a result, dog greetings have become ritualized and significant in the same way human greetings are.³⁷



The final method we share is our response time. Although we outlive them, their lifecycles are similar to our own, they are just slightly faster. As a result they can respond to us in our time and react to us immediately. When watching a human playing with a dog this becomes clear. This provides us with instant gratification and bonds us to them.³⁸



These characteristics allow the bond to form, but its strength is determined by the mutual benefits it garners. For humans, simply petting a dog reduces an overactive sympathetic nervous system within minutes. This means that this simple, repetitive action reduces blood pressure, calms a racing heart and stops over sweating. The hormones that make us feel good (endorphins) and those that bond us to another (oxytocin and prolactin) go up when we are around dogs, while stress hormones (cortisol) go down. There are studies that correlate the presence of dogs with the reduction of diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and pneumonia. Their company has also been shown to increase recovery rates. They have been proven to increase our cognitive well-being and prolonged exposure to dogs has been shown to have the same effect as therapy or prescribed drugs in certain cases.³⁹ Their companionship also raises our self-esteem and makes us more extroverted.⁴⁰ Although, the most rewarding aspect of our bond is the ability to commune with an animal outside of humanity, we are able to look in their eyes and they return our gaze. This simple action gives us recognition that we delight in.³⁹

This bond, with the pleasure and benefits that it entails, is the reason dogs have gained so much notoriety and importance in our changing world. As our feelings of community change and shrink we rely more heavily on other sources such as the dog. As Dr. Clinton R. Sander a sociologist and dog companion states, "In a society in which everyday interaction is typically secondary and fleeting, noninvolving, and instrumental many of us experience a lack of social connectedness and intimacy... [P]eople often turn to companion animals as sources of these positive experiences."⁴¹ Or as Charles Darwin more eloquently states, "Man himself cannot express love and humility by external signs, so plainly as does a dog, when with drooping ears, hanging lips, flexuous body, and wagging tail, he meets his beloved master."⁴²

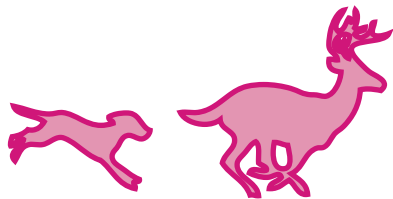
Fig. 012 - The problematic dog



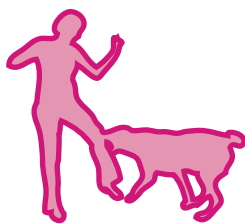
THE PROBLEM

Since the rise of the dog is created in part by our changing social context, the backlash against them can be traced back to it as well. As previously stated when communities started to shrink recreation activities began to change. They became more individualized or more family unit oriented and to further aggravate the problem, space requirements for them often increased.²⁷ This has resulted in differing interests competing for specific space and creating conflict. These conflicts are made more evident once you consider our current extremely regimented time. The world we inhabit has become hyper scheduled with work, commuting, children and other responsibilities, but people expect free time and require space to allow for it. Therefore when people do have “free time” at a public space they will feel slighted when the use of that space is obstructed due to others activities. The group that is often singled out as a culprit is the dog and the problems that are associated with them such as waste, noise, interference and destruction. By combining the lack of available spaces, the scapegoating of the dog and all of the completely legitimate concerns about them, dogs often become a caricature of their worse qualities. The “dog people” begin to feel attacked because their dogs are often considered family members.⁴⁸ The following clarifies some of the problems associated with dogs:

The claim that dogs are problems to wildlife tends to be used, although is often disproved. Dogs tend not to spread diseases because of their vaccinations, and many studies show that dogs have no real impact on the patterns of wildlife. Although there may be reduced activities from wild animals near dog trails, no injurious impact on the species involved has been shown. One such study concludes “From a conservation perspective, human disturbance of wildlife is important only if it affects survival or fecundity and hence causes a population decline.”⁴³ This includes dogs as a source of human disturbance. No evidence has shown that the presence of dogs actually harm a species, it simply forces them to adapt.



Contrary to what most people believe, dog bites in public spaces are not common. Most bites occur on private property or involve feral dogs. For example, in New York City only 2.3% and 2.4% of dog bites occurred in public areas during the years 2004 and 2005 respectively.⁴³ It is important to note that most experts agree that this type of aggression would be reduced with proper exercise and socialization. Although, dogs may still provide some level of threat to the public, especially the elderly and young if they are left uncontrolled.



Dog feces left on the sidewalk or parks is a legitimate concern that unfortunately comes with the presence of dogs. If left unpicked up it does pose health problems and causes a lot of controversy.⁴⁴ Highly trafficked areas are also subject to the damages caused by their urine. Dog urine contains highly concentrated nitrogen which is damaging to plant life and building materials in large doses.



The major problem of the dog is its liminality. It stands in opposition of the perceived animal-human relationship, “the real danger posed by the domestic dog is that its friendship threatens to dissolve or undermine the psychological barrier that distinguishes human from animal....[T]he dog unwittingly represents the thin edge of the wedge; a demanding and insistent reminder of the feelings, interests and moral claims of not only dogs, but animals in general.”⁴⁵ For some this means the dog must remain an “animal” and should receive no better treatment than any other animals. The human-dog relationship must mean nothing. Philosophers like Descartes were proponents for this way of thinking and describes animals like the dog as nothing more than “mindless machines”, they could not talk, did not think, did not have emotions and most importantly did not have souls. Darwin’s theory of evolution changed this way of thinking by claiming the division between us and animals was not so black and white. “Darwin, of course argued that species were separated more by degrees than by kinds”.⁴⁶ This concept is still vehemently argued again by certain Christian denominations and others that believe god shares a special connection with humanity. These people find arguments stating otherwise to be insulting.⁴⁷ This line of thinking separates us: the civilized human from the dirty, smelly, violent and unthinking animal which the dog must therefore be. To claim that the dog shares a relationship with humanity is to claim that these views are untrue and this will goad specific people.

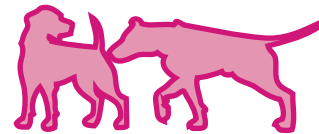


Fig. 013 - Dog's Tug of War



THE CONFLICT

All of these various factors combine to form a very real problem of the dog within the city. There are two major parties that weigh into this issue that have very distinctive viewpoints. One side treats dogs as members of their family. This viewpoint has been created, in part from the pressures of our changing social context and how it has upgraded the dog's status in our society. Studies that look at the dog-human relationship vary, but the general trend shows that the majority of people feel that their dogs are members of the family. One study claims that 70-99% of people claim their dog is a family member, another stated that 1/3 of people feel their dog has on par importance with other human members of their family. An additional study states that 93% of people would risk their own lives to save their animals.⁴⁸

Then there are those that feel the activities and by-products created in caring appropriately for a dog are unnecessary or impede on their own rights. This is also partially due to the changing social context because people are more individualized and there is simply more conflict associated with public spaces. When in condominium communities this lack of space extends further to the private realm as units tend to be smaller.

This results in intensifying conflicts over public spaces in recent years. The dog often becomes the scapegoat at their centre.

THE FAMILY DOG

Fig. 014 - Gertler Family Portrait including human and non-human members



Growing up it was never a question if I was a “dog person” or not, our first family dog was a Shetland Sheepdog named Jake who joined our home when I was one. This was followed by Tovee when Jake had passed away. I do not remember a time when we did not have dogs in the family. These dogs consequently had an influence on me, how could they not? Dogs were always there when I came home, when we went on vacation and were always included in family gatherings; as can be seen in the photograph. There was never any doubt that they were members of our family.

I was always expected to help to take care of our dogs, which included going on walks, taking them to the vet, giving baths, administering their medications and generally keeping an eye on them. These were responsibilities that I shared with the rest of my family and although I may not always have been excited about it, I would always do it. I felt that our dogs deserved this care and work because they provided so much to us. As any other member of the family they gave comfort, entertainment, reassurance etc.

They are not human, and this is part of their allure. Their quirky behaviours are often entertaining and engaging. Our own dog Tovee has a strange obsession with shadows and waves that is often enjoyable to watch, but in his unabashed excitement he generally gets louder than what would be deemed acceptable to a human. His need to be close to us will often place a fifty pound dog directly in our laps, but only for a short while, my guess is he gets too hot. His drive to herd effects the way he wishes to play, he does not fetch like many other dogs, but prefers to chase people around while mouthing at their feet in an effort to stop them. He absolutely does not poop where he plays and will not go to the washroom in his own backyard. This leaves the task for walks, during which we dutifully pick up and dispose of it properly.

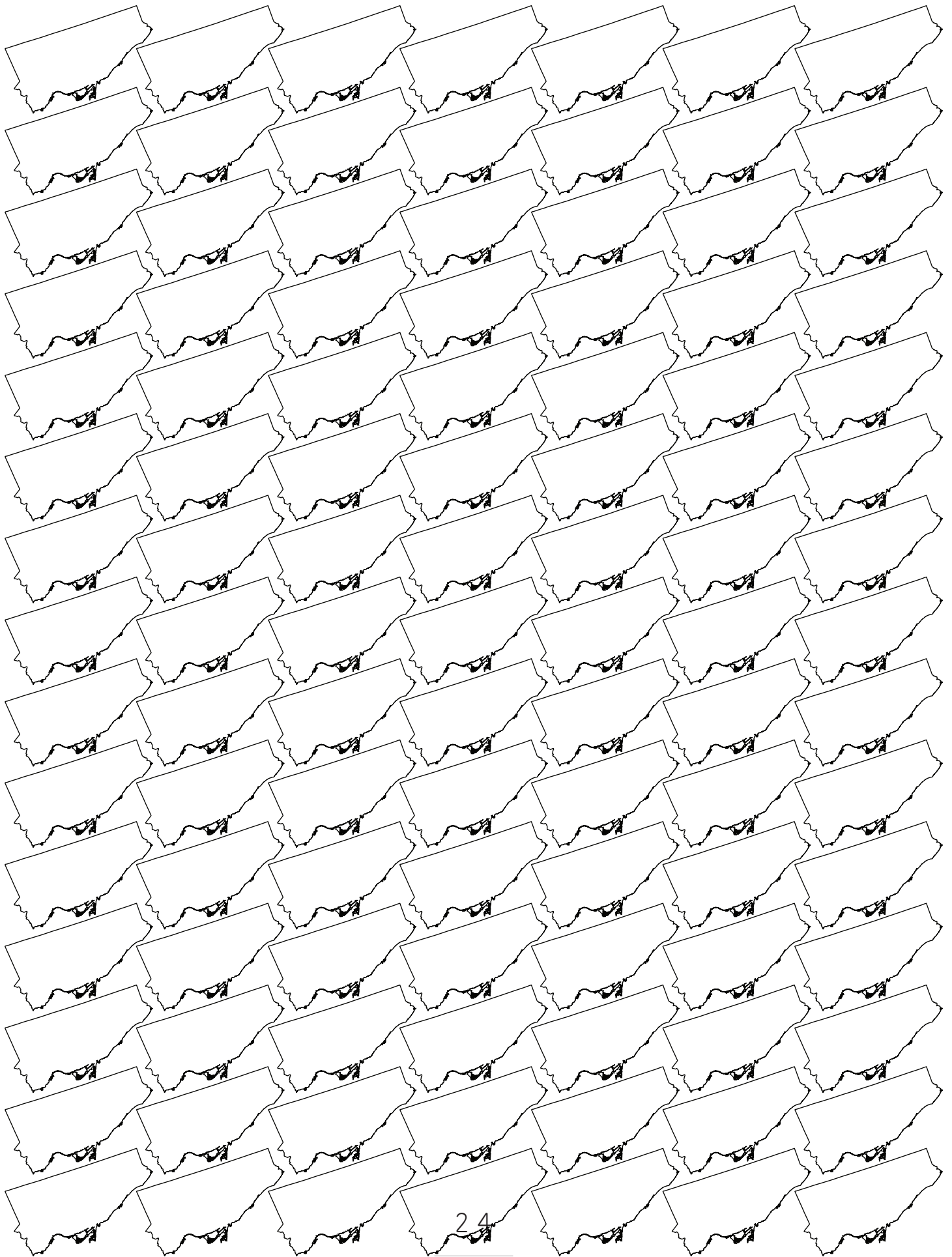
These behaviours would turn the stomach of many non-dog people as they all have negative connotations, be it the noise, the mess or the fear. For me they are all traits and idiosyncrasies that make Tovee, Tovee. He is not human. He does things I would never do, but these traits identify him to me and help form a bond. It

is this ability to inhabit both our human world and his own doggie world that is his draw, it is this liminality that distinguishes him and all other dogs. Their excitement and enthusiasm is contagious, their loyalty is endearing and their easy presence, calming.

They are a part of our world and have been so for tens of thousands of years. Their presence in our world is consistent and will continue on. The purpose of this proposal is to eliminate the tensions created by the urban environment on this relationship in order to strip away the negative connotations that have been garnered. By addressing their liminality and it's associated needs the hope is to not only lift the negatives, but to reinterpret and to use their positive influences within the architecture. In adding this extra level of infrastructure that can easily be integrated into the current urban environment not only will dog owners have places for their dogs, the community itself will be made better because this unnecessary conflict will be gone.

The dogs I have known has given me an appreciation of their needs and an understanding of the benefits/problems they may cause, all of which has been strengthened through the research I have undertaken. Dogs are not and do not have to be a problem.

part 2: NON-
LIMINAL SPACE



DOG STATISTICS

The data gathered by Ipsos on dog ownership in Canada states that the primary group that owns dogs falls within the 18 -34 age bracket,¹ meaning it is most likely young professionals or young families that are getting them. Young professionals account for the increase in dog population in the condominium communities within Toronto.

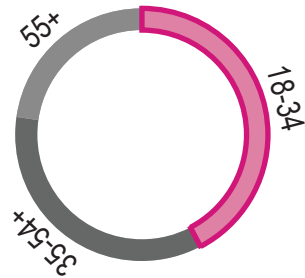
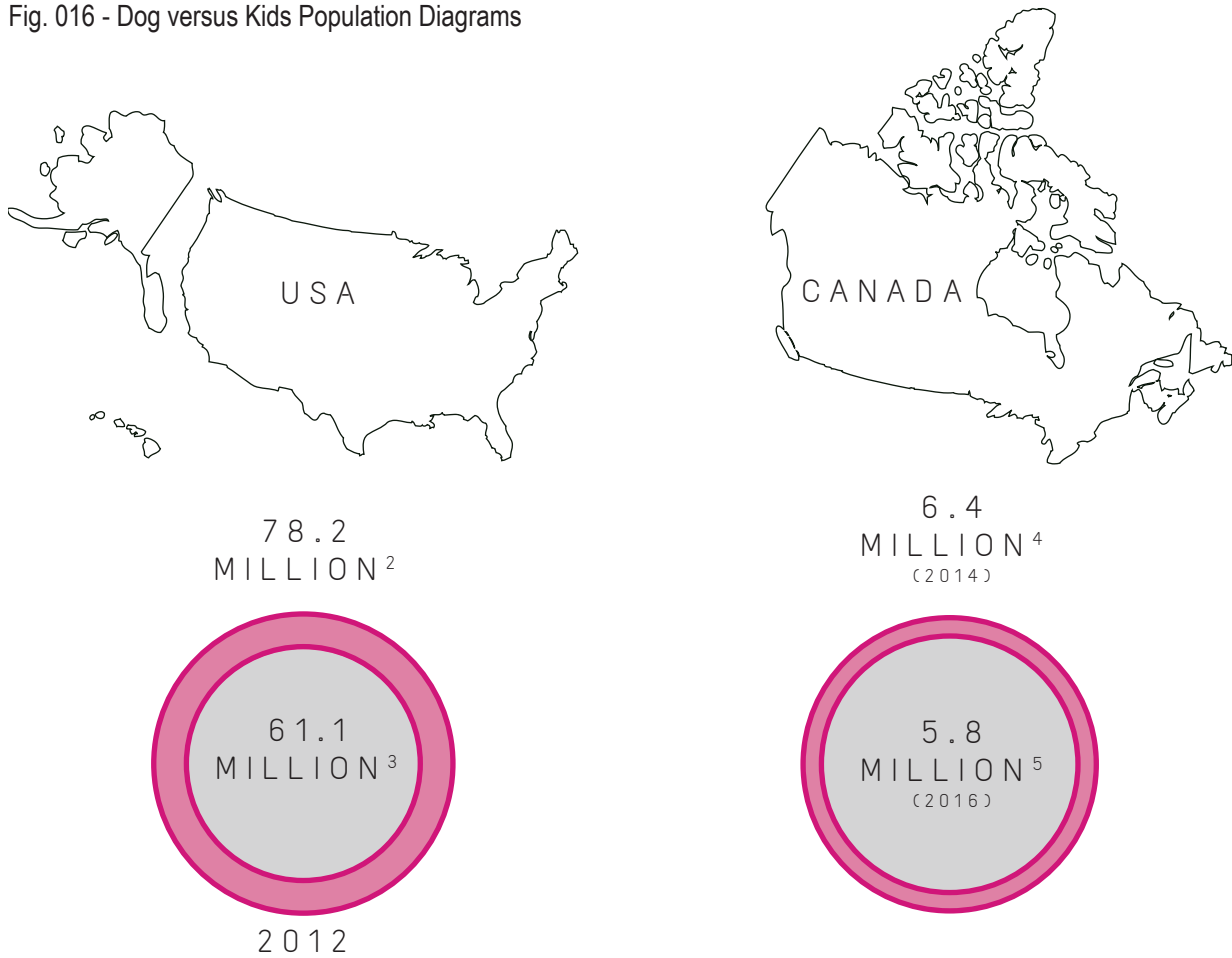


Fig. 015 - Dog Ownership within Canada by age, 2013 ¹
(to right)

DOGS VERSUS KIDS

Fig. 016 - Dog versus Kids Population Diagrams



Data from the US Census Bureau ³ and American Pet Products Association (APPA) ² shows the population of dogs has surpassed the population of children (under 14 years of age) within the US. This indicates an upward North American trend of dog ownership when compared to having children.

Data from Statistics Canada ⁵ and Canadian Animal Health Institute (CAHI) ⁴ shows the population of dogs has surpassed the population of children (under 14 years of age) confirming an upward North American trend of dog ownership when compared to having children.

In Toronto an estimate from a 2007 Toronto Report created by the Board of Health puts the total dog population around 215 000. ⁶ This number is most likely out of date and inadequate to the actual number of dogs, but the most recent available. None the less the number is quite substantial, meaning that the city needs to provide adequate territory for these dogs and their owners.

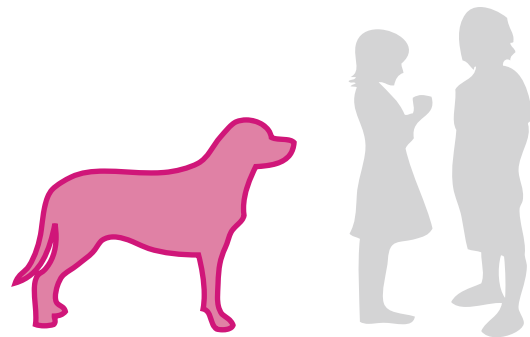
Data from the 2007 Toronto Report estimate and Statistics Canada shows that the population of dogs is just about half the child population of 400 860 (under 14 years of age) ⁷ meaning:

for every 2 children there is 1 dog



215 000 ⁶
(2007)

400 860 ⁷
(2011)



TORONTO CONDOMINIUM CONSULTATION

The information collected in this document includes a survey conducted by the city of Toronto with condominium residents. There were two rounds of surveying/consultation; the first was broader and simply wanted to get an understanding of the problems in high-rise condominium living. The second round was more specific and offered possible solutions. One subject discussed within the report was dogs. The intention of this consultation was to investigate problems and solutions, then gauge how people felt about them. The results are to be used as framework for possible future policy. The following is some of the resulting data and statements from the second round of study.

The lack of amenities for dogs was the focus of the downtown discussion during the Consultation, but ideas addressing this issue were also actively discussed at the Scarborough and North York public meetings. Participants in both meetings agreed that the absence of dedicated dog amenities puts strain on the existing green spaces, especially children's play areas. Several participants in both meetings stated that primary accommodation should be given to children and adults when it comes to green spaces. In combination with these meetings there was the online survey component. These results can be seen to the right. This report clearly shows dogs to be an important issue for future condominium planning.⁸

Idea to test:

Should the city have incentives for developers to provide dog amenities?

Public Feedback:

A majority of the public meeting participants voiced strong support for this idea. Several participants shared their condo experiences where dedicated dog runs have significantly improved the quality of grass around the building and green spaces used by children. The online survey supported these opinions.

Idea to test:

Should there be criteria that can trigger city requirements for dog amenities such as lack of green space or number of units?

Public Feedback:

Consistent with the online survey results, there were some people who supported the idea as well as some who did not agree with the idea at all. In general, this idea generated less discussions than other proposed ideas to test.

Idea to test:

Should the City take a lead role in collecting and sharing best practices currently in use regarding 'pet courtesy' protocols used by local community groups?

Public Feedback:

Many participants supported this idea. During the meetings, participants felt that condominium occupants should be able to ask for advice and share their own experiences with pet-related matters. People shared their examples of successful user-conflict resolution. The online survey supported these opinions.

Idea to test:

Should the city try to promote the idea of a "dog free" building in areas that do not have the appropriate space?

Public Feedback:

Within the public meetings there was some strong support for this idea in North York and Scarborough. The online survey data disagreed with this assessment.⁹

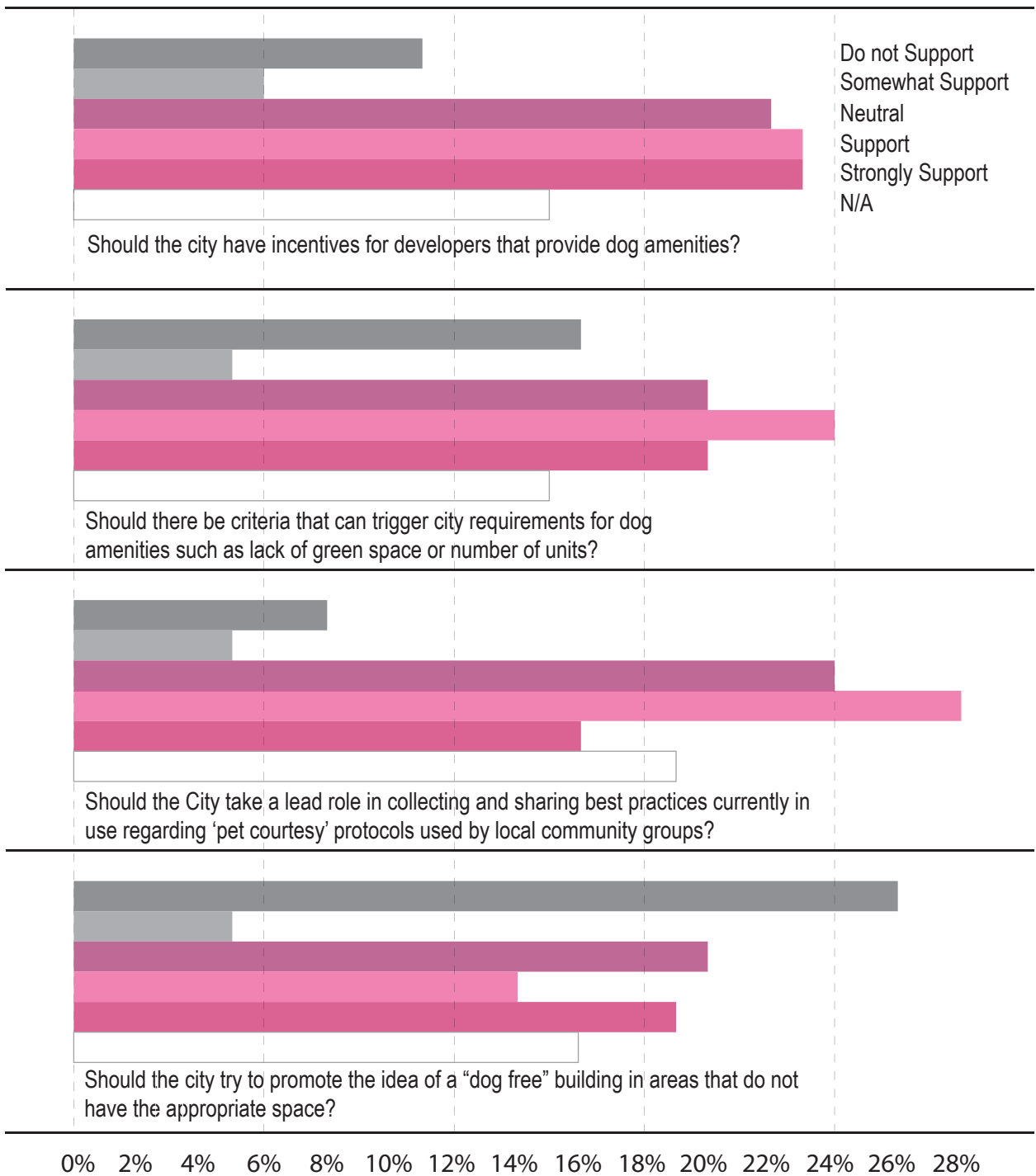


Fig. 017 - Toronto Condominium Consultation Survey Round 2: Appendix E(352 respondents) ⁹

T O R O N T O R E A L I T Y

NEWS ARTICLES

Toronto



Toronto Off-Leash Dog Complaints Spike
March, 13th, 2015

This article discusses the rise of leashing complaints within the city of Toronto. It claims the main reason for this relates to density, limited off-leash parks and limited green space. The jump in complaints is from 130 in 2014 to over 700 in 2015.

Notable Quote:

"[Joe] Cressy said the solution may be forcing private developers [to] incorporate spaces for dogs on their own land."¹⁰



Delinquent dog owners are turning Toronto into turd city:
Micallef - February 5th, 2015

This article discusses what happens when the snow melts and all of the winter's dog poop is revealed. It looks specifically at recently opened June Callwood Park by Fort York which has a large problem with this. It discusses our obligation to pick up the dog poop.

Notable Quote:

"It's a scene repeated across the city and beyond. When the snow melts, even more will be revealed. Your delinquency has turned Toronto into turd city, a pigpen that lives up to our Hogtown nickname. It happens in condo and single family home neighbourhoods alike."¹¹



Dog owners prodding condo developers to accommodate pets' needs - February, 8th, 2014



This article discusses the growing population of dogs living in condominiums and how their presence is pressuring the city to make provisions for dog amenities a requirement in developments. It discusses how the availability of these resources has become a major deciding factor for prospective residents.

Notable Quote:

"It's an amazing percentage of people that have dogs in condos, and it wasn't foreseen, and now we've got to figure out how the next generation of condominiums accommodate dog use, because clearly dogs are part of the community." (Former Councillor Adam Vaughan)¹²

Toronto's Booming Dog Population Needs More Amenities: City Planners - June 2nd, 2014



This discusses how Chief City Planner Jennifer Keesmaat wants dog amenities in new condo buildings. She cites the Tall Building Guide which asks developers to consider dogs, she wants to make this mandatory.

Notable Quote:

"Currently, there are more than 200,000 dogs in Toronto – a number that city planners expect to grow. "It is creating all kinds of planning challenges," said Jennifer Keesmaat, Chief Planner for the City of Toronto." ¹³

Ledbury Park

Jan Wong - vicious turf wars at dog parks across Toronto have cost taxpayers a fortune - June, 25th, 2013



This discusses the implementation of an off-leash dog park that caused great conflict. To cover the costs of the legal dispute the city paid \$40 000 and the opposing side, the Dog Owner's Association, paid another \$15 000. It even caused a family to move away. Initially, the space was an informal off-leash park that residents complained about due to noise. To protect themselves the Association campaigned to make it a formal dog park. So, it became formal, therefore attendance and complaints skyrocketed. The city then revoked its status, dog owners revolted but failed.



Notable Quote:

"When I was elected in 2003, I could never have guessed the amount of time and energy dog issues would take," (Councilor Karen Stintz) ¹⁴

Yorkville

Toronto's Yorkville neighbourhood is 'drowning' in dog poop - March, 14th, 2015



John Caliendo co-president of the ABC Residents Association discusses dog poop problems in Yorkville after the condo boom. He wants to solve the problem by increasing dog amenities, strengthening the by-law language in the Tall Building Guideline and an additional levy to strata fees for bylaw enforcement.

Notable Quote:

"Caliendo doesn't think the problem is unique to Yorkville. He said many densifying areas, from Liberty Village to City Place, are up to their necks in dog doo." ¹⁵



Liberty Village

Liberty Village begins its inevitable slide into poop-covered squalor - May, 27th, 2014

This talked about the specific Liberty Village poop problems, caused by the fact there is only one small park. Liberty Village is also cutoff from the rest of Toronto by the Gardiner and has a large amount of new density. It states that this is just the first of many problems considering the condos will need major repairs in 25-30 years. It is as if the poop is a warning sign.

Notable Quote:

““No one contemplated the number of dogs that would be in the area,” [Councilor Mike] Layton said. “I often joke that there’s five dogs for every half a child per floor in Liberty Village.””¹⁶



Liberty Village Playground vs Dogs Owners
March, 13th, 2015



This article resulted from an earlier post that explored if an additional off-leash dog park was needed or if the two relatively close ones would suffice. This initial article received a massive amount of comments. The new one explores problems associated with the lack of space, competing interests and of course the poop. It gives voices to both sides and shares their fears and concerns.

Notable Quote:

“One concerned mother told us that “the dogs often chase each other near the kids while the dog-owners chat amongst each other oblivious to what their dogs are doing”. Clearly that becomes a safety issue.”¹⁷



CityPlace

Inside CityPlace: My Yuppie Life - January, 1st, 2012



This documents what life is like in CityPlace. The author talks about the pros of living there such as the closeness to downtown and the cons such as lack of community. He even realizes the potential of the many dogs to form community bonds, but it often doesn’t work.

Notable Quote:

“Sure, there are a sh*tload of dogs in the area, yet it is typically an interaction between the two dogs, rarely the owners.”¹⁸

Toronto condo board's pet ban sparks vigorous debate - August, 26th, 2016



A recent ban for 3 Navy Wharf and 5 Mariner Terrace from the 5 member condo board is discussed. The ban is for dogs living in the buildings with a grand-father clause for current dogs. The reasons for this ban relate to noise, dogs being pent up in condos, soiling carpets and the ripping up of communal areas. Some of the non-dog owners do not see these problems. It also is raising tensions between the Condo Board and dog owners. The owners see the dog ban as draconian. If residents have a majority of 15% to vote against it the ban will be revoked.

Notable Quote:

“It may be that pets are or are not consistent with how that community is set up: how it’s physically laid out, the demographic of the people. We do see cases where condo boards are changing. They might phase out having pets in the condominium if people have not taken care of their pets responsibly. The largest sources of disputes in condominiums are people, pets and parking,” (Christopher Jaglowitz, Condominium Lawyer) ¹⁹

Dog owners prodding condo developers to accommodate pets’ needs - February, 8th, 2014

“In Toronto’s CityPlace development centred near the foot of Spadina, where an informal study pegs the number of dogs to seven per floor, dog owners are often pitted against their dog-leery neighbours who are sometimes disturbed by barking or mess.”

¹²

SITE CONDITIONS





“Dog owners have become the new smokers.... Once free to smoke (run their dogs) wherever they pleased, smokers (dog owners) are now consigned to furtive puffing (off-leash exercise) in small alcoves, posted paddocks and other ghettos. Dog ownership, once a barometer of confidence and cool... now carries the faint but undeniable whiff of weakness, a presumption of a moral flaw.”²⁰

Fig. 018 - 027 - “No dogs allowed signs” from Liberty Village and CityPlace







Fig. 028 - 037 - Dogs from Liberty Village and CityPlace
“For those who live in condominiums or apartments with no yard, off leash areas are necessary for most sporting and other medium and large breeds. There is no yard to fence. For these people, the enforcement of leash laws, then, is exceptionally threatening.”²¹

Fig. 038 - Dogs fighting



US VERSUS THEM MENTALITY

The presence of dog's within the City of Toronto creates the conflicts previously discussed. The issue is clearly pressing as can be seen by the number of City Councillors that get embroiled in the issue. These include Karen Stintz, Mike Layton and Adam Vaughan (former Councillor). Both sides passionately argue their case; below there are some citizen comments from the Condo Consultation Survey: Appendix E.

“DOG OWNERS IN THE BRAND NEW CONDO I MOVED INTO A FEW MONTHS AGO ARE VERY SELFISH AND TOTALLY INSENSITIVE TO ANYTHING BUT THEMSELVES. THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT THE COMMUNITY AND I WOULD LIKE TO PENALIZE THEM FINANCIALLY AND BANISH THEM LIKE SMOKERS ARE TREATED.”²²

“There are too many dogs and not enough space. A continual battle is waged when owners do not take responsibility. The dogs overrun whatever green space is available and kill the grass. Do not dare to speak to them if you spot them not picking up. Hostility is what you get. Afraid I am fed up with the whole dog culture situation.”²³

“Should not need an incentive - make it a requirement to have “dog facilities” in any building with over 50 units. Stats will show that you have a good number of dogs in these buildings. It's almost like the kids they will never have (or late).”²³

“pets make people calmer and create a sense of wellbeing. Pet services per condo building. outdoor dog parks of varying size and features, more trees and contoured landscape. More pet training. Smaller number of dogwalkers with 4-6 dogs. comfort for the dogs and the people...benches, shade, plants, water.....Friends of..... showing leadership for the care of the dog park itself”²⁴

“I don't have a dog, but almost everyone in my building does so there should be amenities for them--especially a green space just for dogs and a separate green space that is dog-free. There is a war in our neighbourhood over all the dogs in the non-dog park. Children have been chased and injured.”²²

COMPOUNDING PROBLEM

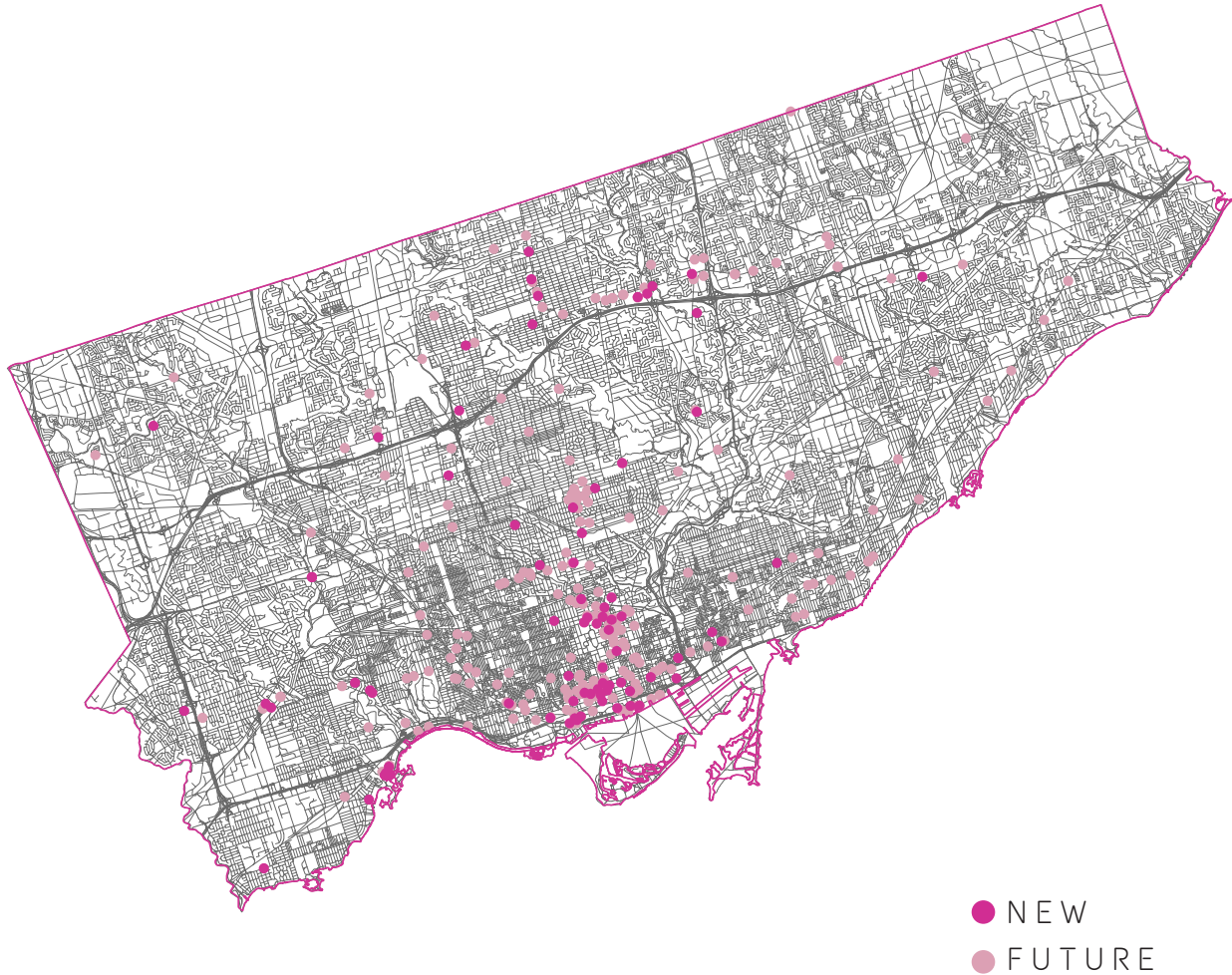


Fig. 039 - Map of new and future condominium development in Toronto ²⁵

The current problems associated with dogs will compound as development becomes increasingly dense. Currently, these issues tend to happen in very new, dense or increasingly built-up neighbourhoods such as Liberty Village, Yorkville and CityPlace. As other sections of the city are developed these problems will continue to repeat themselves. If nothing is done, public space per person (or per dog) will be continually decreased and the situation will continue to degrade. Currently, there are hundreds of condominiums slated for future development in the city that will worsen this problem.

Sonic
The Jack Condo
The Barrington Condos
1 Yorkville
The Kip District
Fuse Condos
The Bartholomew
Kingston and Co Condos
On the GO Mimico
Art Shoppe Lofts
Bisha Hotel and Residences
The Residences of 488
Triumph at Valhalla
King Blue Condos
Flaire Condos
Harmony Village Sheppard
NERO condos+loftshouses
Guildwood Condominiums
The Bean Condominiums
The College Condominium at Spadina
East United Condos
Minto Westside
88 Scott
Garrison Point
Zigg Condos
Love Condos
The Craftsman Condominium Residences
The Bond Condos
Monde Condos
Picasso Condos
Tea Gardens Condos
Eau Du Soleil
The Southwood Condos
The Upper House
Fabrik Condos
Riva del Lago
Enigma on the Park
Cove at the Waterways
The Yorkdale Condos
Lago Condos
The Barrington Condos
South Hill and Madison
5959 Yonge Street Condos
Minto Yorville Park
The Nest Condos
HighPark Condominiums

The Colours of Emerald City
ME Living Condos
Sail Condos
Stanley Condos
158 Front Condos
Danforth Square
150 Redpath Condos
The Davies
Lotus Condos
Fifth on the Park Condos
Bloorvista at Islington Terrace
The Lanes Condo
JOY Condos
Riverside Squire
Citylights on Broadway 99 Broadway Avenue
Picnic Condos
The PJ Condos
609 Avenue Road Condos
On the Danforth
J. Davis House
4 The Kingsway
Elliot and MacKay Condominiums
Cabin Toronto
Soul Condos at Fairview Park
The Rosedale on Bloor
Vida Condos at Bayview Village
Daniels Waterfront
Whitehaus Condos
Pier 27 Tower
Scala Condos
AXIOM
330 Richmond
The Perry Condos
Lakehouse Beach Residences
Rise Condominiums
Forward Condos
The 2800 Condos
Yonge + Rich
Newton Condos
365 Church Condos
The Harlowe
Hunt Club Terrace
Smart House

•••

250 + FUTURE CONDOS

WHY DESIGN IS NEEDED

As these problems continue to worsen, solutions that alleviate their negative effects are becoming increasingly important to the city and its residents. As pressures mount, the city is beginning to react through the implementation of surveys to properly understand the issues⁹, calls to strengthen existing instructions in the Tall Building Guidelines¹³ and campaigns to make people more aware of the issues being discussed.²⁶ Still, calls for action from the public are increasing and the perceived idleness they are received with makes the people restless.

This means the solutions offered in this proposal are perfectly timed. The previous planning which was completely ignorant about the situation has inevitably failed. Solutions are both necessary and timely. The complete banning of dogs or poorly planned regulation with no built framework is the wrong answer, as has been proven. People will fight for their dogs because they play an important part in their lives. The proposal created offers a framework for possible solutions to this very current and pressing issue in the design of our cities. It is based on the undeniable fact that dogs are an integral part of the city and require accommodation like any other group. The necessity of this way of thinking is clear, even before completion this thesis has been discussed on multiple media outlets. These include CBC Radio's Here and Now²⁷ and Metro Morning.²⁸ There has also been articles written about it in both the Torontoist²⁹ and Metro News Toronto.³⁰ The problem of this thesis is pressing and the call for solutions loud; this makes it an important topic for discussion.

Fig. 040 - Ad from Toronto Animal Services

Toronto:
2.8 million people
230,000 dogs

Remember: Not everyone loves Max.



TESTING GROUND:CITYPLACE



INTRODUCTION

CityPlace by Concord Adex is the largest master planned community that the City of Toronto has ever been involved in.³¹ Construction began shortly after the new millennia. All plans for future build out are now available.³² It is a 44 acre site that has 5.4 million square feet of residential and commercial space. This makes CityPlace the densest neighbourhood in Toronto. It is expected to be home to around 15 000 people upon completion. Currently, there is one central park known as Canoe Landings which is 8 acres in area and there is also two Linear Parks known as the Northern and Southern Linear Parks.³³

CityPlace and it's surrounding territory is the perfect test site for this proposal. Its density allowed the problems with dogs to become evident and it is old enough for these problems to start affecting the community. Yet, it is still new enough to be flexible for new design. There is also a level of isolation within the neighbourhood created by two major routes that cut it from the rest of Toronto, the Gardiner and the Rail Corridor. This restricts the access residents have to the rest of the city's amenities. This means there should be a greater effort placed on usable public amenity space, unfortunately there is not. All of these factors mean CityPlace is an excellent test case.

Fig. 041 - Photograph of CityPlace (to left)

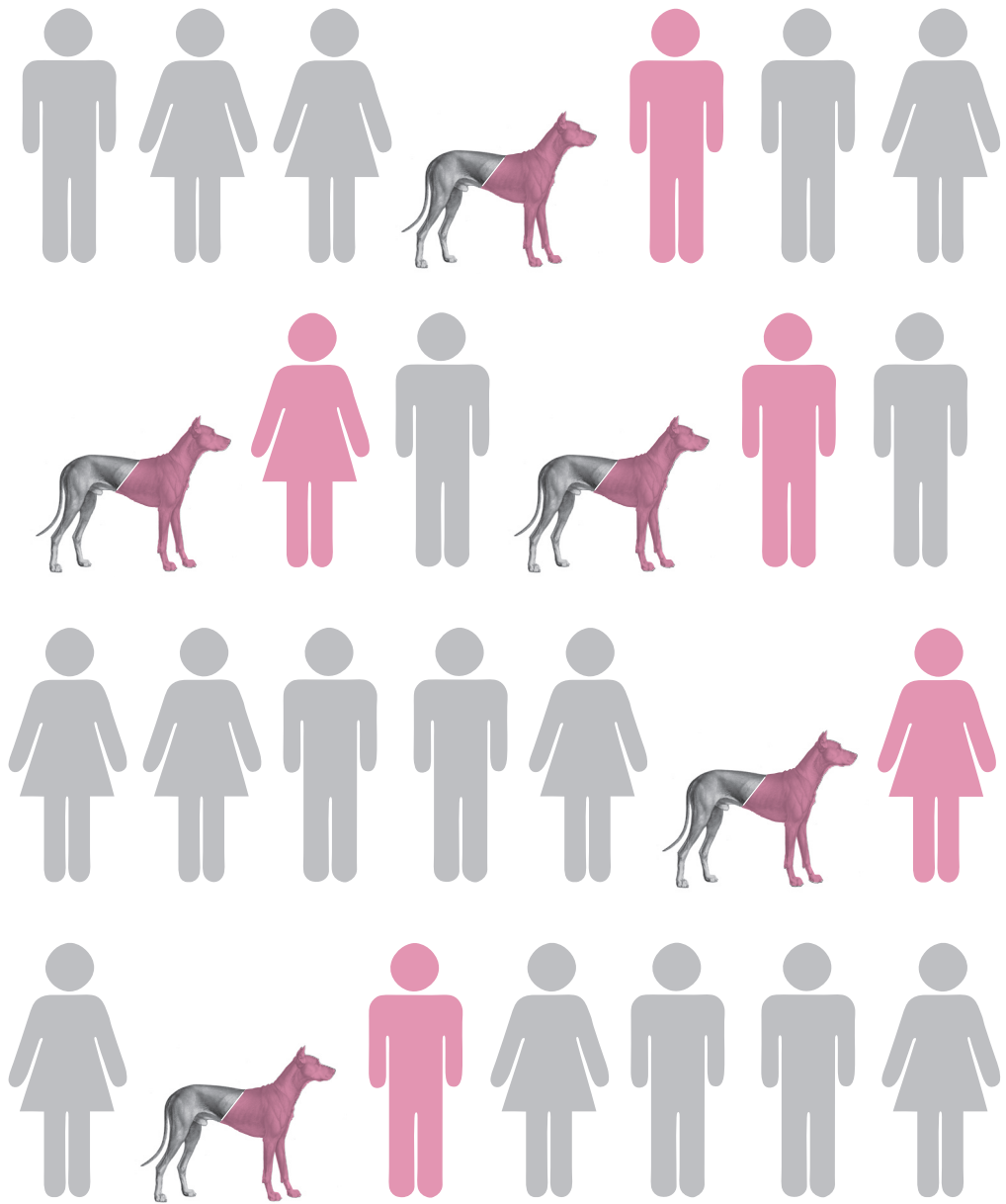


Fig. 042 - Homogeny and otherness within CityPlace

BUILT / SOCIAL DYNAMICS

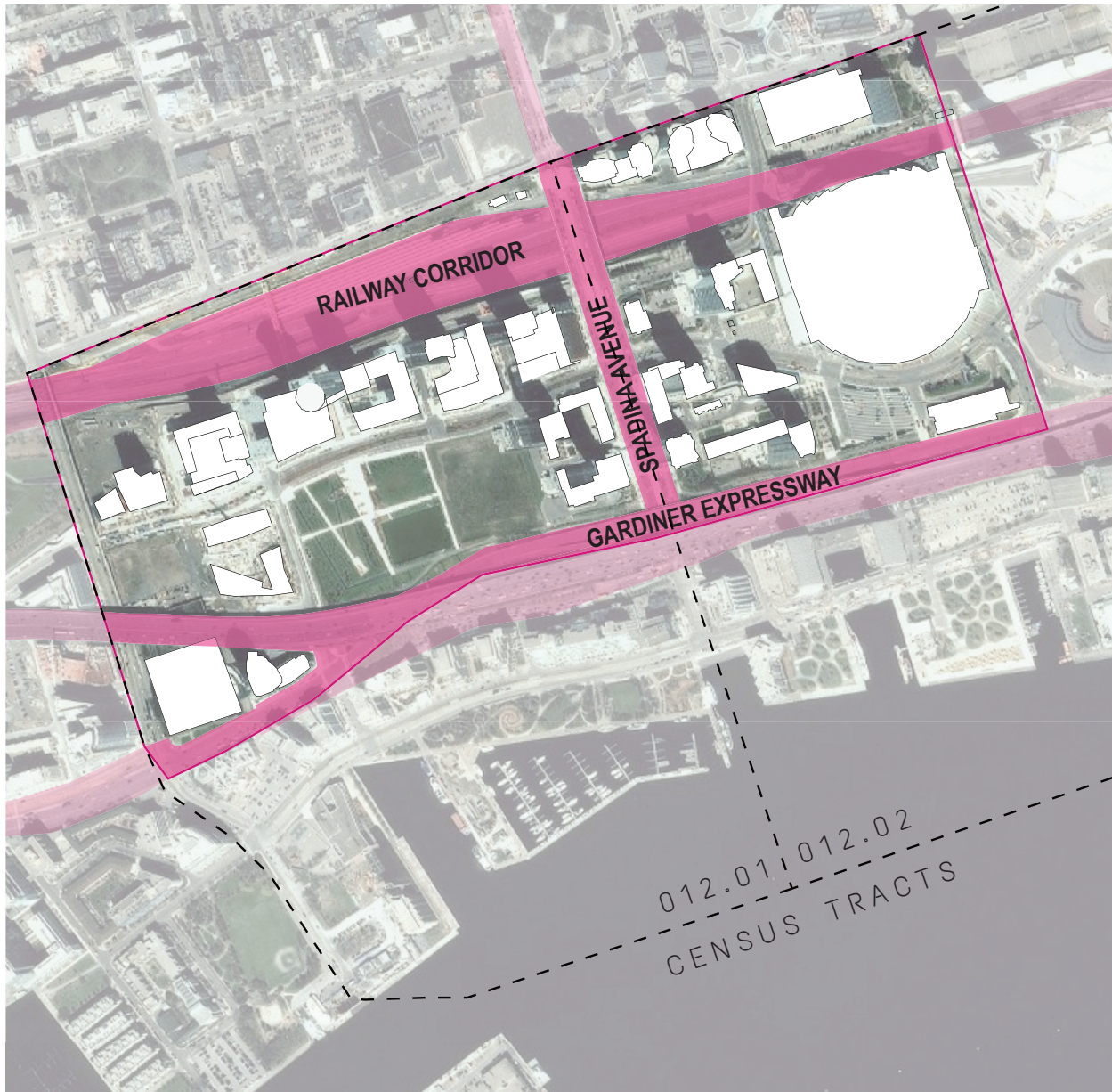
The development within CityPlace is modelled off the residential podium - tower typology made famous in False Creek, Vancouver. This type is aptly named Vancouverism. The Vancouveristic model is created through a "livability criteria" that allows high density to be possible. It promotes open space, view corridors, civic amenities, recreational space and commercial functions. The primary building block of this typology is the podium - tower. The podium may hold rowhousing, public functions, office space or commercial outlets. Through its form the podium is supposed to keep the building in scale with the street and its program is designed to create a lively atmosphere. The tower which accommodates the density is pushed back to allow for view corridors and to create a low impact at grade. Throughout the network of these towers there are to be public spaces and parks.³⁴

The main intention of Vancouverism is "...to rescue civic community from the perceived failings of the Modernist city by generating newly safe and healthy communities."³⁵ Essentially, the goal is to bring a large number of residents in close proximity while mitigating our previous mistakes. The morphologies of this type are made to have maximum profitability for developers and they have easily quantifiable social benefits through the use of the criteria established to make collaborative development between public and private easy. The resulting forms have gained many suburban characteristics to fit these qualities. They became comfortable, homogenous and safe. The architecture is generally made as orderly and consistent as single family homes. The grade level is often made beautiful to echo the suburban yard, but in doing so it has lost much of its functionality. The template for the podium program does promote mixed use, although the effort often falls flat as most proposed uses are culturally and socially ineffective. The spaces are made to be seen and not used; landscaped portions must not be walked upon and the sculptures are placed there solely to meet requirements. The Condo boards protect property values and promote proper conduct. Model citizens living in these developments often fit easily within in this established environment as the group is fairly homogenous. They are generally urban professionals with middle to upper class incomes that are colloquially known as yuppies. All these factors in-

cluding form, program, landscaping and homogeneity tend to create a poorly done copy of the city.³⁶ CityPlace was designed by the same developer as False Creek, Concord Adex and many of the same principles were brought over. Unfortunately, the towers were supersized and the overall development was placed in a much smaller territory. As a result, towers are made thicker and taller while the park space is reduced. To put it into context, CityPlace is a 44 acre development compared to the 148 acres that make up the False Creek development. Within False Creek there is approximately 8000 private households.³⁴ While within CityPlace there is a 10 345 private households that have an average unit size of 759 sq. ft. Of these households, 99% of them are apartment style in buildings more than 5 stories.³⁷

Due to the higher density and less diversity CityPlace intensifies the innate problems of the Vancouverist model of development. It is unable to handle anything outside of its own homogeneity; within the context provided this is represented by the dog. The dog is a liminal being in a prescribed and non-liminal space. If given the chance, the dog would wreak havoc on the perfectly manicured ground plane, muddy the fountains and play in the sports fields, but most defiantly they defecate and urinate in public. These are why some dislike them and others love them. They create disorder in the orderly. But, this does pose a problem, CityPlace and places like it have no allowance for this disorder. They do not have the ability to deal with it at the current scale it is happening. As a result, the conflicting and abnormal programmatic issues that dogs may cause become extremely obvious and exacerbate the conflicts created. "The cozy comforts and activities of a narrow social stratum overdetermine the model (Vancouverism), ultimately rejecting the idea of the city as a place where different people with differing agendas and interests (ideologies) navigate the space of the city."³⁸ So, although there are definite successes in Vancouveristic design its innate failings cause the community stresses when faced with the "other" that lives among them.

Fig. 043- CityPlace and the census tracts it is within



STATISTICAL SUPPORT

The statistical data from the *2011 Census* supports the “homogenous” effect of Vancouverism. It shows one or two person households with a younger age bracket are in the majority.³⁹ This homogenous population are more likely to own and care significantly for a dog. As previously stated the majority of dog ownership occurs between the ages of 18-34.¹ Also it has been shown that people in smaller household care more deeply for their

dogs. In a 4 person household, dogs are considered as a member of their family by below 50% people. While in a 2 person household 60.5% of people believe they are.⁴⁰ This is raised even higher in a 1 person house. The average household size in CityPlace is 1.6 people.³⁹

Fig. 044 - CityPlace: Type and total number of private households (10 345)³⁹

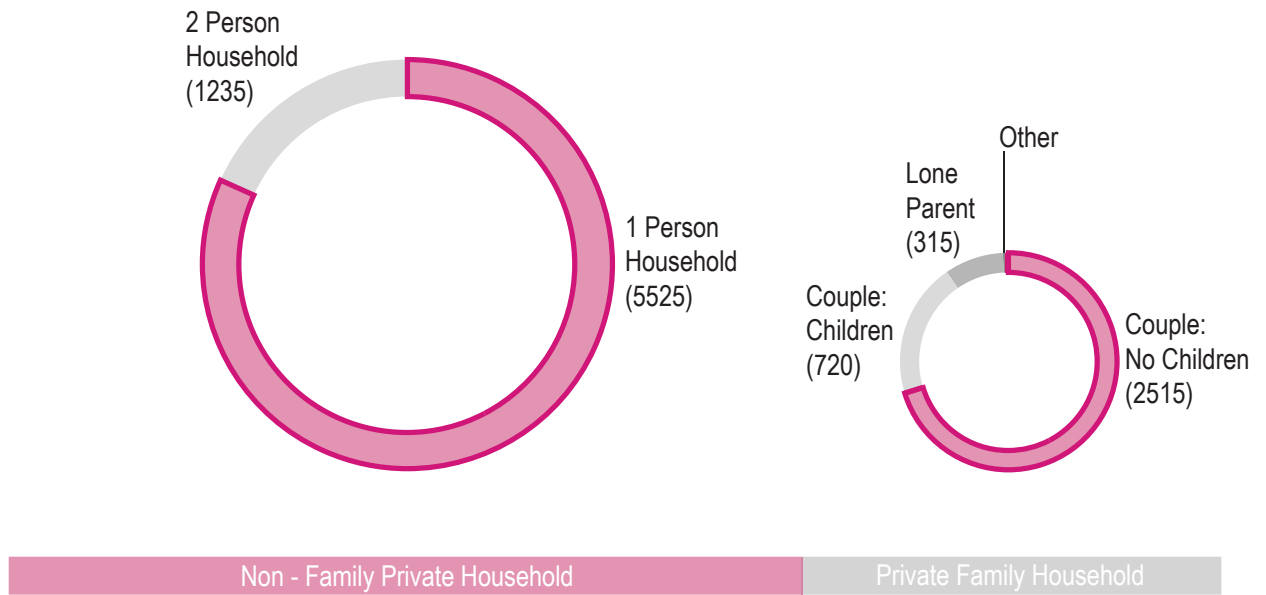


Fig. 045 - CityPlace: Total population by age group (16 590)³⁹

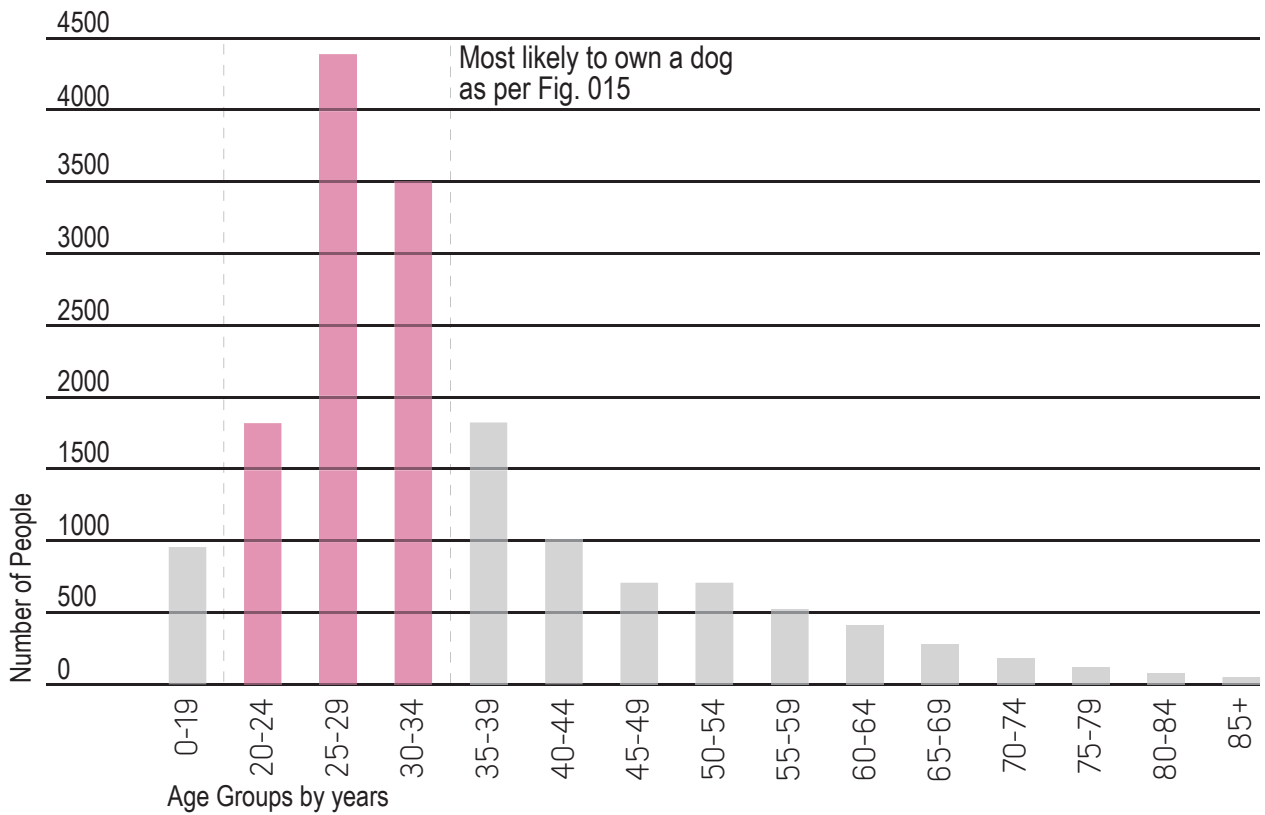


Fig. 046 - Many Dogs

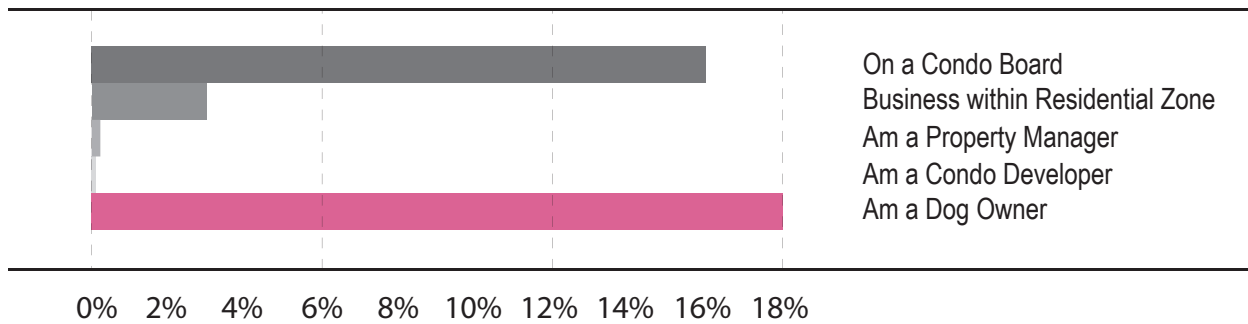


ESTIMATE DOG POPULATION

From the Condominium Consultation, whose primary respondents were condominium dwellers, a percentage of dog ownership can be derived. Within the survey 18% of condo dwellers responded as dog owners.⁹ When extrapolated to the population as specified by the 2011 Census (16 590)³⁹ this comes to approximately 2900 dog owners or 2900 dogs. This estimate is problematic at best as it does not consider multiple dogs per owner or multiple owners to a single dog and it is a fairly small sample size. The population data is also fairly dated, but it is currently the best available. This works for the purposes of this proposal, although better data is required to make the city more aware of the problem. Licensing of dogs should be made significantly more important simply for the data it would create. It is believed that the great majority of people currently do not license their dogs.

Fig. 047 - Toronto Condominium Consultation Survey Round 2: Appendix E, Dog Ownership (352 respondents) ⁹

Which applies to you? (66% N/A)

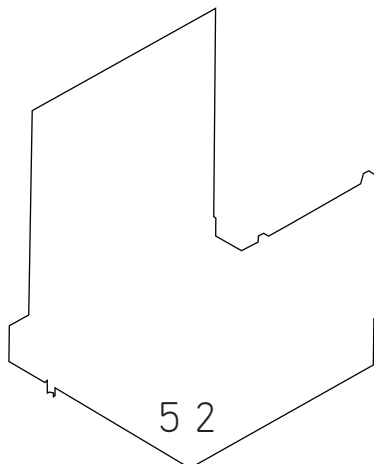
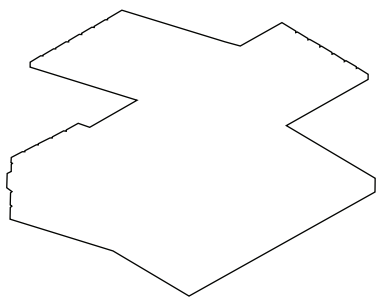
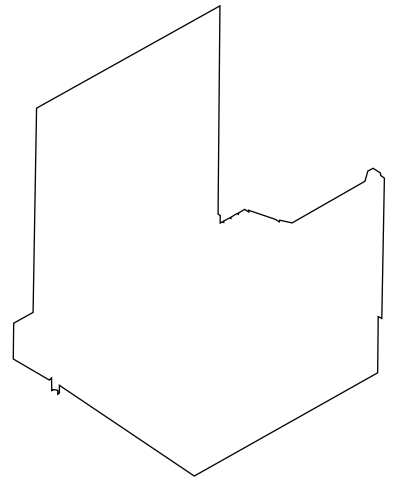
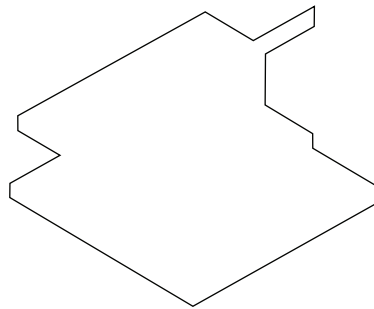
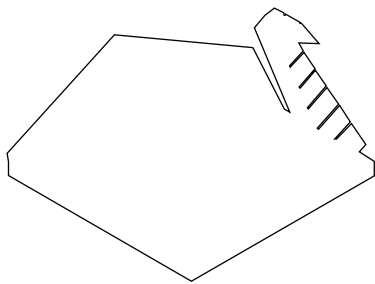
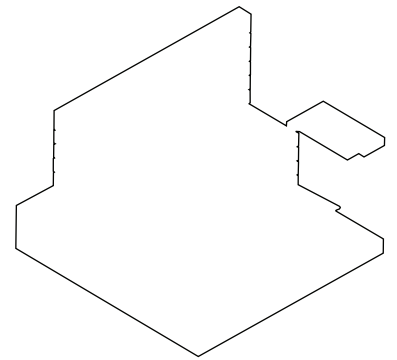
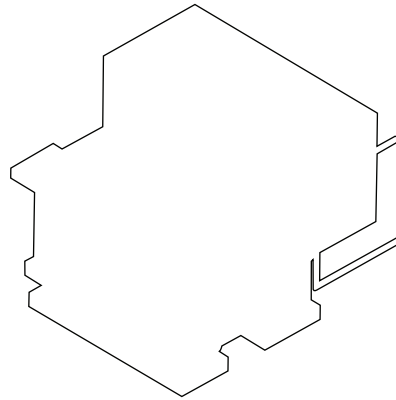
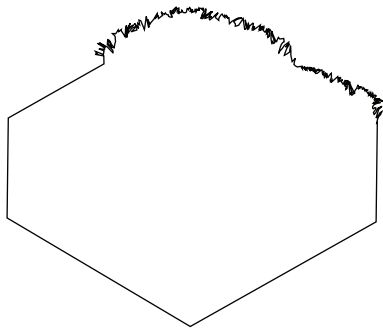
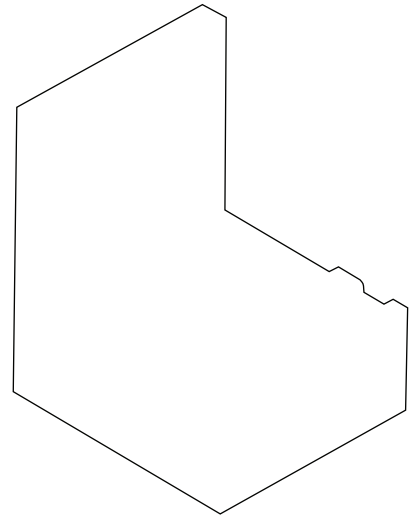
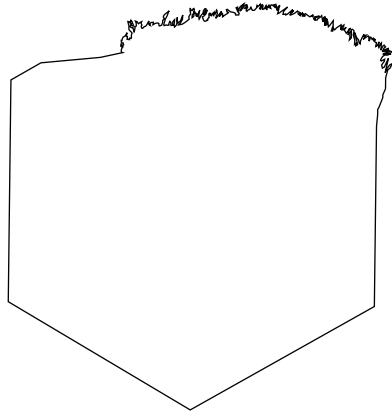
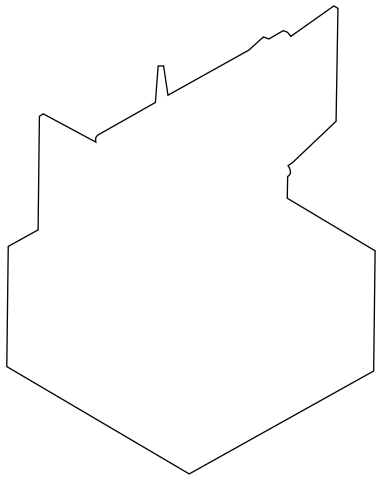


TOTAL POPULATION : 16 590

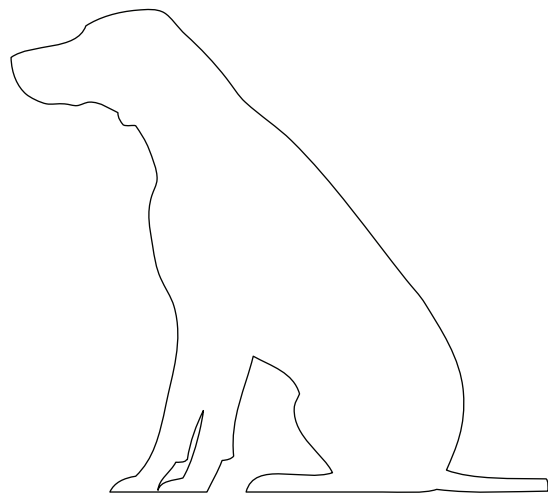
$(16\ 590) \times 0.18 = 2900$



part 3:
INTEGRATION



CONTEXT FOR DESIGN



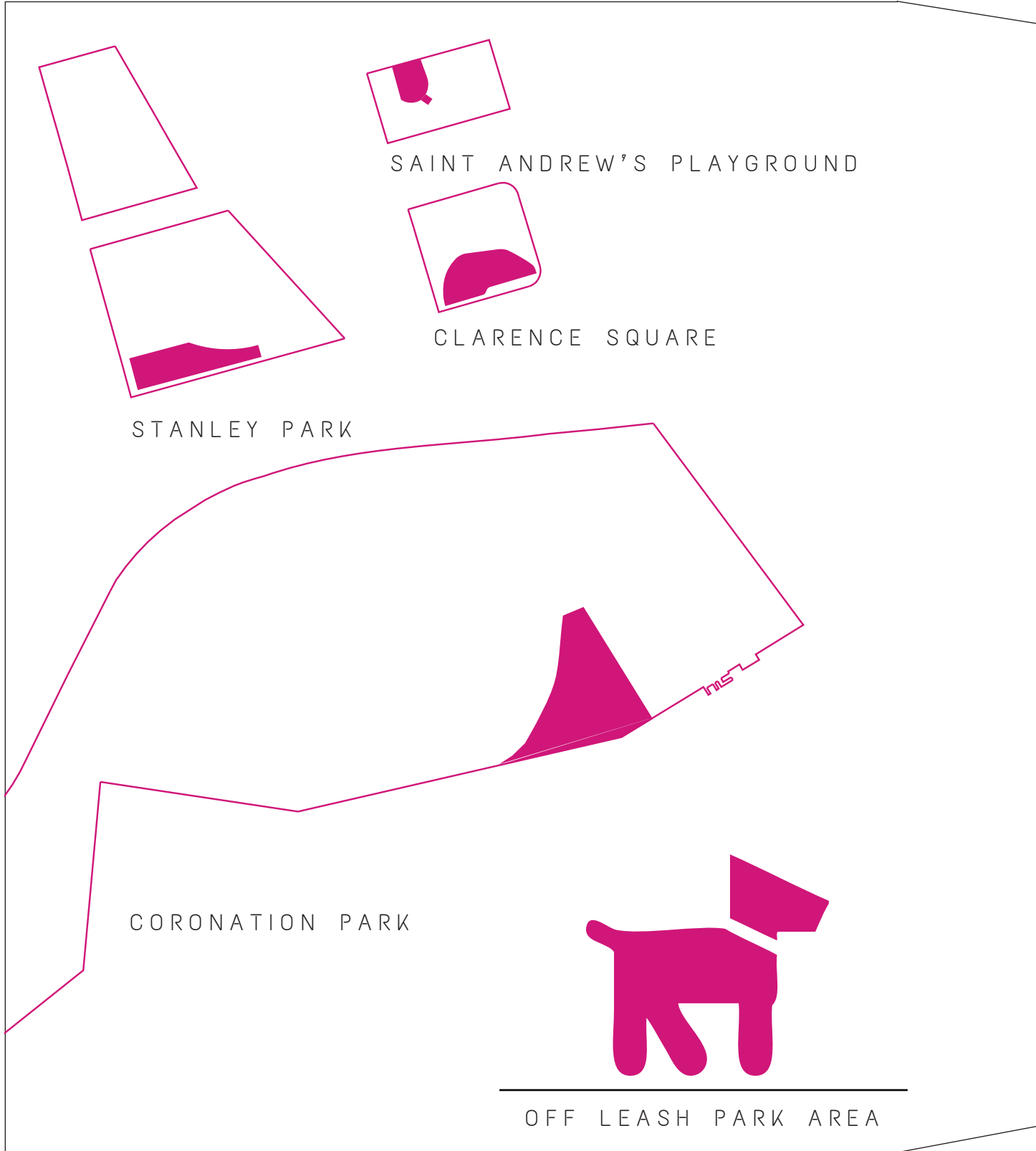
LOCATION

The design centres around one of the last projects currently under construction within CityPlace, the Newton and Forward Condominium complex. This was chosen because its current status allows for the possibility of change. All other interventions are proposed within a 1km radius of this spot to provide a 2km round trip back to the condo, thus creating a level of convenience for the residents that will insure their use. This project is a trial study on this particular area and building in order to explore the concepts involved, although the intention is not to limit the design concepts within this area. The next few pages categorize dog related services or important established plans that effect this proposal.



Fig. 048 - 1 km radius around the Newton and Forward Condominium Complex

OFF LEASH PARKS



SAINT ANDREW'S PLAYGROUND

CLARENCE SQUARE

STANLEY PARK

CORONATION PARK

OFF LEASH PARK AREA



Fig. 049 - Official off-leash park space within specified area

DOG FRIENDLY SERVICES AND RESTAURANTS

THE HYDRANT   

FLYING DUCHESS   

TORONTO BOARDING SCHOOL 

SPAW BOUTIQUE INC 

FRONT STREET ANIMAL HOSPITAL 

PET SOCIAL 

FURRY FLOYD'S DOG WALKING CO 

PET SOCIAL PLUS 

PAWS 2 GO INC  

GOOD BOY DOG WALKING 



Dog Walking



Doggie Daycare



Kennel



Groomers



Veterinary



Shop



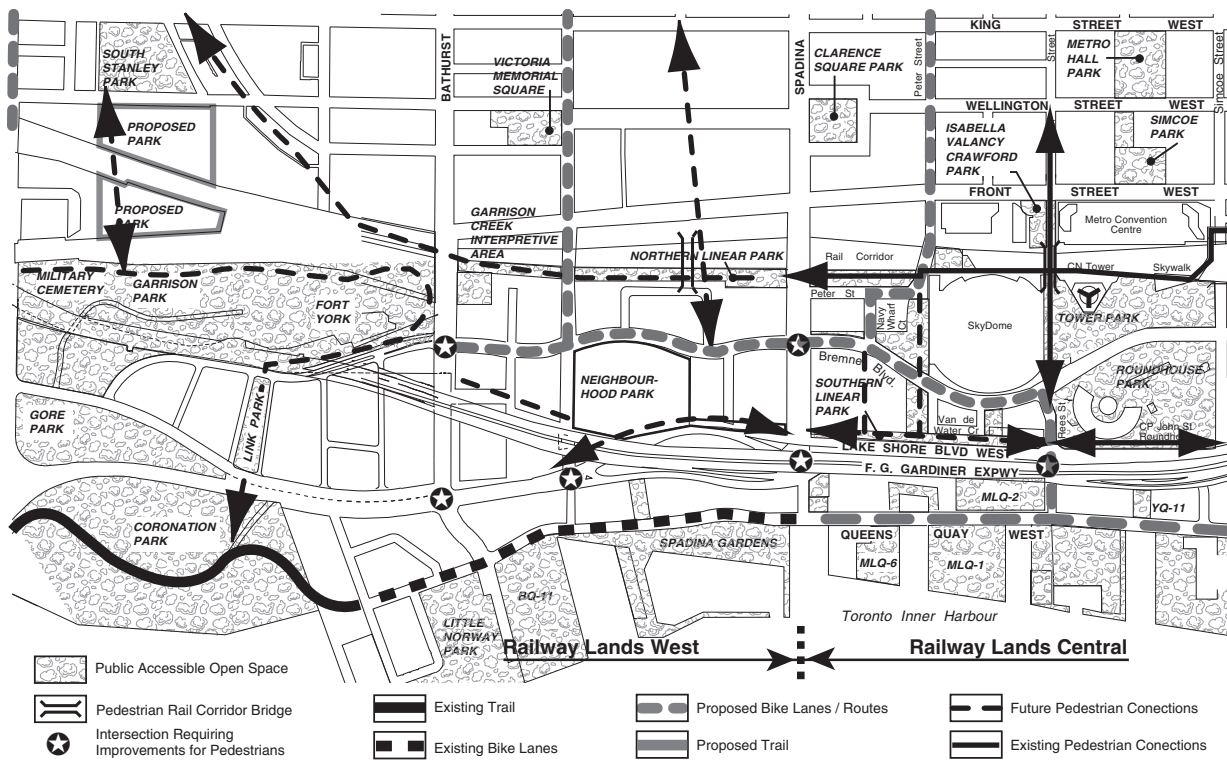
Dog Friendly
Cafe/
Restaurant

SERVICE CATEGORIES



Fig. 050 - Dog Services within specified area

Fig. 051 - Pedestrian and bike paths from the City of Toronto's Railway Lands West and Central Urban Design Guidelines forming part of the city's Official Plan ¹



THE CITY'S MASTER PLAN

As a new master planned community the city gave guidelines to how CityPlace could develop to allow for pedestrian and bicycle connections. Bremner / Fort York Boulevard is the Major east-west corridor while Spadina Avenue and Bathurst Street are the major north-south ones. Spadina and Bathurst allow for direct contact to the rest of the city, while smaller north-south corridors connect to Northern Linear Park which serves as the secondary major east-west thoroughfare. The pedestrian bridge, the Puente de Luz from Northern Linear Park

to Front Street West has already been built and adds an additional connection to the rest of the city. ¹ Northern Linear Park also has a planned extension underneath Bathurst through the future Mouth of the Creek park. This connects the parks to a future public path on the Fort York Heritage site. From here another pedestrian bridge planned to form a connection to Stanley Park. ² Southern Linear Park is planned to connect with the future Under the Gardiner Park thoroughfare. ³



Fig. 052 - Possible planned and current pedestrian connections to take advantage of within specified area

BASIS FOR DESIGN



The philosophy driving design in this proposal strays from a purely Humanistic understanding of the world. It begins to explore a Post-Humanistic view that calls for a distinct change to how we think about the world and requires an adjustment to the perceived centrality of humanity within it. In a Humanist perception, the measures of right/wrong, good/bad is put against universal human qualities to create distinctions, therefore it is primarily geared toward human interests. The Post Humanist decentralises the human, places it in conjunction with other things and tries to understand how this affects our perceptions. Cary Wolfe describes this condition in *What is Post Humanism?*:

“What this means is that when we talk about post humanism, we are not just talking about a thematic of the decentring of the human in relation to either evolutionary, ecological or technological coordinates; rather I insist that we are talking about how thinking confronts that thematic, what thought has to become in the face of those challenges.”⁴

In summation, it is not only the exploration of a non-human centred world, but how that mentality changes our entire way of thinking, doing and living. One topic this line of thinking brings forward is the animal and its status. If we are not at the centre, we should begin to act in this manner. This begins with elimination of the created human-animal divide. This design proposal seeks to learn about and then refute this divide through the use of theoretically means that become grounded into a very real design. In doing so it proves that when architects and urban planners shift their attention away from a purely human subject not only will design be more inclusive to other species, but actually be beneficial to the human inhabitants as well. All the previous materials were created in an effort to prove that the need for intervention is real. From this point on the goal will be to demonstrate that by fulfilling this need the urban environment will be positively impacted, for all those involved, human and animal.

To begin this exploration one must understand why

Fig. 053 - Dog being walked in CityPlace (to left)

Fig. 054 - Jacques Derrida and his cat



Fig. 055 - Donna Haraway and her dog

humanist views have been proven false through post-humanist means. In the chapter titled *Flesh and Finitude* in *What is Post Humanism?* Wolfe explores a number of philosophers that try to disprove the animal-human hierarchy. The strategies used range from humanistic to post humanist approaches. The most successful of these philosophers is Jacques Derrida. His basic premise states that due to the similarities we share with animals and other humans the idea of personhood or special treatment is false. These similarities are outside of our own control, they are described as finitudes or passivities that we are constantly subjected to. Derrida describes two of them that make personhood a defunct concept. The first finitude is the physical vulnerability and mortality that we share. We all die and we all feel pain or suffering, animal or human. The second passivity is a human technicity. What makes us what we are (human and animal) is not formed in isolation; we are formed by what surrounds us. We are the conditions into which we are born including: the communication system, the technological system, the physical system and many other systems that existed long before us. This is both limiting and creating in who we become. These finitudes are shared by all living beings. We are therefore the same as animals because our worlds are created by the same finitudes, the same concepts.⁵

The latter finitude is further expanded and made more relevant to the specificity of the thesis by Donna Haraway in *The Companion Species Manifesto*. Her expansion on the ideas of technicity is relational, specifically with companion species. She believes that not only are we as human and dogs as animals made by the world into which we are born, but by all of the interactions that exist between us. As she states:

“When species meet, the question of how to inherit histories is pressing, and how to get on together is at stake. Because I become with dogs, I am drawn into the multispecies knots that they are tied into and that they retie by their reciprocal action.”⁶

Their subjection informs our own subjection and vice versa, it changes how we interact and cohabitate in what Haraway comes to call a natureculture.

Fig. 056 - Tora Holmberg

Haraway gives many examples of this relational being throughout her work, one relates to the LGD (Live-stock Guard Dog). She explains the resurgence of the Great Pyrenees (a LGD dog) through the actions of some breed enthusiasts. Before this the breed had been decimated after WWII as the pastoral economy died; their number of breeding stock fell as low as 30 possible individuals. The dogs were taken from France and brought to the US for shows and breeding. No Great Pyrenees were used as guard dogs from the 1930s to early 1970s. After the wars, reliance for predatory deterrents to protect livestock came in the form of toxic or fatal means. In the 1970s there was a push for non-toxic deterrents due to the proven ineffectiveness of their fatal counterparts and with consultation from breeders of the Great Pyrenees, they were back to work. There was a lot of investment into proliferation of information about LGD's to farmers that was largely successful.⁷ Without all of the interconnected histories of the peoples and dogs this solution to the of livestock protection nature-culture would not have been possible.



The naturecultures as described by Haraway have many forces that act on them. In *Urban Animal: Crowding of Zoocities* by Tora Holmberg, she begins to look at these forces with a level of pragmatism that understands the needed limitations that exist on the urban animal (again specifically companion species). In her *Bodies on the Beach: Allowability and Politics of Place* chapter she investigates specifically the dog and what she describes as their liminal nature, as was discussed previously. The dog is described as a being that is both our companion and an other. With this status there are resultant spatial pressures which are associated with the specific context in which the dog appears. To deal with these stresses the application of allowability to both the dog and the environment comes into question. This allowability can be described as an ingraining of humanness or civility into the disorder caused by the other which in this case is the dog. This may take the form of regulatory, training, or complete banning for dogs at certain times or specific places, but even this allowability may be disputed. It may not be followed because it is viewed as too restrictive or it may not be accepted by some who view the dog as solely an animal because it allows too much compromise. The dog-based activities

may be too subversive. They are not ordered or productive, they are often even viewed as detrimental and this is why they breed conflict.⁸

Holmberg explores these concepts through a case study focused on a disputed dog beach in Santa Cruz, California. She does an in-depth study on both sides of the debate giving the reasons, perspective and actions of each side. One of her final comments on the matter is:

“It is a story of a particular suburban beach where dog’s inhabit a contested role as liminal creatures, roaming a liminal place and, thus forming a crowd together with people, working both as potential threats to the social order and subversive actors who can potentially change norms and practices....”⁹

This proposal learns from each of these philosophies in order to frame the project and to help in solving the problems put forth. Simply to reiterate, the problem investigated relates to the accommodation of the dog in dense urban environments like CityPlace where little space has been made for them. As a result there is a high amount of conflict that is based on their perceived animalistic tendencies clashing with the human centred environment.

From Derrida, the concepts relating to the second finitude of subjection to pre-existing condition can be seen in CityPlace. The urban environment creates it’s own technicity. Its conditions, regulations and rules are formed outside of the residents yet they affect and shape their lives and the lives of the subject animal the dog. In the case of areas such as CityPlace this finitude is considerably more limiting in its ability to form for both dog and human alike. There was little understanding of how much this environment was to be shared by humans and dogs and as a result the neighbourhood technicity fails in its primary function of living. The most prevalent proof being the wide spread usage of the “no dog’s allowed” signs which glaringly states how ill equip this pre-existing condition is for the residents that it supposedly needs to define.

Fig. 057 - “Dog Beach”, Santa Cruz, California (to right)



The technicity created by the failure of the designed environment generated the resulting conflicts that now afflict the area. These conflicts can be clarified through understanding the various players' relationships and histories. These include dog owners, their dogs and the complainants. By understanding these different multispecies knots and overall natureculture of the area can be designed for. Within CityPlace two major parties are at the centre of this conflict: the dog owners and those that consider the dogs to be problematic. These two parties have very different interactions with the subject animal, the dog. For those that own dogs they view them as a member of the family especially within smaller family structures like those that reside within Cityplace. As previously discussed, 60.5 % of people in a two person household feel their dogs are a part of the family.¹⁰ Clearly the dog's involvement offers a positive relationship with these people, but due in part to the constraints of their homes opportunities to return this favour are made extremely difficult.

“...the loss of public space to exercise dogs ultimately threatens the ability of many people to have dogs or much more importantly, to care appropriately for their particular dog. For those that live in condominiums and apartments with no yard, off leash areas are a necessity for most sporting and other medium and large breeds”¹⁰

The opposing party simply claims the dog is problematic as their only interaction with them seems to be negative. They may view them as loud, destructive, violent, unsanitary or simply using the space that should be theirs. These two parties argue with each other based on their specific interactions with the dog because the accommodations for necessary activities within the environment are so poor. The resulting natureculture is hostile.

The reason this natureculture is so hostile is due to the condensed form of the neighbourhood. This density resulted in many areas that are “officially” restricted from dog usage. The places then created to serve the dogs, be it play space, walk space or even washroom space occur in highly concentrated and often inadequate territories. This results in these activities spilling into the “officially” restricted territory. These spaces start

to be viewed as overwhelming 'animal' as Holmberg describes and as a result are prime territory for negative dog-human interaction or Haraway's "multispecies knots". So in order to integrate dog's and their associated community appropriately into CityPlace and further, it cannot be about a single intervention. The concentration of activity is clearly the main reason for conflict. Haraway defines her naturecultures as relational, each being and their individual subjection is defined by interactions with other beings and their subjection. So what if we continue this into the built form? What if design becomes relational and each intervention was defined by its placement and role in comparison to all the other interventions. Then by building within the existing fabric the strategy is able to use the existing technicity while still improving the overall natureculture. This newly designed neighbourhood can become a physical network of spaces that spreads out dog-activities so no one space becomes overwhelming animal and therefore not allowable. By decreasing the intensity, spaces can become multiuse and serve many more functions past "dogs spaces" benefitting all in the community. More importantly, these spaces serve to alleviate conflicts by considering all parties involved. The intention of this strategy is to increase positive multispecies knots and as a result make the area more functional as a neighbourhood unit.

The implementation of this strategy is tied primarily to need, proximity, and integration into existing infrastructures and built forms. Need and proximity are driven mostly by the idea of an ideal schedule for dogs, because as with children, dogs are creatures of habit and repetition. An ideal schedule for dog care created Debra A. Primovic, BSN, DVM a doctor of veterinary medicine became a basis to work from.¹¹ From here basic needs for a dog's wellbeing and the timeframe to accomplish them became clear. Proximity requirements became known because a time frame was assigned per activity, therefore the activity and the associated travel needs to be accommodated within that specific frame. For example, the morning became critical because many activities need to be accommodated within a very short time. In the current environment this creates conflict. Elevators become overstressed with dog owners and people leaving for work, accidents may occur



and even if they don't, a massive amount of pressure is placed on the landscaping surrounding the tower. What if the balcony becomes a washroom space instead? Not just a temporary one with a pee pad, but a fully functional drainable surface that could act as a nice outdoor space as well as a washroom. This will help to get rid of the negative interspecies interactions that occur in the morning.

In order to begin implementing this strategy, precedents became an important part of informing the interventions created. Although, as an often ignored design problem there were limited examples making the solutions adapted from them all the more important. Selecting some of them also required a level of inventiveness that changed the requirements of what makes up an architectural precedent.

One of the first design influences that affected the process was not selected for complete practicality to the specific problems of this thesis, but instead embodied a manner of implementation. The interventions would require a heavy amount of landscaping due to the affinity that an olfactory creature such as the dog has for its pungent and absorbent qualities. The question then became how to integrate this within the urban environment? Consideration must be placed on the high traffic nature of the city and how to accommodate plants without having them die. A clear example to learn from became the High Line in New York. The High Line provides a seamless transition from paved to planted in a way that promotes the coexistence of planting and paving materials. As described by the designer DS + Renfro:

“Through a strategy of agri-tecture - part agriculture, part architecture – the High Line surface is digitized into discrete units of paving and planting which are assembled along the 1.5 miles into a variety of gradients from 100% paving to 100% soft, richly vegetated biotopes,”¹²

This type of landscape intervention also promotes a tendency to mender and enjoy the landscape, as it

Fig. 058 - The Highline, New York, New York (to left)

becomes known as a “pathless” territory. This creates a meandering, leisurely walk that any dog/owner would enjoy. These two factors combined to make this idea of paving/landscaping an ideal strategy to learn from in creating an urban dog walk. Another design element the High Line promotes is integration into existing damaged fabric to reinvigorate that afflicted territory. This is a driving force behind this proposal. There was a huge amount of care placed into the display and reuse of existing railway fabric into the High Line. For example, each rail piece removed was numbered and catalogued in order for it to be displayed or used in its original context. This proposal does not have the same historical or contextual ties as most areas involved are simply underused or neglected, but it will still require the same level of care for integration into existing fabric. ¹²

The next precedent that was investigated was the redesign of Vermont Square Park by PLANT Architect Inc in Toronto. When designing this park the brief that was created highlighted all of the distinct features that were required for this park’s completion. This list required functions such as open field recreation, passive recreation space, walking space, hard surfaced play areas, multiuse playground, uniting the park through upgrading connections, a rich horticultural environment and the continuation/augmentation of existing dog amenities. All of these elements required careful thought and compromises but, the separation/multiuse nature of the dog run is the most pertinent for this thesis. The multiuse dog run, unlike most urban parks is open and without fencing, but as stated within the brief, “The design should reduce the 100% overlap of off-leash with other open space activities, to reduce the pressure on space and turf.” ¹³ In order to provide this service and have it without a fence they relied heavily on natural elements and existing buildings as barriers, but the most interesting barrier is not technically a barrier. An art bench is used to separate the playground and the dog use area. As stated on PLANT’s website the “...Art Bench which has come to serve as the backbone of the park, acting as both fence and social convener.” ¹⁴ The bench socially connects the playground to the dog run in a way that a simple fence never could, it is a clever way to promote

Fig. 059 - Vermont Square, Toronto, Ontario (to right)





community while still having the necessary segregation. This type of thinking aligns extremely well with what both Holmberg and Haraway were discussing. This space also has timed use for dogs in order to provide multiple uses.

Much of the other precedents I explored were purely for practical and technical needs which will be cited in the bibliography, but the most prominent influence in this proposal was the dog itself. Understanding how they see and interact with the world from the many in-depth studies became my most important source of information. This was then extended to include how these behaviours were understood and accepted by the humans that interacted with them. The most important precedent to me was the natureculture of the human-dog interaction. This was so important because the dog side of this relationship is alien to humanity. We see what they do, we know what to expect and therefore react accordingly, but the general public does not know or misunderstands the dog's true motivations. In order to design for them with any level of specificity this understanding is required. By using it, concise and effective interventions can be made in an effort to maximize their usage and have as few negatives (as perceived by humans) as possible. Throughout the design portion, these nuances of this understanding will be present and explained.

These influences allow for the success of each individual intervention, although this is not the most important factor. As stated previously, what is important is the ability of these interventions to work in relation to each other as a network within the existing construct of CityPlace and other neighbourhoods. This network will put urban interspecies knots in a better light by alleviating the intensity conflicts associated with them and allowing them to function as they should. This is for the betterment of all parties involved. It is only at this point that the interventions can become a Domesticating Infrastructure, an infrastructure that allows for the "getting along" of human and dog. This is when the project moves past the Humanistic approach into the Post Humanistic.

Fig. 060 - Perspective view from a dog

GUIDELINES FOR DESIGN



ETHOS

These guidelines help to inform the design proposed.

ALLOWING ENGAGEMENT FOR THE DOG

Dogs see and interact with the world in a different way than we do. The *umwelt* (self world) created by sensorial and cognitive capacities defines the world and behaviours of an organism.¹⁵ It is factors like this that we have to be aware of when designing for other species.

ACCOMMODATING THE HUMAN DEFINED DUALISTIC NATURE OF THE DOG

Through its very nature the dog is considered to be a liminal creature. They embody two realms the animal and companion, both of these natures must be accommodated.

USE OF SEGREGATED DOG/HUMAN SERVICES TO PROMOTE INTEGRATION

In order to implement the spatial constraints relating to our understanding of the dog while promoting a more inclusive and integrated community, there needs to be a level of segregation built into the design to ease any conflicts that may arise.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM TO HELP DOGS AND HUMANS

By providing program that is beneficial to both dogs and humans alike, the hope is to change some of the negative connotations some people have for dogs.

USE OF LEFT OVER OR UNDER PLANNED SPACE FOR INTEGRATION INTO THE COMMUNITY.

By using existing left over and under-planned spaces, the strategies can be easily implemented throughout the neighbourhood and further.

BE CONSCIOUS OF TIME BASED ACTIVITIES

Taking care of dogs often creates a schedule where certain activities occur at specific times. This tends to create "hot spots" throughout the day that will require attention.

USE OF MULTIPLE INTERVENTION TYPOLOGIES

By using the varying spaces provided in the existing fabric we can begin to see multiple typologies taking form. Each typology can then begin to fit a separate need that is required by the dog. By doing so, no single space will take the majority of pressure.

WORK WITH REDUNDANCY

To combat issues that may result from each typology serving a specific need and becoming more intensely used, redundancies must also be built into each space.

RELY ON THE CREATED NETWORK OF SPACES.

This design strategy has no single intervention of importance. It is about how all these varying components come together and act as a network to serve the programmatic needs of dogs and humans alike.

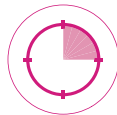
Fig. 061 - People walking dogs in CityPlace (to left)

DAILY DOG SCHEDULE

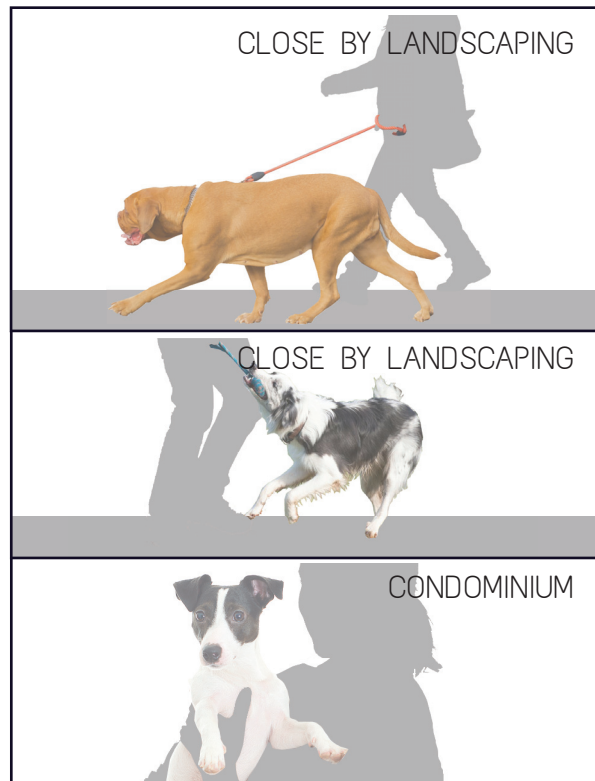
Fig. 062 - Daily Schedule, Morning

The morning is a rushed time of day for the dog owner as multiple activities need to be accommodated within a short period of time. This requires quick and easy access to the needed territories such as washroom spaces, short walk spaces and so on.

While providing for this close to an individual's unit we must make sure that other residents are not impeded upon as the majority of these activities must occur extremely close or within the condominium development.



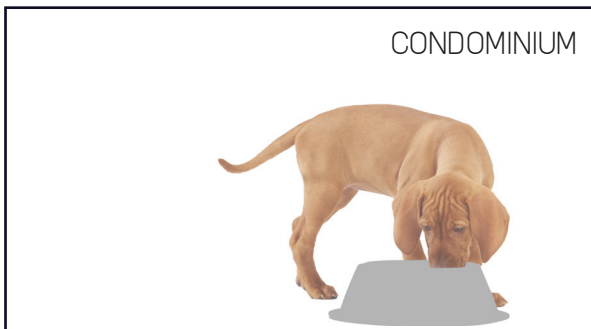
7:00 AM TO 7:30 AM
 10 minute walk upon waking up for washroom use
 10 minute interactive play time
 10 minutes of quality time and observation



Ideal dog schedule as created by Debra A. Primovic, BSN, DVM doctor of veterinary medicine specialized in small animals. ¹¹

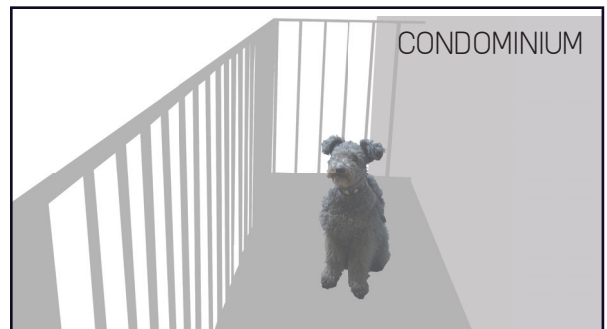
7:30 AM TO 8:00 AM

Clean and refill water bowl
Refill food if you feed your dog more than once a day



8:00 AM TO 9:00 AM

Dogs like to go outside after eating to relieve themselves



9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

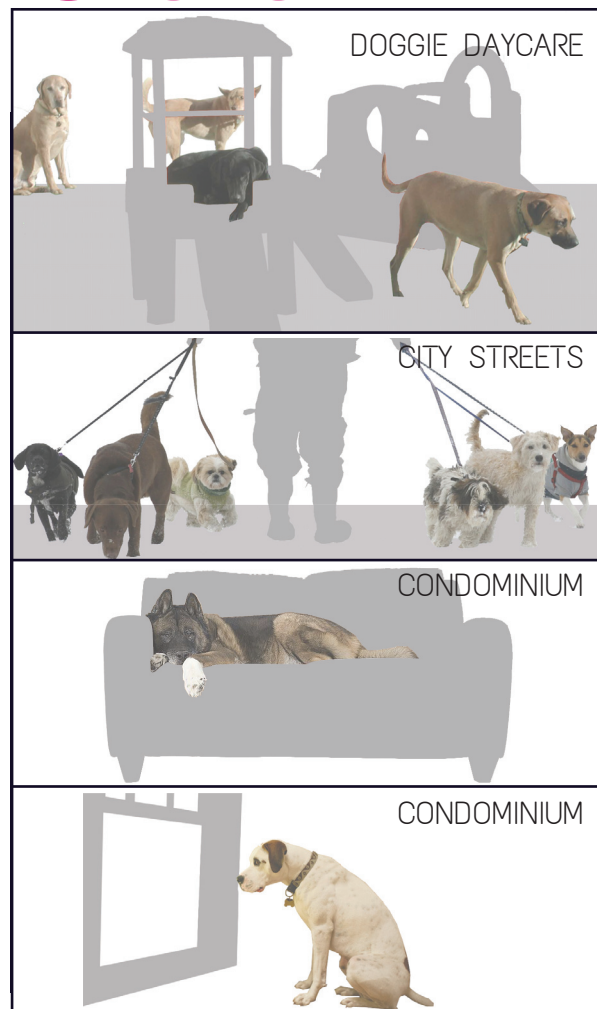
Dogs enjoy nap-time or follow their humans around



Fig. 063 - Daily Schedule, Workday

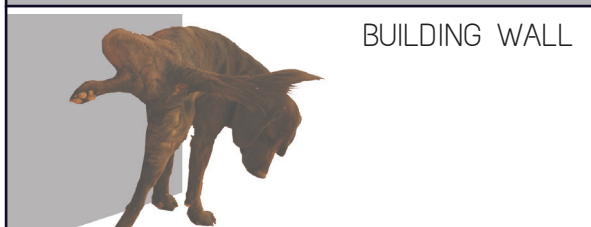
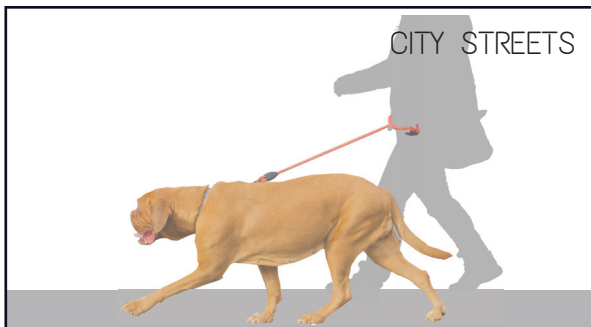
The work day offers divergent possible activities for the dog that may bring them to very different environments. Some people will stay home with their dogs, others will go to work. Then those that go to work will create varying solutions for their dog care including: doggie daycare, professional walkers, returning at lunch to let them out etc.

Due to this nature the programs need to extend past the simple condominium program and territory.



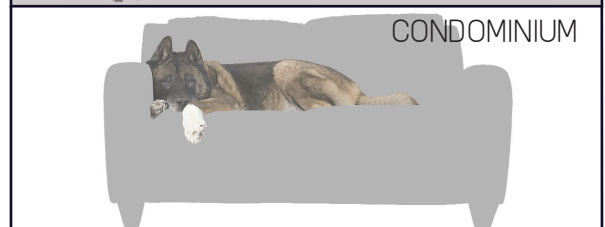
12:00 PM TO 1:00 PM

Some sort of interaction that may include going out, play or exercise



1:00 PM TO 5:00 PM

Dogs enjoy nap-time or follow their humans around



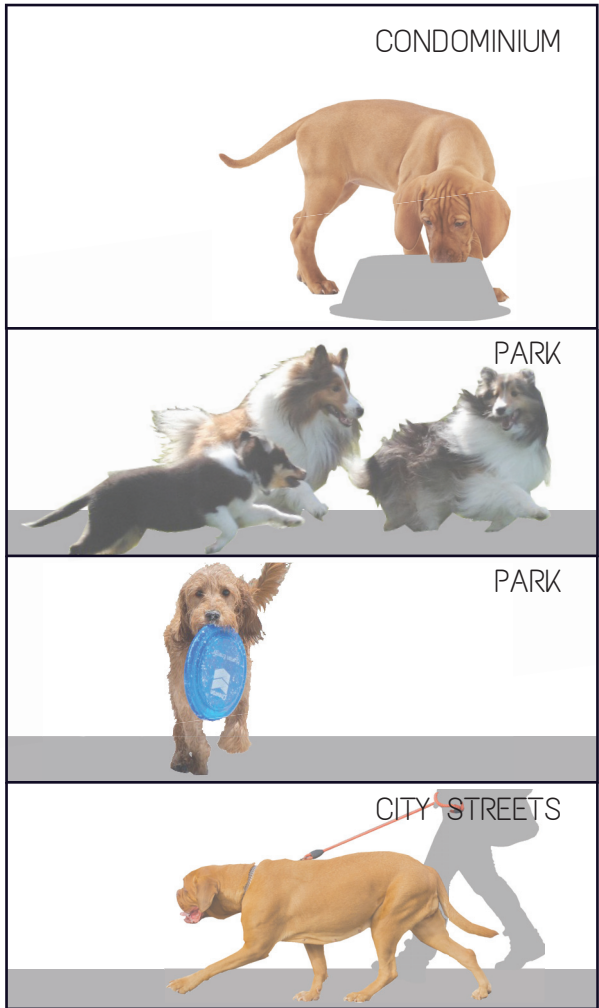
5:00 PM TO 7:30 PM

Clean and refill water bowl
 Refill food
 More involved play time or walk to burn extra energy



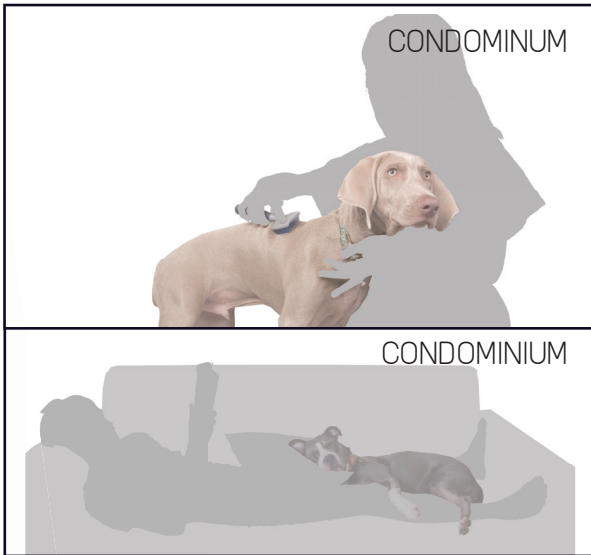
Fig. 064 - Daily Schedule, Evening

The evening is a time of play and relaxation for owners and their dogs. The time and location restraints are lifted and play becomes the main focus. This can take the form of a long walk, running in the park, playing fetch, going into water etc.



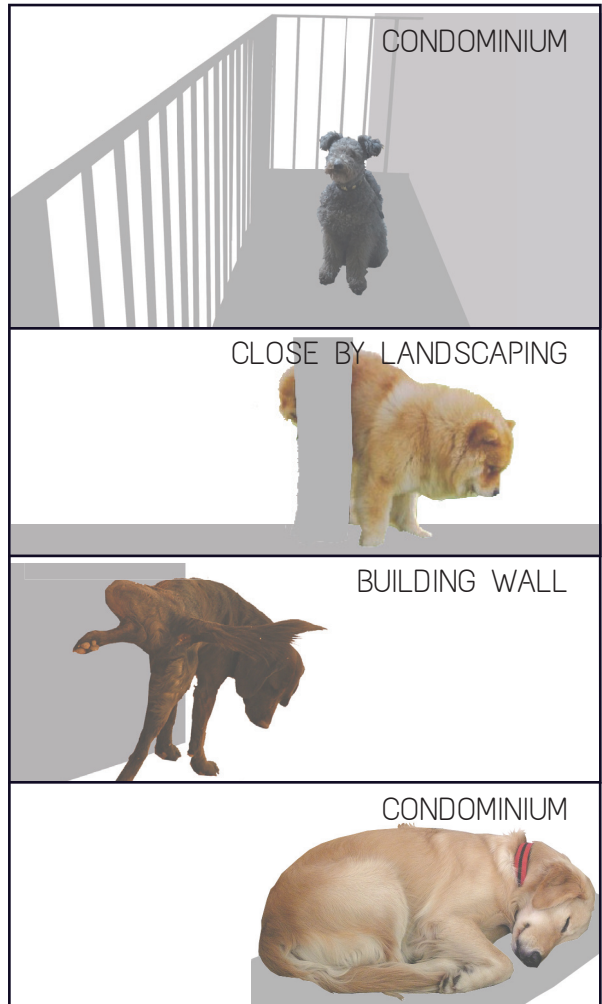
7:30 PM TO 11:00 PM

Brush or Groom your dog
Have some quality time
Sit and watch TV together
Brush their teeth

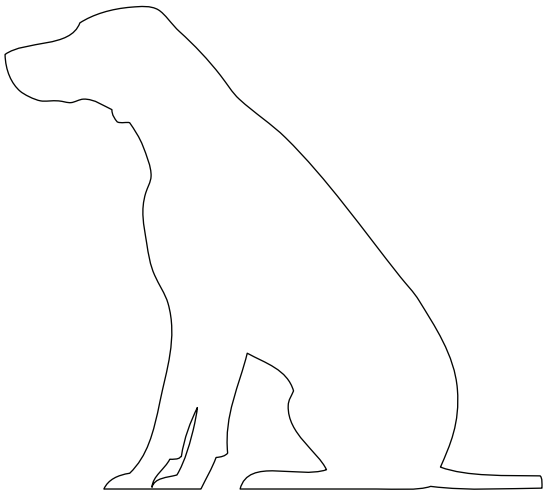


11:00 PM <

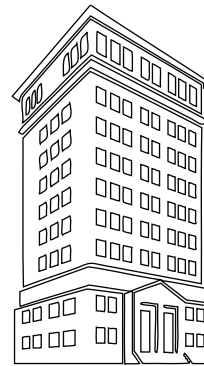
Go out and do their business one last time before bed



SUBCATEGORIES OF INTERVENTION

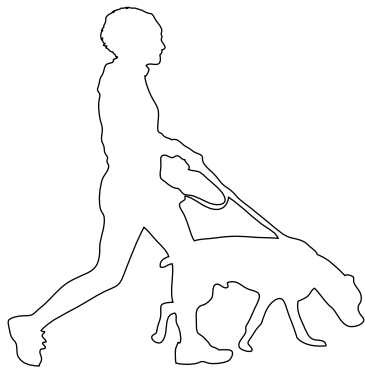


These activities take place in three major territories throughout the neighbourhood, therefore the proposal is divided into three major subgroups.



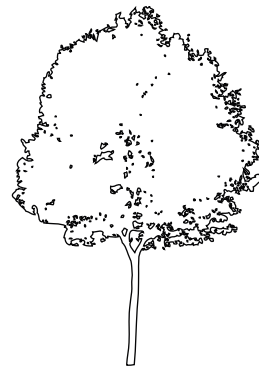
HOME

The home in this context is the condominium and surrounding precinct. This includes the unit itself, the surrounding landscape and the building edge. These areas need to be modified because of the convenience and quickness of access they allow. This creates high demand. The morning schedule has a heavy amount of activity with very little time to accommodate it. So, having improved facilities close by is essential or people will simply use the current, under-planned territories offered.



TRAVEL

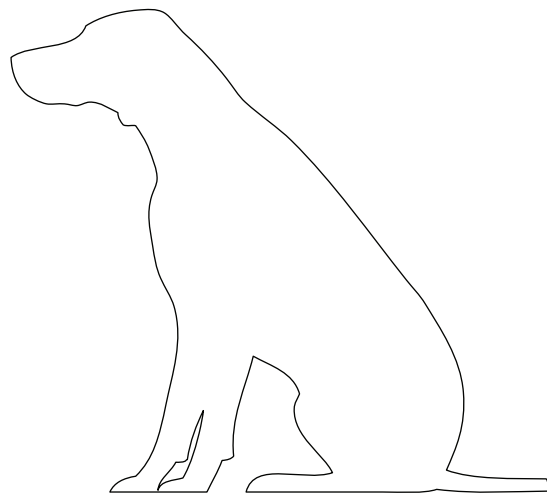
The travel category is essentially the dog walk, which any dog owner knows to be a very important part of their dog's day. It gives them time to exercise, the ability to socialize and the ability to get rid of some of their extra energy. This activity is often spread throughout the schedule depending on the condition and requirements of that specific day.



DESTINATION

The destination becomes the areas that these walks are supposed to end up. In the case of the dog this tends to be the off-leash dog park. This activity would tend to occur toward the end of the day when there is more time available to enjoy it.

OUTLINE FOR DESIGN



INTRODUCTION

To move forward with this design the context needed to be narrowed and identified, otherwise there would be simply too many typologies to deal with within the constraints of a thesis. There are three varying paths or dog walks investigated for the remainder of this proposal. These paths represent user preferences, but they are simply test cases and not the limiting factor of these interventions. On these varying paths interventions from each subcategory can be tied to the real world and investigated. This in turn creates the network of interventions that are necessary to fulfill the purpose of this thesis.



Fig. 065 - Prescribed paths or dog walks within specified area

Fig. 066 - The Naturalist, unfolded map

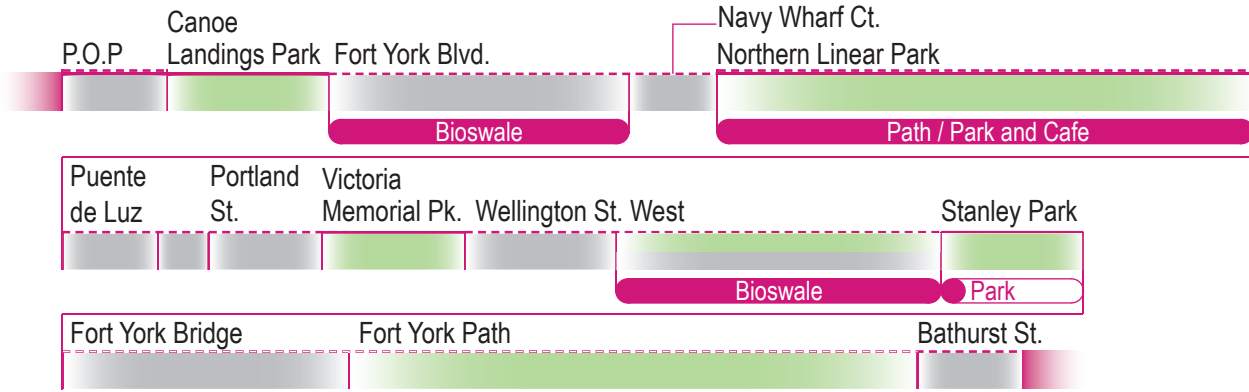
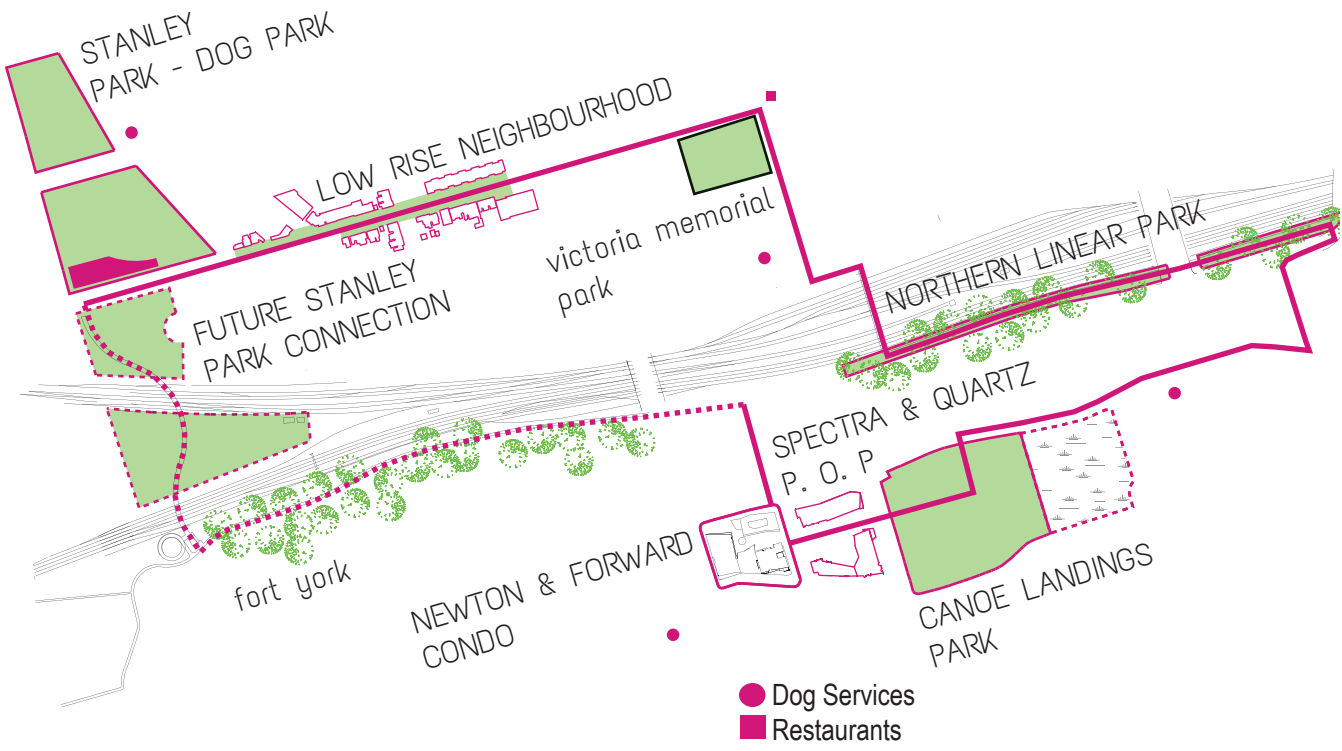


Fig. 067 - The Naturalist, prescriptive map



THE NATURALIST

This path takes advantage of natural settings that are available near the site for those prefer a quieter path with more greenery. It starts at Northern Linear Park and the Puente de Luz Bridge in order to bring the user to the low rise neighbourhood on Wellington Street. From here there is an easy connection to the Stanley Park Off-leash area. The return trip goes through the future Stanley Park Connection and proposed Fort York public walkway.¹

Fig. 068 - 072 - Current conditions of The Naturalist



Fig. 073- The Urbanite, unfolded map

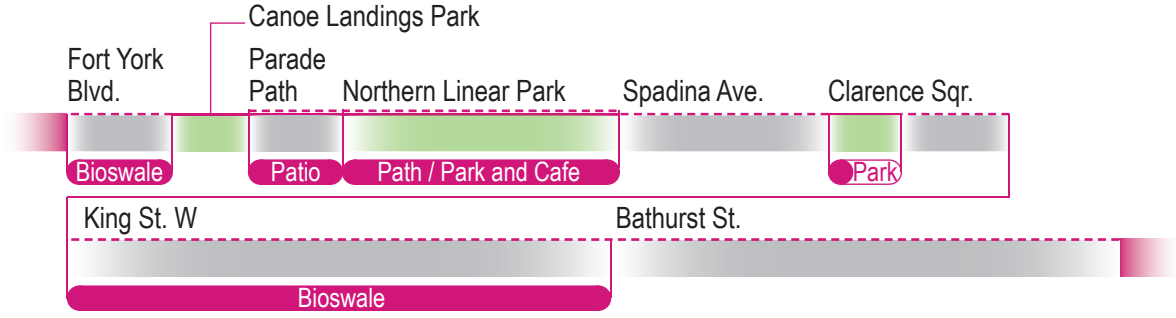
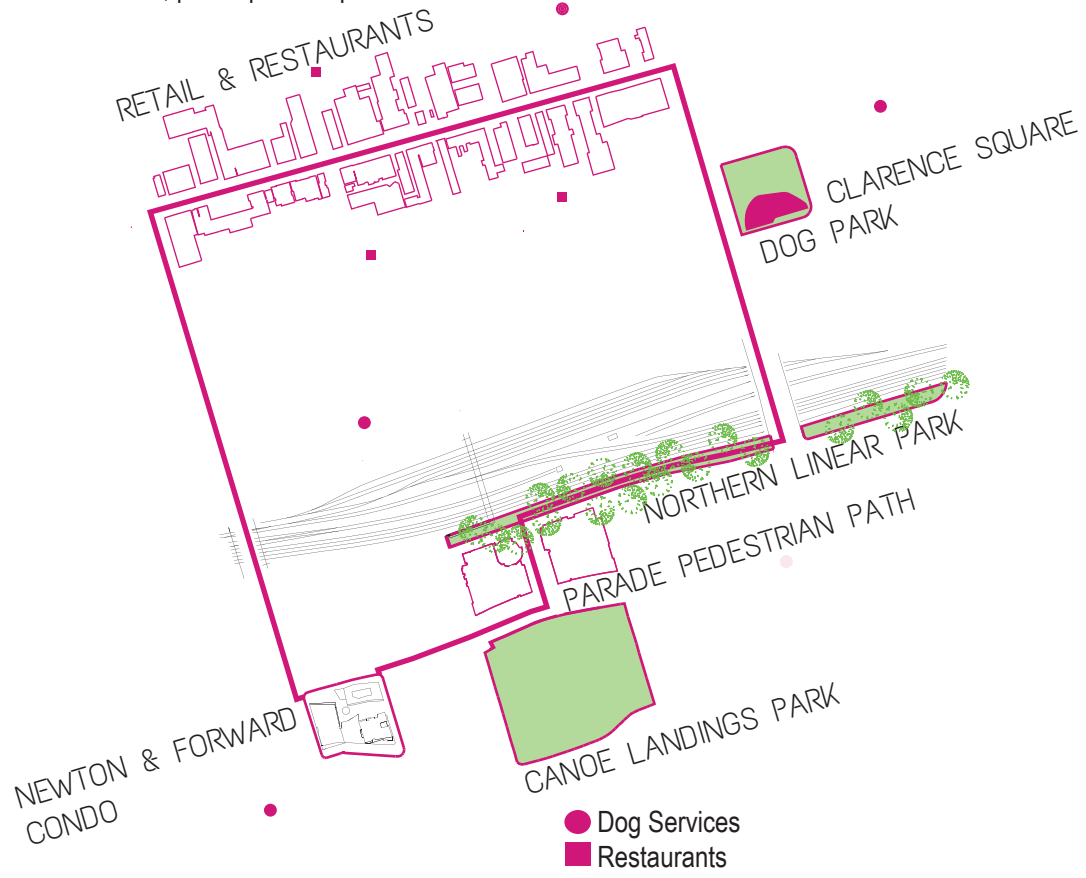


Fig. 074 - The Urbanite, prescriptive map



THE URBANITE

The Urbanite explores a more urban experience that goes through nearby busy and lively neighbourhoods. The path begins with Fort York Boulevard which allows a connection to the Parade Condominium pedestrian street and Northern Linear Park. Once Spadina Avenue is reached the connection with the rest of the city is accessed bringing the user to Clarence Square and the King Street commercial strip. Bathurst Street is then taken on the return trip.

Fig. 075 - 079 - Current conditions of The Urbanite



Fig. 080 - The Beachcomber, unfolded map

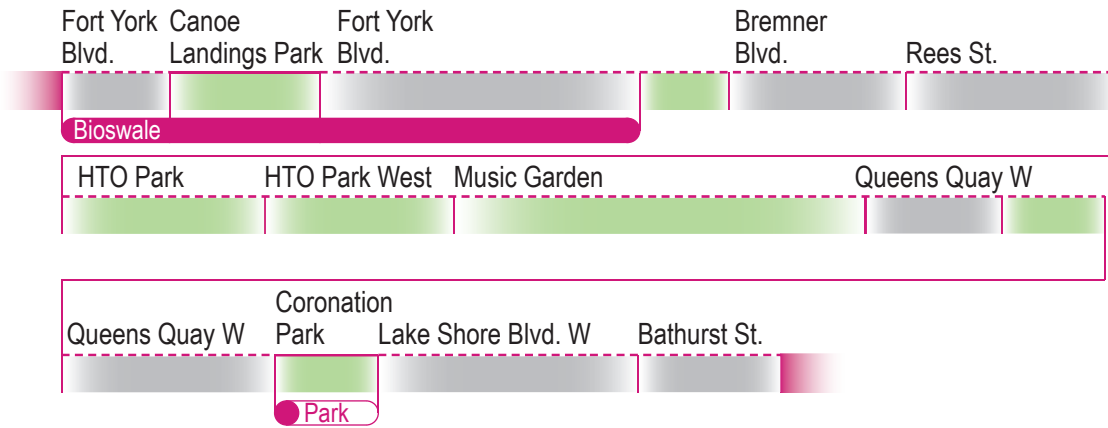
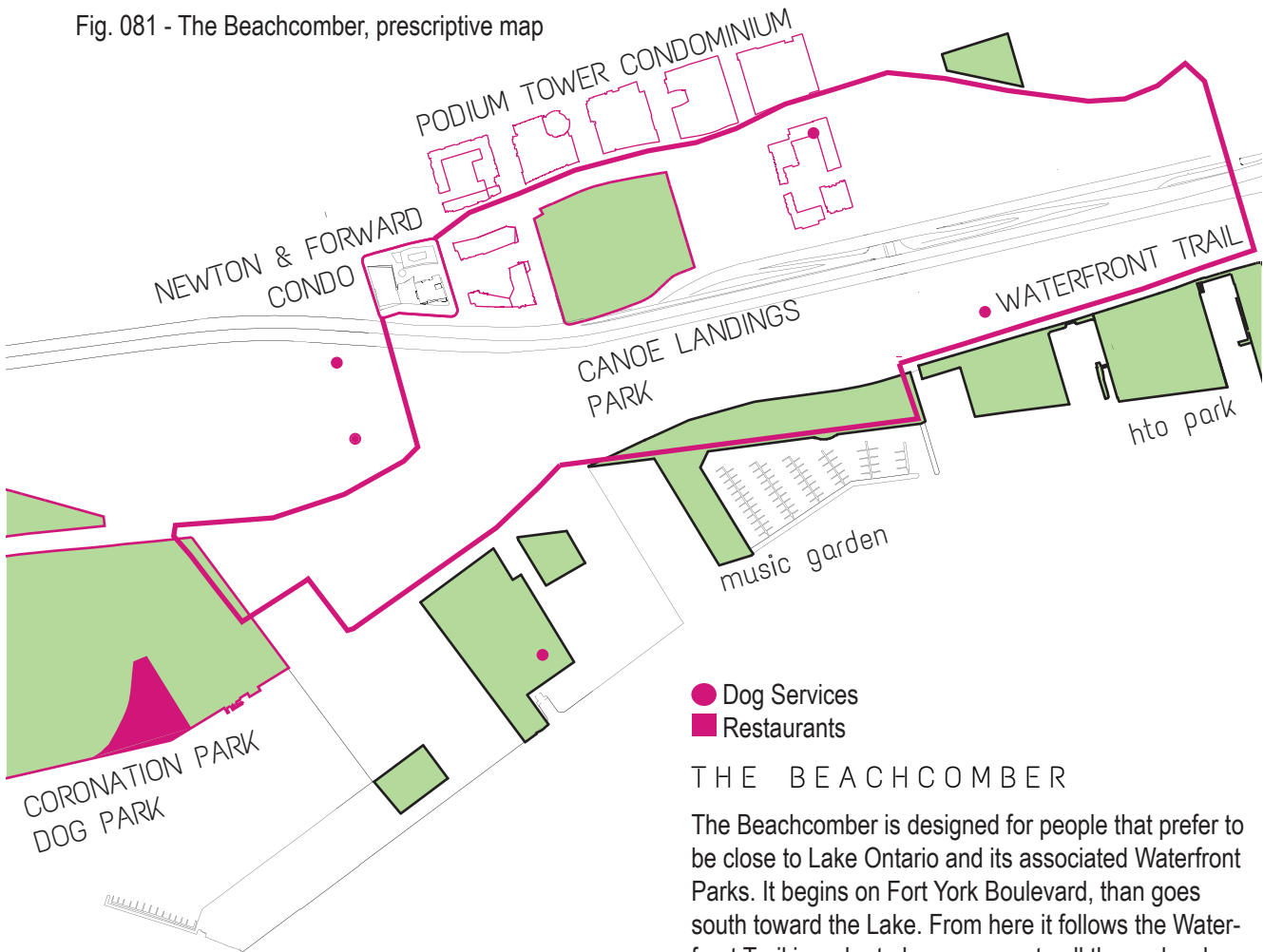


Fig. 081 - The Beachcomber, prescriptive map



- Dog Services
- Restaurants

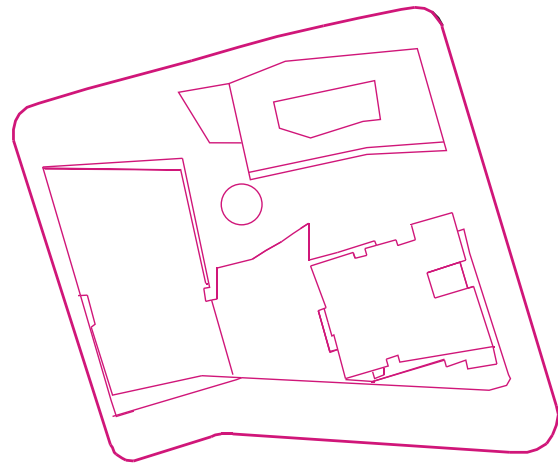
THE BEACHCOMBER

The Beachcomber is designed for people that prefer to be close to Lake Ontario and its associated Waterfront Parks. It begins on Fort York Boulevard, then goes south toward the Lake. From here it follows the Waterfront Trail in order to have access to all the parks along the waterfront. The final stop is Coronation Park which has a large off-leash dog park within it. Then the user will follow Lakeshore Boulevard West to Bathurst Street to return.

Fig. 082 - 086 - Current conditions of The Beachcomber



DESIGN INTERVENTIONS



LOCATIONS

From all three of the paths specific locations were picked as possible spaces for intervention. These spaces were then placed within the subcategories that they fit; some spaces were placed into multiple categories. They were chosen because of the potential that they offer in solving the specific problem associated with that particular site. Each one can fit the programmatic needs of humans and dogs alike. Therefore they are able to create the network of interventions needed.

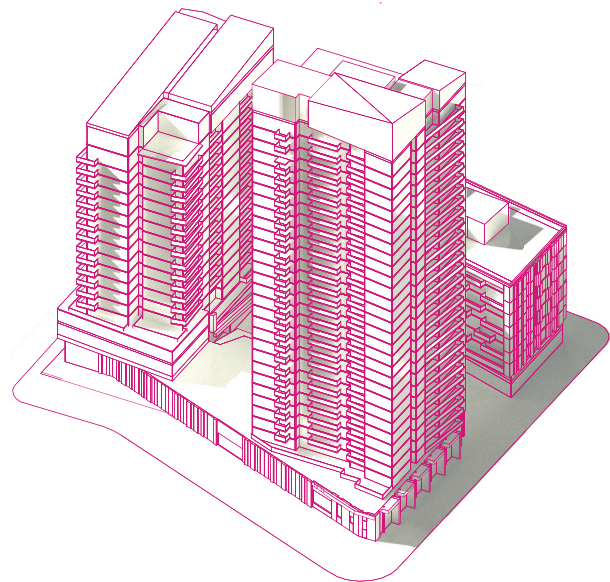


Fig. 087 - Newton and Forward Condominium
HOME

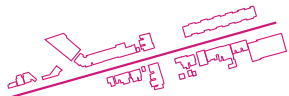


Fig. 088 - Wellington Low-rise Neighbourhood

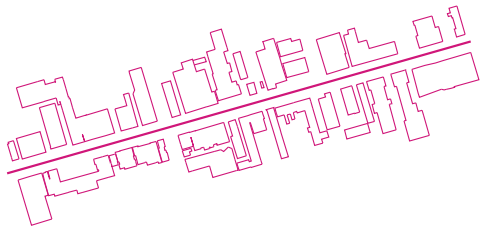


Fig. 089 - King Street Commercial / Retail / Restaurant

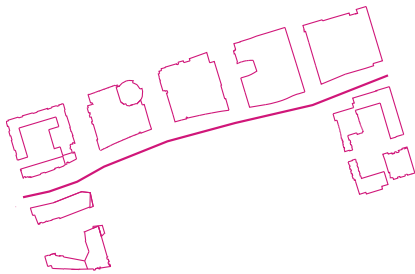


Fig. 090 - Fort York Boulevard



Fig. 091 - Parade Pedestrian Path, Travel



Fig. 092 - Northern Linear Park, Travel

TRAVEL



Fig. 093- Clarence Square

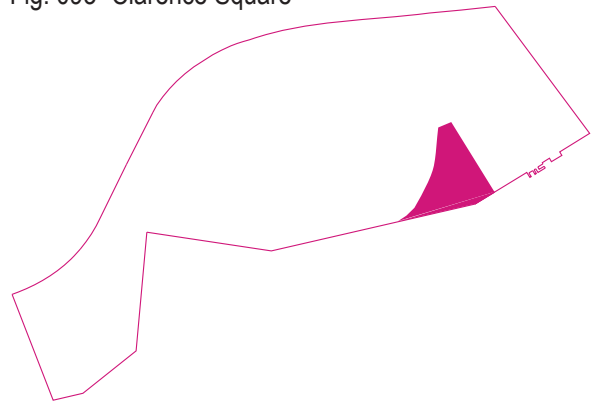


Fig. 094 - Coronation Park



Fig. 095 - Parade Pedestrian Path, Destination

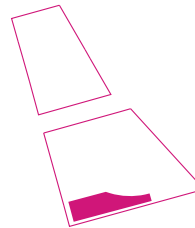


Fig. 096 - Stanley Park

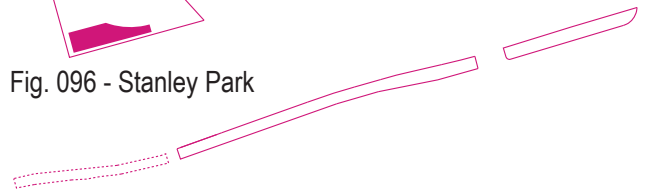
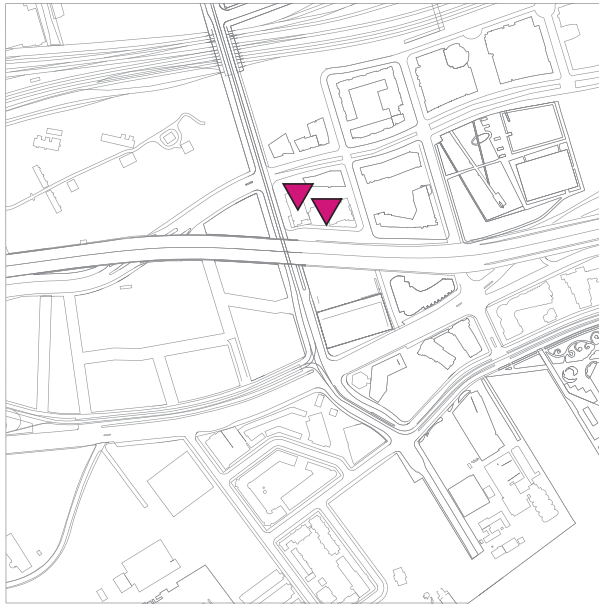


Fig. 097 - Northern Linear Park, Destination

DESTINATION



Fig. 098 - Newton and Forward Condominium Map



The Newton and Forward Condominiums are within the same development and are one of the last to be built in CityPlace.

The 2 towers, (15 floors for Newton and 29 for Forward) share amenities. These include studios, child care and a roof top garden. They also share amenities with the Prisma Club which is part of a close by development. These include a pool, a screening room, lounge rooms, gyms and guest suites. There are no dog amenities.

The buildings face major streets such as Bathurst and Fort York Boulevard allowing easy access to the rest of the neighbourhood.

The unit sizes vary from 525 square feet to 1103 square feet, including balcony space.¹⁶

Fig. 099 - Newton and Forward Condominium render (to left)



BUFFER ZONE

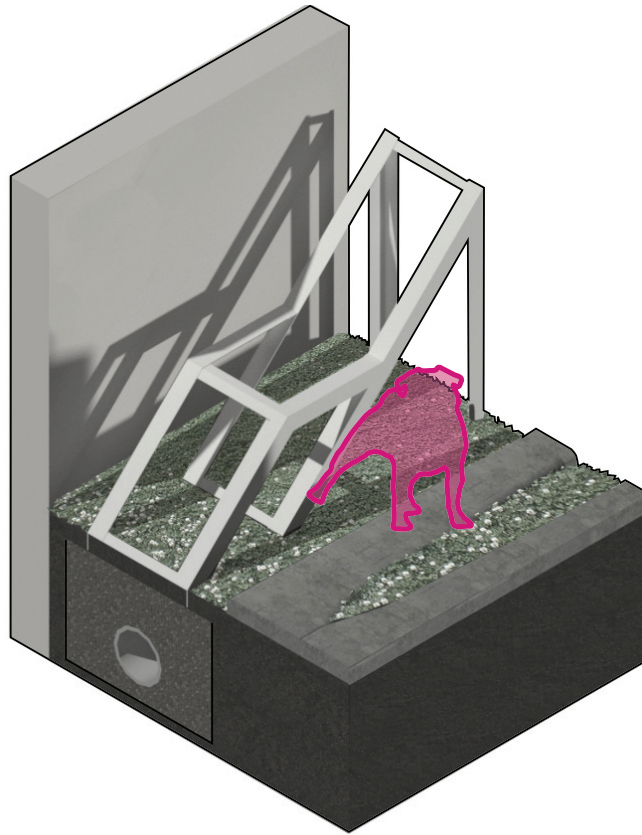


Fig. 100 - Buffer Zone Component

This intervention at the building edge acts as buffer space designed to protect the building envelope. It is a hardy, landscaped area that will attract dogs to urinate on it instead of the walls. Where large vegetation (trees) cannot occur a statue is proposed to become a marker for dogs. Dogs will instinctively search out a high space for marking because, urine acts as a communication and they want other dogs to notice it. Within the urine there is a whole host of information about the marker such as how often they are there, their social confidence or even their mating desires.¹⁷ The statue is hollow to make sure there is less surface to destroy with this urine. White clover is used as ground cover instead of grass because it is much hardier and considered urine resistant. It is also self-fertilizing and can handle periods of drought.¹⁸ The landscaped section is designed with a French Drain in order to deal with excess runoff and minimize the harm that it causes.



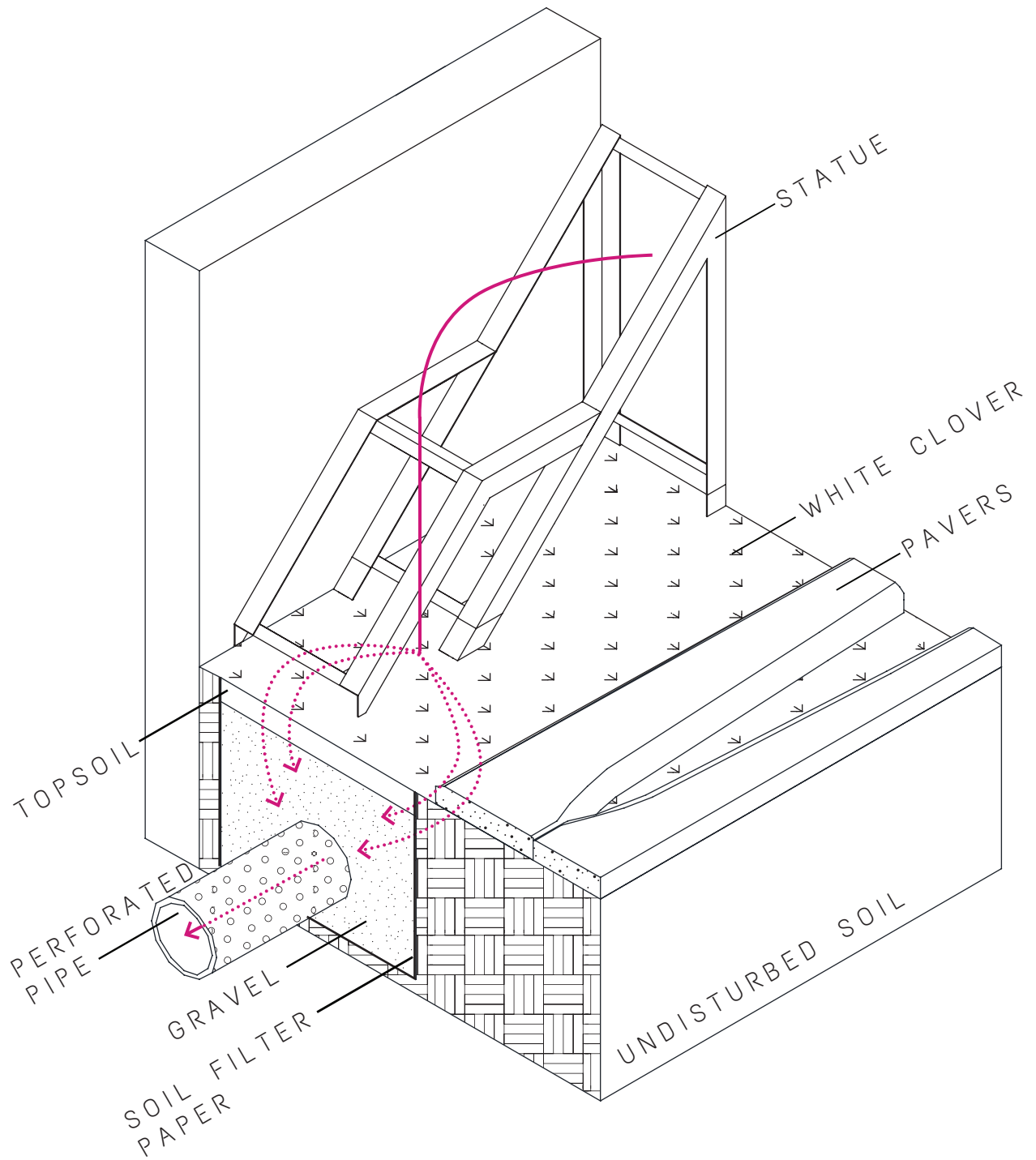
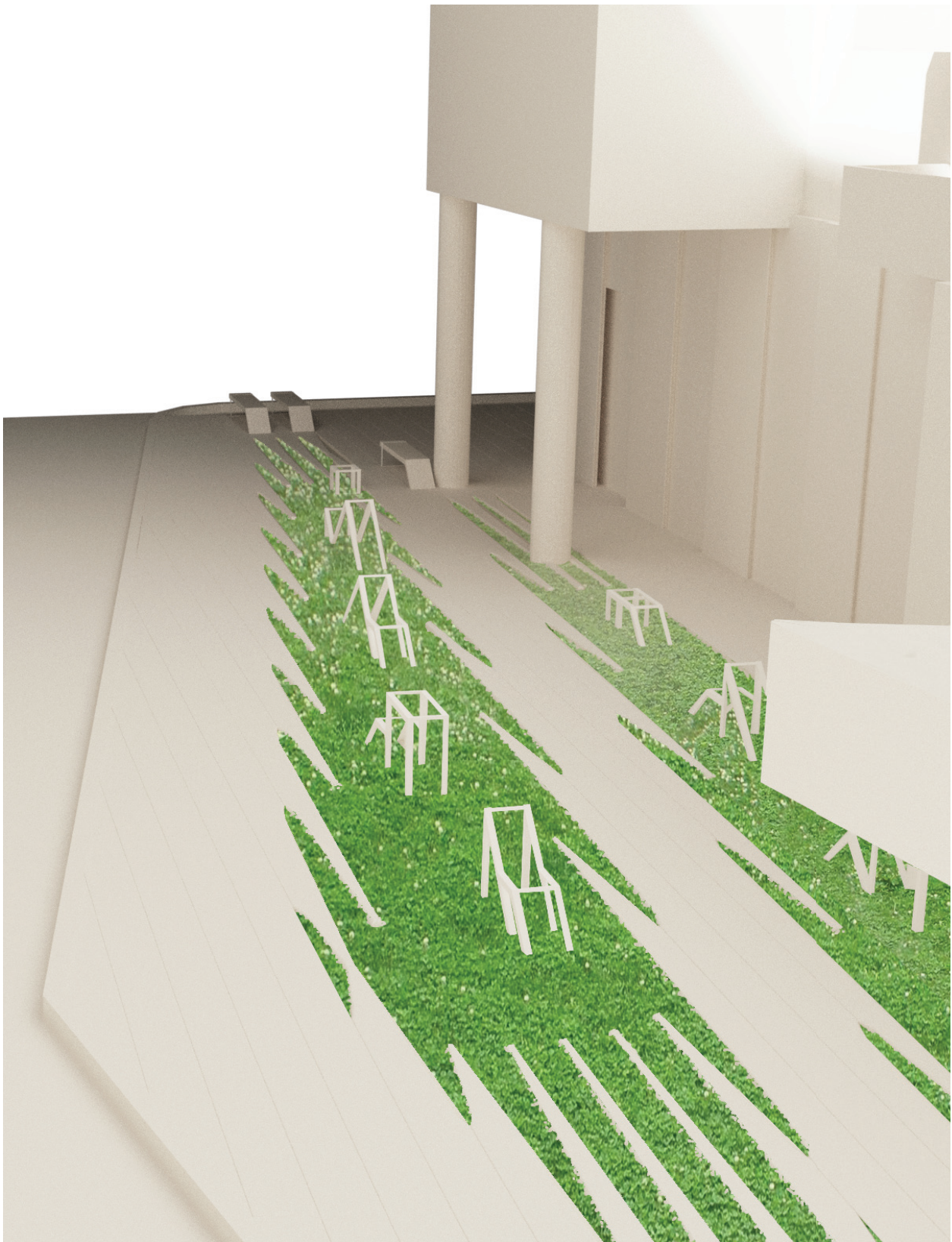


Fig. 101 - Isometric Buffer Zone Component ¹⁹



BUFFER ZONE IN CONTEXT

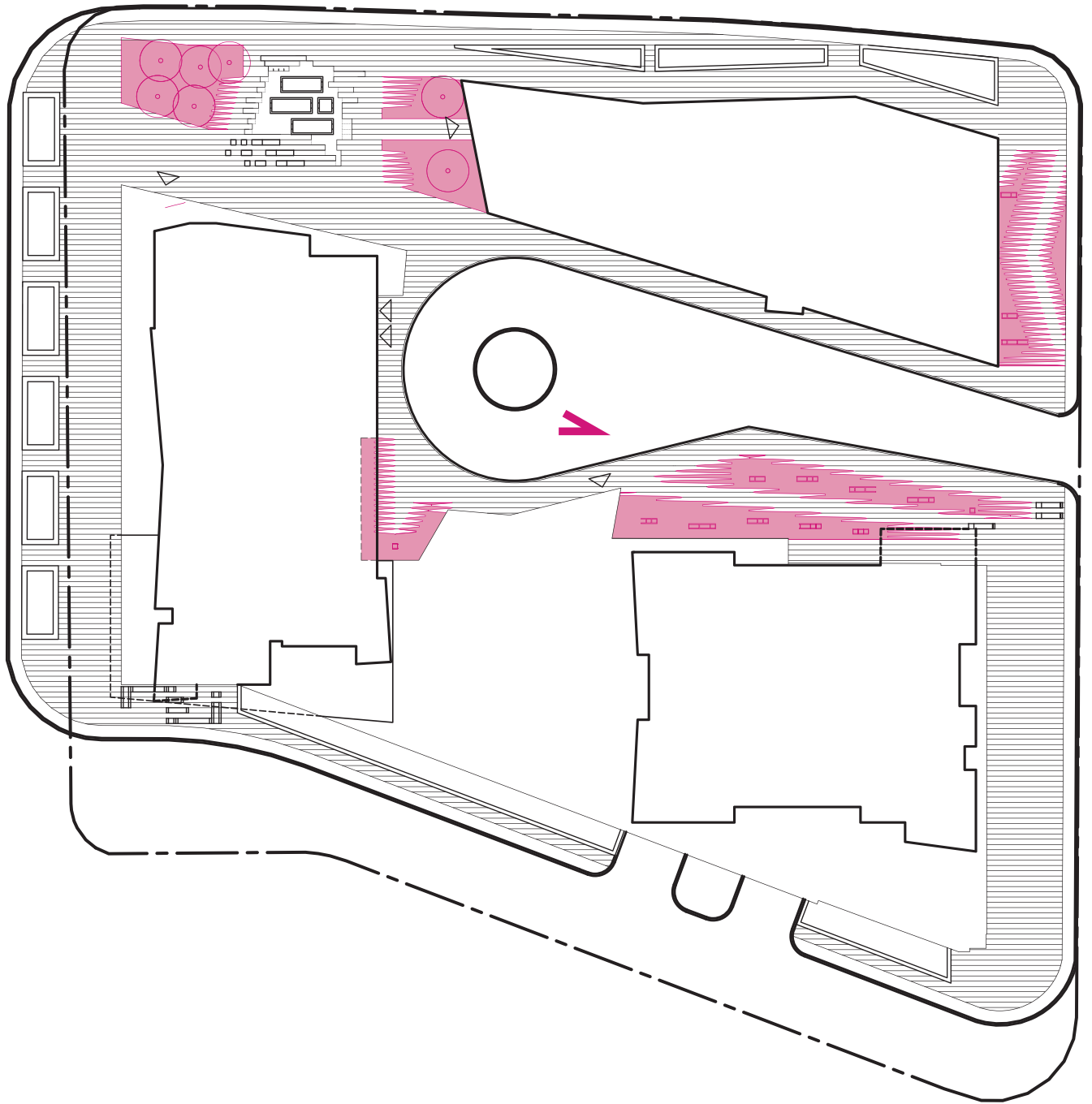


Fig. 102 - Newton and Forward Site Plan highlighting Buffer Zone (1:600)
Fig. 103 - Buffer Zone Aerial Render (to left)





DOG'S PERSPECTIVE *

*Dogs are not colour blind unlike popularly believed. Although, dogs have only two cones (photoreceptors responsible for colour) compared to our three, they are unable to see red.²⁰

Fig. 104 - Buffer Zone Perspective Render

WATER FEATURE

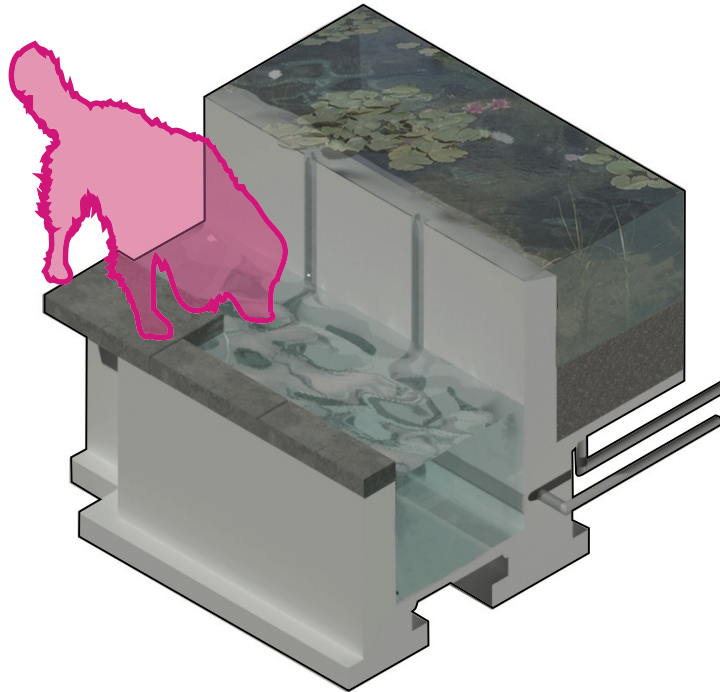


Fig. 105 - Water Feature Component

By having a usable water feature within the condominium development a level of convenience is added for dog owners. It can provide a space for drinking, playing and washing. To make sure the water is safe for dog consumption a natural filtration system is used. This system has many associated benefits including: the use of no harsh chemicals, low maintenance costs in comparison to conventional systems and it is an environmentally friendly alternative that helps to attract other species.²¹ The system is filtered through aquatic plants that need to take up approximately 40 to 50 % of the fountain space and remain separate from the usable body of water.²² Within the fountain, there are ramps that allow the dogs to play at various levels safely and they also help in shading the water to prevent algae growth. The hosing off station is directly above a plant filtration area in order to prevent contamination.



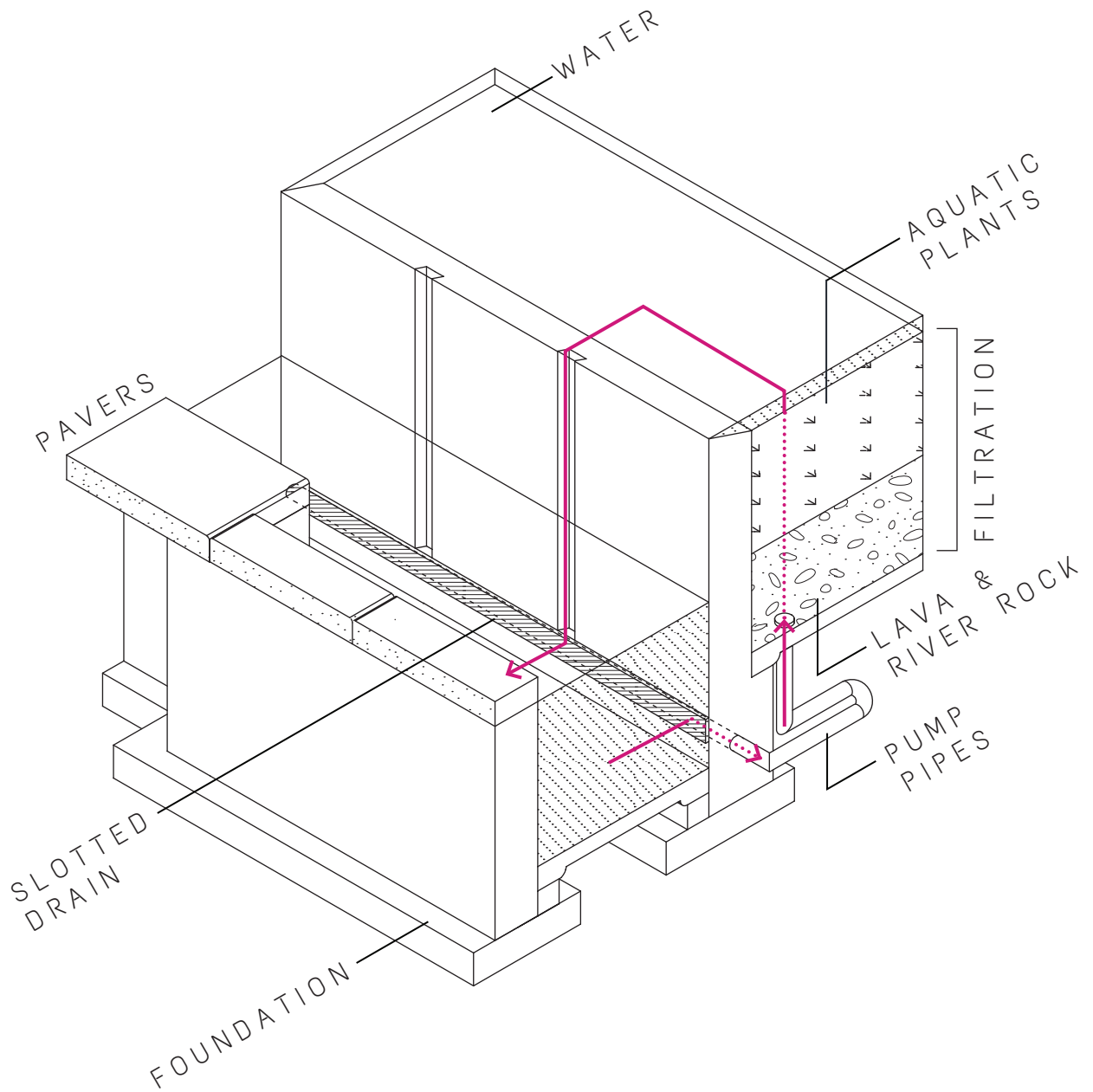
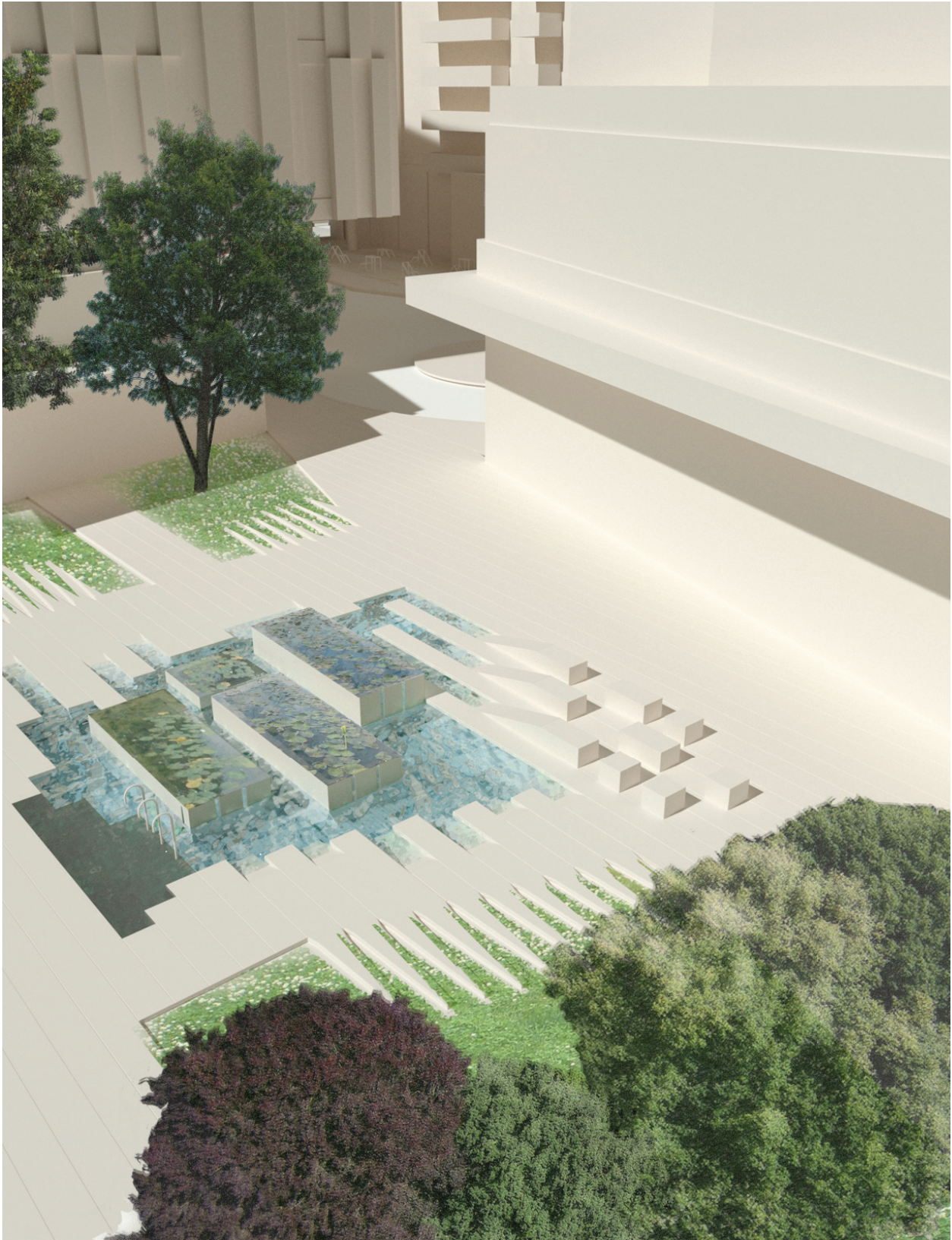


Fig. 106 - Isometric Water Feature Component



WATER FEATURE IN CONTEXT

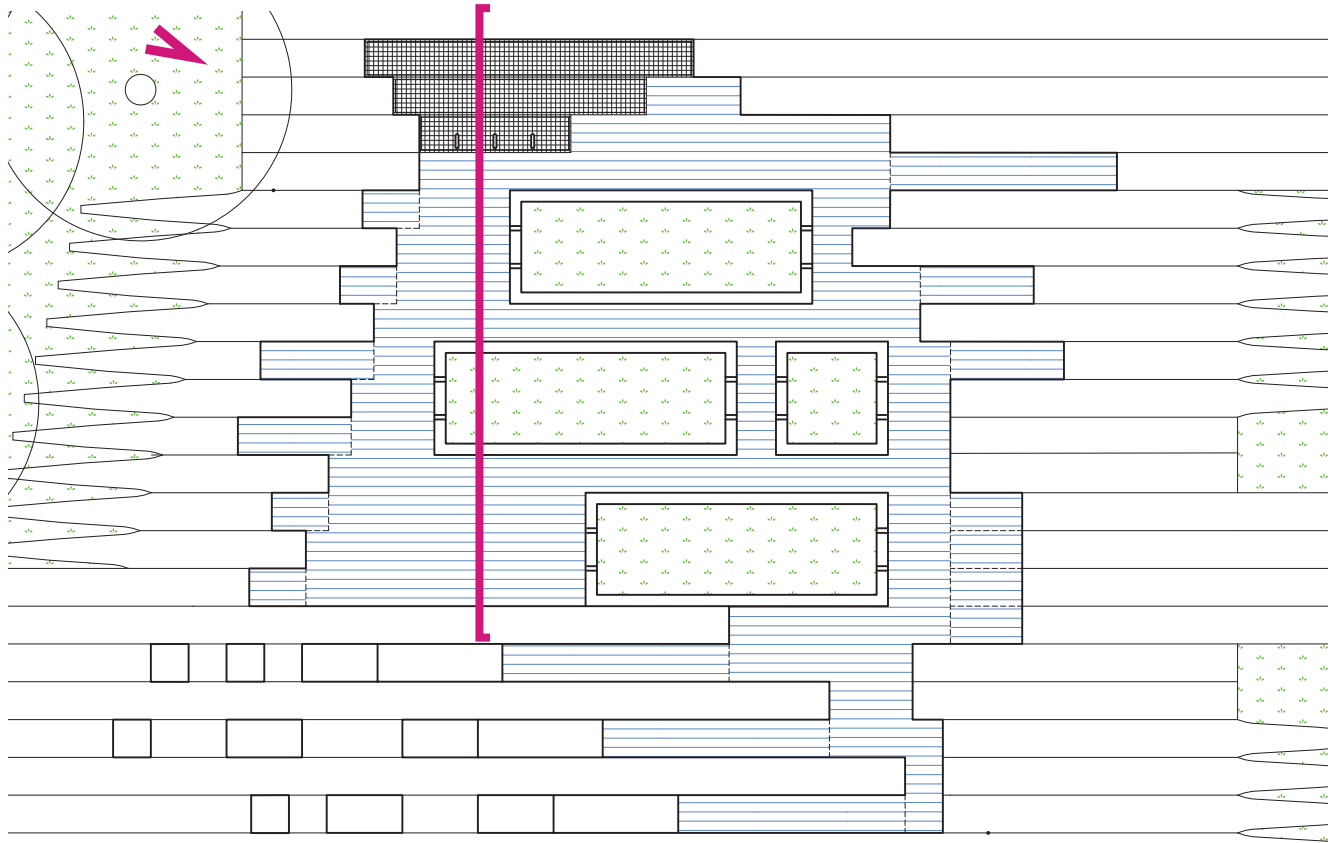


Fig. 107 - Water Feature Plan (1:100)

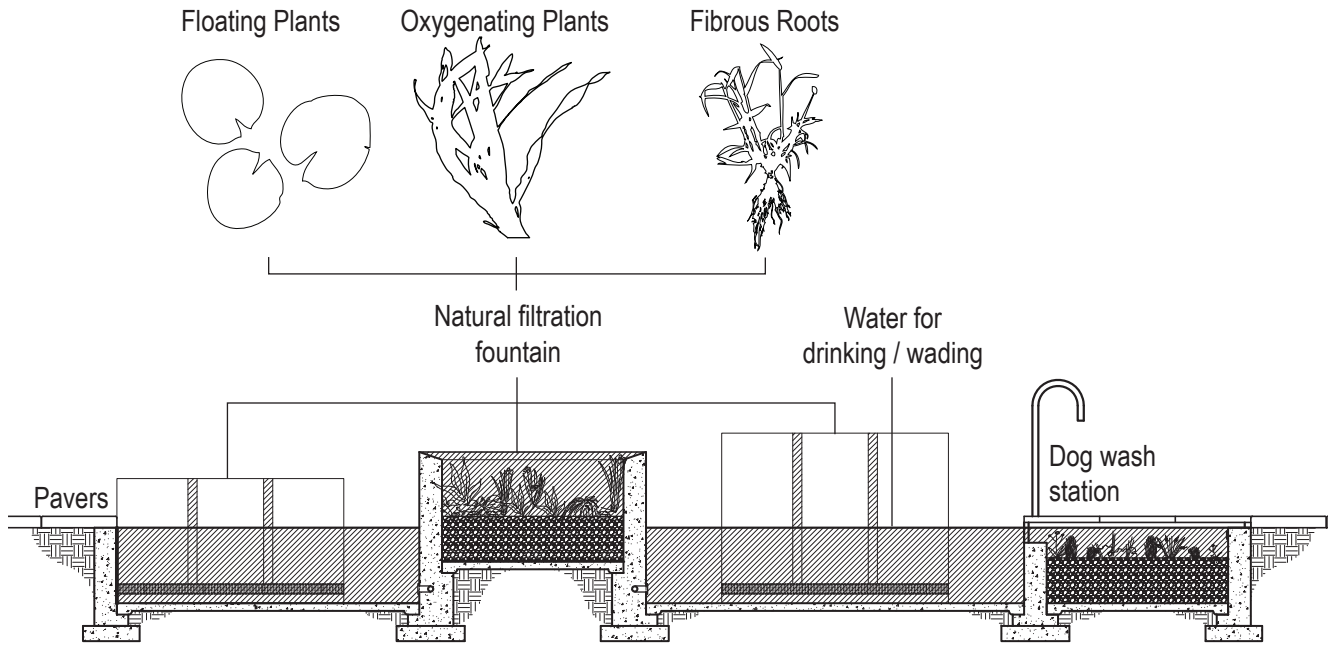


Fig. 108 - Water Feature Transverse Section (1:50)

Fig. 109 - Water Feature Aerial Render (to left)

BALCONY

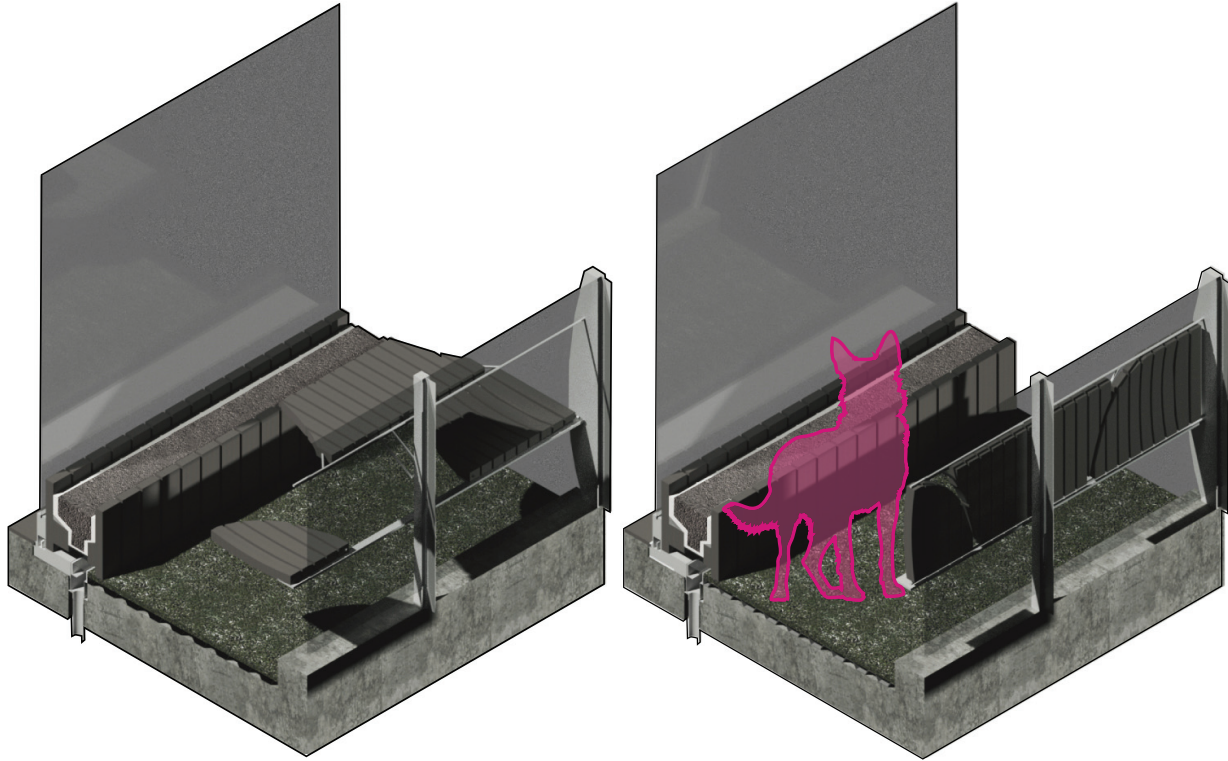


Fig. 110 - Balcony Component

Most balcony spaces within condominiums are very small and non-practical, but they are often considered to be a “backyard” for most urban dogs. The intention of this intervention is to make the best of the space available. To better this environment artificial grass is installed. There is a variant of grass called K9Grass which allows for more drainage than other grasses and has an antimicrobial agent that prevents smell. It is also washable.²³ Proper drainage from each balcony is also provided to prevent undesirable spillage to other balconies. The space is then maximized with foldable furniture built into the railing in order to provide dogs with largest space available when they are out. To encourage urination in a specific spot a built in planter is designed to be placed directly over the drainage grate. The resulting balcony creates a functional and multiuse space that is more like a backyard while still remaining in the existing footprint.



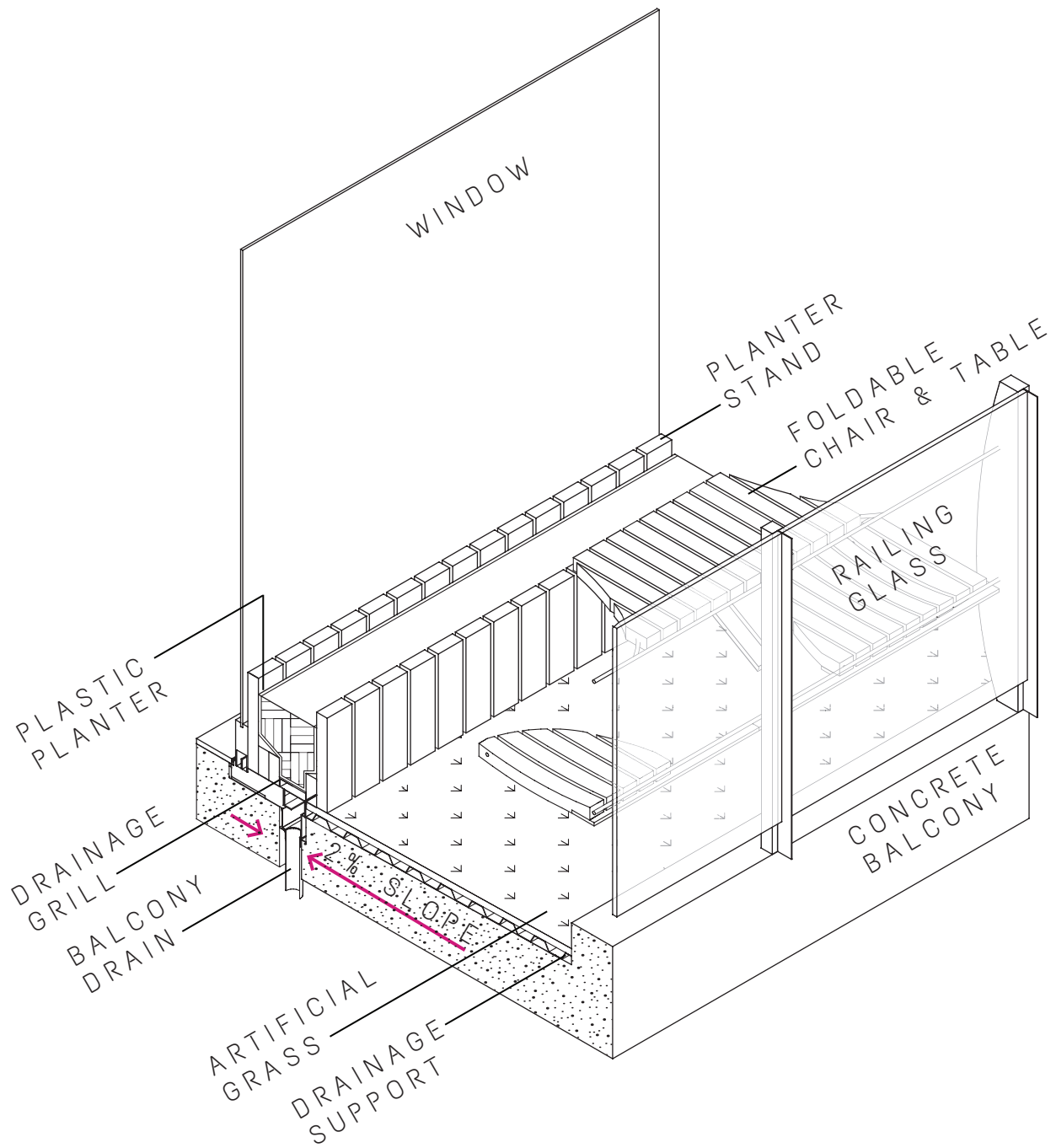
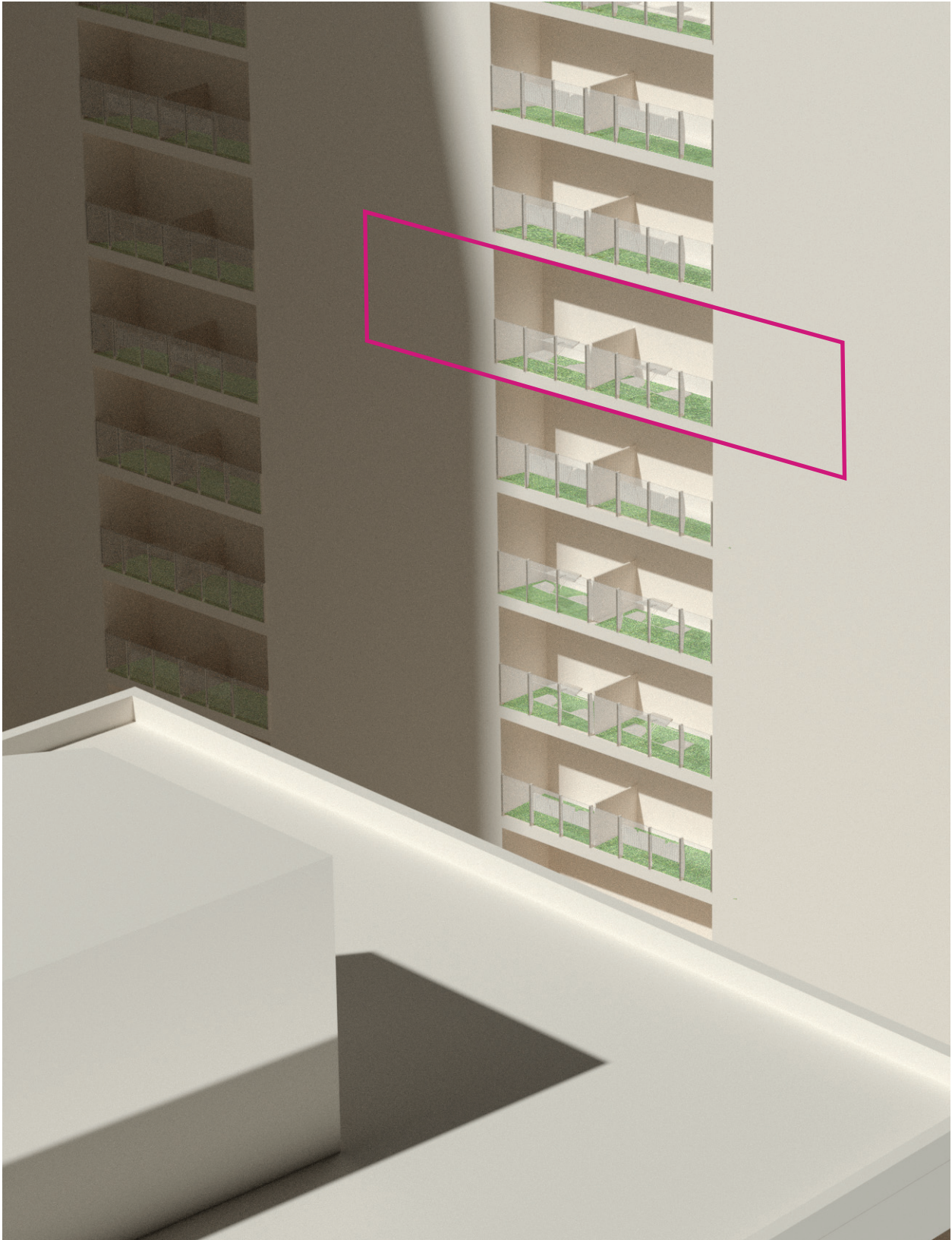


Fig. 111 - Isometric Balcony Component



BALCONY IN CONTEXT

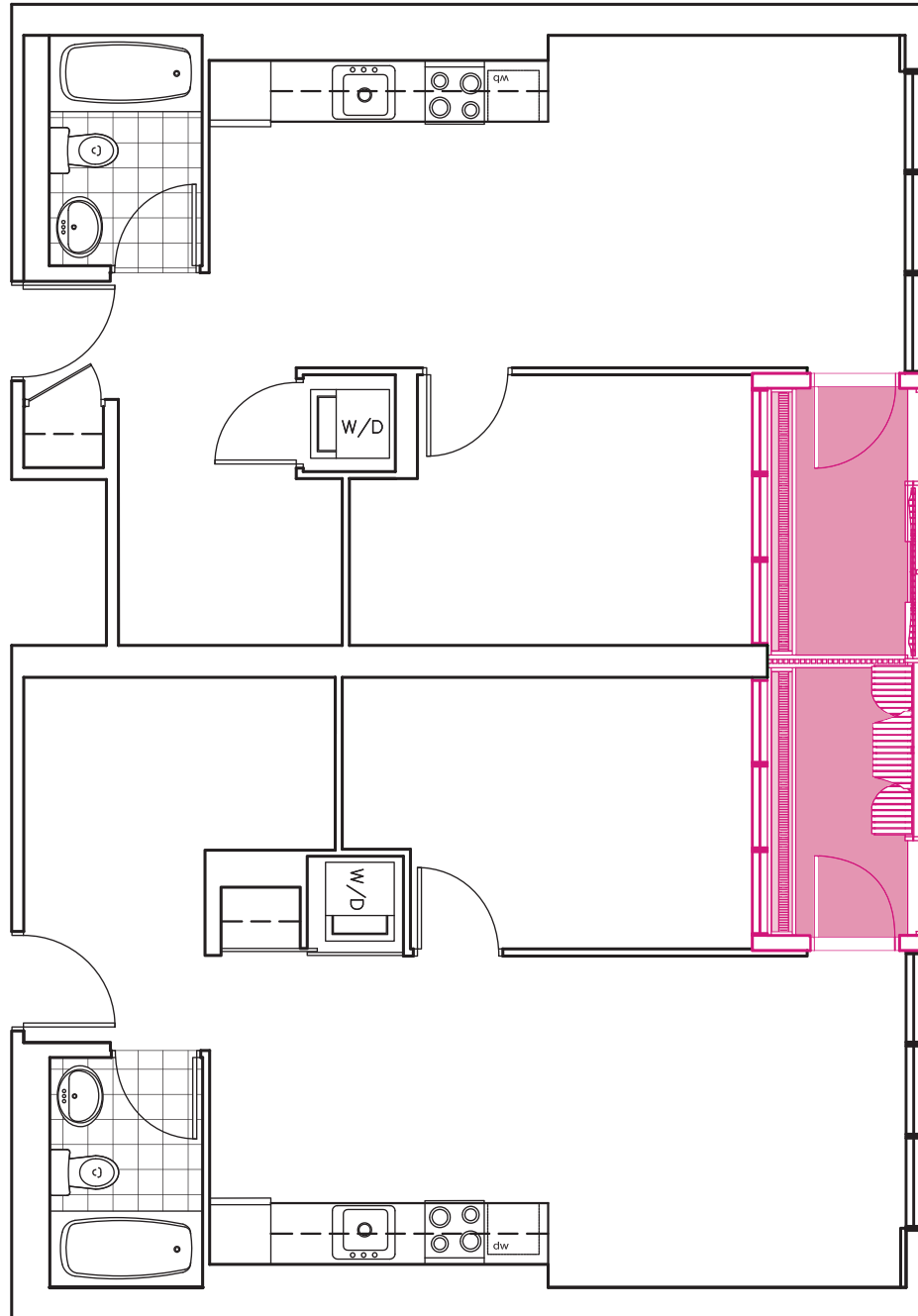
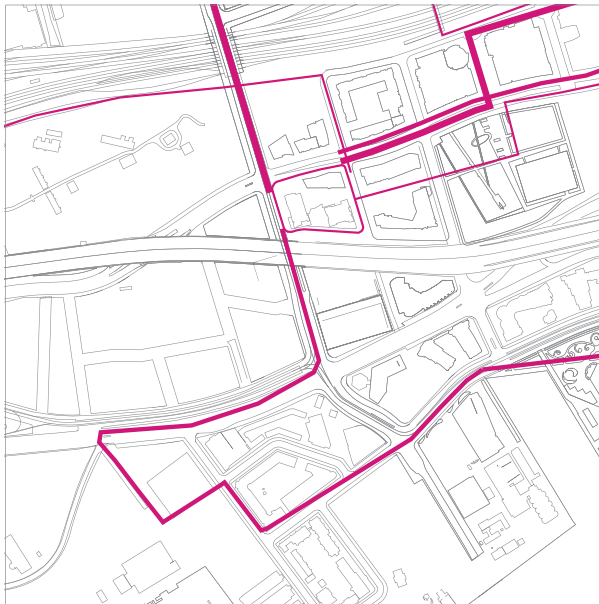


Fig. 112 - Balcony Floor Plan : Newton Condominium (1:75)

Fig. 113 - Balcony Aerial Render (to left)



Fig. 114 - Pathway Map



The travel component follows the specific paths previously discussed. On these paths the interventions designed help make the walk easier. Each of these walks are a different length the Naturalist is 3.5 km, the Urbanite is 2.3 km and the Beachcomber is 3.4 km. As the walks vary in character and length, so do the interventions that occur upon them. The interventions within this category are designed to relate to the character and site that they inhabit.

Fig. 115 - View onto Fort York Boulevard (to left)

THE NATURALIST
THE URBANITE
THE BEACHCOMBER

BIO SWALE

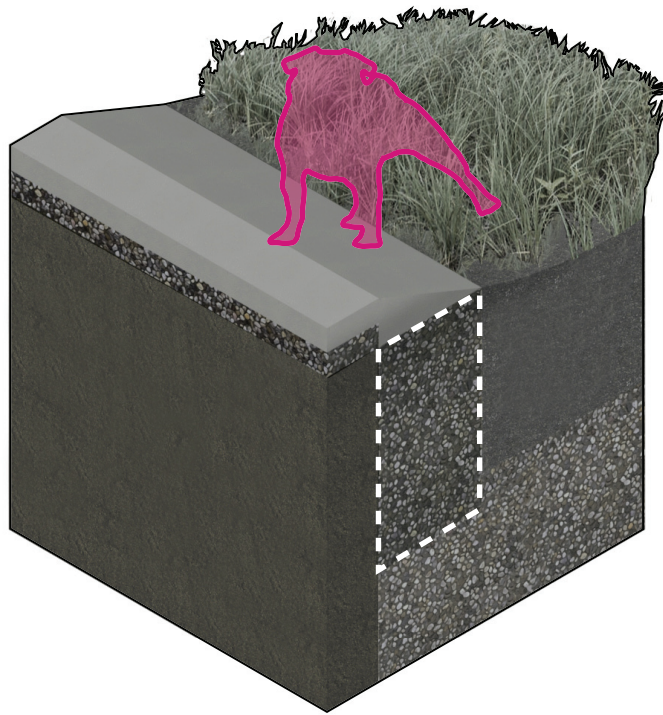


Fig. 116 - Bioswale Component

The Bioswale is an interesting solution for the needed service of a dog going to the washroom during a walk. They offer lush planting that would attract the dog to use them and proper drainage to make sure there is no runoff or pooling. In addition, it provides benefits for the city by allowing the drainage of rainwaters from road ways. The low planter heights that allow for this water collection will allow easy access for dogs. Also, the greenery they support helps in beautifying the city. The bioswales designed for this intervention takes advantage of local conditions to make them fit within the locale.



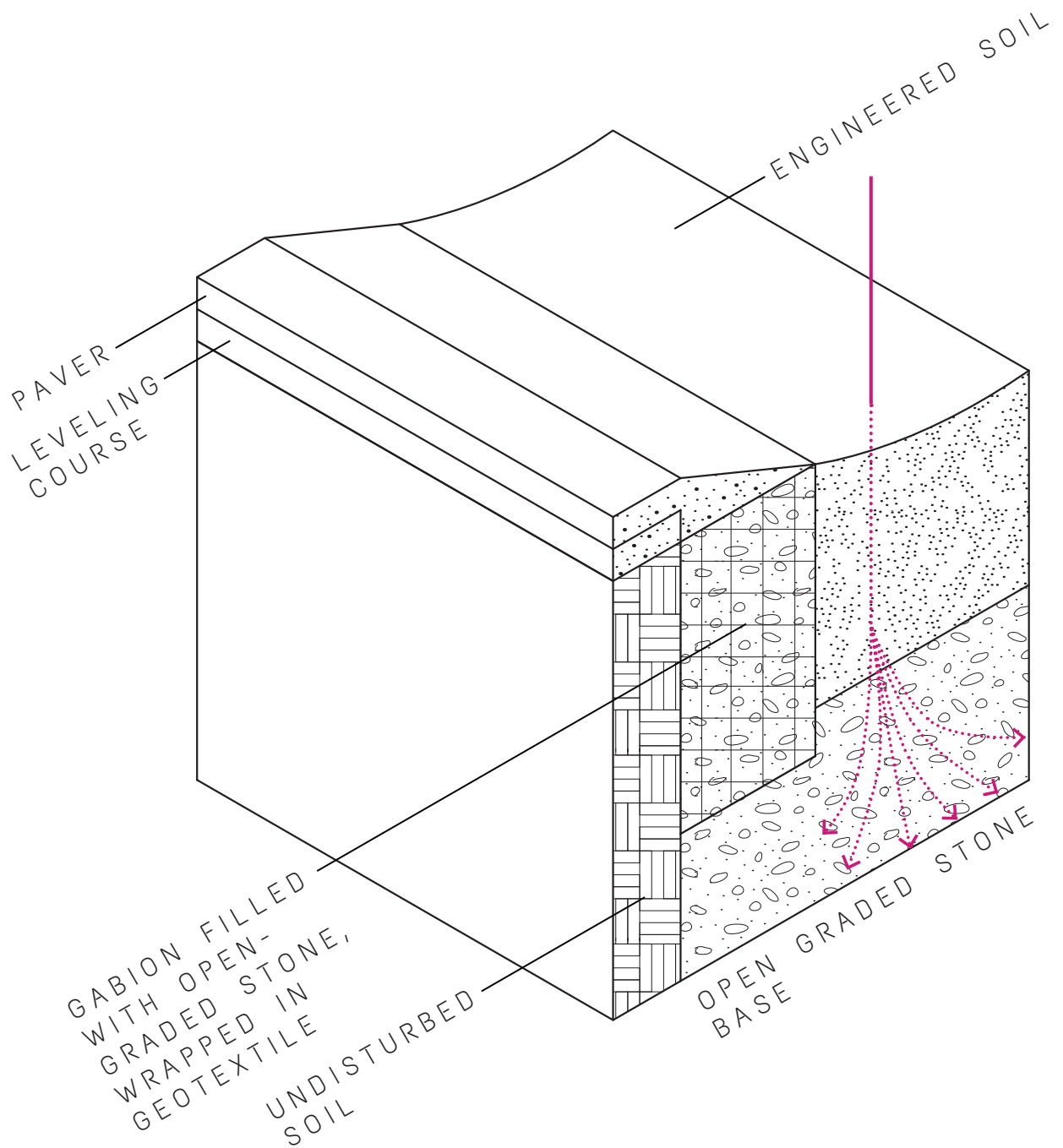


Fig. 117 - Isometric Bioswale Component ²⁴

BIOSWALE CONFIGURATIONS

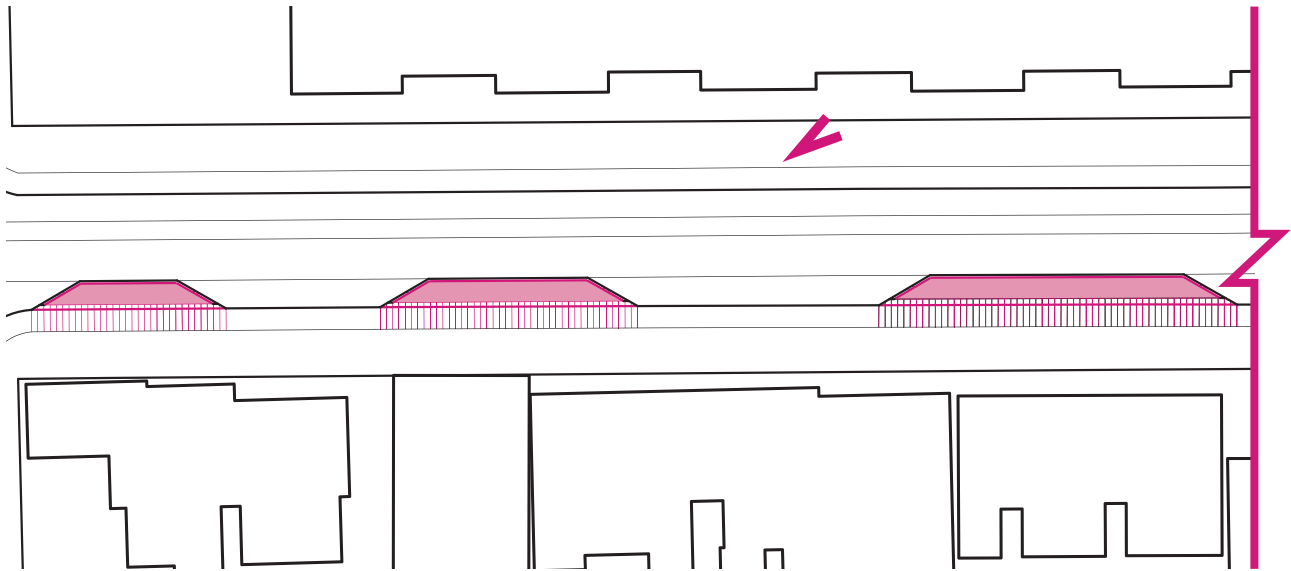
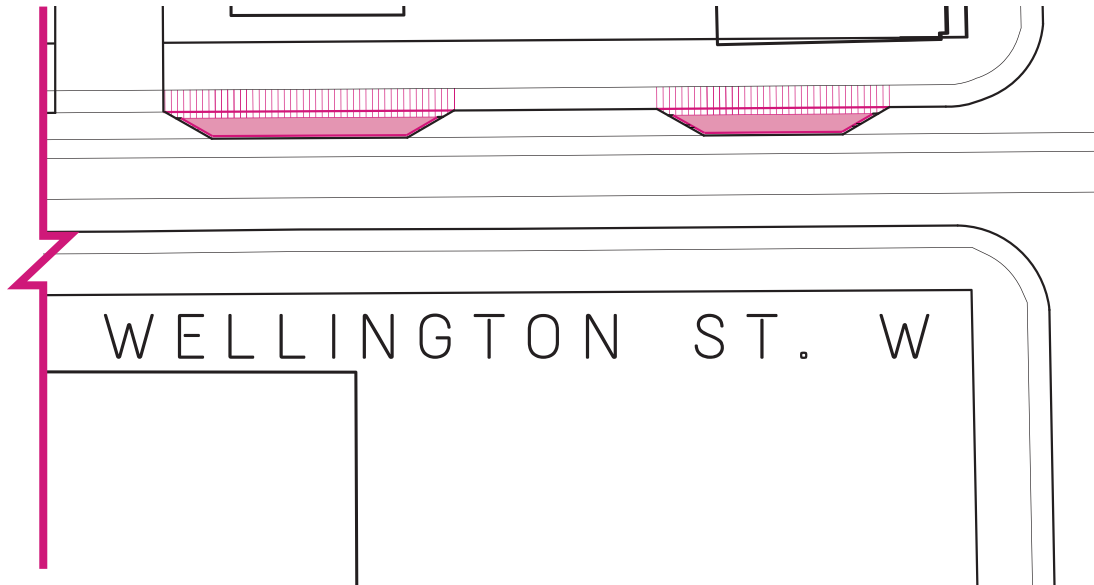
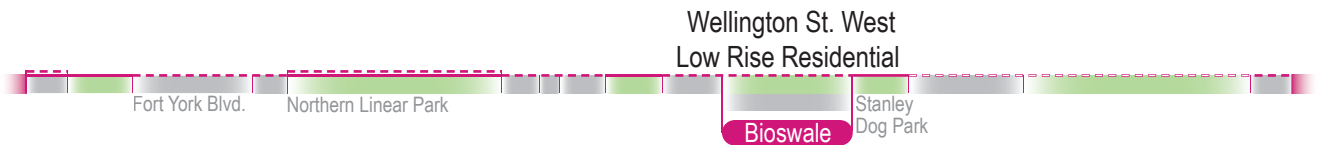


Fig. 118 - Bioswale Wellington St. W Site Plan (1:600)



RESIDENTIAL - NATURALIST
 Fig. 119 - Bioswale Wellington St. W Aerial Render (to left)

The existing traffic islands in this Wellington Street neighbourhood are a perfect area for intervention. This design connects the existing islands to the sidewalk allowing the newly designed bioswales to become usable. The connection makes them easily accessible by the dogs and people alike. This is important because existing gardens within the neighbourhood are often small and private; most are separated by fences. Curb cuts on the street side allow runoff water from road to flow into the bioswales. The sidewalk is also inclined downward toward the planting in order to achieve the same on the opposite side.



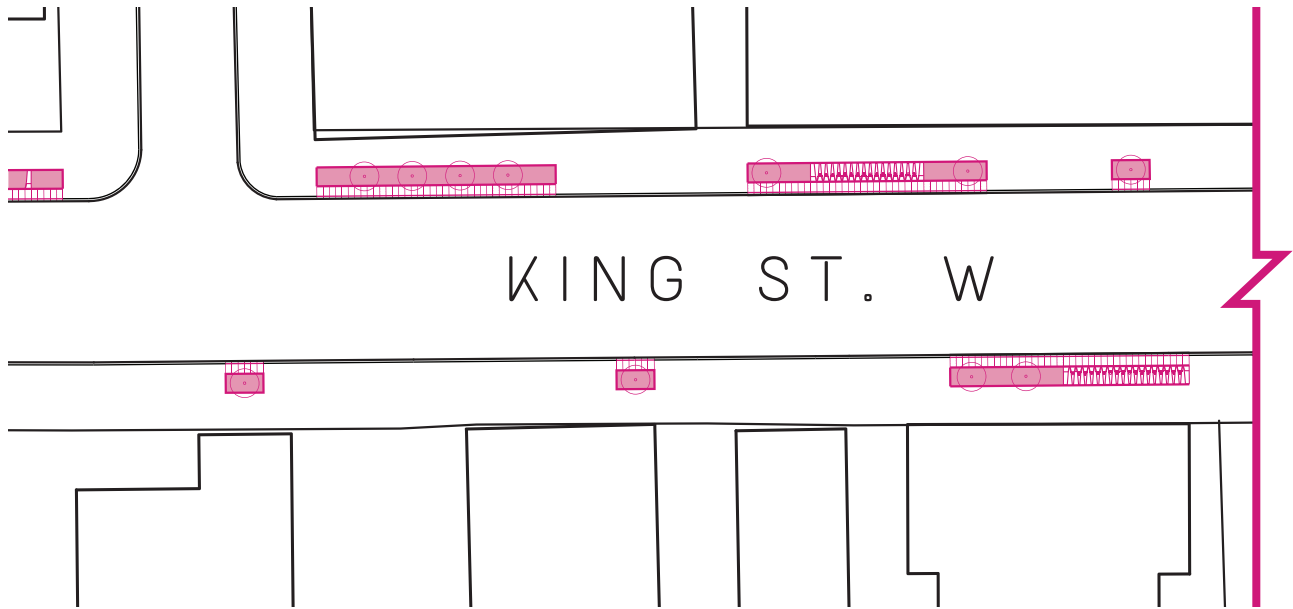
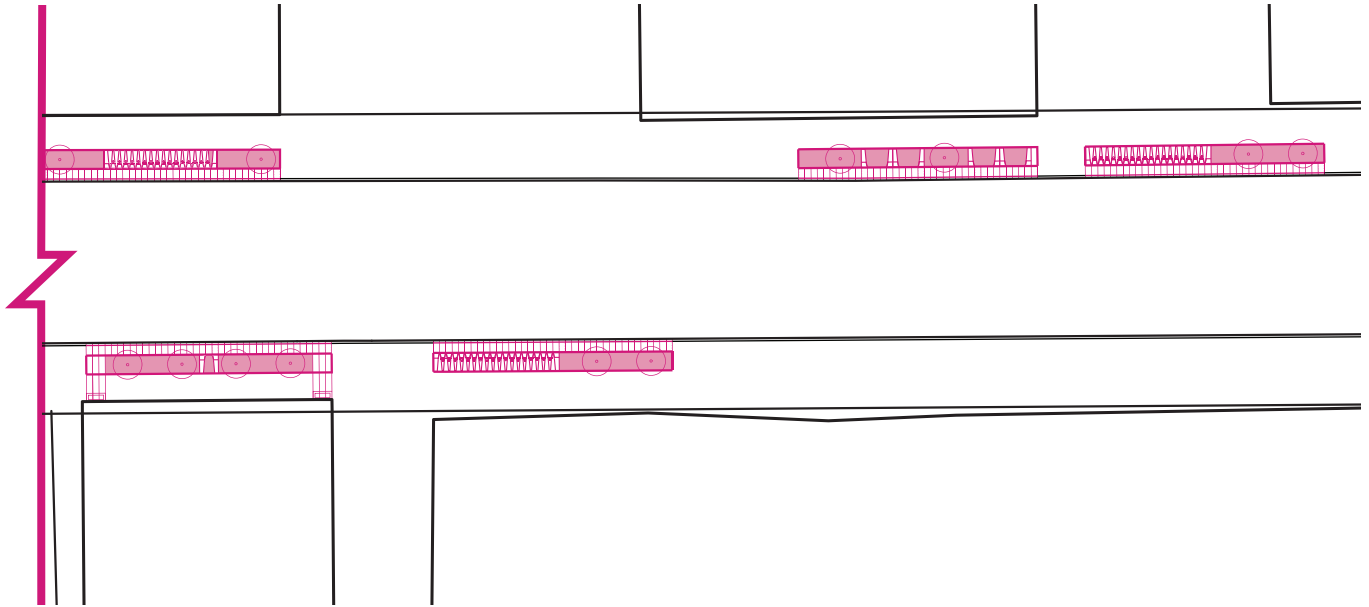


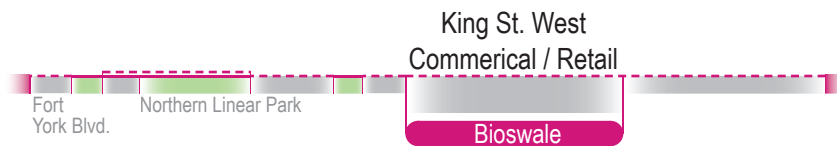
Fig. 120 - Bioswale King St. W Site Plan (1:600)



COMMERCIAL - URBANITE

Fig. 121 - Bioswale King St. W Aerial Render (to left)

On King Street the wider sidewalks are taken advantage of and the bioswales are placed directly on them. Due to the more urban context, the programs of these bioswales become more defined. As with the previous version they still provide a non-damaging washroom space for dogs and offer runoff water drainage. Additionally, the bioswales have seating placed throughout. This is beneficial for the many cafes and restaurants that are located on this specific stretch. There is also an integration of bike racks into the bioswales because the area is heavily trafficked by cyclists. Finally, in specific areas close to outdoor laneway patios there are accommodations made for patrons dogs through the implementation of built-in water dishes.



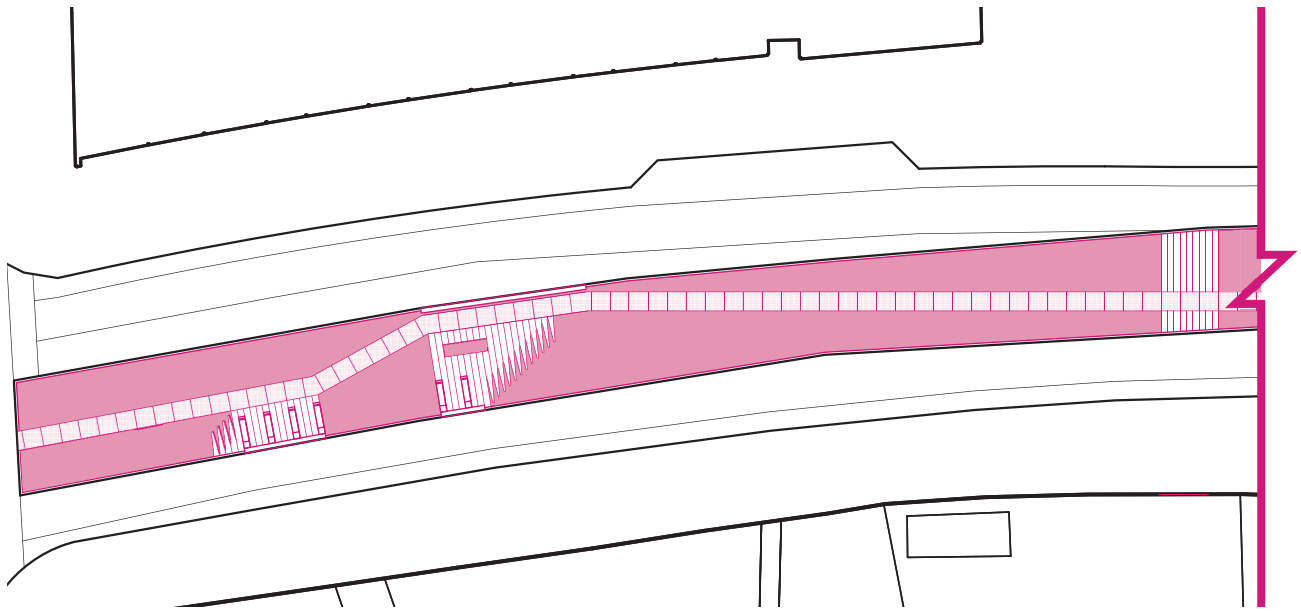
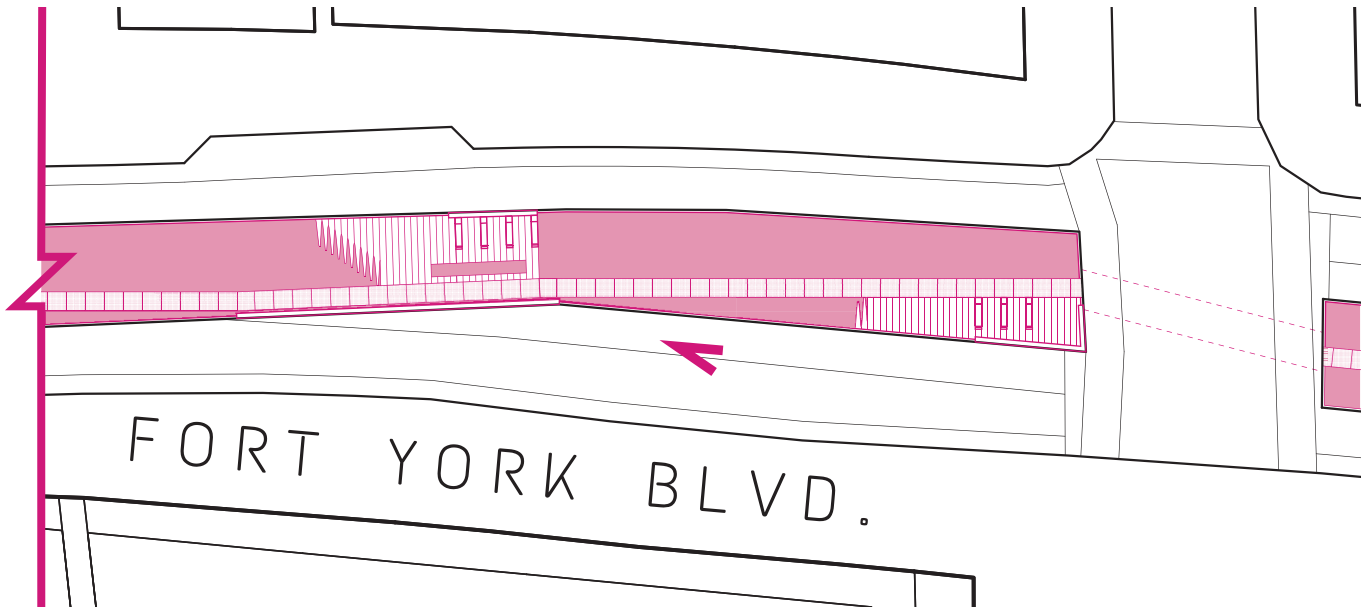


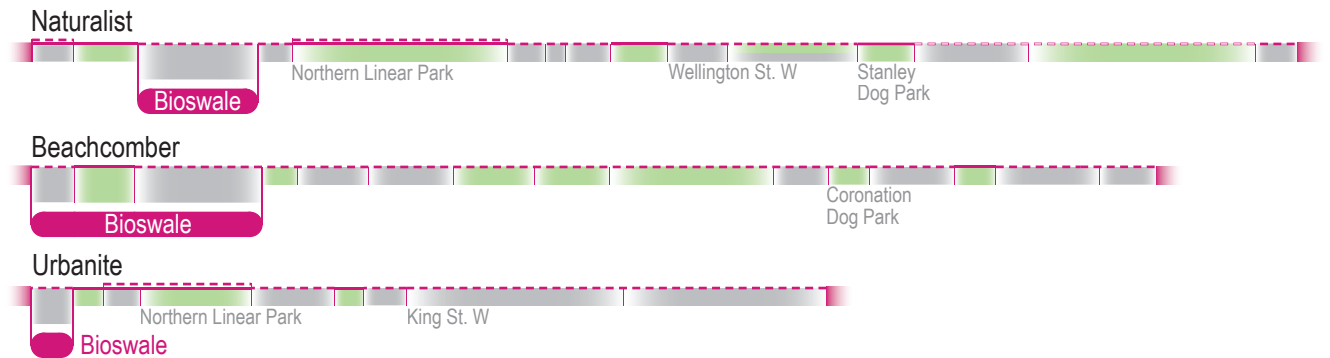
Fig. 122 - Bioswale Fort York Blvd. Site Plan (1:600)



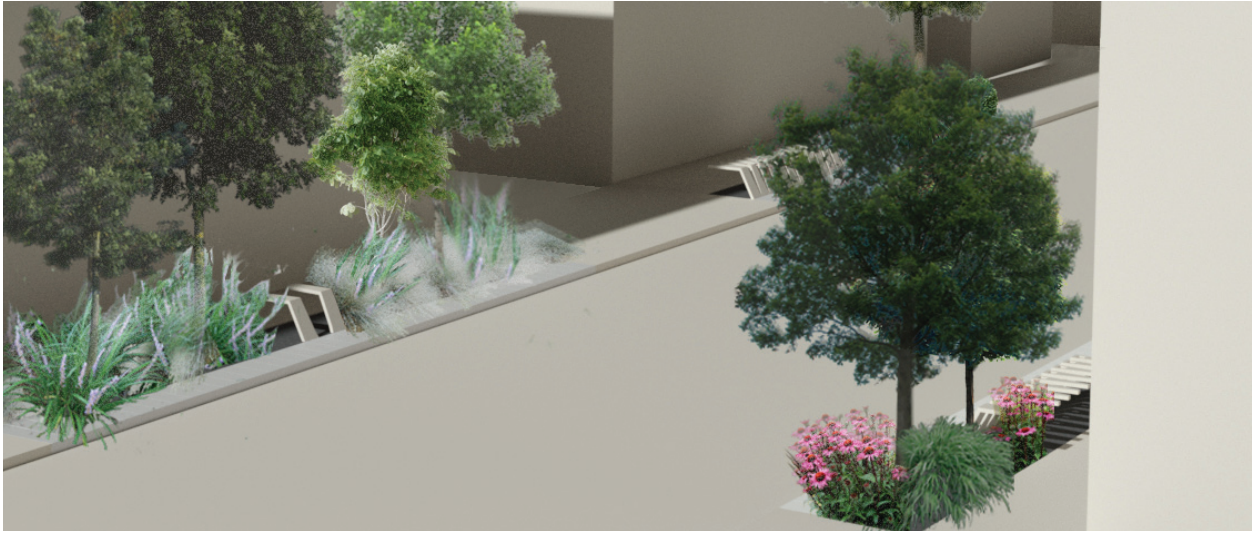
PODIUM TOWER - FORT YORK BLVD.

Fig. 123 - Bioswale Fort York Blvd. Aerial Render (to left)

This iteration of the bioswales takes advantage of the rather large traffic dividers that exist on Fort York Boulevard. These can be accessed from the crosswalks and are able to separate the “dog” traffic from normal pedestrian traffic. It also makes a previously neglected piece of land much more beautiful, practical and engaging. The space becomes a mini park with seating areas, a walk way and gardens. It is an upgrade that is beneficial for both dog owners and other residents.



BIOSWALE SECTIONS



RESIDENTIAL - NATURALIST

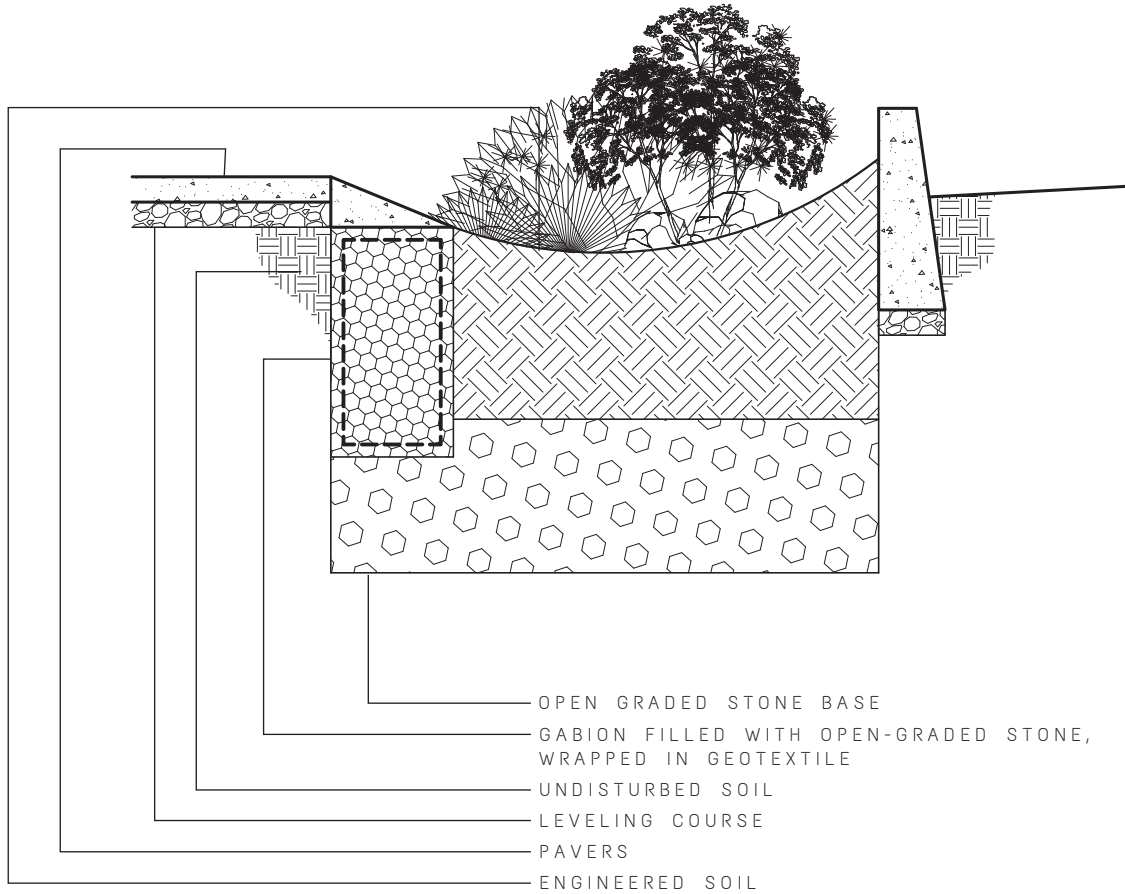


Fig. 124- Bioswale Wellington St. W Section (1:30) ²⁴

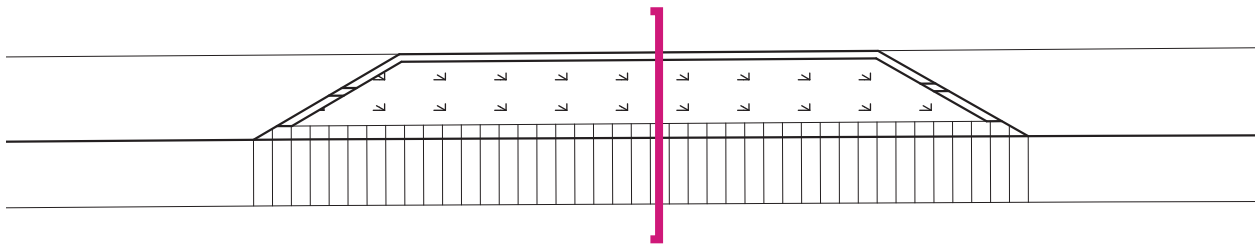


Fig. 125 - Bioswale Wellington St. W Plan (1:200)

PLANTING: ILEX GLABRA ‘SHAMROCK’ - LIRIOPE SPICATA
 - LIRIOPE MUSCARI ‘MONROE WHITE’ - CLETHRA ANIFOLIA ‘HUMMINGBIRD’ - ECHINACEA PURPUREA ‘KIM’S KNEE HIGH’
 RUDBECKIA SUBTOMENTOSA ‘HENRY EILERS’ *

*All plantings are chosen based on their ability to survive the specific site conditions and their ability to stand up to dog traffic and waste. ²⁵

COMMERCIAL - URBANIST

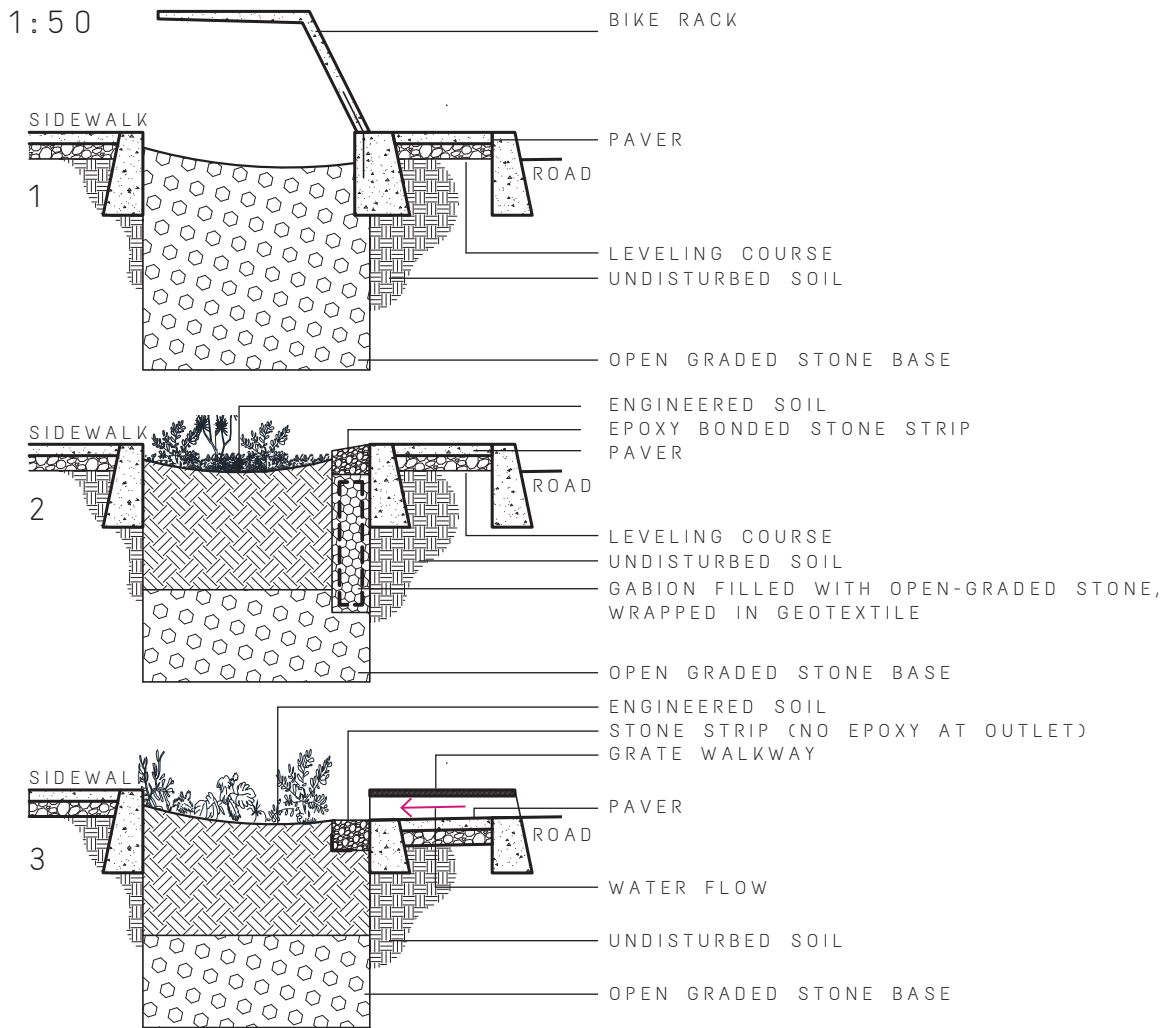


Fig. 126 - Bioswale King St. W Sections (1:50)²⁴

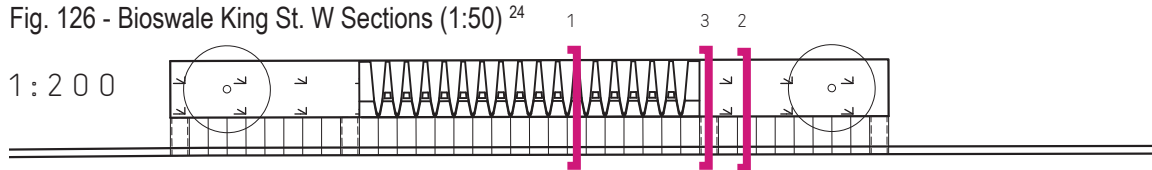


Fig. 127 - Bioswale King St. W Plan (1:200)

PLANTING: ILEX GLABRA 'SHAMROCK' - RUDBECKIA SUB-TOMENTOSA 'HENRY EILERS' - PENNISETUM ALOPECUROIDES 'LITTLE BUNNY' - ECHINACEA SIMULATA - CAREX 'ICE DANCE' - RUDBECKIA FULGIDA 'GOLDSTURM' - RUDBECKIA FULGIDA 'GOLDSTURM' - HELICTOTRICHON SEM-PERVIRENS - PENNISETUM ALOPECURIODES 'HAMELN'

PODIUM TOWER - FORT YORK BLVD.

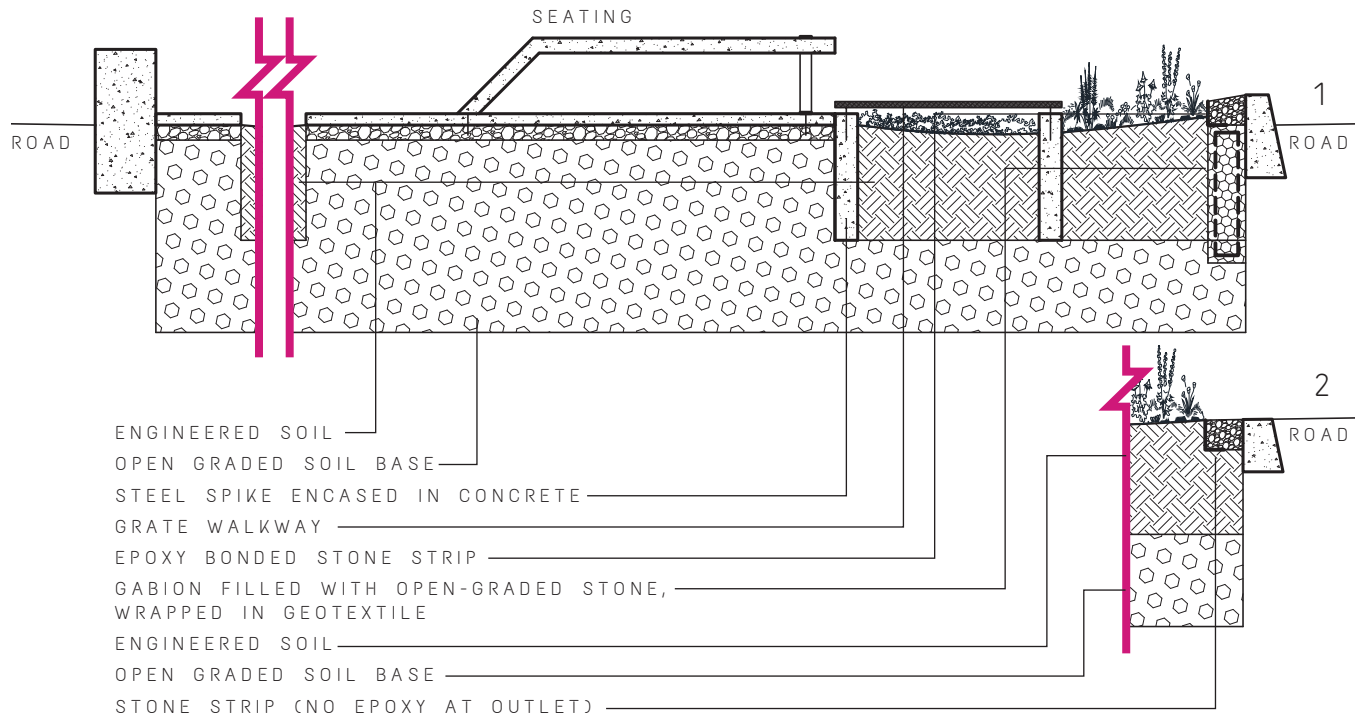


Fig. 128 - Bioswale Fort York Blvd. Sections (1:50)²⁴



Fig. 129 - Bioswale Fort York Blvd. Plan (1:200)

PLANTING: ILEX GLABRA 'SHAMROCK' - RUDBECKIA SUB-TOMENTOSA 'HENRY EILERS' - PENNISETUM ALOPECUROIDES 'LITTLE BUNNY' - ECHINACEA SIMULATA - CAREX 'ICE DANCE' - RUDBECKIA FULGIDA 'GOLDSTURM' - RUDBECKIA FULGIDA 'GOLDSTURM' - HELICTOTRICHON SEMPERVIRENS - PENNISETUM ALOPECURIODES 'HAMELN'





TRAVEL/DESTINATION



Fig. 131 - Pathway and Destination Map



Throughout the path system there are various areas that serve both the functions of travel and destination. The interventions that occur in these spaces must accommodate and improve both of these uses. These spaces offer unique opportunities to create dynamic interventions.

Fig. 132 - View onto Parade Pedestrian Path (to left)

LINEAR PARKS
PEDESTRIAN PATHS

PATIO SEATING

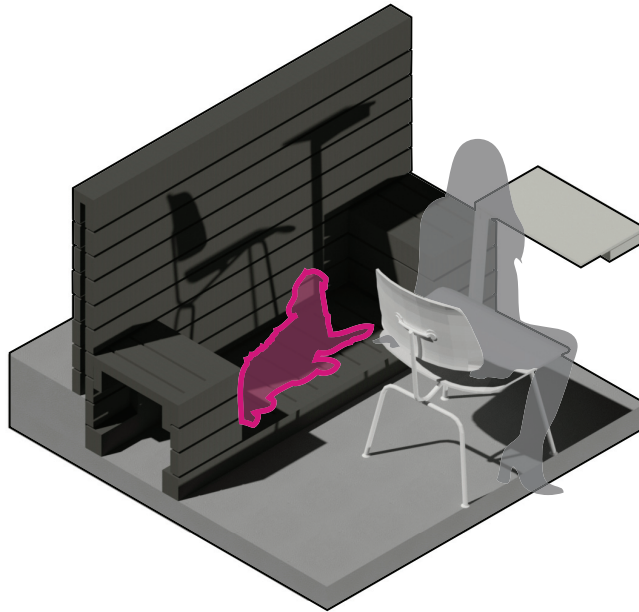


Fig. 133 - Patio Seating Component

This intervention is a simple change to banquet seating that allows for dogs to be seated with their owners on patios. Since it is a simple alteration to the seating module they can be grouped into dog and non-dog areas as the restaurants or patrons prefer. This has become important as restaurant owners have begun to allow dogs within their patios and patrons have begun to bring them. This is a simple intervention to make the transition easier. The intervention makes sure the dogs are not underfoot which could become hazardous to staff and patrons. It also prevents disruption to patrons or pedestrians (whining) that would be caused by separation anxiety if the dog were to simply sit on the outside of the patio. This intervention is completely dependent on wants of the restaurant owner and if they would like to allow dogs on their patios. The overall intention is just to lessen the negative effects that could be garnered if they were to allow dogs.



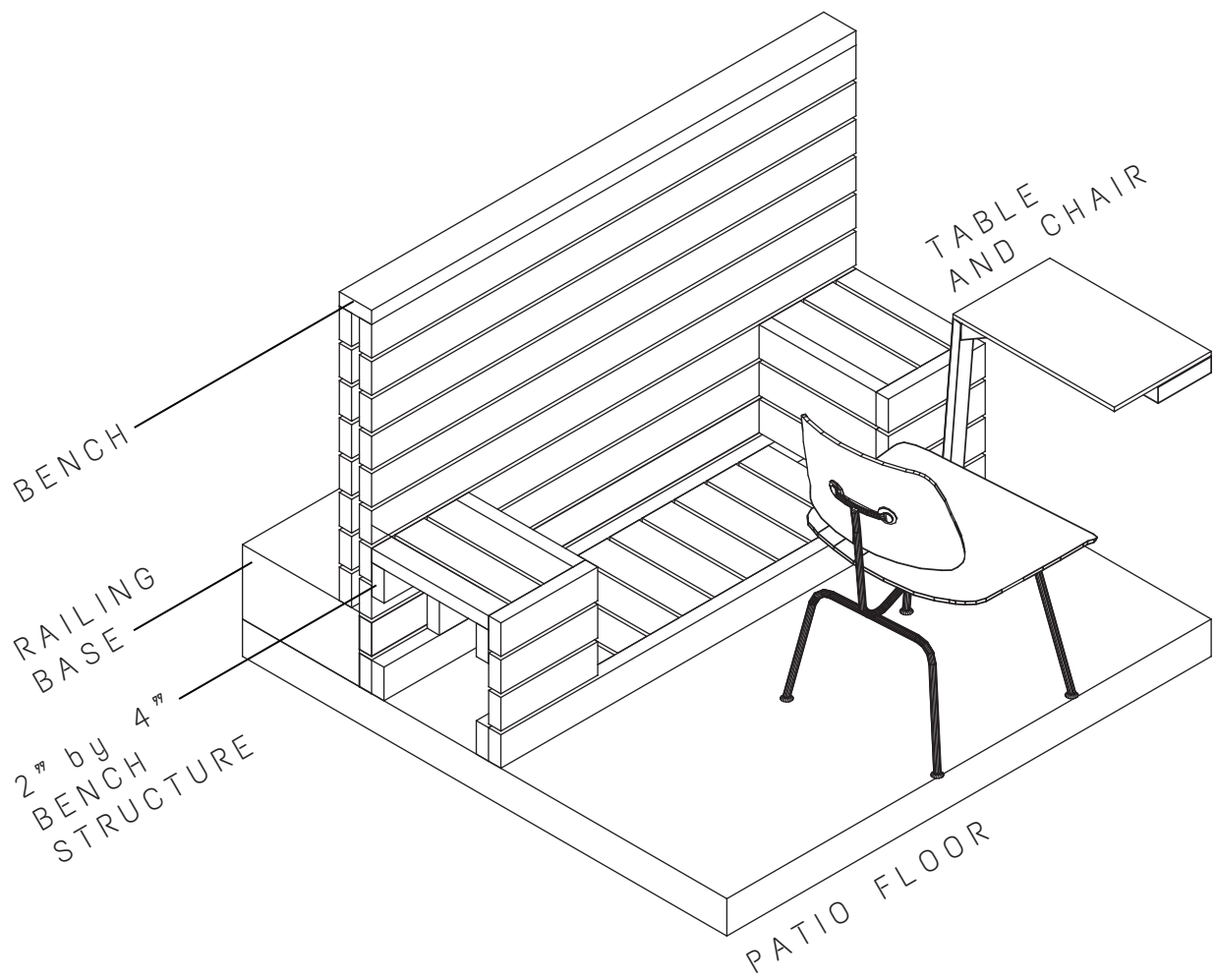


Fig. 134 - Isometric Patio Seating Component

Fig. 135 - Patio Seating Aerial Render



Having dogs on the patio is a slightly gray area, but it is being done. The 59th clause of the Ontario Health Protection and Promotion Act states that:

59. Every operator of a food premise shall ensure that in respect of the food premise,
e)ii) every room where food is manufactured, prepared, processed, handled, served, displayed, stored, sold or offered for sale is kept free from, subject to section 60, live birds and animals;²⁶

“Room” is the designating factor, but since room is not defined it is up to some negotiation, is a patio considered a room? There is a growing trend in Toronto showing that it is not. This includes restaurants such as: The Black Bull, The Artful Dodger, Caplansky’s, Lion on the Beach, Statengers, Bar Wellington, Whistler’s Grille, Le Select Bistro, Mildred’s Temple Kitchen, Dr Generosity, Victory Café, Café Novo, Last Temptation to name a few.²⁷

PEDESTRIAN PATH PATIO SEATING

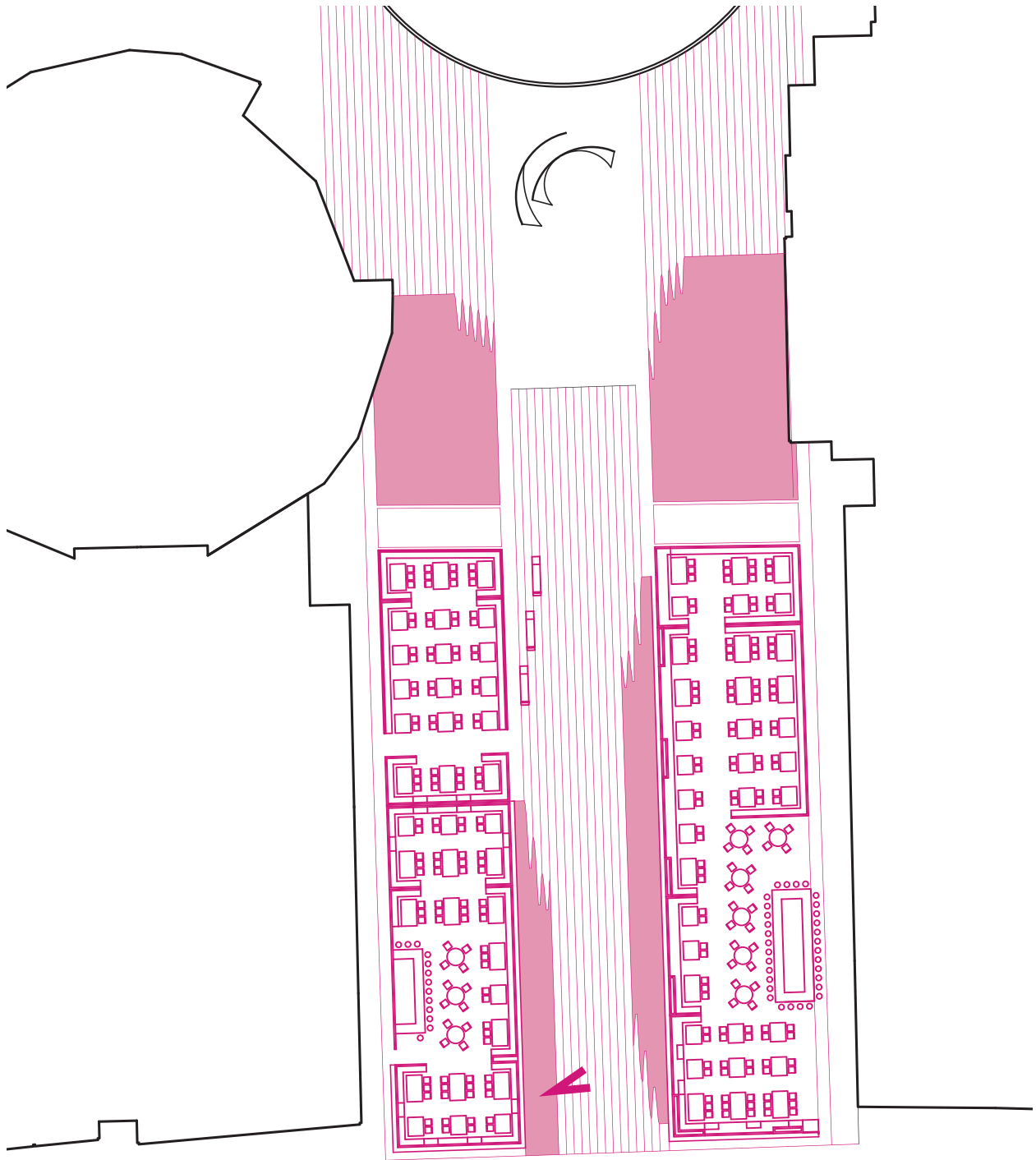
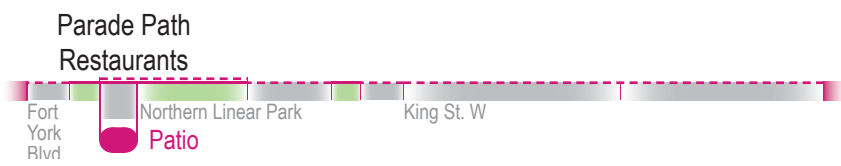


Fig. 136 - Patio Seating: Parade Pedestrian Path Plan (1:300)



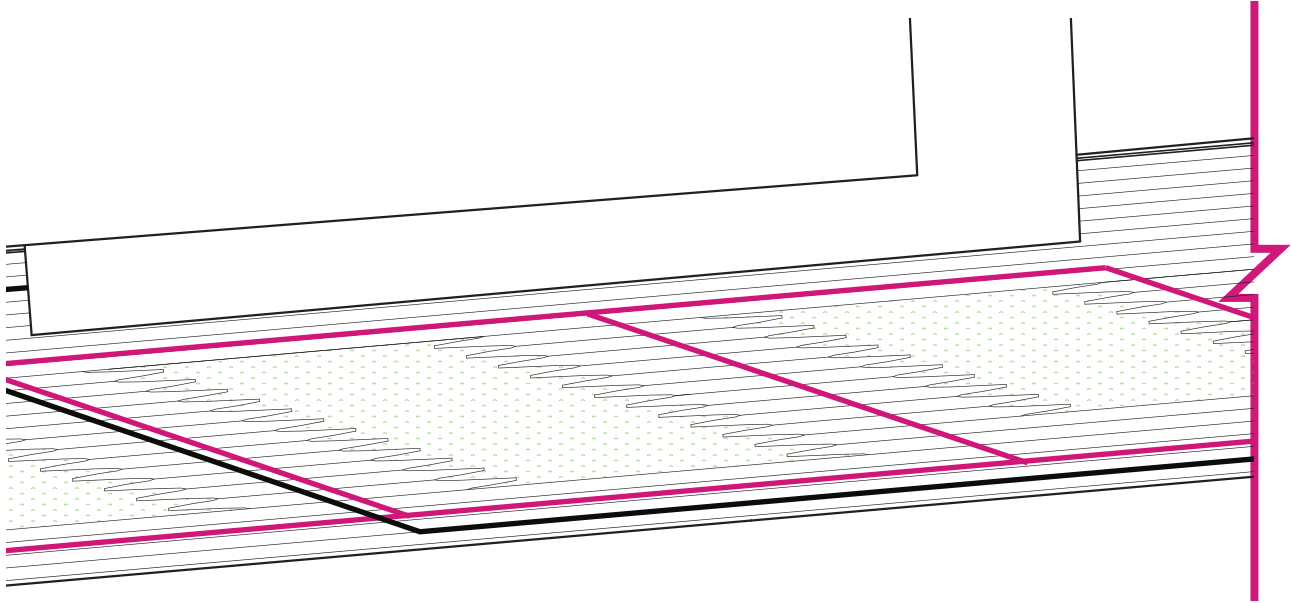
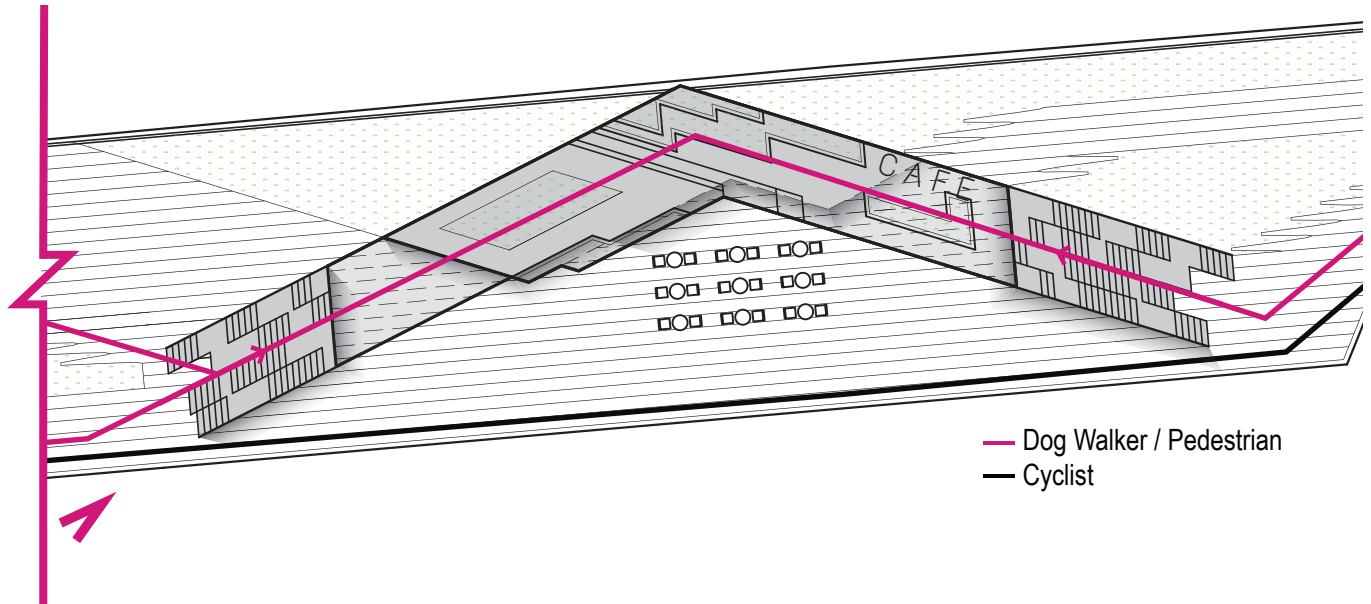


Fig. 137 - Northern Linear Cafe Site Plan (1:300)



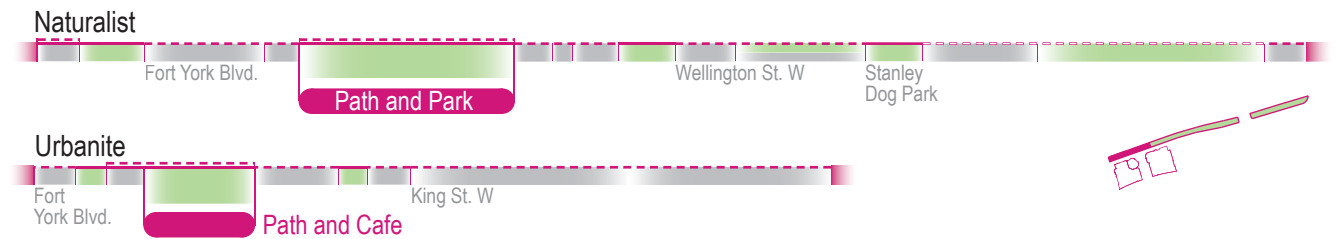
NORTHERN LINEAR CAFE

Fig. 138 - Northern Linear Cafe Aerial Render (to left)

Northern Linear Park is heavily used by dog walkers and commuters. These transient uses although beneficial do pose a problem. The lack of active programming means no one inhabits or stays within the space. Due to this, dog walkers often feel they can leave their dog's dropping instead of pursuing proper disposal. This makes the area even less desirable, consequently less used and the behavior is reinforced. As quoted from a resident "...the whole iceboat terrace street is just filled with dog sh*t that I don't bother walking on there anymore."²⁸ It has been proven that the presence of others will increase the likelihood that dog owners will be considerate. Research "suggested that visibility was a key factor in the behaviour of dog walkers with respect

to dog waste and that some owners may only clean up after their dogs when obliged to (e.g. in the presence of others),"²⁹ Activating the park with programming such as a café or destination space will make more people want to be there and in turn will encourage dog owners to behave better.

Another important consideration is the accommodation of the transient uses while creating this destination space. In order to do so, high speed (cyclists) and meandering traffic (dogs and people) must be separated and dealt with differently. The built form helps to enable this separation and multiple paths continue it. The cyclist is given direct access while the others are given the choice to wander. The dog walkers can give their charges the ability to wander and smell if so desired.







AGILITY FURNITURE

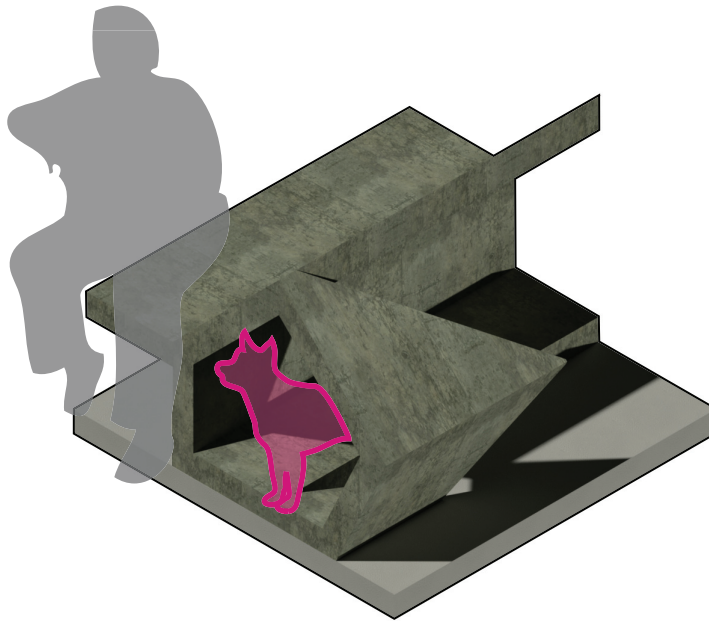


Fig. 140 - Agility Furniture Component

The dog agility competition came about in February, 1978.³⁰ The sport entails the completion of an obstacle course by dogs through the direction of their guardians. The reason such a sport can occur are dogs' innate skill in gaze following. This does not sound like much, but almost all other animals including our closest relative, the chimpanzee, have great difficulty performing this task. A dog is able to understand through gesture (pointing and gazing) what we are referring to. Therefore they are able to complete these complex obstacles in collaboration with us.³¹ As Haraway states it is at this junction that "dog and human figure it out, if only for a minute, how to get on together, how to move with sheer joy and skill over a hard course, how to communicate, how to be honest."³² This connection is the reason the sport engages and is why the equipment has been used to conceive a park. This action allows even the untrained the joy of connection.



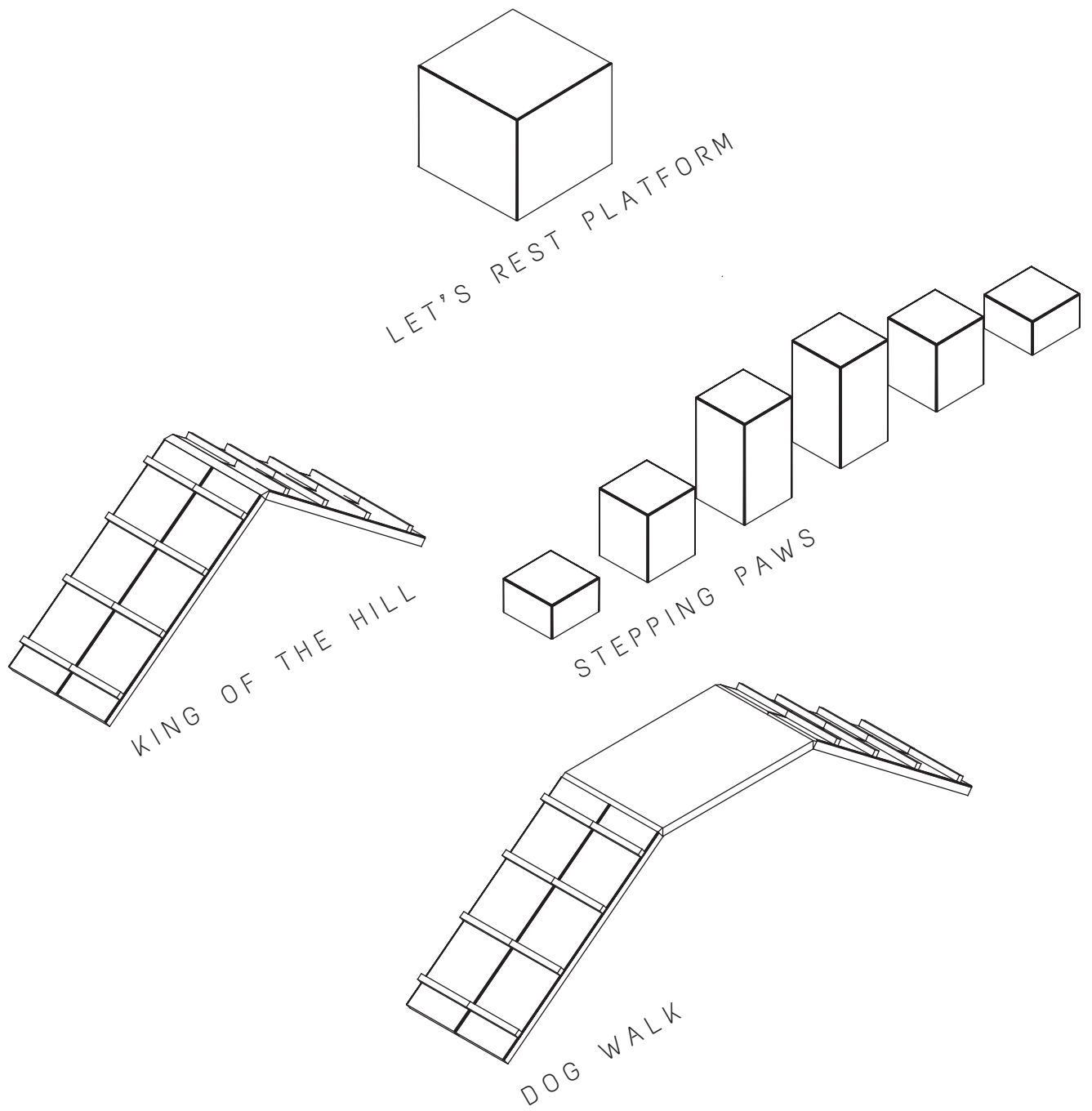


Fig. 141 - Agility Furniture Component precedents ³³

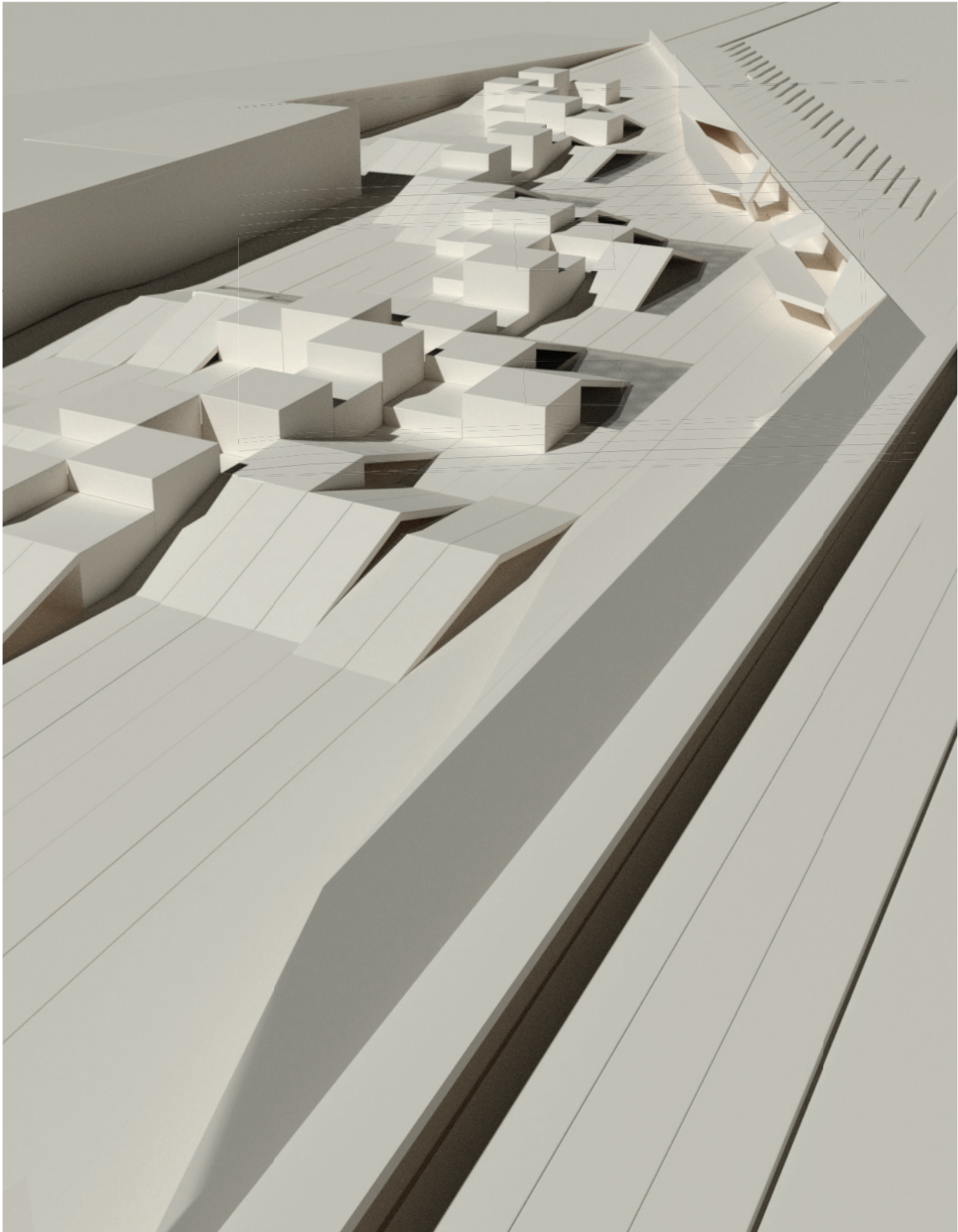
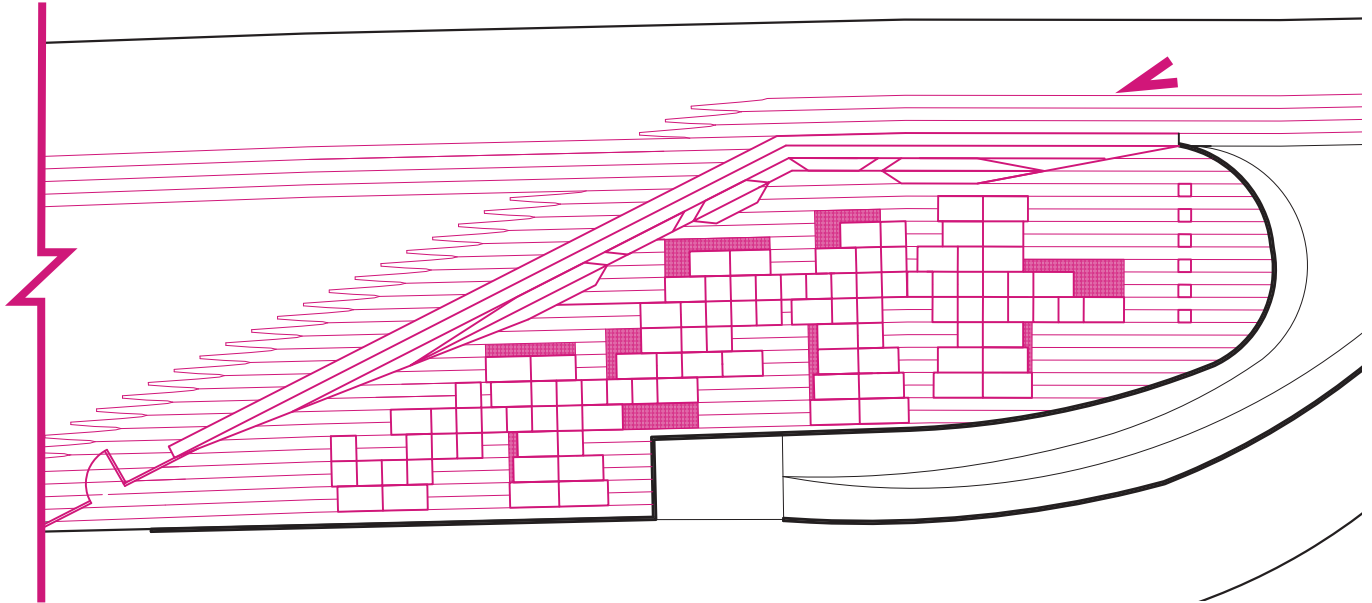


Fig. 142 - Northern Linear Agility Park Site Plan (1:300)



NORTHERN LINEAR AGILITY PARK

Fig. 143 - Northern Linear Agility Park Aerial Render (to left)

The park itself occurs in on the east end of Northern Linear Park in order to spread activity throughout the park. It also takes advantage of the existing grade change from the street as an enclosure. The 'tunnel' which is a component of the agility furniture is converted to a bench and fence in order to become the rest of the needed enclosure. The park interior then becomes a created topography of the remaining equipment types in order to create a lively and versatile play area. This allows for engagement with the equipment and sport in an informal way. This is necessary as the vast majority of people may be unfamiliar or untrained in the sport, but the connection at its core is easily enabled through the presence of the equipment.

Naturalist







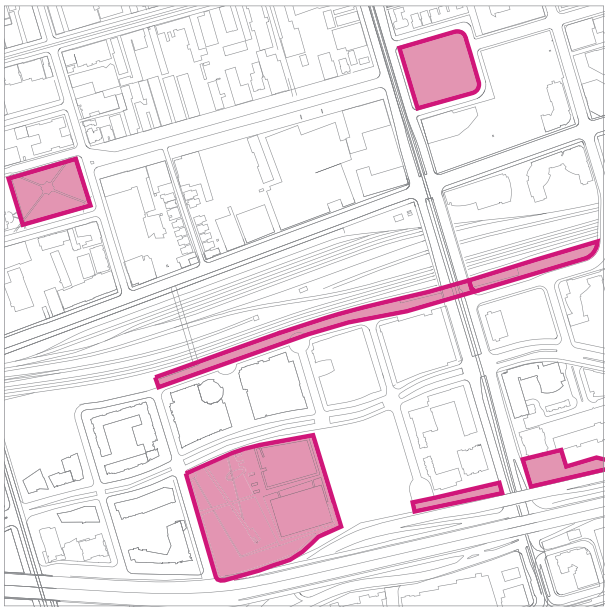
DOG'S PERSPECTIVE

Fig. 144 - Northern Linear Agility Park Preceptive Render

DESTINATION



Fig. 145 - Park Map



The interventions that take place in the destination category are not about reinvention. The areas they occur already exist: off-leash spaces. The intentions of these interventions are about the betterment of the current environment so they may properly accomplish their intended functions. The spaces are reorganized to avoid conflict and optimize safety. Where applicable, the previous interventions have also been integrated into these new designs.

Fig. 146 - View onto Stanley Park off-leash area (to left)

CLARENCE SQUARE
STANLEY PARK
CORONATION PARK

FENCING

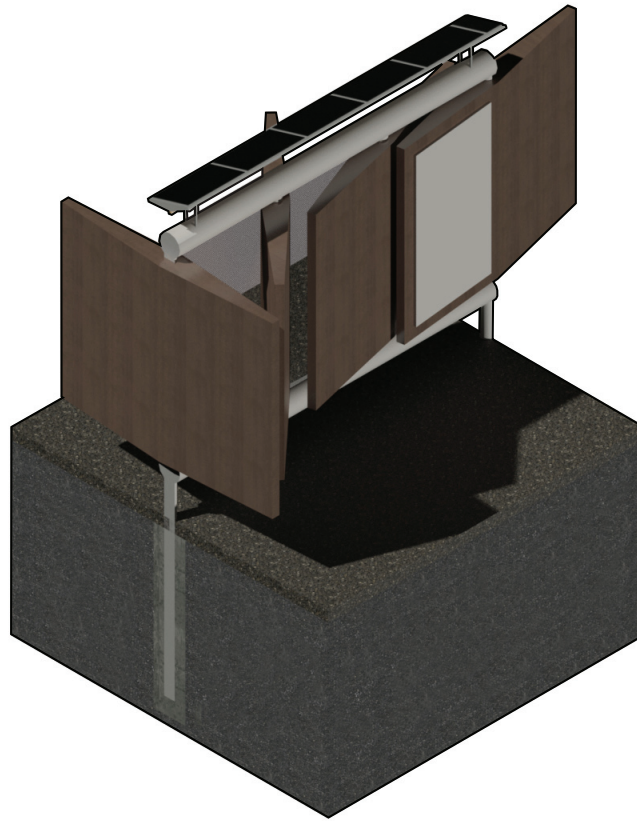


Fig. 147 - Fencing Component

One of the main requirements for many off-leash parks is the containment of dog play due to safety concerns. The fence is often a static tool that accomplishes this goal. This intervention moves past this simple functionality to much more. The fences are equipped with rotational fins that offer both privacy and viewing. The privacy is important because dogs are often vocal or aggressive at the sight of a dog they cannot access. While the ability to view enables the owner to see the dynamic of the park before entering. The fins also offer space for signage about the rules or regulations of the park. There is accommodation for lighting and its power source (solar panels) above the railing as well. The fencing has also been reconfigured to allow for small and large dog areas which are considered safer. Finally, the double gate entrances within the fences have been placed only on straight runs and far apart from each other to avoid further conflict.³⁴



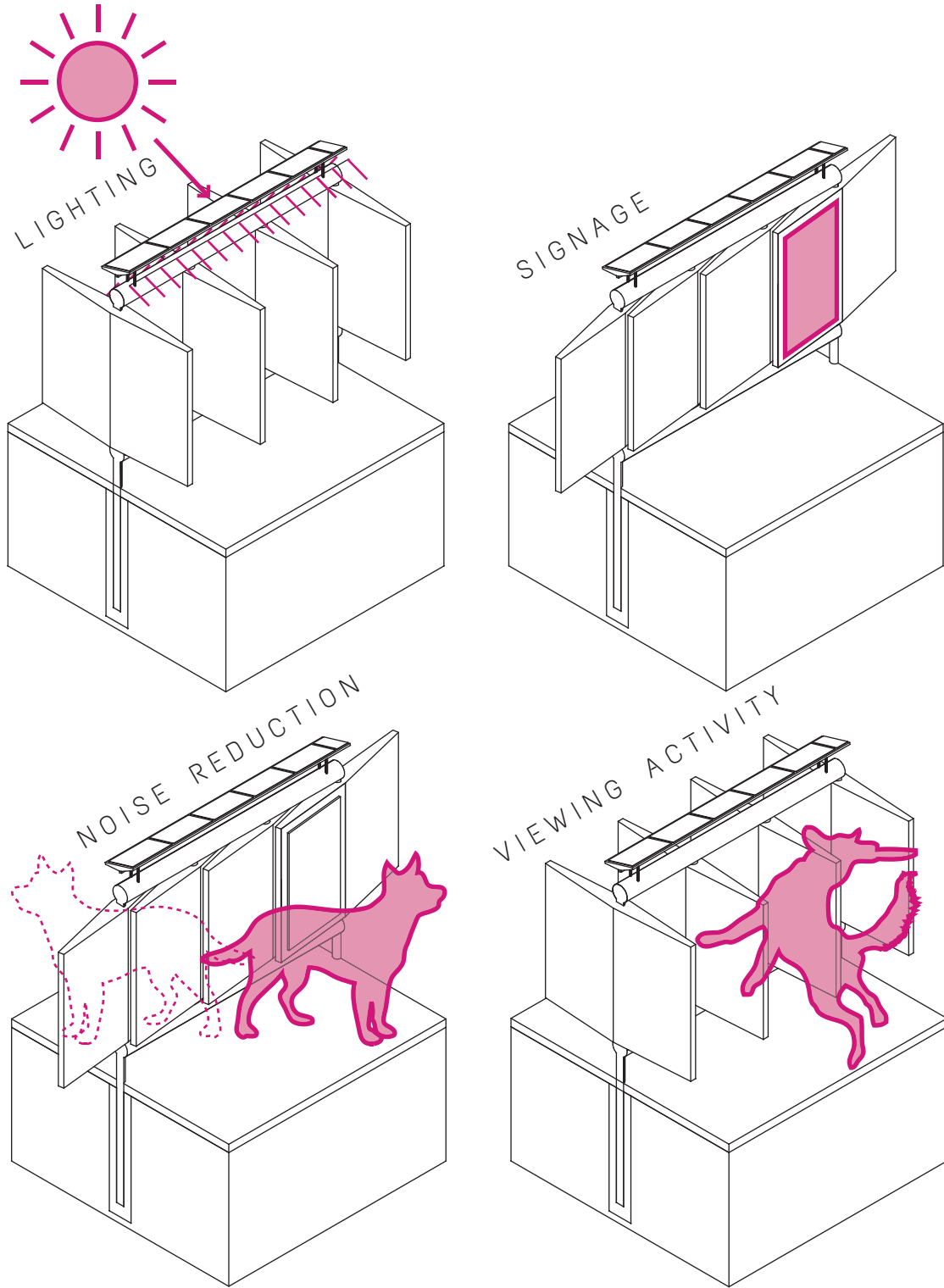


Fig. 148 - Fencing Component design intentions

TREE PROTECTOR

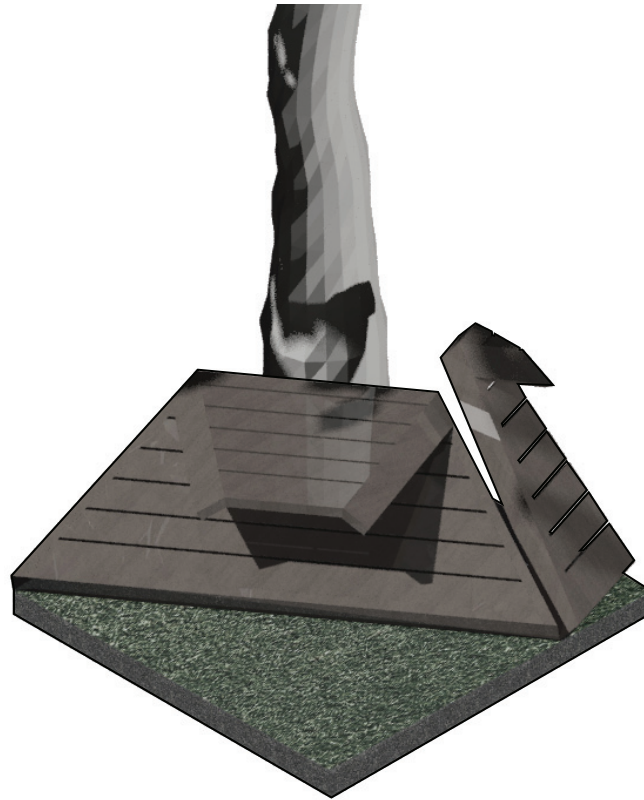


Fig. 149 - Tree Protector Component

Trees within dog parks have many benefits to occupants within the park. They provide shade, visual interest and act as habitats for other animals. Since these parks are existing and already have many trees the focus can be shifted from supply to protection. This intervention ensures necessary preservation and gives additional benefits that improve the quality of the park. Trees in dog parks have to deal with constant traffic and activity. This can compact the soil and create continual exposure to urination which damages the trees.³⁵ By providing a protective ring around the tree, activity is distanced from the tree's neck and it is protected. This ring provides multiple functions including seating for dog and human alike, table space, a leaning area and whatever else people choose to use it for. This is achieved through the multiple levels incorporated. These interventions become social gathering points within the park while still protecting the trees.



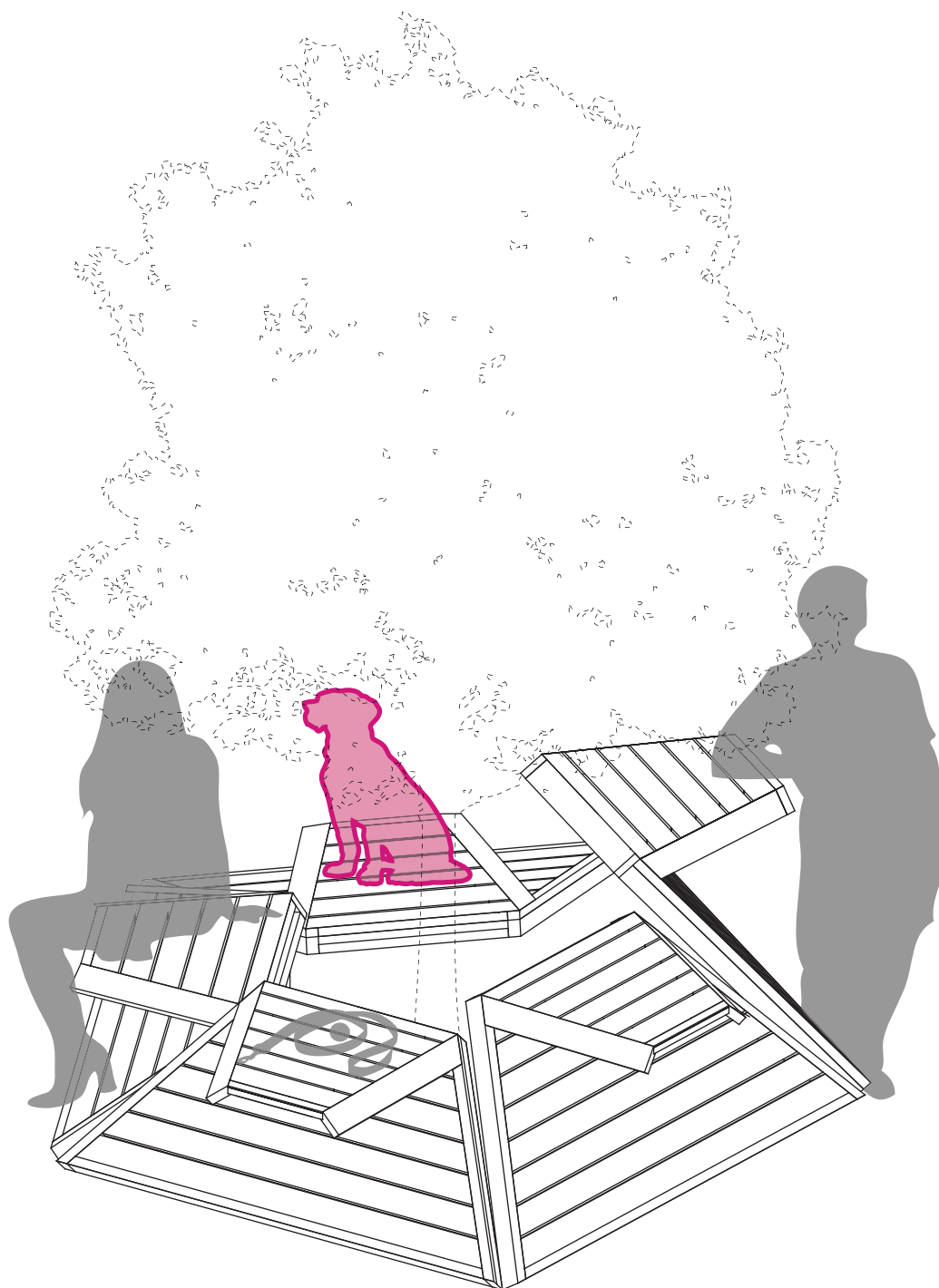


Fig. 150 - Tree Protector design intentions

GROUND COVERING

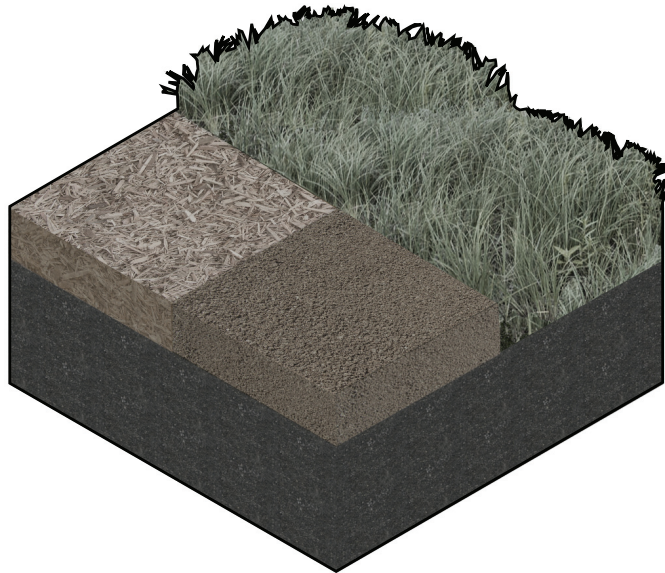


Fig. 151 - Ground Covering Component

Ground covering is important in dog parks because they often determine the durability and cost of the park. It is generally the component that requires the most on-going maintenance due to the high traffic nature of the dog park. The battle between the most durable and most desirable is continual; therefore determining the usage of each type should be contextually driven. Three different types are examined in this intervention decomposed granite, wood chips and grass. The benefits and liabilities of each are explained to the right.

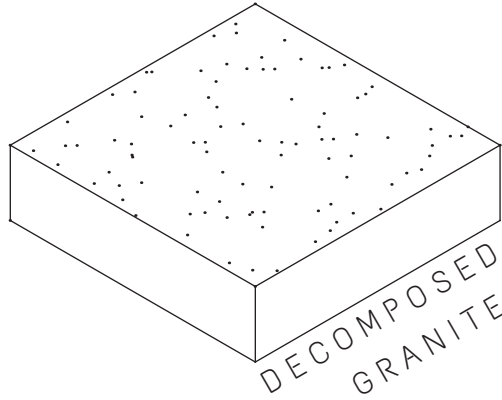


ALLOWABLE TRAFFIC



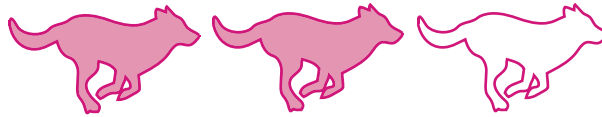
PROS.

- Most durable dog park surface
- Lacks microbial life, preventing the transfer of disease and parasites
- Can easily be brushed from the dog's fur
- More energy efficient than grass, requires less watering
- Easy to install and very porous

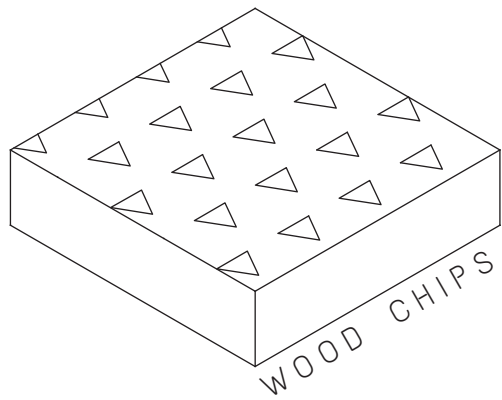


CONS.

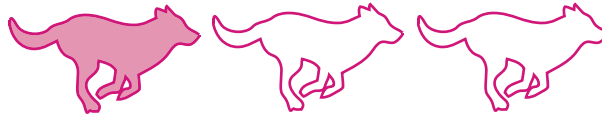
- Must be wiped from dog's paws in order to save floors within households
- If continually wet puddling can occur
- Prone to erosion on slanted surfaces
- Requires skill to install properly



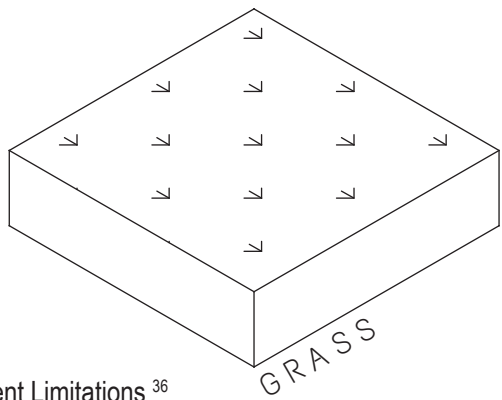
- Wood chips are often cheaper
- Less muddy than grass



- Wood chips from townships are often from diseased or soft wood, soft wood decomposes quicker
- Soft wood will run off slopes in hard rains
- Keeps soil moist, but robs nutrients from the trees and possibly suffocates them
- Requires a lot of replacement

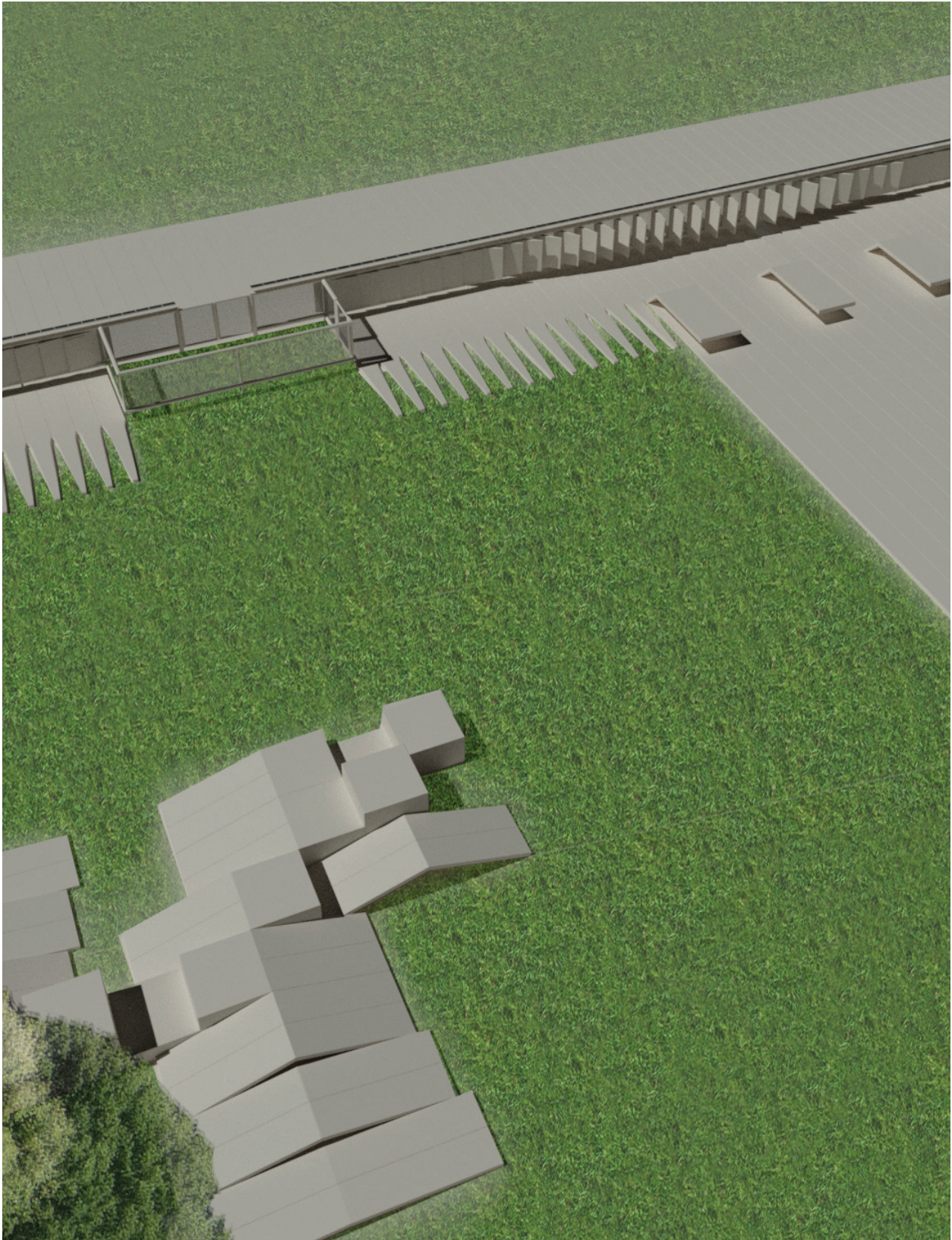


- Low initial cost
- Dogs prefer the soft surface to play on
- Grass also holds smells better than hard surfaces, which is preferential
- Can be easily maintained if the dog number to area ratio is correct



- Requires large ongoing investment in upkeep
- Poor drainage when grass becomes impacted, water retention can attract insects
- Cannot do well in high traffic use
- Burned by high volumes of dog urine

Fig. 152 - Ground Covering Component Limitations ³⁶



STANLEY PARK OFF LEASH AREA ALTERATION

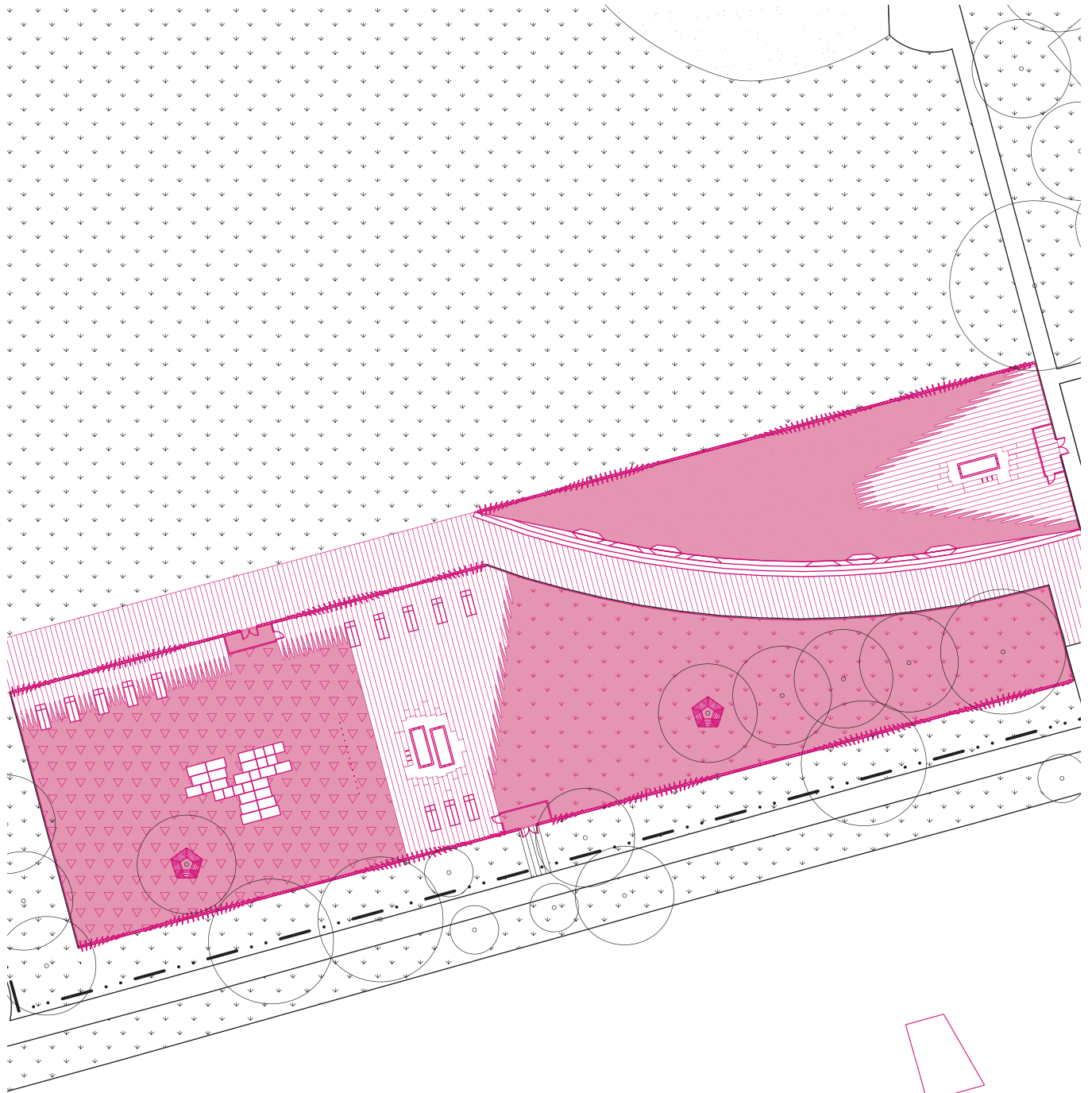
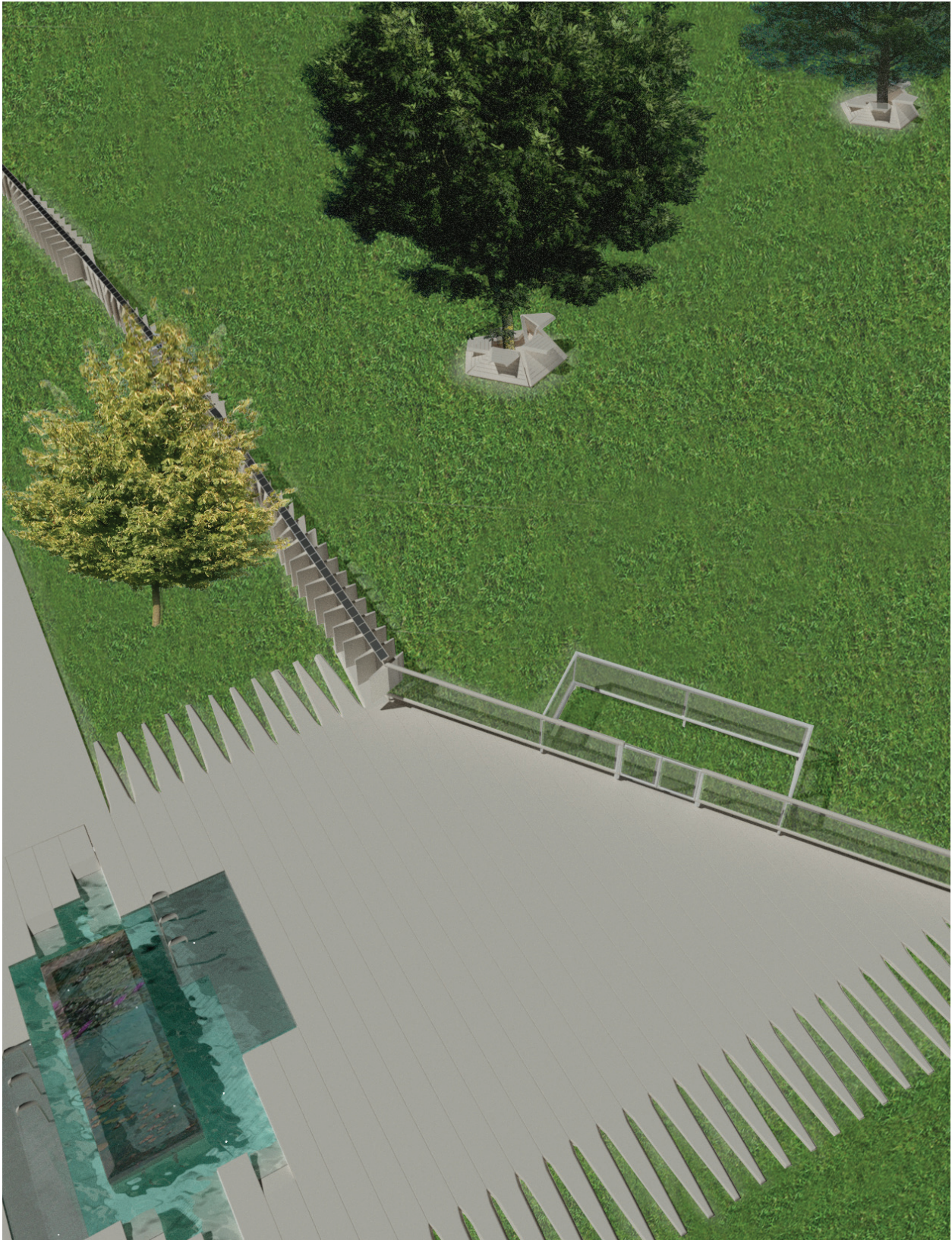


Fig. 153 - Stanley Park Off-Leash area Site Plan (1:600)

Fig. 154 - Stanley Park Off-Leash area Aerial Render (to left)

Naturalist





CORONATION PARK OFF LEASH AREA ALTERATION

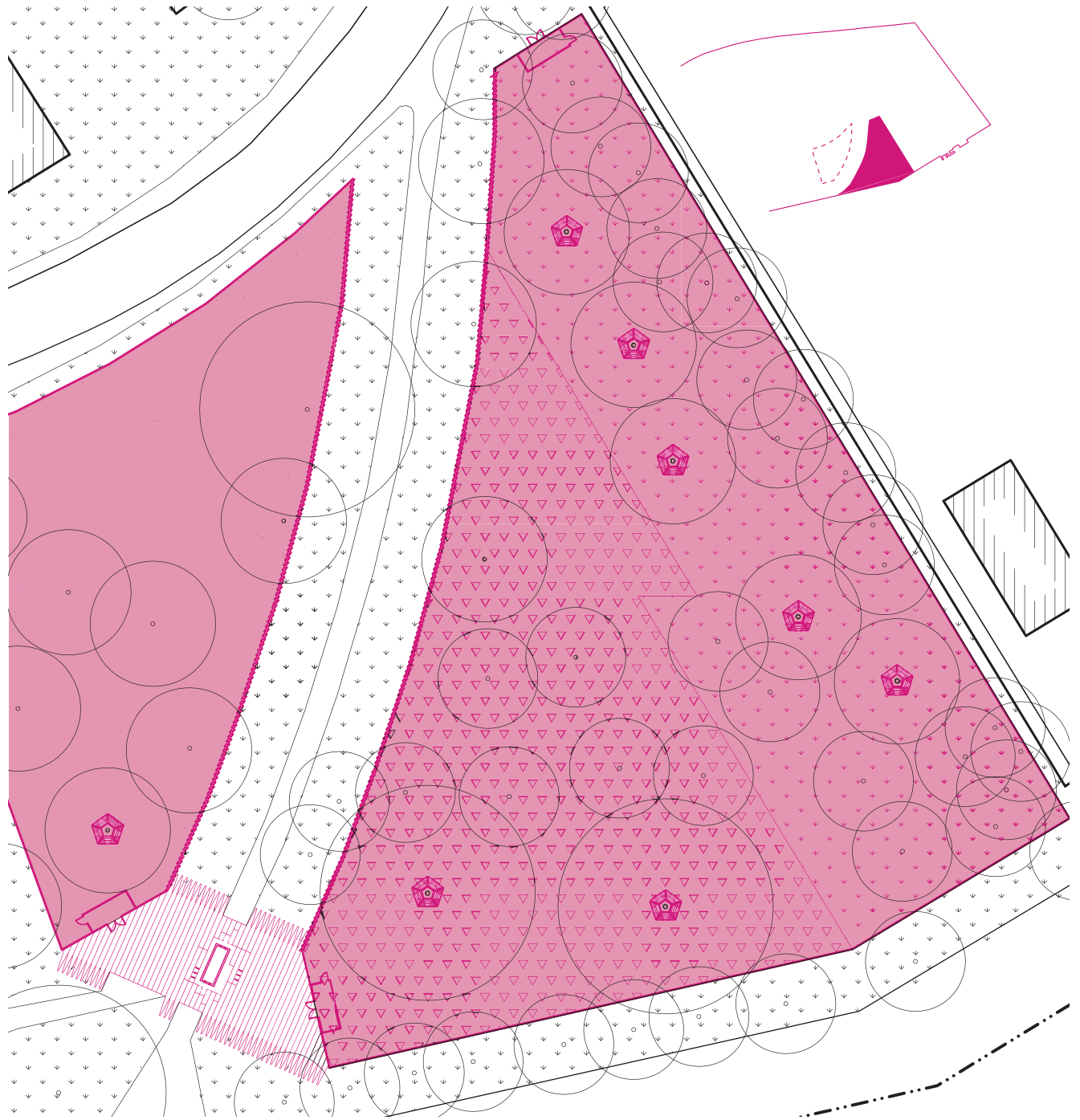


Fig. 155 - Coronation Park Off-Leash area Site Plan (1:600)

Fig. 156 - Coronation Park Off-Leash area Aerial Render (to left)

Beachcomber

Fort York Blvd.

Dog Park



CLARENCE SQUARE OFF LEASH AREA ALTERATION

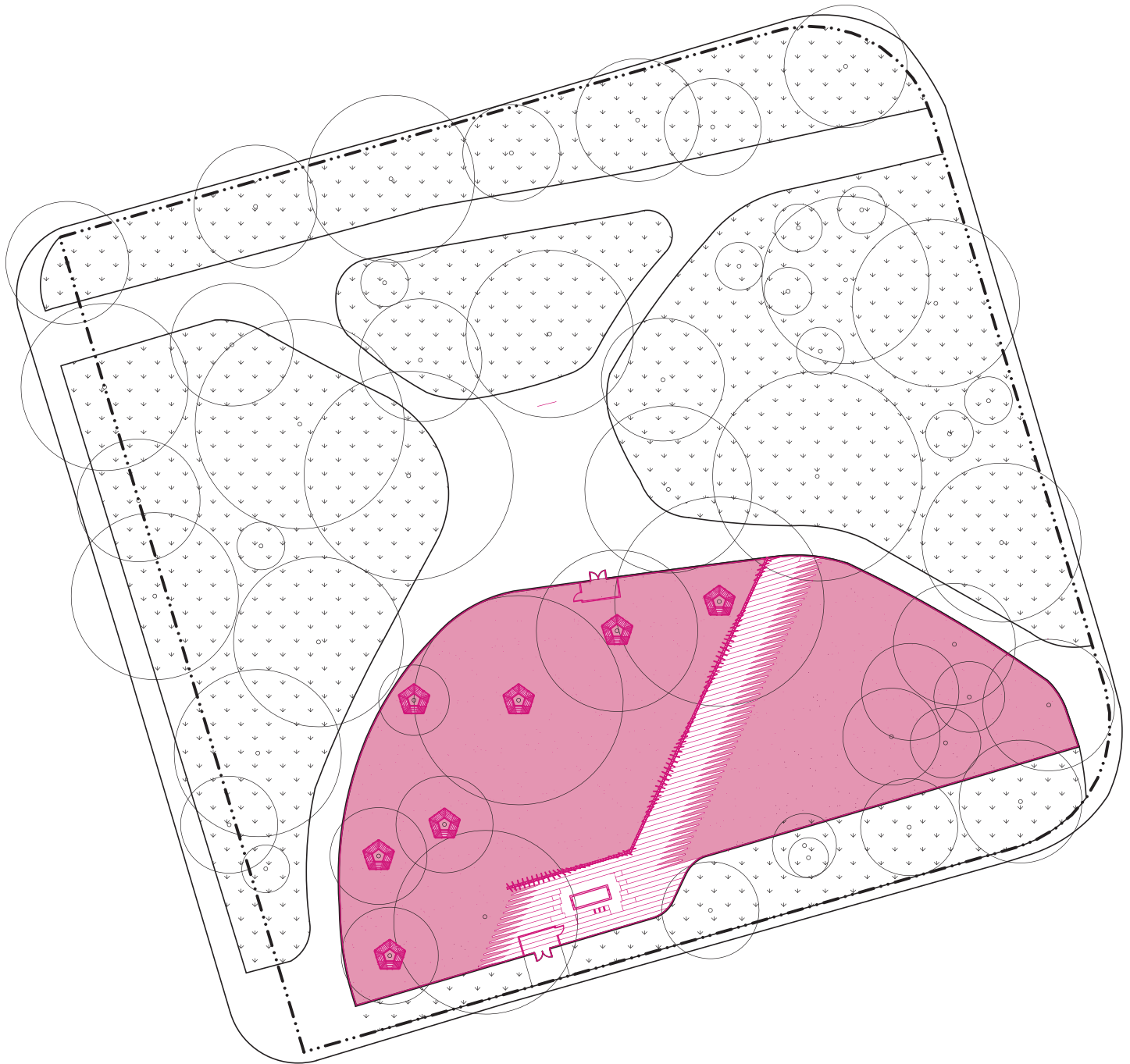
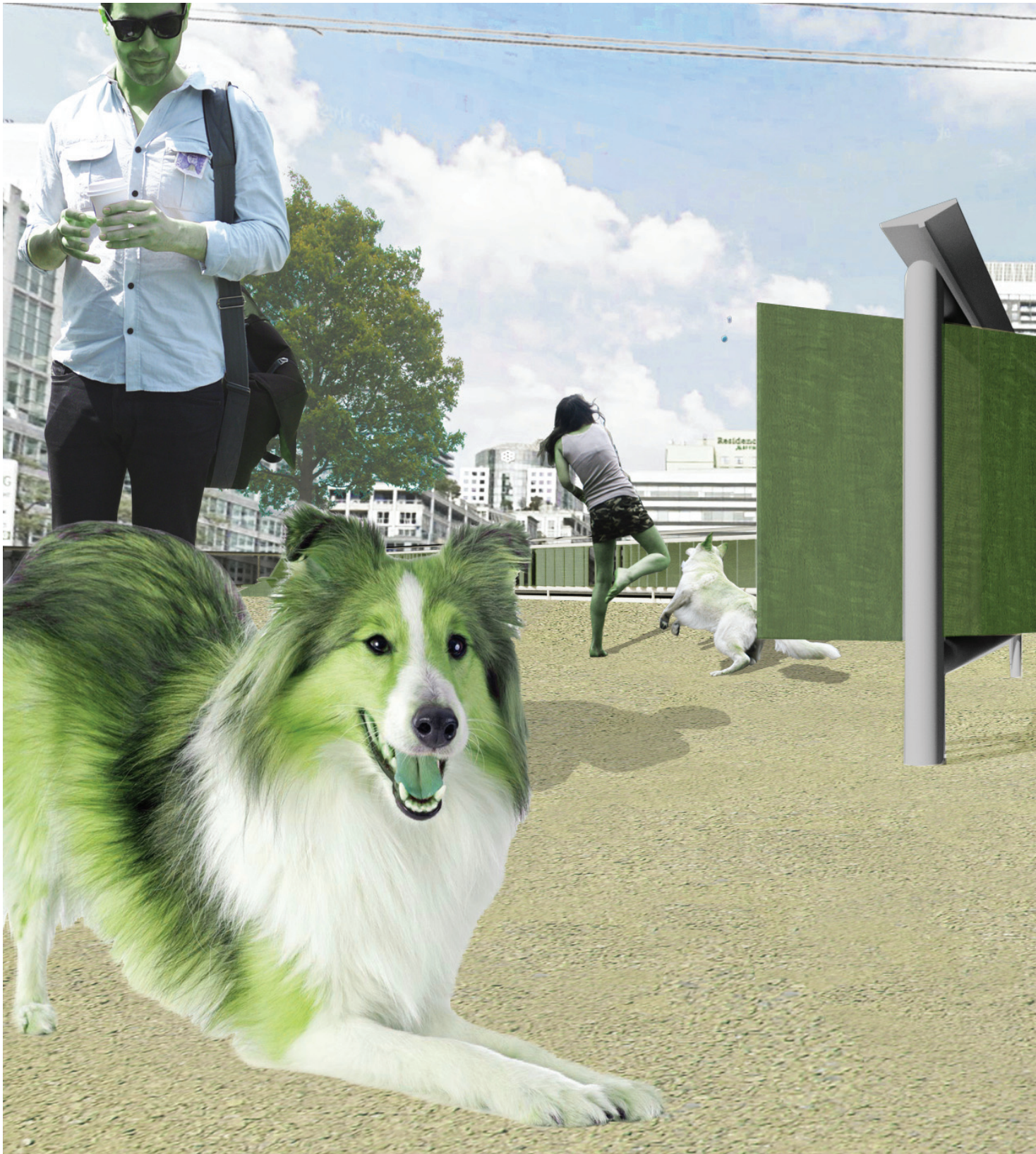
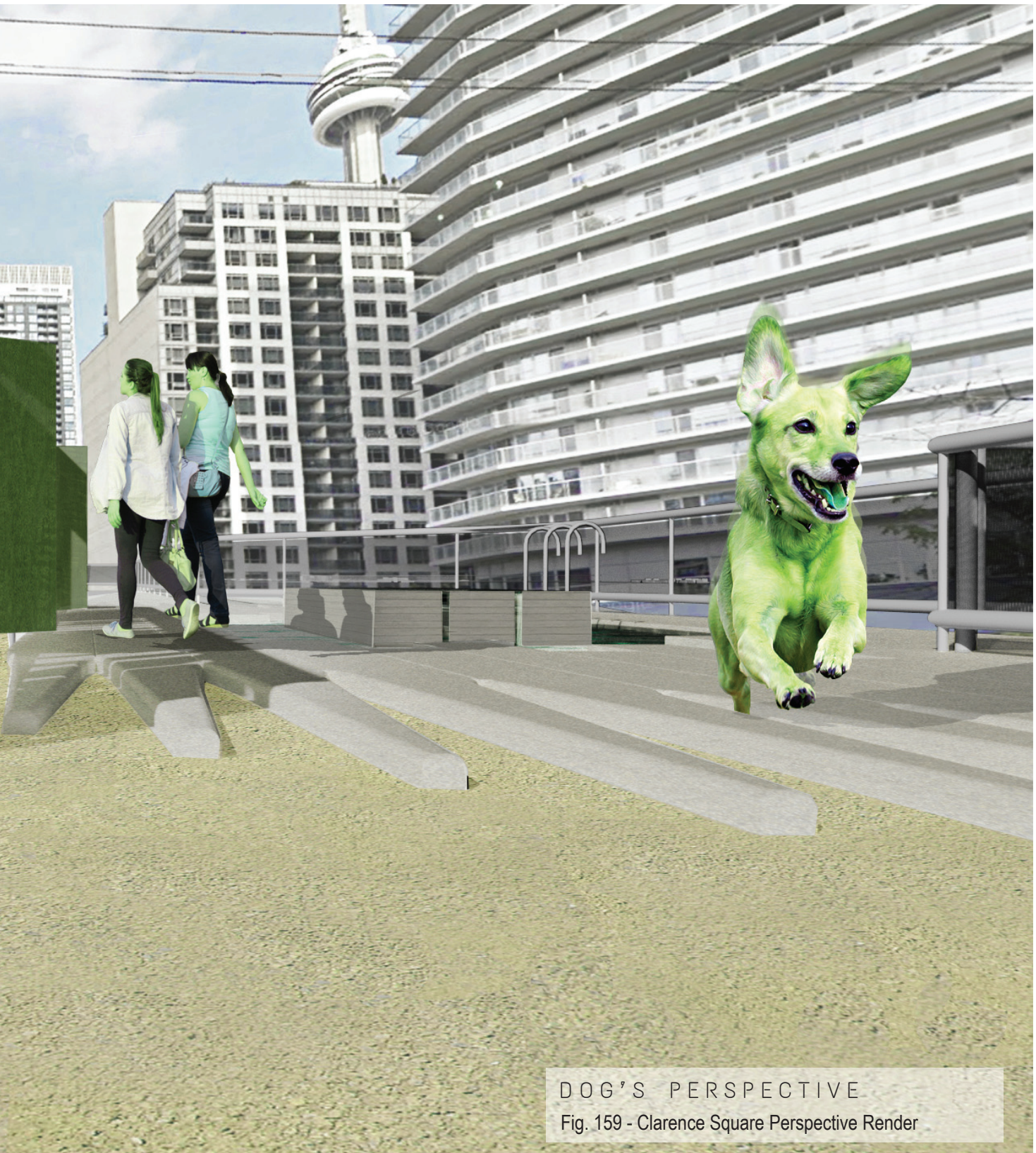


Fig. 157 - Clarence Square Off-Leash area Site Plan (1:600)

Fig. 158 - Clarence Square Off-Leash area Aerial Render (to left)



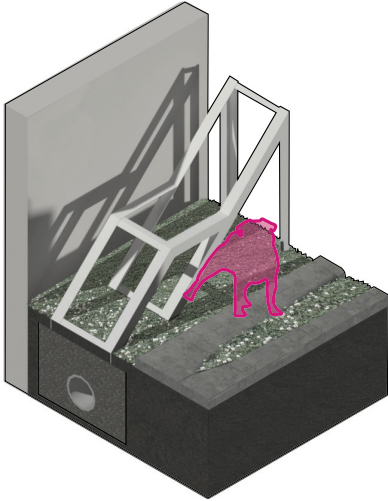




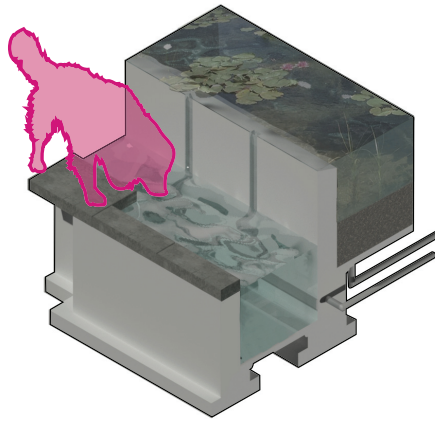
DOG'S PERSPECTIVE
Fig. 159 - Clarence Square Perspective Render

SUMMARY OF PARTS :

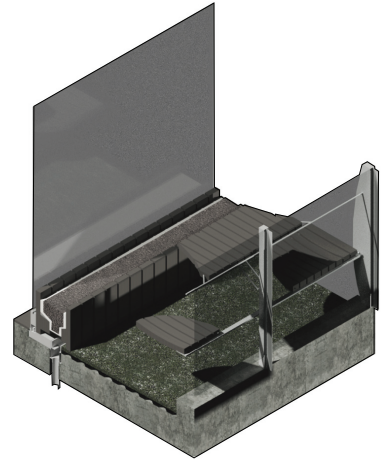
HOME



BUFFER ZONE

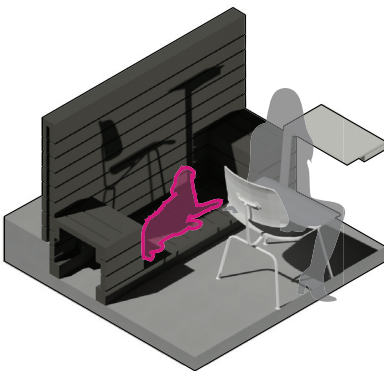


WATER FEATURE

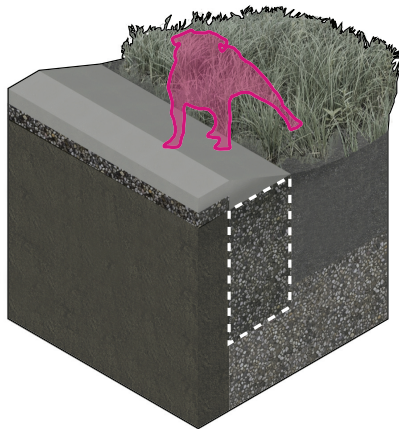


BALCONY

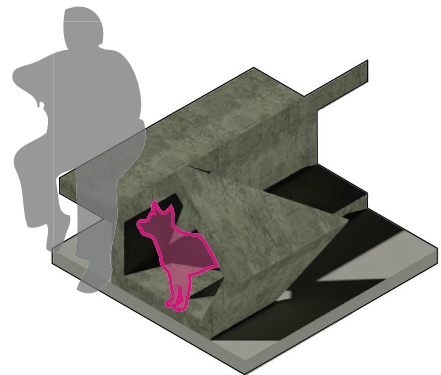
TRAVEL / DESTINATION



PATIO

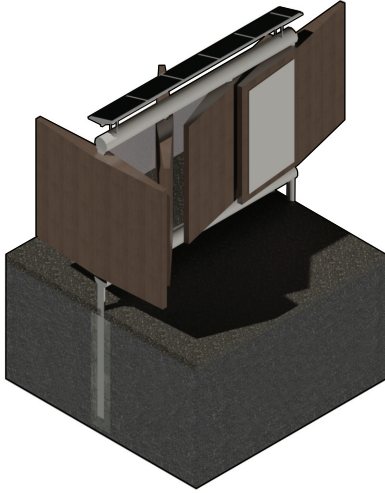


BIOSWALE

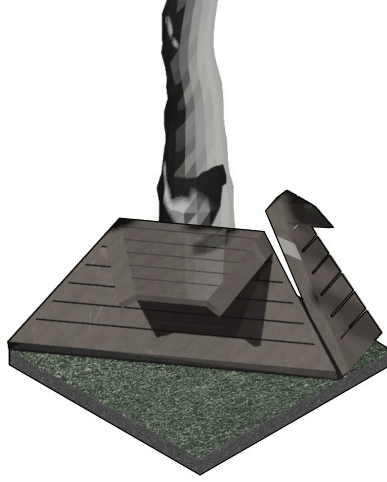


AGILITY FURNITURE

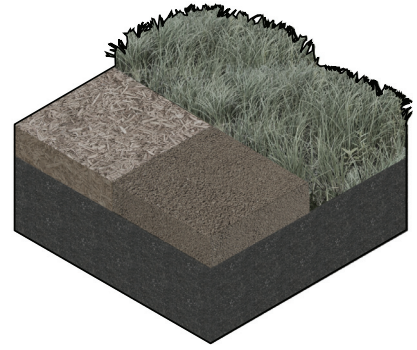
DESTINATION



FENCING



TREE PROTECTOR



GROUND COVERING

The components discussed throughout this thesis can become a catalogue to work from when designing other neighbourhoods that share similar problems to those faced in City-Place, Toronto. The design portion was done in such a way that each component remained discreet and interchangeable to achieve this level of flexibility. Where specific needs are required that component type can be implemented. Another benefit, is that this series of components can easily be added upon as new ideas or needs are discovered. Although, it must be remembered that even though this system allows for manipulation and changes when necessary a component in its discreet, singular form does not work to solve the problem. The components must be implemented in conjuncture with others to successfully solve the problems posed because no single one can fulfill the all of programmatic needs required.

In conclusion, what has been offered is a series of parts that became a whole in the specific study case investigated. The parts fulfill the specific programmatic requirements for dogs and in doing so they alleviate the unnecessary tensions that plague the regions involved. While the whole serves to increase the quality and accommodation of the overall neighbourhood.

By solving the associated problems with dogs in the city through accommodation and understanding concerns about them are addressed. The flexibility of the approach allows for wide spread implementation while the programming they offer is essential for the overall betterment of the city. It becomes another layer of infrastructure that helps in the functionality of the entire city.

C O N C L U S I O N

This thesis seeks to solve a very pressing problem in the City of Toronto. By addressing this the quality of life is increased within the city through the reduction of unnecessary tensions.

This investigation began with the simple want to solve the problems that were discovered, but as time passed it was learnt that the problems were indicative of the larger concerns relating to density and how it is currently achieved. In realizing this, these problems became all the more important to solve. The dog, which was considered to source of conflict is actually well positioned to help in a solution. The dog is a liminal being. They are able to inhabit our own world, but they are not us. By accommodating this liminality to negate its perceived and real negative qualities a level of rigidity is stripped away from the environments discussed. More allowance

for the other is ingrained into the fabric and is beneficial to all involved. The interventions created serve this purpose. They will work together to form a network of spaces that will alleviate intensity/density and enable this improved environment. They solve the problems investigated and in doing so make the city a better place. The possible success of this thesis does not lie in any one of these interventions, but the network that they create. In the end a domesticating infrastructure is created.



Fig. 160 - Photograph of Tovee, my family dog

END NOTES

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