



Gossip, Tea, and Care

Care Blocks

Housing + Retirement Home + Daycare + Cafe

In *+(plus) 1.0* we asked participants “What uses are complementary to one another?”. We received numerous responses asking to mix child-care with a variety of uses like parks, grocery stores, medical services, gyms, libraries and more. However, the most popular choice to pair with child-care was retirement facilities. So, in response, *Gossip, Tea, and Care* explores a hopeful model around reciprocity in intergenerational living, one that already has started emerging in our cities.

What opportunities for community-building lie at the intersection of two or more generations? And how can our neighbourhoods be centred on care for all ages? This piece champions the creation of spaces that encourage resilience and combat the cross-generational crisis of loneliness that is impacting our collective health and well-being.



Toronto Fire Station 313

Always Ready!

Unlocking Public Facilities with Emergency Mixed-Use

Fire Hall + Housing + Community Services

One day, Torontonians will be able to call a fire station home. In *+(plus) 1.0*, we revealed our plans in partnership with CreateTO to build housing and other community services above two fire stations. Unlocking value from public land assets means making the most of land already set aside for a public mission to serve our communities. It means that where it makes sense, to optimize sites through combining complementary uses in the same building. As we explored just one type of public asset, namely, fire stations, we quickly realized that they are compatible with just about any use, including affordable housing and community services.

While it seems like an obvious solution to address many of our cities' main problems, treating public assets as valuable assets and making the most of it is much easier said than done. However, we're optimistic about the opportunity to unlock public sites and have demonstrated how Station 313 as a mixed-use facility fulfills many of the practical physical and social needs of the neighbourhood. *Always Ready!* is hopefully the first of many mixed-use public facilities sites to come. After fire stations, what's next?



Guess who's spinning at the church?! - are you coming?

Supporting the City's Music Sector

Church + Music Venue + Market + Hostel

In *+(plus) 1.0* we asked participants "What uses should never mix?". Among many fun responses, such as Cat Store + Fishmonger, was the combination of a Club + Church. It caught our eye because while at first glance this mix seems to hold compatibility challenges, both provide underlying synergies as spaces where people convene around culture, celebration, and community.

Though both uses are proven to be economic multipliers that stimulate local business sectors, they are struggling to remain in place. Nationwide, faith buildings are facing declining congregations and expensive building upkeep. Music venues struggle with rising costs, development pressure, and growing neighbourhood complaints. Additionally, while the

desire for belonging remains high, not every type of social space is always welcome. The values of faith groups are often seen as antiquated and certain genres of music, particularly those of minority groups, are seen as too edgy – opposite perceptions both leading to discrimination.

So what does city-building for cultural and religious infrastructure look like? How do we tackle the very real challenges and tensions between different urban usage patterns, clientele, and types of 'noise'? And how do we look at buildings in a 24-hour lens and take full advantage of daytime and nighttime programming? *Guess who's spinning at the church?! - are you coming?* encourages us to imagine just that.



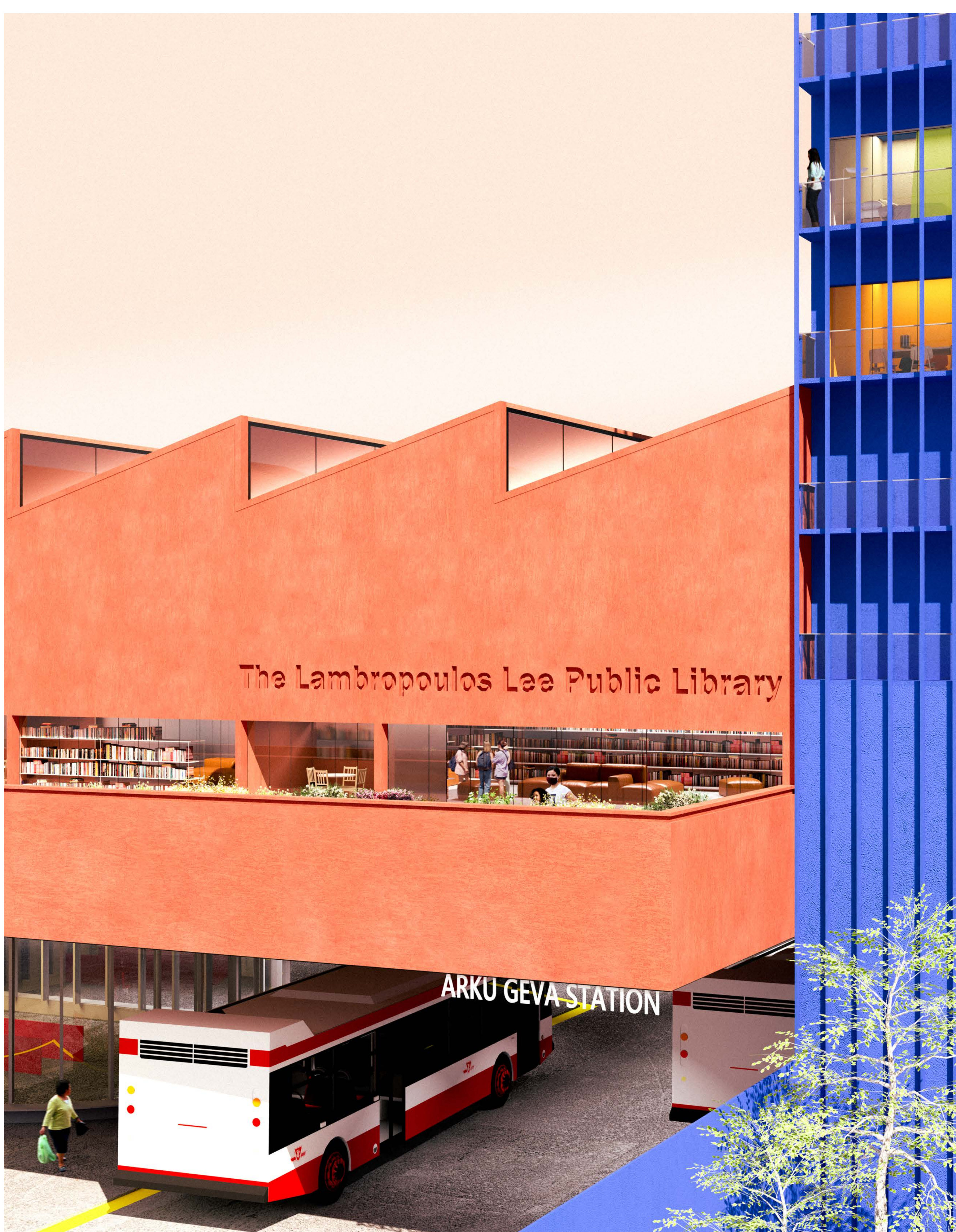
I've grown too much cabbage, did you want some?

Food Accessibility

Food Hub + Community Gardens + Housing

Food has always been at the center of community bonding, and it's no surprise that it was a key theme in the responses of participants to *+(plus) 1.0's* prompts about city-building. Enthusiastic suggestions of rooftop farms, greenhouses, peculiar restaurants, and green spaces with various combinations of uses inspired *I've grown too much cabbage, did you want some?* However, for many, food is not something enjoyed in leisurely fun, but a basic unmet need. Though Toronto arguably has one of the world's best food scenes abounding in multicultural cuisines, 1 in 5 households are food insecure.

In this piece we examine how to build neighbourhoods around healthy and accessible food, the basic building block of society that connects us to each other and to broader community. We explore the opportunities that arise when you foster communities' agency and allow residents to take food security into their own hands by providing spaces that can easily transform into alternate uses like urban farms, collective kitchens, and more. This piece explores the importance of tackling food insecurity to not only provide a basic right, but one that builds the social fabric through championing equitable food systems.



Whispering Softly by the Shelves

Rethinking Transit Hubs as Civic Centres

Bus Station + Library + Housing

People crave more and better-quality public spaces. This was apparent from the responses to the prompts from our first exhibition *+(plus) 1.0*, where study halls, community service facilities, living spaces, and spaces to convene were cherished. Unfortunately, public space in most cities is shrinking. One of the few remaining places where we can do all of this without any obligations or entrance fees are public libraries.

Libraries are a microcosm of cities and their communities because at the heart libraries are places for people. Whether they are standing in the lobby waiting to check out a book or to meet up with a friend, browsing

the shelves or the internet, sitting alone with a newspaper in hand, or in a huddle working on an assignment, you will find a diverse set of people going about their day. If you are studying for an exam or are unsheltered, public libraries might be your second home from dawn until dusk. But for many, it is just one of several stops on their journey throughout the city. In many other cities, library branches and transit stops are one-and-the-same, making public libraries and public transit intrinsically linked to one another. And so, *Whispering softly by the shelves* explores the possibilities of bringing both together under one roof.