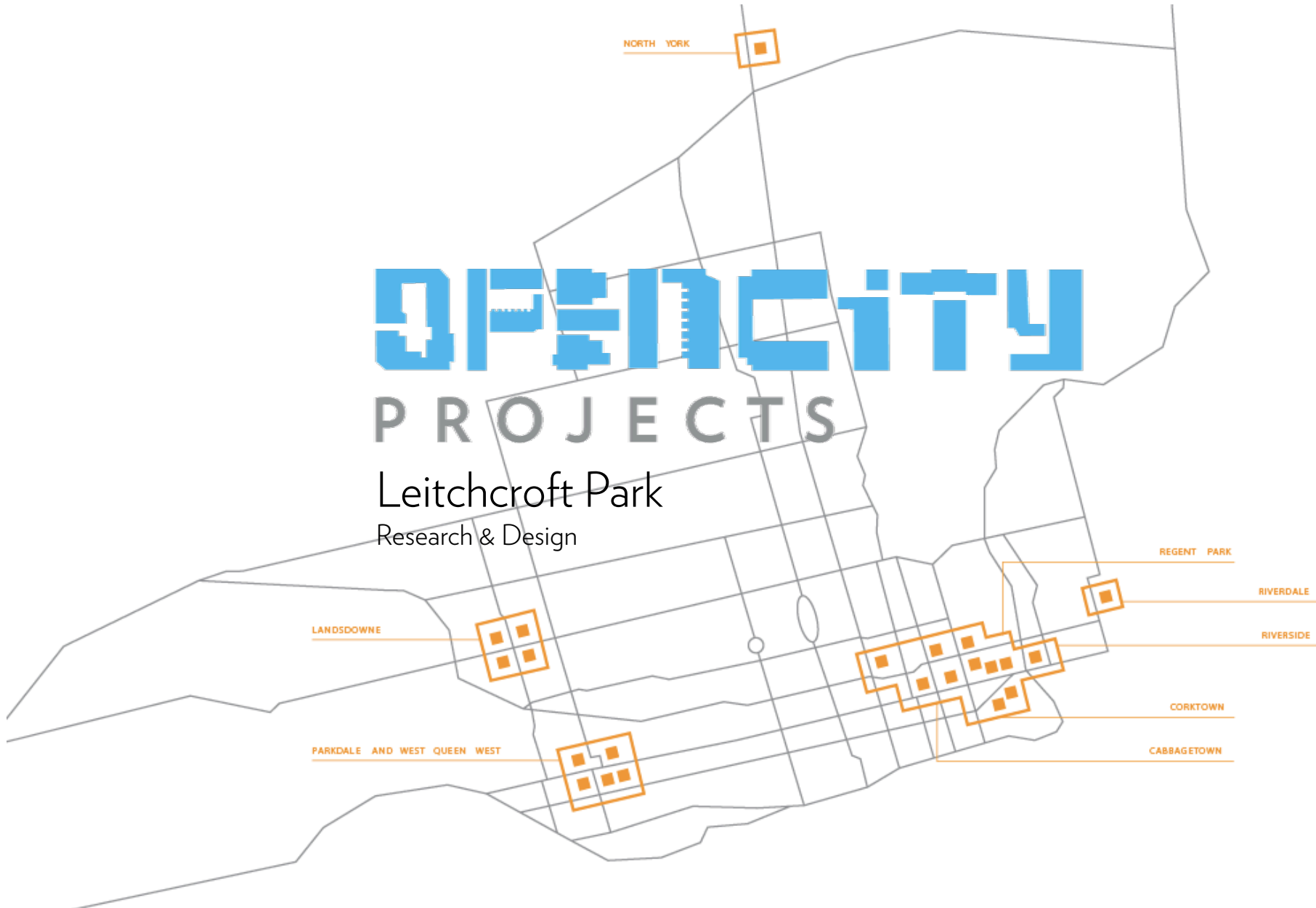


OPEN CITY

PROJECTS

Leitchcroft Park

Research & Design



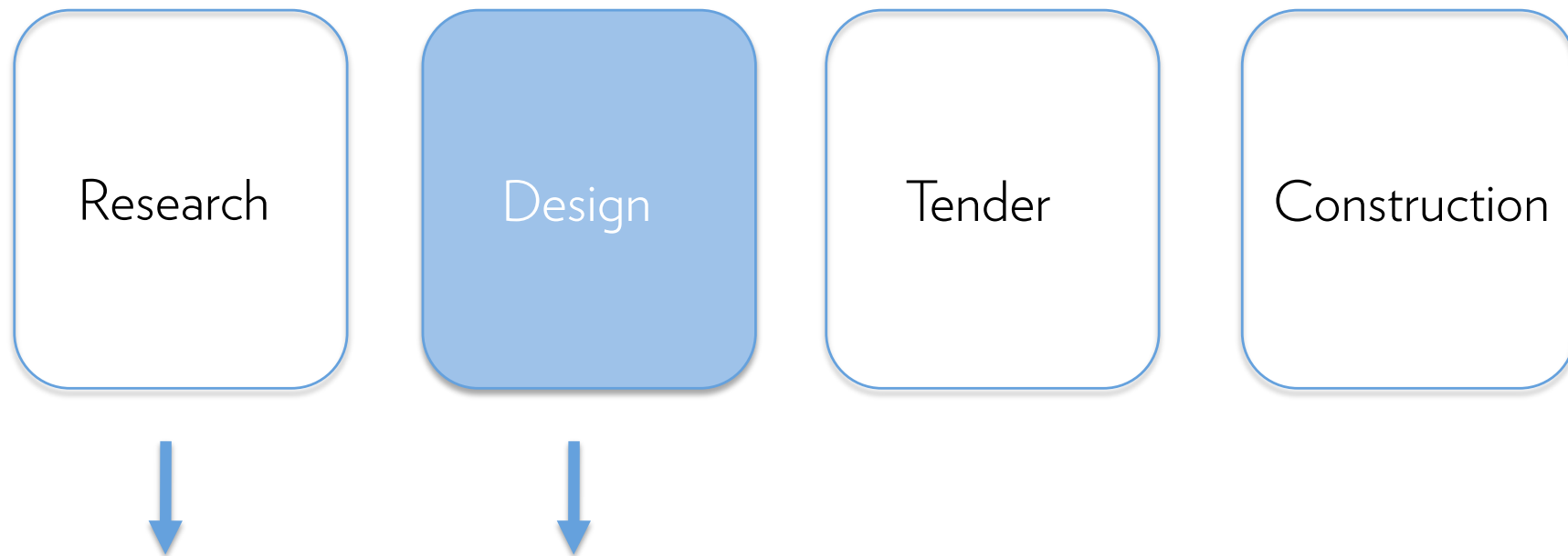
Background - Opportunity

Create unique cultural connections within the park experience that appeal to the town's extremely diverse population now and in the long-term.

Background - Opportunity

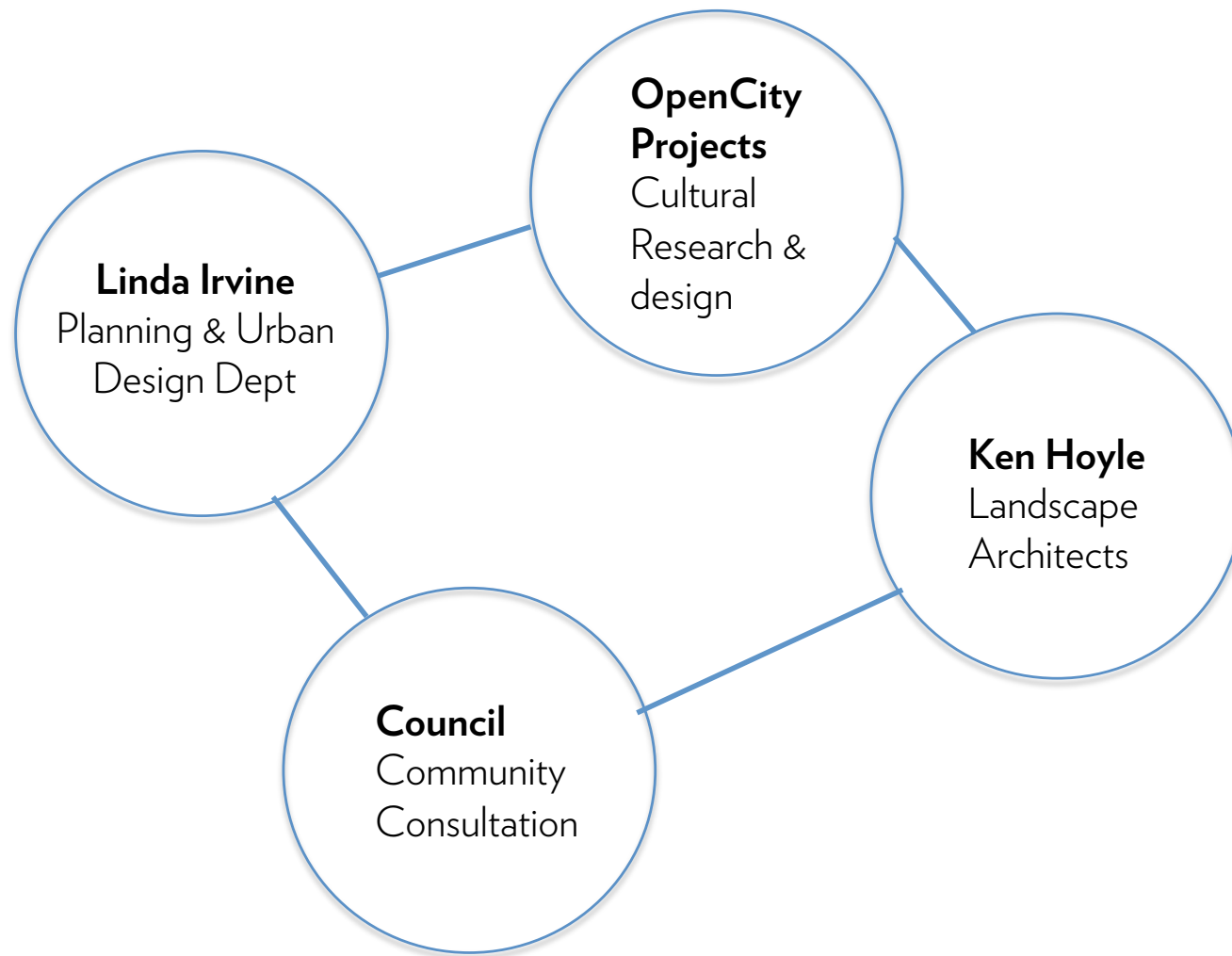


Background - Process



- Community Meeting
- Park Steering
- Park Steering
- Committee Review
- Committee Review
- Community Meeting

Background – Team Collaboration



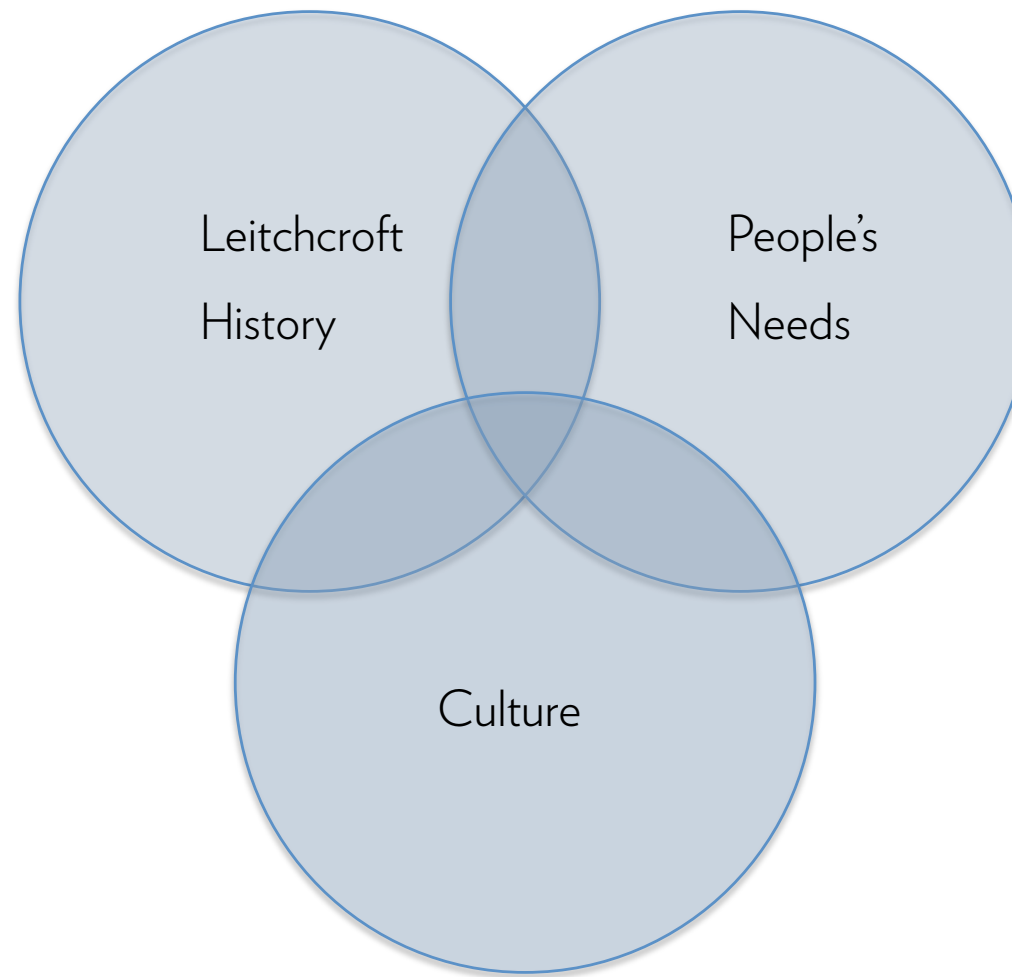
Today's Objectives

Our approach to defining recommendations on how culture manifests in the park space through:

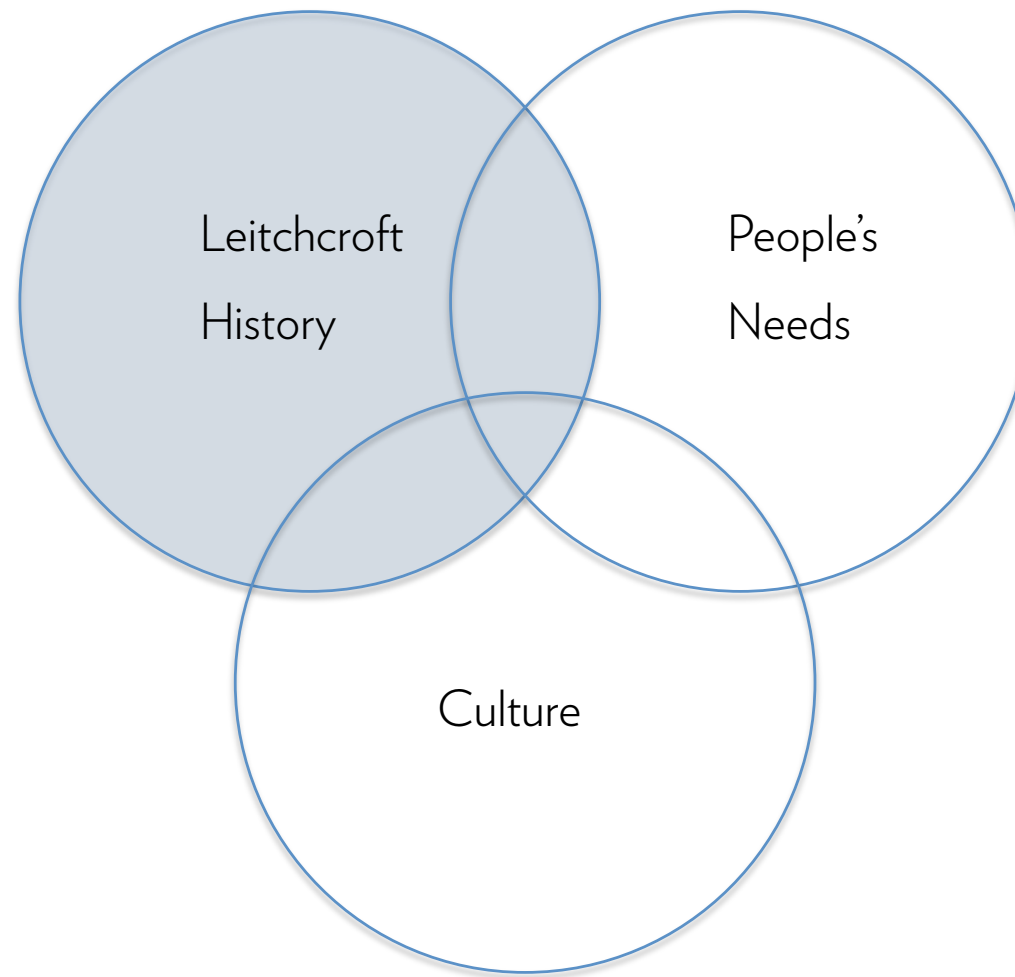
- Research
- Design Direction

Research

Research Findings



Research Findings



Research - Leitchcroft History



1787

1790s

1820

1938

1981

2009

First Nations
Mississaugas

Pennsylvania
German settlers from
the United States

British and
American settlers

European
immigrants

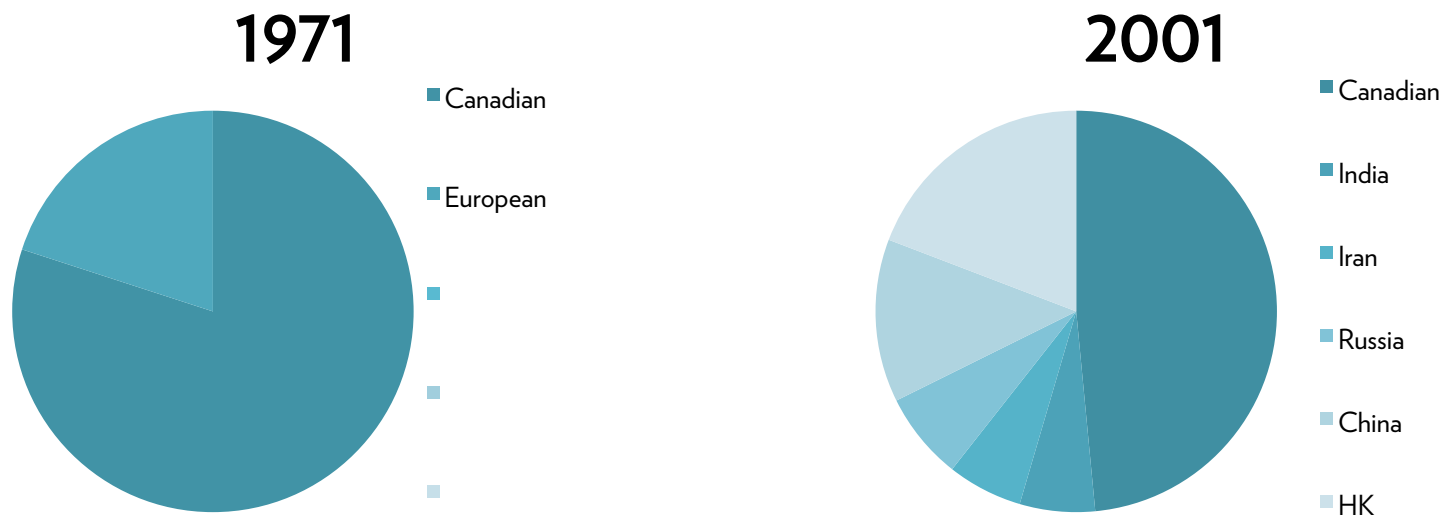
Asian
Immigrants

DRAFT

TOWN OF MARKHAM COUNCIL PRESENTATION - 17TH MAY 2010

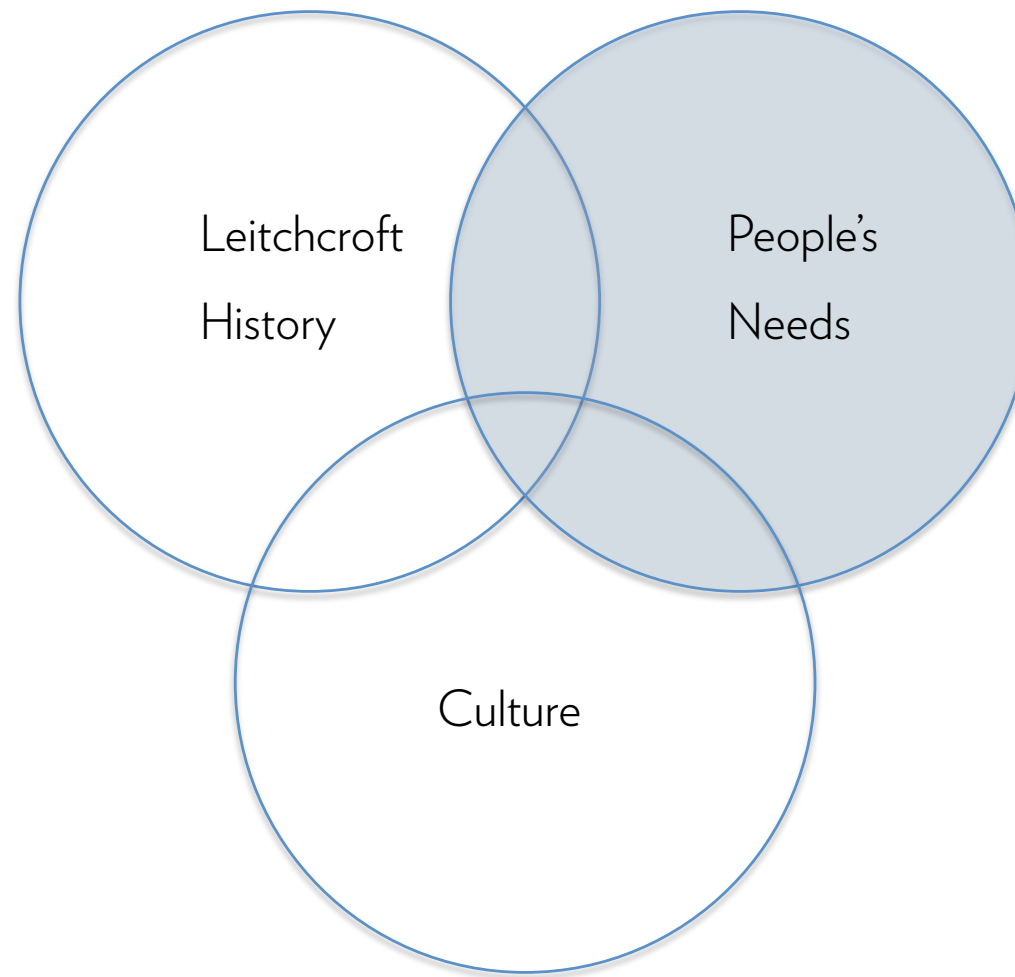
OPEN CITY
PROJECTS

Leitchcroft's Changing Demographics

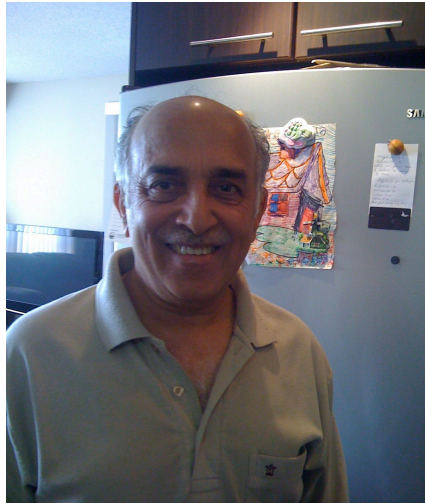


2001 Data: Community Snapshots: Recent Immigrant Living in York Region, Based on Statistics Canada, 2001 Census Data2.
1971 Data: Planning amidst Diversity: The Challenges of Multiculturalism in Urban and Suburban Great Toronto,
Marcia Wallace, PhD Thesis University of Waterloo

Research Findings



Research Findings - Interviews



Vinod Luthra
India

- 66 years old
- Moved from New Delhi, India, via London for university, 1968
- Empty-nester, lives with his wife
- Two children, four grandchildren
- Worked as an engineer



Frank Yue
China

- 64 years old
- Moved from Hong Kong, 1990
- Empty-nester, lives with his wife
- Two children, grandchildren



Bonnie Cheung
China

- 27 years old
- Moved from Hong Kong, 1991
- Lives with her parents and older sister
- Works in software customer service



Lloyd Helferty
4th Generation Canada

- 36 years old
- 4th generation Canadian; Family
- Initially from western Europe
- Lives with wife
- Mother and sister live in Richmond Hill
- Works as a technologist

Research Findings – People's Needs

Most residents express dissatisfaction with generic Canadian parks.

“In Canadian parks, nothing really stands out.” “The playgrounds are all in plastic.”

They are accustomed to small meeting spaces for more intimate activities.

“In Hong Kong, there are many places to meet and sit down. Chinese people don't sit on the ground.”

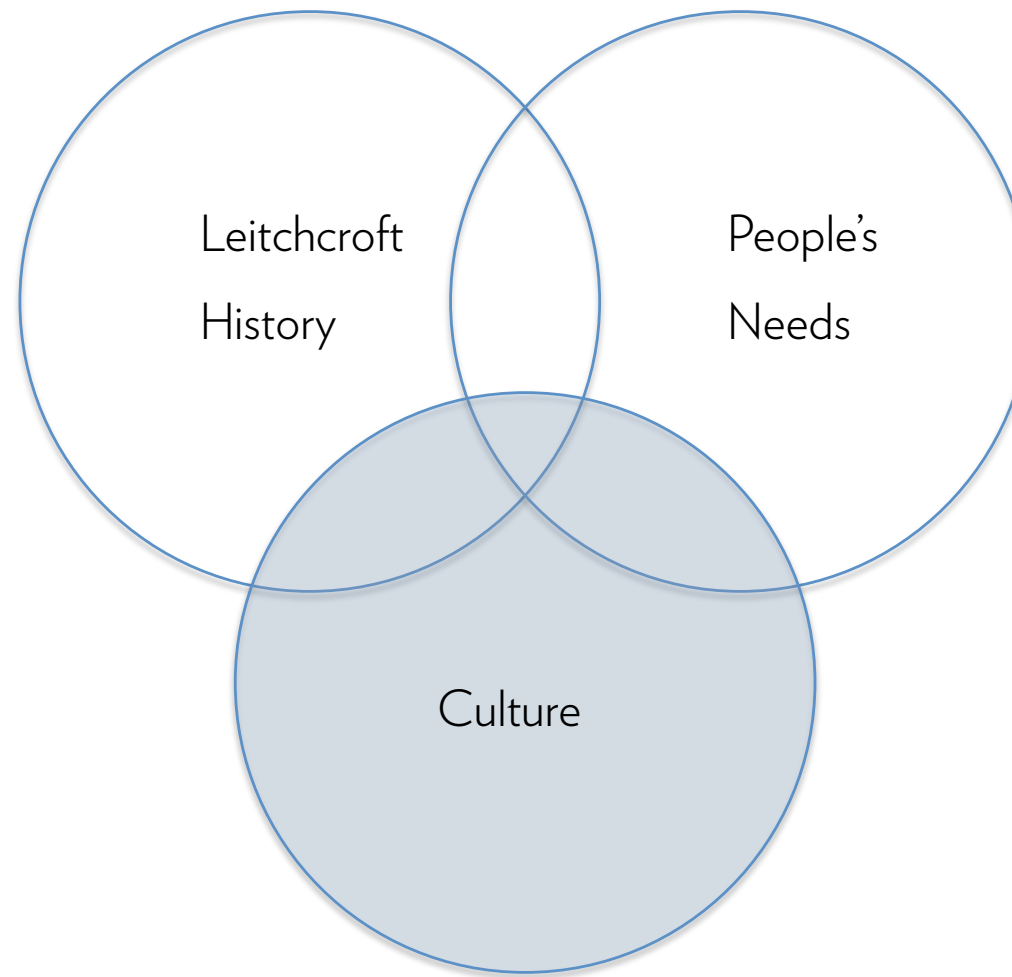
All cultural groups use large, shaded gathering spaces especially for group meals.

“I like to get together with friends and go to the park after church. We bring our own food, talk and eat.”

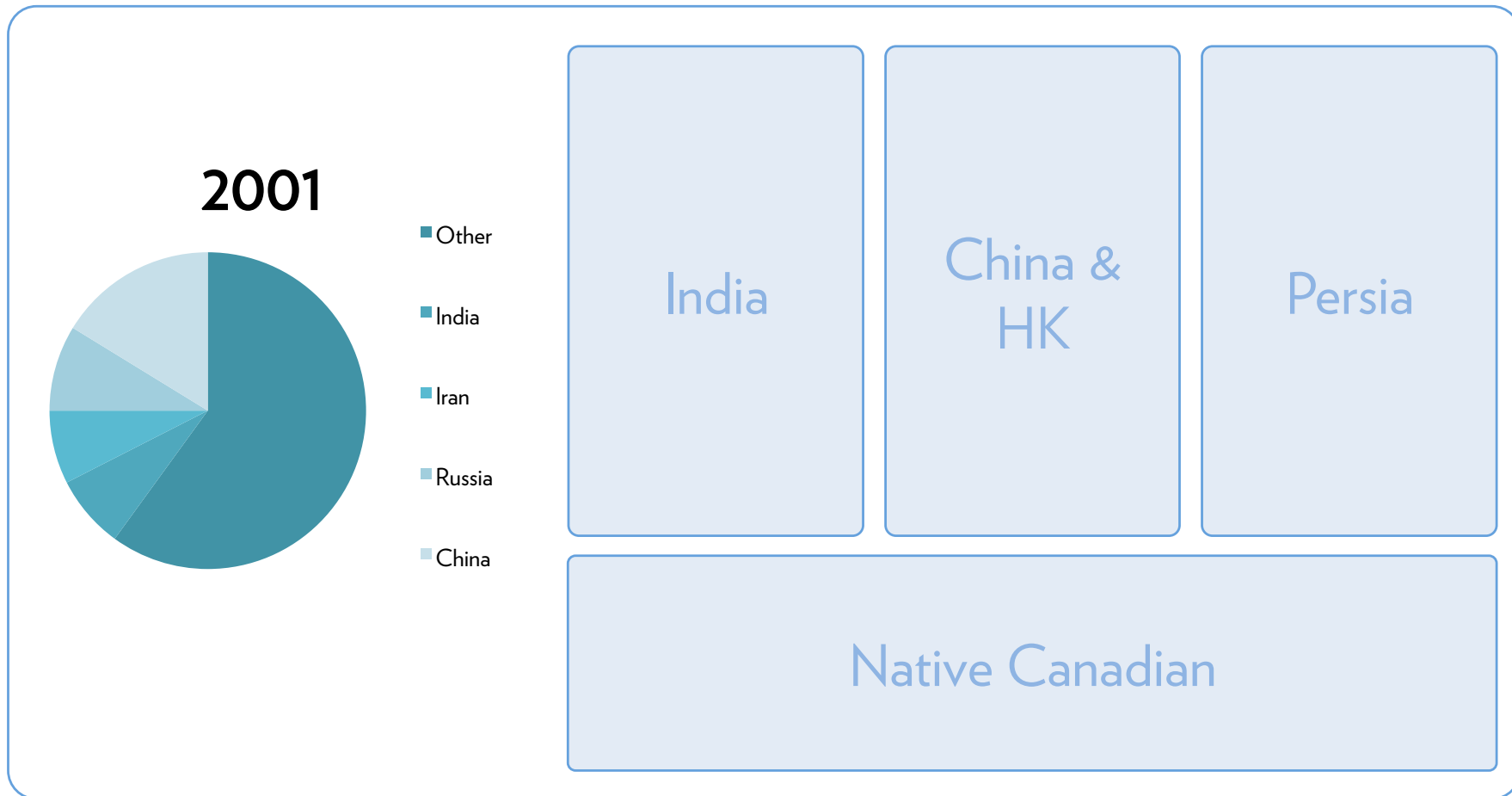
“The park should be a place with meaning. A place that’s relevant to the community and attracts them to use it. A place that’s for everybody, that will bring the community out for a reason.”

—Leitchcroft resident

Research Findings

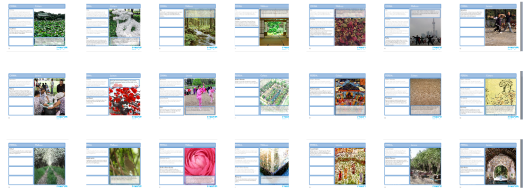


Cultural Segments

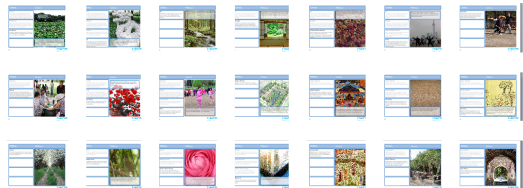


Cultural Research Structure

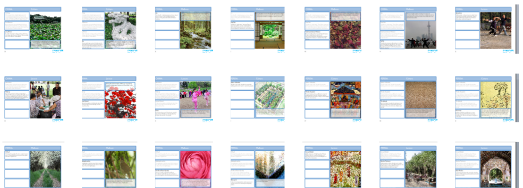
Space & Philosophy



Health & Wellness



Leisure



India

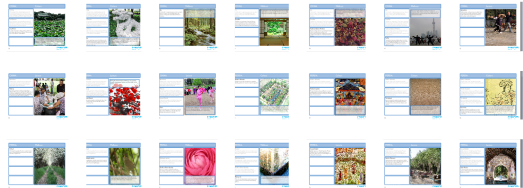
China &
HK

Persia

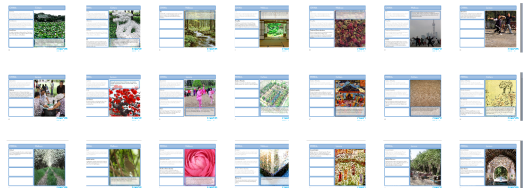
Native Canadian

Cultural Research Structure

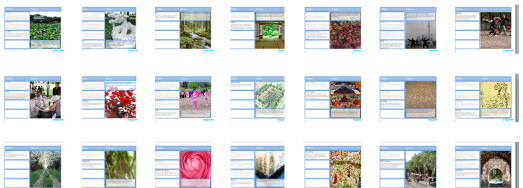
Space & Philosophy



Health & Wellness



Leisure



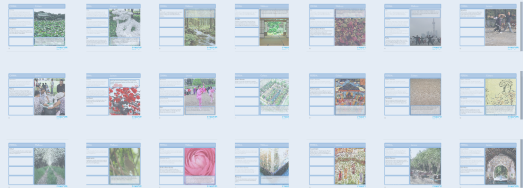
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TOWN OF MARKHAM COUNCIL PRESENTATION – 17TH MAY 2010

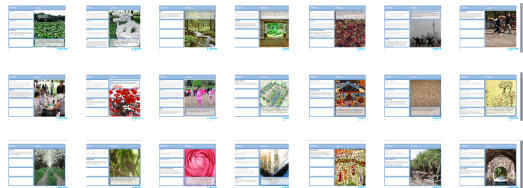
OPENCITY
PROJECTS

Cultural Research: example

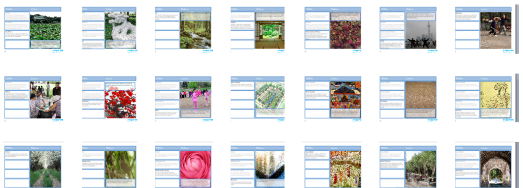
Space & Philosophy



Health & Wellness



Leisure



NATIVE CANADIAN:

Culture

Circle

The circle is the most powerful aboriginal symbol. Native Canadians believe that all living things strive toward wholeness.

Animals and Nature

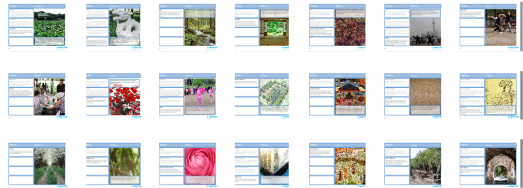
Native people have a reverence for nature and endow animals and objects in nature with personal qualities and a soul.



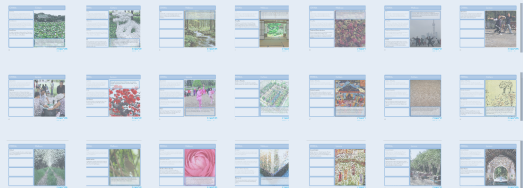
Native people see human characteristics in animals and portray them in legend as behaving like human beings. The whole of nature is viewed as blessed with conscious intelligence. Animals were viewed as superior and given virtues Native people wish to develop themselves.

Cultural Research: example

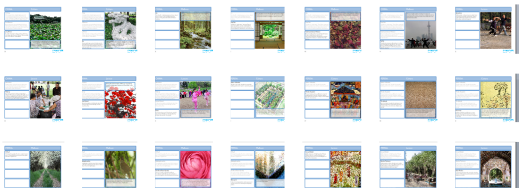
Space & Philosophy



Health & Wellness



Leisure



CHINA:

Wellness

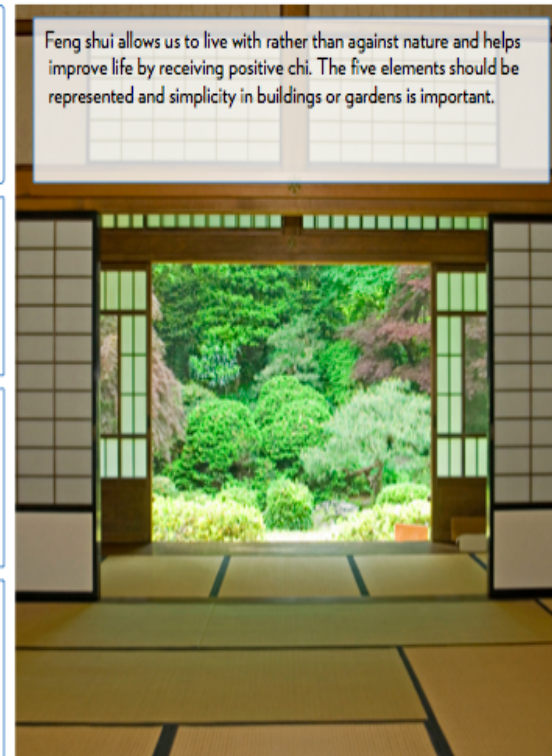
Chi

"Life breath" or vital energy present in an object, person or place. Chi is foundational to the practice of feng shui and traditional Chinese medicine.

Feng Shui

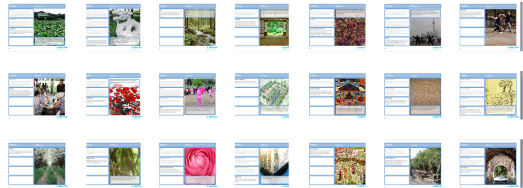
Translates as "wind-water." Ancient Chinese system of aesthetics used to understand the relationships between nature and ourselves so that we might live in harmony in our environment.

Feng shui allows us to live with rather than against nature and helps improve life by receiving positive chi. The five elements should be represented and simplicity in buildings or gardens is important.

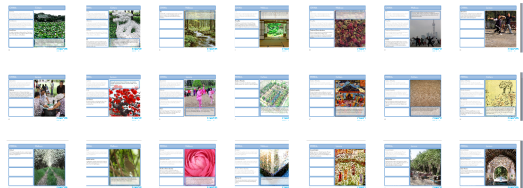


Cultural Research: example

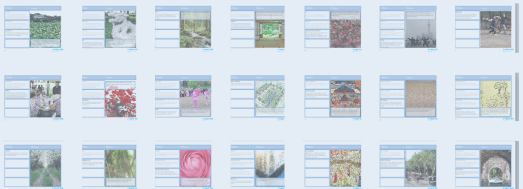
Space & Philosophy



Health & Wellness



Leisure



PERSIA:

Leisure

Sensual Delight

Unlike Japanese or English gardens, Persian Gardens are not constructed as places of discovery. They serve as sensual delight or as settings for monuments.

Outdoor Teahouses

Gathering places where friends meet to talk or play chess over a cup of tea. Many teahouses are traditionally decorated with Persian art, characterized by motifs from nature.



Cultural Patterns: example

Walking

Meeting

Relaxing

Circle Pathway

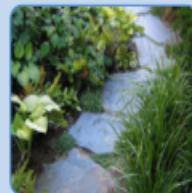
Cultural Drivers



Native
Culture
Circle



Chinese
Wellness
Dragon path



India
Leisure
Circle of Life

Implications

Shared, meandering pathway that stitches together all places, spaces and activities in the park.

"It's very important that nothing is straight. It gives you aesthetics and the circle of life. It generates positive spirits. When you go through the curves, you think of the ups and downs of life."



Cultural Patterns: example

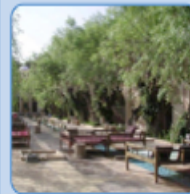
Walking

Meeting

Relaxing

Social Seating

Cultural Drivers



Persia
Leisure
Teahouses



India
Leisure
Meeting spaces



China
Leisure
Mahjong

Implications

Social seating areas, protected from the sun and wind, throughout the park. These areas offer a place to socialize and engage in board games and other play activities.

"Going to a park is something you do together, with friends or family".



Cultural Patterns: example

Walking

Meeting

Relaxing

Shadow Shelters

Cultural Drivers



Persia
Leisure
Shadow pavilion
sensual delight



India
Wellness
Trees



China
Pavilions
Park lay out

Implications

Architectural shelter structures to create shade, privacy and appealing sights taking inspiration from the Chinese pavilion, Persian shadow pavilion or bridges over waterways (Persian and Chinese).

"Chinese people would like shelters to protect from the sun."



Cultural Patterns: example

Walking

Meeting

Relaxing

Yoga & Meditation

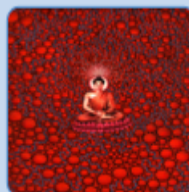
Cultural Drivers



India
Wellness
Yoga



India
Wellness
Meditation



China
Wellness
Meditation

Implications

Description: In India, Chinese and contemporary Canadian culture, yoga and meditation are popular activities. This requires secluded areas and shade spots.

"I've done yoga all my life. That's why at 67 I'm still fit."



Cultural Patterns: example

Walking

Meeting

Relaxing

Water formation

Cultural Drivers



China
Culture
Feng Shui
Water & Rock



Persia
Culture
Water paths



India
Wellness
kund

Implications

In all cultures and park expressions, a pond is a consistent theme. The water area could have gold fish, from Chinese culture, and a wide stairways, allowing people easy access.

"Moving water soothes your nerves. You'll find it meditative."

"In feng shui, water is important."

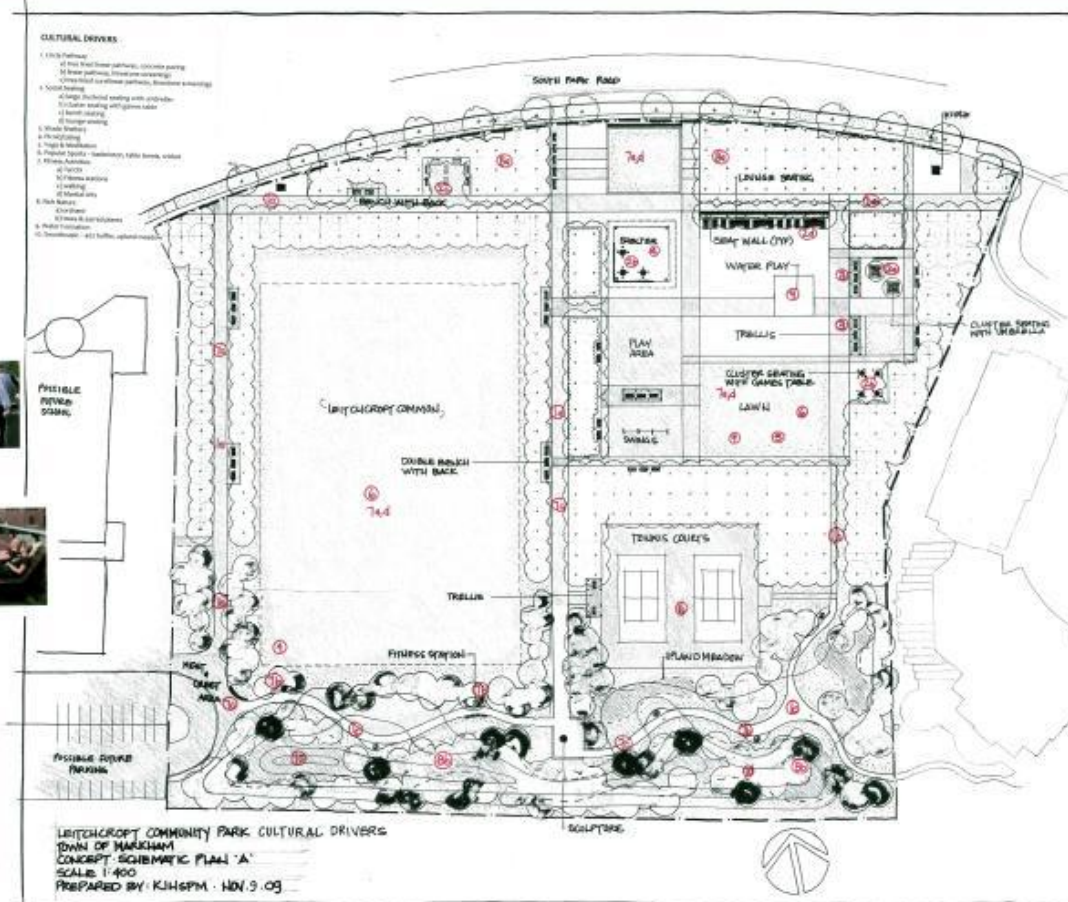


Park Layout



DRAFT

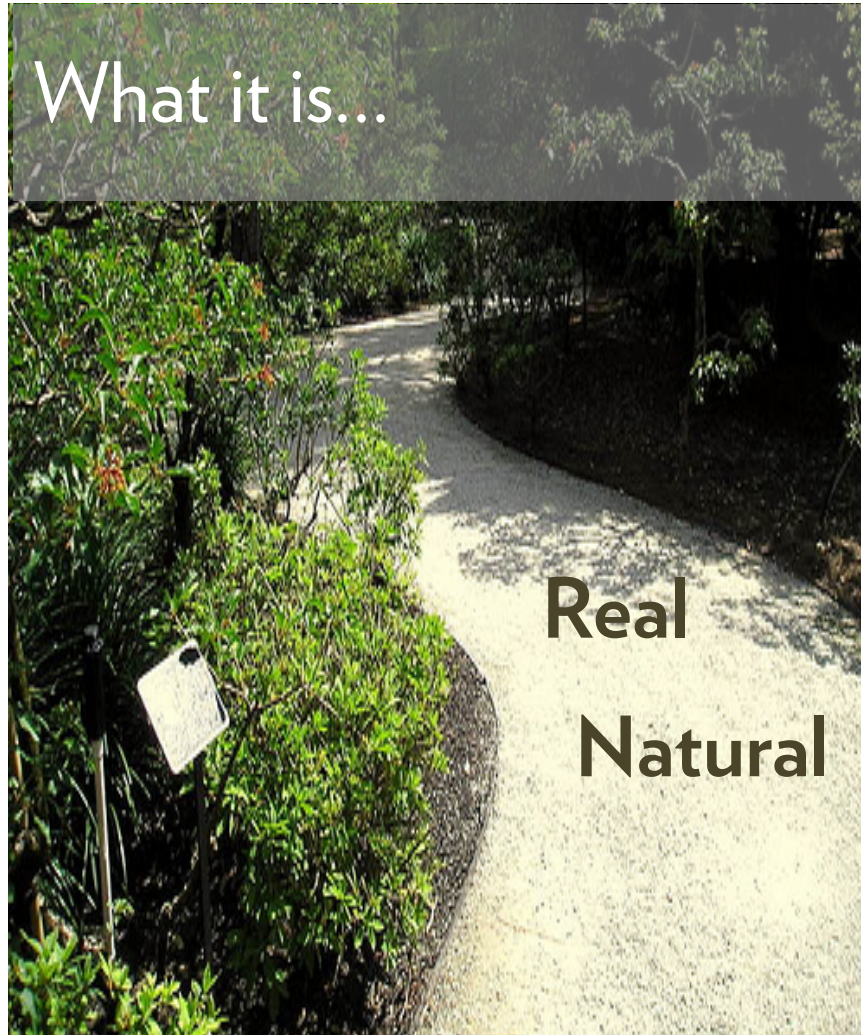
TOWN OF MARKHAM COUNCIL PRESENTATION - 17TH MAY 2010

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Design

Authentic:

What it is...



Real
Natural

What it is not!

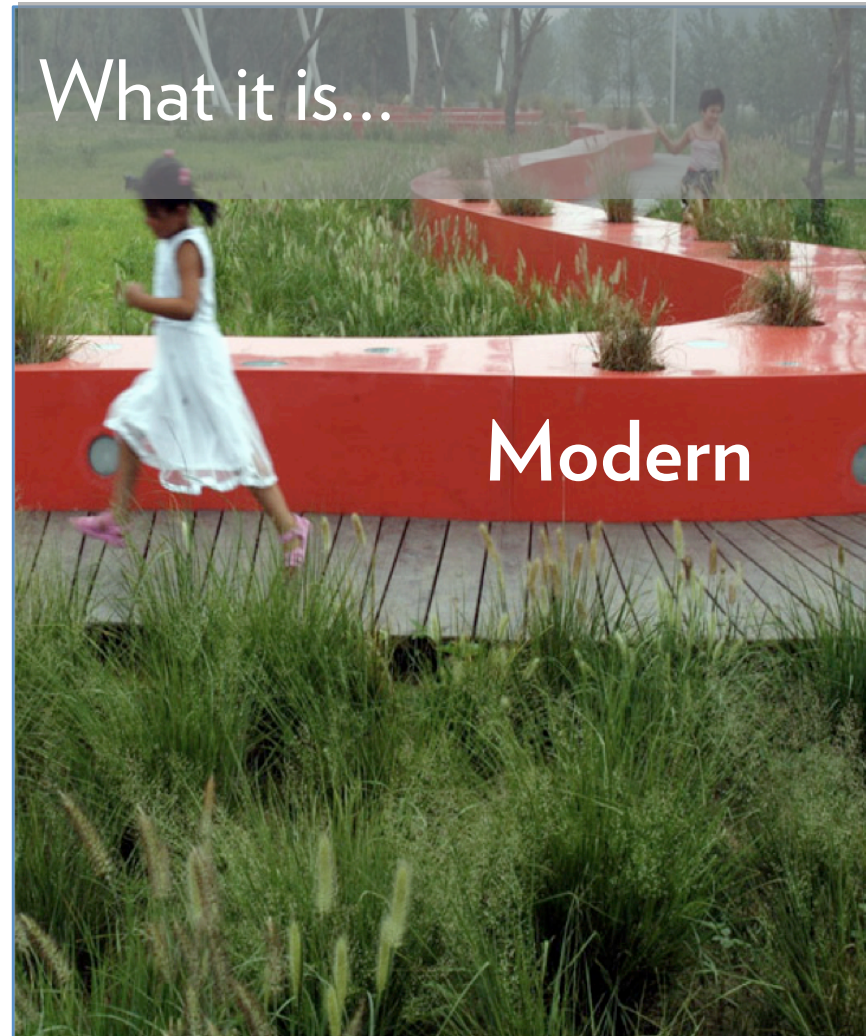


Plastic
Literal

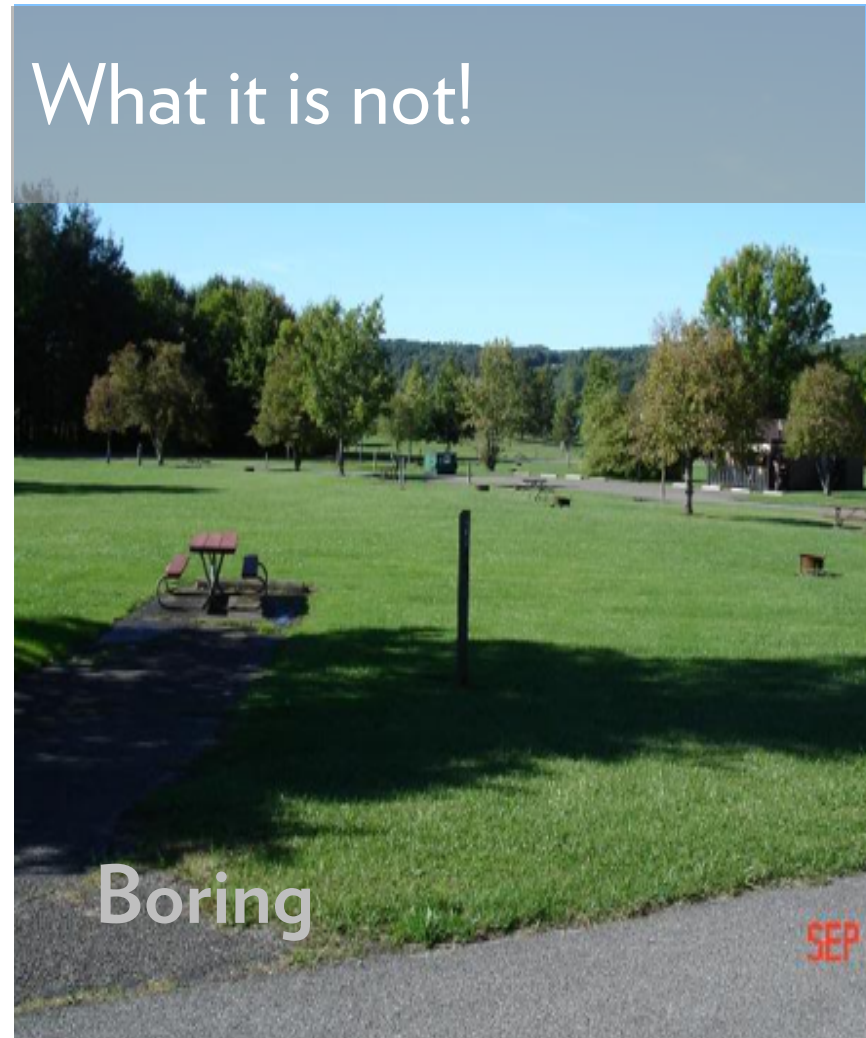
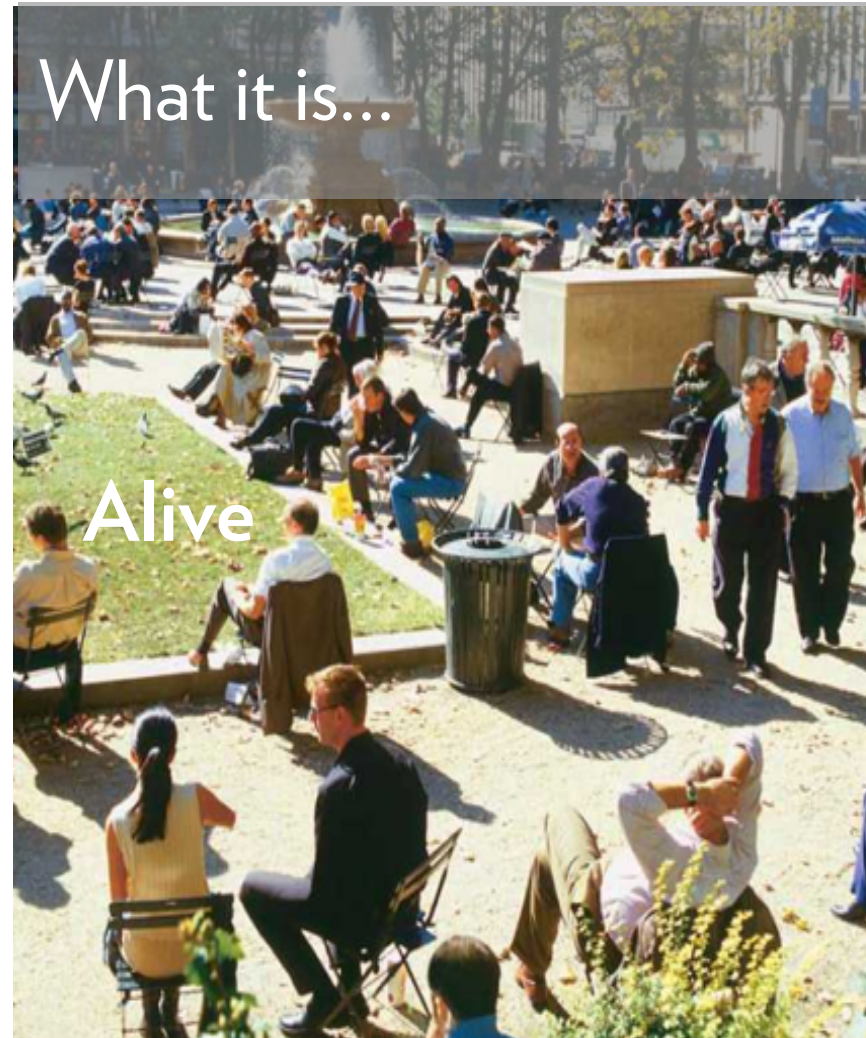
Inclusive



Progressive



Vibrant



Recommendations



DRAFT

TOWN OF MARKHAM COUNCIL PRESENTATION - 17TH MAY 2010

Public furniture

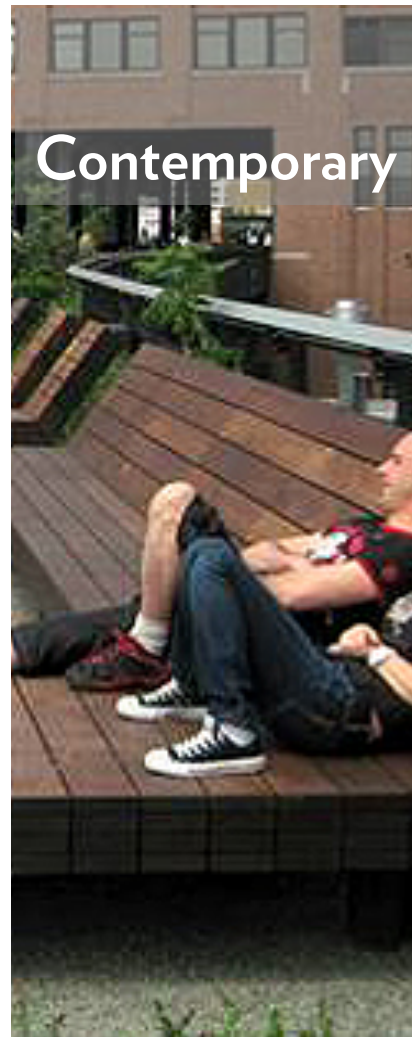
Authentic



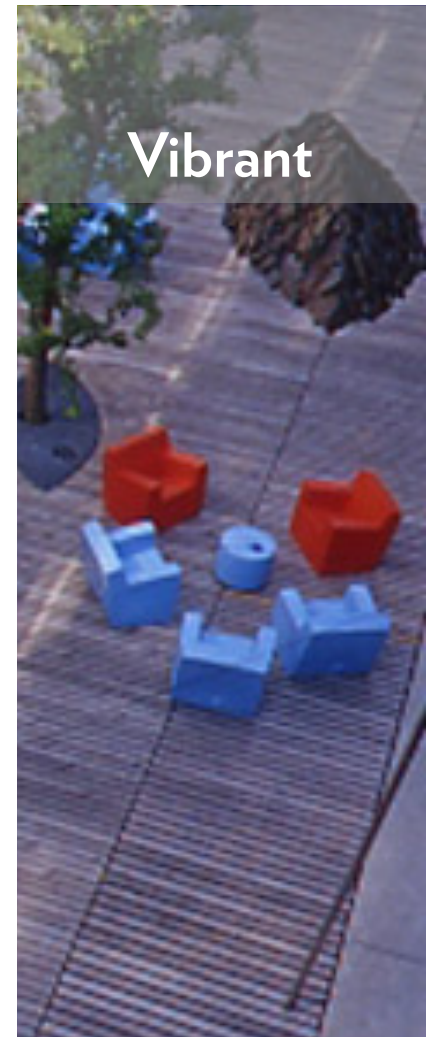
Inclusive



Contemporary



Vibrant



Public furniture: Authentic



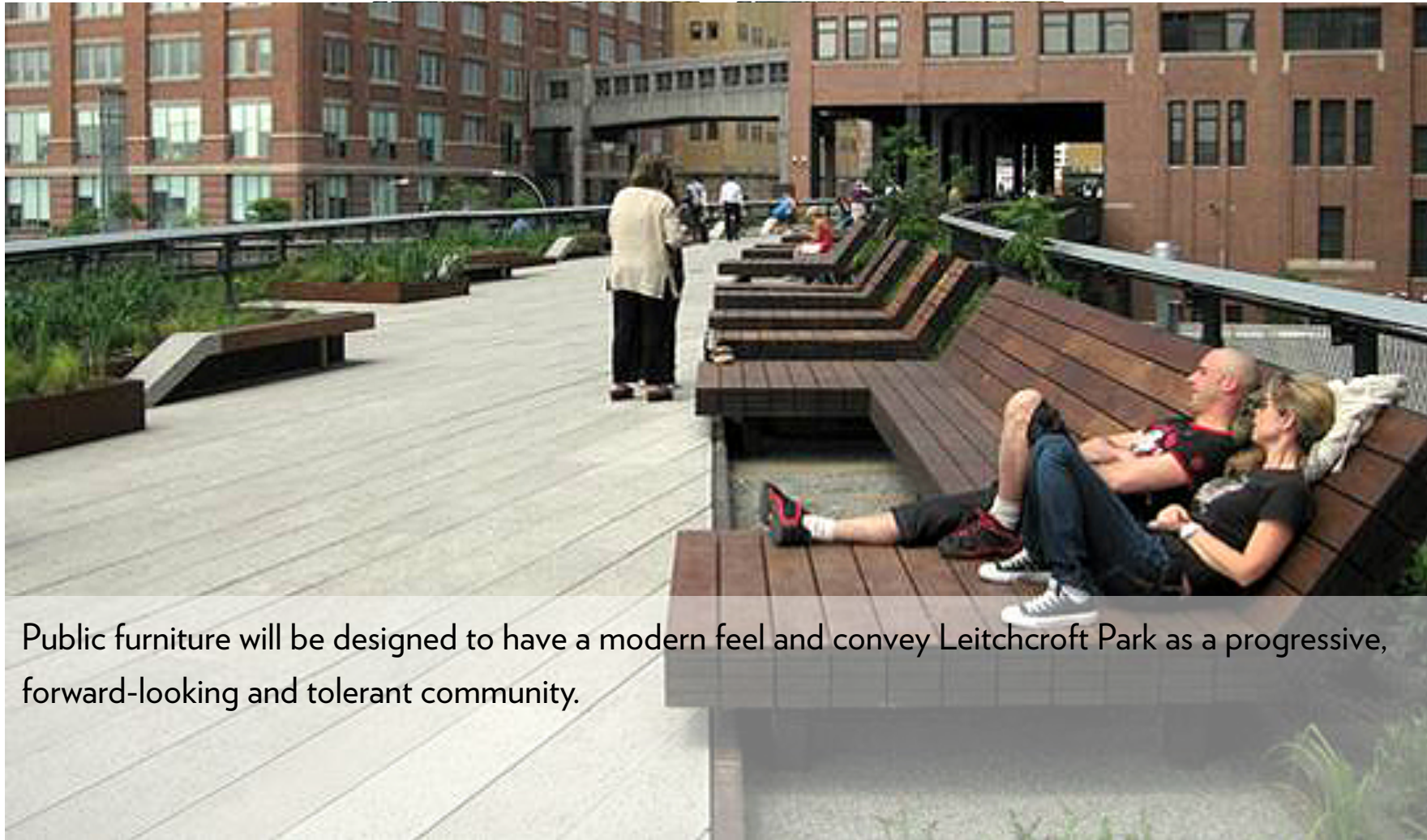
The public furniture will be made of natural materials such as weatherized wood, concrete or steel. The straightforward form and natural materials evoke Leitchcroft's rustic stables and farmland legacy.

Public furniture: Inclusive



Public furniture will allow people to meet, share, eat, celebrate and play games. Through seating arrangements and scale, uncommon to current parks, furniture will accommodate a few residents who wish to engage in intimate conversation as well as large groups that gather for meals.

Public furniture: Contemporary



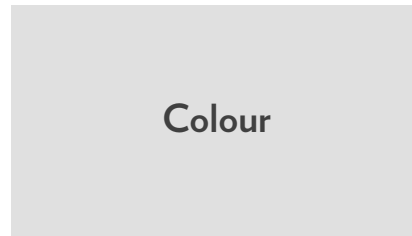
Public furniture will be designed to have a modern feel and convey Leitchcroft Park as a progressive, forward-looking and tolerant community.

Public furniture: Vibrant



Vibrant furniture will be achieved through playful, non-linear seating arrangements and/or use of colour accents.

Palette: Public furniture



Colour



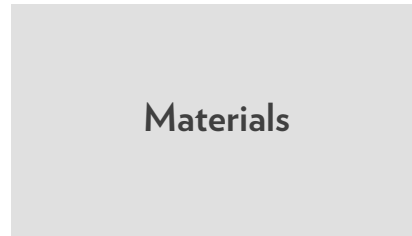
Natural wood



Earth tones



Color accents



Materials



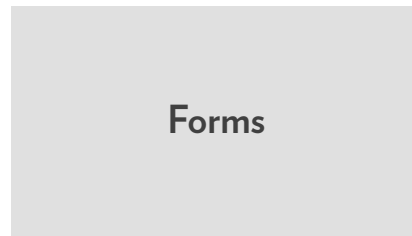
Wood



Stone



Steel



Forms



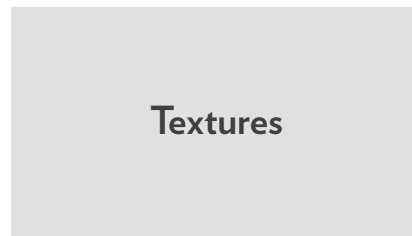
Sober



Geometric



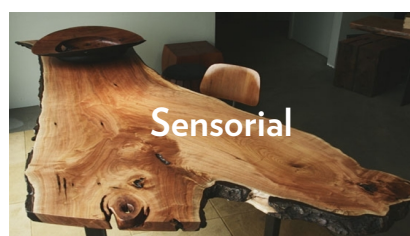
Social



Textures



Patterns



Sensorial



Smooth

Shade structures

Authentic



Inclusive



Contemporary



Vibrant



Water works



DRAFT

TOWN OF MARKHAM COUNCIL PRESENTATION – 17TH MAY 2010

OPENCity
PROJECTS

Lighting

Authentic



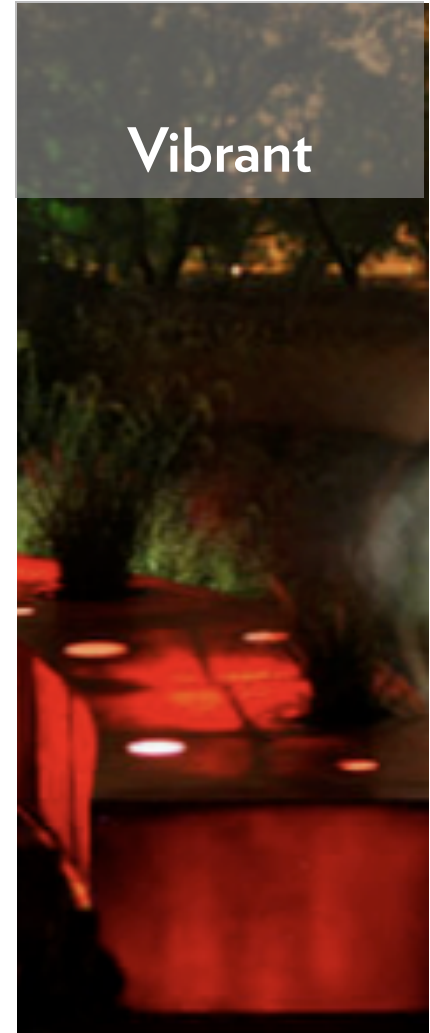
Inclusive



Contemporary



Vibrant



Signage

Authentic



Inclusive



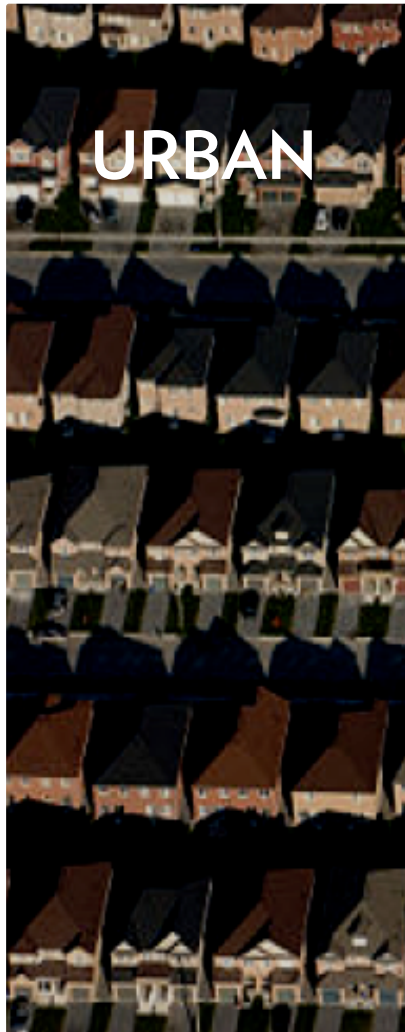
Contemporary



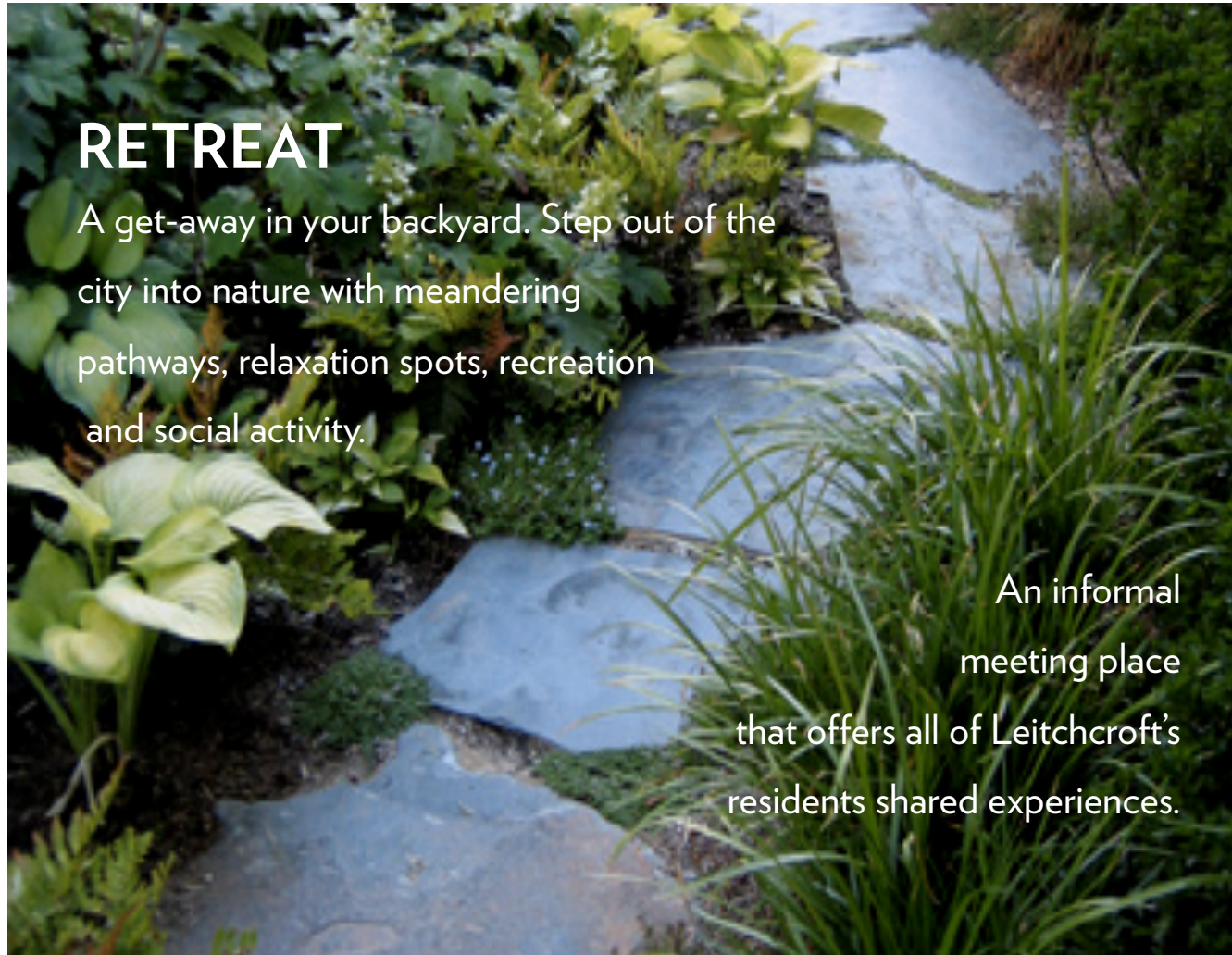
Vibrant



Personality



URBAN



RETREAT

A get-away in your backyard. Step out of the city into nature with meandering pathways, relaxation spots, recreation and social activity.

An informal meeting place that offers all of Leitchcroft's residents shared experiences.

Overarching Benefits

- Consistent community engagement informed design and resulted in quicker consensus
- Framework for bringing cultural elements to life in the park
- Clear rationale for design direction

Next Steps

