

Looking at past architecture through the lens of modernism

Condo trends. Nuit Blanche exhibit featured holographic images discussing future of architecture

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As part of the 2012 Nuit Blanche festival of all-night art, the Ontario Association of Architects staged their impressive multimedia exhibition at the Design Exchange, site of the old Toronto Stock Exchange.

Images of architects appeared and disappeared in ethereal hologram-like projections, as they answered the question with their individual visions of the future of architecture.

Gianpiero Pugliese is an architect and principal at Audax Architecture Inc. He is responsible for the design of the Edition/Richmond condos in downtown Toronto.



A holographic exhibit produced by the Ontario Association of Architects at the Design Exchange as part of the 2012 Nuit Blanche all-night arts festival. DUNCAN MCALLISTER/FOR METRO

As a participant in the OAA demonstration, Pugliese articulated his concept of “human architecture”; of looking at the past through the lens of modernism.

If you look at cities created during the medieval period,

he explains, “People love those spaces. They love the intimacy; they love the variety, the richness of the public spaces, the plazas, the way the winding roads work, the way people interact in the street, the cafés, the little French balconies,

the little gardens. All of those things are perfectly transferable today. There’s no reason that that should have been abandoned.”

In an interesting experiment, Pugliese took plans of the Tuscan city of Siena and

re-designed them with today’s modern construction techniques and materials.

Another exhibitor, architect and principal of WZMH Architects, Nicola Casciato talked about his concept of fire.

“When fire was discovered, our society was basically changed. We created a shelter around that fireplace, and for us, what that meant was that you basically have fire and shelter, which are two basic primordial needs that we need as a society. And you put those two together and the space created in-between those is actually a communal space where people gather and interact with one another.”

When asked about the future of Toronto’s condo landscape, both architects had a similar take: They’d like to see a shift from tiny, investment-purposed units, to larger, more family-friendly, end-user condos.

“If we want to densify the city, we’re going to have to densify it with multi-bedroom condominiums so that we’re building communities,” says Casciato.

World-renowned

Gehry unveils Toronto condo development

Speaking of architects, Metro caught up with world-renowned Canadian architect Frank Gehry who unveiled plans for a new condo development this week at the Art Gallery of Ontario.

A trio of towers will soar 85-storeys above the site of the Princess of Wales theatre, which will be demolished to make room for the complex.

The project is in collaboration with Toronto entertainment entrepreneur, David Mirvish.



At the Art Gallery of Ontario this week, world-renowned architect Frank Gehry takes the wraps off a new, mixed-use project that promises to transform the entire look and feel of the entertainment district. DUNCAN MCALLISTER/FOR METRO