

MAYOR'S URBAN DESIGN AWARDS (MUDA)

URBAN ARCHITECTURE

Project: Kensington Corner

Address: 1702 Kensington Road NW

Architect: Hindle Architects

Client: Intelligent Futures

Project Description

Kensington Corner, located at the intersection of Kensington Road and 16 Street NW, is a small-scale, mixed-use development in Calgary's inner-city. Designed by Hindle Architects, the project successfully integrates residential and commercial spaces within a compact footprint, creating a balanced live-work environment. This development supports broader goals of densification, sustainability, and community well-being while aligning with The City of Calgary's urban design principles.

Place:

Kensington Corner embodies the community-focused values of the Lewis family, Intelligent Futures, and the distinct urban character of Hillhurst. The design features two gabled roof forms which differentiate residential and commercial uses while creating an elegant building form. The building's second floor extends over the studio entrance along Kensington Road, creating a sheltered entrance enhanced by floor-to-ceiling glazing and mural by local artist Daniel J. Kirk.

Scale:

The project's scale is carefully designed to create a human-centered streetscape while accommodating diverse activities. The form and massing complement surrounding buildings, allowing Kensington Corner to blend seamlessly into the urban fabric. Its architectural design activates the adjacent street faces, adding to the overall aesthetic and liveliness of the neighbourhood.

Amenity:

The development emphasizes high-quality open spaces and landscaping, offering a welcoming environment for both residents and employees. Bicycle parking along Kensington Road encourages active transportation, taking advantage of the site's proximity to the Bow River Pathway. An expansive second-floor roof terrace provides residents with outdoor space to enjoy Calgary's varied seasons, while a west-facing landscaped courtyard offers social space for the Intelligent Futures team.

Vibrancy:

Kensington Corner enhances neighbourhood vibrancy through active frontages along Kensington Road and 16 Street NW. Housing the Lewis' family home and the Intelligent Futures studio, the development blends residential and commercial activities in a way that promotes community interaction and economic vitality. This thoughtful integration creates a dynamic environment, fostering curiosity and engagement within the neighborhood.

Resilience:

Sustainability is a core principle of Kensington Corner's design. This all-electric project features rooftop solar panels, a high-performance building envelope, and high-efficiency mechanical and electrical systems. The design promotes future adaptability and flexibility, accommodating various uses over time while supporting the current activities of its occupants.

Through its innovative approach to live-work integration and thoughtful urban design, Kensington Corner sets a model for sustainable, small-scale mixed-use development in Calgary. The project demonstrates how small-scale developments can create meaningful community impact while addressing critical urban challenges such as sustainability, intensification, and livability.