

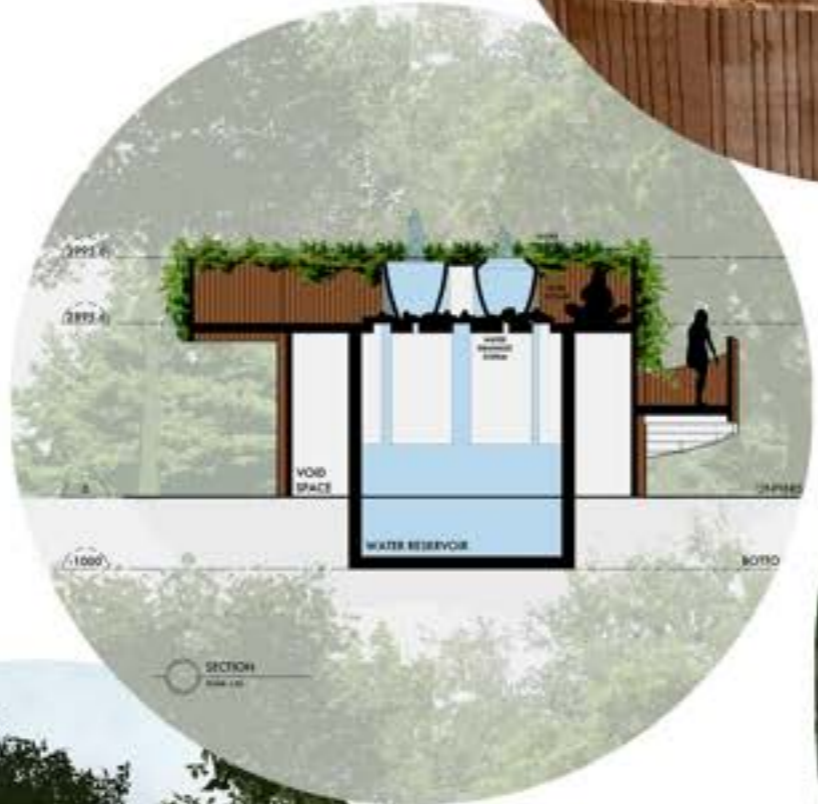


The Wooden Imaginarium

795 Rathburn Rd W, Mississauga, ON L5C 4N1

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**URBAN
ACUPUNCTURE**
Celebrating Pinpoints of Change that Enrich City Life
JAIME LERNER



01 Storytelling Collage
795 Rathburn Rd W, Mississauga, ON L5G 4N1
Assignment 1



map of a memory

When I was a toddler, my parents had a tiny apartment in a small condo in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. I believe there were two bedrooms in each apartment, but I only have a memory of my bedroom and the living/dining room from the floor plan. I was four years old. Still, I remember that I used to wake up before sunrise (4 am), leave my bed, walk to the living room, grab a chair and place it close to an old wardrobe that stayed beside the entry door to the apartment. I used to climb that chair, grab the apartment's keys, open the door, and leave the house by myself with a tiny fabric bag. I'd go down two sets of stairs and walk to the only open green space in the condo. Right under the most prominent tree (which looked gigantic to me when I was little), there was a garden of tiny white stones, which I believed were magic.

I used to collect these stones into the little fabric bag, bring them back to my room, and hide them under my bed. All of that after going back home, locking the house door, placing the keys back on top of the wardrobe, putting the chair back into proper place and then returning to bed so that my parents would not know a thing. Every day when I woke up to school, the stones were gone, and the fabric bag was empty. I believed those stones were my offer to the fairies under my bed, and I did that same routine every day for years.

Later, as an adult, I used to talk about those memories with my mother, and she believed I had dreamed all those times. If I'm honest, I thought I had dreamed all of that, too, until one day I told my father about them. He was shocked to finally understand how those stones would appear in my room every day. We realized that he had been the one emptying the bag all those years, and I realized that my childhood kingdom was real – or at least my adventures were.

I was always a child with a powerful imagination. These memories made me realize how much I miss spaces with this dreamlike quality – a secret garden, a tree of dreams – and how children growing up, or people living busy lives, should have access to spaces like these for a break from reality.



map of a safe heaven

Later in my life, as a teenager and young adult, life seemed particularly challenging, especially while I was PMSing. When things seemed too unbearable; when I had worked too much or pushed myself too close to my limits (or so I thought), I'd take a break and, at 6 am on Sundays, I'd visit my favourite place in Salvador: the Ipitanga beach, far away from downtown, isolated from people, silent. I'd stay there for hours and feel a deep connection to the sea – almost as if we could talk to one another. Perhaps my small building will be a structure placed in a beach environment.



Wakefield Common

795 Rathburn Rd W, Mississauga, ON L5C 4N1

Legal Requirements

Wakefield Common is a park located in Mississauga, Ontario, under OS-1 Zoning classification – Open Space – Community Park. That being the case, it is under the jurisdictions of the Region of Peel (Mississauga C. o., n.d.). The park is surrounded by RM2-2 and RM2-4 residential zones, consisting majorly of semi-detached houses. Accessory uses such as Active Recreational ("an outdoor area, with or without an accessory building or structure" (Mississauga, Mississauga Zoning By-law, n.d.)) are permitted. There are no city masterplan recommendations for Wakefield Common.

History

Unless we were to consider the entirety of Mississauga's territory, there would be no historic relevance to this site specifically. Mississauga, Canada's sixth largest municipality, is situated on the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation's Traditional Territory and Treaty Lands. In 1806 the British crown purchased this area from the Mississauga people in a formal deal. In the early nineteenth century, the purchase allowed non-Indigenous people to settle in the area, and their increased presence rendered it hard for the Mississaugas to access the hunting and harvesting grounds and rivers that they had been promised. In 1967, residents of Toronto Township unanimously voted to rename their new city 'Mississauga'. There are several theories as to how this phrase came to be, the most plausible being that it is an Ojibwa word that means 'river of many mouths.' The City of Mississauga acknowledges the Anishinaabe peoples, also known as the Mississaugas of the Credit, for the city's name. (Mississauga, n.d.)

Social

In terms of demography, Mississauga's population had been rapidly increasing, but it has now slowed to a crawl, with a population rise of only 1.1 percent in the last five years. Despite this, the Mississauga municipal government estimates that the population of Mississauga will reach 878,400 by 2041. (Population, 2022) In Mississauga, English is the most widely spoken language. According to the 2011 census, English was the mother tongue of 47.6% of the city's residents. Urdu (4.9 percent), Polish (4.1 percent), Punjabi (3.2 percent), and Arabic (3.1 percent) were the next most often spoken languages. More than half of Mississauga's citizens (52 percent) speak a different language than English. (Population, 2022) When it comes to the Wakefield Common and its neighborhood, it was observed that demographics are determined by families of young adults with one or two children.

Climate, Geography and Ecology

Major winds come from the North West. Other significant winds come from the East and the South West. The sun path is the same all year, with sunrise and sunset time varying about 4h between seasons. Being inserted in Ontario's territory, the site is in the Boreal Shield ecozone. The park is healthy and well-maintained, and its vegetation consists mostly of conifer trees and some hints of deciduous. During spring and summer, the grass is as green as it can be, and it's possible to identify dandelions all over the site. There is no specific landscape design to the park and walkways are mostly permeable. When it comes to fauna, squirrels, bunnies, and raccoons are seen with certain frequency. Foxes have also been spotted. There are no existing bodies of water on the site, no wastage material, and though the site has been developed as a park, it is more like a greenfield rather than brown.

Atmosphere

Wakefield Common is at Rathburn Rd. W., which makes it noise due to traffic, and also quiet, due to the residential neighborhood. One can hear the birds singing. Though nothing seems special about the place (it really just looks like an open green area, where even the children's park is not quite inviting), the way some of the trees were planted around a little hill brings some sense of magic to it. I can imagine Julie Andrews performing The Hills are Alive right at the top of that little hill, and it brings me much comfort. There are no special smells, but there can be quite the view. There is a bus stop at Rathburn Rd At West Wakefield Cres for Mississauga bus routes 9 and 20, which makes it easily accessible by visitors. On that note, the park is also in close proximity to Downtown Mississauga, which allows for access to all kinds of social services such as mall, medical care clinics, pharmacies, etc. Nonetheless, the focus is on the local community. Though

03 Site Analysis

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Assignment 3



park entrance - view from Rathburn Rd.



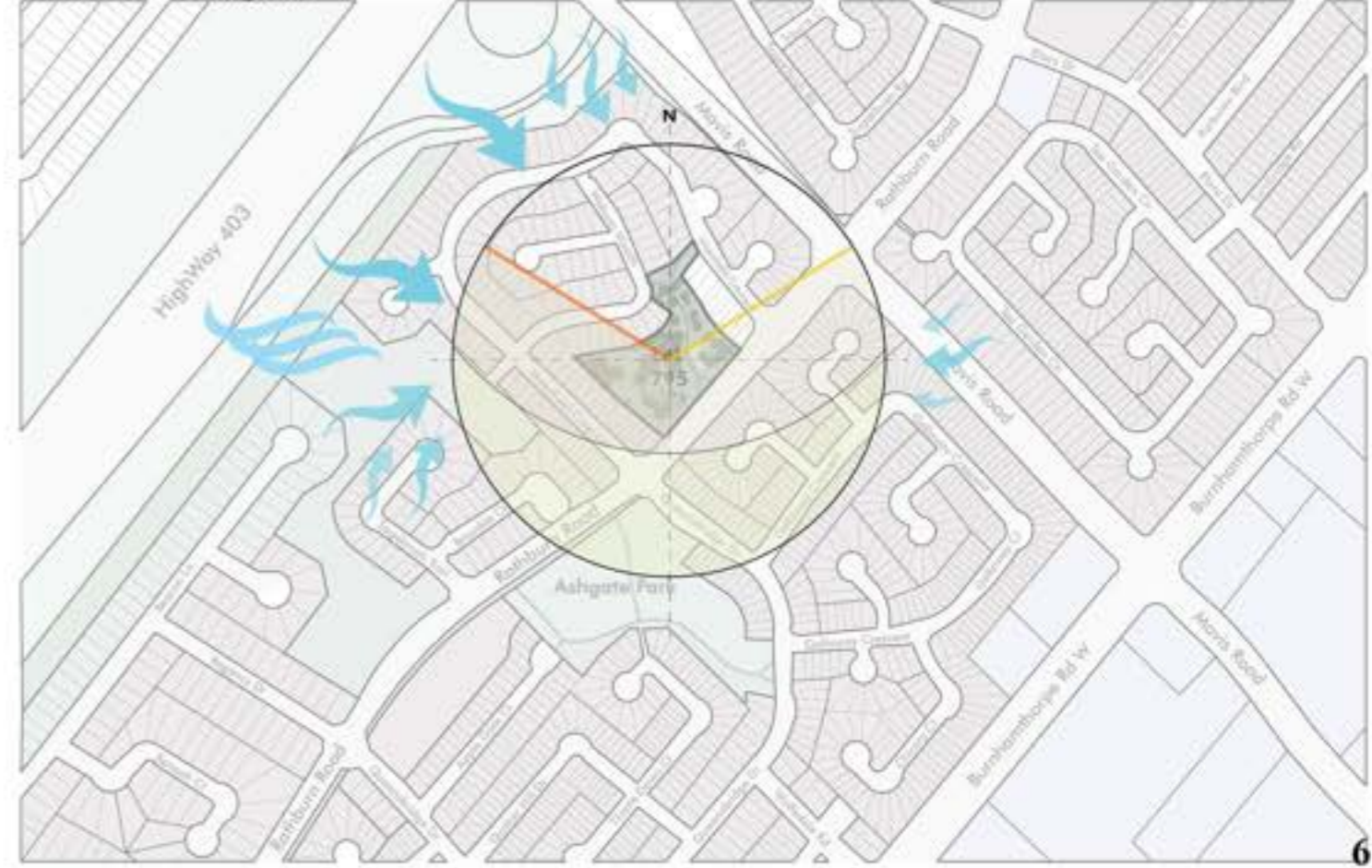
garden of dreams - location of proposed design



map diagram



wind and sun diagram



The Wooden Imaginarium

795 Rathburn Rd W,
Mississauga, ON L5C 4N1

Function

The Wooden Imaginarium, a secret place in a (not so) secret garden, is intended to be a backyard kingdom for children and a safe haven for adults. This magic Imaginarium, made of wood, is supposed to belong to the current occupant, connect them with the surrounding trees, and stimulate and cultivate imagination and spiritual peace. It is a place for people to imagine.



Troika, "The Sum of All Possibilities," 2014, Suspended sculpture (steel, aluminum, painted wood), 59 x 59 x 106 1/4 inches

Access through: <https://www.kohngallery.com/troika>

Idea: a set of circular stairs going up to a circular landing above tree canopies.



Meridian Place & Memorial Square rendering (stage performers and pedestrians are not to scale).
Access through: <https://www.barric.ca/Living/ParksTrails/Parks/Pages/Meridian-Place.aspx>

Idea: circular landing on top of stairs, only the structure is located on top of a hill instead of at the foot.



"Mirror mirror", an interactive public artwork coming to the city of alexandria, virginia in 2019

Access through: <https://www.designboom.com/art/iris-mirror-mirror-softlab-light-installation-12-03-2018/>

Idea: colors within the structure.



Proposal:

Proposal should be located on top of a low sloped hill and consists of wooden stairs up to resting spot close to or above trees canopies. White stones around structure. Interior railings to be structural.

Engineering Quad at Stanford University.

Access through: <https://twitter.com/stanfordalumni/status/866675359361638400>

Idea: stairs up in circular path deeply integrated with trees.

Rain Amplifier Installation / Matthijs la Roi Architects

Access through: https://www.archdaily.com/947973/rain-amplifier-installation-matthijs-la-roi-architects?ad_medium=gallery

"A cedar-clad rain sculpture and stage, situated in the Catholic forest environment of Sint-Arnoldspark, Belgium. Located on a hill that acts as a natural amphitheatre, the stage is designed to host open-air performances where the dome acts as a sculptural backdrop."

Idea: pixelated circular wooden stairs and landing?

Circular Wooden Installation, Bringing Nature and Humans Together

Access through: https://www.archdaily.com/949931/stefano-boeri-reveals-circular-wooden-installation-bringing-nature-and-humans-together?ad_medium=gallery

Blending into its environment, adapting to its context surrounded by greenery, TREE-ROOM, a circular structure of 12 meters in diameter, embraces three trees, the symbol of the forests that were swept away by the Vicia storm, on October 29th in 2018. In fact, the installation "seems to hover from the ground evoking a cyclical typical image of Nature, [...] underlining a new alliance between living nature and human being".

Idea: circular wooden structure embraced by trees, for contemplation of nature.



04 Function Identification

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Assignment 4

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Proposal:

Proposal should be located on top of a low sloped hill and consists of wooden stairs up to resting spot close to or above trees canopies. White stones around structure. Interior railings to be structural.

05 Conceptual Sketching and Modeling

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Assignment 5

The Wooden Imaginarium

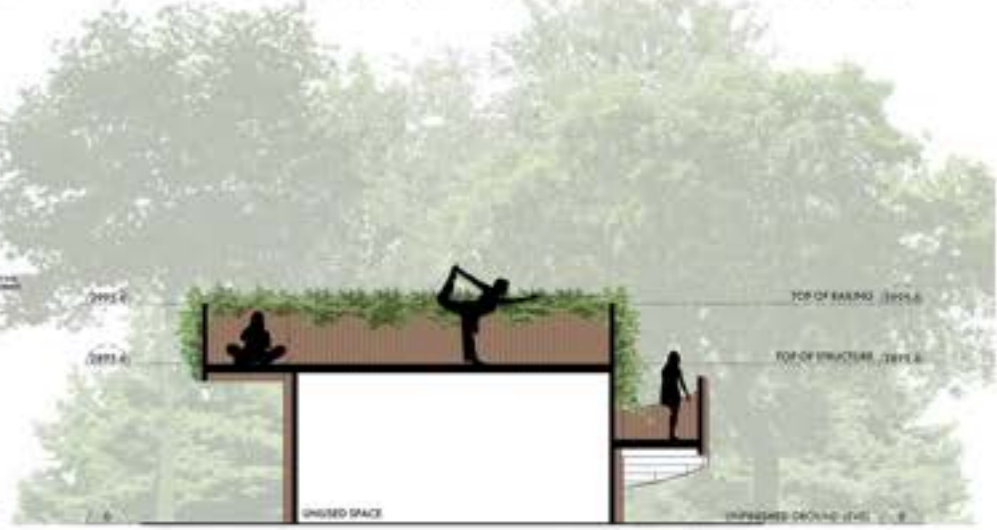
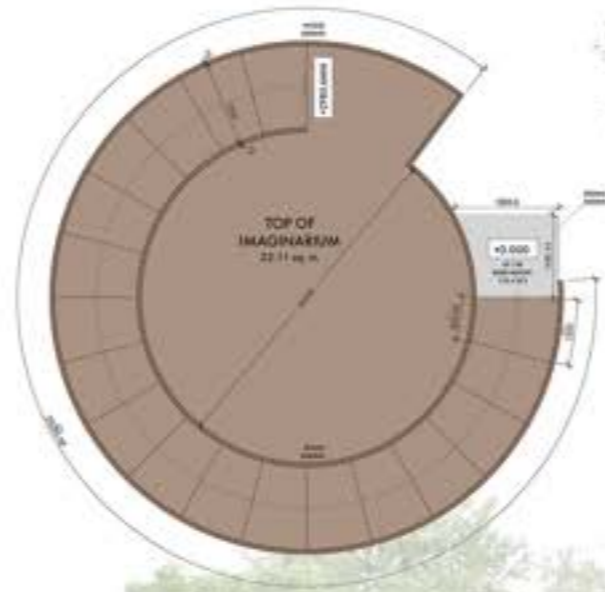
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Social Function

Social Function The Wooden Imaginarium, a secret place surrounded by trees, is intended to be a place of make-believe for children and a safe haven for adults. This magic Imaginarium is supposed to transform according to the time of the day and user. It is to belong to the current occupant and, by being surrounded by planting of different colors and heights and white tiny pebbles, connect them with nature, stimulate imagination, and/or cultivate solitude and spiritual peace. Interaction is promoted through seating areas around the installation.



06 Scaled Drawings

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Assignment 6

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07 Advanced Sketching Modeling

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Assignment 7



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Does the resulting design bring value to the place (community)?

In any town, public areas and markets are vitally important. Our neighbourhoods would be lifeless and characterless without them. Public art exhibits are one method cities and municipalities work to create a lively environment and draw people to marketplaces. The beautification efforts depend heavily on art, which also contributes to developing a distinctive identity for the cities and neighbourhoods where they are located.

As a permanent artistic installation, the Wooden Imaginarium makes the area lively and connects locals. It enables the community to produce symbols associated with their physical spaces, resulting in an engaging and worthwhile interaction for those who experience it.

It establishes a welcoming environment for meditation, which encourages self-awareness, balance and mental health. Additionally, contact with nature and individuals opens one's eyes to issues like environmental responsibility and respect for diversity.

It fosters children's creativity and imagination.

It is an investment in place-making, as it contributes to building community identity and appreciation for the neighbourhood. That being so, it cultivates social value and civic pride.



08 Impact on Community

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Final Assignment

The Wooden Imaginarium

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