Yorkville Residents Roam Canadian Landscape— In an Urban Park

Ken Smith Landscape Architect and Oleson Worland Architects' winning design for a park in the Yorkville section of Toronto is a series of gardens planned like a Victorian collection box (used to house butterfly or rock specimens). A group of miniature gardens is arranged along the original lot lines of rowhouses that once stood on the site (3). Each garden is a microcosm of different Canadian landscapes, including a misty pine scape (1) and a prairie field and birch stand (2). In one garden, a 700-ton rock outcrop was moved 150 miles and painstakingly reconstructed. In another, a rain curtain gently weeps. The park's distinct paving was extended across nearby streets to weave the park into the neighborhood. Part of the park faces a highrise skyline; the other looks out on extant rowhouses. Local residents had lobbied for the park since the 1950s. ■







Steven Evans photos