



Photos left (top to bottom): the upper level entrance is off an attenuated pergola which runs east-west across the site. A monumental colonnade faces onto Eglinton Avenue from a discreet distance, comfortably situated in a mature park setting. The west tail of the wood pergola trails off into a path to Eglinton Avenue. Above: the main entrance to the community centre from the east. The circulation spine which runs across the site is anchored here, taking the form of an ascending colonnade with parallel stairs, inside and out.

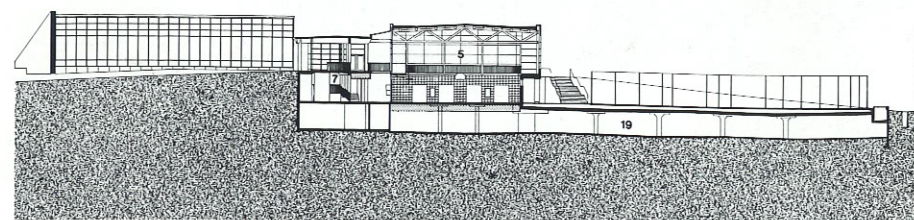
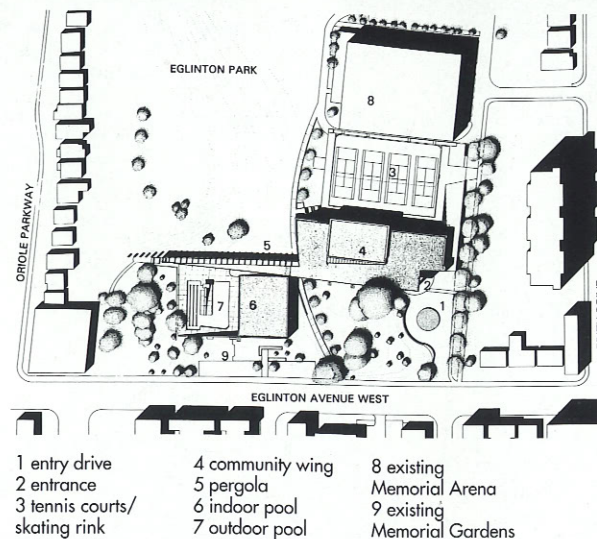
North Toronto Memorial Community Centre

Toronto, Ontario
Oleson Worland Architects

Landscape and architecture are ingeniously fused in a new urban community complex.



Above: the low horizontal profile of the building is broken by a grade level path from Eglinton which splits the building's main programmatic elements. Above right: the same path bridges a lower circulation area which accesses change rooms and the gymnasium. Right: parallel stairs blur the distinction between inside and outside and reinforce the integration of the building to the topography of the site. Far right: the main lobby occupies the wedge-shaped void which hinges of the circulation pergola.



EAST-WEST SECTION

Client: City of Toronto Department of Parks and Recreation
Architect team: (core team) Rick Andrighetti, Mark Michasiw, David Oleson, Wilfrid Worland; (support team) Robert Allen, Cheryl Atkinson, Mark Lavrisa, Robert Marr, Rebecca Ott, Christie Pearson, Claire Racine, Alan Scott;
Structural: Yolles Partnership
Mechanical/Electrical: Rybka Smith and Ginsler
Landscape: Ferris + Quinn
Skating rink: Marshall Macklin Monaghan
Costing: James F. Vermeulen
Construction Manager: Eastern Construction
Photographs: Steven Evans

Situated on Eglinton Avenue West in Toronto at the southern edge of a 23-acre public park, the North Toronto Memorial Community Centre contains, recreation facilities, a seniors centre and a 150-car underground parking garage. The new building lends coherence to the recreational amenities presently on site, its long low profile framing a grade level path which meanders from Eglinton through a split in the building to the tennis courts/skating rink and existing arena behind.

An attenuated pergola runs east-west across the site, passing behind the pools which are near the Eglinton street edge, and in front of the gymnasium, change rooms and community facilities which hinge off the back. Effectively giving a sense of entry in two directions, both street side and park side, the pergola serves as the major circulation element. Stairs off the east end lead down to the main lobby below. This is a wedge-shaped void that hinges off the main spine to resolve the geometric shift between Eglinton and the tennis courts/skating rink behind.

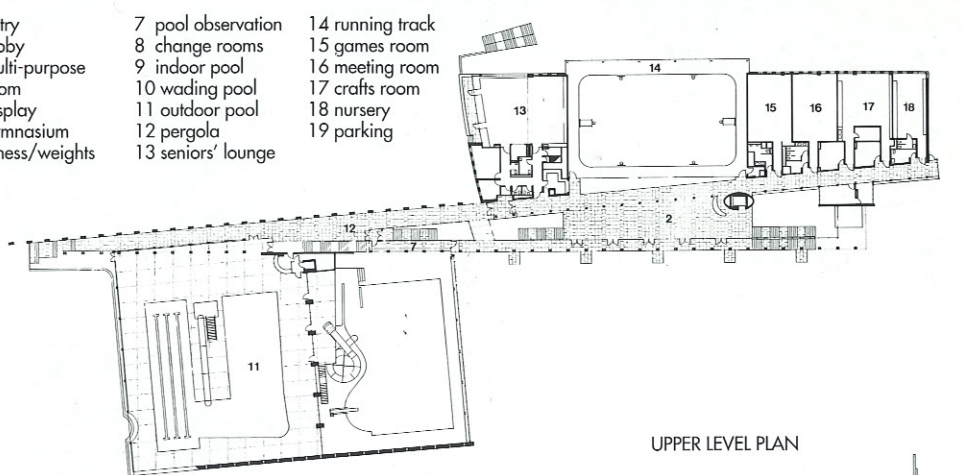
Constant relation of the

interior spaces to grade along a bi-level route of travel removes the sense of hierarchy of floors, leaving only a topographical sense of upper and lower. The link between levels is reinforced by the intermediate level observation deck joining lobby and pool, and by the outdoor pool deck projection into the indoor pool space.

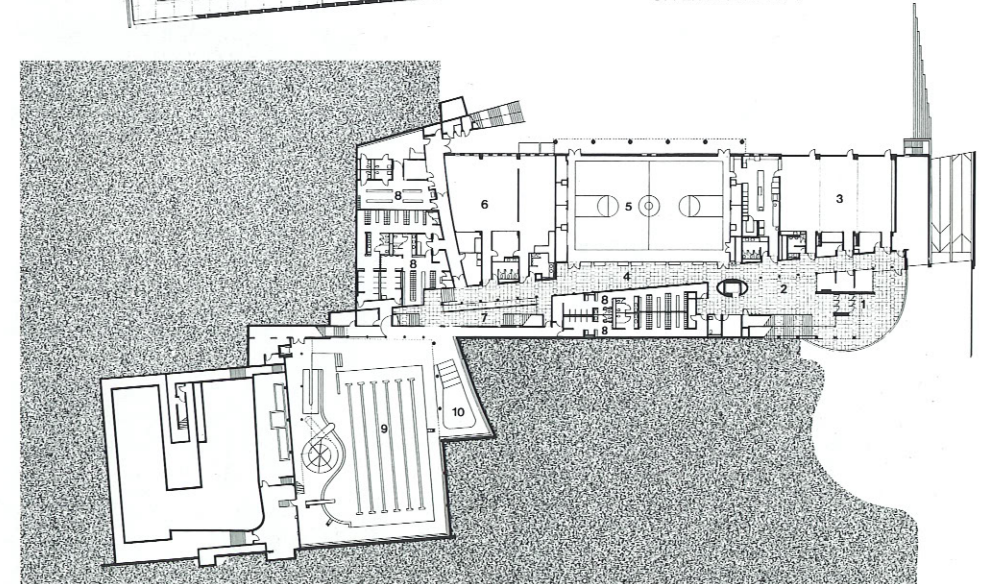
The strategy of deeply excavating the indoor pool allows its walls to literally emerge from the hill. A gradually tapering brick wall envelopes the pools like a garden wall, screening out Eglinton Avenue and creating a strong sense of enclosure. The overriding sense of integration with the landscape is reinforced by the rich, earthy material palette of brick, wood, and generous glazing, all anchored with a more utilitarian concrete structure.

The design won a single stage limited design competition in 1987. It was awarded a Canadian Architect Magazine award of excellence in 1989. The 55,000-s.f. building was completed this summer, with a construction budget (excluding the parking and tennis court/skating rink) of \$18 million. ♦

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|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 entry | 7 pool observation | 14 running track |
| 2 lobby | 8 change rooms | 15 games room |
| 3 multi-purpose room | 9 indoor pool | 16 meeting room |
| 4 display | 10 wading pool | 17 crafts room |
| 5 gymnasium | 11 outdoor pool | 18 nursery |
| 6 fitness/weights | 12 pergola | 19 parking |
| | 13 seniors' lounge | |



UPPER LEVEL PLAN



LOWER LEVEL PLAN

0 6m



Above: the indoor pool is deeply excavated into the earth, raked up to give generous clerestory glazing on the south, and with a brick wall studded with glass block at the far end. Brick is used throughout the project in a reference to the site's earlier incarnation as a brick yard. The intermediate level slide platform on the right is an extension of the pool deck. Photo left: a light slot along the spine brings light to the upper lobby and the running track elevated above the gymnasium.



London Aquatic Centre

Rounthwaite, Dick & Hadley Architects/The IKOY Partnership

A raked metal shell, glazed at both ends, provides a simple but dramatic enclosure for an Olympic pool.

The original competition-winning entry for this aquatic centre in London, Ontario proposed two separate buildings, one a training pool and the other a leisure facility. Only the former, a building for an Olympic scale training facility for swimming and diving, was finally executed.

Located in the flat suburban landscape outside London, the building engages an artificial landscape of swelling hills created from its own substantial excavated material. The berm next to the road creates a sort of ha ha, masking the parking from view, while behind it the glazed open front of the metal structure appears to emerge from the earth.

The raked metal shed is glazed at both ends, a single over-arching vessel which contains all the program of the facility—pool, spectators gallery, administration. This single room approach is made possible by the use of an ozone water purification system for the pool which emits no chemical smell and so eliminates the need for different air handling systems in each area.

Visitors and users enter by a gallery that extends along one

side of the building. The gallery contains offices, a snack bar and spectator seating along the front edge, and it has a controlled stair at one end down to the change rooms which are at the pool level. At the higher end of the building is a loft gallery providing additional viewing space, and telescoping seats can be extended over the wide pool deck.

The Olympic-sized pool is divisible into sections by two bulkheads. The deep end of the pool has several diving platforms and springboards, with bubblers and observation windows underwater.

The leisure facilities have been built temporarily into the competition pool. At the shallow end, a large whirlpool is set into the deck, and doors lead out to a sunken courtyard.

The structure spans 35 metres and is a sandwich of two corrugated metal decks, with a waterproof membrane, z-bars holding rigid insulation and an air space in between. The inside shell is steel, and the outer anodized aluminum. The 3,065-m² project was completed in 1991, with a construction budget of \$7.4 million. ♦