

PANDORA'S BOX

PROPOSAL FOR A DESIGN COMPETITION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pandora's Box: Proposal for a Design Competition is a major research project completed to fulfill academic requirements of Ryerson's Master of Urban Planning program. Written in the style of a design competition brief, Pandora's Box explores the synergies between cargotecture and waterfront revitalization in Toronto.

Cargotecture is the repurposing of shipping containers for uses other than moving cargo. In other parts of the world, this adaptive reuse of shipping containers has been hugely successful due to the abundance, relatively low cost, flexibility, and modularity of containers. Cargotecture is increasingly used to create versatile and vibrant interim land uses that can be added to, subtracted from, and/or moved to new locations when they reach the end of their useful life at a specific site. Given the ephemeral nature of Toronto's Waterfront, and ongoing struggles to spark revitalization in the Lower Don Lands, cargotecture presents a compelling option worthy of exploration.

The Pandora's Box proposal uses the growing interest in cargotecture and associated body of precedents and knowledge to propose a catalytic new interim land use in the Lower Don Lands, capable of showcasing the area's immense latent potential and advancing Toronto's current waterfront revitalization agenda. Positioned to capitalize on the opportunity presented by the Pan Am Games, the proposed competition puts forward a viable solution for the creation of an innovative and truly unique cargotecture destination in the Lower Don Lands that could be operational by 2015. Following Waterfront Toronto's highly successful approach of using international design competitions to create new waterfront destinations, the proposed cargotecture project for the Lower Don Lands must address the following three competition goals:

Goal 1: Develop a vibrant and dynamic new catalytic design that showcases the latent potential in the Lower Don Lands and activates this underutilized area, ultimately building excitement, awareness, and momentum behind revitalization efforts.

Goal 2: Use cargotecture as a form of sustainable development and adaptive reuse to showcase Toronto's creativity and leadership in progressive waterfront revitalization, unlocking the potential of this burgeoning design technology and the Lower Don Lands alike.

Goal 3: Utilize innovative and diverse programming to create a unique offering and critical mass of activity that will draw the public down to the Lower Don Lands, connecting progress in the West Don Lands and East Bayfront to help unify waterfront revitalization efforts in anticipation of the 2015 Pan Am Games.

