

# KURT DIETRICH

## Volunteer Efforts:

### Forum Architecture

Year	Organizational Group	Event	Facilitator
1995	Forum Architecture	Creation of the group	Kurt Dietrich

## Description of Involvement:

Forum Architecture was a group I created in the spring of 1995. **The initial concept for Forum Architecture is simple** - a social context for professionals to discuss what they enjoy most about the chosen profession.

**Forum Architecture** was formed at the initial meeting of 12 July 1995. Members on the original mailing list include:

Terry Teupah, James Youck, Bron Nurkowski, Donald Sosna, Raymond Gosselin, Derek Lam, Alton Tangedal, Kurt Dietrich

**The concept letter** forwarded to original members noted:

*At present, there is no independent group for discussion of Architecture. In practice, there remains a tendency to focus on the tangible concerns such as budgets, time lines, client demands, and technology. When do we get the chance to just talk about the field, negating the majority of the aforementioned, focussing on the ideas and concepts?*

*What is proposed is to establish a group for discussion of Architectural ideas, theory, trends & movements, and general crap, removing the business side of the profession. The group would be made up of young professionals from various school backgrounds. It would be non-partisan with all members on an equal level. No chairperson or leader per se, we would each get a chance to talk and listen, and to pick the next location. Meetings would be once a month at different locations (Offices, restaurants, coffee shops, whatever...) just to talk and share ideas and experiences. Specific topics could be chosen for subsequent sessions, or we could keep it all open. It is not intended that the discussions would require any detailed research or preparation for the meetings and the structure would be kept loose to allow free thought.*

## Event Resolution:

The group has organized and participated in many exciting ventures within the City of Regina. These activities include:

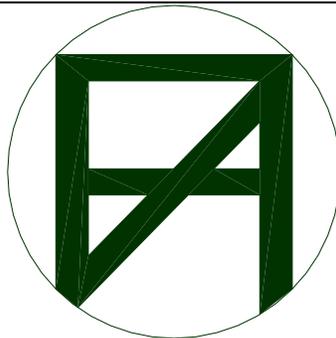
1997: Vision 20/20 (City of Regina Downtown Planning Charrette)

1998: University of Regina (Master Planning Design Charrette)

1998: Architecture Goes to School (RAIC Festival Community Event)

1998: RAIC Chapter / Regina Society of Architects (Amalgamation with new organization)

2007: A Meeting of the Minds (Proposed Sketch Camp Sessions)



# KURT DIETRICH



## Volunteer Efforts:

### 2020 Vision Warehouse – Downtown - Transition Area City of Regina

Year	Organizational Group	Event	Host Group
1997	Forum Architecture	Design Charrette	Forum Architecture

## Description of Involvement:

My role in this process was the lead contact for Forum Architecture related to planning and carrying out the entire event. The agenda and content of the evening was determined by F/A, as a group with myself chairing the planning session. I was responsible for the final documentation summarizing the event. Attendees at the Charrette included Civic Councillors, Mayor D. Archer, local developers, residents of the specific areas, Regina's Economic Development Office, Downtown Market Square representatives and members of Forum Architecture.

## Event Resolution:

The event was carried out over a Friday evening and Saturday morning working sessions. The Friday evening component was spent in review of the current available data and discussion between the assigned teams. Saturday morning included the design component along with group presentations of the design solutions. The results were highly successful in terms of design opportunities explored and education of the attendees relative to the role of architects and architectural design.



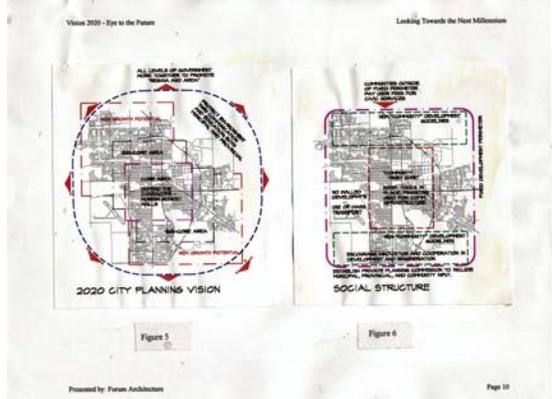
## New group has plans for Regina's core area

By Vanessa Goodfellow, Free Press Reporter  
Try to imagine what Regina's core area will look like in 25 years. It could look similar or change radically but each idea or vision would only be a guess.  
Kurt Dietrich is the founder of Forum Architecture, a small organization of 15 local architects, planners and interior designers who are graduate students of an interior design program at the University of Regina.  
The common goal of this group is to stop guessing about Regina's future design for the core area and combine a number of their suggestions to create viable blueprints.  
Dietrich, a design student with the local firm Forum Architecture Services Ltd. in Regina, has developed a project called Vision 2020 "A clear view into the future." The name symbolizes both the time frame the group is planning for (2020) plus the perfect vision they hope to create with their project ideas.  
The Vision 2020 project will eventually be presented to city planners and other special interest groups. The ultimate goal of Forum Architecture members is to have some of these ideas utilized by city planners.  
Dietrich says everyone involved in the project views Regina as a city with much potential but the lowest level of public guidance and direction to reach its full potential.  
"In the United States, cities have created a plan to represent the core area," Dietrich says. "When you look at Regina, it's doing all right but where is it going in 25 years?"  
"We obviously can't tell city administration what to do, but in the meantime, we want to create a master plan for the core area."  
According to Dietrich, this core area begins as far south as Wascana Lake and ends at Albert Street. The entire area encompasses the downtown business core and surrounding district, and yards and a transition area that mixes residential with commercial properties.  
To provide an example of ideas to be scrutinized by the group, Dietrich says, "I've been at the University of Regina for nearly 25 years. This educational initiative is built on old community ties and nurtured by the City of Regina."  
"They released the balls and opened up a huge tract of land for development."



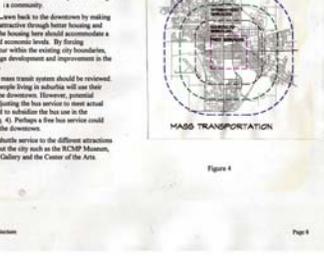
### Kurt Dietrich is involved in the newly formed Vision 20/20 project.

downstream information," Dietrich says. "If the CN rail lines in downtown Regina are allowed, what is going to happen to that huge tract of land?"  
After presenting his vision to City Hall administrators, Dietrich says he is not above hearing criticism backed by concrete arguments.  
"People are more than welcome to kick our ideas because, with a good idea, you have to be open to criticism," Dietrich says.  
"But he looks better than Forum Architecture members could work with city planners to develop the best plan for Regina's core area."  
"City planners work in our vein and we work in theirs," Dietrich says. "All the goals and visions may not line up but, if we pick a common goal, maybe we will meet somewhere. There is definitely nothing to lose."  
Gary Chaiting, the manager of the city's urban planning division, agrees with Dietrich and says he encourages any ideas coming from the public.  
"We always welcome input from the community," Chaiting says. "We encourage any ideas and will have a look at the plans they come up with."  
Forum Architecture plans to host a Vision 20/20 workshop tentatively set for early April. This workshop will bring together many sections of Regina's community including design professionals, civic planners, municipal politicians, special interest groups and city business groups.



## Local group peers into the future

By Vanessa Goodfellow, Free Press Reporter  
In 25 years, Regina may have a more pedestrian-friendly downtown, a state-of-the-art transit system that links all Regina's major areas, and a more vibrant downtown. These are just some of the ideas that Forum Architecture, a local group of architects, planners and interior designers, is developing for the city's core area.  
The workshop was hosted by Forum Architecture, which is a local group of architects, planners and interior designers who are graduate students of an interior design program at the University of Regina.  
It was attended by about 20 locals who have been involved in an earlier workshop in what Regina will look like in 25 years. These included city officials such as Mayor Doug Archer, a handful of residents, and representatives of Regina's Market Square and Regina Tourism & Development Agency (MRTA).  
Kurt Dietrich of Forum Architecture said the workshop was a success because it gave everyone, especially the young architects, an opportunity to put their ideas on the table and have them critiqued.  
"It was excellent," he said. "I had hoped beyond my expectations, I had hoped beyond my expectations, I had hoped beyond my expectations."



[kd@kdietrich.com](mailto:kd@kdietrich.com)  
[www.kdietrich.com](http://www.kdietrich.com)



# KURT DIETRICH

## Volunteer Efforts:

### Master Plan Development University of Regina Regina, Saskatchewan

Year	Organizational Group	Event	Host Group
1998	Forum Architecture	Design Charrette	University of Regina

## Description of Involvement:

My role in this process was the lead contact for Forum Architecture related to planning and carrying out the entire event. The agenda and content of the day long event was coordinated between the University of Regina and myself. I was responsible for organizing the members of F/A as well assigning members to the respective design groups. During the session, I acted as lead for the design group I participated in. Attendees at the Charrette included Senior Administration of the University, Staff of the Engineering and Planning Department, Faculty Deans and lead students, civic representatives and members of Forum Architecture.

## Event Resolution:

The event was carried out over a single work day session. The morning component was spent in review of the current available data and discussion between the assigned teams. The afternoon workshop included the design component along with group presentations of the design solutions. The results were highly successful in terms of design opportunities explored by all teams related to the future development of the University of Regina.

**CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT PLANNING  
DESIGN CHARRETTE 20 JANUARY 1998  
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS**

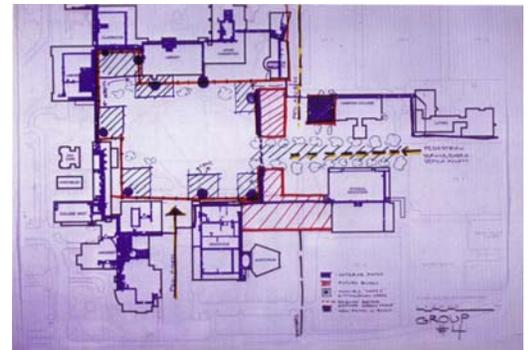
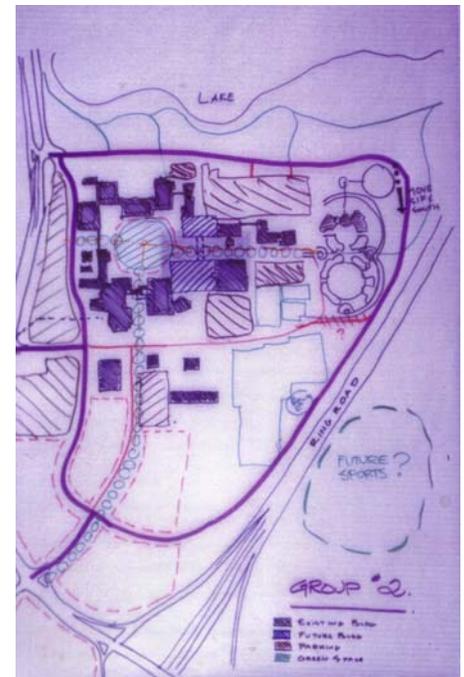
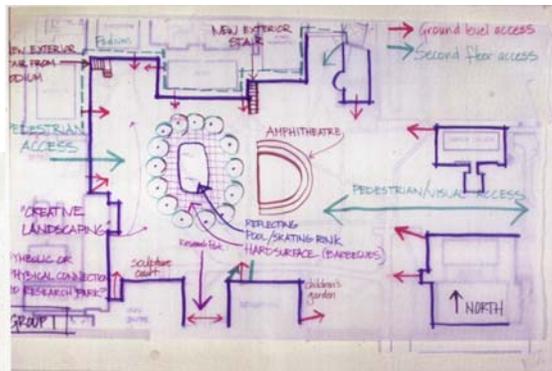
On 20 January 1998, the Campus Development Planning Steering Committee hosted a day long Public Briefing and Charrette. The goal of the event was two fold. First, to provide feedback to the University Community on campus planning developments thus far in the planning process (the first Public Meeting and a series of Special Interest Group Meetings had previously been conducted 24-26 November 1997). Second, and equally important and a key focus to the day, was to solicit formal feedback and input on campus planning options through a Design Charrette process.

The use of a Design Charrette to assist the planning process was suggested by Ray Gosselin, an architect, SIFC representative on the Campus Development Planning Steering Committee, and member of an informal not-for-profit group of professional architects in Regina who call themselves Forum Architecture. Forum Architecture volunteered to help the University in the public consultation process by acting as facilitators in the Design Charrette. The Charrette was a form of open brainstorming that allowed all interested participants an opportunity to comment on and explore different options for the future of the campus in a friendly and constructive manner. Forum Architecture members provided their planning experience, drawing skills, and facilitator capabilities to create the environment necessary to successfully draw out the pent up ideas within the University Community.

Page two of this document lists ideas for the Charrette Groups that were used to stimulate thought and provoke discussion. While these formed a starting point, the groups quickly developed their own themes and areas of interest. The daylong discussion is summarized in the following pages. The groups also presented their findings orally to the Consultants and Steering Committee, provoking even further discussion.

In all, the event was extremely successful. I would like to thank the following members of Forum Architecture for their volunteer assistance in this very worthwhile endeavour: Ray Gosselin, Kurt Dietrich, Reid Pattison, David Edwards, Sherri Shorten, James Youck, Lisa Thomas, Brian Babinsh and Rory Pocklyk. I would also like to thank the seventy University students, staff, faculty and supporters who attended the public meeting or Charrette, and provided valuable input to the Campus Planning Process.

Dave Button,  
Chair, Campus Planning Steering Committee



# KURT DIETRICH

## Volunteer Efforts:

**Architecture Goes To School**  
**(A component of the RAIC Festival of Architecture)**  
**Regina, Saskatchewan**

Year	Organizational Group	Event	Host Group
1998	Forum Architecture	Student School Project Design Activities	RAIC Festival Planning Committee

## Description of Involvement:

My role in this process was the lead contact for Forum Architecture related to planning and carrying out the entire event. The agenda and content of the event was developed by myself, Bob Croft and Celeste Croft, Principal of a local elementary school. My tasks included organizing the members of F/A and associated design professional as well as assigning members to the respective design groups. During the session, I acted as lead for the design group I participated in. Participants in the process included Civic Officials and Administration, Landscape Architects, Civic Planners, Educators and local Architectural professionals.

## Event Resolution:

This project was a multi-disciplinary effort involving eight schools in the Regina Area. The entire event spanned ten weeks with weekly meetings at each school and planning meetings of the organizing groups. The students were first assigned the task of compiling a civic poll on the importance, benefits and deficiencies in the existing Wascana Park area. The efforts of the students resulted in a redesign of the Wascana Park Area. A subsequent presentation and model were set-up in the Cornwall Centre Shopping Mall during Design Week in the Province of Saskatchewan. This effort was one component of the RAIC Festival of Architecture which was held in Regina in 1998.

