

# 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:

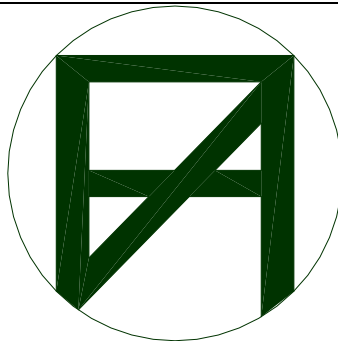
1997: Vision 20/20 (City of Regina Downtown Planning Charrette)

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 Goodall, 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 corporation of 15 local architects, interior designers and graphic designers with a passion for urban and residential architecture.

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 third-year student at 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 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 Wisconsin Lake and as north as 4th Avenue. Running east to west, it starts at Broad Street and ends at Albert Street. The entire area encompasses parks, the downtown business core, and residential streets 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, Forum Architecture is holding an old community planning initiative in April. This workshop will bring together many sections of Regina's community including design professionals, city planners, municipal politicians, special interest groups and city business groups."



Kurt Dietrich is involved in the newly formed Vision 2020 project.

downtown Edmonton," 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 believe that 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.

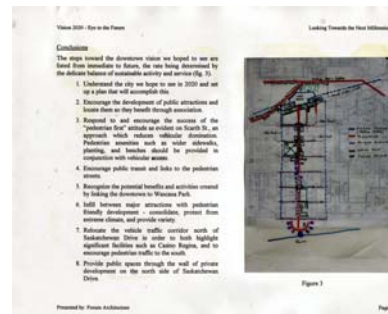
"We always welcome input from the community," Chaiting says. "We encourage any ideas and will have a look at the plans they come up with."

Forum Architecture plans to host a Vision 2020 workshop tentatively set for early April. This workshop will bring together many sections of Regina's community including design professionals, city planners, municipal politicians, special interest groups and city business groups.



2020 VISION

FORUM ARCHITECTURE



Vision 2020 - Eye on the Future

### CONCLUSIONS

The steps toward the downtown vision we hoped to see are listed from immediate to future, the one being determined by the ultimate balance of sustainable activity and service life. 5.

1. Utilize the site we hope to see in 2020 and set a plan that will accomplish that.
2. Encourage the development of public transit and locate them on the health through corridors.
3. Respond to and encourage the success of the "openness" that exists in downtown, as an approach which reduces vehicle dominance. Pedestrian amenities such as wider sidewalks, planting and benches should be provided in conjunction with vehicle access.
4. Encourage public transit and links to the pedestrian network.
5. Recognize the potential benefits and activities created by linking the downtown to Warehouse Park.
6. Build between major structures with pedestrian network elements - corridors, provide from street corners, and provide variety.
7. Reduce the vehicle traffic corridor north of Saskatchewan Street in order to both highlight significant facilities such as Centre Regina, and to encourage pedestrian traffic to the north.
8. Provide public space through the wall of private development on the south side of Saskatchewan Drive.

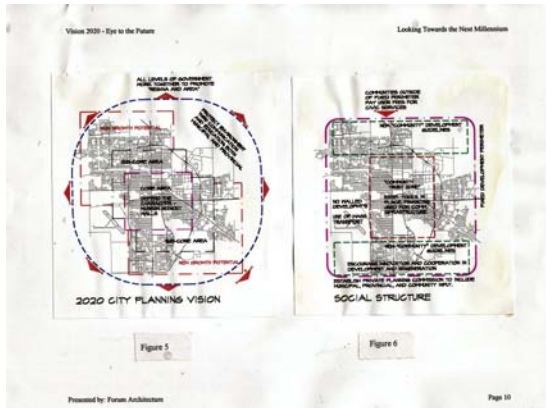
Presented by Forum Architecture

Looking Towards the West Millennium



Figure 1

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Vision 2020 - Eye on the Future

Looking Towards the West Millennium

2020 CITY PLANNING VISION

SOCIAL STRUCTURE

Figure 5

Figure 6

Presented by Forum Architecture



Vision 2020 - Eye on the Future

Looking Towards the West Millennium

MASS TRANSPORTATION

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 4

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to be controlled in such a way as to provide... Growth can not be stopped... some people will still drive new homes... 80% of the city... would Park be better incorporated into...? They could benefit from the... one would encourage development and investment in the more dense areas.

4. The stability of the mass transit system should be reinforced. In most cases the people living in suburbs will use their vehicles to get to the downtown. However, potential savings made by adjusting the bus service to meet actual needs could be used to subsidize bus use in the downtown area (i.e. Parkway or 5th Avenue could not be used with the downtown).
7. There should be a definite vision to the different structures dispersed throughout the city such as the RCMP Museum, the Macdonald Art Gallery and the Centre of the Arts.

kd@kdietrich.com  
www.kdietrich.com

## Local group peers into the future

By Vanessa Goodall, Free Press Reporter

In 25 years, Regina may have a more pedestrian-friendly downtown, a shared transit system that links all Regina's communities, plus other additions to improve transportation links throughout the city.

The hypothetical glimpse into the future of Regina was provided to all participants of a recent workshop called 2020 Vision: An Eye on the Future.

The workshop was hosted by Forum Architecture, which is a local group of architects, interior designers and graphic designers who are passionate about urban and residential architecture.



Participants of a design workshop thought up new ideas to plan Regina.

It was attended by about 20 locals who have a vested interest in our community 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 (MREDA).

Kurt Dietrich of Forum Architecture said the workshop was a chance for city planners, especially the young architects, an opportunity to get their ideas on the table and have them critiqued.

"It was excellent," he said. "I had hoped beyond my expectations, that I had a group of people who were well-versed in the subject of the workshop."

Dietrich says he was also impressed by the thoughts that came from the workshop.

"One thing that came up was the fact that transportation and pedestrian links are important."

"I thought it was very worthwhile and some groups came up with very clever ideas," he says. "It is a very big subject to deal with, but the project was well-organized."

Dietrich says Forum Architecture is planning to organize another design workshop within the year.

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## Volunteer Efforts:

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

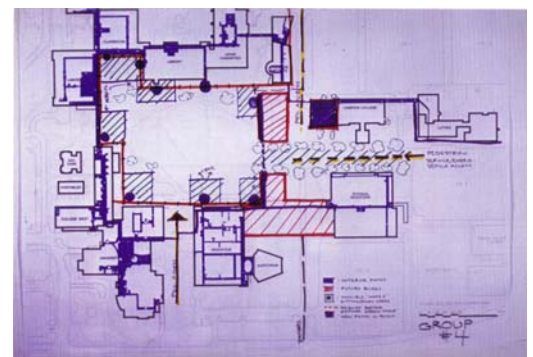
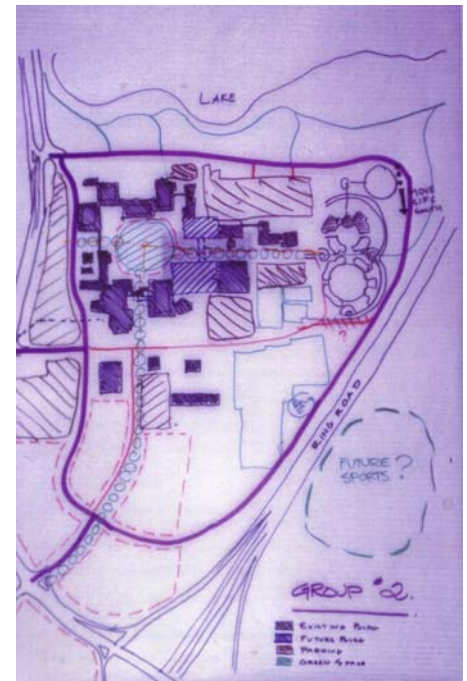
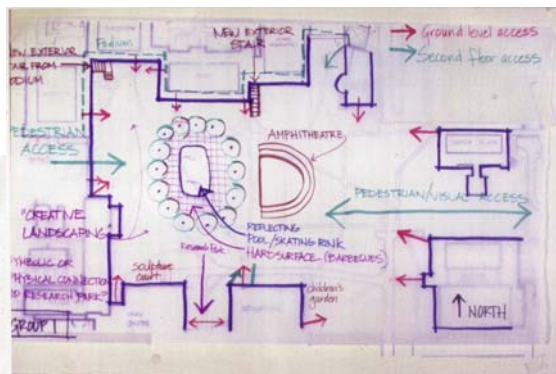
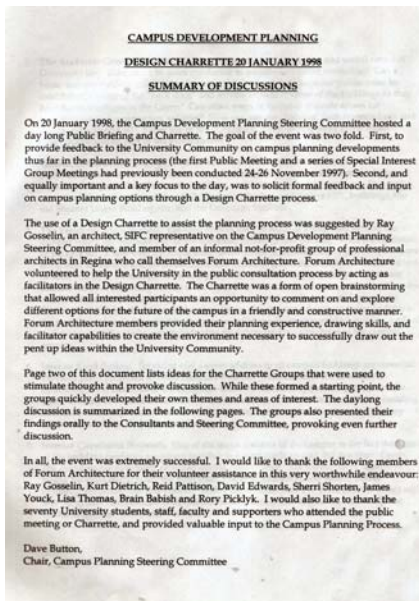
Year	Organizational Group	Event	Host Group
1998	Forum Architecture	Design Charrette	University of Regina

## 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.



# 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.

