

Joaquin Karakas

MA(Pl), MCIP

Senior Planner

Urban Designer



EDUCATION

2007

Master of Arts (Planning),
School of Community +
Regional Planning,
(Specialization in Urban Design),
The University of British Columbia

2003

Bachelor of Arts (1st Class Honours)
(Urban Geography),
Simon Fraser University

2003

Certificate in Urban Studies,
Simon Fraser University

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Full Member, Canadian
Institute of Planners

Biography

Joaquin is an experienced urban design planner with a focus on the co-creation of walkable, livable and low-carbon communities and neighbourhoods. His practice includes neighbourhood and site planning/design, integrated land use and active transportation planning, urban design research and analysis, housing policy, downtown vitalization and community sustainability planning. Joaquin has a passion for working closely with communities, stakeholders and other professionals using innovative and collaborative design workshop techniques to co-create the best possible solutions to complex planning and design challenges.

Joaquin has led numerous multi-disciplinary and integrated design/planning teams and processes including the Coquitlam City Centre Area Plan, the Chilliwack Downtown Development Plan, Austin Heights Neighbourhood Urban Design Plan, the Aldergrove Core Area Plan, and the Carvolth Neighbourhood T.O.D. Plan, to name a few. Joaquin's writing and research includes *Livable Lanes: a CMHC funded Laneway Housing Study*, a National Capital Region Foundation Paper on Housing and Affordability, and contributions to the book *Agricultural Urbanism: Hand Book for Building Sustainable Food and Agricultural Systems for 21st Century Cities*.

Joaquin is an experienced facilitator and public speaker and presents regularly on urban design issues. Joaquin is a Full Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners, a co-founder of the Healing Cities Working Group, and a past member of the Vancouver City Planning Commission."

Select Project Experience

URBAN DESIGN / NEIGHBOURHOOD and SITE PLANNING

- Whistle Bend Neighbourhood Plan, City of Whitehorse
- Langley Exchanges - Concept Design and Area Plans (TransLink)
- Carvolth Business Park Area Plan, Township of Langley
- Mid-Rise Wood Frame Study, City of Prince George
- Westbank Centre Plan, District of West Kelowna
- Downtown Design Guidelines, City of Prince George
- Austin Heights Urban Design Plan, City of Coquitlam
- Downtown Aldergrove Urban Design and Planning Program, Township of Langley

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2011 – Present

Senior Planner, Urban Designer
HB Lanarc - Golder
Vancouver, BC

2009 – 2011

Planner, Urban Designer,
Project Manager,
HB Lanarc Consultants Ltd.
Vancouver, BC

2007 – 2008

Junior Urban Design Planner,
Holland Barrs Planning Group,
Vancouver, BC

2005 – 2007

Planning Analyst,
Holland Barrs Planning Group,
Vancouver, BC

2004 – 2005

Research Intern,
Vancouver City Planning Commission

2004 – 2005

Research Assistant,
Disaster Reduction Research Center,
The University of British Columbia

- Downtown Charrette and DPA Design Guidelines, Town of Smithers
- Downtown Land Use and Development Plan, City of Chilliwack
- City Centre ALRT Design Guidelines, City of Coquitlam
- Downtown Design Guidelines, City of Prince Rupert
- Bow River Pedestrian Bridge, City of Banff

COMMUNITY PLANNING

- Official Community Plan Update, Town of Smithers
- City of Prince George OCP
- Official Community Plan Update, District of Central Saanich
- Town Centre Concept Plan Development, City of Coquitlam
- Gospel Rock Neighbourhood Plan, Town of Gibson

CHARRETTES / DESIGN WORKSHOPS / PRESENTATIONS

- Architecture on the Edge – Director’s Cut Charrette Facilitator, AIBC
- Westbank Centre Design Charrette, District of West Kelowna
- Smart Growth on the Ground: Downtown Charrette, City of Prince George
- Mid-Rise Woodframe Community Design Workshop, City of Prince George
- Carvolth Charrette, Langley Township
- Shannon Mews Design Workshop, City of Vancouver
- Great Streets Charrette with Allan Jacobs, City of Coquitlam
- Aldergrove Core Area Charrette, Langley Township
- Smart Growth on the Ground Charrette, City of Prince George
- Austin Heights Design Charrette, City of Coquitlam
- Downtown Charrette, Town of Smithers
- Fairmont Hotsprings Resort Community Design Charrette
- Gospel Rock Community Design Charrette

HOUSING STUDIES + POLICY

- Housing Inventory and Analysis, Town of Smithers
- Housing Capacity Study, District of Central Saanich
- Housing Study, City of Terrace
- *Livable Lanes*: CMHC Laneway Infill Housing Study
- Housing Policy Policy Advisor on numerous OCPs
- Town of Revelstoke Housing Workshop

CONFERENCES + SPEAKING EVENTS

- PIBC annual conference presenter: Urban Design Engagement and Facilitation
- Healing Cities Conference organizer and presenter
- Affordability by Design Housing Conference co-organizer and presenter
- Numerous Residential Infill Workshops