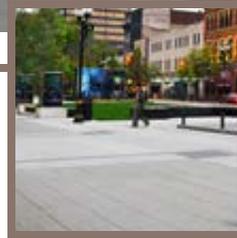


ARCHITECTURAL HARDSCAPE

GORE PEDESTRIANIZATION INITIATIVE; VETERANS' PLACE *Pedestrian Promenade*



PROJECT CREDITS

OWNER

The City of Hamilton, Landscape Architectural Services

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

The MBTW Group

ENGINEER OF RECORD

AECOM

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

UCC Group Inc.

MATERIAL SUPPLIER

Essroc Ready Mix, Italcementi Group

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS

- Carpenters Local 18 & Local 27
- City of Hamilton – Public Works
- Grace Canada
- LIUNA Local 837

PROJECT FACTS

LOCATION

Hamilton, Ontario

PROJECT TYPE

Pavement

CONSTRUCTION TIME

June 2014 to November 2014

PROJECT SIZE

- 7m wide by 102m in length;
- 780m² of roadway pavement;
- 200mm thickness c/w 152 x 152 wire mesh reinforcement

MIX DESIGN

Normal 32 C2

SURFACE TREATMENT

- Smooth Band Finish – specialized craftsman trowelled finish
- Soft Field Finish – Grace Topcast 05 Exposed Finish, to replicate sandblast finish paving, 10 minutes exposure
- Crosswalk Finish – light broom

SAWCUTTING/JOINTING

Running bond pattern,
500mm x 1000mm





The Gore Pedestrianization Initiative

In 2008 the City of Hamilton initiated the “Gore Pedestrianization Initiative”. The goal of the Initiative was to “successfully address the current functional requirements of the Gore Area and to help The Gore take this next step in its continuing evolution, by finding a physical form that captures, reflects and celebrates the inherent essence of the space, and ‘puts people first’.” This forward thinking endeavour included the repurposing of the south leg of King Street into a Pedestrian Promenade which visually and physically ties together all three blocks of the Gore Area. Through a rigorous community engagement and internal consensus building process, a single vision for the Gore Area evolved that balanced the community’s and city’s objectives for a high quality, meaningful and Hamilton-specific public realm.

Veterans’ Place, embedded in the centre of Gore’s three city blocks, was selected as Phase One of the Initiative as significant positive changes were needed to address the safety, inclusiveness, sustainability and programming objectives for the site and to establish and reinforce the envisioned personality for the Gore Area. Changes to the area include the construction of the Pedestrian Promenade within the former south King Street right-of-way, the relocated heritage Cenotaph, an open green and a series of new complementary interpretive memorial features that include a free-standing memorial wall, a heritage panel and nine double-sided memorial enclaves. The implementation of Veterans’ Place has had a significant impact on the character of the Gore and has become a catalyst and contributor for further positive change.

The Pedestrian Promenade

The Pedestrian Promenade was the key organizing feature of the Veterans’ Place redevelopment. Through community and stakeholder engagement early in the design process it was identified that the Promenade was to be constructed of high quality, pedestrian textured and scaled material that would complement the heritage nature of the downtown area while establishing a new urban design language for future redevelopment phases. Through thorough best practices, design and costing investigations, it was determined that natural concrete pavement, coupled with the creative use of surface treatments and saw-cutting, would best meet the objectives of the City, stakeholders and the community. Utilizing concrete would:

- Minimize long term maintenance;
- Minimize replacement costs;
- Minimize replacement material colour matching and sourcing;

- Minimize differential settlement causing tripping hazards;
- Reduce the urban heat island in the Gore Park area effect due to light colouring; and
- Create an easily sourced design palette for future phases.

The Pedestrian Promenade Solution

To create the pedestrian scaled texture within the Pedestrian Promenade, a series of bands and fields were created by finishing the concrete in alternating patterns of smooth finished bands and ‘soft’ finished fields. The finished areas were further broken down by applying a running bond pattern of saw-cut joints to emulate the look of large unit pavers. Crosswalks were treated with the City standard light-broom finish.

The finishing patterning was further explored through the creation of mock-ups during the construction process so the team could determine the appropriate methodology for installing the concrete and how best to apply the various surface finishes which included the application of chemical release agents (sandblasting in the downtown core is not permitted) and masking, trowelling and light-broom finishing. The team also needed to confirm if the contrast between the smooth and soft finishing would be enough to mimic a difference in materiality without having to add pigment to the concrete.

Methodology

To implement this collection of textures, the banding elements were constructed first and finished with specialized craftsman trowelled finish. With the banding areas protected, the field area construction followed including the application of the Topcast finishing. Quality control was maintained across the adjacent pours of the field areas, while keeping a tight timeline so that panels cured in a cohesive fashion. With this professional level finishing, the team was able to provide the varied effects to meet design intent, and yet it was a cost effective solution for the City of Hamilton. The design aesthetic of large slab unit paving is achieved, but with a solid, heavy duty load rating for bus, truck and loading vehicle traffic, without the risk of paving settlement or shifting.

Due to the success of this application, the City intends to continue the use of concrete as the Pedestrian Promenade Paving Material for the next two phases of the Gore Pedestrianization Initiative.

