

Almost a very different city

All this week, *24 hours* will be looking at four unbuilt projects that almost became Toronto landmarks and what effect they would have had on our city.

Imagine a Toronto with a three-tier tower in the skyline. Or a PATH system featuring cars instead of people. How about a waterfront with a 400-foot crystal pyramid just off the lake.

All these projects were just a few of the dozens of planned developments that almost shaped the city.

Two years ago, OCAD graduate David Kopulos uncovered several almost-forgotten projects that were never seen through while re-researching his final thesis project dubbed *Toronto Pending*.

Kopulos chose several unbuilt projects and created interpretive paintings and designs of what the concepts would've looked like.

"One of my goals was to show people how close we've come to having a very different Toronto ... and it really shows how much of our identity as a city comes from what's built," said Kopulos, 24.

"Just one political decision or one financing decision or just one fluke of political winds that were blowing really changed the face of the city."

Mark Osbaldeston, a tax lawyer and author, recently released a book, *Unbuilt Toronto*, which looks at several projects that almost made their impression on the Toronto skyline. An exhibit of the same title was also recently held at the Royal Ontario Museum.

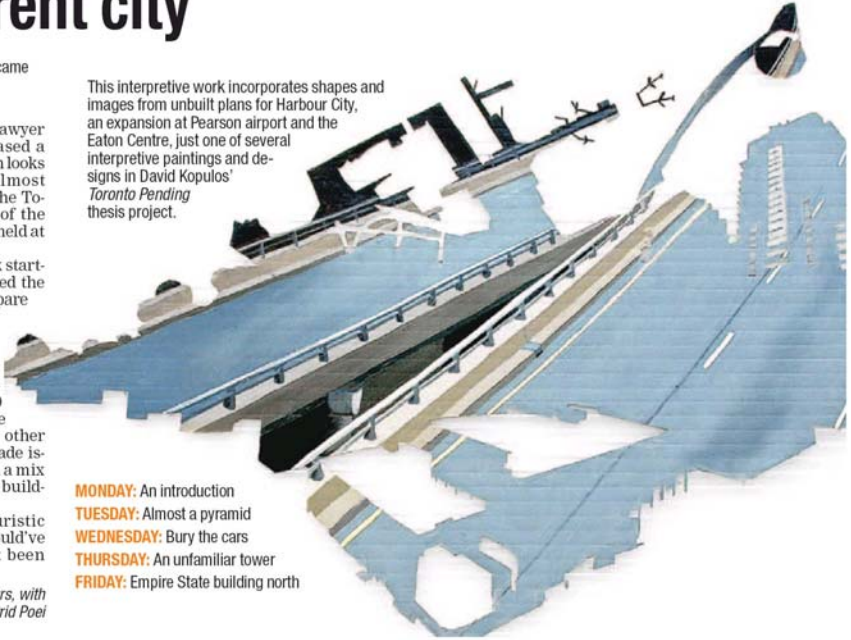
Osbaldeston said the book started as a hobby. He researched the unfinished projects in his spare time.

One of the projects both Kopulos and Osbaldeston said would've dramatically changed the city was Harbour City, proposed in 1970 and shut down in 1972. The plan was to create a whole other city on a number of man-made islands on Lake Ontario, with a mix of housing and commercial buildings for 60,000 people.

"It would've been a futuristic Venice," Kopulos said. "I would've loved to live there had it been built."

— Rosalyn Solomon, *24 hours*, with files from Astrid Poel

This interpretive work incorporates shapes and images from unbuilt plans for Harbour City, an expansion at Pearson airport and the Eaton Centre, just one of several interpretive paintings and designs in David Kopulos' *Toronto Pending* thesis project.



MONDAY: An introduction
TUESDAY: Almost a pyramid
WEDNESDAY: Bury the cars
THURSDAY: An unfamiliar tower
FRIDAY: Empire State building north