



**City of Richmond**

**Report to Committee**

**To:** Planning Committee  
**From:** Terry Crowe  
Manager, Policy Planning  
**Re:** **GARDEN CITY ROAD EXTENSION - ART AT THE INTERSECTION PROJECT**

*To Planning - June 3, 2003*  
**Date:** May 22, 2003  
**File:** 7000-09-20-022

**Staff Recommendation**

That Council:

- 1) Endorse an allocation of \$70,000 from the 2003 Public Art Program for the creation of a public art project along Sea Island Way (as presented in the report dated May 22, 2003 from the Manager, Policy Planning).
- 2) Instruct staff to implement the installation of the Art At The Intersection Project (as presented in the report dated May 22, 2003 from the Manager, Policy Planning).

Terry Crowe  
Manager, Policy Planning

Att. 5

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Engineering .....	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Parks Design, Construction & Programs..	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Finance.....	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	

## Staff Report

### Origin

On Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2002, Council endorsed a recommendation “that the administrative support costs required in connection with the “Art at the Intersection – An Environmental Art Project” be approved to a maximum of \$5,000”. During the fall of 2002, staff executed the public art call for artist submissions.

This report presents the outcome of the Art at the Intersection” artist call, the selected artist and artwork for Council’s consideration and endorsement.

### Findings Of Fact

One of the major focus areas outlined in the City Council’s 2002-2005 term priorities is “Ensuring a Vibrant City Centre through Design”.

*The design and development of Richmond’s City Centre plays an important role in establishing Richmond as a key urban centre, attracting economic growth, development and business investment...the City has the opportunity to create and guide an overall vision for a vibrant city core. As well, the City has the opportunity to proactively influence the design of strategic locations and to set a standard for ongoing development.*

### Garden City Road Extension Project

The City has identified several gateway locations that will be developed to project a sense of community identity and of Richmond as “the most appealing, liveable, well managed community in Canada”. The prominence of this Garden City Road, Bridgeport and Sea Island Way intersection is in the important linkages it provides. This intersection is one such gateway, and the integration of an environmental artwork project as part of the planned intersection works would showcase the entry into Richmond.

### Public Art Call & Selection

On July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2002, the “Art at the Intersection” artist call for entry was initiated (**Attachment 1**).

The Public Art Commission panel reviewed twenty artist submissions over a two stage process lasting a three month period.

The panel was made up of:

- Ricarda McDonald (artist),
- Don Wouri (landscape architect)
- Norm Couttie (developer),
- Lisa Colby (resident), and
- Barbara Zeigler (artist and resident) was formed and reviewed twenty (20) artist submissions over a two stage process lasting a three month period.

### Artwork

The panel selected Artist Dwight Atkinson and his artwork titled "Yet Another Way To Know That You Have Arrived in Richmond" (**Attachment 2**).

Dwight Atkinson, the artist, notes that the artwork:

*"Brings a new symbolism to Richmond, ten vine covered columns form a grand colonnade recalling the grand procession of the victorious warrior. Enhanced with a geometric landscape plinth, each column of vines grows skyward, culminating in a decorative metal capital.*

*Located flanking Sea Island Way west of Garden City, the colonnade addresses the larger, 'urban' scale. It is an experience for motorists: vehicles will rush between the columns and sense the pulse of an older civilization while overshadowed with greenery inspired by Richmond's 'Garden City' theme."*

### Public Art Description, Siting & Phasing

#### *Description*

The artwork consists of ten (10) 7 metre high (or the height of a standard City light post) and 1.25 metre wide trellis artwork columns (column design drawing shown as **Attachment 3**). Outside of each trellis column, vines will be permitted to grow to create green gateway image that will present a different appearance to the passing public during the daylight and night time hours and the changing seasons.

Each column will include a light at the base that will illuminate the artwork at night. The light will not interfere with driving safety. A metal sculptured crown presents the column top.

#### *Phasing*

The artwork consists of two phases:

- Phase 1: The installation of ten (10) trellis columns placed along Sea Island Way traffic island and the northern street edge, just west of Garden City Road (at the shaded area noted on **Attachment 4**), which will be implemented immediately, and
- Phase 2: The installation of up to sixteen (16) trellis artwork columns at the location (**Attachment 4**) will be undertaken, if funds are available at the completion of the Garden City Road Extension Budget

This project has involved considerable presentations and discussions involving City staff from Engineering, Parks, Transportation and Urban Development. Staff will work directly with the artist during implementation to address any transportation, engineering or other technical issues. The Ministry of Transportation will also continue to be involved as Sea Island Way is under Provincial jurisdiction.

The completed project will be located on City land and will be owned by the City.

## **Financial Impact**

The total project budget for the Art At The Intersection Project is presented in **Attachment 5**. None of the proposed intersection road work is to be funded by the proposed new casino. The new casino will fund the new road work north of Bridgeport Road.

### Phase 1

The total cost of proposed artwork is \$128,000 (\$58,000 will come out of the Garden City Road Extension Budget endorsed by Council as part of the 2002 Capital Plan, and \$70,000 from the 2003 Public Art Program).

### *Operating Impact*

The annual artwork maintenance cost per year is \$5,800 (\$400 per column for vine maintenance, and \$1,800 for surrounding area landscape maintenance).

### Phase 2

If funds are available at the completion of the Garden City Road Extension Project Budget (endorsed by Council as part of the 2002 Capital Plan), up to 16 additional trellis artwork columns (e.g. to a maximum of \$220,900) will be added and installed (i.e. locations noted on **Attachment 4**).

### *Operating Impact*

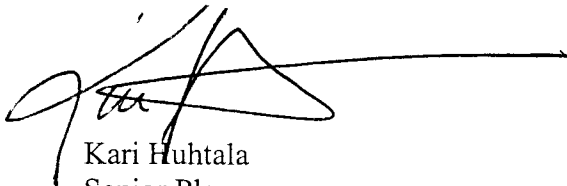
The annual maintenance cost per year is \$9,100 (\$400 per column vine maintenance, and \$2,700 surround area landscape maintenance).

The total annual maintenance cost per year for phase 1 and 2 is \$14,900.

It is noted that the new intersection design will include sufficient landscape in addition to the artwork, which will require annual maintenance as is, whether or not the artwork is included.

## **Conclusion**

“The Art at the Intersection” provides an exciting ever changing entry into Richmond for visitors and Richmond residents, one that will show case its garden city roots.



Kari Huhtala  
Senior Planner  
(4188)

KEH:cas



***ART AT THE INTERSECTION***  
***AN ENVIRONMENTAL ART PROJECT***

***PHASE ONE: CALL FOR AN ARTIST/ARTIST TEAM***

The City of Richmond Public Art Program  
invite artists to present submissions of interest for the  
development  
of an environmental artwork project as part of the Garden City,  
Sea Island Way & Bridgeport Road intersections.

*Submission due: Monday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2002*

*For more information, please contact  
Kari Huhtala at 604 276-4188 or  
Email [khuhtala@city.richmond.bc.ca](mailto:khuhtala@city.richmond.bc.ca)*

## **Invitation for Artist/Artist Team Submission**

Artists and artist teams are invited to participate in a two-stage competition to provide a site-specific work of public art as part of the extension of Garden City Road at Bridgeport Road, under the terms of reference. Each artist/team is limited to one entry. All information about the project is contained herein.

## **Art at the Intersection – Artist Opportunity**

### Project Introduction & Description

The extension of Garden City Road at its north end through to Bridgeport Road will establish an important connection and provide an alternative route of travel to No. 3 Road. The intersection will be raised in prominence to become a significant gateway into Richmond (see attached intersection design).

The City of Richmond is seeking artwork that:

- reveals the inter-relationship of environment and urban life,
- is site specific,
- integrates art and landscape,
- celebrates community identity,
- commemorates community history,
- responds to the character and function of the site, the history and culture of the community, and
- is ecologically grounded.

The City of Richmond is seeking artwork that reveals the inter-relatedness of environment and urban life, that is site specific integrating art and landscape, and that celebrates community identity and commemorates community history. The artwork should respond to the character and function of the site, the history and culture of the community, and be ecologically grounded.

The artist should be site oriented and be prepared to work in a collaborative fashion with the Public Art Commission Project Committee and with City staff. The artwork will become integral to the project so that the landscape and the artwork will be mutually supportive. The design of the landscape and streetscape elements, which frame the intersection, will be developed in collaboration with the artwork. Given the collaborative approach, no specific location for the artwork has been identified. The artist will be required to work within the constraints of traffic safety, durability, and ease of maintenance.

### Site Description

The road works cover approximately 200 metres along Garden City Road and 200 metres along Sea Island Way as well as a new intersection at Garden City and Bridgeport Road. The landscape and streetscape elements will occur in the medians as well as the street edges. The site has a complex network of influences; the urban infrastructure of power transmission lines, a sewage pumping station, and transportation corridors, as well as a diversity of surrounding land uses such as multi-family housing, hotels, a gas station and retail outlets.

In order to extend Garden City Road to Bridgeport, a land exchange has been arranged to relocate a gas station to the east side of Garden City. The BC hydro transmission line crosses the

intersection in a north/south direction and the GVRD sewage pump station is located near the NW corner of Garden City and Bridgeport.

The prominence of this intersection is in the important linkages it provides. The exit off Highway 99 brings traffic past a "Welcome to Richmond" sign onto Sea Island Way which is a primary route to the airport. The City has identified several gateway locations that will be developed to project a sense of community identity and of Richmond as "the most appealing, liveable, well managed community in Canada".

### Artist's Scope of Work

The artist will be required to design, fabricate, and supervise the installation of a highly visible artwork, earthworks, or series of artworks.

The artist's responsibilities include:

1. A start-up meeting to discuss conceptual ideas will begin the project.
2. The artist will be responsible for any background research required.
3. One or more meetings with City staff (Parks and Engineering) to review the concept.
4. Presentation of the concept to the Public Art Project Steering Committee.
5. Preparation of drawings, maquettes, or any other materials necessary for public display.
6. Development of the details for fabrication and installation for City review.
7. On-site supervision during installation.
8. Ongoing maintenance program.

The City's responsibilities include:

1. Logistical support and assistance to the artist to achieve a successful project outcome.
2. Preparation of a site analysis plan identifying the opportunities and constraints of the site.
3. Provision of any site-specific information required.
4. Evaluation of the artwork for traffic safety, public safety, and maintenance.
5. All site works including installation of artwork.

### **Budget**

The total budget available to the artist(s) or artist team, inclusive of all expenses (including GST), will be \$22,000. The budget for the development of environmental artwork will be \$50,000 to \$75,000+/- to be allocated out of the Garden City Road Extension Improvement Budget.

### **Eligibility**

This two-phase artist competition call is open to professional artists. Ongoing communication between the selected artist is a requirement of this project. Artists who reside outside of Greater Vancouver should be within a reasonable commuting distance.

### **Selection Panel & Process**

The process of selecting the final artist(s)/team for the project will occur in two stages by the selection panel. The selection panel will be comprised of up to three members from the artistic community, an independent architect/landscape architect, area resident, and/or businessperson. City staff will act as resources to the Panel.

The Panel will review all submissions and shortlist up to a maximum of four artist(s)/teams to Phase 2 of the Section Process to provide a detailed description of a conceptual artwork approach, to include:

- The framework within which the site influences and expresses community identity, entry and place,
- Materials key to promoting an identifiable works for the passing public,
- Kind of symbolism relevant to the location as an entry point to Richmond,
- Examples of previous relevant artistic work, and
- Other related information.

Note:

- Each short listed artist/ team will be required to attend a pre-arranged short design charette (1 to 2 hours) with a staff team (Parks, Engineering and Planning) to discuss the site, its challenges and opportunities, prior to the “conceptual artwork approach” being presented to the Panel.
- The purpose of the “conceptual artwork approach” presentation is for the short listed artist/team to demonstrate their artistic ideas and imagination, approach, skills, appropriateness, and feasibility of implementation to the Panel, and to demonstrate their abilities for a collaborative approach.

The short listed artist(s)/teams will be paid a fee of \$500.

Following the short listed interview/presentation, the panel will recommend one artist/team for the project. The recommended artist/team must be prepared to design an artwork in collaboration with the design team and see it completed and installed within the time as agreed with the project developer, or their representative.

## **Selection Process & Criteria**

### Phase 1 Artist(s)/Team Review

- Compliance with the competition requirements.
- Artist/team previous experience, including artistic achievements.
- Imagination and artistic merit.

### Phase 2 Short Listed Artist Review

- Appropriateness proposed artistic approach to the site.
- Imagination and artistic merit.
- Feasibility in implementation.
- Artist Interview and discussion
- Examples of relevant artist work.
- The artist’s ability to work co-operatively with interdisciplinary City design team.

The Panel will select the artist/team, which in their judgement, best meets the above criteria.



**Submission Requirements for Phase 1**

- A **typed statement**, which introduces ideas you would like to develop at the intersection and how these ideas relate to your art practice (**2-page maximum**).
- Curriculum vitae or **resume of past work**, including any public art commissions.
- A **sleeve of up to 10 labelled slides** showing previous artistic work experience, accompanied by a slide list.
- A 9 X 12 **self addressed stamped** envelope.

**The submission deadline for Stage 1 is 5:00 PM, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2002.**

**Schedule for Artist Selection & Project Development**

- Terms of reference available June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2002
- *Artist Information meeting* *July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2002, 6 PM, with design team,  
Richmond City, Meeting Room*
- Deadline for submission of interest July 22<sup>th</sup>, 2002, 5 PM
- Selection of short listed artist(s)/team July 25<sup>th</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2002
- Presentation of Proposed Approach Stage 2 & Selection of artist(s)/team August 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2002
- Artist/City Agreement signed September, 2002
- Artwork Design Phase Summer/Fall, 2002
- Project Construction Winter/Spring, 2002/2003

**Mail or Drop Submission to:**

Kari Huhtala  
City of Richmond  
6911 No. 3 Road  
Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

**Or, email submissions to:**  
khuhtala@city.richmond.bc.ca

**Contract**

A contract between the recommended artist or team and the City will be drawn up. The contract will include a schedule of payment and fabrication and installation. The budget for the commission must include all costs including artist’s fees, other fees, GST, insurance fabrication, delivery, installation, clean up, and any consultant’s fees. The artist or team will also be expected to produce regular progress reports to the City.

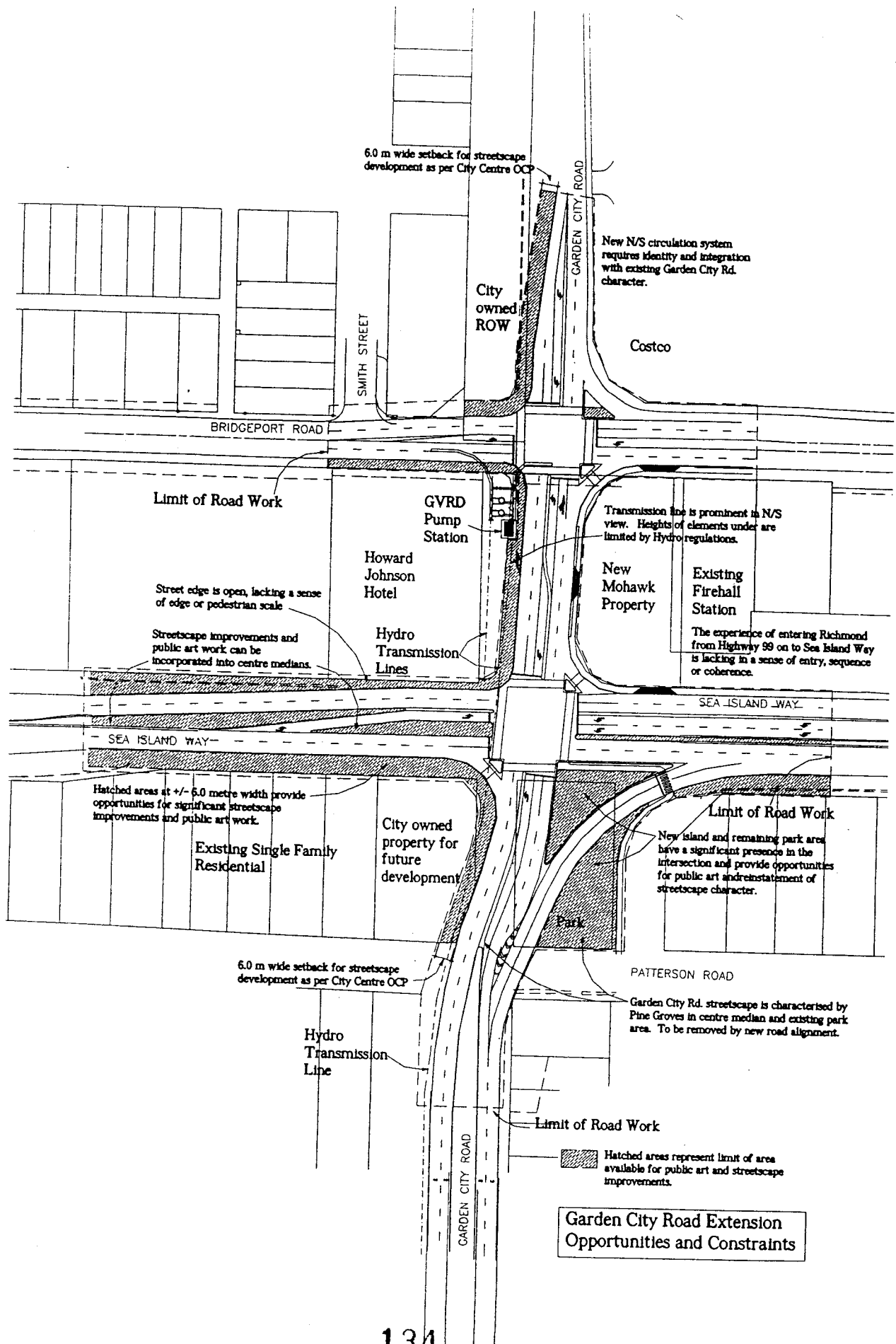
The final work and requisite documentation will become the property of the City. At project completion, the artist will provide the City with a detailed art documentation report, as listed in the Richmond Public Art Program Report (copy available from the City of Richmond).

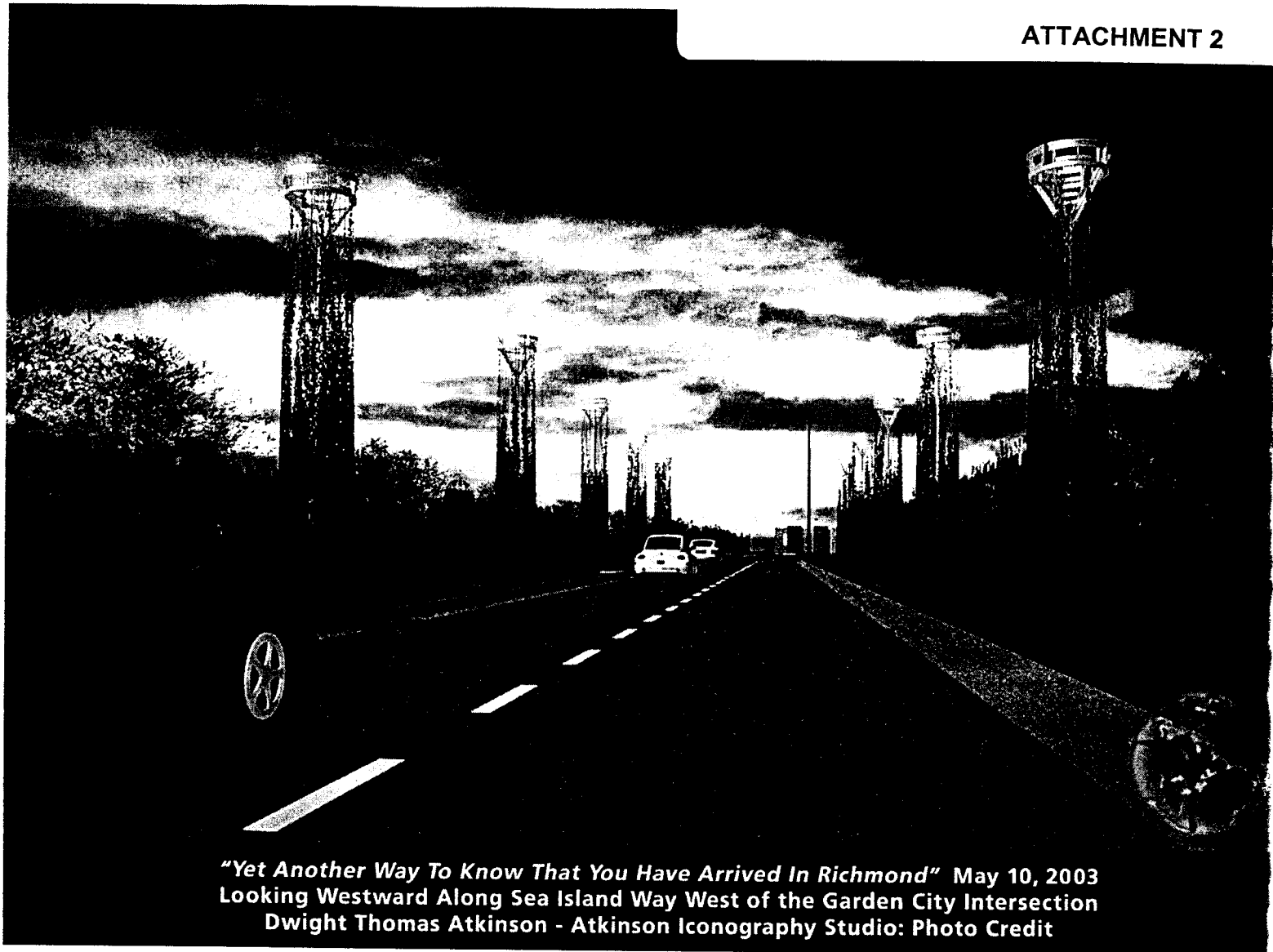
### **Confidentiality**

All information provided to, or created, the artist/team and selection panel shall be considered confidential until such time as it has been released or made public by the City of Richmond.

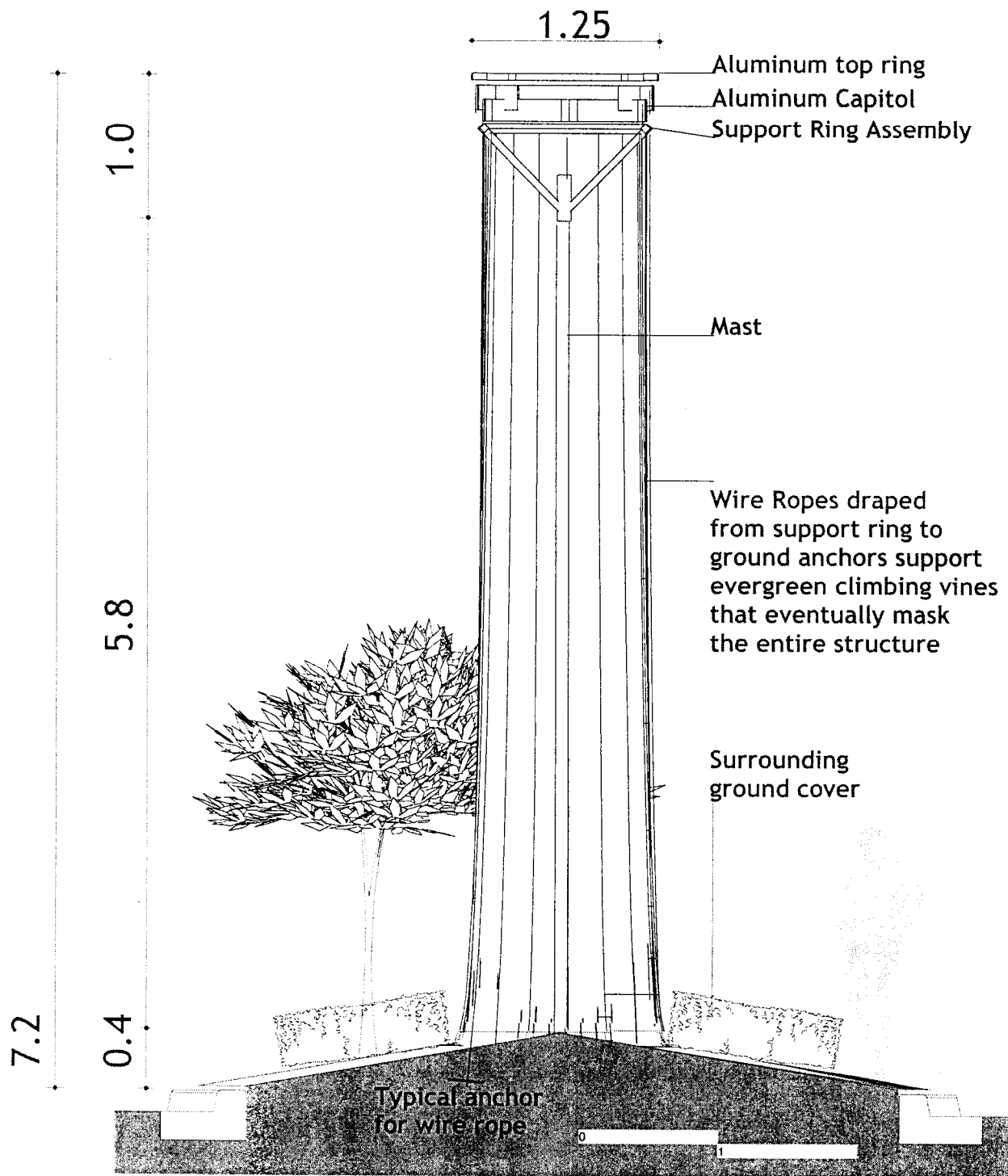
### **Project Information & Contacts**

- Jamie Esko, Parks, Recreation & Culture (604-233-3311) [jesko@city.richmond.bc.ca](mailto:jesko@city.richmond.bc.ca)
- Robert Gonzales, Engineering & Public Works (604-276-4150)  
[rgonzales@city.richmond.bc.ca](mailto:rgonzales@city.richmond.bc.ca)
- Kari Huhtala, City of Richmond (604-276-4188) or email [khuhtala@city.richmond.bc.ca](mailto:khuhtala@city.richmond.bc.ca)

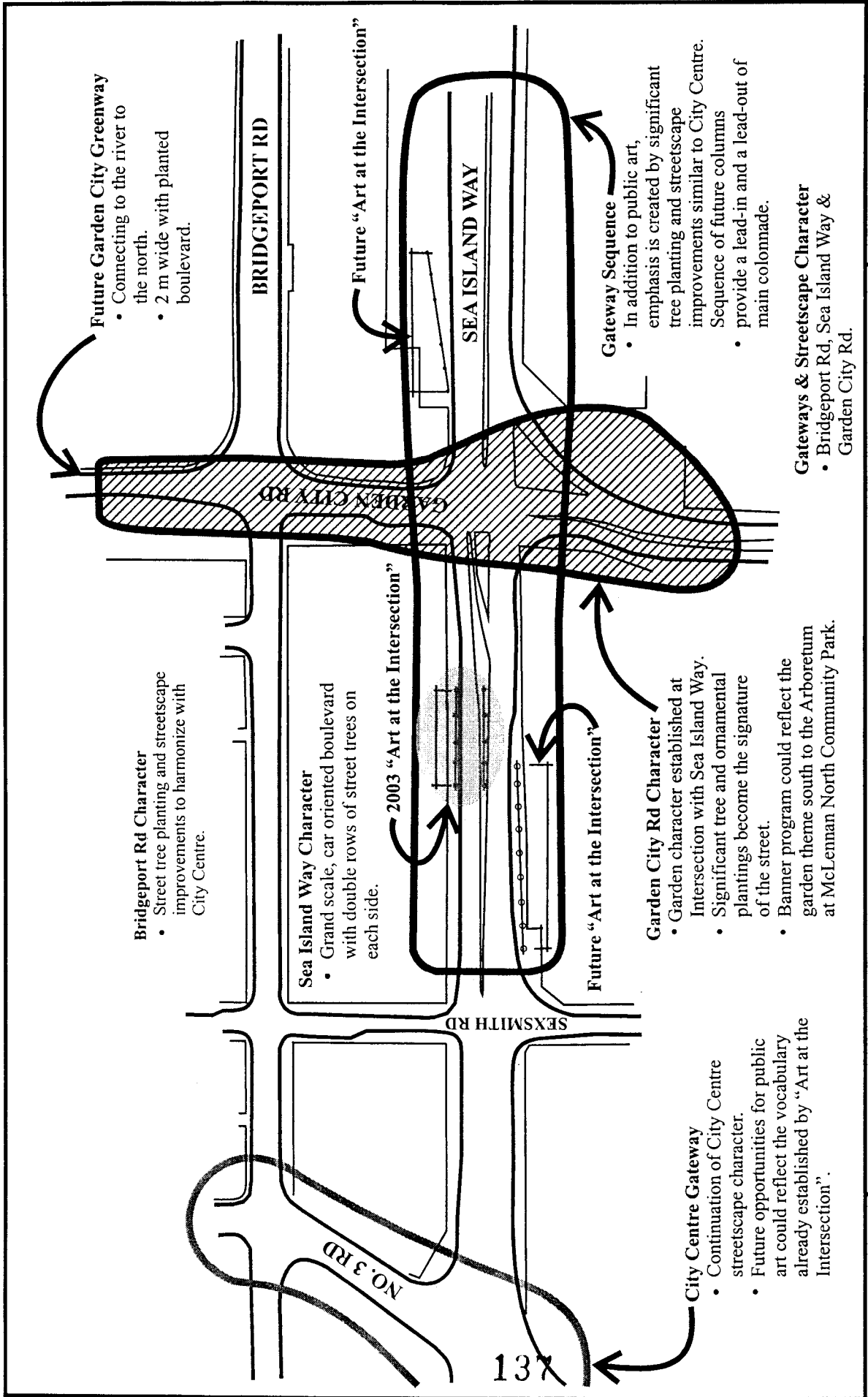




*"Yet Another Way To Know That You Have Arrived In Richmond"* May 10, 2003  
Looking Westward Along Sea Island Way West of the Garden City Intersection  
Dwight Thomas Atkinson - Atkinson Iconography Studio: Photo Credit



**Cross Section Of One Tower Through Median:  
"Yet Another Way To Know That You Have Arrived In Richmond"**



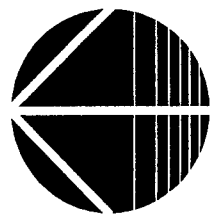
Original Date: 04/15/03

Revision Date:

Note: Dimensions are in METRES

# Art at the Intersection

## Sea Island Way & Garden City Road



Cost Estimate Art At Intersection 03 05 26

This estimate describes an urban art proposal created in two phases  
 The proposal includes the foundation, support mast, crown and suspended cable  
 includes Taxes

**TRELLIS COLUMNS**

**Crown - Cash Allowance to Artist**  
 including fittings, finish and draping cables for vine climbing  
 guaranteed sum 5300

**Support Mast and Foundation - part of a separate contract**  
 includes erection 2900  
 estimated by Richmond staff  
 mastsized and priced by Western  
 Total Each 8200

**PHASE ONE: The Initial Ten**

Crowns and Masts 10 82000  
 Verify Mast and crown engineering design 1605

**Add Electrical:**  
 Supply underground electrical power  
 nominal load - unspecified 90 17100  
 190 metres

Electrical Engineering - layout and design 2500  
 Adaptable uplights 10 20000

Artist Uplight design and prototyping 4000  
 lighting total 43600  
 Phase 1 127205

**PHASE TWO: The Additional Sixteen**

Crowns and Masts 16 131200  
 Artist Additional Site Administration 10700  
 Artist Overall Design and licensing fee 22000

**Add Electrical:**  
 Supply underground electrical power  
 nominal load - unspecified 90 22500  
 250 metres  
 Electrical Engineering - layout and design 2500

Adaptable uplights 16 32000  
 lighting total 57000

<b>Grand Total</b>
<b>348105</b>

Phase 2 220900

## ***“Yet Another Way To Know That You Have Arrived In Richmond.”***

Proposed in two phases, these trellis towers facilitate the growth of climbing vines, culminating in a colonnade flanking the traffic lanes of Sea Island Way for several blocks West of Highway 99. Selected from an international short-list of competing proposals, this proposal best satisfied the three criteria for the art project:

1: *Urban Scale:* In view of Sea Island Way becoming a “parkway” – a simple road free of pedestrians and driveways for the funneling of vehicles, any gesture should be big. BIG!

2: *Relation to Richmond’s Garden City theme:* The mythology of Richmond is that of moist green fields being skillfully transformed into a Garden City. The underlying theme of urban improvements should show a nurturant relationship between humanity and nature – something we build to help plants grow!

3: *Pragmatic Program:*

Safety- considering the proximity to high-speed traffic, numerous constraints are placed on road improvements to ensure crash protection, the visibility of other traffic and a visually quiet environment to promote trouble-free navigation - motorists must have a smooth experience without jarring surprises. Traffic engineers agree that these simple towers meet the safety needs of the motoring public.

Durability – Artwork in the urban environment receives a number of insults, intentional and otherwise. The capitals are made from welded aluminum coated with a clear alopahatic coating resistant to road salt and other corrosive stuff that could, say, fall from the sky. The artist should understand difficult environments.

### **The Substance of the Installation:**

In collaboration with Richmond staff, this colonnade combines high technology with vibrant plant material, bringing a feathery, viisually light commodity to the parkway. The artwork is a series of conventional masts on conventional foundations with lightweight aluminum “capitals” bolted to the tops of the masts.

Unbelievably strong stainless steel cables will drape down to direct vine growth upward. We hope to select hardy evergreen blooming vines that will celebrate spring in conjunction with the flowering tress elsewhere in the city. Decorative colored [but non-glare] up-lighting will bring an ethereal quality to the work at night – when the parkway will be most impressive to late-night shoppers and casino visitors.

### **Understanding This Artwork – a Summary:**

Art in open urban spaces should be large – “broad strokes.” It should address the needs of the fast-moving – in an eye blink – and must speak with fundamental concepts. This proposal received overwhelming support from staff because Western cultural underpinning resonates immediately with grand boulevards and large columns. This colonnade calls on images and feelings deep in the human psyche.

This work brings pageantry to Richmond. This studio seeks to elevate the everyday toward the extraordinary – where pageantry becomes intrinsic to daily life. To this end, we should surround ourselves with evolving natural things that delight they eye and place a question in the mind. Drive through here and it is a parade! Why walk when you could skip?

The project is of a size that will bring international attention to Richmond and has the potential to assert a modern symbology for the city. With your support these trellises could become the prototypes for a new visual language in Richmond [The Garden City], continually making the point that humanity and its technology must always be supportive of nature.

### **About The Artist:**

Dwight Atkinson is an architect, fine artist and iconographer who practices an obscure form of design - combining science, craft and emotion - as public service addressing public art. His professional background provides a foundation in engineering, construction and project management while his artistic tendencies drive him to explore materials and methods with childlike curiosity.



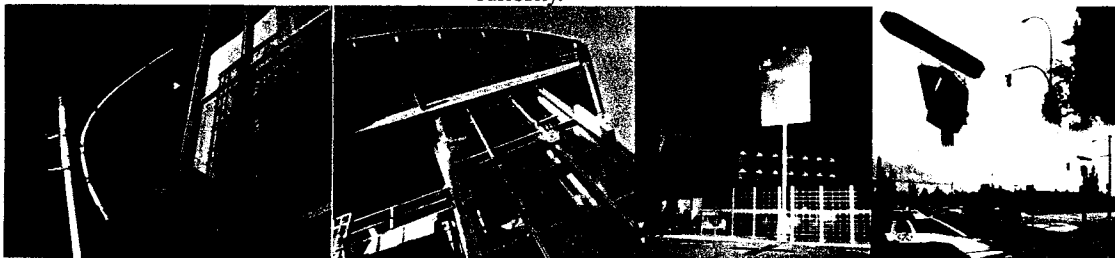
*The real urban environment is observed at dusk, in winter, in the rain, from inside a smeared windshield - no need for fine details*



*Up: Looking West along Sea Island Way from a point West of Garden City  
Over: A single columnar trellis with metal capital*



***The Studio Motto:***  
*“...to elevate the everyday toward the extraordinary...”*



*Some Atkinson work examples:  
The nature of public art indicates that putting durable things on poles keeps them out of harm’s way - ideal for quickly-moving urban situations like Sea Island Way*