

THE SOUTHDOWN INSTITUTE

18798 Old Yonge Street, Holland Landing ON

The Southdown Institute is a charitable organization which offers residential and outpatient psychological treatment and spiritual guidance to clergy and vowed religious. They are committed to integrating the best of psychological sciences and practice with the wisdom of the Catholic spiritual tradition. Southdown's focus of care is centred on promoting health and well-being in a setting of natural beauty.

Located on a 37 acre site, which is part of an important watershed north of Toronto, the building is intended to create a setting that is both calming and healing and which also nurtures deep spiritual reflection. The building is conceived as a **healing retreat**, which is closely linked to the beauty and tranquility of the surrounding landscape. Upon entering, one is immediately presented with a courtyard which includes a stand of white pines, providing a reassuring sense of calming enclosure as well as an invitation to explore the natural setting. This treed court establishes a focal point for the idea of a community dedicated to the growth and healing of each of its members. All of the major communal spaces are clustered around it.

The building is designed to adapt to seasonal changes, closing in around the courtyard and the fireplace in the great room in winter, and opening up to the wider landscape in summer. Sliding doors open directly to two outdoor terraces: one under the trees in the courtyard and the other next to the great room with a panoramic view of the landscape.

The Southdown Institute received a High Commendation at the 2014 International Academy for Design and Health Awards.

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PROJECT STATISTICS

<i>completion date</i>	February 2014
<i>project budget</i>	\$11 million
<i>site area</i>	37 acres
<i>total gross floor area</i>	33,000 ft ²

PROJECT CREDIT

<i>architectural team</i>	Montgomery Sisam Architects
<i>structural</i>	Read Jones Christoffersen
<i>mechanical & electrical</i>	Crossey Engineering
<i>civil</i>	Azimuth Environmental Consulting
<i>landscape</i>	PMA Landscape Architects
<i>contractor</i>	The Dalton Company

PHOTOGRAPHY BY

Tom Arban
Shai Gil





WHO WE ARE

Montgomery Sisam Architects is committed to design quality that is rooted in the belief that buildings and their environments must play a dignified and lasting role for their occupants and the surrounding community.

Founded in 1978, Montgomery Sisam is a mid-sized Canadian architectural practice wholly owned by its five principals and based in Toronto, Ontario. The practice provides clients with a full range of services including master planning, architecture, interior design and urban design. The wide range of project types and scales include healthcare, infrastructure, educational, recreational and residential projects. The practice is widely recognized for design excellence, exceptional service, responsible budget control and sound project management.

Montgomery Sisam Architects has developed a reputation for design leadership that is supported by over 65 provincial, national and international awards including the 2011 Architectural Firm Award from the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

CONTACT

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