

Barton Parking lot could become vibrant residential infill

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JULY 21, 2022



A disused parking lot on Barton Street near Sherman could become home to 14 families if a new project by CGS Curran Gacesa Slote Architects Inc redeives planning approval. If approved it would be the first new apartment building on Barton Street in 100 years.

Partner Bill, Curran says, “by redeveloping an unused parking lot empty for decades with much needed housing, we intend this to be a strong catalyst for redevelopment in this resurging neighbourhood hub.”

The firm has already designed a similar project– at 118 James St. N., the Reservoir Dogs townhouses, the Mosaic Bar / Bateson Lofts building and the modest garden of the John Howard Society.

It has not been decided whether this will be rental or owned apartments yet, but we`re open to input on this. There seems to be a significant number of rental buildings already in the development process though.

Key elements of the project include:

- Redeveloping an unused parking lot empty for decades with much needed housing, this is also intended to be a catalyst for redevelopment in the Barton-Sherman neighbourhood.
- A commercial unit faces Barton St., which could become a cool bar with a large operable window to sidewalk stool seating and a corner patio. The architects expect it will be a landmark, as our Mosaic Bar, Capital Bar, Rapscaillon Restaurant, Merit Brewpub and Brux House have been.

The project`s living units will consist of:

- One townhouse dwelling unit with fenced private garden and entrance from Earl Street.
 - 6 apartments are provided on each of two upper floors, plus a rooftop apartment with generous roof gardens (14 dwelling units total).
 - All apartments are designed as open loft spaces, with modest size units targeting singles, couples and young families. Movable glass walls to bedrooms and dens.
 - All floors have high ceilings: the ground floor has 15` ceilings, the second floor has 10` ceilings and the top floor has 12` ceilings.
 - Most apartments have balconies or gardens.
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