

Mole Hill Housing

Vancouver, BC Client: Mole Hill Housing Society



The Mole Hill Housing block, situated in the middle of one of the highest density neighbourhoods and hottest housing markets in North America, had been under the threat of demolition for more than 50 years. Hotson Bakker Boniface Haden, in conjunction with S.R. McEwen Associated Architects, transformed the 26 city owned heritage homes into affordable housing, while maintaining the historic nature of the buildings on the site.

The interior and exterior heritage features of the houses were carefully preserved at each stage of the renovation. At the same time, each of the homes was adapted to incorporate advanced green building techniques and energy-efficient features, including a geothermal heating system. These techniques help save energy and enhance long-term affordability. One of the most significant aspects of this project is its unique public laneways characterized by shared community gardens. Today, Mole Hill provides 170 units of subsidized and market rental housing for low-income singles, families, seniors and long-time residents.

Awards:

- 2007 Smart Growth BC Project Award
- 2006 RAIC National Urban Design Award, Community Improvement Projects
- 2004 Vancouver Heritage Award of Honour

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