



Redefining possible.

# SMART CITIES TAMING MICROCLIMATE

**November 2018 MEA Annual Fall Workshop**

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**MUNICIPAL  
ENGINEERS  
ASSOCIATION**



# Topics

RWDI – Who we are

Sidewalk Labs Project

RWDI & Sidewalk Toronto

Taming the microclimate

Thoughts for your municipality

# RWDI – Consulting Engineers & Scientists



500 + employees  
Global  
Canadian





## Global Experience



## A Global Presence



Our Vision

Redefining Possible



3 Practice Areas:

**Buildings**  
**Industry**  
**Infrastructure**

# Buildings

**Wind loads**

**Aerodynamic  
Shaping**

**Supplementary  
Damping Systems**

**Stack Effect**

**Pedestrian Safety  
& Comfort**

**Building Enclosure**

**Glare**



Jeddah Tower, Saudi Arabia; Burj Khalifa, UAE; Ping An Finance Centre, China; Lotte World Tower, South Korea



# Industry

**Air Quality**

**Ventilation**

**Noise**

**Geoscience**

**Waste  
Management**

**Occupational  
Health**

**On-site  
Monitoring**





# Infrastructure

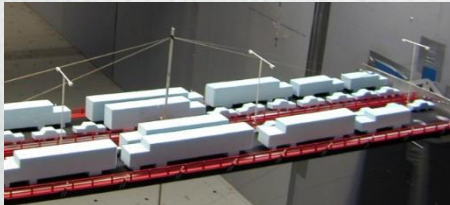
**Wind loads**  
**Pedestrian Comfort & Safety**  
**Air Quality**  
**Acoustics**  
**Noise**  
**Vibration**  
**Energy Modeling**  
**Solar Impacts**  
**Building Enclosure**  
**Snow & Ice**  
**Weather forecasting**  
**Sustainability**  
**Resiliency**  
**Damping Systems**



Tacoma Narrows Bridge, USA



Metrolinx, Union Station Toronto



Snow, Ice Accretion, Rollover Studies



Airport Thailand



Airport Control Tower, India



# Masterplans

**Wind loads**  
**Energy Modelling**  
**Sustainability**  
**Commissioning**  
**Pedestrian  
Comfort & Safety**  
**Solar Impacts**  
**Ventilation**  
**Waste  
Management**





Smart Cities

# Sidewalk Labs Project

# Smart Cities

## Urban Area

### Electronic data collection

citizens, devices, and assets

### Data processed and analyzed

### Manage assets

### Manage systems

### Integration - ICT IoT

### Improve urban environment

## People



# Sidewalk Toronto



## Sidewalk Labs & Waterfront Toronto Develop 12-acre Quayside



North America's  
largest example of a  
"smart city"



# Sidewalk Toronto - Before



# Sidewalk Toronto – After – Vision



A **public realm** that puts people first and is vibrant year-round.



# RWDI & Sidewalk Labs

**Working together since Feb 2018**

**New neighbourhood - Quayside**

**Public consultation**

**Demonstrations & prototypes**

**Ongoing project**

**RWDI Scope has expanded**



A person walks down a snowy street in Toronto. (Image: Unsplash user [LinedPhoto](#))





# Sidewalk Toronto – Goals

## Public Realm Objectives



### **MORE TIME SPENT OUTDOORS, TOGETHER**

Foster happy and healthier communities through a vibrant, porous public realm that gives people new levels of agency over their environment

#### **MORE COMMUNITY SPACE**

Create a public realm network that gives everyone convenient access to green spaces and shared amenities

#### **MORE USES**

Expand what's possible for all ages and abilities on water and land

#### **MORE HOURS, MORE SEASONS**

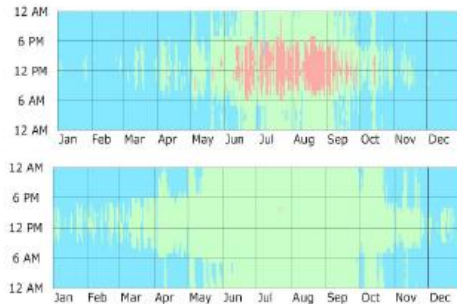
Create flexible infrastructure that keeps the public realm vibrant

#### **MORE COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT**

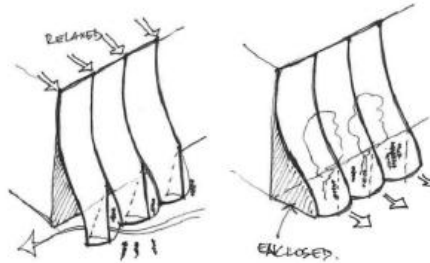
Welcome and empower a diverse community of residents, Torontonians, and visitors from all walks of life

# Sidewalk Toronto – Microclimate Goals

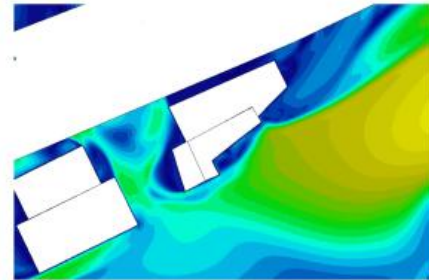
We are developing a microclimate system that makes the outdoors usable year-round



**Goal: Double  
Toronto's usable  
outdoor hours**

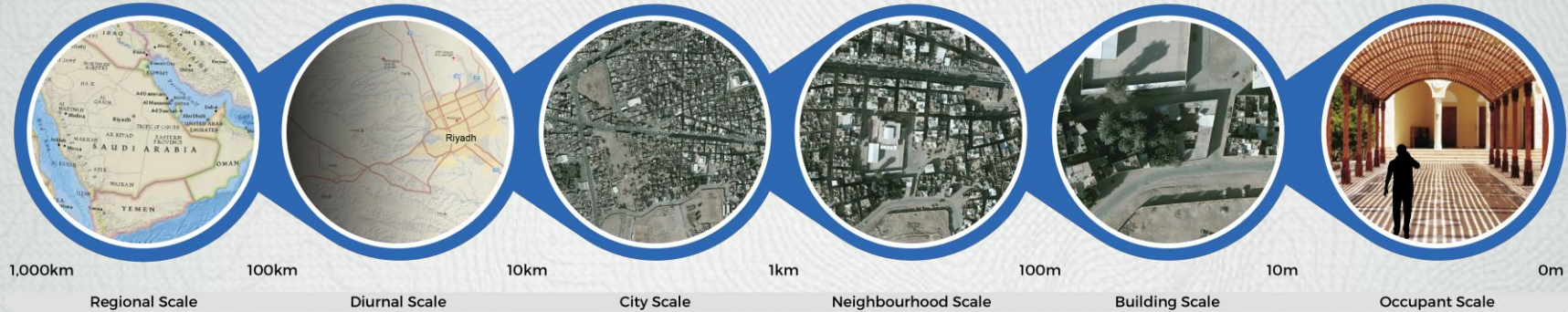


**1. Develop an  
adaptable, low cost  
'kit of parts'**



**2. Respond to real  
world weather  
data**

# Microclimate - Meteorology & Climate Analysis



**Detailed site-specific climate analysis**

**From a regional to occupant scale.**



# Improving Pedestrian Comfort

## Thermal Comfort

Temperature & Wind

## Microclimate

How buildings change incoming wind & sun?

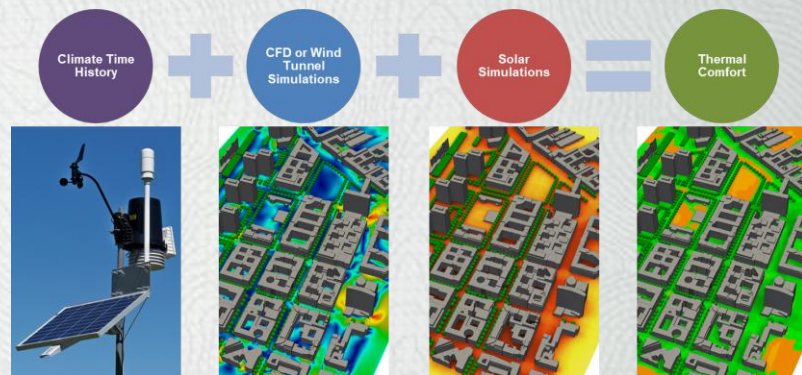
How structures impact local conditions?

## Work with Planners, Architects

Iterate through designs for places & buildings

Leverage computational tools

Quantify results



# RWDI Process

**Select 8-10 programs for the site**

**Establish a tool kit**

**Baseline condition assessment**

**Establish sensor data parameter requirements**

**Draft a standard**

**Select & Refine Mitigation measures**

**Measure**

**Verify –Compare monitored results to predicted**

**Final standard**



# RWDI – Sidewalk Toronto So Far

## Designed weather mitigation systems

Validated wind & solar systems using CFD

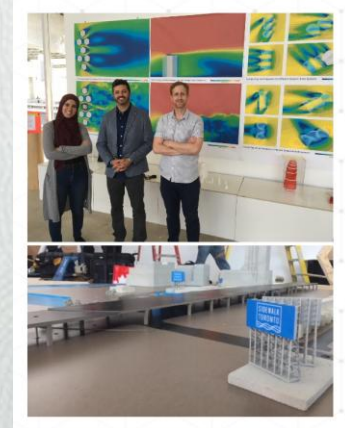
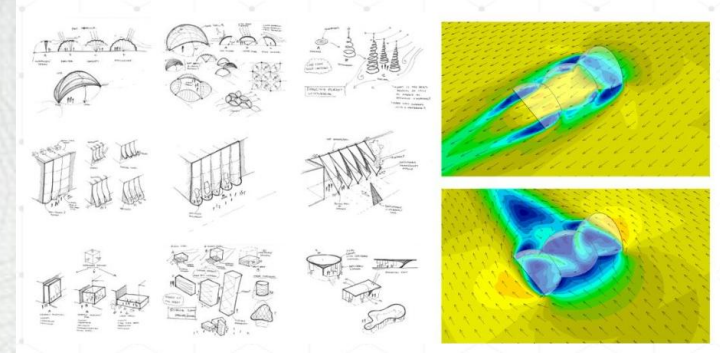
## Inform quantitatively about designs

## Mitigation by passive means

## Deploying & testing prototypes

Wind tunnel and flume testing

## Discussion & Demonstration at



# RWDI – Sidewalk Toronto Results

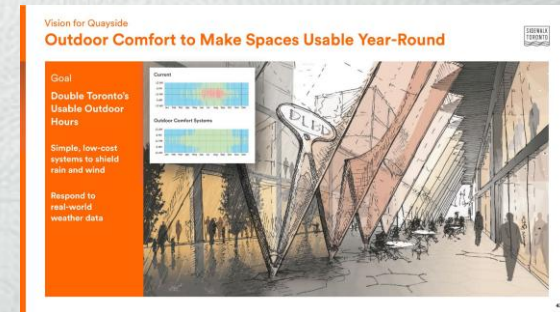
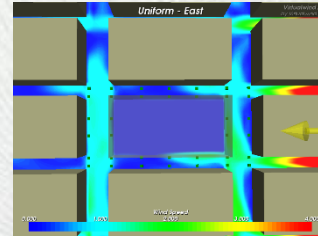
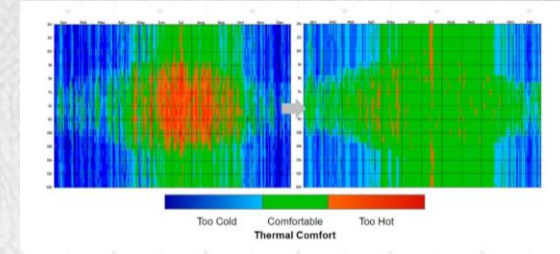
## Achievement of thermal comfort goals

Estimate we can more than double of comfortable daytime hours in the district

## Provide useful design information

Massing, orientation & street grid

## Help develop a “building raincoat”

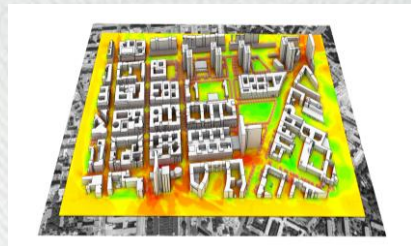




# RWDI Focus Areas

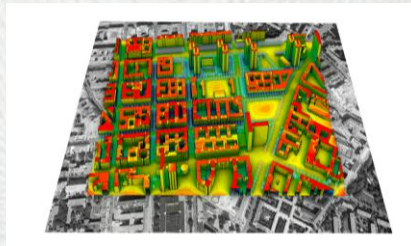
## Outdoor Comfort

Wind & thermal



## Masterplan Consulting

Quayside, Keating, Villers Island



## Acoustics, Noise & Vibration

Indoor & outdoor



Smart Cities

# Learning Applied to our Cities



# Municipal Urban Environment

**Plan proactively**

**Not case by case due to development**

**Design for safe & comfortable outdoors**

cycling paths

walkable communities

meeting places



CFD simulation of London, UK microclimate 2016

**Microclimate is unique, important & can be tamed in each city**

# Canadian Municipalities

## Drive economic development

More people, densification

## Brownfields

every city has some

## Cultural programs

Indoor & outdoor

Meeting places

Theatre & Arts



**Pedestrian comfort is paramount**



# SMART CITIES TAMING MICROCLIMATE

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