

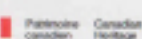
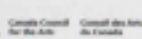
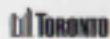
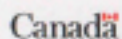
heart of toronto's waterfront

Harbourfront centre

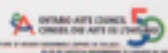
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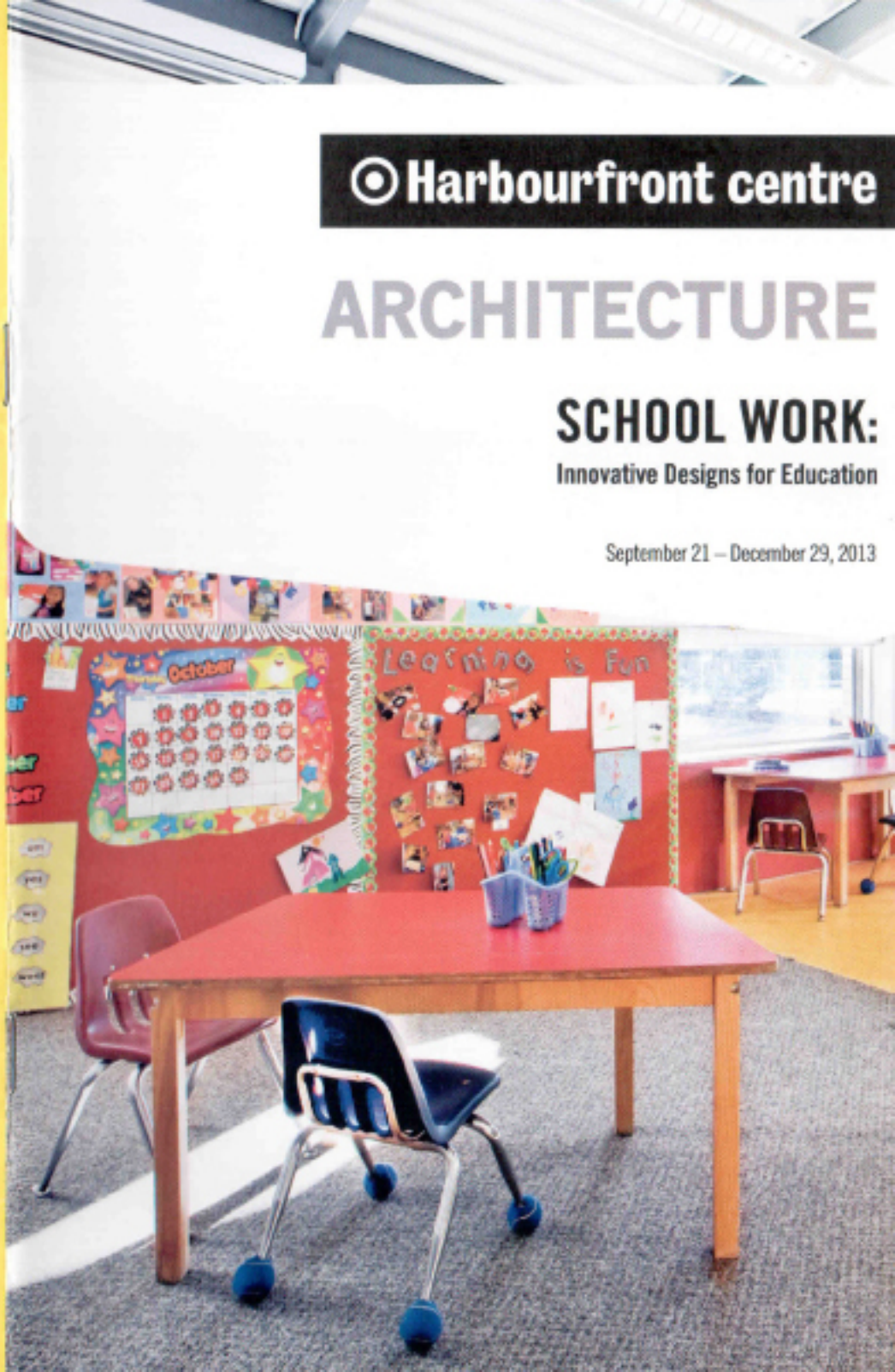
Harbourfront centre

ARCHITECTURE

SCHOOL WORK:

Innovative Designs for Education

September 21 – December 29, 2013





## BORTOLOTTO

ARCHITECTURE CONNECTING TO NATURE:  
A STRATEGIC TOOL FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

"Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you."  
– Frank Lloyd Wright

Many children spend their long school days in crowded, dark classrooms built on very low budgets. We have succumbed to thinking that this is the new normal. Changes to school design can be made, as was the case in Italy after the Second World War through the Reggio Emilia Approach; an educational philosophy based on the natural development of children and the importance of the close relationship they share with their environment.

This approach supports our belief that our built environment can assist educational institutions to be healthier, more dynamic and can make students and teachers happier by designing in a way that connects them to nature.

The *Virtrium* exhibit reveals, in a virtual manner, how an interior windowless space connects the user to the external natural world, digitally capturing real time changes in weather, lighting and sounds and reflecting them internally within the building for the students to experience. This project presents innovations as to how the boundary between the natural environment and built form need not be as definite as previously believed and emphasizes the importance of capturing our natural environment.

Bortolotto is an award-winning Canadian architecture and interior design firm that was founded in 1999. The firm's mission is to deliver smart design solutions that enhance happiness, health and productivity. Bortolotto believe that architecture matters and are inspired by the relationship between design and its impact on the human experience and our quality of life.

For over 13 years, Bortolotto has focused on the design of vibrant, healthy and memorable school spaces that are recognized for their contribution to student success and to the development of the next generation of great thinkers and leaders. The firm's portfolio includes the completion of more than 200 academic spaces for a growing client roster that includes the Toronto District School Board, Toronto Catholic District School Board, the University of Toronto, OCAD University and Humber Institute.

The firm's experience is supported by a shared commitment to the delivery of architecture that is meaningful, unexpected and uplifting. They develop design solutions that are the result of extensive research and the implementation of technological advancements in architecture. Bortolotto's achievements are regularly featured in the pages of *The Globe and Mail*, *World Architecture News*, *Architectural Record*, *Azure* and *Canadian Architect*.

Project Team: Tania Bortolotto, Alex Horber, Jerry Lin, Cherry Yeung, and Paul Aquilino  
In collaboration with Sustainable Edge

Specials Thanks: Cicada Design for their contribution to the video production

[bortolotto.com](http://bortolotto.com)