Fundamentals of Community Design

How can planners encourage and facilitate better community design? This theme develops this core planning competency through topics ranging from design techniques and terminology, to reinforcing the role of the planner in facilitating better urban design at the neighbourhood, community or city scale.

Subtopic	Learning Outcome/Key Elements	Guiding/Essential Questions *"What questions can I ask to ensure I arrive at the intended learning outcome?"*
Basic skills (architecture, landscape)	Core competencies for Planners in Urban Design. Feel comfortable using the language of urban design Reinforce the role of the planner in creating better community design & the skills to deliver it	• Where planning ends and urban design begins? Where is the grey area in the middle? • What is the role of planners in modern community design relative to other professionals? • What are the must have skills and training or certification to be an urban designer?
Suburban Planning	Suburban Urban Design; implementing today and planning for tomorrow. Designing in context: Typology of Urban Design; the urban transect as a lens for appropriate scale.	• From imagination to reality – bridging the implementation gap - does design necessitate full integration of engineering, financial, market, political and social factors to be viable?
Place Making in Politics	From City Building to building façade, urban design techniques at all levels.	• The Planner for the public interest – strategies for community design that are in the public interest yet counter to political winds.
City of Toronto Design Guidelines	How detailed should the design guidelines be? Developers want to understand the rules	• How determinative should community design guidelines/visioning sessions be?
Toronto Design of Neighbourhoods & Heritage Districts	Showcase of community design -best practices from Toronto -university projects & partnerships	• Urban Design Guidelines in Official Plans: full integration or non-statutory add-ons?