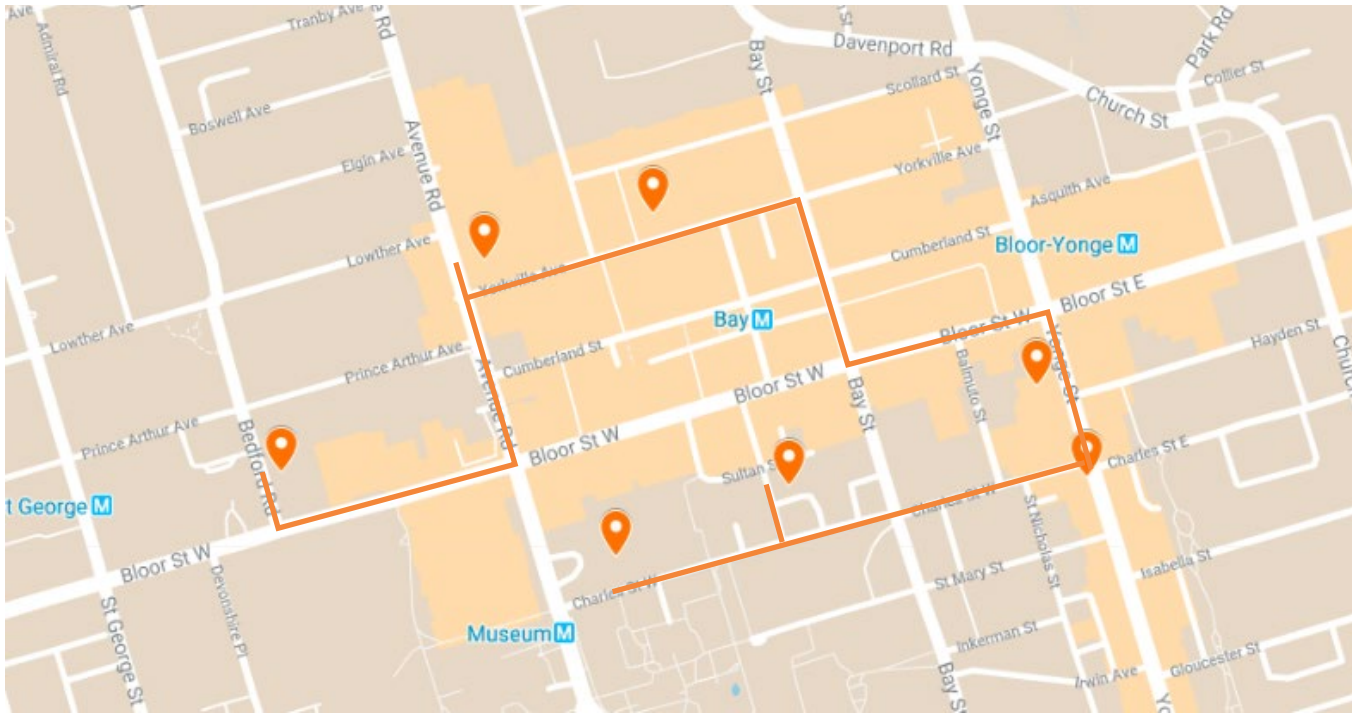


# TOBuilt Walking Tour: Facadism Tour by Richard Longley

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## 1 Bedford Road

Born in Ireland in 1872, John Lyle grew up in Canada to become an architect whose many works in Toronto include Union Station, Royal Alexandra Theatre, Runnymede Public Library, Bank of Nova Scotia at Bay and King, Dominion Bank at Yonge and Gerrard, 11 Austin Terrace, (home of John Maclean, founder of Maclean's magazine), Thornton-Smith building, 340 Yonge Street (now Champs Sports) that won Lyle the Ontario Association of Architects Gold Medal in 1922. Between 1919 and 1943 his studio was located at 230 Bloor West. Today its façade, removed then rebuilt, is reduced to a sticker on the side of the Starbucks at the foot of the 32-storey 1 Bedford condo.

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## 33 Avenue Road

Edwardian houses converted to business, architect unknown 1968 transformed into “York Square” by Jack Diamond and Barton Myers, architects: “In an era where urban renewal was the norm, this pioneer project from Diamond and Myers with circular windows inspired by Louis Khan was the first project to combine new and old buildings into a new urban form.” In 2016, Zielder Partnership and Richmond Architects proposed development of York Square would demolish 75% of the heritage attributes of these designated buildings – including York Square’s much-loved courtyard - and top them with a 30 storey “vertical forest”. The developers explain: “Responding to its historical Yorkville setting and to the challenges of sustainable architecture, this mixed-use residential building offers refined contemporary design with the beauty of natural materials. The project wraps around the existing heritage building to rise 31 storeys, an environmentally innovative garden tower with lushly planted terraces, an extensive roof garden, and terra cotta facades.” Note, this is an older development proposal from 2016, and a new developer and design team put forward a new proposal for the site in 2020, which avoids Facadism all together by demolishing the entire existing building.



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## 100 Yorkville Avenue

James Bridgeland House/Mount Sinai Hospital, 100 Yorkville Avenue, 1923 - 1953 façade by Benjamin Kaminker, Edward Richmond architects, 1934 (now Chanel)

1871 home of James Bridgeland

1914 Lyndhurst Hospital

1913 Ezras Noshem Society founded by Slova Greenberg began fundraising campaign

1922 purchased hospital

1923 "Hebrew Maternity and Convalescent Hospital".

1924 re-named Mount Sinai Hospital.

When Jewish doctors were not welcome in non-Jewish hospitals; provided communication in Yiddish, kosher food for patients. Hospital moved to present location on University Avenue, 1953



## 764 Yonge Street

One of 174 theatres by Scots-born, US architect Thomas Lamb (in Toronto, Pantages/Ed Mirvish, 1920, Elgin and Winter Garden, 1914; in Brantford, Sanderson, 1919; in Hamilton, Capitol, 1920 - lobby demolished, 1973; in Windsor, Capitol, 1920; in Ottawa, Capitol, 1920 - demolished 1970.) The Uptown closed, was demolished 2003 after its owners lost lawsuit Turnbull vs Famous Players, which required all theatres to become wheelchair accessible. (In 1983 Barbara Turnbull, then age 18, was made quadriplegic, when, near the end of her shift, she was shot at a Becker's store.) Theatre demolished 2003; Rogers showroom, 48-storey condo tower built behind façade. Facade stripped of its marquee but theatrical masks and brackets for attaching the marquee remain.



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## 728 Yonge Street

Robert Barron Building, G. W. Gouinlock Architect, 1899, 728 Yonge St. (at Charles). Extension to the west, 1902. Interior renovated, façade restored by Shoppers Drug Mart, 2019.



## 7 St Thomas

c1880s, 2017 (W of University, S of Bloor W). Facades of six Victorian townhouses on St. Thomas and Sultan Streets, (SW of Bay and Bloor) now the 3-storey podium of a “sinuous” 9-storey tower by Hariri Pontarini Architects. Retail at ground level and office spaces throughout “blending high design, ecological responsibility, and civic enhancement.”



## 150 Charles Street

Wymilwood Students Union (now Goldring Student Centre) Victoria University, 150 Charles Street W. Eric Arthur architect, landscaping by Austin Floyd, 1954 **Not an example of facadism** since these façades are of original building, by Eric Arthur who founded Architectural Conservancy Ontario in 1933 and chaired the Toronto City Hall design competition, 1956-1957. It is on our route so it is included. Note folded plate roofs at rear.