

ABOUT THE DESIGN TEAM

Brook Mcllroy is a landscape architecture, architecture, urban design and planning practice with studios in Toronto, Winnipeg, and Thunder Bay. As a unique, multi-disciplinary practice, we design projects as 'whole environments', addressing all scales from community visions to detailed design, and implementation of landscapes, buildings and infrastructure. Our work evolves from a collaborative, culturally-sensitive approach across disciplines.

The Indigenous Design Studio at Brook Mcllroy is a critical practice area drawing together teams of Indigenous architects, designers and student interns with the firm's larger resources to focus on projects that support Indigenous community needs at all levels. The Studio operates from our three locations in Toronto, Winnipeg and Thunder Bay. Culture-specific engagement, strategy, programming and inspired co-design with a highly collaborative culture is the focus of our work.

We are unique in the Indigenous leadership of our studio who bring their design skills and cultural perspectives to their work. Our team members come from diverse Indigenous backgrounds and traditions and all take a deep interest in cultural research and the exploration of how Indigenous cultures and innovative sustainable design practices find expression in contemporary place-making. We are advocates for the restoration of Indigenous place-making and encourage our clients to initiate projects that restore Indigenous presence on campuses, public spaces and institutions – particularly places of education. These projects make an important contribution by strengthening Indigenous community identity, pride and a sense of belonging while at the same time providing opportunities for non-Indigenous Canadians to engage in truth and reconciliation and reconnect to the deep culture and world-views of our founding peoples.

We are committed to a business practice that ensures the process of creating these projects directly benefits Indigenous practitioners and student interns by placing them in key roles throughout all stages of a project's execution. Creating this culture requires cultural training for all of our staff. Our commitment to advance Indigenous opportunities in the professions is undertaken through an internal policy framework that establishes annual targets and supports training through internships and scholarships for Indigenous youth. Brook Mcllroy is the first landscape and architectural design practice in Canada to be certified under the Progressive Aboriginal Relations program of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business.

Selected current/recent projects of the Studio:

- [Indigenous Institute for Entrepreneurship](#) & Ishkodewan Courtyard, Algonquin College
- [Hoop Dance](#) Indigenous Gathering Place, Mohawk College
- [Deer Clan](#) Longhouse, Crawford Lake
- [Cultural Markers](#), Humber College
- Centre for the Advancement of Teaching & Learning, University of Manitoba
- Centennial Library, University of Winnipeg
- [Awen' Gathering Place](#), Town of Collingwood
- [Indigenous Institute for Innovation & Entrepreneurship](#), Downie-Wenjack Fund/City of Toronto
- George Street Indigenous Public Realm, City of Toronto
- [Spirit Garden](#)/Prince Arthur's Landing, City of Thunder Bay

DESIGN TEAM PROFILES

INDIGENOUS DESIGN STUDIO/BROOK MCILROY

RYAN GORRIE MAA, MRAIC

ROLE: Indigenous Design Lead & Senior Architect

Ryan has been collaborating with Brook McIlroy since 2009, when he was retained as a key member of the design team for the award-winning Spirit Garden in Thunder Bay, and formally joined the firm in 2016 to lead the Indigenous Design Studio. Ryan is a member of Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (Sand Point First Nation on Lake Nipigon) and strives to ensure the perpetuation of Indigenous culture through creative opportunities ranging from the crafting of traditional items for ceremonial use to large-scale landmark architecture and landscapes. He is a licensed architect in Manitoba. As part of a broader effort to support Indigenous presence in the design industry, Ryan has helped Brook McIlroy to source Indigenous suppliers for inclusion in projects. He also provides mentorship for Indigenous students and young designers who work at the firm.

RACHELLE LEMIEUX MAA, MRAIC, LEED GA

ROLE: Indigenous Designer & Architect

Rachelle Lemieux is a Métis architect with Brook McIlroy working on projects throughout Ontario and Manitoba. With over 12 years of experience in project design and delivery, Rachelle's project work includes public consultation, project schematics, design development, construction documents, and contract administration. Rachelle has recently presented at the Métis Architecture and Design Symposium at McEwen School of Architecture on the topic of Community and Collaboration in Design.

DANIELLE DESJARLAIS B. Env.D.

ROLE: Indigenous Design Intern

Danielle is a Cree member of Peguis First Nation. She completed her degree in Environmental Design at the University of Manitoba in June 2017 and has been a key member of Brook McIlroy's design team for two years. Danielle has extensive experience in the design of a range of project types with a particular focus on educational facilities. Danielle has been immersed in project types from large-scale institutional renovations to Indigenous graphic patterns. Her work draws on regional influences, culture, and relevant histories, as well as in-depth consultation with clients to identify user needs that inform design.

KATERI LUCIER-LABOUCAN B. Env.D.

ROLE: Indigenous Design Intern

Kateri is a status member of the Little Red River Cree Nation in Northern Alberta. Kateri is currently completing an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies at the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design at the University of Toronto. Prior to her studies in Toronto, she earned a Diploma in Architectural and Engineering Technology at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, British Columbia.

REANNA MERASTY B. Env.D.

ROLE: Indigenous Design Intern

Reanna is Woodlands Cree and a member of Barren Lands First Nation. She completed her undergraduate degree in Environmental Design at the University of Manitoba and is currently pursuing a Masters of Architecture at the University of Manitoba. Being Indigenous in the field of architecture allows Reanna to regain and express her identity as a nihithaw iskewew (Woodlands Cree Woman). With this strong sense of identity, she is influenced by her exposure to the natural and sustainable living conditions on the lands and waters of Reindeer Lake, in Northern Manitoba.

ELLA KELLY

Ella is Métis from Toronto and a student intern at Brook McIlroy. She has completed the Nikibii Dawadinna Giigwag Program at the University of Toronto's Daniels Faculty of Design for the past two summers, working on studio projects as well as land-based initiatives with the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority. She has been an active youth worker for the FNMI community for many years and recently served on the Province of Ontario's Young People's Advisory Committee.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AND PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

CALVIN BROOK OAA, MAA, SAA, FRAIC, MCIP, RPP, LEED AP

ROLE: Principal-in-Charge

Calvin Brook is an architect, planner and urban designer and co-founder of Brook McIlroy. He co-established with Ryan Gorrie the Indigenous Design Studio of Brook McIlroy as a critical practice area drawing together teams of Indigenous architects/designers/artists/fabricators to lead projects in collaboration with the firm's non-Indigenous professionals. Cal is an active member of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business and led Brook McIlroy's process as the first design practice in Canada to be certified by CCAB's Progressive Aboriginal Relations program. Cal received a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Toronto and Masters of Architecture in Urban Design from Harvard University.

ANDREA MANTIN OALA, ASLA ASSOC, CSLA

ROLE: Landscape Architect and Project Manager

Andrea Mantin, an Associate at Brook McIlroy, brings a broad range of creative skills to the Taddle Creek team. Prior to studying landscape architecture at the University of Toronto, Andrea received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Art History from Concordia University and a second BFA in Studio Arts from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. She has worked as a landscape designer, curator, visual artist and exhibition designer in Canada and the United States. She served as an exhibition project coordinator at the American Museum of Natural History in New York before co-founding MantinLeblanc Design where she has developed site-specific installations for commercial and residential clients. With a particular interest in issues of cultural identity and place-making, Andrea's experience as an artist and designer has guided her work in landscape architecture.

COLIN BERMAN OALA, CSLA

ROLE: Senior Landscape Architect

Colin Berman is a Senior Associate and Senior Landscape Architect at Brook McIlroy. Colin has extensive experience with a range of landscape architectural, urban design and streetscape projects throughout Canada. His experience includes post-secondary campus landscapes and master plans, streetscape and public realm plans, waterfront parks, installation designs, and LEED-certified projects that utilize cutting-edge sustainable landscape technologies. He has considerable experience in the preparation of construction drawings and specifications as well as undertaking contract administration duties. He holds a Bachelor of Architectural Science from Ryerson University.

COLLABORATORS

KWEWOK NAKII

LAURIE HERMISTON

ROLE: Indigenous Engagement Consultant

Laurie Hermiston is an Anishinaabe Kwe from Batchewana First Nation in Northern Ontario. She is strong advocate, community practitioner and partnership specialist with over 20 years of experience working in the Indigenous community on local, provincial and national levels. She has organized many community engagement projects, advisory circles and symposiums in Ontario, and presented to countless audiences on Indigenous issues. Her work has spanned across areas of Indigenous health and well being, family, infant and child development, education and training, homelessness, mental health and addictions, and most recently, a focus on violence against women and human trafficking, exploitation within the Indigenous community and Indigenous place-making. Laurie lead the development and acted as the Coordinator of the Native Women's Resource Centre's Sexual Violence Response Team Project in Toronto, and most recently was part of the Provincial Anti-human Trafficking Team in Ontario, where she was a Program Analyst, with a specialization in Indigenous issues. Laurie currently provides community development, engagement, research, evaluation, program and policy support and training through her Indigenous Women's Collective, Kwewok Nakii, which translates to "Women's Work" in Anishinaabe.

CREATORS GARDEN

JOSEPH PITAWANAKWAT

ROLE: Indigenous Plant Educator

Joseph Pitawanakwat, Founder & Director of Creators Garden, is a 27-year-old Ojibway from Wiikwemikoong Unceded Indian Territory on Manitoulin Island, Ontario. He is an educator who specializes in plant-based medicine. He has been leaning about plants all his life but has been intensively learning for the past 7 years and educating for 4 years. Joseph's extensive knowledge has reached 33 countries and is translated in over 17 different languages. It has changed the way many people ranging from mothers to doctors, researchers to teachers think about and practice medicine. Creators Garden is a 365 days-a-year, Indigenous outdoor-education-based practice. His work focuses on plant identification, ecological restoration, sustainably harvesting, and teachings that connect people to their linguistic, historical, cultural, edible, ecological and medicinal significance through experience. Joseph has shared his knowledge with health centers, symposiums, treatment centers, homes, conferences, chief and councils, public schools, immersion schools, environmental assessment teams, universities and colleges, and various committees across Canada. Creator's Garden has successfully delivered programming in 32 communities in Ontario, in the United States and also internationally with projects in Mexico.

MULVEY & BANANI – Electrical, Lighting and Audio Visual Engineers

BLACKWELL – Structural Engineers

A.W HOOKER – Cost Consultants

ENTRO – Signage and Way-Finding

7 OAKS – Arborists

CREATIVE IRRIGATION SYSTEMS – Irrigation Design

DESIGN ABLE – Accessibility Consultants