

Tangent—ial Vancouver—ism



One interpretation of neighbourhood character. Wansey Street Housing, London. DRMM Architect

Tangential Vancouverism: *Projects for Vancouver's Urbanism* explores the potential for new "urban extensions" to be tenably designed as vibrant constituents of city life in Vancouver. **Read on »**

Character

Hannah Teicher
01 Audit

The Vancouver Zoning By-law is prefaced by a definitions section that helpfully illuminates such terms as 'family' and 'adult magazine.' However, one word is conspicuously absent: character. This slippery term, littered throughout the zoning district schedules, tilts disproportionate power into the hands of the planning department. Ascribing common meaning, consensus, or conventional wisdom to 'character' in place of a definition overwhelmingly yields a conservative interpretation. Instead, a new definition, or definitions, might provide the foundation for contemporary practitioners to hold their own on this wrongly overlooked, rightfully contested ground.

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