

Clay TODAY

Royal Bank

Yonge Street at Cranbrooke Avenue
Julian Jacobs Architects

This project is based on a contemporary-interpretation of a traditional multi-storey corner bank in an urban setting. In this case, the building responds to a small site, tight budget, and the client's request to respond to the Georgian homes in the upscale Lawrence Park neighbourhood. While not Georgian, the building uses classical ideas, like frontal symmetry and tri-partite vertical layering, in this case, relating to different functions on each of the three floors, but uses a robust contemporary handling of the forms and materials, and so is non-amenable to stylistic classification.

Given the project's parameters as described, brick was the only appropriate exterior solid material. While being cost effective, brick is tremendously flexible, enabling the creation of a range of expression, from the strong, round third floor form, to subtle, wall bas-reliefs and window monuments. This particular I-XL #220 Cream modular brick was selected to carry out the detailing, and to convey an uplifting yet institutional quality.

Founded in 1979, Julian Jacobs Architects is a Toronto-based organization with associate offices across Canada and in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and the Caribbean. The firm's scale of projects, range considerably from the design of a private residence to urban design of the Rail Lands in downtown Toronto. Its philosophy includes the seamless development of design and construction techniques.

