



STAGE 2 SHORTLISTED PROPOSAL

Title: **Conduit**

Artist: **TH&B Collective; Tor Lukasik-Foss, Ivan Jurakic, Dave Hind, Simon Frank**



Artist Concept Statement

CONDUIT uses the language of industrial scaffolding to articulate a three-sided asymmetrical structure inspired by both Nikola Tesla's Wardenclyffe tower and the nearby corridor of Hydro transmission towers on the Hamilton Beach strip.

The front face of the sculpture's steel matrix frames an open section of negative space, clearly outlining a stylized thunderbolt. People walking past the structure on the Waterfront trail or approaching it from the parking lot will be able to clearly see the sky framed by the thunderbolt. The thunderbolt symbol resonates between positive and negative space, echoing the positive and negative polarity of Tesla's Alternating Current.

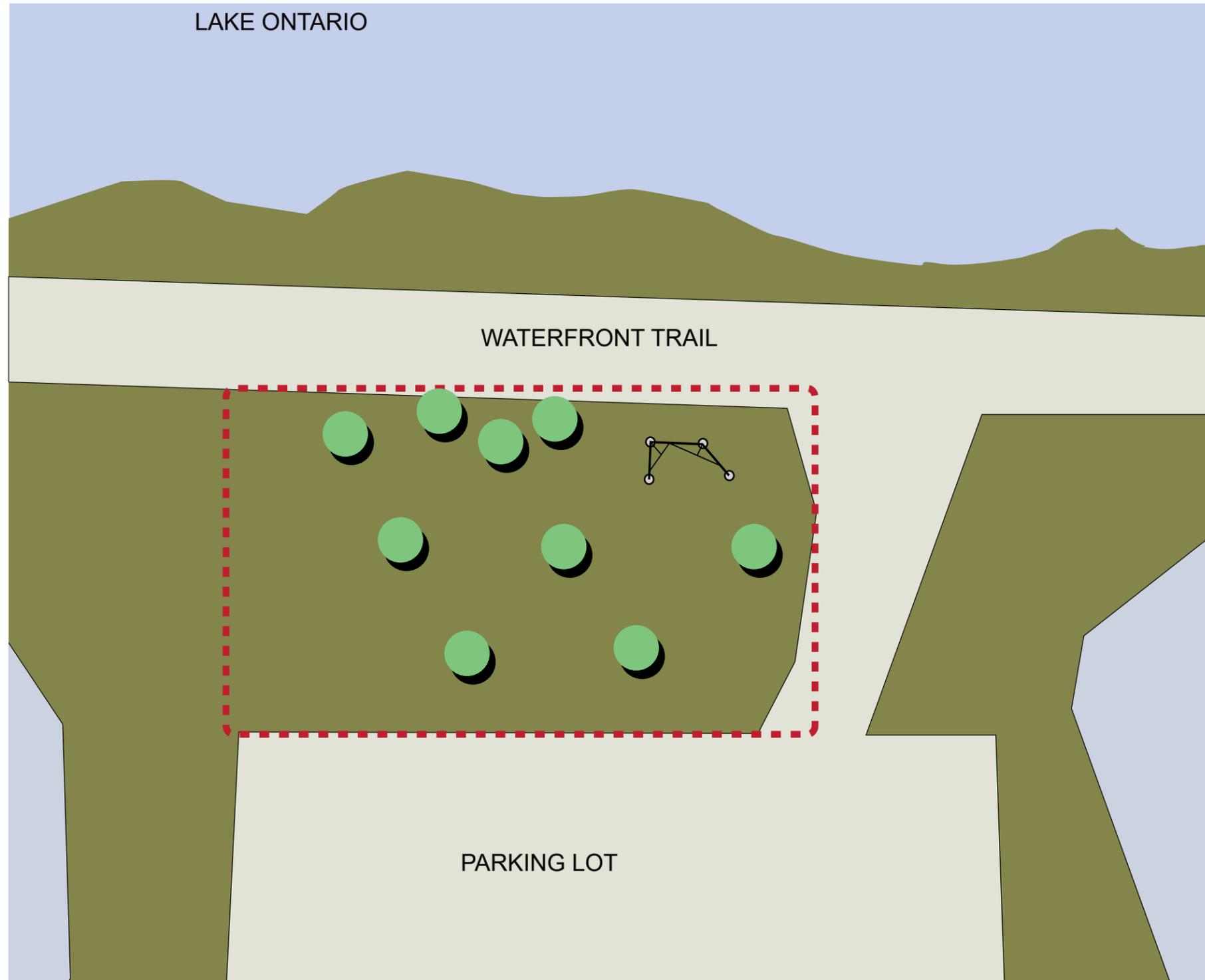
Beyond myriad historical associations, the thunderbolt has become a recurring modern motif used to represent energy and imagination in everything from alkaline batteries to comic books, from Shazam! to Ziggy Stardust. The thunderbolt also directly harkens back to images of Tesla in his laboratory using large spiral coils to conduct electrical arcs through the air in spectacular fashion.

Demarcated by a latticework of crossbeams running along each side of the sculpture, sharp-eyed viewers can decode two elements: Tesla's name in a stylized font running top to bottom on the south-facing panel, complimented by the crest of the Toronto, Hamilton & Buffalo rail line on the north-facing side. The first element a signature of sorts tying the work directly to Tesla's achievements and the legacy of the Electric City. The second a nod to a remnant industrial emblem of the region that underlines the importance that rail infrastructure played in the electrification of the first five factories in the city, as well as functioning as our collective's signature.

CONDUIT engages the public as they pass by on the trail. People's perspectives will shift whether framing the sky with the thunderbolt or decoding the details in the panels. With the bulk of the structure safely elevated above ground, viewers can also walk beneath the work to appreciate the structure from a variety of angles.

It functions as a metaphoric gateway demarcating the transition between land, water and sky, much as the nearby hydro pylons do. From the lakeside the thunderbolt is a bolt of inspiration. From the city side, it appears to cleave the tower. Inspiration and destructive force side-by-side. This is a subtle yet intentional choice built-in to the construction that represents the complex intersection of electricity, industry, and urbanization in the region.

CONDUIT signifies the connection between our ready access to hydro-electric power and the industrialization of Hamilton. Depending on how you approach it, electricity can be representative of divine forces or as a commodity. It can be hazardous, complex and inspirational.



AERIAL VIEW

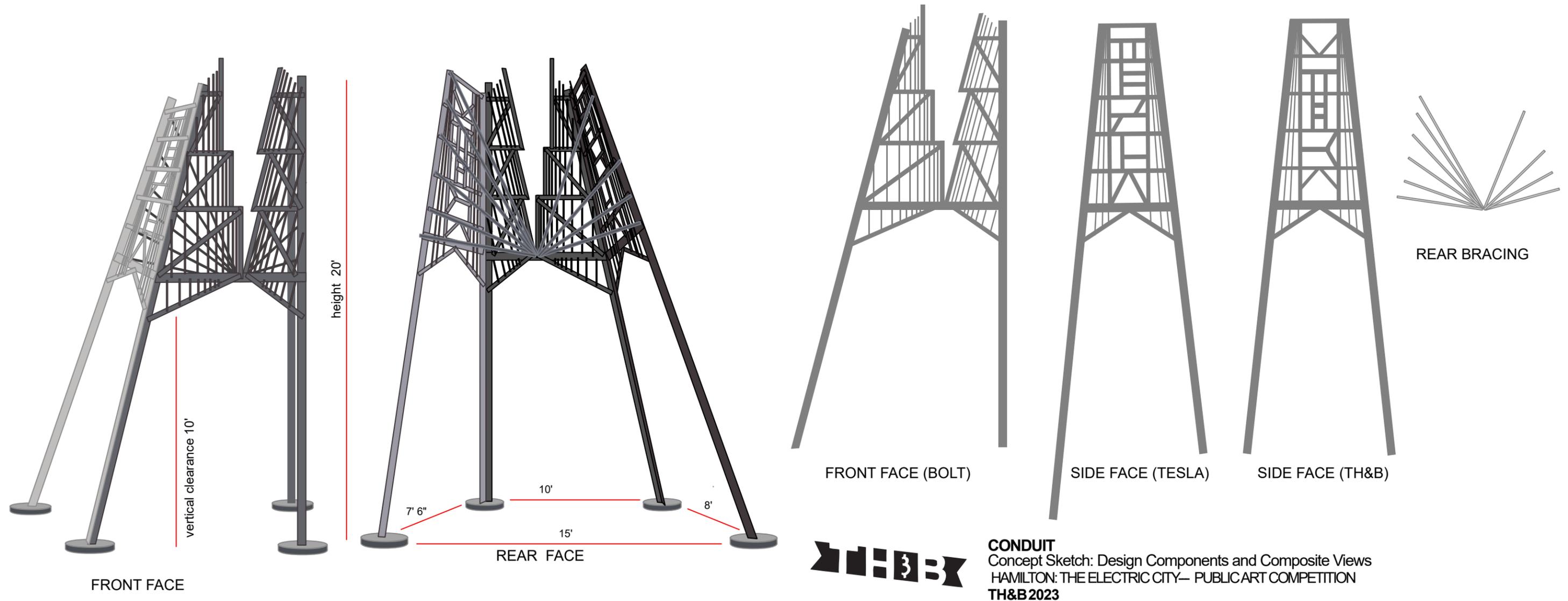
LEGEND

- EXISTING TREE
- - - SITE BOUNDARY
- PROPOSED ARTWORK LOCATION

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Elevation and Details



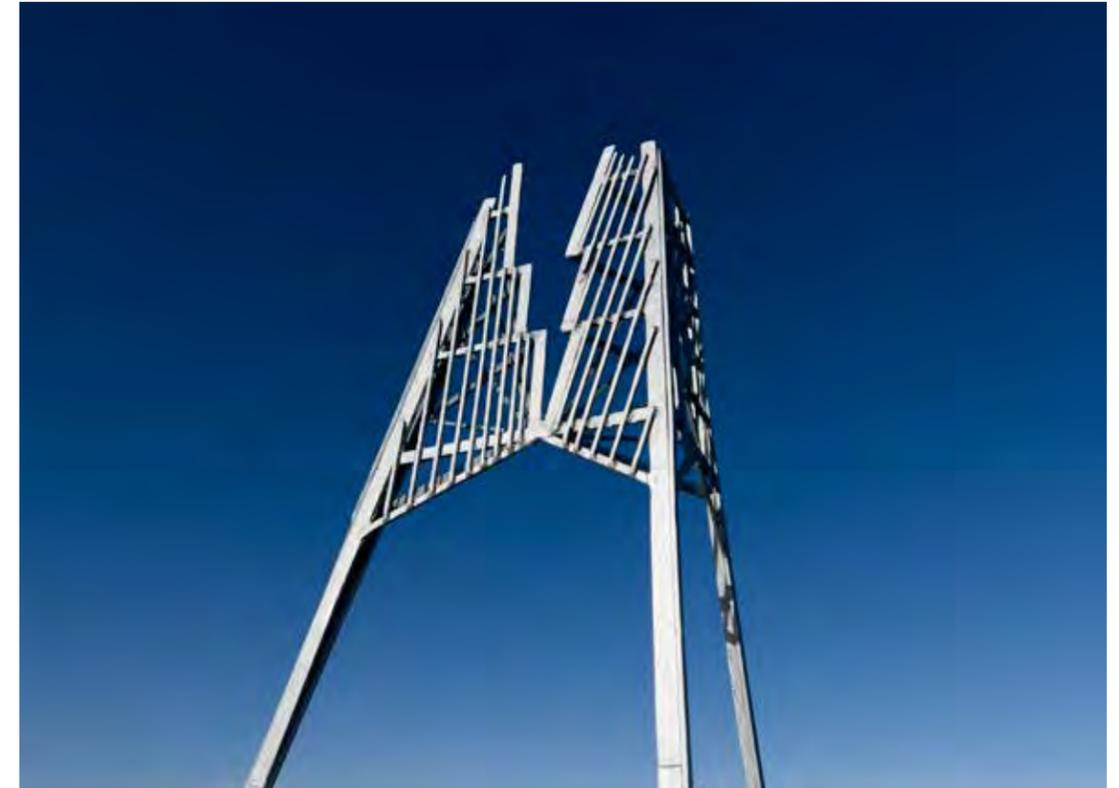


HAMILTON THE ELECTRIC CITY PUBLIC ART

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Rendering



CONDUIT
Concept Sketch (April 2023)
HAMILTON: THE ELECTRIC CITY -- PUBLIC ART COMPETITION
TH&B 2023