

# Southeast False Creek Olympic Village

**design firm:** PWL Partnership, Landscape Architects Inc.

**location:** Vancouver, B.C., Canada

PWL is the public realm designer of Southeast False Creek, an 80-acre sustainable mixed-use port development that is dramatically revitalizing a former industrial site and neglected waterfront close to Vancouver's thriving downtown. During the 2010 Olympic Winter Games Southeast False Creek was temporarily transformed into the Olympic Village, home away from home for athletes, officials and hosts. All buildings have since been returned to the City and ambitious development of residences, schools, retail facilities, parks and habitat continues.

PWL's custom site furnishings for Southeast False Creek pay homage to the heritage of the site. In their industrial aesthetic, robust materials, and generous scale they evoke a place historically defined by lumbering, shipbuilding and rail. Landscape Forms' Studio 431 engineering and manufacturing team worked closely with PWL designers to develop and produce custom designs that contribute to a signature sense of place.











Custom site elements at Southeast False Creek include six different benches, similar in form and varied in detail; a swivel chair that rotates 360°; playful family lounge seating; a recycling unit that compliments a standard solar-powered litter receptacle; and a smoothly contoured Ipe wood handrail that tops a leaning rail along the water's edge. All metal furnishings are tough carbon steel with polyester powdercoat finish.

The swivel chair presented a special engineering challenge. To avoid potential injury from moving metal parts, Studio 431 engineers incorporated an automotive hub bearing for the swivel mechanism, attaching it out of sight and reach below the wood decking on which the chairs are mounted. The family lounge seating is the showpiece. Five feet wide and ten feet long with two seats separated by an attached table, it can accommodate a family on each side. PWL so admired the internal structure devised by Studio 431 engineers, it called for a perforated panel in seat backs to provide a view of the elegant ribs inside.