

Malls a 'time capsule'

JANE'S WALK

Tour explores impact, future of shopping centres



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Metro | Toronto

Shari Kasman has a love/hate relationship with her local malls.

Whether it's the old gumball machines and arcade games at Galleria or the possibly fake plants that line Dufferin Mall's corridors, the 36-year-old artist is fascinated by the "kitschy" appeal of two of Toronto's most infamous shopping centres.

"A few years ago, I started going to the Galleria Mall and tak-



Shari Kasman says her Jane's Walk tour through Dufferin and Galleria malls will explore "the decline of mall culture" in Toronto and consider how the spaces could be transformed to benefit the community. Jane's Walk honours the late author Jane Jacobs. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

ing pictures because it was like stepping into a time capsule," she said. "It's basically remained unchanged since 1972."

Kasman's dichotomous relationship with Galleria and Dufferin will be the subject of a Jane's Walk tour on Saturday.

Called From One Mall to Another: The Galleria to The Duff, the walk will take people on a

journey that explores how the shopping centres have affected the neighbourhoods they're part of.

Topics will range from the negative impact Dufferin Mall had on Bloor Street businesses when it was built in 1956 to some of the many failed proposals for revamping Galleria.

Personally, Kasman wonders

if the two malls should be torn down and replaced with something that brings the community out into the street rather than taking them inside with all the "eerie lighting and recycled air."

"Some people say malls will be obsolete in 15 years," she said. "So I want people to start thinking about how these spaces could be better used."

+ IF YOU GO

From One Mall to Another: The Galleria to The Duff starts in the Galleria Mall parking lot at 2 p.m. Saturday.