

Recipe for Restoration

Ottawa honours miracle of preserving the past by slipping new homes into an old neighbourhood

BY MARIA COOK

Restoring a heritage building or making a new building fit into a historic area is like following a complex recipe, says Stuart Lazear, co-ordinator of Ottawa's heritage planning department.

"It's like making a really good meal," Lazear says. "You can have all the guidelines, public processes, review committees and all the standards in the world, but it does take a talented architect, a creative and inspired property owner and talented craftspeople to put it all together."

"It is close to a miracle to get something that everyone is going to like." On Monday, Heritage Day, the City of Ottawa will present the 26th annual Ottawa Architectural Conservation Awards. The ceremony takes place at 7 p.m. in Jean Pigott Place, City Hall, 110 Laurier Ave. West.

Heritage takes on special importance this year which marks Ottawa's 150th anniversary.

The awards will be presented in three categories:

- Restoration (returning a heritage resource to its original form, material and integrity).
- Adaptive use (modification of a heritage resource to contemporary functional standards while retaining its heritage character).
- Infill (addition to a heritage building or all-new construction within a historic context).

A subcommittee of the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee and the city's heritage department staff judged the submissions, which were also reviewed by the city's planning committee and city council.

"It's not only to recognize people who have done brilliant work but to show

good examples to the rest of the design and development community and the community at large," says Lazear.

"It's a very complicated recipe of ingredients and processes." The following descriptions were provided by the city.

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE: Restoration/Adaptive Use LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT

The Library of Parliament, constructed between 1859 and 1876, underwent extensive restoration over 12 years.

The \$134-million rehabilitation restored the roof and stone walls and reinstated glass floors and wood carvings destroyed by a 1952 fire. The interior plaster dome was repainted in High Victorian colours. The project involved excavation of additional basement levels, seismic upgrading and improved temperature and humidity controls.

Lazear calls the Parliament Hill project "fantastic, monumental, once-in-a-lifetime."

By: Thomas Fuller Construction (Ottawa) and four architectural teams: Ogilvie and Hogg (Ottawa), Desnoyers Mercure (Montreal), Spencer Higgins (Toronto) and Lundholm Associates (Toronto)

Infill EDISON AND MELBOURNE AVENUES

This infill project in Westboro kept and updated the house of Charles Ogilvie, owner of a large Ottawa department store, and constructed new townhomes.

The original Ogilvie House, a white stucco building with wide overhanging eaves, tri-partite windows and a distinguished entrance, inspired the design of the townhomes.

City heritage experts say: "The proportions and detailing of the new buildings combine to create an elegant contemporary architectural statement that is compatible with the design of the original Ogilvie House."



Barry Hobin and Uniform Urban Developments will be honoured on Monday at the City of Ottawa's Architectural Conservation Awards for successfully slipping modern townhomes into a mature site in Westboro.

"This is a very beautiful infill," says Lazear. "It did retain the original house, and that is something we look for in terms of infill projects."

By: Ottawa architect Barry Hobin and Uniform Urban Developments

Adaptive use 895 MARCH RD.

This project involved the conversion of a former schoolhouse into medical offices.

A sympathetically designed board-and-batten addition at the rear of the building provides a new main entrance and reception area.

The interior offices feature the exposed masonry walls of the former classroom and other original building elements, such as wainscoting and a blackboard.

The increased structural requirements of the second floor operating room and offices were cleverly incor-

porated into the building design without compromising its heritage character.

"It was a work of passion for the client, Dr. James Lacey," says Lazear.

"The building is now a landmark on March Road. This will be there as a testament of what was there in the past and also of the vision of the owner who saw the potential, the designer who made it happen, and the structural engineer who figured out how to increase the capacity of the building."

By: Ottawa architect Ralph Vandenberg and RND Construction

The city will also hand out Certificates of Merit for four innovative infill projects:

- The construction of pergolas and other garden elements at the Rockcliffe residence of the Nuncio, the Pope's representative in Canada.

"They did a lot of detailed work with stone and wood," says Lazear. "People will be able to appreciate it during Doors Open."

By: Ottawa architect Vincent Alcaide, Domicile Developments and Beckwith Carpentry

- A new 11-unit condominium in Lowertown respects the architectural character of the streetscape by maintaining the existing setbacks on the street, respecting the cornice line of the adjacent building, and using new brick that is similar in colour to the older brick in nearby houses.

By: Domaines du Marché, Paul Daoust Construction and Ottawa architect Phillip Sharp

- An addition to a Fairmont Avenue home won recognition for craftsman-inspired details, such as overhanging eaves and robust wood decoration on each of its elevations.

By: Ottawa architect Kevin Deevey and Vincent de Beer General Contracting

- Construction of a new entrance and foyer for Bells Corners United Church on Richmond Road, which was designed by Ottawa architect James Strutt in 1961.

Strutt, a proponent of Canadian Modernism, was noted for the use of natural finishes and expression of structure. The church is a fine example of his work and of Modernist architecture of this period.

By: Peter J. Kindree Architect, R. M. Gardiner Construction, Adjeleian Allen Rubeli and Goodkey Weedmark & Associates, all of Ottawa.

Visit ottawa.ca/city_services/planning/built_heritage/oaca/2007_en.html for a complete description and photographs of the award winners.



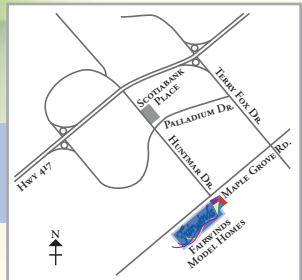
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