

2008 OALA AWARDS

The 2008 OALA Awards were presented at a ceremony held in April during the OALA's Annual General Meeting in Waterloo. Congratulations to all those honoured with the awards, and a special thanks to the Honours, Awards, and Protocol Committee: Nelson Edwards, Jim Melvin, Jim Vafiades, Jane Welsh, and Committee Chair

PINNACLE AWARD FOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL EXCELLENCE

Robert Allsopp, OALA, OAA

The 2008 OALA Pinnacle Award, which recognizes excellence in the work of an Ontario landscape architect, drawing attention to a body of work that demonstrates outstanding professional accomplishment, was presented to Robert (Bob) Allsopp.

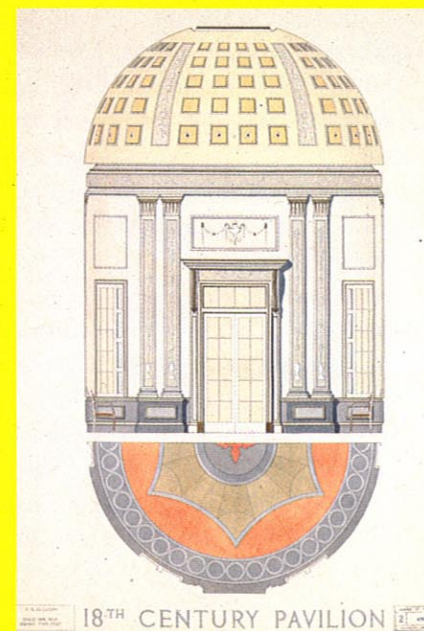
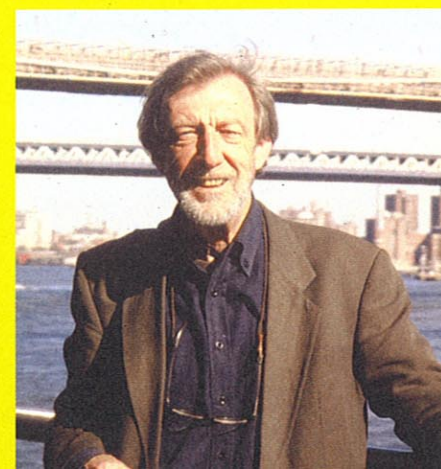
Thinking Through Drawing

TEXT BY BOB ALLSOPP, AS TOLD TO REAL EGUCHI, OALA, CSLA

It's a great honour to be acknowledged by one's peers, to be the recipient of the Pinnacle Award, especially on the fortieth birthday of the OALA. I also share this anniversary. Nineteen-sixty-eight was the year I came to Canada.

I'm pleased and relieved that the Pinnacle Award is for a "body of work" and isn't a "lifetime" award, which would have seemed so conclusive. On the other hand, "pinnacle" infers peaking and perhaps that any further movement will be downwards. I'm not crazy about that latter idea since I have every intention of continuing to push the big rock up the hill.

I'd like to think that the Pinnacle Award also acknowledges my teaching years, both at the University of Manitoba and the University of Toronto. I can think of occasions in my own life when someone's words have been influential to my personal or professional development, and I am grateful to think that I may have switched some lights on for others.



02

It was in Winnipeg and the University of Manitoba's newly forming graduate landscape architecture program (where I taught the very first studio in the program) that I concluded that urban design is a better fit with landscape architecture than with architecture. The great thing about the situation in the late 1960s was that the profession of landscape architecture was unbounded. Landscape architects were fussing about who they were, what was their place in society, and how did they



gain credibility? This seemed to me an ideal time to be involved in something that was so soft and pliable. Many of the landscape architects I met at that time were McHargian graduates from Penn. Were they regional planners? Most, like me, seemed to have an architectural background. (You can probably guess where I stand on the recent OALA credentials discourse.)

I came to Toronto in 1979, joined Roger du Toit's office, and began teaching at the University of Toronto. Most of the "body of work" referred to in the Pinnacle Award citation was with the DTAH office from the early 1980s on—the most substantial and the most satisfying of which has been and continues to be work in Ottawa and the National Capital, mostly for the National Capital Commission (NCC) but also for the City, Public Works and Government

- 01/ Robert Allsopp
- IMAGE/ 02/ Robert Allsopp
Leicester School of Architecture
2nd-year design project
- IMAGE/ 03/ Robert Allsopp
University of Calgary long-range
campus development plan, 2001
- IMAGE/ 04/ Robert Allsopp
Design for residential yacht club, 1959
(national student design competition)
- IMAGE/ Robert Allsopp