

# LANDMARK DESIGNATION

*Recognizing buildings that demonstrate architecture's beauty, endurance and lasting contribution to community and society. Landmark Designation recognizes iconic buildings in Ontario, by Ontario architects alone or in partnership with architects from other countries. These buildings symbolize excellence in architectural design, urban design and unique community identity, and make a lasting contribution to the evolution of architectural creativity. A **Landmark Designation** recognizes the lasting contribution of the building and the architects responsible for its creation.*

Confronted this year with eight entries in the Landmark Awards category, the jury had a more challenging task than usual, to select a winner. In previous years, when more than one entry has won the jury's acclaim, two entries have been awarded a Landmark Designation. This year, for the first time, three worthy entries have been designated.

## AWARD CRITERIA

Landmark Designated Buildings:

- establish an inspirational design excellence standard for present and future generations
- enhance their immediate environment and the public realm
- recognize, respect and build upon the unique attributes of their surroundings (context)
- provide a building solution that makes a lasting and meaningful contribution to the community and represents a valued community/city icon.

*The following text has been taken from the submission briefs. Text may have been edited.*

**JURY CHAIR – DIARMUID NASH**, ARCHITECT, MORIYAMA & TESHIMA ARCHITECTS; **J. WILLIAM BIRDSELL**, OAA PRESIDENT; **ANDREW BRUCE-PAYNE**, SOCIETY CHAIR, NORTH BAY SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS; **DIANA OSBORNE**, ARCHITECT, OSBORNE ARCHITECT

## 50 PARK ROAD TORONTO, ON | JOHN B. PARKIN ASSOCIATES

As the first home of the Ontario Association of Architects, 50 Park Road was critically acclaimed in the media when it was first opened as a landmark modern building in Toronto. The building was also successful as a unifying focal point for Toronto's architects, its high profile injecting renewed pride and energy into the profession at a critical time in the city's development.

The commission to design 50 Park Road was won in an open competition by John B. Parkin, with John C. Parkin as the project architect. John C. Parkin had recently returned from Harvard's Graduate School of Design, where he studied under the great modernist and Bauhaus founder Walter Gropius. The competition jury included Eric Arthur, Murray Brown and F.H. Marani.





PHOTO: PANDA ASSOCIATES

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PHOTO: BEN SCHNALL

The significance of the building as a landmark for both modern architecture in Ontario and the coming of age of the architectural profession was underscored by the officiating of His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada, at the opening on October 4, 1954. A scant thirty years later, it was one of the first modern buildings in Toronto to be listed in the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties, followed by designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act in 1991.

The original design was for both an administrative office and cultural facilities for Ontario's architects, including a library, conference room, exhibit space, bar and dining room. The building featured a long ramp that went from the foyer to the social areas, providing a ceremonial route and a viewing point for exhibits. The building had a pavilion-like relationship to the Rosedale ravine, with the lower floor opening out to a terrace.

As the OAA grew in membership and in its administrative role, the social and

cultural facilities were gradually supplanted by office space; open areas of the building were filled in and subdivided; the glass front wall was moved forward toward the street; and the brick panel at the front of the building enlarged to enclose more space.

The building has been the home of DTAH since the OAA sold it and moved to their new Don Mills headquarters in 1992. Over the years, DTAH has carried out interior renovations, incorporating the functional requirements of a contemporary architectural office, while at the same time attempting to give back to the interior a sense of the openness, simplicity and spatial clarity of the original building.



PHOTO: COURTESY DTAH