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AWARD MAGAZINE - HEAD OFFICE	604.299.7311

PUBLISHED BY



CANADA WIDE MEDIA LIMITED | canadawide.com

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Award magazine is published six times a year by Canada Wide Media Limited. Head office: 230, 4321 Still Creek Drive, Burnaby BC V5C 6S7. Phone 604.299.7311, Fax 604.299.9188. Send covers of undeliverable copies to address above. Publications Mail Agreement No. 40065475. © 2012.

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For subscription information call 604.299.1023 or email: [subscriptions@canadawide.com](mailto:subscriptions@canadawide.com) National Library No. ISSN 1202-5925. Printed in Canada by Transcontinental LGM Graphics.

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PERSPECTIVE  
RAIC | IRAC  
Architecture Canada



by ANGIE SAUVÉ  
Member Communications Specialist - RAIC

## Celebrating Canada's Rich Architectural History

The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) and the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) are proud to co-host the 2017 Festival of Architecture in Ottawa from May 24-27 under the theme of Architecture 150. This event is an opportunity for architects from across Canada to learn from industry leaders, share and explore innovative ideas, and celebrate excellence in the built environment.

Delegates to the four-day conference can enjoy the many festivities and one-of-a-kind experiences that are making Ottawa a key destination in 2017 and the epicentre of Canada's 150th birthday celebrations. "We invite architects from across Canada and international guests to join us in the nation's capital," says RAIC president Ewa Bieniecka, FIRAC. "The 2017 RAIC/OAA Festival of Architecture will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience that you won't want to miss."

"Canada, 50 years ago, embarked on a vision for the country in which architecture played a major role in defining our culture," says OAA past president Toon Dreessen, FRAIC. "Now, as we celebrate the sesquicentennial, it's time to reflect as well as look towards our future."

Adding to the sense of this historic occasion, the RAIC will mark the 110th anniversary of its founding as Canada's national architecture association in 1907. Even as we celebrate our rich history, our focus is the future and how the RAIC can best serve its members, Canada's architecture community and the built environment.

Architecture is a field that is constantly evolving, and so architects are dedicated to life-long learning. The Festival of Architecture provides opportunities for participants to attend more than 90 continuing education sessions and tours to learn about the latest technologies, concepts and products in their field.

Festival delegates will hear from a wide range of inspiring speakers and presenters including Daniel Libeskind, whose numerous projects include the National Holocaust Monument under construction in Ottawa, the Jewish Museum Berlin and the master plan for the World Trade Center site in New York. Libeskind will speak at the RAIC Foundation Lunch.

This year's Fellows Convocation will be held at the stunning Canadian Museum of History, designed by Douglas Cardinal and located on the shores of the Ottawa River in Gatineau, Quebec. Delegates can attend this traditional ceremony to witness the induction of architects and distinguished laypersons into the RAIC's College of Fellows, an honour bestowed through a peer-lead nomination process and recognizing outstanding contributions to architecture. Graduates of the RAIC's Syllabus program, an alternative self-paced program, will also be present to accept their Diploma in Architecture.

Up-and-coming architects are critical to the future of the profession. The OAA Admission Course will be held during the festival, a mandatory requirement for licensure for interns in Ontario. The Emerging Practitioners chapter, sponsored by the RAIC, will host several events for interns in support of their mission to connect and strengthen the voice of interns across Canada and help them on the path to licensure.

“This event is an opportunity for architects from across Canada to learn from industry leaders, share and explore innovative ideas, and celebrate excellence in the built environment.”

The President's Dinner and Awards Gala, taking place on Friday, May 26, is a celebration of excellence where the RAIC and OAA will bestow a variety of prestigious awards to projects and architects across the country.

The RAIC is also excited to host its first Indigenous Architecture and Design Symposium on Saturday, May 27 at the Wabano Centre. While Indigenous elements will form part of the main festival and delegate program, this one-day symposium will focus solely on Indigenous design issues from a diversity of perspectives.

The festival will be taking place at the Westin Hotel, steps from Parliament Hill, the ByWard Market and the Rideau Canal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Registration opens in March. For more details visit [festival.raic.org](http://festival.raic.org). **A**