



Ottawa Regional
Society of Architects

2019 Annual Report Summary | Ottawa Regional Society of Architects (ORSA)

ORSA experienced a challenging year in 2019, from the resignation of the past-chair to ongoing communications issues with membership due to our outdated website, and finally, the current changes brought on by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Despite these challenges, ORSA is ready to start a new chapter with fresh leadership and new volunteers to help develop and achieve ORSA's full potential while providing better services to our members.

This year, ORSA continued to face challenges with communications, not only due to the outdated ORSA website, but also in terms of transfer of governance responsibility including hosting, communications, social media, etc. In 2018, ORSA retained a new media company to retool the website, repair basic infrastructure and improve functionality, however throughout 2019, it became evident that these basic repairs were not sufficient. Looking forward, in 2020-21 a new website will be developed to better serve and connect with our membership, through cohesive communications across all platforms and the development of a continued online presence. Additionally, an ORSA manual will be created to ease the transition between executive committee members.

In 2019, ORSA provided funding support for the Women of Architecture (WOA), which aims to champion women throughout their careers in architecture and related fields in the National Capital Region. A WOA! Build was held in June, as well as a WOA! Stories in September with both events very well attended.

ORSA supported Ottawa Architecture Week (OAW) 2019, *Under Water: Weathering the New Normal*. OAW included several events that were well attended such as a PechaKucha night, tours of The Strutt House and the National Arts Centre, youth design workshops, a lecture about the foundational concepts that will inform the new official city plan, film screenings, a vernissage and much more.

All challenges aside, ORSA continues to make progress in promoting the values of our profession in our community. ORSA volunteers, including the executive, board members and those who organize professional events (such as Ottawa Architecture Week, Women of Architecture, the Official Plan Committee and the Golf Tournament) should be proud of their achievements, and we would like to thank all volunteers for their continued efforts to keep ORSA going, notably, Darryl Hood, who has remained the active Registrar for many years beyond the end of his term while no other volunteers stepped forward to take over this role.

ORSA anticipates big changes for 2020: a fresh website, new volunteers on the Executive Committee and outreach to all our members. As you will see in the financial report, ORSA is well positioned for an exciting year of growth and renewal and we look forward to it.



2019 Annual Report

Executive Committee

Co-Chair	Tamara Khou, Architect
Co-Chair	Zoé Lebel, Architect
Vice Chair	<i>Vacant</i>
Treasurer	Vanessa Worrell, Architect
Secretary	<i>Vacant</i>
Registrar	Darryl Hood, Architect
OAA Liaison	Gord Erskine, Architect
RAIC Liaison	<i>Vacant</i>
Carleton University	<i>Vacant</i>

Contributors

Ottawa Architecture Week	Women of Architecture	Official Plan Committee
Camille Baello	Camille Baello	Shannon Bassett
Alexandra Blanchet	Alexandra Blanchet	Toon Dreessen
Roberto Campos	Zeynep Ekim	Gord Erskine
Darryl Hood	Carolyn Gillespie	Tobias Fellows
Tamara Khou	Enid Huang	Janis Hamacher
Paolo Marinelli	Tamara Khou	Jennifer Heaney
Mitch Vanderborn	Monique St. Pierre	Marc Mainville
Edward Solodukhin		Ali Navidbakhsh
Monique St. Pierre		Monique St. Pierre
		Alberto Temprano
		Martin Tite
		Ralph Wiesbrock

Report on Activities:

1.0. Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on June 5, 2019 at the Mill Street Pub. Members heard a summary of the year’s activities and events from the ORSA Executive including an update on ORSA Financials, presented by Treasurer Vanessa Worrell. Toon Dreessen, Chair thanked all for attending and promoted the activities of the group, including Ottawa Architecture Week and Women of Architecture. Toon Dreessen. In his closing remarks, he announced his resignation from the role of chair of ORSA. He was thanked by the membership for his active service.



A keynote presentation was made by Carol Belanger, City Architect for the City of Edmonton. As City Architect, he worked to emphasize the importance of urban and architectural design excellence for the betterment of the city and communities that we live in. Leveraging the City's current policies and bylaws, the City revised its RFQ/RFP process to reflect the required higher design standard. Carol's presentation emphasized the importance of the role of the architect as advocate for design excellence and design standards with the city.

2.0. Golf Tournament

The annual Golf Tournament was held on June 25, 2019 at the Canadian Golf Club. Over \$10,000 was raised and all funds were donated to the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) Foundation.

3.0. Ottawa Architecture Week

Ottawa Architecture Week (OAW) continues to be the most successful public and member engagement event of the year. This annual week-long festival welcomes everyone to explore architecture, urbanism, art and design in Ottawa and features numerous opportunities for the public to become engaged with architecture.

This year OAW was held from September 28 to October 8, 2019 and the theme was "*Under Water: Weathering the New Normal*":

This year OAW invites you to explore these environmental phenomena and challenges. Let's look at tradition, learn from history, admire innovation, and debate social change and responsibility. Together we'll gauge Ottawa's resiliency to this extreme weather, discuss preventative and reparative measures — and of course, determine what role architecture plays in all of this.

Date	Event
September 28	<p>Workshop – Future Homes Youth Design Workshop (Downtown): Junior designers worked with a team of instructors to create their dream homes. The workshop began with brainstorming sessions to challenge junior designers to think of creative ways to protect their homes from flooding, heavy rains, strong winds and other weather conditions. Junior designers designed and built their model houses using a variety of reclaimed and recycled materials. Once complete, the models were put through stress testing in the labs and solutions to better withstand bad weather were discussed. The models that could withstand testing were displayed at OAW festivities.</p>
September 29	<p>Workshop – Future Homes Youth Design Workshop (Orleans): Junior designers worked with a team of instructors to create their dream homes. The workshop began with brainstorming sessions to challenge junior designers to think of creative ways to protect their homes from flooding, heavy rains, strong winds and other weather conditions. Junior designers designed and built their model houses using a variety of reclaimed and recycled materials. Once complete, the models were put through stress testing in the labs and solutions to better withstand bad weather were discussed. The models that could withstand testing were displayed at OAW festivities.</p>
	<p>Tour – Jacques-Cartier Under Water: John Savage, a resident of rue Jacques-Cartier guided participants on a walk through his neighborhood to see how the neighbourhood adapted and rebuilt after the devastating flood in the spring of 2019.</p>

September 30	<p>Exhibit – Future Homes Exhibit: The models created by the junior designers at the <i>Future Homes Youth Design Workshop</i> were exhibited at the Ottawa School of Art and later moved to the SAW Gallery.</p>
	<p>Lecture – City Nature: This lecture on opening night was hosted at the National Gallery of Canada and featured Rasmus Astrup of the Copenhagen-based architecture firm SLA. Astrup is the recent winner of the <i>Nordic Built Cities Challenge Award</i> – Scandinavia’s largest and most prestigious architecture competition. Astrup’s lecture <i>City Nature</i> discussed new ideas for urban spaces including integrated urban design, climate adaptation and social cohesion. He presented SLA’s winning proposal “The Soul of Nørrebro” which used nature-based climate adaptation solutions to create new hydrological, biological and social ecosystems for Inner Nørrebro.</p>
	<p>OAW Opening Night Party: OAW’s opening night party was hosted at the newly renovated Club Saw of the Galerie SAW Gallery. The evening featured music by local artists and art.</p>
October 1	<p>Tour – Wander Passive House: Mark Rosen, an Ottawa architect and Certified Energy Advisor/Passive House Designer, and Meghan Rosen, a graphic designer, designed and built their home following the principles of the international Passivhaus/Passive House building standard. Located on an infill lot in Hintonburg, the house is a single-family home that uses roughly 85% less energy for heating than a standard new home. The Wander House is one of only a handful of houses in Canada to target the rigorous international Passivhaus standard.</p>
	<p>Tour – Magic of the NAC: The National Arts Centre (NAC) is Canada’s only bilingual, multi-disciplinary performing arts centre, and a centennial project that first opened its doors in 1969. A \$110.5 million <i>Architectural Rejuvenation Project</i>, designed by Diamond Schmitt Architects reoriented the NAC with a stunning new entrance on Elgin Street, and includes a transparent lobby and atrium that are fully accessible, as well as new spaces for education and performance. A \$114.9 million <i>Production Renewal Project</i> refurbished the NAC’s performance halls and production facilities.</p>
	<p>Movie Night – Double Feature: The double-feature movie night was hosted at Beyond the Pale Brewing Company, and presented two incredible documentaries about humans, shelter and resiliency: <i>Great Architecture on a Small Planet</i> (2019) produced by Thin Green Line Productions in collaboration with Danish Broadcast Corporation and <i>The Human Shelter</i> (2018) directed by Boris Benjamin Bertram.</p>
October 2	<p>Tour – Follow the Rain Drop: Jennifer Stelzer from EnviroCentre guided participants through the life of a raindrop. Using materials and information from the City of Ottawa’s RAIN program, participants learned the path that water takes from the time it lands on their property until it reaches the river.</p>
	<p>Tour – Pathway Rehabilitation Tour: The pathway running along Parliament Hill and the Ottawa river was heavily battered by the 2017 and 2019 floods, washing away large sections of the pathway and making them impassible. The National Capital Commission (NCC) senior landscape architect, Jamie Brown oversaw the repairs to the pathway in 2017 and 2019, presented this tour to the public.</p>

October 3	<p>Panel Discussion – Blueprints to our Eco-Footprints: The panel discussion was hosted at Library and Archives building on Wellington Street. The panel was moderated by CSV Architects’ Anthony Leaning and featured:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mark Lucuik, Morrison Hershfield - Paul Kulig, Perkins & Will - Jamie Brown, National Capital Commission - Vasilios (Bill) Sioulas, Golpro Holdings <p>The panel discussed the critical challenges of resiliency and disaster preparedness in the architecture industry and the importance of innovation and learning from older buildings</p>
October 4	<p>OAW Talks, Powered by PechaKucha: Our biggest event of the week was a sell-out PechaKucha night, hosted at the National Arts Centre. The PechaKucha format requires speakers to present 20 slides for 20 seconds each all organized around the theme RE: Resiliency, Recycling, Rebuilding, Reclaiming, Remembering and more.</p>
October 5	<p>Tour – The Strutt House: The iconic Gatineau Hill’s Strutt House was one of James Strutt’s earliest explorations into geometry to produce structural form. The Strutt House was purchased by the National Capital Commission in 2010 and the Strutt Foundation is currently rehabilitating the Strutt House as a teaching model in architecture and heritage conservation planning.</p> <p>Book Launch – Building 22 Edition 19: Building 22 is an annual student-initiated publication showcasing work from the Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism at Carleton University. It features a number of projects that are critical, captivating and brave explorations into the realm of architecture and is distributed internationally to architecture schools, offices, bookstores and galleries.</p>
October 7	<p>Exhibition & Vernissage – Under Water: Weathering the New Normal: Hosted at CLUB SAW, on World Architecture Day, this exhibition featured a collection of work curated around this year’s theme and included the Canadian film premiere “the Moment of Realization” by Hamid Shahi & Rikako Takahashi, a lecture by Mark Lucuik on resiliency and sustainability, models, drawings and art.</p>
October 8	<p>Lecture – The 5 Big Moves: The New Official Plan – Defining the City Together: Alain Miguelez, Manager of Planning Policy and Resiliency with the City of Ottawa’s Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Department presented the 5 Big Moves – the foundational concepts that will inform the New Official Plan for the City of Ottawa. The presentation was followed by a question & answer period. The lecture took place at the Ottawa Public Library Auditorium on Metcalfe Street.</p>

4.0. OAA President’s Visit

The annual OAA President and Executive Director’s visit took place on November 12, 2019 at the Lowertown Brewery.

5.0. Official Plan Committee

An Official Plan Committee was created to engage with the City of Ottawa on the development of the new Official Plan. The committee is currently working to identify issues with the existing Official Plan



and is developing priorities for the architectural community and the larger public within the development of the new Official Plan by the City of Ottawa.

6.0. Women of Architecture

With special project funding provided by the OAA, Women of Architecture (WOA) organized two events:

- **WOA! Build** – Building a Better Workplace: Architecture of Accommodation, Diversity and Equality

Held on June 5, 2019 and presented by Melanie Polowin, a partner and employment lawyer at Gowling WLG, this session focused on the legal framework that governs employer obligations of accommodation, diversity and equality in the construction industry. This presentation included discussions on family status, gender identity, and disability with particular focus on mental health to help participants gain a better understanding of the challenges, issues and best practices to build a better workplace.

- **WOA! Stories** – City Dreamers screening and panel discussion

Held on September 11, 2019 at the ByTowne Cinema, the event included the screening of the film “City Dreamers” followed by a panel discussion featuring Phyllis Lambert (featured in film) and movie director Joseph Hillel, moderated by Emmanuelle van Rutten, RAIC Regional Director for Ontario North East and Nunavut.

Discussions with WOA executive committee are ongoing to better define the relationship with ORSA, the governance model and financial support.

7.0. Donations and Financial Support

ORSA provided the following financial support:

- A financial donation to the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario from the proceeds of the Golf Tournament;
- Support to a Carleton University architecture student.

Funding was kindly received from the OAA in support of Ottawa Architecture Week, Women of Architecture and Local Advocacy.

8.0. Website and Communications

The website and communications with membership have been a significant challenge in 2019, particularly the effectiveness and capacity to send e-blasts and to reach our members. ORSA is currently preparing an RFP for the development of an entirely new website that will meet our needs and allow us to communicate with members. Additionally, moving forward an ORSA Manual will be developed to ensure a strong corporate memory (for example: critical information, contacts, login information and other documents required to ensure a smooth transition between outgoing and incoming executive committee members.



9.0. 2020 Objectives

Our first objective is to launch a new website and to engage current members, supporters and the public to raise awareness of the Society, its role in the community and its activities.

Additional objectives for this year include:

- Networking events across the region;
- A **workshop** with members to help set a strategy for growing membership involvement, growth and public awareness;
- Rescheduling the workshop "Towards an Architecture Policy for Canada" which had to be cancelled due to Covid-19;
- Development of the **ORSA Manual** for future ORSA Executives to provide continuity and knowledge transfer;
- Active promotion of World Architecture Day in relation to **OAA** activities/events
- Promoting membership in the **RAIC**;
- Funding/supporting **Continuing Education** Sessions for members;
- Development of the **ORSA Design Excellence Awards**.

10.0. Financial Summary

See financial summary presented at the 2019 AGM under separate cover.