



BARKER, Kent (1912 – 1989)

Kent Barker was born on July 29, 1912. He was an advocate of contemporary architecture and influenced numerous architectural students during his career as a professor of architecture and as architect.

He decided to study architecture and enrolled at the University of Toronto in 1930. His academic career was highlighted by a number of awards. In his second year of studies he received the Ontario Association of Architects scholarship. He was awarded the Architectural Guild Silver Medal, the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada Medal and the Darling and Pearson Prize in 1935. Barker took a keen interest in the profession and was Chairman of the Architectural Club at the University during his final year.

After graduation he spent a year in the United States completing post graduate work at the Cranbrook Academy of art in Bloomfield Michigan. He studied under the supervision of Finnish architect, Eliel Saarinen.

He joined the Ontario Association of Architects in February 1942.

Barker joined the armed forces in 1945 and served with the navy. He was discharged later that year. Upon his return he moved with his family from Ottawa to Toronto where he accepted a position as Assistant Planner in the Ontario Department of Planning and Development.

That same year, he took on the role of Professor of Architecture at the University of Toronto, School of Architecture and Town Planning. It was here he influenced countless stu-

dents and gave to them an intimate understanding of the works of many of the great names in architecture at that time.

Barker also carried on a successful private practice in Toronto during his teaching career. He designed schools, town halls, and residential buildings for a wide variety of clients.

His projects were diverse and included the St. Lawrence Power and Seaway Projects, He also worked as the Town Planner for the City of Cornwall. From 1953 to 1960 he worked as a consultant to Ontario Hydro on the seaway project. Barker was the first to recognize the possibility of the now famous Upper Canada Village, the Long Sault Parkway, the Highway 401 extension and the creation of four new towns.

Professor Barker strongly influenced his students. He shared both his knowledge and love of contemporary architecture as well as his knowledge of running a successful practice.

Barker continued to teach and maintain his private practice until his retirement in 1978. He spent 32 years managing both commitments.

In 1986 the Ontario Association of Architects elected Kent Barker as a life member of the Association.

Professor Barker died September 30, 1989 at the age of 77.